

**Disciplinary Committee Inquiries**

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

Mr K Salmon (in the Chair)

Mr R Coughlan

Dr A Higgins

Dr E Houghton

**1. PROFESSIONAL TRAINER MR C CRONIN**

An application for an adjournment of the Inquiry was received and accepted. The inquiry will be held in December.

**2. MISS FANTASY & SPARTABRITNEY – PROFESSIONAL TRAINER MR R BRAIN & KENNELHAND MRS D COX**

Professional Trainer Mr Richard Brain and kennelhand Mrs Diane Cox were found in breach of rules 2, 152 (i) & (ii), 174 (v), (vi), (xi), (xiii) and 216 in relation to the circumstances surrounding the deaths of the greyhounds MISS FANTASY and SPARTABRITNEY at Mr Brain's kennels on 20 May 2010; the failure to correctly report the deaths of the greyhounds to the GBGB; and the failure to record the correct information in the GBGB kennel book.

The Disciplinary Committee heard evidence as to the circumstances under which the greyhounds MISS FANTASY and SPARTABRITNEY had been placed on a walking machine. They had been left unattended and were then, according to the evidence of Mr Brain and Mrs Cox, put into the paddock area. They were found a short time later allegedly suffering from heat exhaustion, SPARTABRITNEY died at the kennels. MISS FANTASY was taken to a nearby veterinary practice for treatment but was found to be dead on arrival. Both Mr Brain and Mrs Cox then incorrectly recorded information in the kennel book that both greyhounds had retired. This incorrect information was also recorded on retirement forms submitted to GBGB which recorded both greyhounds as retired as pets.

The Disciplinary Committee, having heard the evidence, did not accept the version of events given by either Mr Brain or Mrs Cox as to the circumstances under which the greyhounds MISS FANTASY and SPARTABRITNEY died.

Mr Brain and Mrs Cox were in attendance. Mr Jess Packer, racing manager of Sittingbourne Stadium and ex-kennelhand Mrs Ruth Harris were also in attendance. Having considered Mr Brain's and Mrs Cox's written explanation together with the circumstances of the case, the Disciplinary Committee

ordered that they both be 'warned off' for a period of one year and each fined the sum of £5,000. In imposing these penalties the Disciplinary Committee took into account the exemplary testimonials provided by Mr Brain and Mrs Cox and the fact that there was no wilful cruelty involved in the deaths of these greyhounds. But for those factors the period of warning off would have been considerably longer.