

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Stephen Lee – Napayshini

Date: 10 August 2017

Panel: D Aurisch, I Brown & N Boyle

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today conducted an inquiry into reports from the QRIC Racing Science Centre (RSC) and the Racing Analytical Services Limited (RASL) that the prohibited substance Methamphetamine was detected in a urine sample taken from Napayshini at Ipswich on 4 April 2017.

Stewards questioned trainer Stephen Lee as to whether he could explain the reason that Methamphetamine was detected in the urine sample analysed by both the RSC and RASL. Telephonic evidence was also taken from Dr Karen Caldwell the Acting Manager of Veterinary Services at the RSC. Mr Lee's legal representative made submissions that in the absence of evidence as to the presence of metabolites having passed through the system of NAPAYSHINI it was not possible for the Stewards to make satisfactory findings that there was a prohibited substance as defined by AR 178B.

Racing NSW Stewards who conducted a stable inspection at Mr Lee's registered stables at Ballina also assisted QRIC Stewards in this matter. Samples were also taken from Mr Lee's employees which all returned negative results.

After considering all of the evidence the Stewards issued Mr Lee with a charge pursuant to AR 178 which states:

Subject to AR178G, when any horse that has been brought to a racecourse for the purpose of engaging in a race and a prohibited substance is detected in any sample taken from it prior to or following its running in any race, the trainer and any other person who was in charge of such horse at any relevant time may be penalised.

The specifics of the charge being that as the trainer of Napayshini, which was brought to Ipswich for the purpose of engaging in the Class 3 1666m on 4 April 2017, when a post-race urine sample taken from the gelding was found to contain a prohibited substance, namely Methamphetamine.

Mr Lee pleaded not guilty to the charge.

Stewards were satisfied with the validity of the two (2) certificates of analysis from NATA accredited laboratories that Methamphetamine was present in the urine taken from Napayshini and that the substance is prohibited pursuant to AR 178B. Mr Lee was formally found guilty of the charge.

When considering an appropriate penalty the Stewards took into account Mr Lee's unblemished record over a long period as a licensed trainer, his personal circumstances and relevant precedents for a breach of this kind. Stewards also recognised that these matters have a negative impact on the image of the sport.

Subsequently, Mr Lee was fined \$6000.

Under the provisions of AR 177, Napayshini was disqualified from winning the Class 3 Handicap 1666m at Ipswich on 4 April 2017 and the placings were amended as follows:

1st DAZZLING SHIRAZ
2nd PRINCE OF PEACE
3rd HOORIYA
4th DUMFRIES
5th PLENTY SPECIAL

Mr Lee was advised of his rights to an internal review.