7 October 2020

**DECISION**

**GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**MR MARCUS LLOYD**

**Date of hearing:** 29 September 2020

**Panel:** Judge John Bowman (Chairperson) and Ms Amanda Dickens.

**Appearances:** Mr Marwan El-Asmar appeared on behalf of the Stewards.

Mr Marcus Lloyd 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 *“Pumpernickel”.*

3. *“Pumpernickel”* was nominated to compete in, Race 12, EUREKA CONCRETE VETERANS, S/E Veterans, conducted by the Ballarat Greyhound Racing Club at Ballarat on 19 February 2020 (**the Event**).

4. On 19 February 2020, you presented *“Pumpernickel”* at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

1. A pre-race sample of urine was taken from *“Pumpernickel”* at the Event (**the Sample**);

(b) Hydrochlorothiazide was detected in the Sample.

**Plea:** Guilty

**DECISION**

Mr Marcus Lloyd, you have pleaded ‘guilty’ to a presentation charge pursuant to GAR 83 (2). ‘Pumpernickel’, trained by you, finished third in Race 12 at Ballarat on 19 February 2020.

A pre-race urine sample was positive to the prohibited substance Hydrochlorothiazide. That is a substance found in medication for humans and particularly for those suffering from cardiac complaints. It could have a negative effect on a greyhound’s performance.

You are assisted in the training of Pumpernickel by your father, Mr Keith Lloyd. He is also a full-time licensed trainer, like yourself. Between you, you train some forty dogs on your property. You also breed greyhounds. Your father has a cardiac condition and, at the relevant time, was taking a medication which contains Hydrochlorothiazide. It is accepted that he is a heavy sweater in warm weather and engaged in the feeding of dogs, including Pumpernickel, at the relevant time. That the substance was probably passed on from his sweat is a proposition that is accepted by the Stewards. It is also accepted by the Stewards that there was no deliberate administration.

You have been registered since 1998. You have a very good record, involving only some comparatively minor offences that attracted modest fines or warnings. As stated, you are a full-time trainer.

General deterrence is an important issue. Trainers must be aware of the need to be alert to the possibility of prohibited substances, including those in human medicines, finding their way into a greyhound’s system. We take into account the importance of keeping a level playing field and the penalties imposed in recent matters.

We are satisfied that the contact between the dog and the prohibited substance was accidental. In all the circumstances, we impose a fine of $500. Pumpernickel is disqualified from Race 12 at Ballarat on 19 February 2020 and any prize money is to be refunded.

Mark Howard
Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal