

30<sup>th</sup> December 2020

## **NOTICE OF INTEGRITY HEARINGS PANEL RESULT – Mr Steve Hoffman**

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

**STEWARDS REPRESENTATION: Mr Derek Kordick, Risk & Compliance Manager and Mr Des Jonas, Chief Steward.**



On 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020 Mr Hoffman appeared before the Integrity Hearings Panel (IHP) in relation to matters arising from:

- A CCTV recording of Mr Hoffman being in control of registered greyhound Hurricane Elle on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2020 at Paralowie.

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

1. Breaching Greyhounds Australasia Rule 86B(1)(c) – withdrawn by Stewards on the day of inquiry, and;
2. Breaching Greyhounds Australasia Rule 86(q) on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2020 in that Mr Hoffman's handling of Hurricane Elle, as depicted by the CCTV which was subsequently posted on Facebook, was detrimental to the image of greyhound racing. The CCTV depicted Mr Hoffman briefly encouraging Hurricane Elle to take an interest in a free roaming suburban cat. Hurricane Elle was at all times under the control of Mr Hoffman by way of a lead. The Facebook post subsequently attracted comments associating Hurricane Elle, and Mr Hoffman, with the sport of greyhound racing, and;
3. Breaching Greyhounds Australasia Rule 109(1)(a) on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2020 in that the CCTV depicted Hurricane Elle was in a public place without the required securely fixed muzzle.

Mr Hoffman elected to enter guilty pleas to both remaining charges.

Having recorded pleas of guilty to both of the charges the IHP heard submissions from Mr Hoffman, and from Messrs Kordick and Jonas on behalf of the Stewards.

The IHP note the following in relation to this matter:

- The behaviour depicted by the CCTV illustrates a momentary lapse of judgement on behalf of Mr Hoffman.

- Mr Hoffman, by way of his guilty pleas, and through his genuine submissions of regret to the IHP, understands that the behaviour is capable of negative interpretation, thus capable of reflecting poorly on the sport of greyhound racing.
- Mr Hoffman is clearly a valued member of the greyhound racing community.
- Mr Hoffman was at all times co-operative and polite with members of the IHP and GRSA officials.



In all the circumstances, the IHP have resolved to finalise these matters as follows:

- Charge 2 – a fine of \$750 reduced from \$1,000 on account of a guilty plea. \$500 will be suspended for a period of 2 years from 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020 conditional upon Mr Hoffman not committing any further offences during that period.
- Charge 3 – a fine of \$315 (equivalent to the expiation notice that would otherwise apply through Local Council). \$250 will be suspended for a period of 2 years from 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020 conditional upon Mr Hoffman not committing any further offences during that period.

Both parties were advised of their right of appeal.

**Timothy McGrath**  
**GRSA INTEGRITY HEARINGS PANEL CHAIR**