

Stewards' Report

Date:	Monday, 28 October 2024
Panel:	Mr S Larkins (Chairperson), Ms S Stehbens
Person:	Mrs Christine Pollard
Rule:	GAR 141(1)(a)
Charges:	On 24 July 2024, Mrs Christine Pollard presented the greyhound Bossy Miss Bliss to compete in Race 10 at the Rockhampton Greyhound Racing Club when it was not free of a prohibited substance
Substance:	Arsenic
Penalty:	A four (4) month suspension wholly and conditionally suspended for two (2) years together with a \$1,000.00 fine

On 28 October 2024, the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards concluded an inquiry into analysts' findings that the prohibited substance Arsenic was detected at a level in excess of the mass concentration limit of 800 nanograms per millilitre in a post-race urine sample collected from the greyhound Bossy Miss Bliss when it competed in, and won, Race 10 at the Rockhampton Greyhound Racing Club on 24 July 2024.

Submissions were made by Mrs Christine Pollard as the licensed trainer of Bossy Miss Bliss at the relevant time.

After considering the evidence, Stewards issued a charge pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rules 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 Mrs Christine Pollard, as the trainer of the greyhound Bossy Miss Bliss, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 10 at the Rockhampton Greyhound Racing Club on 24 July 2024 with a prohibited substance in its system, namely Arsenic, as detected by the Racing Science Centre and confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Limited, in the urine sample collected from the greyhound on 24 July 2024.

Mrs Pollard entered a plea of not guilty to the charge and made further submissions in respect of her plea.

Stewards considered Mrs Pollard's further submissions and subsequently found the charge proven, with Mrs Pollard then providing submissions in respect of penalty.

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

- Mrs Pollard's plea of not guilty to the charge;
- Mrs Pollard's time in the greyhound racing industry, being approximately forty (40) years;
- Mrs Pollard's disciplinary history, noting no prior breaches of a similar nature within the past ten (10) years;
- the number of greyhounds currently under Mrs Pollard's care and custody, being nineteen (19) greyhounds;
- the nature of the prohibited substance Arsenic;
- 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 Mrs Pollard and general deterrence to the wider industry;
- relevant penalty precedents;
- the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Greyhound Racing Penalty Guidelines; and
- the Human Rights Act 2019.

Accordingly, Stewards determined that the appropriate penalty was a four (4) month licence suspension with Stewards electing to wholly suspend the suspension pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 174(3) for a period of two (2) years conditional upon no further breach of a similar nature, together with a monetary penalty in the amount of \$1,000.00.

Acting under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(5)(a), Stewards directed that Bossy Miss Bliss be disqualified from Race 10 at the Rockhampton Greyhound Racing Club on 24 July 2024 (1st place).

Acting under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(5)(b), Stewards further directed that Bossy Miss Bliss be disqualified from Race 8 at the Rockhampton Greyhound Racing Club on 31 July 2024 (1st place), being a further event of the series in which Bossy Miss Bliss had previously competed in when the prohibited substance Arsenic was detected.

Stewards ordered that the placings be amended accordingly and Mrs Pollard was advised that all prizemoney associated with these events must be returned to Racing Queensland.

Mrs Pollard was advised of her right to a review of the decision.