

Appeal decision

Date: 14 May 2015

Code of racing: Thoroughbred

Appeal panel: Mr B. Miller (chair), Mr D. Kays and Mr G. Casey.

Appearances: Mr M. Tutt, solicitor, appeared on behalf of jockey B. Grylls.
Mr M. Knibbs, stipendiary steward, appeared on behalf of the stewards.

Decision being appealed: Suspension of licence to ride in races for a period covered by 6 meetings – AR137(a)

Appeal result: Upheld. Penalty varied.

Extract of proceedings – in the matter of the Ford Brothers Fencing Class 1 Handicap over 1000 metres at the Sunshine Coast on 12 April 2015: Apprentice jockey B. Grylls

THE CHAIRMAN: Bridget Grylls was the rider of Hidden Pearl at the Sunshine Coast when interference was sustained to jockey Spinks and jockey Tayla Williams in incidents, of which there were 2, and the question we have been asked to decide is whether or not Bridget Grylls was involved to such an extent as would merit the imposition of a penalty. Bridget pleaded guilty to the charge after the stewards' inquiry, acknowledging that she had shifted her ground when not sufficiently clear.

The film has identified that jockey Spinks was interfered with initially by a movement from the horse of Tayla Williams and whether or not the rider Eilbeck in the white cap to the outside of Williams contributed to something is conjectural, to say the least. There is the obvious inference and view that Bridget Grylls in her riding did move across and was as a result prepared to plead guilty to the charge.

The stewards imposed a penalty of 6 meetings on the premise that they believed it was initially a midrange careless charge under the relevant rule.

Mr Knibbs, for the stewards, has identified that there was no doubt there was carelessness and the question is to what degree that carelessness contributed.

It is our view that Bridget is guilty. She pleaded guilty and it is our view that this is not a matter that is worthy solely of a reprimand. Having said that however we do not believe that the Chairman of Stewards at the relevant time did take into account the appropriateness of the previous considerations imposed on Bridget Grylls.

There are a number of reprimands which have already been issued to her, which is one of the reasons we are not prepared to countenance the imposition of a reprimand in this instance. We are however mindful of the fact that she rides on regular basis. She is an extremely competent jockey, a successful jockey and one who is obviously going to go places in this industry.

Our view is that the degree of carelessness is such that it would warrant a finding of guilt and the imposition of a penalty of 3 meetings, and that is the order of the Tribunal.

Further right of appeal information: The appellant and the stewards may appeal to the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) within **14 days of the date of this decision**. Information in relation to appeals to QCAT may be obtained by telephone on (07) 3247 3302 or via the Internet at www.qcat.qld.gov.au