

12 April 2016



TRNT Stewards' Report – Alice Springs Turf Club Tuesday 12 April, 2016

Panel: D Hensler, D Westover

Stewards today inquired into a complaint from trainer Russell Bell that he was assaulted by jockey David Pisani after the last race at the Alice Springs Turf Club meeting conducted at Pioneer Park on Saturday 9 April, 2016.

Evidence was taken from both parties in addition to two witnesses, jockeys Paul Denton and Nathan Rose (via telephone).

Subsequently, Mr Pisani pleaded guilty to a charge under AR175(q) of improper conduct, the specifics being that following the final race at the ASTC meeting on 9 April, 2016, in the area between the carpark and administration building, he did approach trainer Russell Bell and verbally abuse him which led to a physical altercation between both parties.

During this altercation he did punch Mr Bell and he sustained an injury to the left side of his face around his eye.

Mr Bell also pleaded guilty to a charge under AR175(q) of improper conduct, the specifics being that at the abovementioned time, date and location, after being approached and abused by David Pisani, he did react by engaging in a physical altercation with him.

In assessing penalty in relation to both charges, Stewards took into account the following factors:

- Whilst the incident was initiated by Mr Pisani's conduct, Stewards could not be satisfied to the requisite standard of proof which party instigated the initial physical contact
- The serious nature of the incident and that it reflects poorly on the image of racing
- The injury sustained by Mr Bell
- The need for a penalty to serve as a specific and general deterrent
- The guilty plea by both parties
- Their individual personal circumstances and length of involvement in the industry
- Both parties had unblemished records in relation to conduct

Jockey David Pisani was fined the sum of \$3,000. Acting under the provisions of AR196(4) Stewards suspended \$1,000 of this fine for a period of (12) months on the condition that Mr Pisani does not breach any conduct-related Rule of Racing.

Trainer Russell Bell was fined the sum of \$2,000. Acting under the provisions of AR196(4) Stewards suspended \$1,000 of this fine for a period of (12) months on the condition that Mr Bell does not breach any conduct-related Rule of Racing.