

Racing Appeals & Disciplinary Board

Media Release

7 February 2017

Racing Appeals & Disciplinary Board

Date of Hearing: Tuesday, 7 February 2017
Venue of Hearing: Law Institute of Victoria, 470 Bourke St, Melbourne
Panel: Mr. Terry O'Connor (Chairman), Mr. John Hutchison and Mr. Andrew Gould
Name of Person Charged: Mr. Robert Whitford
Town: Yarram
Track: Warragul
Date: 18 February 2016
GAR No: 83 (1A) and 83 (2)(3)

Offences Charged: (1) Mr. Robert Whitford administered or caused to be administered a prohibited substance to the greyhound 'Ninety Mile Ace' at the Warragul meeting held on 18 February 2016.

(2) Mr. Robert Whitford failed to present the greyhound 'Ninety Mile Ace' free of any prohibited substance for an event at the Warragul meeting held on 18 February 2016.

REPORT:

Following advice from Racing Analytical Services Laboratory, the Stewards of Greyhound Racing Victoria conducted an investigation into the results of the post-race urine sample taken from the greyhound 'Ninety Mile Ace' at the Warragul meeting held on 18 February 2016.

During the investigation, Stewards received evidence from registered trainer Mr. Robert Whitford, Mr. Paul Zahra (Racing Analytical Services Laboratory) and Dr. Steven Karamatic (GRV Chief Veterinarian).

After considering the evidence, Stewards charged Mr. Whitford with breaches of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 83 (1A) and 83 (2)(3) as detailed above, given that the pre-race urine sample taken from the greyhound indicated the presence of the prohibited substance arsenic.

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Under Rule 47.1 of the Greyhound Racing Victoria Local Rules breaches of GAR83 (1A) and GAR83 (2)(3) constitute Serious Offences. As a result on Tuesday, 7 February 2017 this matter was heard before the Racing Appeals and Disciplinary Board in the first instance under Greyhound Local Racing Rule 47.3 and Sections 83C(b) and 83M(1) of the Racing Act.

Mr. Robert Whitford did not appear.

Mr. Justin Hooper Barrister instructed by Mr. Marwan El-Asmar GRV Managing Principal Lawyer represented the Stewards Panel.

DECISION:

1. The serious offence charges against Mr. Whitford were listed for hearing today. Mr. Justin Hooper appeared on behalf of the Stewards and advised that the charges were to be withdrawn.
2. Section 83M (1) of the Racing Act requires this Board to 'hear and determine' a serious offence charge. In all the circumstances and having regard to the fact that the Stewards were not to call any evidence in support of the charges the appropriate course is for the Board to strike out each charge.

.....End.....