



Additional Stewards Report



Monday 4 April & Thursday 28 April, 2022

Stewards: J Petzer (Chairman), M Santoro & S Callanan.

Stewards concluded an inquiry on Thursday 28 April, which was adjourned on Monday 4 April 2022, following a report which alleged improper conduct directed at Dean Pettit - Racing SA Jockey Coach, by Trainer Mr John Hickmott at the Strathalbyn Racing Club on Wednesday 23 March 2022.

Evidence was taken from Mr John Hickmott, Dean Pettit, Trainers Ms Kristy Evans and Mr Matthew Seyers, and camera operator Mr Luke Pike.

After considering the evidence, Stewards laid the following charge against Mr John Hickmott;

Charge - under AR 228(e):

That Mr John Hickmott, a licensed trainer with Racing SA for the current racing season 2021/22 engaged in conduct of a threatening nature directed at Dean Pettit, the Racing SA Jockey Coach, on Wednesday 23 March 2022 at the Strathalbyn Racecourse, prior to Race 3, by directing words at him which could reasonably be construed and/or interpreted as having the meaning and intent of Mr Hickmott causing physical harm to Dean Pettit.

Plea: Mr John Hickmott reserved his plea but was subsequently found guilty by Stewards.

Penalty: In determining penalty Stewards had regard for the seriousness of the offence and factors relating to individual and general deterrence. Stewards also took into account Mr Hickmott's clean record, his longstanding involvement in the industry spanning some 44 years and his personal circumstances.

In all the circumstances Stewards suspended Mr Hickmott's license to train for a period of 6 months, however wholly suspended this portion of the penalty under AR 283(5) for a period of 12 months provided Mr Hickmott is not found guilty of a breach of a conduct rule, specifically relating to threatening behaviour, during that period.

Stewards further imposed a fine of \$10,000.

Mr John Hickmott was advised of his right of appeal, and has subsequently lodged an appeal against both the conviction and the penalty.

Johan Petzer
General Manager Integrity/Chairman of Stewards
4 May 2022

