

Stewards' Report

Date:	Thursday, 25 May 2023
Panel:	Mr D Aurisch (Chairperson), Mr J Philp, Mr R Jackson
Person:	Ms Judith Gordon
Rule:	GAR 141(1)(a)
Charges:	Ms Judith Gordon presented the greyhound Bold Character to compete in Race 4 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 3 March 2023 when it was not free of a prohibited substance
Substance:	Lamotrigine
Penalty:	\$1500.00 fine with \$750.00 wholly suspended for twelve (12) months

On 25 May 2023, Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards conducted an inquiry into analysts' findings that the prohibited substance Lamotrigine was detected in a post-race urine sample collected from the greyhound Bold Character when it competed in, and won, Race 4 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 3 March 2023.

Submissions were made by Ms Judith Gordon during the inquiry as the licensed trainer of Bold Character at the relevant time, assisted by Ms Vicki Shepherd.

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 Ms Judith Gordon, as the trainer of the greyhound Bold Character, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 4 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 3 March 2023 with a prohibited substance in its system, namely Lamotrigine 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 3 March 2023.

Ms Gordon 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:

- Mrs Gordon's plea of guilty to the charge;
- Ms Gordon's time in the greyhound racing industry as a trainer, being approximately twenty-two (22) years;
- Ms Gordon's forthright evidence and cooperation throughout the inquiry;
- Ms Gordon's explanation as to the likely source of the prohibited substance, being inadvertent contamination as a result of Ms Shepherd's medical condition which requires the daily use of a medication containing Lamotrigine.

- Ms Gordons's immediate review of, and amendment to, her animal husbandry practices upon being notified of the positive swab;
- Ms Gordon's disciplinary history, noting no prior breaches of a similar rule.
- 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 Ms Gordon and general deterrence to the wider industry.

Accordingly, Stewards determined that the appropriate penalty was a fine in the amount of \$1,500.00 with Stewards electing to wholly suspend \$750.00 pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 174(3) for a period of twelve (12) months conditional upon no further breach of a similar nature.

Acting under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(4), Stewards directed that Bold Character be disqualified from Race 4 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 3 March 2023 (1st place).

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

Ms Gordon was advised of his right to appeal.