

# Stewards' Report

## Stewards Report: Lawrence Topping

**Date: 16 July 2019**

**Panel: A. Kitching, A. Spence, D. Broxham**

Today the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards concluded an inquiry into analysts' findings regarding a sample collected from Miss Grasscutter when it placed 1st, in Race 1 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on Friday, 23 November 2019. Analysts' findings detailed Arsenic was present, in excess of the permitted threshold.

Mr Topping provided submissions and entered an early plea of guilty.

After considering the submissions presented, the Steward issued a charge against Mr Topping under GAR83(2)(a) which reads;

Subject to GAR 83(2)(a), the owner, trainer or person in charge of a greyhound nominated to compete in an event shall present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance.

Specifics of the charge:

That when Miss Grasscutter, of which Mr. Topping, was the registered trainer at the relevant time, was on the 23 November 2018, presented at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club to compete in race 1 and a post-race urine sample collected from Miss Grasscutter was found upon analysis to contain the prohibited substance, Arsenic in excess of the permitted threshold.

Mr Topping confirmed his early plea of guilty to the charge and addressed the Steward on penalty.

The Steward considered the following on penalty:

- Mr Topping's time in the industry, being approximately 8 years as a registered trainer, with no prior breaches.
- Mr Topping's cooperation, forthright evidence to the panel and his good character.
- Mr Topping's guilty plea at the earliest convenience.
- The nature of the prohibited substance and relevant penalty precedents.
- The need to maintain integrity of greyhound racing and ensure a level playing field for all participants.

Accordingly, Stewards issued the following penalty:

A monetary fine of \$1500 with \$500 to be suspended for a period of two years under the provisions of GAR95(3).

Acting under GAR83(4), Miss Grasscutter was disqualified from the event and the placings amended accordingly. Mr Topping was ordered to return any relevant prize money.

Mr. Topping was advised of his right to an internal review.