



DECISION

**RACING VICTORIA STEWARDS
and
CIARON MAHER**

Date of Hearing 25 September 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 Morrissey SC and Ruth Shann of counsel, instructed by Galbally and O'Bryan Lawyers, appeared on behalf of Mr Maher.

Charge AR 175A

Any person bound by these Rules who either within a racecourse or elsewhere in the opinion of the Principal Racing Authority (or the Stewards exercising powers delegated to them) has been guilty of conduct prejudicial to the image, or interests, or welfare of racing may be penalised.

Summary The particulars are that Mr Maher ought to have known, at certain times, about the ownership of the horses *Azkadellia*, *Little Bubulu*, *Loveable Rogue*, *Hart* and *Mr Simples*. Mr Maher's conduct was prejudicial to the image, interests and/or welfare of racing.

Plea Guilty

Decision Mr Maher convicted and suspended for a period of 6 months. In accordance with the provisions of AR 196(6)(a), the commencement of the period of suspension is deferred for 7 clear days from today's date.

Mr Maher is also fined \$75,000. Payment terms - 30 days.
