9 May 2024

**DECISION**

**GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**ALAN CAMPBELL**

**Date of hearing:** 30 April 2024

**Date of decision:** 30 April 2024

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

**Appearances:** Mr Andrew Spence appeared on behalf of the Stewards.

Mr Aaron Campbell represented Mr Alan Campbell.

**Charge:** Greyhounds Australasia Rule (“GAR”) 129 states:

If a greyhound fails to perform to the satisfaction of the Stewards during the running of an Event, the Stewards may:

(a) order that the greyhound complete a satisfactory trial before being eligible to be nominated for or compete in any Event; and/or

(b) order that before the greyhound is eligible to be nominated for or compete in any Event its trainer or connections must produce a veterinary certificate certifying that it is not suffering from an injury or condition to the satisfaction of the Stewards.

**Particulars:** War Knee underwent a post–race veterinary examination was re–examined following race 11. War Knee was found to have a left hindleg sartorius injury. A 7 day stand down period was imposed. Stewards spoke to Mr Alan Campbell regarding War Knee’s performance and racing manners in the back straight. After hearing submissions from Mr. Campbell, viewing the available race footage and acting on their observations, Stewards deemed the performance of War Knee unsatisfactory. War Knee must perform a Satisfactory Trial in accordance with GAR 129, and pursuant to GAR 132, before any future nomination will be accepted.

**Plea:** Not Guilty

**DECISION**

Mr Alan Campbell, you are appealing against a decision of the Stewards that the dog, War Knee, trained by you, was guilty of a breach of GAR 129, which deals with unsatisfactory performance.

This arises out of the run of War Knee in Race 9 over 398 metres at Traralgon on 19 April 2024.

In this race, War Knee finished a distant last, at least 12 lengths behind the second last dog. Whilst initially no injury was found, a veterinary re-examination revealed a left hind leg sartorius injury and a 7 day stand down period was imposed.

However, the Stewards, after hearing submissions, also found that the performance of War Knee was unsatisfactory and it was required to perform a satisfactory trial before any future nomination would be accepted. In so finding, the Stewards placed particular emphasis upon the dog’s performance and racing manners in the back straight.

Your appeal places emphasis upon the injury suffered by the dog and its impact upon the dog’s performance. On 23 April 2024, you took the dog to the Sandown Vet Clinic, where it was found to have an injury to the head of the right fore triceps and had right hind pencil soreness and possible haematoma.

It is to be remembered that the injury diagnosed virtually immediately after the race was to the left hind leg. The right leg injury was diagnosed at the Sandown Vet Clinic was some two days after the event.

I have viewed the available video material many times. War Knee jumped away with the field and crossed from box 6 to a position approximately 3 wide and towards the end of the field. Whilst the vision is not entirely clear, it did not appear to have any meaningful contact with any other dog before losing ground very noticeably, this being in the back straight.

It remained tailed off, although it did appear to me to improve its action and may even have made up some ground approaching the home turn and in the straight. Certainly, its action appeared normal in the latter stages of the race.

In all the circumstances, I am comfortably satisfied that the case of the Stewards has been made out. I appreciate the concern of Mr Campbell and the effort which he and his son have put into this appeal.

However, it seems to me that the dog lost ground noticeably in the backstraight without any apparent cause and raced normally into the home turn and in the straight. Its action did not appear to be in any way impeded in those latter stages of the race. There was no clear indication of an impaired gait at any stage of the race. The diagnoses and location of any injury seems to differ.

In all the circumstances, the decision of the Stewards seems to me to be a reasonable and appropriate one. The dog lost ground having not suffered any apparent interference, showed no obvious sign of injury, and resumed racing in the concluding stages of the event in a manner which seemed normal.

In short, I appreciate the effort put into this appeal on behalf of the dog, but I am comfortably satisfied that the appeal should be dismissed.

Accordingly, the appeal is dismissed.

Mark Howard

Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal