

Disciplinary Committee Inquiries

The Disciplinary Committee of the GBGB were in attendance at a meeting held on Tuesday, 9 June 2009:

Miss C Kershaw MA (in the Chair)
Dr E Houghton
Mr R Coughlan
Mr A Hunt

1. Henlow Stadium – MITCH WHO & HARRISHILL FLYER- Professional Trainer Mrs J A PAGE

Professional Trainer Mrs Joan Page was found in breach of rules 152(i)&(ii) and 174(xi) in that on 1 March 2009 MITCH WHO and HARRISHILL FLYER were handed by Mrs Page into the care of Greyhound Rescue West of England in poor condition and had to receive veterinary treatment. In attendance were Mrs Page; witnesses from the Greyhound Rescue West of England; Irene Haselwood, Stipendiary Steward; and Clive Carr, Investigating Officer. Having heard the evidence of the witnesses the Disciplinary Committee ordered that Mrs Page have her licence suspended until 22 September 2009. On that date she is to appear again before the Disciplinary Committee who will ask for a report from the Stipendiary Steward as to whether an inspection of Mrs Page's Kennels was satisfactory. The Disciplinary Committee also ordered that Mrs Page be reprimanded and fined £500.

2. Peterborough Stadium – JAY PEE ESQUIRE- Professional Trainer Mrs H KEMP and Kennelhand Mr M KEMP

Professional Trainer Mrs Hazel Kemp was found in breach of rules 49 (iv) and 152 (i) in respect of the improved performance of the greyhound JAY PEE ESQUIRE at Peterborough Stadium on 27 December 2008; and her failure to use her best endeavours to ensure that the performance of the greyhound was to the satisfaction of the Local Stewards. Mr and Mrs Kemp were in attendance. Also in attendance was Racing and General Operations Manager Mr Con Baker; Deputy Racing Manager, Mr Paul Miller; and Irene Haselwood, Stipendiary Steward. Having considered Mrs Kemp's explanation together with the circumstances of the case the Disciplinary Committee ordered Mrs Kemp be reprimanded and fined £250. No order was made against Mr Kemp.

Opening at 9/4 and closing at 5/4 the greyhound had won a 420m graded race recording a calculated time of 25.78 seconds as compared with its best recent time of 26.04 seconds recorded in a trial on 20 October 2008.

3. Kinsley Stadium – BLUE TOPAZ – Professional Trainer Mr A Walton, Owner Mrs JA Merrill and Racecourse Executive of Kinsley Stadium

Professional Trainer Mr Anthony Walton was found in breach of rules 46(iii), 49,152(i) & (ii), 174(iv), (v) & (vii). The Racecourse Executive of Kinsley Stadium was found in breach of rules 40, 113(i),

115(i) and 152(i). Regarding the running of BLUE TOPAZ and a greyhound purporting to be BLUE TOPAZ the Inquiry heard evidence from a representative of the Association of British Bookmakers as to the scale of activity involved and how this had been discovered. The authorised racecourse representative of Kinsley Stadium, Mr John Curran; the racing manager Mr Andrew Mascarenhas; Stipendiary Steward, Mr Eric Vose; Mr John Johnson, representing the Association of British Bookmakers; and Clive Carr, Investigating Officer, were in attendance. Mr Walton and Mrs Josephine Merrill, the owner, did not attend. Having considered Mr Walton's written explanations together with the circumstances of the case the Disciplinary Committee found that Mr Walton was involved in the substitution of the greyhound BLUE TOPAZ. That he had either conspired with or connived at any other person of any corrupt or fraudulent practice in relation to greyhound racing. The Disciplinary Committee ordered that he be warned off sine die, severely reprimanded and fined £5,000. No order was made against Mrs Merrill. The Disciplinary Committee took into consideration the exemplary record of the Racecourse Executive of Kinsley Stadium and the improvements they had put in place to prevent a similar recurrence. The Racecourse Executive of Kinsley Stadium was reprimanded and fined £500.

4. Kinsley Stadium – DEMIS DREAM - Professional Trainer Mr M McManus, Owner Mr MW Haslam and former Kennelhand Mr BS Murphy

Professional Trainer Mr Mark McManus was found in breach of rules 49(iv) & 152(i) in respect of the improved performance of the greyhound DEMIS DREAM at Kinsley Stadium on 20 February 2009; and his failure to use his best endeavours to ensure that the performance of the greyhound was to the satisfaction of the Local Stewards. Mr McManus was in attendance. Owner Mr Michael Haslam and former Kennelhand Mr Barry Murphy did not attend. Also in attendance was Mr John Curran, Authorised Racecourse Representative; Mr Andrew Mascarenhas, Racing Manager; Mr Eric Vose, Stipendiary Steward; Mr John Johnson representing the Association of British Bookmakers; and Clive Carr, Investigating Officer. Having considered Mr McManus' explanation together with the circumstances of the case the Disciplinary Committee ordered that he be cautioned as to the future running of the greyhounds in his care and fined the sum of £125. No order was made against Messrs Haslam and Murphy.

Opening at 4/7 and dosing at 1/ 2 the greyhound had won a 465m race in a calculated time of 28.52 as compared with its best recent time of 28.97 in a trial on 6 February 2009.