



*INQUIRY INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE DISQUALIFICATION OF
THE ALLAN WOODS TRAINED GREYHOUNDS DOUBLE POLKA AND FOUR JOANS
FROM RACE 4 AT THE GARDENS MEETING CONDUCTED ON SATURDAY 1 APRIL
2023.*

Gunnedah Racecourse

**Stewards: Mr K. Adams (Chairman)
Mr P. Phillips**

12 April 2023

The Stewards today continued their inquiries into the circumstances surrounding the incorrect presentation and subsequent disqualification of the greyhounds *Double Polka* and *Four Joans* from race 4 at The Gardens meeting conducted on Saturday 1 April 2023.

Evidence today was taken from registered participants Mr Allan Woods, trainer of both *Double Polka* and *Four Joans*, Ms Nerida Woods, Mr Brendan Allen, and steward Ms Michael Alderdice.

After taking evidence from all parties, the Stewards were able to establish the following facts:

1. Mr Woods was not in attendance at the race meeting and authorised for Ms Woods to be responsible for the greyhounds *Double Polka* and *Four Joans*.
2. The greyhounds *Double Polka* and *Four Joans* are both black bitches.
3. *Four Joans* was listed in the field as number three and *Double Polka* as number four.
4. Ms Woods was the handler of *Four Joans* and Mr Allen was the handler of *Double Polka*.
5. After the greyhounds were retrieved from the kennels to be rugged, Ms Woods grabbed both rugs for the greyhounds, namely rug three and rug four. Ms Woods handed rug three to Mr Allen.
6. Consequently, *Four Joans* was rugged in number four and *Double Polka* in rug number three.
7. Prior to stir-up and in accordance with protocol, steward Ms Alderdice conducted the identification of the greyhounds however failed to detect that the greyhounds were wearing the incorrect rug numbers.
8. It was established that data corruption on the greyhound identification scanning device used by Ms Alderdice had resulted in the box numbers of the relevant greyhounds failing to display when the greyhounds were identified.
9. As a result, the greyhounds competed in the event in the incorrect rug numbers and the "All Clear" was given.

10. Subsequently, and after the All Clear had been given Ms Woods reported the error when it first became apparent to her that the incorrect rug numbers had been worn by the greyhounds.
11. An inquiry was opened and adjourned to allow the Stewards to review other aspects on the race, including the betting, and to also interview trainer Mr Woods.
12. On Sunday 2 April 2023, the Stewards interviewed Mr Woods and after obtaining submissions from him, in accordance with GAR117, disqualified the greyhounds from their respective finishing positions.
13. A review of the betting conducted by Senior Intelligence Analyst – Wagering and Form Chris Psillis did not reveal any anomalies.

Having regard to such evidence, the Stewards elected to issue the following charges against Ms Nerida Woods and Mr. Brendan Allen.

Ms Nerida Woods - Greyhound Rule 156(f)(ii)

On Saturday 1 April 2023, Ms Nerida Woods was in the opinion of Stewards negligent by presenting the greyhound *Four Joans* to compete in race 4 at the Gardens Racecourse when the greyhound was in the incorrect numbered race rug.

Mr. Brendan Allen – Greyhound Rule 156(f)(ii)

On Saturday 1 April 2023, Mr. Brendan Allen was in the opinion of Stewards negligent by presenting the greyhound Double Polka to compete in race 4 at the Gardens Racecourse when the greyhound was in the incorrect numbered race rug

In all the circumstances, Ms. Woods was fined the sum of \$300 and Mr. Allen was fined the sum of \$200 wholly and conditionally suspended for a period of 12 months.

In determining the appropriate penalties, Stewards considered the following:

- Guilty pleas
- Antecedents
- The circumstances that resulted in Ms Woods collecting the incorrect rugs.
- The culpability of the parties involved.
- The incorrect greyhounds not being detected through the Stewards pre-race identification procedure
- Ms Woods self-reported the error
- The forthright evidence and co-operation provided by the parties during the inquiries
- The contrition displayed for their actions
- The serious nature and consequences of their actions, including the wagering implications

Ms. Woods and Mr. Allen were advised of their rights of appeal and or application for internal review.

In consideration of the serious nature of this incident, GWIC conducted an internal review of the structure and application of race day integrity processes at the relevant race meeting. Having done so the following action has been taken:

- The position and duties of each Race Day Steward is documented and applied consistently throughout the State.
- The ID scanners used to identify greyhounds have been calibrated to ensure that when in race meeting mode the microchip number, name of the greyhound, and rug number is displayed on the scanner screen upon identification.

- An additional identification process of the first four placed greyhounds in the catching pen is to be undertaken prior to the 'All Clear' being given.
- Additional training for the Steward involved will be provided upon return to work under the supervision of a Senior Steward.

Relevant Rules:

GAR 156 General offences

An offence is committed if a person (including an official)

(f) has, in relation to a greyhound or greyhound racing, done something, or omitted to do something, which, in the opinion of a Controlling Body or the Stewards:

(ii) constitutes misconduct or is negligent or improper;

**Kevin Adams
Senior Steward**