



Media release

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Redcliffe man charged with match fixing

A 69-year-old Redcliffe man has been charged with match (race) fixing offences for allegedly affecting the outcome of harness races in Queensland and South Australia.

The former harness racing participant has also been charged with fraud and two counts of receiving tainted property.

Police allege the man affected the outcome of harness races at Albion Park in Queensland and at Globe Derby Park in South Australia.

It's also alleged the man facilitated the fraudulent purchase of harness racing horses whilst disqualified from all involvement in racing.

"The man has an extensive disciplinary history which includes a 20 month disqualification for his involvement in the practice of stomach-tubing a horse at Goulburn in New South Wales," Commissioner Ross Barnett said.

"That disqualification period has recently ended but he's also previously been disqualified for 12 months in 2014 for presenting a horse to race at Albion Park while affected by prohibited substances."

Disqualification from any state applies nationally and means a person cannot associate with harness racing participants; enter a racecourse or any place under the control of a club or Controlling Body.

It also means they cannot race, lease, train, drive or nominate a horse; participate in the harness code; or bet on any Australian harness race.

The man, who has not applied to renew his harness industry licence, is the fourth person to be charged with match-fixing offences as a result of an investigation by Racing Crime Squad (RCS) detectives working in conjunction with stewards from the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission's Integrity Regulation Unit.

He's been released on bail to appear in the Redcliffe Magistrates Court on 8 January, 2018. The offence of engaging in match-fixing conduct carries a maximum sentence of 10 years' imprisonment.

Detective Inspector Mick Dowie, of the Drug and Serious Crime Group, said the investigation is ongoing

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

“The RCS will pursue all information received regarding match fixing and criminal conduct across all codes of racing,” Detective Inspector Dowie said.

“I urge anyone with information about match-fixing to contact the police or Crime Stoppers.”

Commissioner Barnett said this latest arrest is further proof that the RCS and stewards can get the results required to restore integrity to the harness code, which has been tarnished by the activities of a small number of participants.

“We are here to ensure that all participants can be confident that they’re on a level playing field,” Commissioner Barnett said.

“And I’d like to congratulate once again the RCS and the Commission’s stewards for their work in ensuring offending behaviour is brought to light and that there is an appropriate response.”

The RCS is embedded with the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission at Albion and is tasked with investigating serious animal cruelty, and major and organised crime across all three codes of racing.

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