

5th July 2020

NOTICE OF INTEGRITY HEARINGS PANEL RESULT – Ms Kiah Hurley

PANEL: Mr Timothy McGrath (Chair), Ms Tanya Johnston and Mr Graham Loch.

STEWARDS REPRESENTATION: Mr Derek Kordick, Inquiries Officer and Mr Des Jonas, Chief Steward.



Authorised for public dissemination.

On 22nd June 2020 Ms Hurley appeared (by telephone with the permission of the IHP) before the Integrity Hearings Panel (IHP) in relation to matters arising from the participation of greyhound Witchie's Gas at Angle Park Racing Club on 18th November 2019.

Following consideration of various sources of information, Stewards considered it appropriate to subsequently charge Ms Hurley with the following charge:

1. Breaching Greyhounds Australasia Rule 83 in that on 3rd November 2019, Ms Hurley presented Witchie's Gas at an event, namely, Race 3 at Angle Park Greyhound Racing Club not free of any prohibited substance. The prohibited substance identified following a post-racing sample being taken from Witchie's Gas was analysed and determined to be Procaine (Procaine is well known to be used as an anaesthetic for minor veterinary surgical procedures. As a result, it is known to cause contamination of pet food manufactured from animals subject to such procedures.), and;

Ms Hurley elected to enter an early guilty plea to the charge.

The IHP heard submissions from Ms Hurley, and from Messrs Kordick and Jonas on behalf of the Stewards.

No irregular betting was identified in relation to the race to which Ms Hurley's charge relates.

Of significance, it is important to note that, without in any way seeking to diminish the seriousness of the allegation, Stewards accept that the presence of Procaine identified in Witchie's Gas, was not intentionally administered by Ms Hurley. Stewards accept that the likely source of Procaine was through the consumption of contaminated food.

On 30th December 2019, GRSA officers interviewed Ms Hurley regarding the positive test to Procaine. She was polite, co-operative and candid. She indicated that she had made enquiries with her meat supplier regarding the origin of their product. Although that is a positive step on the part of Ms Hurley, the IHP were firm in their position that a concerted effort is appropriate to avoid such an occurrence in the future.

Through the submissions from the Stewards and Ms Hurley, it became apparent that Ms Hurley was extremely remorseful for having found herself the subject of disciplinary action, albeit from what is

accepted to be a presentation offence resulting from contaminated meat. It is accepted that she is a highly valued participant of good character. Although young in years, Ms Hurley has nonetheless been a valued member of the greyhound racing community for many years (13 years or so) and continues a longstanding family legacy within the sport.

In all the circumstances, the IHP have resolved to finalise this matter as follows:

- In relation to Count 1 –
 - Ms Hurley will be suspended for a period of 2 months.
 - In light of her early guilty plea, that suspension will be reduced to a period of 6 weeks.
 - Given the circumstances of the offence, and all matters personal to Ms Hurley, that 6 weeks will be fully suspended for a period of 12 months.
 - A penalty of \$500, reduced to \$300 on account of early guilty pleas will apply.

It necessarily follows that the IHP endorse the recommendation of GRSA Stewards, acting under GAR 83(4), to direct that Witchie's Gas be disqualified from Race 3 at Angle Park Greyhound Racing Club held on 18th November 2019.

Stewards will direct that the placings in the event be amended accordingly and that the \$1,075 won be returned to GRSA for redistribution where appropriate.

Both parties were advised of their right of appeal.



Timothy McGrath
GRSA INTEGRITY HEARINGS PANEL CHAIR

