

Media Release

Racing Appeals & Disciplinary Board

27 July 2018

Ian Stewart

On 26 July 2018, the Harness Racing Victoria (HRV) Racing Appeals and Disciplinary (RAD) Board considered two charges issued against licensed trainer Ian Stewart under Australian Harness Racing Rule (AHRR) 231(1)(d) which provides:

231(1) A person shall not:-

(d) abuse

anyone employed, engaged or participating in the harness racing industry or otherwise having a connection with it.

The charges issued by HRV Stewards against Mr Stewart related to the use of inappropriate language that was abusive in nature.

Mr Stewart pleaded guilty to both charges.

In deciding an appropriate penalty, the HRV RAD Board considered the circumstances leading to the use of the inappropriate language, the nature of the inappropriate language and the need for specific and general deterrence. Also considered were Mr Stewart's personal circumstances, offence record, his remorse, his cooperation with HRV Stewards and his guilty plea.

After considering all of these matters the HRV RAD Board imposed a fine of \$1000 wholly suspended for a period of 12 months.

Joshua Benson

On 26 July 2018, the Harness Racing Victoria (HRV) Racing Appeals and Disciplinary (RAD) Board considered a charge issued against licensed trainer Joshua Benson under Australian Harness Racing Rule (AHRR) 231(1)(d) which provides:

231(1) A person shall not:-

(d) abuse

anyone employed, engaged or participating in the harness racing industry or otherwise having a connection with it.

The charge issued by HRV Stewards against Mr Benson related to the use of inappropriate language that was abusive in nature.

Mr Benson pleaded guilty to the charge.

In deciding an appropriate penalty, the HRV RAD Board considered the circumstances leading to the use of the inappropriate language, the nature of the inappropriate language and the need for specific and general deterrence. Also considered were Mr Benson's good record, his remorse, his cooperation with HRV Stewards and his guilty plea.

After considering all of these matters the HRV RAD Board imposed a fine of \$750 wholly suspended for a period of 12 months.

Robert Neil

On 26 July 2018, the Harness Racing Victoria (HRV) Racing Appeals and Disciplinary (RAD) Board considered a charge issued against Kilmore Racing Club track curator Robert Neil under Australian Harness Racing Rule (AHRR) 231(1)(d) which provides:

231(1) A person shall not:-

(d) abuse

anyone employed, engaged or participating in the harness racing industry or otherwise having a connection with it.

The charge issued by HRV Stewards against Mr Neil related to the use of inappropriate language that was abusive in nature.

The Racing Appeals & Disciplinary Board (RADB) is established under section 50B of the Racing Act (1958). The RADB is an independent Board established to hear and determine appeals in relation to decisions made under the rules to impose penalties on persons and to hear and determine charges made against persons for serious offences.

Mr Neil pleaded guilty to the charge.

In deciding an appropriate penalty, the HRV RAD Board considered the circumstances leading to the use of the inappropriate language, the nature of the inappropriate language and the need for specific and general deterrence. Also considered was the position held by Mr Neil, his remorse, his cooperation with HRV Stewards and his guilty plea.

After considering all of these matters the HRV RAD Board imposed a fine of \$750 wholly suspended for a period of 12 months.

HRV RAD Board Panel: Alanna Duffy (Chair) and John Denahy

The Racing Appeals & Disciplinary Board (RADB) is established under section 50B of the Racing Act (1958). The RADB is an independent Board established to hear and determine appeals in relation to decisions made under the rules to impose penalties on persons and to hear and determine charges made against persons for serious offences.