

Stewards Investigation/ Hearing Report Saturday 7th May 2016

Date of Hearing: 7th May, 2016
Venue of Hearing: The Meadows Greyhound Racing Club
Name: Mr Bernard Courts (Heidelberg West)
Track: The Meadows Greyhound Racing Club
Date of Offence: 19th December 2015

GAR: 86(q)
Offence: Engaging in a physical and verbal altercation with another participant (B. Meachem) which was detrimental to the interest, image and control of greyhound racing.

Officiating Stewards: Dr B. Williams and Mrs D. Pyers

REPORT

On 7th May 2016 Stewards finalised an Inquiry into an alleged altercation that occurred at The Meadows on 19th December 2015 between Mr Bernard Courts and another registered person.

Initial evidence had been taken at The Meadows on 19th December 2015 from three MGRC employees, Mr Bernard Courts, Mr B. Meachem and Ms. T. Stevens before the matter was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

After providing evidence on 19th December 2015 Mr Bernard Courts relinquished his registration to Stewards. Acting under LRR 11.4 Stewards deemed the registration of Mr Courts to be cancelled from that time.

Whilst the Inquiry was scheduled to reconvene on 27th February 2016, an adjournment was granted at the request of Mr Bernard Courts due to his ill health requiring hospitalisation.

On 7th May 2016 the Inquiry was reconvened and further evidence was taken from Mr Bernard Courts, Mr B. Meachem and Ms T. Stevens. After considering all evidence, Stewards charged Mr Bernard Courts with a breach of GAR 86 (q), the particulars being that at The Meadows on 19th December 2015 Mr Courts had engaged in a physical and verbal altercation with another licensed person (B. Meachem) which was detrimental to the interest, image and control of greyhound racing.

Mr Courts pleaded guilty to the charge.

Stewards found Mr Courts guilty as charged and issued the following penalty:

- \$750 fine
- 3 months disqualification, suspended for 2 years pending no further breaches of GAR (g) or (q) for offences involving physical or verbal altercations.

In assessing penalty, Stewards took into account the following factors:

- Mr Courts's guilty plea.
- Mr Court's demonstrated remorse.
- Mr Courts's apology to the other party, which was accepted.
- The fact that Mr Courts's registration has effectively remained cancelled since 19th December 2015.

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Brian Williams - Steward in Charge – Integrity Assurance

NB: Steward Investigation/Hearing decisions are subject to Appeal under the Rules of Greyhound Racing.

For more information:

Brian Williams
Steward in Charge – Integrity Assurance
GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA