



HEARING AND DETERMINATION OF CHARGES ISSUED AGAINST LICENSED TRAINER CONNIE GREIG

**By videoconference**

**10 October 2024**

**Stewards:** D R Hadley (Chair)  
S G Railton  
S D Parkinson

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Racing NSW Stewards today conducted a hearing to determine charges issued against licensed trainer, Ms Connie Greig. Stewards issued the relevant charges to Ms Greig on 9 October 2024.

### **Background**

On 3 October 2024, Racing NSW Stewards commenced an investigation into the alleged conduct of licensed trainer Connie Greig in respect to the nomination and/or acceptance of the mare *Better Judgement* in race meetings when it was retired.

Investigations revealed that on or about 2 September 2024, *Better Judgement* was retired from racing by licensed trainer Ms Connie Greig into the care of an industry participant.

On 2 September 2024, the nominations for the Mendooran meeting on 7 September 2024 were extended. Ms Greig nominated and then accepted *Better Judgement* for the Class 2 Handicap 800 metres before scratching the mare from its engagement at 8:18am on race morning, citing a veterinary issue for the late withdrawal.

On 23 September 2024, the nominations for the Come By Chance meeting on 28 September 2024 were taken. Ms Greig nominated *Better Judgement* for the Come By Chance Sprint 1000 metres and the Class 3 Trophy Handicap 800 metres, before cancelling those nominations on 23 September and 24 September respectively.

On 1 October 2024, the nominations for the Mungery meeting on 6 October 2024 were taken. Ms Greig nominated *Better Judgement* for the Class 3 Trophy Handicap 800 metres, before cancelling that nomination later that same day.

On 9 October 2024, Stewards issued four (4) charges against Ms Greig as detailed below.

Racing NSW Stewards today conducted a hearing and determination of those charges. A brief of evidence compiled by Racing NSW Stewards was tendered and oral evidence was taken from Ms Connie Greig.

## **Charges issued against Ms Connie Greig**

### **Charge 1: AR296(2)(d)(ii)**

The details of the charge being that she did fail to immediately lodge an amendment to the stable return for the horses *Better Judgement* and *Camp Cove* notifying that such horses had left her stable disclosing the precise location of those horses.

**Plea: Guilty**

**Finding: Guilty**

### **Charge 2: AR297(1)**

The details of the charge being that as the registered owner of the horses *Better Judgement* and *Camp Cove*, she did fail to notify Racing Australia within 7 days of a decision to retire those horses by lodging the relevant form prescribed by Racing Australia.

**Plea: Guilty**

**Finding: Guilty**

### **Charge 3: AR74(1)(b)**

The details of the charge being she did declare *Better Judgement* as an acceptor for the Class 2 Handicap 800 metres at the Mendooran meeting on Saturday 7 September 2024 with the primary purpose of affecting the total number of horses accepted for the race.

**Plea: Guilty**

**Finding: Guilty**

### **Charge 4: AR229(1)(a)**

The details of the charge being that she did engage in a fraudulent and/or improper practice in connection with racing by reason of one or more of the following particulars:

- (1) At all relevant times she was the registered owner and trainer of the horse *Better Judgement*.
- (2) On or about 2 September 2024 *Better Judgement* was retired from racing.
- (3) She failed to comply with her obligations under AR296(2)(d)(ii) and AR297(1) to lodge the necessary stable return to notify Racing Australia that the mare had been retired from racing and the location of *Better Judgement*.
- (4) When nominations for the Mendooran meeting on 7 September 2024 were extended on 2 September 2024, she subsequently nominated and then accepted for *Better Judgement* for the Class 2 Handicap 800 metres before scratching the mare from its engagement at 8.18am on race morning, citing a veterinary issue for the late withdrawal.
- (5) When nominations for the Come By Chance meeting on 28 September 2024 were taken on 23 September 2024, she nominated *Better Judgement* for the Come By Chance

- Sprint 1000 metres and the Class 3 Trophy Handicap 800 metres, before cancelling those nominations on 23 September and 24 September, respectively.
- (6) When nominations for the Mungery meeting on 6 October 2024 were taken on 1 October 2024, she nominated *Better Judgement* for the Class 3 Trophy Handicap 800 metres, before cancelling that nomination later that same day.
  - (7) Such nominations were made by her with full knowledge that *Better Judgement* had been retired from racing, was no longer in active training and was for the sole purpose of affecting the number of horses entered for the relevant races to ensure such races were conducted.
  - (8) The practice detailed in the above particulars was fraudulent and/or improper.

**Plea: Guilty**

**Finding: Guilty**

### **Penalty**

The following penalty considerations were taken into account –

- Guilty pleas were entered at the earliest opportunity
- Objective seriousness of the breaches
- Personal and professional circumstances
- Principles of specific and general deterrence and what message is sent to the industry in respect to such conduct
- The purpose of issuing penalties as a protective measure for the image, interests and welfare of the thoroughbred racing industry

**Charges 1 and 2: \$1000 fine reduced to \$750 for guilty plea**

**Charges 3 and 4: \$4000 fine reduced to \$3000 for guilty plea**

Having regard to Charges 1 and 2 arising from the same offending conduct, Stewards ruled a collective fine of \$1000 be imposed, reduced to \$750 for the guilty pleas. Similarly, having regard to Charges 3 and 4 arising from the same offending conduct, Stewards ruled a collective fine of \$4000 be imposed, reduced to \$3000 for the guilty pleas. The total fine imposed upon Ms Greig was \$3750.

Ms Greig was advised of her appeal rights.

**Relevant Rules:**

**AR 296 Named horse change of location**

- (2) A trainer must:
- (d) lodge an amendment to a Stable Return immediately if:
  - (ii) a horse leaves or joins the trainer's stable, or moves to another of the trainer's premises (where the trainer's stable is comprised of more than one premises), with the amendment to disclose the precise location of the horse.

**AR 297 Decision to retire named horse**

- (1) Within 7 days of a decision to retire a named horse from racing, the manager or his or her authorized agent must notify Racing Australia of that fact by lodging the relevant form (including a Stable Return where applicable) prescribed by Racing Australia.

**AR 74 Entry of horses in races for improper purposes is prohibited**

- (1) A person must not, in the opinion of the Stewards:
- (b) declare or cause to be declared a horse as an acceptor for a race with the primary purpose of affecting either the weight allocated to another horse accepted for the race or the total number of horses accepted for the race.

**AR 229 Corruption, dishonesty and misleading behaviour**

- (1) A person must not:
- (a) engage in any dishonest, corrupt, fraudulent, improper or dishonourable action or practice in connection with racing;

**D R Hadley**  
**General Manager – Investigations**  
**Racing NSW**