

# Stewards' Report

## Stewards Report: Ricky Gordon

Date: 20 February 2020

Panel: N. Torpey, M. Ross & N. Thorneycroft

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards today inquired into the analysts finding regarding the elevated Total Carbon Dioxide concentration (TCO<sub>2</sub>) level found in the blood sample taken from THREO at Albion Park on 14 January 2020. THREO was trained for this event by Ricky Gordon.

Analysis of the sample by the Racing Science Centre indicated an elevated level of TCO<sub>2</sub> of 36.4 M/mol, with confirmatory analysis of the referee sample by the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory indicating a level of 35.9 M/mol.

After careful consideration of the matter, stewards issued a charge pursuant to AHR 196C(1)(b) against Ricky Gordon.

Australian Harness Racing Rule 196C (1) states the following:

**196C (1) A person must not administer an alkalinising agent in any manner to a horse which is engaged to run in a race:**

*(a) At any time on the day of the scheduled race and prior to the start of the race;*

***(b) At any time within on clear day of the commencement of the race.***

*(5) for the purposes of this rule; one clear day means the twenty- four (24) hour period from 12:01 a.m. to 12 midnight.*

The specifics of the charge being that:

*Ricky Gordon, as the trainer of the THREO, did present the horse to race at Albion Park on 14 January, 2020 when a pre-race blood sample taken from THREO, upon analysis, was found to contain an elevated TCO<sub>2</sub> level evidencing the administration of an alkalinising agent within one clear day of the race.*

Mr Gordon pleaded not guilty to the charge and presented submissions in defence of the charge.

After careful consideration of the evidence, stewards determined that on the balance of probabilities that the charge had been established to a reasonable satisfaction, and found Mr. Gordon guilty as charged.

In determining the matter, Stewards were of the opinion that the only credible explanation for the elevated TCO<sub>2</sub> levels detected in the sample was because of the administration of an alkalinising agent on race day.

In determining an appropriate penalty, amongst other things, Stewards considered the following:

- Mr Gordons personal and financial situation
- Mr Gordon's previous disciplinary record
- The particular circumstances of this matter
- The need for a penalty to serve as deterrent to any like-minded person.

After taking into account penalties applied in recent comparable matters, Stewards fined Ricky Gordon the sum of \$5,000.

Further, acting under the provisions of AHR 196C(1)(3), THREO was disqualified from Race 4 at Albion Park on 14 January, 2020 and the placings amended accordingly.

Mr Gordon was advised of his rights to an Internal Review