

CALENDAR NOTICE (to be published 23 February 2018)

Disciplinary Committee Inquiries

The Disciplinary Committee of the GBGB were in attendance at a meeting held on 13 February 2018:-

Mr K Salmon (in the chair)

Mr A Hunt

Mr R Woodworth CBE

1. Perry Barr Stadium – VATICAN VENICE – Professional Trainer Mr J Danahar

Professional Trainer James Danahar was found in breach of rules 152 (i), 174 (i)(b) and 217 of the GBGB Rules of Racing in that a urine sample taken from the greyhound VATICAN VENICE at Perry Barr Stadium on 8 November 2017 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of ketoprofen.

Mr Danahar was unable to attend in person but participated by means of telephone conference. Martin Seal, racing manager of Perry Barr Stadium, apologised for his non-attendance. Professor Tim Morris, independent scientific adviser and stipendiary steward, Paula Clare, were in attendance.

On 8 November 2017 a pre-race urine sample was taken from the greyhound VATICAN VENICE which, when analysed by LGC, tested positive for the presence of ketoprofen.

The Disciplinary Committee heard evidence from Professor Tim Morris to the effect that ketoprofen is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID). All NSAIDs have the potential to induce adverse reactions, some of which can be life threatening. As such ketoprofen is a substance which could affect the performance or prejudice the welfare of a greyhound.

On 19 December 2017 Mr Danahar was questioned by stipendiary steward Paula Clare and explained that he had been prescribed ketoprofen gel for the treatment of arthritis. In his opinion the positive test arose from accidental cross-contamination from the gel he had been prescribed.

Professor Morris confirmed that in his professional opinion such cross-contamination was the likeliest source of ketoprofen.

Mr Mark Bird, director of regulation, told the Committee that the GRB was content to accept Mr Danahar's explanation.

Some of the GBGB Rules of Racing impose strict liability on the trainer or registered sales agent. In those circumstances, the Disciplinary Committee found Mr Danahar in breach of rules 152 (i), 174 (i)(b) and 217 of the GBGB Rules of Racing.

The Disciplinary Committee noted that Mr Danahar had increased the precautions he takes to avoid such cross-contamination in future by wearing disposable gloves and changing the times he applies the ketoprofen gel.

The Disciplinary committee was satisfied that this was accidental contamination for which Mr Danahar was genuinely sorry.

In those circumstances, the Disciplinary Committee ordered that Mr Danahar be cautioned.

2. Towcester Stadium – GARRYVOE BOBBY – International Trainer Mr G Holland

International Trainer Graham Holland was found in breach of rules 152 (i), 174 (i)(a) and 217 of the GBGB Rules of Racing in that a urine sample taken from the greyhound GARRYVOE BOBBY at Towcester Stadium on 10 June 2017 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of butylhyoscine; and that he allowed a substance to be administered that could affect the performance and/or wellbeing of the greyhound.

Mr Holland was unable to attend in person but participated by means of telephone conference. Chris Page, racing manager of Towcester Stadium, apologised for his non-attendance. Professor Tim Morris, independent scientific adviser and stipendiary steward, Paula Clare, were in attendance.

On 10 June 2017 GARRYVOE BOBBY, a greyhound trained by international trainer Mr G Holland ran in a second round Derby heat at Towcester Stadium. A pre-race urine sample was taken which, upon analysis by LGC, tested positive for butylhyoscine.

The Disciplinary Committee heard evidence from Professor Tim Morris to the effect that butylhyoscine is available for both veterinary and human use. It acts by relieving spasm with activity on the smooth muscle of the digestive and urinary systems. In the opinion of Professor Morris butylhyoscine is a substance which by its nature could affect the performance or prejudice the welfare of a greyhound.

Mr Holland was interviewed by stipendiary steward Paula Clare on 20 June 2017. He explained that GARRYVOE BOBBY had been in pain due to ongoing problems in passing urine. He had been advised by the trainer with whom he was staying to treat the greyhound with butylhyoscine (under the proprietary name of Buscopan®) and had injected 1 ml of the medical preparation at about 8 am on 4 June although it appears that the correct date was 2 June 2017. This advice was subsequently confirmed by Mr Holland's vet who advised that the butylhyoscine would cease working after 18 hours and would be out of the greyhound's system within 5 days, Mr Holland therefore administered butylhyoscine (Buscopan®) as advised. He repeated that explanation to the Disciplinary Committee.

Professor Morris confirmed that the scientific evidence of the duration of excretion of butylhyoscine, including an administration study in greyhounds previously commissioned by the GBGB, was consistent with the explanation given by Mr Holland. He went on to consider whether on the facts of the present inquiry that the butylhyoscine administered to GARRYVOE BOBBY could have affected the performance of the greyhound and concluded that it could.

Mark Bird, director of regulation, told the Disciplinary Committee that the GRB accepted Mr Holland's explanation. The GRB accepted that this was not a 'doping' case however, Mr Bird pointed out that this was a heat of the Greyhound Derby, which is the most prestigious race in the calendar, the reputation of which must be protected.

Mr Holland submitted that he had acted on advice with the greyhound's welfare in mind and in the genuine belief that the butylhyoscine (Buscopan®) would be out of the greyhound's system.

The Disciplinary Committee saw force in both these positions. They accepted that the reputation of the Greyhound Derby must be protected and, in those circumstances, the Disciplinary Committee ordered that Mr Holland be cautioned and fined £600.