Tuesday 17 March, 2015

Stewards Report

Panel: D Hensler, L Twomey, A Napier



Stewards today reconvened an adjourned inquiry into the alleged conduct of trainer Mr Chris Pollard following the final race at the Darwin Turf Club on Friday, 6 March 2015.

Mr Pollard was requested to attend the day the inquiry opened on Tuesday 10 March, 2015 but failed to appear. Stewards today accepted his explanation for not appearing and the matter proceeded today with him in attendance.

The inquiry was the subject of two written complaints received by the Stewards relating to Mr Pollard's conduct in the vicinity of the Stewards room at approximately 6.30pm. Statements were submitted by TRNT officials Ms L Jackson (Stipendiary Steward) and Ms J Lattenstein (Judge) in addition to telephone evidence tendered from registered owner Mr Peter Kelly.

Mr Pollard was subsequently found guilty of a charge of improper conduct under ARR 175(q). The specifics being that on the evening of Friday 6 March, 2015 at the Darwin Turf Club when intoxicated and positioned outside the full-length panel windows of the Stewards' Room and in full view of at least two TRNT female staff members, he did indecently expose himself and urinate on the uncovered glass whilst an official Stewards inquiry was in progress.

When considering a penalty Stewards took into account:

- His actions were both offensive and indecent
- The incident was witnessed by two TRNT female staff members
- The location of the incident displayed contempt and a lack of respect for the authority of the Stewards
- His conduct damages the image of racing
- That a penalty must serve as a general and specific deterrent for such a serious matter
- Mr Pollard's personal circumstances

<u>Mr Pollard was disqualified for a period of 12 months and advised of the restrictions of this penalty as outlined in ARR182.</u> He was further advised of his rights of appeal.

David Hensler Chairman of Stewards