

Committal for Contempt of Court in Open Court at the Business and Property Courts of England and Wales, Business List (ChD)

Pursuant to paragraph 13 of Practice Direction: Committal for Contempt of Court – Open Court dated 26 March 2015

In relation to claim no. BL-2023-000713 on 11 October 2023 at the Royal Courts of Justice in London, Mr Justice Miles sentenced Benjamin Newman to 2 months imprisonment for contempt of Court. This sentence was suspended for 18 months.

The basis of the sentence was that Benjamin Newman committed a breach of an order made on 26 May 2023 by Sir Anthony Mann (sitting as a judge of the High Court). In particular paragraph 2 of the order prohibited defendants from doing various acts on the day of any Racing Fixture at Epsom Racecourse including Derby Day on 3 June 2023, including (a) entering the Race Track except at authorised crossing points, and (b) intentionally obstructing the Horse Races.

Benjamin Newman is an avowed animal rights activist. He knew of the terms of the order. He breached these parts of the order by entering the Race Track at the Epsom Racecourse shortly after the Epsom Derby Race had begun. He ran on to the track and tried to evade police officers and marshals. He was caught by police officers and removed from the track. The race was completed, unimpeded by Mr Newman's actions. Mr Newman admitted two counts of breach, which arose from the same events.

The Court imposed a sentence of two months in respect of these breaches, suspended for 18 months on condition that Mr Newman does not (i) enter or be present without authorisation on any Race Track owned or managed by the Claimant, Jockey Club Racecourses Limited, or (ii) intentionally obstruct or disrupt any Horse Race organised or hosted by the Claimant.