

## Stewards Hearing Report

<b>Date of Hearing:</b>	26 October 2023
<b>Venue of Hearing:</b>	Meadows Greyhound Racing Club
<b>Name:</b>	Mr Des Douch
<b>Rule:</b>	GAR 165 (a)
<b>Offence:</b>	Engaged in conduct that was detrimental or prejudicial to the interest, image and promotion of greyhound racing in the vicinity of the stir-up yard prior to the running of Race 7 at the Meadows on Wednesday 11 October 2023.
<b>Officiating Stewards:</b>	Mr Paul Searle and Mr Alex Kitching

### REPORT

On Thursday 26 October 2023, GRV Stewards finalised an inquiry into the conduct of licensed person Mr Des Douch when handling Tiger Jordy prior to Race 7 in the vicinity of the stir-up yard at the Meadows on Wednesday 11 October 2023.

Evidence was taken from Stewards Mr Max Hayden Evans and James Jeffrey, the On-Track Veterinarian, Mr Benny Briffa and Mr Des Douch. CCTV footage and an audio recording of the incident was also provided for the inquiry.

After considering all of the evidence, Mr Douch was issued with a charge under GAR 165 (a), which reads;

***GAR 165 Conduct detrimental to the interests of greyhound racing. An offence is committed if a person (including an official): (a) commits or omits to do any act or engages in conduct which is in any way detrimental or prejudicial to the interest, welfare, image, control or promotion of greyhound racing;***

The particulars being that at the Meadows Greyhound Racing Club on Wednesday 11 October 2023, prior to Race 7, Mr Des Douch used foul language, was loud, was hostile and behaved inappropriately towards another person in a manner that was detrimental and/or prejudicial to the interests and/or image and/or promotion of greyhound racing.

Mr Douch pleaded guilty to the charge. After considering submissions on penalty, the Stewards issued Mr Douch with a fine of \$2000 for the offence, with \$1000 suspended for 24 months (until 25 October 2025) pending no behaviour or conduct related breaches in that time.

In determining penalty, Stewards took into consideration:

- Mr Douch's personnel antecedence and good record with GRV.
- The remorse and forthright manner in which Mr Douch has since addressed this matter.
- The circumstances surrounding the commission of the offence.
- General and specific deterrence.
- The acknowledgement of the inappropriate behaviour and offence.
- The plea of guilty to the charge.

*Paul Searle*

**Paul SEARLE**  
**CHIEF STEWARD - GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**