

Disciplinary Committee Inquiries

The Disciplinary Committee of the GBGB were in attendance at a meeting held on Tuesday, 5 May 2009:

Miss C Kershaw MA (in the Chair)
Dr E Houghton
Mr R Coughlan
Mr J Akerman

1. Henlow Stadium – MICKS OMEGA- Professional Trainer Mrs C Grasso

Professional Trainer Mrs Carol Grasso was found in breach of rules 152 (i), 174 (i)(b) and 217 in that a urine sample taken from the greyhound MICKS OMEGA at Henlow Stadium on 2 October 2008 was analysed by HFL as containing the drug dexamethasone. Mrs Grasso was in attendance and having considered her explanation together with the circumstances of the case found that she administered a substance that could affect the performance and/or well being of the greyhound. The Disciplinary Committee ordered that Mrs Grasso be reprimanded and fined £350.

2. Pelaw Grange Stadium – PENONY GOAL – Greyhound Trainer Mr J D Jefferson

Greyhound Trainer Mr John Jefferson was found in breach of rules 152 (i), 174 (i)(b) and 217 in that a urine sample taken from the greyhound PENONY GOAL at Pelaw Grange Stadium on 6 February 2009 was analysed by HFL as containing the drug morphine. Mr Jefferson was not in attendance and having considered his explanation together with the circumstances of the case found that he administered a substance that could affect the performance and/or well being of the greyhound. The Disciplinary Committee ordered that Mr Jefferson be reprimanded and fined £450.

3. WELFARE OF GREYHOUNDS – Professional Trainer Mrs F W Freeman; Kennelhands Messrs J & R I Freeman

Professional Trainer Mrs Frances Wendy Freeman was found in breach of rules 18, 152 (i) & (ii), 174 (xi), 212 and 213. Kennelhands Mr John Freeman and Mr Robert Ian Freeman were found in breach of rules 18, 152 (i) & (ii), 174 (xi), 212 and 213. None of the Freemans attended or provided any written evidence. The Disciplinary Committee heard that the Freemans' kennels were visited by stipendiary stewards in February and March 2008. Neither Mrs Freeman nor husband was present during any visit to their kennels. Their son Mr R I Freeman had been left with responsibility to manage the kennels. As a result of the stipendiary stewards' investigation, the RSPCA were called and Mr Freeman was cautioned that improvements had to be undertaken or there would be a prosecution. On 18 March further visits were made by the stipendiary steward and a veterinary surgeon and officers from the RSPCA. There was no one on site and due to the condition of the greyhounds and kennels the police were informed.

Prosecutions were undertaken and on 19 March 2009 Mr J Freeman and Mr R I Freeman appeared at Colchester Magistrates' Court. Mr R I Freeman was sentenced to 90 days imprisonment having pleaded guilty to 9 charges of causing unnecessary suffering. He was banned from keeping animals

for 10 years. Mr J Freeman was given a 90 day suspended sentence, fined £500, and ordered to pay £2,000 towards RSPCA costs and to be electronically tagged.

The Disciplinary Committee having considered the case ordered that Mrs F W Freeman be warned off sine die and fined £4,000. Mr J Freeman was ordered to be warned off sine die and fined £1,000. Mr R I Freeman was ordered to be warned off sine die and fined £2,000.