

**Disciplinary Hearing**  
**19<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at Days Inn, Wetherby**

Report into an Enquiry held at Wetherby on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2015 into the formal complaints received by the British Harness Racing Club from Mr.Roland Pugh (Welsh Regional Steward) and Mr. and Mrs.Jeff Langford (Track Stewards), into the behaviour towards them by Mr.Roy Sheedy (BHRC License-holder).

The Enquiry was convened for 10.30 am at Days Inn.

The delegated Panel was Barry Delaney (Chairman), Jim McNally and Fred Hay.

BD explained to those present that the Enquiry would electronically recorded after which all were introduced. There were no objections to any panel members.

BD informed RS and RP that the complaints into the two incidents would be dealt with separately, the first to be that of RP.

BD read the formal written complaint sent to the BHRC by RP on the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2015 which related to an incident at Allensmore on the 12<sup>th</sup> July when RS and his driver were called by the Track Stewards regarding the misbehaviour of one of RS's horses. In RP's complaint he states that RS was verbally abusive towards him in an aggressive and threatening manner. It is alleged that during this exchange RS suggested that RP should have taken some action against Mr.Trevor Knott regarding his standard of driving but was reluctant do so because of his alleged involvement with his daughter Lisa Knott (BHRC Steward), RP denied that this was the case. It is alleged that RS invited RP to leave the centre of the track to "sort it out" at the horse box which RP says he took as a threat of violence.

BD asked RP if he had anything to add, he replied " the manner and anger of it was out of control".

BD asked RS to comment on the content of RP's complaint and give the panel his version of events. He said that he and Sarah Allen were called by the Stewards and told that the horse would have to re-qualify, to which they had no objection, he then asked what action did they intend taking with regards to Trevor Knott's driving. BD asked what had this to do with this complaint to which RS responded by saying he felt that TK should have been called in by the Stewards. With regard to threatening behaviour RS stated that whilst they were in the middle of the track they were in earshot of the public and he felt it better to have the discussion elsewhere. At this point RS admitted his guilt in matter and there was no point in continuing with the enquiry, after which he stated to the panel that he had never involved in any disciplinary issues before during the considerable time he had been a license-holder.

BD asked RS if he would elaborate on the comments he had made regarding Lisa Knott, he replied that he did not wish to other than to say that he admitted saying something to that effect but it was personal.

BD read out a statement from Tim East (Track Steward) which was relative to the incident and was written on the 6<sup>th</sup> August 2015 . BD asked RS for his response to the statement, RS said that Tim had said the discussion was in a public place and that is why he suggested going to the horse-box. BD asked RS if he accepted TE's statement as an accurate account of events, RS declined to answer other than to say he had been driving that day and Trevor Knott had nearly had him on the floor.BD asked RS if he had reported this to the Stewards on the day, he said there should be a Steward on each bend.

BD asked RS if he had anything further to add, he didn't.

RP stated that he attended the next meeting at Allensmore when he informed the Stewards that he had submitted a formal complaint to the BHRC regarding RS's behaviour at the previous meeting therefore they need not take any further action on the matter.

BD asked the panel for their submissions, FH pointed out that there were two incidents, what action did the Stewards take after the first when SA was unseated, RP stated that SA was checked over and found to be uninjured, the horse hadn't gone down, they were therefore allowed a second chance.

BD declared that everything had been covered regarding the first complaint therefore they would move on to the second complaint which did not involve RP, he was asked to leave the room.

BD confirmed that the second complaint was from Jeff and Margaret Langford (Track Stewards). The complaint letter was dated the 7<sup>th</sup> August 2015 and was read out. It related to an incident at Tan Y Castell on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2015 in Race 11 in which Sarah Allen was found to have driven her horse on the inside of the marker pegs. According to the complaint letter and supported by a letter from Tim East (Track Steward) SA admitted the offence and saying that no other party was involved, she was subsequently disqualified from second place, Stewards report shows infringement under rule M29.

BD asked RS for his response, he said that his accusers (Mr. and Mrs. Langford) should have attended this Enquiry, BD was unable to comment on this, however, there was a viable letter of complaint which was acceptable..

RS stated that he was told on the day that both SA and Jamie Davies (Driver) were interviewed regarding SA knocking out pegs and JD told him that he was not interviewed and that he admitted to RS that his horse had fallen in on SA causing her to go into the pegs and SA confirmed this to him, clearly this conflicted with the evidence from the Stewards.

BD asked the panel for their comments. JM stated that he was confused as he not known RS to act in the way these complaints have stated, however, JM did not accept RS's excuse that "he wore his heart on his sleeve" as a reasonable explanation for his conduct. JM asked RS if he thought his behaviour was acceptable, RS conceded that it was not but it had happened in the heat of the moment on both occasions whilst racing.

The hearing concluded and RS was asked to leave the room whilst the panel deliberated their decision. RS was subsequently asked back into the room. BD proceeded to explain to RS the Panel's decision which was that they find both complaints to be valid, however, owing to his previous good disciplinary record over a number of years the penalties would be £150 fine on both counts (£300 in total) plus six months withdrawal of all licenses on both counts (12 months in total) this to be suspended for a period of 12 months, any further rule infringements during that period will activate the License withdrawals. These penalties to take effect as of midnight on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2015. Costs will be awarded against RS, such sums to be assessed by the BHRC office and directed to RS.

Barry Delaney.

Jim McNally.

Fred Hay.