

Harness
Racing Appeals & Disciplinary Board

Media Release

Racing Appeals & Disciplinary Board

Result of appeal held before the HRV Racing Appeals and Disciplinary Board on 15 February 2017.

Mark Buckingham

Against a 4 week suspension imposed by the stewards under Rule 149(2) at Tabcorp Park Melton on 28 January 2017.

Appeal dismissed.

HRV RAD Board Panel: Tony Burns (Chairman), Serge Petrovich

Appellant Representative: Self

HRV Representative: Nicholas Murray

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

RACING AND DISCIPLINARY BOARD

ANTHONY BURNS, Chairman

MR SERGE PETROVICH

EXTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS

MARK BUCKINGHAM

DECISION

WEDNESDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2017

Mr N MURRAY appeared on behalf of the HRV Stewards

MR BUCKINGHAM appeared on his own behalf

Mr Buckingham appeals the finding of the stewards with regard to his drive at Melton on 28 January 2017 in race 9 and pleads not guilty.

He is charged with driving in a manner which in the opinion of the stewards was unacceptable. Contrary to ARHR 149(2).

The task of this Board in a hearing in relation to Rule 149(2) is to determine whether the view of the stewards was one reasonably open to them.

In this case Mr Buckingham was driving Nor Nor West, a horse with an established racing pattern where it was driven forward to lead if possible. Nor Nor West was a \$2.90 favourite. On taking the lead early, the horse was given considerable respite throughout the middle stages of this 2240 metre race.

At about 700 metres from home however Mr Buckingham allowed the horse Drayton, a \$30 chance, to cross to the lead after racing three wide for several hundred metres.

Whilst this fact might have been unknown to Mr Buckingham, a horse with its established racing pattern (with 7 of its 9 wins whilst leading at the bell) needed

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to be urged forward to hold that lead at that time. It was reasonable to expect that it would not have taken a concerted effort to hold Drayton out. It was also reasonable to expect that a horse driven the way Drayton was to get outside the leader that it would tire sometime soon.

To allow Drayton to take the lead 700 metres out was driving for luck. The horse had lost control of its own destiny. The view of the experienced panel of stewards is one which is entirely reasonable. We concur the drive was unacceptable. The charge is made out.