

STEWARDS INQUIRY DECISION

Date of Decision: 29.09.2021
Stewards Panel: M Hoyle (Chairman) R Brown J Gleeson
Name: **Michael Pearce & Natasha Croft**
Location: Ladbrokes Park, Elwick, Racecourse, Hobart, Tasmania
Date: 17.06.2021
Rule no: GAR 86(o)
Charge(s): Misconduct
Inquiry Decision: Fine \$200 – Michael Pearce (Public Trainer) & \$200 – Natasha Croft (Owner/Attendant)

FACTS:

On Thursday 17th June 2021, Natasha Croft misconducted herself by using foul language towards another licenced participant (Kerrie Spence) in the grandstand bar area at Ladbrokes Park, Elwick Racecourse, Hobart, Tasmania.

On Thursday 17th June 2021, Michael Pearce misconducted himself by displaying inappropriate behaviour and using foul language towards another licenced participant (Rodney Walker) in the grandstand bar area at Ladbrokes Park, Elwick Racecourse, Hobart, Tasmania.

INQUIRY:

Stewards inquired into the conduct of licenced participants Michael Pearce and Natasha Croft in the grandstand viewing area at Ladbrokes Park, Elwick Racecourse, Hobart, Tasmania at the Hobart Greyhound Racing Club meeting on 17th June 2021.

Stewards took and/or heard evidence/interviews from a number of licenced participants, EPS Security, Michael Pearce, Natasha Croft and viewed CCTV footage of the grandstand bar area.

After giving due consideration to the evidence tendered, Stewards issued a charge to both Michael Pearce and Natasha Croft pursuant to GAR 86(o), which reads -

*“A person (including an official) shall be guilty of an offence if the person-
has, in relation to a greyhound or greyhound racing, done a thing, or omitted to do a thing, which in the opinion of Stewards or the Controlling Body, as the case may be, is negligent, dishonest, corrupt, fraudulent or improper or constitutes misconduct;”*

Mr Pearce and Ms Croft pleaded guilty to each of their charges.

DECISION:

In determining penalty, Stewards took into account the following considerations:

- The guilty pleas of each individual;
- Their honesty and conduct throughout the inquiry;
- That the conduct displayed was at the minor end of the misconduct range;
- That any penalty issued by Stewards should act as a deterrent for this type of behaviour from licenced participants in this matter and in future matters;

Michael Pearce and Natasha Croft were both fined the sum of \$200.00

Both participants were advised of their rights of appeal.

Michael Hoyle

CHAIRMAN OF STEWARDS - GREYHOUNDS