



APPEAL RESULT

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FROM: Registrar – Racing Appeals and Disciplinary Board

DATE: 19 December 2013

SUBJECT: **APPEAL HEARING RESULT – PICNIC JOCKEY: JO STEVENS**

Panel Judge Russell Lewis (Chair), Mr Graeme Johnson, Mr Ron Taylor.

Appearances Mr Des O’Keeffe appeared on behalf of Ms Stevens.
Mr Leon Koch appeared on behalf of the Stewards.

At Healesville on Saturday 14 December 2013, picnic jockey Jo Stevens pleaded guilty to a charge of careless riding on her mount *Bred By Ted* in Race 5 the *Lion Trophy Race (1) Handicap* (1000m.)

The careless riding being that approaching the 100m she permitted her mount to shift in when being ridden along, resulting in her mount bumping *Fontaines* which was then severely hampered.

Ms Stevens had her licence to ride in picnic races suspended for a period to commence at midnight on Saturday, 14 December 2013 and to expire at midnight on Saturday, 28 December 2013 (3 picnic meetings).

In assessing penalty Stewards took into account J Stevens’ guilty plea and good riding record.

A Notice of Appeal against the severity of the penalty was lodged on Tuesday, 17 December 2013. A stay of proceedings was not requested.

DECISION: **Appeal allowed.**

Penalty varied to a period of suspension for 2 picnic meetings and Ms Stevens referred to the Apprentice Skills Review Panel.

**TRANSCRIPT OF
PROCEEDINGS**

RACING APPEALS AND DISCIPLINARY BOARD

**HIS HONOUR JUDGE R.P.L. LEWIS, Chairman
MR G. JOHNSON
MR R. TAYLOR**

EXTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS

DECISION

**IN THE MATTER OF THE LION TROPHY RACE (1) HANDICAP
OVER 1000 METRES AT HEALESVILLE ON 14/12/13**

PICNIC JOCKEY: JO STEVENS

MELBOURNE

THURSDAY, 19 DECEMBER 2013

MR L. KOCH appeared on behalf of the RVL Stewards

MR D. O'KEEFFE appeared on behalf of the Appellant

CHAIRMAN: This is an appeal where, although it was a picnic race, the principles of looking after the safety of other riders is paramount. Having said that, the standard of riders in these picnic races is nowhere near the standard which one would normally see at a metropolitan meeting or indeed at a TAB or even non-TAB meeting in the country.

That said, however, the Board takes into account the fact that the Appellant is inexperienced. She has only had 15 rides. In the circumstances, whilst the interference was relatively significant, we feel that, having regard to her plea of guilty and the possibility that she can gain benefit from attending the Apprentice Skills Panel, we think that the appropriate penalty is that the penalty imposed by the Stewards should be varied to two picnic meetings, but in addition, Ms Stevens must attend the Apprentice Skills Panel which is to take place this day.

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