

## Stewards' Report

### Stewards Report: Murray Thomas – Bettor Watch Him NZ

**Date: 18/02/2020**

**Panel: D. Farquharson, N. Torpey, G. Goold**

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today concluded an inquiry into reports from the QRIC Racing Science Centre (RSC) and the Racing Analytical Services Limited (RASL) that the prohibited substance namely Dexamethasone, as defined in Australian Harness Racing (AHR) Rule 188A(1)(b), had been detected in a sample taken from the Murray Thomas trained horse Bettor Watch Him NZ following its win in race 5 at Redcliffe on 20 November 2019.

Stewards commenced inquiries on 24<sup>th</sup> December 2019 and on 30 January 2020 Mr Thomas was issued with a charge pursuant to rule 190(1) of the Australian Harness Racing (AHR) rule, via written correspondence as follows:

#### **AHR Rule 190 (1)**

*(1) A horse shall be presented for a race free of prohibited substances*

The particulars of charge being that:

Licensed trainer Murray Thomas, as the trainer of Bettor Watch Him NZ, did present that horse to race at Redcliffe on 20 November 2019 when a post-race urine sample taken from Bettor Watch Him NZ, upon analysis, was found to contain the prohibited substance, namely Dexamethasone.

On 12 February 2020, Mr Thomas pleaded guilty to the charge and made submissions relating to the positive finding, via written correspondence.

In assessing penalty Stewards considered the following:

- \* AHR Rule 190 (1) is a strict liability rule with the onus on the trainer to present a horse drug free for racing,
- \* The offence file of Murray Thomas and his good record under this rule,
- \* Penalty precedents for matters of this type,
- \* The need for any penalty to serve as a deterrent both general and specific.

After consideration of these factors, Stewards imposed a fine of \$3000.

Acting under the provision of AHR Rule 195, Bettor Watch Him NZ was disqualified from its winning performance in race 5 at Redcliffe on 20 November 2019 and Stewards directed all placegetters to be amended accordingly.

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