26 August 2021

**DECISION**

**GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**DAVID BOTTRELL**

**Date of hearing:** 5 August 2021

**Panel:** Judge Graeme Hicks (Deputy Chairperson) and Judge Julie Nicholson.

**Appearances:** Mr Anthony Pearce, instructed by Mr Marwan El-Asmar, appeared on behalf of the Stewards.

Mr David Bottrell represented himself.

**Charge:** Greyhounds Australasia Rule (“GAR”) 83(2) states:

The owner, trainer or person in charge of a greyhound-

1. nominated to compete in an Event;
2. presented for a satisfactory, weight or whelping trial or such other trial as provided for pursuant to these Rules; or
3. presented for any test or examination for the purpose of a period of incapacitation or prohibition being varied or revoked

shall present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance.

**Particulars of charge:** 1. You are, and were at all relevant times, a trainer licensed by Greyhound Racing Victoria and a person bound by the Greyhounds Australasia Rules.

2. You were, at all relevant times, the trainer of the greyhound “Hello George”.

3.“Hello George” was nominated to compete in, Race 11, LIKE GRVictoria ONFACEBOOK, Grade 5, conducted by the Healesville Greyhound Racing Association at Healesville on 27 December 2020 (**the Event**).

4. On 27 December 2020, you presented “Hello George” at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

(a) A post-race sample of urine was taken from “Hello George” at the Event (**the Sample**);

(b) Atenolol was detected in the Sample.

**Plea:** Guilty

**DECISION**

Mr David Bottrell, you have pleaded guilty to breaching Greyhounds Australasia Rule (“GAR”) 83(2) for presenting your greyhound “Hello George” in Race 11 at the Healesville Greyhound Racing Club meeting held on 27 December 2020, when it was not free of a prohibited substance, namely atenolol.

Atenolol is a drug which can affect the rhythm of the heart and can affect the performance of a greyhound.

On 2 March 2021 you informed Stewards that you had, for many years, been taking a substance called Noten, which contains atenolol.

In July 2020, Stewards issued a warning to those in the industry about the risks of cross contamination of human medications with a greyhound. It is highly likely that is what happened here.

You are 69 years of age and you have been in the industry for 20 years. You have a very good record. You have one race dog and an older dog that you keep as a pet. You are an aged pensioner. Previously you were employed at Telecom and you have a concern that if you are suspended, your dog may be taken to another trainer and you will not get it back.

It is vital that greyhound racing is conducted on a level playing field without prohibited substances. Principles of general deterrence and, to a far lesser extent, specific deterrence have a part to play in arriving at an appropriate penalty.

We have taken into account your plea of guilty, your cooperation with the Stewards and your good record within the industry.

In all the circumstances, we impose a penalty of two months suspension. We order that Hello George be disqualified from Race 11 Healesville Greyhound Racing Club meeting held on 27 December 2020 and the placings be amended accordingly.

Mark Howard
Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal