16 January 2025

**DECISION**

**GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**GLEN DAVIES**

**Date of hearing:** 30 December 2024

**Date of decision:** 30 December 2024

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

**Appearances:** Mr Max Hayden-Evans appeared on behalf of the Stewards.

Mr Glen Davies represented himself.

**Charge:** Greyhounds Australasia Rule (“GAR”) 123 states:

Where, in the opinion of the Stewards, a greyhound is found to have marred 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:** Speedy Riccardo (marred Tommy Tequila then fell turning into the home straight) underwent a post-race veterinary examination and was found to have a right hamstring injury. A 5 day stand down period was imposed. Stewards spoke to trainer Mr. Glen Davies regarding Speedy Riccardo's racing manners. Acting under the provisions of GAR 123, Speedy Riccardo was charged with marring. Mr. Davies pleaded not guilty to the charge. Speedy Riccardo was found guilty and suspended for 28 days (1st offence) at The Meadows 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**

Mr Glen Davies, you are the trainer of “Speedy Riccardo”, which competed in Race 7 at the Meadows on 21 December 2024. Speedy Riccardo had drawn Box 1.

Following the running of the race, the Stewards inquired into an incident which occurred on the home turn and which involved your dog and Tommy Tequila, the 2 dog, which was to your dog’s immediate outside. Also involved was the 3 dog, Uriah Bale, which was to the outside of Tommy Tequila.

The Stewards found that your dog had marred Tommy Tequila and suspended Speedy Riccardo for a period of 28 days on what could be called the usual terms.

Your argument is that Uriah Bale essentially forced Tommy Tequila on to your dog, which had been racing correctly. This caused your dog to turn its head as the collision, which was no fault of it, occurred.

The Stewards allege that your dog turned its head and made muzzle contact with Tommy Tequila and that the marring charge was made out accordingly. I might add that a confusing scenario was that there was a fall that immediately followed this incident.

I have viewed the video many times, including after submissions, and I have also had the benefit of still photographs, which I have examined. As stated, helpful submissions were also made.

The conclusion at which I have arrived is that marring by Speedy Riccardo did occur. The dog turned its head and made muzzle contact with Tommy Tequila. I am not of the opinion that Uriah Bale effectively forced Tommy Tequila on to your dog. Neither the still photographs nor the video material support the proposition that such forced contact was in fact made. Uriah Bale and Tommy Tequila were racing truly and Speedy Riccardo turned its head and made muzzle contact with Tommy Tequila.

Accordingly, I am of the opinion that marring by Speedy Riccardo did occur and that Tommy Tequila was the victim of it. As stated, I appreciate the helpful submissions, but it is my conclusion that the appeal fails. It is dismissed and the penalty imposed by the Stewards remains in place.

Mark Howard

Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal