

18<sup>th</sup> July 2021

## ***NOTICE OF INTEGRITY HEARINGS PANEL RESULT*** ***– Mr Graham Brown***

**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.



### **Authorised for public distribution.**

On 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021 Mr Brown appeared before the Integrity Hearings Panel (IHP) in relation to matters arising from:

1. The participation of greyhound Material Girl at Murray Bridge Greyhound Racing Club on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020, and;
2. A post-race sample of urine was taken from Material Girl and was subsequently determined to contain Morphine, Codeine and Oripavine, each of which are prohibited substances.

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

- Breaching Greyhounds Australasia Rule 83 (2)(a) in that on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020, Mr Brown presented Material Girl at an event, namely, Race 1 at Murray Bridge Greyhound Racing Club not free of any prohibited substance(s). The prohibited substances identified following a post-racing sample being taken from Material Girl were analysed and determined to be Morphine, Codeine and Oripavine (each of these substances are known to found in bakery products containing poppy seeds).

Mr Brown elected to enter an early guilty plea to the charge.

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

No irregular betting was identified in relation to the race Material Girl raced in that relate to the charge.

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 the prohibited substances noted in the charge, were not intentionally administered by Mr Brown. Stewards accept that the likely source of the identified substance was through inadvertent provision of food containing poppy seeds.

As noted in previous matters, 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. Matters will invariably differ in their surrounding circumstances.

The IHP have formed the view that in this matter, it is appropriate that it should be differentiated from those offences that have resulted in immediate suspensions and disqualifications. The IHP have formed this view, for the following reasons, all of which were undisputed by Stewards:

- Mr Brown is a highly respected participant with a significant history in greyhound racing.
- He has undertaken to be highly vigilant in the provision of food to his dogs in the future to ensure the likelihood of a repeat of this matter is minimised.
- Through his admission to the charge at the earliest opportunity.
- Mr Brown was fully co-operative and polite with Stewards throughout their investigation.

As has been noted previously by the IHP, although a lenient approach should be sparingly considered when addressing matters involving prohibited substances, the IHP have formed a view, in all of the circumstances, that this is indeed a case that is deserving of such an approach.

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

- Mr Brown will be suspended for a period of 3 months.
- Considering his early guilty plea, that suspension will be reduced to a period of 2 months and 14 days.
- Given the circumstances of the offence, and all matters personal to Mr Brown, that 2 months and 14 days will be fully suspended for a period of 12 months.
- A fine of \$300 reduced to \$200 considering his early guilty plea will be imposed.

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

1. Material Girl be disqualified from Race 1 at the Murray Bridge Greyhound Racing Club held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020, and;

Stewards will direct that the placings in the event be amended accordingly and that the \$805.00 prizemoney be returned to GRSA for redistribution where appropriate.

Both parties were advised of their right of appeal.



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

