

5th July 2020

NOTICE OF INTEGRITY HEARINGS PANEL RESULT

– Mr Nathan Wilson

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

1. The participation of greyhound Lose Your Blues at Angle Park Greyhound Racing Club on 26th August 2019, and;
2. A kennel inspection at his registered property on 30th September 2019, and;
3. The participation of Oakvale Beauty at Angle Park Greyhound Racing Club on 19th September 2019.

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

1. Breaching Greyhounds Australasia Rule 83 in that on 26th August 2019, Mr Wilson presented Lose Your Blue at an event, namely, Race 8 at Angle Park Greyhound Racing Club not free of any prohibited substance(s). The prohibited substances identified following a post-racing sample being taken from Lose Your Blues was analysed and determined to be Procaine, Pentobarbitone & 4-Hydroxy Xylazine (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. Pentobarbitone is used to euthanise animals. 4-Hydroxy Xylazine is used as an analgesic and anaesthetic for livestock), and;
2. Breaching Greyhounds Australasia Rule 84 in that during a kennel inspection on 30th September 2019, a bottle of Testoprop, being a prohibited substance, was discovered. Mr Wilson was deemed to be in possession of the substance, and;
3. Breaching Greyhounds Australasia Rule 83 in that on 19th September 2019, Mr Wilson presented Oakvale Beauty at an event, namely, Race 6 at Angle Park Greyhound Racing Club not free of any prohibited substance(s). The prohibited substance identified following a post-racing sample being taken from Oakvale Beauty 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.).

Mr Wilson elected to enter an early guilty plea to the charges.



The IHP heard submissions from Mr Wilson, 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 Wilson's charges relate.

Of significance, it is important to note that, without in any way seeking to diminish the seriousness of the allegations, Stewards accept that the presence of the prohibited substances noted within Counts 1 and 3, were not intentionally administered by Mr Wilson. Stewards accept that the likely source of the substances identified was through the consumption of contaminated food.

The IHP is ever-mindful of the underlying importance of presenting greyhounds free of prohibited substances. Presentation offences have been rightly condemned through past decisions of the Stewards, a stance that has been supported by the Racing Appeals Tribunal on many occasions. Such offences invariably result in suspensions or disqualifications. That being said, matters will invariably differ in their surrounding circumstances. In the case of this matter, the IHP are of the view that Mr Wilson's matter should be appropriately differentiated from other contamination matters recently considered, for the following reasons:

- Prior to the 26th August 2019, Mr Wilson had actively instituted extraordinarily comprehensive processes to avoid the possibility of his greyhounds consuming contaminated food.
- Suppliers of food have been extensively engaged in order to gain a comprehensive understanding of the internal processes that may expose their product to contamination.
- Food supplies have been sent for analysis following identification of the matters forming the substance of the charges to gain a scientific understanding of how the contamination had occurred.
- Suppliers have been carefully selected based upon the processes they have disclosed, and their asserted commitment to the high standards he (& clearly GRSA) demand.

The IHP acknowledge the commitment by Mr Wilson to educate himself in matters of food contamination, and commend his efforts to the industry.

It must be made clear, presentation offences will invariably result in a participant being suspended or disqualified. However, the IHP are of the view that the significant efforts that Mr Wilson has made both prior to, and following the identification of the prohibited substance following the 26th August 2019 race, are commendable and deserving of leniency in penalty (taking into account Mr Wilson's unblemished record is an important aspect of leniency also). It is appropriate to note however, that although it is appropriate to afford leniency in instances such as this, that leniency cannot be afforded were such an offence to be identified in the future.

On 30th September 2019, GRSA officers interviewed Mr Wilson regarding the positive test regarding Lose Your Blues, as well as the bottle of Testoprop. He was candid, cooperative and polite at all times.

It is appropriate to note that during the kennel inspection of 30th September 2019, Mr Wilson voluntarily informed GRSA officials that Oakvale Beauty (the winner of Race 6, Coffex Coffee SA Oaks Final), that it was likely a further presentation offence may have occurred. He did so as Oakvale Beauty had consumed food from the same supplier as that consumed by Lose Your Blues. That



disclosure was made prior to analysis of the sample taken from Oakvale Beauty being disclosed to either GRSA or Mr Wilson.

In relation to the discovery of Testoprop during the kennel inspection, the IHP have noted the following:

- The substance was originally legally prescribed by Adelaide Plains Veterinary Surgery on 19th July 2014.
- The substance was listed as a prohibited substance in 2016.
- There is no suggestion by Mr Wilson or GRSA that the substance had been used

Through the submissions from the Stewards and Mr Wilson, it became apparent that Mr Wilson is highly regarded and was extremely remorseful for having found himself the subject of disciplinary action for the first time in his career, albeit from what is primarily accepted to be a presentation offence resulting from contaminated meat. It is accepted that Mr Wilson is a highly valued member of the industry and has much to offer the sport.

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

- In relation to Count 1 – 3
 - Mr Wilson will be suspended for a period of 6 weeks.
 - In light of his early guilty plea, that suspension will be reduced to a period of 4 weeks.
 - Given the circumstances of the offence, and all matters personal to Mr Wilson, that 4 weeks will be fully suspended for a period of 12 months.

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

1. Lose Your Blues be disqualified from Race 8 at Angle Park Greyhound Racing Club held on 26th August 2019, and;
2. Oakvale Beauty be disqualified from Race 6 at Angle Park Greyhound Racing Club held on 19th September 2019.

Stewards will direct that the placings in the events be amended accordingly and that the \$1,705 (Lose Your Blues), and \$25,000 (Oakvale Beauty) prizemoney 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

