

RACING VICTORIA LIMITED  
ACN 096 917 930

RACING APPEALS AND  
DISCIPLINARY BOARD



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## HEARING RESULT

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**Distribution:** Chief Executive  
Group Integrity Services, Group Racing  
Group Racing Development  
Credit Controller  
ATA  
TVN  
Office of Racing  
S. Carvosso – Racing NSW  
Racing Press

**FROM:** Registrar – Racing Appeals and Disciplinary Board

**DATE:** 2 March 2010

**SUBJECT:** **HEARING RESULT – TRAINER: RODNEY DOUGLAS**

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**Panel** Mr Brian Forrest (Deputy Chair), Mr Bill Knights, Mr Stephen Curtain

**Appearances** Mr Mark Hill, Senior Stipendiary Steward, appeared on behalf of the RVL Stewards. Dr Cliff Pannam QC appeared on behalf of Mr Douglas.

**Charge** Breach of AR 175A – [conduct prejudicial to the image and interests of racing].

The charge relating to comments made by Mr Douglas during a TVN interview on Wednesday, 17 February 2010 at Morningson racecourse.

**Plea** Not Guilty

**Decision** The Board finds the charge proved.

Mr Douglas fined the amount of \$1000 – fine due on or before 31 March 2010.

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**Georgie Curtis**  
**Registrar - Racing Appeals and Disciplinary Board**

# **TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS**

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## **RACING APPEALS AND DISCIPLINARY BOARD**

**MR B. FORREST, Deputy Chairman**  
**MR B. KNIGHTS**  
**MR S. CURTAIN**

### **EXTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS**

### **DECISION**

**TRAINER: RODNEY DOUGLAS**

**MELBOURNE**

**TUESDAY, 2 MARCH 2010**

MR M. HILL appeared on behalf of the Stewards

DR C.L. PANNAM QC appeared on behalf of Mr R. Douglas

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DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: In the view of the Board, the charge has been proven. We accept, as Dr Pannam has eloquently put, that Mr Douglas is a colourful character in the Mornington environment of the racing industry. We have got to consider whether in the mind of a reasonable person they would objectively regard his comments to a television audience as prejudicial to the image of racing.

It is the view of the Board that a reasonable person could draw a clear inference, having regard to Mr Douglas's comments, that racing is run by incompetent people and we so find.

#### DISCUSSION

The Board has considered that the nature and circumstances of the offence make it appropriate that a fine rather than a reprimand be imposed in this matter. Trainers are at the forefront of the industry and have a certain responsibility to the industry with their public comments.

We have taken into account what Dr Pannam and Mr Hill have said in regard to the matter. We have noted that Mr Douglas has a prior offence of a similar nature or a similar charge. We accept that in the circumstances, this is at the lower end of the scale, as Dr Pannam has indicated. We also take into account that when, in the cool light of day, Mr Douglas was interviewed by stewards again, he did apologise for his behaviour and we take those matters into account.

The decision of the Board is to impose a fine of \$1000, payable by 31 March 2010.

**END OF EXTRACT**