

# Stewards' Report

## Stewards Report: Mr Lleyton Dickson

**Date: 11 April 2024**

**Panel: Darryl Griffiths, Ross Neal**

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) stewards conducted further inquiries into an incident that occurred in the public Grandstand area following Race 8 at the Townsville Turf Club on 20 January 2024.

Licensed stablehand Mr L Dickson was questioned as to the reasons he was involved in a disturbance with a member of the public and a licensed trainer, Mr. M Geaney.

A written submission in relation to the matter was tabled by Mr Dickson, outlining the circumstances of his involvement in the disturbance, the lead up to the incident and the actions of all involved. Mr Dickson presented evidence that he was initially verbally abused and then physically contacted and that he had retaliated in self-defence.

The Townsville Turf Club also supplied CCTV of the incident, and a report from Security Officer Mr D Chaffey, which were admitted as evidence. Witness statements previously provided to stewards were tabled.

After considering all the evidence, Mr Dickson was issued with a charge pursuant to AR 228(b) which reads -:

### **Conduct detrimental to the interests of racing.**

*A person must not engage in:*

*“Misconduct, improper conduct or unseemly behaviour.”*

The specifics of the charge being -: “that immediately following the running of Race 8 at Townsville Turf Club on 20 January 2024, Mr L Dickson did engage in a physical altercation in the Townsville Turf Club Grandstand with Licensed Trainer M Geaney and initially did physically push Mr Geaney, prior to then being involved in a fracas with him and a member of the public ”.

Stewards alleged such behaviour to be misconduct.

Mr L Dickson pleaded guilty the charge.

In assessing penalty Stewards considered the following -:

1. CCTV footage confirmed that Mr Dickson had initially pushed Mr Geaney.
2. Witness statements outlining the lead up to the incident.
3. The public area where the incident occurred.
4. The negative impact such incidents have on the image of racing.
5. The need for a penalty to serve as an appropriate deterrent to others in matters of misconduct.
6. Mr Dickson had not previously been before the stewards on any matter in the thoroughbred or greyhound codes.
7. Action already taken by the Townsville Turf Club against all participants in relation to the incident.

Mr Dickson's stablehand licence was subsequently suspended for a period of six months forthwith. Stewards, acting under the powers of AR 283(5), ruled that the penalty be wholly suspended for a period of one year, pending Mr Dickson not being found guilty of any further breaches of any conduct related matters.

Mr Dickson was advised of his right of appeal.