

Stewards Hearing Report

Date of Hearing: Friday 7 April 2023
Venue of Hearing: Ballarat Greyhound Racing Club
Name: Ms Donna Knight
Rule: **GAR 165 (a)**

Offence: Engaged in conduct which is detrimental and/or prejudicial to the interests and/or image of greyhound racing.

Officiating Stewards: Mr Paul Searle & Ms Lee Fahry

REPORT

On Friday 7 April 2023, GRV Stewards finalised an inquiry into the conduct of licensed person Ms Donna Knight following the running of Race 11 at Ballarat on 22 February 2023.

Evidence was taken from Trainer Ms Donna Knight, Steward Mr Zac Harrison and a transcript of an interview that was conducted by Steward Mr Cam Day with Ms Knight on 1 March 2023. No CCTV of the incident was available for the inquiry.

After considering the evidence, Ms Knight was issued 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 of the charge issued were that at the Ballarat Greyhound Racing Club on Wednesday 22 February 2023, Ms Knight conducted herself in a manner that was detrimental and/or prejudicial to the interests and/or image of greyhound racing by using inappropriate language in response to a GRV Steward, after being directed to attend the Stewards Room.

Ms Knight pleaded not guilty to the charge, however was found guilty of the charge, as issued.

After considering submissions on penalty, and the possible modes of penalty available to the Stewards under GAR 174, Ms Knight was issued with a fine of \$500, with half of that total suspended for a period of 24 months, pending no further behaviour related offences in this time. In determining penalty, Stewards took into account:

- Ms Knight's personnel antecedence and record with GRV.
- The circumstances surrounding the commission of the offence.
- General and specific deterrence.



Paul SEARLE
CHIEF STEWARD - GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA

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