

Media Release

Racing Appeals & Disciplinary Board

12 April 2019

HRV RAD Board Hearing – Wayne Cook & David Vozlic

On 8 April 2019, the Harness Racing Victoria (HRV) Racing Appeals and Disciplinary (RAD) Board considered charges issued by HRV Stewards under Australian Harness Racing Rules (AHRR) 231(2) against licensed stablehand Wayne Cook and licensed trainer-driver David Vozlic.

AHRR 231(2) reads as follows:

A person shall not misconduct himself in any way.

The charges under AHRR 231(2) related to the conduct of Mr Cook and Mr Vozlic subsequent to the running of Race 5, the 'Mildura Working Man's Club Pace' at the Mildura harness racing meeting on 6 September 2018, where Mr Cook and Mr Vozlic behaved in an angry and aggressive manner by engaging in a loud verbal altercation in the stabling area, in view of other licensed participants.

In separate hearings, Mr Cook and Mr Vozlic each pleaded guilty to their respective charge before submissions on penalty were heard from HRV Stewards, Mr Cook and Mr Vozlic.

In deciding an appropriate penalty for Mr Cook, the HRV RAD Board considered Mr Cook's guilty plea and cooperation throughout the investigation; Mr Cook's history in the harness racing industry, both general and specific deterrence; and the circumstances of the matter in that the comments from Mr Cook towards Mr Vozlic were spontaneous and unplanned. Mr Cook was subsequently fined \$500, of which \$250 was suspended for a period of two years.

In deciding an appropriate penalty for Mr Vozlic, the HRV RAD Board considered Mr Vozlic's guilty plea and cooperation throughout the investigation; Mr Vozlic's history in the harness racing industry, both general and specific deterrence; and

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the circumstances of the matter in that Mr Vozlic was provoked by the comments of Mr Cook. Mr Vozlic was subsequently fined \$500 which was wholly suspended for a period of two years.

HRV RAD Board Panel: Judge Graeme Hicks (Chair), Robert Abrahams (Deputy Chair).

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