

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Steven Towns

Date: 20 February 2020

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

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards today inquired into the analysts finding regarding the mass concentration of arsenic above the threshold found in the urine sample taken from ELZBOY at Marburg on 25 November 2019. Mr. Steven Towns trained Standardbred ELZBOY for this event.

Australian Harness Racing Rule (AHRR) 190(1) reads:

"A horse shall be presented for a race free of prohibited substances."

Australian Harness Racing Rule (AHRR) 190(1) carries with it an absolute liability upon a trainer to present their horses to race free of prohibited substances.

The Stewards issued the following charge being that as the trainer of the Standardbred, ELZBOY, Steven Towns, did present the horse to race at Marburg on 25 November 2019 where a urine sample taken from that horse, upon analysis, was found to contain a prohibited substance, namely arsenic above the threshold.

Mr Towns pleaded not guilty to the charge. However after careful considering of the evidence by Stewards was found guilty as charged.

In determining penalty against Mr Towns in relation the finding of arsenic above the threshold, Stewards considered the following evidence and reports:

- As a result of a previous arsenic finding on this horse in 2016 Mr Towns had replaced all the posts and rails in the yard where ELZBOY was located.
- Evidenced was presented by Mr Towns indicating that ELZBOY had chewed on these replacement posts in his yard and that, unbeknown to Mr Towns these posts had been treated with CCA products.
- The study conducted by the Melbourne University Faculty of Veterinary Agricultural Sciences, which examined the ingestion of wood shavings containing arsenic and the elevated levels achieved.
- Mr Towns's husbandry regime

Steven Towns was fined the sum of \$2,000.

Further acting under the provisions of AHRR 195 ELZBOY was disqualified from Race 4 at Marburg on 25 November 2019 and the placings amended accordingly.

Mr Towns was advised of his rights of an Internal Review