

## Stewards' Report

<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday, 31 May 2023
<b>Panel:</b>	Mr D Aurisch (Chairperson), Mr P McLean, Mr N Thorneycroft
<b>Person:</b>	Mr Les Lewis
<b>Rule:</b>	GAR 141(1)(a)
<b>Charges:</b>	Mr Les Lewis presented the greyhound Bye Bye Dreamer to compete in Race 2 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 6 March 2023 when it was not free of a prohibited substance
<b>Substance:</b>	Desmethylvenlafaxine
<b>Penalty:</b>	4 months suspension with 2 months wholly suspended for twelve (12) months

---

On 31 May 2023, Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards conducted an inquiry into analysts' findings that the prohibited substance Desmethylvenlafaxine was detected in a post-race urine sample collected from the greyhound Bye Bye Dreamer when it competed in, and won, Race 2 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 6 March 2023.

Submissions were made by Mr Les Lewis during the inquiry as the licensed trainer of Bye Bye Dreamer at the relevant time.

After considering all of the evidence, Stewards issued a charge pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(1)(a), which provides:

*The owner, trainer or other person in charge of a greyhound, nominated to compete in an Event, must present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance.*

The specifics of the charge were as follows:

That Mr Les Lewis, as the trainer of the greyhound Bye Bye Dreamer, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 2 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 6 March 2023 with a prohibited substance in its system, namely Desmethylvenlafaxine as detected by the Racing Science Centre and confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Limited in the post-race urine sample collected from the greyhound on 6 March 2023.

Mr Lewis entered a plea of guilty to the charge and made further submissions in respect of penalty.

In determining the matter of penalty, Stewards considered the following:

- Mr Lewis's plea of guilty to the charge;
- Mr Lewis's time in the greyhound racing industry as a trainer, being approximately forty (40) years;
- Mr Lewis's forthright evidence and cooperation throughout the inquiry;
- Mr Lewis's explanation as to the likely source of the prohibited substance, being inadvertent contamination because of his medical condition which requires the daily use of a medication containing Desmethylvenlafaxine.

- Mr Lewis's immediate review of, and amendment to, his animal husbandry practices upon being notified of the positive swab;
- Ms Lewis's disciplinary history, noting no prior breaches of a similar rule;
- Consideration of the QRIC Greyhound Racing Penalty Guidelines;
- the need to maintain the integrity of greyhound racing and to ensure a level playing field for all participants;
- the need for both specific deterrence to Mr Lewis and general deterrence to the wider industry.

Accordingly, Stewards determined that the appropriate penalty was a suspension of Mr Lewis for four (4) months with Stewards electing to wholly suspend two (2) months pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 174(3) for a period of twelve (12) months conditional upon no further breach of a similar nature. Commencing immediately and to expire on 1 August 2023.

Acting under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(4), Stewards directed that Bye Bye Dreamer be disqualified from Race 2 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 6 March 2023 (1<sup>st</sup> place).

Stewards ordered that the placings be amended accordingly, and Mr Lewis was advised that all prizemoney associated with this event must be returned to Racing Queensland.

Mr Lewis was advised of his right to appeal.