

Racing Appeals & Disciplinary Board

Media Release

18 January 2017

Racing Appeals & Disciplinary Board

Date of Hearing: Wednesday, 18 January 2017
Venue of Hearing: Law Institute of Victoria, 470 Bourke St, Melbourne
Panel: Mr. Shane Marshall (Chairman), Mr. Terry O'Connor (Deputy Chairman), and Mr. Phillip Pryor
Name of Person Charged: Mr. Peter Parr
Town: Cranbourne
Track: Traralgon
Date: 1 August 2016
GAR No: 83 (2)(3)

Offence Charged: Mr. Peter Parr failed to present the greyhound 'Bonza Magic' free of any prohibited substance for an event at the Traralgon meeting held on 1 August 2016.

REPORT:

Following advice from Racing Analytical Services Laboratory, the Stewards of Greyhound Racing Victoria conducted an investigation into the results of a pre-race urine sample taken from the greyhound 'Bonza Magic' at the Traralgon meeting held on 1 August 2016.

During the investigation, Stewards received evidence from registered trainer Mr. Peter Parr, Ms. Naomi Selvadurai (Racing Analytical Services Laboratory) and Dr. Steven Karamatic (GRV Chief Veterinarian).

After considering the evidence, Stewards charged Mr. Parr with a breach of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 83(2)(3) in that he failed to present the greyhound 'Bonza Magic' free of any prohibited substance for an event at the Traralgon meeting held on 1 August 2016 given that the pre-race urine sample taken from the greyhound indicated the presence of the prohibited substance pholcodine.

Under Rule 47.1 of the Greyhound Racing Victoria Local Rules a breach of GAR83 (2)(3) constitutes a Serious Offence. As a result on Wednesday, 18 January 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.

The Racing Appeals & Disciplinary Board (RADB) is established under section 83B of the Racing Act (1958). The RADB is an independent Board established to hear and determine appeals in relation to decisions made under the rules to impose penalties on persons and to hear and determine charges made against persons for serious offences.

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Mr. Peter Parr represented himself.

Dr. Brian Williams (Steward in Charge - Racetrack Operations) represented the Stewards Panel.

Mr. Peter Parr pleaded guilty to the charge.

DECISION:

1. Mr. Peter Parr is a registered greyhound trainer and the trainer of the greyhound "Bonza Magic". Bonza Magic competed in race 2 at Traralgon on 1 August 2016. A pre-race sample taken from the greyhound showed the presence of pholcodine.
2. Stewards of Greyhound Racing Victoria have charged Mr. Parr under Greyhound Australasia Rule ("GAR") 83 (2) and (3) with presenting a greyhound for an event while not being free of a prohibited substance. Pholcodine is a cough suppressant used to treat kennel cough. It is known to stay in the system of a greyhound some weeks after being given to the greyhound.
3. Although pleading guilty to the charge, Mr. Parr does not know how the prohibited substance came to be in the system of the greyhound. It may be relevant that he had only been training Bonza Magic for just over two weeks at the time of the swab. He told a preliminary inquiry into the positive swab that the previous trainer had mentioned that the dog had a virus.
4. Pholcodine is a category 1 prohibited substance under the GRV's penalty guidelines document. A minimum penalty of \$500 is suggested by that document. We are informed by the guidelines but not bound by them.
5. Mr. Parr has been a greyhound trainer for about 40 years. He is currently a hobby trainer. This is his first positive swab. He did not administer pholcodine to his greyhound. The offence is one of absolute liability. It is not for the stewards to prove the source of the positive swab.
6. In assessing penalty we take into account specific deterrence, general deterrence, the public interest in keeping a drug free industry and the imposition of penalties in like cases. We are satisfied that Mr. Parr has been informed by the circumstances surrounding this charge and would not knowingly administer a cough suppressant. Specific deterrence doesn't loom large in our consideration. General deterrence is an important consideration as the use of cough suppressants can mask the symptoms of kennel cough and place healthy greyhounds at risk.

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7. In all the circumstances we impose a \$500 fine on Mr. Parr. In addition "Bonza Magic" is disqualified from race 2 at Traralgon on 1 August 2016.

.....End.....