

STEWARDS REPORT: DAVID SWAN – TAMWORTH 11 APRIL 2009

DATE: 6 MAY 2009

Stewards today finalised an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding an incident at the Tamworth Greyhound Clubs meeting on the 11 April 2009.

The incident related to licensed trainer Mr. David Swan intimidating and threatening Mr. Dean Bard and Mr. Jamie Applecamp and included verbal altercations.

During the course of the Inquiry evidence was taken from:-

Mr. David Swan – Licensed Person.
Mr. Dean Bard – Licensed Person.
Mr. Jamie Applecamp – Registered Owner.
Mr. Greg Burns – Tamworth Club Steward.
Mr. Ron Hatch – Retired GHRRA Casual Steward.

The evidence at the Inquiry revealed that Mr. Swan became incensed when Mr. Bard and Mr. Applecamp arrived at the Tamworth meeting to take possession of the greyhound ‘KELL’S HERO’, partly owned by both gentleman and trained by Mr. Swan. A number of verbal altercations ensued with Mr. Swan intimidating and threatening both Mr. Bard and Mr. Applecamp with a broken brick and Mr. Swan’s bloodied fist.

In the latter stages of the incident Mr. Bard pushed Mr. Swan away from ‘KELL’S HERO’ when he felt Mr. Swan may have harmed the greyhound.

After consideration of evidence Stewards subsequently charged Mr. Swan with two breaches of Rule 86(o) which provides:-

R86 Offences

A person (including an official) shall be found guilty of an offence if the person-

- (o) has, in relation to a greyhound or greyhound racing, done a thing, or omitted to do a thing, which, in the opinion of the Stewards or the Controlling Body, as the case may be, is negligent, dishonest, corrupt, fraudulent or improper, or constitutes misconduct;

The particulars of the first charge being that during the running of the Tamworth Greyhound Meeting of 11 April 2009 that you Mr. David Swan did by your own admission intimidate Mr. Dean Bard whilst carrying a broken brick during an altercation in the vicinity of the Stewards’ Room which comes under the category of misconduct.

The particular of the second charge being that Mr. David Swan acted improperly during the running of the Tamworth Greyhound Meeting of 11 April 2009 in that you threatened Mr. Dean Bard with your bloodied hand stating ‘that you had Hep C and did he want it’.

Mr. Swan pleaded guilty to both charges under Rule 86(o).

After consideration on the matter of penalty Mr. Swan was disqualified for a period of nine(9) months from 6 May 2009 on each charge to be served concurrently.

The following factors carried weight in the Stewards’ decision:

- (1) Mr. Swan has several medical conditions which he stated had contributed to his behaviour which he stated was out of character for him.
- (2) Good previous record.
- (3) Some voluntary work for Greyhound Industry.
- (4) Plea of guilty.
- (5) Forthright evidence.
- (6) Any penalty imposed must act as a deterrent.

Mr. Swan was advised of his rights of appeal.

Mr. Dean Bard was reprimanded for his actions in pushing Mr. Swan when he believed that Mr. Swan may have been attempting to harm ‘KELL’S HERO’ in the kennels during the incidents. In considering this matter Stewards took into account that Mr. Bard had been intimidated and threatened by Mr. Swan on a number of occasions during the afternoon.

M. HURLEY,
Chair of Stewards(Greyhounds).