

Disciplinary Committee Inquiries

The Disciplinary Committee of the GBGB were in attendance at a meeting held on Thursday, 10 June 2010:

Mr R Woodworth (in the chair)

Mr J Akerman

*Dr A Higgins

Dr E Houghton

(*denotes where a member did not sit due to possible conflict of interest)

1. Mr K H King, Mr I Street, Mr N Oliver

The Disciplinary Committee heard that Mr Kenneth Harold King appeared before Lincoln Crown Court on 25 September 2009 and pleaded guilty to eight counts of cruelty related offences concerned with illegal dog fighting and was sentenced to 23 weeks imprisonment, banned from keeping animals for life and to pay £1,500 costs.

Mr Ian Street appeared before Wirral Magistrates' Court on 22 February 2010 and pleaded guilty to eleven offences under Sections 4 and 11 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006. He was sentenced to 4 months imprisonment, suspended for 12 months, banned from keeping animals for life and to pay £1,000 costs.

Mr Norman Oliver appeared before Sheffield Crown Court on 26 February 2010 and having been convicted of offences under the Counterfeiting & Currency Act was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment.

Mr Oliver was in attendance.

The Disciplinary Committee, having considered the evidence, ordered that Messrs K H King, I Street and N Oliver be made 'warned off persons'.

2. Perry Barr Stadium – FATAL CRASH – Sales Agent Mr T Harshaw

Sales Agent Mr Trevor Harshaw was found in breach of rules 49 (iv), 152 (i) & (ii), 174 (i) (a) and 217 in that a urine sample taken from the greyhound FATAL CRASH at Perry Barr Stadium on 8 February 2010 was analysed by HFL Sports Science Laboratory as containing the drug theobromine; the administration of any substance that could affect the performance and/or well being of the greyhound; and, not using his best endeavours to ensure that the performance of the greyhound was to the satisfaction of the GRB.

Mr Harshaw was not in attendance and having considered his written explanation together with the circumstances of the case, the Disciplinary Committee ordered that Mr Harshaw be reprimanded and fined £500.

3. Perry Barr Stadium – LITTLE MIRACLE (nka AERO MIRACLE) – Greyhound Trainer Mr S Donnelly

Greyhound Trainer Mr Stephen Donnelly was found in breach of rules 12(i), 49 (iv), 152 (i), 174 (i)(a), 215, and 217 in that a urine sample taken from the greyhound LITTLE MIRACLE (nka AERO MIRACLE) at Perry Barr Stadium on 9 March 2010 was analysed by HFL Sports Science Laboratory as containing the drug morphine; and the administration of any substance that could affect the performance and/or well being of the greyhound.

Mr Donnelly was in attendance and having considered his explanation together with the circumstances of the case, the Disciplinary Committee ordered that he be severely reprimanded and fined £450 which comprised a £400 fine for the positive sample and £50 for not registering the greyhound in the name of the true owner.

The Disciplinary Committee wished to remind all trainers of their responsibilities under rule 215 that bread containing poppy seeds is not to be fed to greyhounds and the following precautions shall be taken:

- i. All bread shall be carefully checked and sorted prior to adding to feed.
- ii. All bread that shows contamination with poppy seed shall be discarded.
- iii. All debris in bags and trays shall be discarded.
- iv. All packaged bread shall be discarded if there is any doubt regarding its ingredients

4. Swindon Stadium – INSOLVENCYLIST – Racecourse Executive and Professional Trainer Mr J Mullins

Swindon Racecourse Executive was found in breach of rules 102A, 118, 129, 130 and 152 (i) and Professional Trainer Mr John Mullins was found in breach of rule 152 (i) in relation to the circumstances that allowed the greyhound INSOLVENCYLIST to compete in a race at Swindon Stadium on 2 February 2010, whilst still wearing its kennel coat over its racing jacket.

Swindon Racecourse Executive and Mr Mullins were not in attendance and having considered the written explanations together with the circumstances of the case, the Disciplinary Committee expressed a view that this was an unfortunate occurrence on this particular evening during such a high profile event. They further stated that they did not believe that any of the parties involved were deliberately acting in a manner prejudicial to the sport but confirmed that a high degree of diligence and care is expected and required to ensure there is no scope for errors of this nature.

The Disciplinary Committee ordered that the Racecourse Executive be fined £1,000 and Mr Mullins be fined £250.

5. **Professional Trainer Mr J Foster***

Professional Trainer Mr Jason Foster was found in breach of rules 152 (i) and 174 (xi), the second part of rule 174 (xi) which refers to, “or in such a manner as causes or is likely to cause the greyhound unnecessary suffering”, in that two greyhounds were left unsupervised in a motor vehicle outside his kennels for no more than an hour on 26 November 2009.

In reaching their decision the Disciplinary Committee considered evidence from both private witnesses, kennel hands who worked for Mr Foster and the evidence of the transporter of the greyhounds. The Disciplinary Committee decided that Mr Foster had entered into a prior arrangement with the transporter as regards delivering the two greyhounds. Therefore Mr Foster had responsibility for the two greyhounds and should have ensured arrangements were in place to receive them.

On the facts established from the evidence, the Disciplinary Committee determined that the greyhounds had not been left in Mr Foster’s van overnight but left in the van for no more than 1 hour on the morning of 26 November 2009. In reaching their finding, under rule 174(xi), the Disciplinary Committee expressed the view that the relevant part that they found Mr Foster in breach of only related to the limb that reads “or in such a manner as causes or is likely to cause the greyhound unnecessary suffering”.

Mr Foster was in attendance and having considered his explanation together with the circumstances of the case, the Disciplinary Committee ordered that Mr Foster be reprimanded and fined £200.

*Dr Higgins exempted himself from sitting in this Inquiry because of a potential conflict of interest.