

## Stewards' Report

**Date:** Friday, 10 July 2020  
**Panel:** Mr S. Kearney (Chair), Mr A. Spence  
**Person:** Mr Ricky Hassall  
**Rule:** GAR 84B(1) – Possession on course  
**Charge:** Had in his possession a prohibited substance while on course at a race meeting held at the Bundaberg Greyhound Racing Club on Monday, 16 December 2019.  
**Substance:** Lignocaine  
**Penalty:** \$500 with \$250 suspended for 12 months.

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On Friday, 10 July 2020 the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards concluded an inquiry into analyst's findings of an unlabelled bottle, which stated the presence of lignocaine, which was seized from the vehicle of trainer Mr Ricky Hassall when present at the Bundaberg Greyhound Racing Club meeting of Monday, 16 December 2019.

At that race meeting, Mr Hassall had engaged the greyhound Longshot Larry to compete in race 4. Pre-race and post-race samples collected from Longshot Larry did not reveal any adverse analytical findings.

Submissions were made by Mr Hassall.

After considering all the evidence, Stewards issued a charge under GAR 84B(1) which reads:

*No person, unless he or she has obtained the permission of the Stewards, shall have in his or her possession, either on a racecourse or in any motor vehicle or trailer being used for the purpose of travelling to or from a racecourse, any prohibited substance or a syringe, needle or other instrument which could be used to administer a prohibited substance to a greyhound.*

Specifics of the charge:

*Mr Ricky Hassall, as a registered trainer, did have in his possession, within his vehicle, a prohibited substance, namely lignocaine, within an unlabelled bottle, when attending a race meeting at the Bundaberg Greyhound Racing Club on Monday, 16 December 2019.*

Mr Hassall pleaded guilty to the charge.

QRIC Stewards considered the following in relation to penalty:

- A plea of guilty to the charge.
- Mr Hassall's forthright evidence and good character.
- Mr Hassall has no prior breaches under a similar rule.
- Mr Hassall has been a licensed trainer for approximately 40 years.
- Prior penalty precedents for similar offences.
- The need to maintain integrity of greyhound racing and ensure a level playing field for all participants.

Accordingly, the QRIC Stewards issued the following penalty:

*A monetary fine of \$500 with \$250 suspended for 12 months pending no further breaches of a similar rule.*

Mr Hassall was advised of his right to an Internal Review.