

5th July 2020

NOTICE OF INTEGRITY HEARINGS PANEL RESULT – Mr Neil Mann

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 Mr Mann appeared before the Integrity Hearings Panel (IHP) in relation to matters arising from:

1. The participation of greyhound Ike The Viking at Gawler Greyhound Racing Club on 3rd November 2019, and;
2. The participation of greyhound Misaffection at Gawler Greyhound Racing Club on 16th December 2019.

Following consideration of various sources of information, Stewards considered it appropriate to subsequently charge Mr Mann with the following charges:

1. Breaching Greyhounds Australasia Rule 83 in that on 3rd November 2019, Mr Mann presented Ike The Viking at an event, namely, Race 2 at Gawler Greyhound Racing Club not free of any prohibited substance. The prohibited substance identified following a post-racing sample being taken from Ike The Viking 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;
2. Breaching Greyhounds Australasia Rule 83 in that on 16th December, Mr Mann presented Misaffection at an event, namely, Race 2 at Gawler Greyhound Racing Club not free of any prohibited substance. The prohibited substance identified following a post-racing sample being taken from Misaffection was analysed and determined to be Sotalol (Sotalol is used to treat irregular heartbeat in humans.).

Mr Mann elected to enter an early guilty plea to each of the charges.

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

No irregular betting was identified in relation to either of the races to which Mr Mann's charges relate.

Of significance in relation to charge 1, 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 Ike The Viking, was not intentionally administered by Mr Mann. Stewards accept that the likely source of Procaine was through the consumption of contaminated food.

On 13th December 2019, GRSA officers interviewed Mr Mann regarding the positive test to Procaine. He was polite, co-operative and candid. He indicated that he had recently changed suppliers of meat and had instituted improved processes to avoid a reoccurrence of the offence.

In relation to charge 2, Mr Mann provided information by way of a prescription, in support of his explanation as to how Sotalol came to be present on his property. The Stewards were satisfied that the positive sample identified in Misaffection was not the result of the intentional administration of the substance by Mr Mann. More likely, in the Stewards' view, was that Misaffection came into contact through the inadvertence of Mr Mann when dealing with medications personal to the human occupants of the property.

Through the submissions from the Stewards and Mr Mann, it became apparent that Mr Mann is a man of very good character. He has been a valued participant of greyhound racing for a significant period of time (approximately 20 years), has never been charged with breaching any rule of racing, and has entered a plea of guilty to each of the allegations at the earliest opportunity. Mr Mann was co-operative and polite with the Stewards, GRSA officials and the IHP throughout this process. In all the circumstances, the IHP have resolved to finalise these matters as follows:

- In relation to Count 1 –
 - Mr Mann will be suspended for a period of 2 months.
 - In light of his early guilty plea, that suspension will be reduced to a period of 6 weeks.
 - Given the circumstances of the offence, and the manner in which Mr Mann has taken steps to avoid such an offence in future, that 6 weeks will be fully suspended for a period of 12 months.

- In relation to Count 2 –
 - Mr Mann will be suspended for a period of 3 months.
 - In light of his early guilty plea, that suspension will be reduced to a period of 2 months and 14 days.
 - Mr Mann must serve a period of 28 days of the suspension, thereafter, the remaining 6 weeks will be suspended for a period of 12 months.

- A global penalty of \$750, reduced to \$500 on account of early guilty pleas will be imposed for counts 1 & 2.

It necessarily follows that the IHP endorse the recommendation of GRSA Stewards, acting under GAR 83(4), to direct that:



1. Ike The Viking be disqualified from Race 2 at the Gawler Greyhound Racing Club held on 3rd November 2019, and;
2. Misaffection be disqualified from Race 2 at the Gawler Greyhound Racing Club held on 16th December 2019.

Stewards will direct that the placings in those events be amended accordingly and that the \$1,545 (\$935 (Ike the Viking), and \$610 (Misaffection)) prizemoney won in those events be returned to GRSA for redistribution where appropriate.

Both parties were advised of their right of appeal.



Timothy McGrath
GRSA INTEGRITY HEARINGS PANEL CHAIR

