

APPEAL RESULT

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FROM: Registrar – Racing Appeals and Disciplinary Board

DATE: 4 February 2016

SUBJECT: **APPEAL HEARING RESULT – PICNIC JOCKEY: REECE GOODWIN**

Panel Judge Bowman (Chair).

Appearances Mr Robert Cram appeared on behalf of the stewards.
Mr John Didham appeared on behalf of Mr Goodwin.

At Yea on Saturday 23 January 2016, picnic jockey Reece Goodwin was found guilty of a charge under AR 137(b) for failing to ride his mount out to the end of Race 3.

The charge relating to his ride on *Secretwina* which placed third.

Mr Goodwin had his licence to ride in races suspended for a period to commence at midnight on Tuesday, 26 January 2016 and to conclude at midnight on Sunday 28 February, 2016 - a total of 5 picnic race meetings.

In assessing the charge, Stewards indicated that they were of the opinion that his actions had affected both first and second placings, and also took into consideration his mount's tendency to lay in under pressure in the straight.

A Notice of Appeal against **the decision and severity of the penalty** was lodged on Tuesday, 26 January 2016.

A stay of proceedings was granted effective until midnight Wednesday, 3 February 2015.

On Wednesday, 3 February 2016 an application was made on behalf of Mr Goodwin seeking leave to withdraw his appeal against conviction. This application was accepted by the Board.

DECISION: **Appeal against severity of penalty dismissed.**

Georgie Gavin
Registrar - Racing Appeals & Disciplinary Board

**TRANSCRIPT OF
PROCEEDINGS**

RACING APPEALS AND DISCIPLINARY BOARD

HIS HONOUR JUDGE J. BOWMAN, Chairman

EXTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS

DECISION

**IN THE MATTER OF THE RB-S CREW OPEN TROPHY (2) RACE
OVER 1200 METRES AT YEA ON 23/1/16**

PICNIC JOCKEY: REECE GOODWIN

MELBOURNE

THURSDAY, 4 FEBRUARY 2016

MR R. CRAM appeared on behalf of the RVL Stewards

MR J. DIDHAM appeared on behalf of the Appellant

CHAIRMAN: Mr Reece Goodwin has pleaded guilty to a breach of Australian Rule 137(b), in that at Yea picnic races on 23 January 2016, he failed to ride out his mount, Secretwina, in the final stages of race 3. It is the allegation of the Stewards that this failure affected both first and second places. Secretwina ran third, having been beaten a short-head by a half-head.

Mr Goodwin was suspended from 26 January 2016 to 28 February 2016, a total of five picnic race meetings. He now submits, whilst he pleads guilty to the offence, that penalty is too severe.

I have viewed the film of the event. Obviously the film available for picnic and non-TAB meetings is not as comprehensive as that of TAB meetings. The film is helpful, but the presence of trees and the large crowd lining the fence does create some difficulties.

The basic allegation is that Mr Goodwin hit the front on Secretwina, but for the last three strides, put the whip away and sat up. He did not ride the horse out hands and heels.

Mr Didham, for Mr Goodwin, presented his usual careful submissions and he argued that two strides only were involved and that the ultimate winner, Exponential, had been ahead of Mr Goodwin's mount and was still there in the closing stages. His argument was that Mr Goodwin's mount could not have passed the winner in the two strides involved, although conceding that there could be some argument about 2nd place. He also highlighted Mr Goodwin's

excellent record and that is certainly to Mr Goodwin's credit. He is obviously a young rider who is a leading jockey on the picnic circuit.

I am of the view that it was three strides, not two, that were involved.

Mr Goodwin did put the whip away and sit up, and also the view that Mr Goodwin's mount had hit the front and was leading - and indeed he has stated this on the transcript - his failure to ride his mount out cost him first place.

It was pointed out by Mr Cram that far less money is held on picnic events than on TAB meetings. On-course betting does include bookmakers, the tote and betting on exotics. The overall amounts involved are significantly less than those at TAB meetings.

However, the fact remains that the failure to ride out Secretwina cost it first place and affected the order of placings in the race. Jockeys must be seen to be doing everything possible to within the rules to get the best possible result or the image and integrity of racing can otherwise be affected.

In my view, the penalty of a five-meeting suspension is appropriate. I appreciate Mr Goodwin's excellent record and have little doubt that he will continue to be leading jockey on the picnic circuit. However, this brief error of judgment is a serious one with considerable consequences in relation to the outcome of the race and the appeal is dismissed.
