21 November 2013

INQUIRY REPORT – MATTHEW GRAY

Greyhound Racing NSW (GRNSW) Stewards have finalised an inquiry into an alleged incident said to have occurred at or near the Broken Hill greyhound track following the meeting held there on 21 September 2013.

Stewards convened the inquiry after receiving written statements from licensed trainers Susan Gray and Donna Gaiter which claimed to have witnessed Matthew Gray and Steven Burrell engaging in a physical altercation, followed up by alleged intervention by Paul Burgess, who allegedly struck Steven Burrell in the head with a pipe.

Evidence at the inquiry was taken from Donna Gaiter and Susan Gray, in addition to that from Terry Gaiter, Amanda Gaiter, Regan Edgecumbe, Sharyn Gray, Neville Dennis, Matthew Gray and Steven Burrell.

The written witness statements from Susan Gray and Donna Gaiter were tendered, along with written evidence from Terry Gaiter, Wes Burton from Doyle Kingston & Swift Solicitors, Bill Fanning, GRNSW General Manager Racing & Integrity Manager, Neville Dennis, and medical records obtained under freedom of information from the Adelaide Local Health Network and Broken Hill Base Hospital.

Evidence taken during the inquiry showed Matthew Gray and Steven Burrell had become engaged in a violent physical confrontation after Steven Burrell and Paul Burgess had initially exchanged words in the vicinity of the Broken Hill greyhound track. Paul Burgess had then allegedly injected himself into the confrontation and struck Steven Burrell with a pipe.

Matthew Gray subsequently pleaded guilty to a charge of misconduct under GAR 86 (o). GRNSW Stewards disqualified him for 12 months.

In determining this penalty, consideration was given to the fact that this was the second occasion within a relatively short period of time that he had become engaged in a physical confrontation in breach of the rules.

Steven Burrell also pleaded guilty to a charge of misconduct under GAR 86 (o). As he does not hold any registration in greyhound racing, he was warned off race tracks for a period not less than four months.

Both Matthew Gray and Steven Burrell were advised of their right of appeal.

In regards to Paul Burgess, GRNSW Stewards adjourned the inquiry with respect to his involvement. This matter will be held over until the completion of a police investigation into the matter.

Paul Burgess in the interim is not permitted to attend the Broken Hill greyhound track in any capacity.