

# Stewards' Report

## Stewards Report: Chris Whiteley – Silent Explorer

**Date: 27 July 2020**

**Panel: P Lane & P Warren**

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today concluded an inquiry into Jockey Chris Whiteley's riding of SILENT EXPLORER in the Open Handicap 1400m at Cairns on 25 June 2020.

Evidence was taken soon after the race from Jockey Chris Whiteley and from the Trainer of the gelding Mr Stephen Massingham. The inquiry was then adjourned to enable Stewards to examine the betting on the race and to view the footage of the previous starts of SILENT EXPLORER.

Further evidence was taken today from Jockey Chris Whiteley, Trainer Mr Stephen Massingham, and Mr Warren Massingham who acted as Strapper on race day.

Subsequent analysis of the betting on the race proved inconclusive, revealing an insignificant multi bet placed by Mr Stephen Massingham coupling 3 of his runners on the day, SILENT EXPLORER, BRILLIANT MIND and GINGER BEER. Mr Warren Massingham was identified as having the exact same bet.

After considering all the evidence, Jockey Chris Whiteley was issued with a charge under the provisions of AR129(2) which states:

*A rider must take all reasonable and permissible measures throughout the race to ensure that the rider's horse is given full opportunity to win or obtain the best possible place in the field.*

The specifics of the charge being that as the rider of SILENT EXPLORER in the Open Handicap 1400m at Cairns on 25 June 2020:

1. After being among the best to begin he, almost immediately and unnecessarily, strenuously restrained his mount back to 2<sup>nd</sup> last position by the time the field reached the 1200m resulting in it racing very ungenerously, when it was reasonable and permissible to allow it to settle in a handy position.
2. For a considerable distance passing the 900m, he continued to restrain his mount, resulting in it continuing to race ungenerously, also failing to improve into a trailing position on the back of SCHERZOSO, which would have placed his mount closer to the leaders on straightening, when it was reasonable and permissible to do so.

3. On straightening he failed to ride with sufficient vigour and purpose, from near the 350m to near the 150m, when it was reasonable and permissible to do so.

These failures as particularised, in the opinion of Stewards, have resulted in SILENT EXPLORER not being given full opportunity to win.

Mr Whiteley pleaded not guilty and made submissions in defence of the charge.

After considering these submissions, the Stewards believed his riding of SILENT EXPLORER fell below the requisite standard expected of a rider, particularly one of Jockey Whiteley's experience and seniority.

When considering an appropriate penalty, the Stewards considered Jockey Whiteley's recent record in relation to the rule, the circumstances of the case and his conduct during the inquiry. Stewards also considered the seriousness of the breach and the need for a penalty to serve as a necessary deterrent.

Subsequently, Jockey Whiteley had his licence to ride in races suspended for two (2) months to commence at midnight 4 August 2020 and to conclude at midnight 4 October 2020.

Jockey Whiteley was advised of his internal review rights.