

Harness
Racing Appeals & Disciplinary Board

Media Release

Racing Appeals & Disciplinary Board

RAD BOARD HEARING – SHAYNE CRAMP

On 12 August 2014, the Harness Racing Victoria (HRV) Racing Appeals and Disciplinary (RAD) Board considered a matter in regard to a charge issued by HRV Stewards against licensed person Mr Shayne Cramp.

Mr Cramp was charged under Australian Rule of Harness Racing (ARHR) 243 that reads as follows:

“A person employed, engaged or participating in the harness racing industry shall not behave in a way which is prejudicial or detrimental to the industry.”

The particulars of the charge were that comments made by Mr Cramp to senior journalist Matthew Taylor and subsequently published in the Sunraysia Daily newspaper on 2 July 2014, were detrimental to the harness racing industry in that Mr Cramp had publicly indicated that HRV Stewards unfairly scrutinise and punish him.

The HRV RAD Board heard evidence from Mr Taylor via telephone and also considered evidence from Mr Cramp himself in explaining the context in which he gave the interview. Mr Cramp acknowledged making the comments attributed to him within the article but vehemently denied having indicated at any stage that he had a source within HRV who had confirmed his view that he was being targeted. Mr Cramp suggested the claim regarding a source within the Stewards Office was purely sensationalism. Mr Cramp acknowledged that he should not have made any comments suggesting that he was being targeted or dealt with more harshly by the Stewards and expressed that he would not be making any comments on such matters to journalists in the future. Mr Cramp also apologised to the Board, the industry and in particular the Stewards Office for making the comments which enabled the article to be written.

In announcing its decision, the Board indicated that it was not satisfied that Mr Cramp had in any way suggested that he had a source within the Stewards Office. In making this determination, the Board were conscious of the following matters; that this particular section of the article was not a direct quote and was the interpretation of Mr Taylor, that Mr Taylor’s evidence before the HRV RAD Board was not that Mr

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.

Cramp had directly advised that he had a source within HRV, that Mr Cramp acknowledged and accepted responsibility for each and every direct quote that was within the article, that Mr Cramp had explained that he had been formally spoken to by HRV Stewards and formally interviewed by HRV Stewards on occasion regarding formal and public complaints made by other parties and that other trainers had also complained about him to the Stewards right in front of him.

The Board were satisfied that the general comments made by Mr Cramp within the article were of a detrimental nature and found Mr Cramp guilty as charged. After considering submissions from the HRV Stewards and Mr Cramp as to penalties to be imposed, the HRV RAD Board imposed a \$3,000 fine upon Mr Cramp. In arriving at such a penalty, the HRV Board considered Mr Cramp's apology, his clean record with respect to the detrimental rule, Mr Cramp's status within the industry, the public and detrimental nature of the comments and the fact that despite not pleading guilty Mr Cramp had in essence admitted to the matters which resulted in the finding of guilt.