

HEARING RESULT

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FROM: Registrar – Racing Appeals and Disciplinary Board

DATE: 29 May 2014

SUBJECT: **HEARING RESULT – JUMPS JOCKEY: PAUL HAMBLIN**

Panel Judge Russell Lewis (Chair), Mr Geoff Ellis, Prof Raymond Harbridge.

Appearances Mr Rahmin de Kretser of Nicholsons Lawyers appeared on behalf of Mr Hamblin.

Mr James Ogilvy appeared on behalf of the Stewards.

Charge Breach of AR 83(c)

Every jockey or apprentice may be penalised: If he bet, or facilitates the making, or has any interest in a bet on any race or contingency relating to thoroughbred racing, or if he be present in the betting ring during any race meeting.

The charge relates to bets placed by Mr Hamblin during a three day period in April 2014 on thoroughbred horse races both interstate and in Victoria (none of which Mr Hamblin was riding in).

Plea Guilty.

Decision Mr Hamblin convicted and his licence to ride in races suspended for a period to expire at midnight on Sunday, 28 September 2014. Noting that the operation of the suspension is backdated to commence on 9 May 2014 when Mr Hamblin was stood down from race riding.

Mr Hamblin's permit to ride trackwork is also suspended from today's date but subject to the consent of the PRA the Board orders that Mr Hamblin be entitled to resume riding trackwork from, and including, 1 August 2014.

**TRANSCRIPT OF
PROCEEDINGS**

RACING APPEALS AND DISCIPLINARY BOARD

**HIS HONOUR JUDGE R.P.L. LEWIS, Chairman
MR G. ELLIS
PROF R. HARBRIDGE**

EXTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS

DECISION

JUMPS JOCKEY: PAUL HAMBLIN

MELBOURNE

THURSDAY, 29 MAY 2014

MR J. OGILVY appeared on behalf of the RVL Stewards

MR R. DE KRESTER (instructed by Nicholsons Lawyers)
appeared on behalf of Mr P. Hamblin

CHAIRMAN: Paul Hamblin, you have pleaded guilty to a charge laid under Australian Rule of Racing 83C, in that as a licensed jockey, you placed 39 bets on thoroughbred racing in the period 11 April to 13 April 2014.

Approximately 75 per cent of the 39 bets were yours and the remainder were placed by you on behalf of a female friend and your brother. The majority of the wagers were of relatively small amounts. Seven bets were of the value of more than \$20. The highest figure was \$132. The bets in the higher range were what may be termed "exotic bets". All bets were in cash and placed on the tote at three hotel venues. The bets were mainly in relation to interstate meetings, Doomben, Randwick and Wagga Wagga. None of the bets were placed on jumping events. I interpolate to emphasise that none were placed on a horse in any race in which you rode.

In this case, the Board is not assisted by penalties imposed in the cases of Shinn, Robl and, more recently, Oliver. Clearly, the facts and circumstances relating to those cases were far removed from your situation. In the Board's view, your betting over a three-day period was an exercise in stupidity. The Board rejects your assertion that you had a brain snap, since the betting extended over three days.

Aggravating features of your offending were your disregard of a newsletter from the Victorian Jockeys Association in March 2014 and your reluctance immediately to make a clean breast of things when interviewed by Stewards. A reading of the transcript shows that you lied and prevaricated when questioned by Stewards. Eventually you made relevant admissions.

The Board gives you some credit for pleading guilty but notes that it is simply a recognition of the inevitable.

You are aged 47 years and your income is earned from riding in jumping and highweight races and from trackwork riding. You are in the twilight of your career as a jumping rider. The Board takes into account the character references provided, both oral and in written form.

Notwithstanding the fact that the level of your offending is at the lower end of the scale, the Board must nevertheless make the point that betting by licensed jockeys is a serious matter. The integrity of racing is the paramount consideration in cases such as these, as well as the principles of special and general deterrence and denunciation of such conduct.

The Board notes that in 2007 you were convicted of a similar offence. In the Board's opinion, the only appropriate penalty in your case is a period of suspension. In arriving at that conclusion, the Board is well aware that the jumping season is at its height.

Paul Hamblin, you are suspended for a period beginning 9 May 2014, when you were stood down from race riding, until midnight on 28 September 2014. Subject to the consent of the Principal Racing Authority, the Board orders that you be entitled to ride trackwork from and including 1 August 2014.
