

## Stewards' Report

- Inquiry Date:** Tuesday, 6 April 2021
- Stewards:** A. Kitching (Chair), A. Spence & P. Mclean
- Person:** Rebecca Buxton
- Rule:** GAR 86(d) & 86(m)
- Charges:**
- (1) Ms Rebecca Buxton on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021 provided false and misleading evidence to the QRIC IIT Stewards regarding the location and retirement of the greyhound Credit Wise between 4 December 2020 and 3 January 2021.
  - (2) Ms Rebecca Buxton on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 provided false and misleading evidence to QRIC Stewards officiating at the Bundaberg Greyhound Racing Club and IIT Stewards on 22.3.21 regarding the transportation and subsequent late scratchings of Radiant Raccoon & Gelnite Gim.
  - (3) Ms Rebecca Buxton on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 did conspire with another licensed participant, in an attempt to deliberately deceive QRIC officials regarding the location and status of the greyhound Credit Wise.
- Penalty:**
- Charge 1: 3-month Suspension
  - Charge 2: 3-month Suspension
  - Charge 3: 3-month Suspension
- Penalties to be served concurrently.
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On Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021 the QRIC Stewards concluded an inquiry into evidence provided to QRIC Integrity Investigations Team (IIT) members and Stewards regarding the location/retirement of Credit Wise between 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021 and also inquired into the events leading to the subsequent late scratching of both Radiant Raccoon and Gelnite Gem from the Bundaberg Greyhound Racing Club meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021, QRIC IIT members conducted a kennel inspection of Mr Tony Parry's registered address. During the inspection, Body Worn Camera (BWC) footage was captured and provided to QRIC Stewards for review. Ms Rebecca Buxton was present during this inspection and also questioned by QRIC IIT.

After reviewing the BWC footage, QRIC Stewards questioned Ms Buxton regarding statements made to the IIT regarding the location of Credit Wise between 4 December 2020 to 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021 and the subsequent retirement of the greyhound. QRIC Stewards found that Ms Buxton provided QRIC IIT members and Stewards false and misleading evidence as to the location and subsequent retirement of Credit Wise.

Ms Buxton was also questioned regarding the transportation and subsequent late scratching of both Radiant Raccoon and Gelnite Gem from the Bundaberg Greyhound Racing Club meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021. Stewards found that Ms Buxton had made false and misleading statements to the Stewards officiating at the Bundaberg race meeting.

After considering all available material, the QRIC Stewards charged Ms Buxton with three breaches of the Greyhound Australasian Rules of Racing.

**Charge 1 – GAR86(d).** That on 7th January 2021, Ms Rebecca BUXTON provided false and misleading evidence to the QRIC IIT members regarding the location and retirement of the greyhound Credit Wise between 4 December 2020 and 3 January 2021.

**Charge 2 – GAR86(d).** That on 22nd March 2021, Ms Rebecca Buxton provided false and misleading evidence to QRIC Officials officiating at the Bundaberg Greyhound Racing Club and IIT members on 22.3.21 regarding the transportation and subsequent late scratchings of Radiant Ragoon & Gelignite Gim.

**Charge 3 – GAR86(m).** That on 5th January 2021, Ms Rebecca Buxton did conspire with another licensed participant, in an attempt to deliberately deceive QRIC officials regarding the location and status of the greyhound Credit Wise.

Ms Buxton pleaded guilty to all charges.

The Stewards when assessing an appropriate penalty considered the serious nature of the offences that occurred and the need for both a specific deterrent to Ms Buxton and a general deterrent to the wider industry to reiterate that any false and/or misleading evidence, particularly regarding animal welfare, will attract a significant penalty as it undermines the integrity of racing which is critical for the proper conduct and administration of the industry. Stewards also took into consideration Ms Buxton's approximate 4 years as a licensed participant, no prior breaches of a similar rule and relevant penalty precedents.

Accordingly, the QRIC Stewards issued the following penalties to commence immediately.

**Charge 1 – 3 month suspension.**

**Charge 2 – 3 month suspension.**

**Charge 3 – 3 month suspension.**

QRIC Stewards ordered that all penalties be served concurrently. The period of suspension being from 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021 up to and including 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

Ms Buxton was advised of her right to an internal review.