

Graham Gilbert

Year of Call: 2015
Email Address: clerks.winchester@3pb.co.uk
Secure Email: graham.gilbert@3pb.co.uk.cjsm.net
Telephone: 01962 868 884

Sports law

Having gained a wealth of knowledge in other areas, Graham has most recently begun accepting instructions in sports law matters and has a keen interest in regulatory and disciplinary aspects of the area, both domestically and internationally.

He regularly prosecutes in prohibited substance matters for the British Horseracing Authority, as well as assisting with other disciplinary matters on the Authority's behalf.

Graham is fantastic with professional and lay clients and his hard working ethic and down to earth approach makes him one to watch.

Recent cases:

- **R v WADA**: Appeared for appellant in an appeal against the publication of a anti-doping rule violation.
- **BHA v Hayley Turner**: Enquiry held on 14 December 2017 by the Independent Disciplinary Panel of the BHA as to whether Jockey Hayley Turner had broken the Rules of Racing on the grounds of bets placing. Graham Gilbert was Junior to Tim Naylor, the BHA's Head of Regulation. To read more about the enquiry, click here. The case attracted press coverage in The Guardian, SBC News and the BBC among others.
- **BHA v Graham Gibbons**: Enquiry concerning Jockey Graham Gibbons testing positive for a Banned Substance and attempting to present a sample which was not his own. To read more about this enquiry, please click here. The case attracted press coverage in The Racing Post, Sky Sports and the BBC among others.
- **BHA v Dale Swift**: Enquiry heard by the British Horseracing Association's Disciplinary Panel on 28 September 2017 relating to the Jockey Dale Swift and his testing positive for a Banned Substance. To read more about this enquiry, please click here. The case attracted press coverage in The Times and from the BBC among others.
- Enquiry heard by the British Horseracing Association's Disciplinary Panel on 10 August 2017 relating to Big Red, owned by Rebecca Bastiman, following her horse being administered a Prohibited Substance.
- Successful FA appeal (October 2021) hearing on behalf of a talented 16 year old footballer, Nathan Hieatt, who in February 2020 was accused of spitting at a referee's foot and given a 5 year ban at the initial FA hearing. In spite of five witnesses from his team and his college tutor corroborating Nathan's story, and with the referee having no independent witnesses despite asking the opponent team, the FA took it to a hearing at which the charge was found "proven" and duly applied the minimum sanction of a 5 year ban on playing and coaching football at any level. Nathan's father, Matt Hieatt, crowdfunded to raise the legal fees for an appeal against the FA's decision.
- Enquiries heard by the British Horseracing Association's Disciplinary Panel on 3 August 2017 relating to Wotadoll and Links Drive Lady, both trained by Dean Ivory. The panel in Wotadoll considered the cross-contamination of the horse with Odesmethyltramadol, a metabolite of tramadol which had been prescribed to a stable lad following surgery. The stable lad had been urinating in Wotadoll's stable, causing the cross-contamination. The hearing attracted significant press coverage in The Guardian, The Telegraph and The Racing Post as well as numerous calls to end the practice. The panel in

Links Drive Lady concerned the cross-contamination of the horse with hayfever medicine, as a result of contacts between Links Drive Lady and his keepers, who were using hayfever medicine to alleviate their symptoms at the time.

- Enquiry heard by the British Horseracing Association's Disciplinary Panel on 29 June 2017 relating to Woodacre, owned by Richard Whitaker, and the alleged use of phenylbutazone and oxyphenbutazone.
- Enquiry heard by the British Horseracing Association's Disciplinary Panel on 22 June 2017 relating to Urban Storm, owned by Norman Thomas and the alleged use of omeprazole.
- Enquiry heard by the British Horseracing Association's Disciplinary Panel on 25 May 2017, relating to Geordie des Champs, trained by Rebecca Curtis and the use of caffeine.

Recommendations

"Graham is extremely conscientious, diligent, and dedicated. His work ethic is unparalleled. Clients find him approachable and easily relatable. His advocacy is always focused, persuasive, and delivered with good grace. He is the sought-after junior in all complex or multi-complainant trials due to his ability to assimilate extensive amounts of material. Graham has all the qualities and commitment to achieve greatness."

Legal 500 2027/Crime (General and Fraud)/ Leading Juniors/ Western Circuit

`Graham is a hardworking barrister of high quality. He is intelligent and scrupulously fair. His advocacy is concise and persuasive.'
Legal 500 2026/Crime (General and Fraud)/ Leading Juniors/ Western Circuit

Graham Gilbert –3PB `Graham is a hard-working and highly effective advocate. He is extremely bright, and his case preparation is second-to-none.'
Legal 500 2025/Crime (General and Fraud)/ Leading Juniors/ Western Circuit

"Graham Gilbert recently represented our son in Crown Court hearing in Portsmouth. We met Graham on the day of the hearing, and he immediately put us at our ease. He provided us with clear information on what was happening and stayed in touch with us throughout the day (when the hearing wasn't taking place) keeping us updated on the inevitably slow, court proceedings. After the hearing, when we could speak with our son, our son told us how helpful and clear Graham's advice had been. Being at your son's Crown Court hearing is a stressful event but we were in great hands and Graham's counsel got our son the best result at court. Graham is an excellent barrister and we have no hesitation in recommending him." **- Client**

"Just wanted to thank you for all of the hard work you put into what turned out to be a far from straightforward case! I could not have asked for a more thoroughly prepared case and very impressive legal argument which eventually lead to an excellent case outcome. Your client care was first class and I appreciated the ease and speed with which I could reach you for advice." - **Instructing solicitor feedback**

"I am so grateful to you and Graham for all your help. You are absolutely right, its a great outcome and the legal advice and support made all the difference. Graham Gilbert was excellent." - **Client feedback** to instructing solicitor.

"Graham Gilbert was very professional and charming. Would recommend him highly." - **Client feedback** to instructing solicitor.

"Once again thank you for all your thorough help in this successful prosecution and the hours of hard work sifting through the late disclosure of the evidence bundle the night before trial." - **Feedback from Environmental Health Officer**.

Academic qualifications

- BPTC - City Law School - Very Competent
- GDL - City Law School - Commendation.
- BA Hons Ancient History - University of Exeter - 1st Class

Scholarships

- City Law School: 7 Bedford Row Criminal Law Prize Essay
- University of Exeter awarded a Dean's Commendation for "outstanding academic achievement"

Professional qualifications & appointments

- CPS Prosecutor – Grade 3

Professional bodies

- Western Circuit
- Sport Resolutions Pro Bono Panel
- Criminal Bar Association
- Bar Pro Bono Unit
- Health & Safety Lawyers Association (HSLA)