

## **Disciplinary Committee Inquiries**

The Disciplinary Committee of the GBGB were in attendance at a meeting held on Tuesday, 9 March 2010:-

Mr R Woodworth (in the chair)

Mr R Coughlan

Dr A Higgins

Mr A Hunt

### **1. Coventry Stadium – Former Racing Manager Mr R Watkin**

During October 2009 the Association of British Bookmakers passed information to the GBGB which resulted in an investigation by the GBGB into the number of “early starts” of races held at Coventry Greyhound Stadium. During the period 30<sup>th</sup> September to 28<sup>th</sup> October material was analysed which revealed that a number of races started earlier than the advertised scheduled “off time”. Mr Russell Watkin, the racing manager and the authorised racecourse representative, was interviewed regarding the “early starts” during this time.

Mr Watkin apologised for his non attendance at the hearing. Having considered his written explanation together with the circumstances of the case the Disciplinary Committee stated that they took any threats to the integrity of racing very seriously; Mr Russell Watkin was found in breach of rules 105, 128 and 152 (i) and (ii) of the GBGB Rules of Racing.

The Disciplinary Committee ordered that Mr Watkin be severely reprimanded and fined £5,000.

### **2. Greyhound Trainer Mr M McManus**

On the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2009, the Trainers’ Assistance Sub-Committee (TASC) received an invoice from Mr McManus for the cost of a number of travel cages. In order to meet compliance with relevant transport legislation to be introduced on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010 the TASC would consider grants to trainers of up to 50% of the cost toward new greyhound travel cages.

On examination of the invoice there was suspicion of the authenticity of the document. The matter was investigated by the GBGB and the invoice was found to be fraudulent.

Mr McManus was in attendance and having considered his explanation together with the circumstances of the case the Disciplinary Committee found Greyhound Trainer Mr Mark McManus in breach of rules 152 (ii) and 174 (v) & (vi) of the GBGB Rules of Racing.

The Disciplinary Committee ordered that he be severely reprimanded and fined £500.