

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Harry Richardson - Smokey Diamond

Date: 2 September 2019

Panel: D Aurisch, C Albrecht & P McLean

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today concluded an inquiry into a report from analysts' that the prohibited substance COBALT was detected in (3) three urine samples taken from SMOKEY DIAMOND at Ipswich Turf Club on 5 January 2019, Ipswich Turf Club 24 January 2019 and from the Sunshine Coast Turf Club on 10 February 2019.

Documentary evidence was tabled from the Racing Science Centre (RSC) and the Racing Analytical Service Limited (RASL) along with evidence from licensed trainer Mr Harry Richardson. Mr Richardson explained that SMOKEY DIAMOND is very fractious when travelling to its races and last preparation, which includes the above-mentioned dates, he had an ongoing issue with the gelding frequently becoming dehydrated. Mr Richardson was of the view that these factors contributed to SMOKEY DIAMOND returning elevated cobalt levels.

After considering all of the evidence, Mr Richardson was issued with (3) three charges pursuant to AR178 which states:

Subject to AR 178G, 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 charges being as follows:

Charge 1

That Harry Richardson as the trainer of SMOKEY DIAMOND brought that horse to the Ipswich Turf Club on 5 January 2019 for the purpose of engaging in the Maiden Handicap 1666 metres, and a post-race urine sample taken from the gelding was found to contain the prohibited substance COBALT above the excepted threshold.

Charge 2

That Harry Richardson as the trainer of SMOKEY DIAMOND brought that horse to the Ipswich Turf Club on 24 January 2019 for the purpose of engaging in the Maiden Handicap 1680 metres, and a post-race urine sample taken from the gelding was found to contain the prohibited substance COBALT above the excepted threshold.

Charge 3

That Harry Richardson as the trainer of SMOKEY DIAMOND brought that horse to the Sunshine Coast Turf Club on 10 February 2019 for the purpose of engaging in the Class 1

Handicap 1600 metres, and a post-race urine sample taken from the gelding was found to contain the prohibited substance COBALT above the excepted threshold.

Mr Richardson pleaded not guilty to the charge and made submissions in response.

When considering all of the evidence, Stewards were satisfied that the cobalt levels recorded by SMOKEY DIAMOND could not be achieved by the gelding's fractious behaviour when travelling to the relevant race meetings. The panel were also of the opinion that any dehydration of the gelding would not result in the levels reported to be present in the urine samples taken at the above-mentioned meetings. Subsequently, Mr Richardson was formally found guilty.

In determining an appropriate penalty, Stewards acknowledged Mr Richardson's unblemished record over a training career of some 50 years. However, Stewards were also mindful of similar penalty precedents, the negative impact such breaches have on the image of racing and the need for a penalty to serve as an appropriate deterrent to ensure racing is conducted free of prohibited substances.

Mr Richardson was advised that his trainer's licence was suspended for a period of nine months to commence immediately and to conclude at midnight on 2 June 2020.

SMOKEY DIAMOND was disqualified, pursuant to AR240(1), from the relevant races and the placings are amended as follows:

Ipswich 5 January 2019 – Maiden Handicap 1666m

- 1st - Lola's Diamond
- 2nd – Aavaara
- 3rd – Elmo's Fire
- 4th – Liliero
- 5th – Miss Fraser

Ipswich 24 January 2019 –Maiden Handicap 1680m

- 1st – Elmo's Fire
- 2nd – Pin de Lady
- 3rd – Smokin' Hussay
- 4th – Zabring
- 5th – Expert Reply

Sunshine Coast 10 February 2019 – Class 1 Handicap 1600m

- 1st – Rains Aplenty
- 2nd – Little Drummer Boy
- 3rd – Prince of Arran
- 4th – Maglev
- 5th – Rock Dancer

Mr Richardson was made aware of his rights to an Internal Review.