

### STEWARDS INQUIRY DECISION

**Date of Decision:** 13.01.2021  
**Stewards Panel:** H Edgecombe (Chairman), L Lord  
**Name:** BLACKWOOD VEGAS  
**Track/Race:** Race 3: SUREPICK - JG, 515 Metres - LGRC  
**Date of Race:** 12.10.2020  
**Rule no:** GAR83(2)(a)

**Charge(s):** **The particulars of the charge were:**

Mr. Brian Crawford, the trainer of BLACKWOOD VEGAS, presented that greyhound to compete in Race 3 at the Launceston Greyhound Racing Club on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020, the SUREPICK JG over 515 metres. A post-race urine sample was taken from BLACKWOOD VEGAS and upon analysis, was found to contain Arsenic above the allowable threshold of 800ng/mL.

**Prohibited Substance:** ARSENIC

**Inquiry Decision:** Mr. Crawford was fined the sum of \$2,000 for the breach of GAR83(2)(a).

**FACTS:** Arsenic above the permitted threshold has been detected in a post-race urine sample collected from BLACKWOOD VEGAS after it competed in and placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the SUREPICK, JG, 515 Metres at the Launceston Greyhound Racing Club on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

**INQUIRY:** Office of Racing Integrity Stewards inquired into reports from the analysts, that Arsenic in excess of the prescribed allowable threshold had been detected in a post-race urine sample taken from BLACKWOOD VEGAS at the Launceston Greyhound Racing Club on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

Stewards heard verbal evidence tendered by trainer Mr. Brian Crawford as to his feeding and husbandry practices. Written evidence was tendered by the Office of Racing Integrity Regulatory Veterinarian, Dr. Adam Richardson, in relation to the effects of Arsenic on greyhounds.

After giving due consideration to the evidence tendered, Mr. Crawford was charged pursuant to GAR83(2)(a) for presenting BLACKWOOD VEGAS to race when not free of the prohibited substance Arsenic.

When determining penalty, Stewards took the following things into account:

- Mr. Crawford's guilty plea;
- His conduct throughout the inquiry;
- His prior offence record;
- His extensive length of time in the industry;
- The seriousness of an offence under these rules;
- The need for any penalty to act as a deterrent, both specific and general;
- Precedents of breaches of the prohibited substances rules and penalties that have been issued within Tasmania and throughout Australia.

**DECISION:**                   **GAR83(2)(a)** - Mr. Crawford was fined the sum of \$2,000

Acting under the provisions of GAR83(4), Stewards ordered that BLACKWOOD VEGAS be disqualified from the above mentioned race and the placings will be amended accordingly.

Mr. Crawford was advised of his rights of appeal.

**ENDS**