



DECISION

**RACING VICTORIA STEWARDS
and
BEN CONNOLLY**

Date of Hearing 23 October 2017

Panel Judge Bowman (Chair), Brian Forrest (Deputy), Chris Fox

Appearances Cliff Pannam QC and Belinda Franjic of counsel appeared on behalf of the stewards.

Peter Caillard of counsel, instructed by RB Flinders, appeared on behalf of Mr Connolly.

Charge 1 AR 175(a)

The Principal Racing Authority (or the Stewards exercising powers delegated to them) may penalise:

(a) Any person, who, in their opinion, has been guilty of any dishonest, corrupt, fraudulent, improper or dishonourable action or practice in connection with racing.

Charge 2 AR 56B

Any person who, in the opinion of the Stewards, fails to declare any share or interest in, misrepresents or provides any misleading or inaccurate information regarding the ownership of a horse, or is a party to any breach of this rule, may be penalised by the Stewards and the horse may be disqualified.

Summary The particulars are that Mr Connolly engaged in dishonest, improper and/or dishonourable action or practice in connection with racing (Charge 1), and misrepresented and provided misleading and/or inaccurate information through representations to the Racing Victoria stewards and conduct (Charge 2), regarding the ownership of the horses *Azkadellia*, *Little Bubulu*, *Loveable Rogue*, *Hart* and *Mr Simples*.

Plea Guilty – charges 1 and 2.

Decision Charge 1 – Mr Connolly convicted and disqualified until 31 December 2019. Mr Connolly may apply for re-licensing as at 1 January 2020.

Charge 2 – Mr Connolly convicted but with no further penalty imposed on him personally.

The Board orders that the horses *Azkadellia*, *Little Bubulu*, *Loveable Rogue*, *Hart* and *Mr Simples* be disqualified from the races in Victoria in which they participated under the ownership of Mr Connolly.

Georgie Gavin
Registrar - Racing Appeals and Disciplinary Board