

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Will Hulbert

Date: 28 April 2021

Panel: D Aurisch, W Hadley, M Winwood

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today concluded an inquiry into the conduct of licensed co-trainer Will Hulbert following Criminal Defence competing at the Sunshine Coast on 30 January 2021.

Evidence today was taken from Mr Hulbert, Mr Garratt a part-owner of Criminal Defence, and telephonic evidence was taken from Jockey Andrew Mallyon who was the rider of the gelding on the above-mentioned date.

On the evidence, it was established that Mr Hulbert was disappointed in Mr Mallyon's ride on Criminal Defence in this particular race. Subsequently, he made an audio recording to the owners of Criminal Defence voicing his displeasure in Mr Mallyon's handling of the gelding in this particular race.

Mr Hulbert has not reported this dissatisfaction to the Stewards after the race or subsequently.

After carefully considering all of the evidence, Mr Hulbert was issued with a charge under the provisions of AR 228(b) which reads:

A person must not engage in misconduct, improper conduct or unseemly behaviour.

The specifics of the charge being that following Smooth Criminal competing at the Sunshine Coast on 30 January 2021, Mr Hulbert misconducted himself by making an audio recording to the registered owners of the gelding regarding Mr Mallyon's riding of Smooth Criminal, which was inappropriate and offensive.

Mr Hulbert pleaded not guilty to the charge and made some detailed submissions in response.

When considering this matter, the Stewards were mindful that this audio recording was made in private and was posted on a reputable website directed at the owners of Smooth Criminal. And although Mr Hulbert was in no way responsible for the audio making its way onto a social media platform, for an experienced person in the racing industry he would be aware of his responsibilities to at all relevant times conduct himself in appropriate manner and in accordance with the Rules of Racing.

Mr Hulbert was found guilty of the charge as specified.

When considering a relevant penalty, the panel considered that Mr Hulbert's conduct was unprofessional and he would have been aware of his avenues under AR 105 to report to Stewards, as soon as practical anything which may affect the running of a horse in a race, which includes a rider not adhering to instructions given. Stewards also considered the need

for both a specific deterrent to Mr Hulbert and a general deterrent to the industry to illustrate the need to conduct themselves in appropriate manner at all times.

Mr Hulbert was fined \$1000.

He was made aware of his rights to an internal review.