

CALENDAR NOTICE (to be published 29 June 2018)

Disciplinary Committee Inquiries

The Disciplinary Committee of the GBGB were in attendance at a meeting held on 19 June 2018: -

Mr M Elks (in the chair)

Dr AJ Higgins

Mr H Starte

1. DONCASTER STADIUM – DINNINGTON LADY

Owner Trainer Mr Derek Ogden was found in breach of rules 152 (i) & (ii), 174 (i)(a) and 217 of the GBGB Rules of Racing in that a urine sample taken from the greyhound DINNINGTON LADY at Doncaster Stadium on 13 September 2017 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the substance ranitidine.

Mr Ogden was in attendance accompanied by former Kennelhand Mr William McKie. Also in attendance were Stipendiary Steward Mr Peter Rosney and Independent Scientific Adviser Professor Tim Morris. Racing Manager Mr Stephen Gray apologised for his non-attendance.

Mr Rosney attended Doncaster Stadium on 13 September 2017. DINNINGTON LADY was running in the final of the SIS Doncaster York St Leger. Mr Rosney decided that all six participating greyhounds should be tested. The sample taken from DINNINGTON LADY was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing ranitidine.

Professor Morris gave evidence that ranitidine is used for the treatment of gastritis in humans. It used to be prescribed for dogs but there was now a similar product licensed for use in dogs (cimetidine) for the symptomatic treatment or reduction of vomiting associated with chronic gastritis. Ranitidine is therefore now prescribed rarely for this purpose and only under the prescribing cascade. In his view the alleviation of symptoms could indirectly affect performance by alleviating symptoms and could also benefit the well-being of a greyhound requiring treatment.

Professor Morris stated that the finding of ranitidine in the sample was consistent with direct contamination of the sample or other sources including direct administration.

Mr Ogden denied direct administration. He put forward a number of possible explanations for the positive sample:

1. A lack of security at Doncaster Stadium on 9 September 2017 when the semi-finals of the St Leger were run, which he said may have enabled an unknown third party to administer the drug. Mr Rosney gave evidence that there was no reason to believe this had happened. He stated that there had been a security problem in the kennels that night but this arose only in relation to the dogs running in the second semi-final and DINNINGTON LADY had run in the first. Mr Ogden confirmed he had not seen DINNINGTON LADY's kennel open when it should not have been. Mr Rosney's evidence was that the trainers of all the other dogs in the first semi-final had stated that they had had no security concerns. Mr Ogden said that

DINNINGTON LADY vomited at 1am that night. If ranitidine had been administered to it at the track on that day its likely effect, if any, would have been to reduce or prevent vomiting. For these reasons the Committee did not consider this to be the explanation for the positive sample.

2. Defects in the sampling procedure adopted on 13 September 2017 meant that the sample analysed may not have been the one taken from DINNINGTON LADY. In particular he suggested that the usual standard sealed collecting bowl was not used for the sample, that the bottle containing the sample to be sent for analysis was not sealed in the presence of Mr Ogden and that he was not present when the bag containing the sample was sealed and the number checked on the green form signed by him. Further he suggested there may have been direct contamination of the sample by splashing from the ground where DINNINGTON LADY was squatting when the sample was taken. The Committee heard evidence from Mr Rosney about the well-established sampling procedure adopted by the GBGB. He stated that the criticisms of the procedure by Mr Ogden were unfounded and not justified. The committee had no hesitation in accepting Mr Rosney's evidence rather than that of Mr Ogden. It therefore concluded that this was not the explanation for the positive sample.
3. Mr Ogden told the Committee that he had on another occasion been prescribed ranitidine for another dog then in his care, because no supplies of cimetidine were available. He could therefore have had some leftover supply of the drug in his possession. He added (as Professor Morris confirmed) that ranitidine is a drug available over the counter for humans under the brand name Zantac. Mr Ogden did not offer an explanation as to how that supply of ranitidine might have reached DINNINGTON LADY. He firmly asserted that he would not have given the drug to a vomiting dog as he would have wanted the dog to vomit completely to clear the system. However, the Committee found Mr Ogden to be an unreliable witness generally and unconvincing in this argument.

On all the evidence the Committee came to the clear conclusion that on the balance of probabilities the positive sample had been caused by a direct administration to DINNINGTON LADY by Mr Ogden at some time after the semi-final race on 9 September 2017, most probably to treat the vomiting said to have affected the dog later that night.

The Committee accordingly found Mr Ogden to be in breach of Rules 152(i) and (ii), 174(i)(a) and 217 of the GBGB Rules of Racing. It ordered that Mr Ogden be severely reprimanded and fined the sum of £750.

2. CRAYFORD STADIUM – DINNINGTON LADY

Owner Trainer Mr Derek Ogden was found in breach of rules 152 (i) & (ii), 174 (i)(a) and 217 of the GBGB Rules of Racing in that a urine sample taken from the greyhound DINNINGTON LADY at Crayford Stadium on 13 February 2018 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of minoxidil and diclofenac.

Stipendiary Stewards Mrs Hayley Huntley and Mr Alex McTaggart and Independent Scientific Adviser Professor Tim Morris were in attendance. Owner Trainer Mr Derek Ogden, former Kennelhand Mr William McKie, Racing Manager Mr Danny Rayment and Authorised Representative Mr Richard Brankley all apologised for their non-attendance.

The Committee regretted that Mr Ogden had decided not to attend this hearing having been present for the previous item on the agenda, as several questions arose during the hearing which they would have liked to pose to him concerning the case and his evidence to the local inquiry held on 3 May 2018.

Sampling Steward Mr Gary Matthews attended at Crayford Stadium on 13 February 2018. DINNINGTON LADY was unable to produce a sample before the race so a post-race sample was obtained. On analysis by LGC Health Sciences it was found to contain minoxidil and diclofenac.

The Committee noted that Mr Ogden accepted that he had strict liability for the dogs in his charge and therefore admitted breaching of Rule 174(i)(b) of the GBGB Rules of Racing. In his evidence to the local inquiry he stated that the minoxidil was present due to cross-contamination from an administration of Regaine, a hair loss treatment, to another dog kept with DINNINGTON LADY in Mr Ogden's house. He also stated that the presence of diclofenac was due to cross-contamination with Voltarol gel he claimed to use on his own knee. Both Regaine and Voltarol are treatments for humans obtainable over the counter in chemist shops.

Professor Morris confirmed that one possible explanation for the positive findings was the use of minoxidil on another dog on the premises and Mr Ogden's use of Voltarol on himself. However, minoxidil is not licensed for use in dogs and is contra-indicated in this species as it can have toxic effects. Moreover, it has a stimulating effect on the heart and can therefore affect a greyhound's performance and/or prejudice its well-being.

Diclofenac is not available as a veterinary medicine in the UK and is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug that will relieve pain and inflammation. This could have an indirect affect on performance by mitigating pain and/or inflammation. Its side effects could prejudice the well-being of a greyhound.

The Committee noted that DINNINGTON LADY did not race from 28 October 2017 until a trial on 31 January 2018. DINNINGTON LADY next ran in the race at which the sample was obtained on 13 February 2018. The treatment book entries show veterinary treatment in September and October 2017 for soft swellings on the back and a lesion developing for which a variety of treatments had been prescribed including anti-biotics and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. It also noted the comments of racing manager Danny Rayment in his statement that DINNINGTON LADY ran above expectation on 13 February and won by over 6 lengths in a fast time of 45.41 (+.30), despite its being her first race at Crayford Stadium.

The Committee rejected Mr Ogden's claim that the positive findings were due to inadvertent cross-contamination and concluded that on the balance of probabilities both substances were deliberately administered to influence performance.

The Committee also rejected the criticism made by Mr Ogden of the sampling process and his suggestion that the sample may have been contaminated during the process.

The Committee therefore found Mr Ogden in breach of Rules 152(i) and (ii), 174(i)(a) and 217 of the GBGB Rules of Racing. It ordered that he be severely reprimanded and fined the sum of £1,500.

3. SUNDERLAND STADIUM – SUNCROFT LIAM

Professional Trainer Mrs Elizabeth Lagan 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 SUNCROFT LIAM at Sunderland Stadium on 15 March 2018 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the substance dorzolamide.

Mrs Lagan was in attendance accompanied by her husband Mr Pete Lagan. Also in attendance were Stipendiary Steward Mr Alex McTaggart and Independent Scientific Adviser Professor Tim Morris. Racing Manager Mr Michael Patterson apologised for his non-attendance.

Sampling Steward Mr Simon Storey attended Sunderland Stadium on 15 March 2018. A pre-race sample was taken from SUNCROFT LIAM. When analysed by LGC Health Sciences it identified the presence of dorzolamide.

Professor Morris gave evidence that dorzolamide is used in the treatment of glaucoma and that it is also a diuretic. It could therefore, at least potentially, affect the performance of a greyhound by reducing its weight and thereby increasing its running speed. As a diuretic it can also act as a masking agent for other drugs.

Dorzolamide has been shown to have an extremely long excretion rate and Professor Morris gave evidence that it had been found in a dog's urine 575 days after a single exposure to the drug. SUNCROFT LIAM only came to Mrs Lagan's kennel from Ireland on 14 February 2018. The Committee heard evidence that the dog had been prescribed a number of medicinal products whilst in Ireland but none of them contained dorzolamide. Both the previous and current owners had stated that they were affected with glaucoma and details of the drugs taken by them for this condition were given in evidence. However, Professor Morris confirmed that none of these contained dorzolamide.

The Committee found Mrs Lagan to be a credible witness and concluded that, on the balance of probabilities, SUNCROFT LIAM had been exposed to the drug whilst still in Ireland but that the circumstances of that exposure were unknown.

Mrs Lagan accepted that she has strict liability for the greyhounds in her charge under Rule 174(i)(b) of the GBGB Rules of Racing. She accordingly admitted breach of that Rule and of Rules 152(i) and 217. The Board accepted that admission and did not pursue the allegation of breach of Rule 152(ii) and/or Rule 174(i)(a).

Accordingly, the Committee found Mrs Lagan to be in breach of Rules 152(i) 174(i)(b) and 217 of the GBGB Rules of Racing and ordered no further action.