

Clearly Mr Little has contributed to the sport. He has performed voluntary work at a number of dog tracks. The stewards indicated that he was held in high esteem in the industry and that he was regarded as a thorough gentleman. Comment was made that he had given his evidence with honesty and was forthright. The fact of the matter is that had he not possessed the character presented, and did not enjoy high esteem in the industry, he would have received a substantially greater penalty.

The stewards and this Tribunal have an obligation to ensure that the strict onus cast upon trainers to present greyhounds drug free is observed. The public, owners and other trainers are entitled to see that greyhounds compete on a level playing field and that breaches of the rules, albeit the result of carelessness or inadvertence, will be met with meaningful penalties. Other trainers must be deterred from careless or sloppy practices which may result in a greyhound being presented with a prohibited drug as a result of avoidable conduct.

As indicated, the stewards clearly afforded Mr Little all the credit and consideration to which he was entitled in fixing the penalty imposed. This Tribunal believes that penalty was fair and appropriate in the circumstances and does not propose to alter it. Accordingly the appeal is dismissed and the disqualification imposed is confirmed. The appeal deposit will be forfeited.

12 September 2007
J.C. McGuire