2 May 2023

**DECISION**

**GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**GERRY ORR**

**Date of hearing:** 21 April 2023

**Panel:** Judge John Bowman (Chairperson).

**Appearances:** Mr Paul Searle appeared on behalf of the Stewards.

Mr Gerry Orr represented himself.

**Charge:** Greyhounds Australasia Rule (“GAR”) 124 states:

Subject to rule 125, where, in the opinion of the Stewards, a greyhound fails to pursue the lure during an Event, the Stewards must impose a period of suspension in respect of the greyhound pursuant to rule 127, which is to be recorded by them as part of the identification record

**Particulars of charge: “**Please Thanks” underwent a post–race veterinary examination and was found to have abrasions to the left metatarsals, no stand down period. Stewards spoke to Trainer, Mr Gerry Orr, regarding the racing manners of Please Thanks in the front straight. Acting under the provisions of GAR 124, Please Thanks was charged with failing to pursue the lure with due commitment. Mr Orr pleaded not guilty to the charge. Please Thanks was found guilty and suspended for 28 days at all tracks and must perform a Satisfactory Trial in accordance with GAR 127, and pursuant to GAR 132, before any future nomination will be accepted.

**Plea:** Not Guilty

**DECISION**

In this matter, Mr Gerry Orr is appealing against the decision of the Stewards in relation to an alleged breach of Greyhounds Australasia Rule (“GAR”) 124 – failing to pursue. It concerns the greyhound, “Please Thanks”, which is trained by him and which competed in Race 12 at Sandown on 16 April 2023.

The allegations by the Stewards are that Please Thanks failed to pursue the lure with due commitment in the straight on the first occasion, the race being one over 515 metres. A second particular of the charge, added after the initial Stewards inquiry but prior to the hearing, is that it failed to pursue again in the back straight.

I have viewed the video many times. Please Thanks jumped quickly from the number one box and went straight to the lead. However, prior to the winning post on the first occasion, it clearly turned its head to the outside. It subsequently lost some ground and ran wide on the turn out of the straight. In the back straight, it loomed up again to the lead, but seemed to me to ease for no apparent reason. It again surrendered the lead and ultimately finished third.

Mr Orr raised an argument concerning a small piece of metal subsequently found in the dog’s chest. Whatever the source of the piece of lead, I am far from satisfied that it had any effect upon the behaviour of the dog in the race. In any event, it had previously been charged with a failure to pursue when the cause was injury. I would refer to GAR 125.

I need not go beyond the initial incident in the straight on the first occasion. Please Thanks clearly turned its head and failed to pursue. Were it necessary, I would make a similar finding in relation to the incident in the back straight. The appeal is dismissed.

Kathleen Scully

Acting Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal