

# Stewards' Report

## Stewards' Report – Dale Evans

Date – 21 October 2016

Panel – L. Collins, I Brown, E Barron

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards resumed an adjourned inquiry into Jockey D. Evans riding of Cross Question in Race 2 at Rockhampton on Tuesday 11 October, 2016.

Initial evidence was taken on the day from Jockey D Evans and Trainer L Applewaite.

Today, Stewards further questioned Jockey D Evans in relation to his riding and the performance of Cross Question.

After consideration of all the evidence, Jockey D. Evans was found guilty to a charge under A.R 135 (b) which reads:

*"A.R.135 (b) The rider of every horse shall take all reasonable and permissible measures throughout the race to ensure that his horse is given full opportunity to win or to obtain the best possible place in the field."*

The particulars of the charge were that when he rode Cross Question in Race 2 at the Rockhampton Jockey Club on Tuesday 11th October, 2016 in the Maiden Handicap of 1100 metres;

- He failed to ride the horse with purpose and vigour for the first 100 metres of the race when it was reasonable and permissible to do so which resulted in the horse losing ground
- Near the 200 metres, when he directed his horse in, he failed to ride with any vigour or purpose when it was reasonable and permissible to do so.
- Over the final 100 metres of the race, he failed to ride with sufficient vigour when it was reasonable and permissible to do so.
- As a result of his actions, Cross Question was not given full opportunity to obtain the best possible placing in the field.

In defending the charge Jockey Evans stated that after being fractious in the barriers Cross Question began awkwardly resulting in him having a long hold, which prevented him from riding the horse vigorously in the early stages in an effort to obtain a position on the back of the field. In defence of his riding over the final 200m of the race Jockey Evans stated that the horse had peaked on its run as a result of the work it had done in the middle stages of the event, and as a consequence would not have finished any closer regardless of the vigour shown by him.

In finding Jockey Evans guilty of the charge as stipulated the Stewards did not believe that the explanations tendered by him were reasonable in all the circumstances. Despite beginning awkwardly Jockey Evans made no effort to change his hold or ride the horse vigorously in an attempt to improve his position. As a consequence, Cross Question continued to lose ground on the field in the early stages which had a material effect on Cross

Question's ability to be competitive with the eventual placegetters. Furthermore, and contrary to Jockey Evans' evidence Cross Question continued to improve over the final 200m of the race, despite his failure to ride the horse with the vigour and purpose expected of a jockey with his experience. The stewards were therefore satisfied that Jockey Evans' actions prevented Cross Question from obtaining its best possible position in the field.

In assessing penalty, Stewards were mindful that this was the second offence under this rule for Jockey Evans, the seriousness of this rule and the breach, which has a detrimental effect on the image and perception of racing. Stewards were also mindful of Jockey Evans's experience and seniority and that this incident fell well below the expected standard.

It was the decision of Stewards that Jockey Evans's licence to ride in races be suspended for three months to take effect from Tuesday 25 October, 2016 up to and including 25 January, 2017.

Jockey Evans was made aware of his rights of review and appeal.