

## Stewards' Report

### Stewards Report: Graham Hughes – CINQUE STELLA

**Date: 6 July 2020**

**Panel: P Lane & P Gillard**

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today conducted an inquiry into a report from the analyst that the prohibited substance HYDROCORTISONE was detected in a urine sample taken from Cinque Stella at Mackay on 18 October 2018.

Documentary evidence was tabled from the Racing Science Centre (RSC) and Racing Analytical Services Limited (RASL) along with evidence from licensed trainer Mr Graham Hughes.

After considering all the evidence, Mr Hughes was issued with a charge pursuant to AR.178 which reads:

*Subject to AR177C, when a 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 charge being that licensed trainer Graham Hughes brought the horse Cinque Stella to Mackay on 18 October 2018 for the purpose of engaging in the Maiden Handicap 1050m and a pre-race urine sample taken was found to contain the prohibited substance Hydrocortisone.

Mr Hughes pleaded guilty to the charge and made submissions in relation to penalty.

In determining an appropriate penalty, Stewards were of the view that the following points were relevant:

1. Mr Hughes' exemplary record as a trainer over a long period.
2. His forthright evidence and his guilty plea.
3. His personal and financial circumstances.
4. Penalty precedents for Hydrocortisone.
5. 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.

Taking the above into account Mr Hughes was subsequently fined \$3000.

Furthermore, under the provisions of AR177 Cinque Stella was disqualified from its 3<sup>rd</sup> placing in the Maiden Handicap 1000m and the placing's were amended as follows –

**18 October 2018 – Maiden Handicap 1050m**

1st – TUSCAN GAMBLER

2nd – AMRON

3rd – JUZOU

4th – YAKAPARI

5<sup>th</sup> - TOORAK RUBY

Mr Hughes was made aware of his right to an internal review into the finding of the Stewards.