13 December 2024

**DECISION**

**GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**SIMON HUMPHRIES**

**Date of hearing:** 28 November 2024

**Date of decision:** 28 November 2024

**Panel:** Judge John Bowman (Chairperson) and Dr Andrew Gould.

**Appearances:** Ms Yana Podolskaya appeared on behalf of the Stewards.

Mr Simon Humphries represented himself.

**Charge:** Greyhounds Australasia Rule (“GAR”) 141(1) states:

(1) The owner, trainer or other person in charge of a greyhound:

(a) nominated to compete in an Event;

(b) presented for a satisfactory trial or such other trial as provided for by the Rules; or

(c) presented for any test or examination for the purpose of a stand-down period being varied or revoked,

must present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance.

**Particulars:** 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 “My Bro Jill”.

3. My Bro Jill was nominated to compete in Race 11, homesanddomes.com.au (275+RANK), Grade 5, conducted by the Shepparton Greyhound Racing Club at Shepparton on 8 February 2024 (the Event).

4. On 8 February 2024, you presented My Bro Jill at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

(a) A pre-race sample of urine was taken from My Bro Jill at the Event (the Sample);

(b) Sotalol was detected in the Sample.

**Plea:** Guilty

**DECISION**

Mr Simon Humphries, you are pleading guilty to one offence. The offence is a breach of Greyhounds Australasia Rule (“GAR”) 141(1), which is frequently referred to as a presentation charge.

It arises out of the dog “My Bro Jill”, trained by you, and which was in Race 11 at Shepparton on 8 February 2024. It won that race. A pre-race urine sample tested positive to the prohibited substance, sotalol. We would refer to the report of Dr Karamatic.

Sotalol is more likely to have a negative effect on performance. Whilst it can be found in knackery meat, the more likely possibility in the present case is that it arose from a contact with a friend of yours who is on medication for a cardiac condition.

Thus, the cause of the dog so presenting is basically unknown. It does not seem to have had any negative effect on performance, as the dog won the race, and we accept that you did back it.

Your background is that you have worked in the greyhound industry for something in the order of 40 years. You still work in it on a full time basis. Whilst you are a licensed trainer, you do not do a great deal of racing dogs, but your full time occupation is preparing and educating dogs. The greyhound industry is effectively your sole source of income and has always been so. The training of My Bro Jill seems to have been more of a favour for a friend in ill health.

However, as stated, the greyhound industry provides your sole source of income and, as we understand it, always has done so.

As stated, you have been in the industry for 40 years. You do have one prior conviction in relation to prohibited substances. On 13 January 2021, you were penalised for an offence which apparently arose out of a positive return from a dog that had eaten some chocolate. Overall, however, and given your 40 years in the industry, you do have a very good record.

We also bear in mind that the prohibited substance in the present case is at the lower end of the scale of such substances.

Having taken into account all these factors, we have arrived at the following penalty.

You are suspended for a period of three months, but that suspension is in turn suspended for a period of 12 months pending no further relevant offences during that period. Further, you are fined the sum of $1,500, but with $1,000 suspended for a period of 12 months pending no further relevant offences during that period.

My Bro Jill is disqualified from Race 11 at Shepparton on 8 February 2024 and the finishing order is amended accordingly.

Kathleen Scully

Assistant Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal