



Media release

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QRIC welcomes perjury charge against alleged match fixer

The Queensland Racing Integrity Commissioner has welcomed the decision to charge a harness racing code participant with perjury.

“The Racing Crime Squad has charged Mathew Neilson with perjury following evidence he gave at a Crime and Corruption Commission hearing,” Commissioner Ross Barnett said.

“The Racing Integrity Commission is working hard to restore integrity to harness racing and where we can enlist the help of other law enforcement agencies we will.

“I’d like to thank the CCC for its support,” Commissioner Barnett said.

The Commissioner has previously suspended 35-year-old Mr Neilson’s harness driver and training licences after he was charged with match fixing last month.

Ten people associated with harness racing in Queensland have now been charged with match fixing and other offences as a result of the work of investigators involved in Operation Oscar Swallowtail, including a 65-year-old Yeronga man who was arrested at the weekend.

He was charged after Saturday’s arrests of drivers Shane Graham and Leonard Cain and a woman who has previously been a licensed trainer.

All three have been charged with offences including match fixing. The industry licences of Mr Graham and Mr Cain have also been suspended.

“I believe the creation of the Commission has given some people an avenue to come forward with greater confidence to share what they know, which is why we’re seeing these results,” Commissioner Barnett said.

“But it’s important to remember that those charged so far only represent a small proportion of the total participants in the sport.

“Law-abiding participants can be assured that confidence in the harness racing code will improve once the race fixers are identified, charged, convicted and banished from the sport,” Commissioner Barnett said.

ENDS

If you have any information about serious misconduct in racing, contact Crime Stoppers on their toll free number 1800 333 000 or e-mail reportsomething@qric.qld.gov.au