



APPEAL OF WILLIAM WHITE V STEWARDS - ARR 137 (a)

Reason for Decision (delivered 23/11/09)

This appeal was heard on the same day as the appeal of Mark Horobin. This was also a challenge limited to the severity of the stewards decision. We decided to allow the appeal for reasons which follow.

Jockey William White rode "Our last resort" into 3rd place in the 0 -73 Hcp of 1200 metres at Fannie Bay on 13 November 2009. The Stewards issued this report.

"When gates opened HIGH PAPA jumped awkwardly and shifted in onto GILBEAU which in turn went into RISHIKESH. As a result both GILBEAU and RISHIKESH became unbalanced. On jumping away OUR LAST RESORT shifted out and bumped PHANTOM VERDE.

W.White rider of OUR LAST RESORT was found guilty of a charge of careless riding (AR137 (a). The careless riding being that shortly after the start he commenced to shift in when not sufficiently clear of HIGH PAPA. As a result he took HIGH PAPA in until it was tightened for room and had to be checked. W. White was suspended from riding in races for a period to expire at midnight on Friday 4th December (2 meetings).

The grounds of appeal were stated thus: "I think that having 6 weeks before I can ride in races again is to much time for what I did. I thought it was very minimal offence". Jockey White applied for a stay which was granted. It appears he erroneously concluded that a suspension for 2 meetings prevented him from riding for 6 weeks.

The video film confirmed stewards assessment of the race "Our Last Resort" jumped on the outside of and about 1.5 lengths ahead of HIGH PAPA . High Papa was gaining ground on the inside. Chief steward Lindsay Lane submitted that Jockey White allowed his mount to cross the running of " High Papa' while less then a length ahead. This left jockey Vanessa Arnott no galloping room. She checked her mount thereby allowing White to cross before continuing to ride "High Papa" forward but on the outside of "Our Last Resort".

Jockey White said it was clear he wanted to lead. Jockey kept on pushing with the inside running to prevent him from crossing. She could have restrained her horse earlier instead of pushing forward. We agree with stewards that Jockey Arnott was entitled to try to hold "Our Lat Resort" out by improving the position of "High Papa".

Unlike the Horobin case in this present case we did not believe that there was a significant risk to other competitors. Jockey Arnott appeared to be able to deal with the situation fairly easily. While the careless riding was not "minimal" in our view it was towards the minor end of the range of typical offences of this kind. We are mindful that Jockey White had a suspension of 1 meeting for a similar offence last September. We have given him the benefit of lenience on tis occasion but with the expectation that he will exercise more care in the future.

The period is reduced to 1 meeting. The deposit will be refunded.

Dated 24th March 2010
John Stewart
Chairman