



APPEAL DECISION

BEN MELHAM

and

RACING VICTORIA STEWARDS

Date of Hearing: 4 September 2017

Heard By: Judge Bowman (Chair)

Appearances: Corie Waller appeared on behalf of the stewards.
Paul O'Sullivan of Bale Boshev Lawyers appeared on behalf of Mr Melham.

At Sandown Hillside on Wednesday 30 August 2017, jockey Ben Melham pleaded guilty to a charge of careless riding on his mount *Miss Vixen* in Race 1 the *Moorookyle Park Handicap* (1000m).

The carelessness being that that near the 100m he permitted his mount to shift in, whilst riding it along, when insufficiently clear of *Pageantry* resulting in *Pageantry* having to be checked.

Mr Melham's licence to ride in races was suspended for a period to commence at midnight on Saturday, 2 September 2017 and to expire at midnight on Saturday, 9 September 2017 - a total of 7 race meetings (2 metro, 5 provincial).

In assessing penalty, Stewards took into account his guilty plea and good record and that the carelessness was in the low range

A Notice of Appeal against conviction and penalty was lodged on Thursday, 31 August 2017. A stay of proceedings was not requested.

At the hearing, an application for leave to amend Mr Melham's plea to 'not guilty' was accepted by the Board.

DECISION: Appeal dismissed. Penalty to remain standing.

Georgie Gavin
Registrar - Racing Appeals & Disciplinary Board