

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Trent Hodges

Date: 2 September 2020

Panel: D Farquharson, N. Finnigan and G. Goold

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards today inquired into the analysts finding regarding the elevated Total Carbon Dioxide concentration (TCO₂) level found the blood sample taken from Its You Not Me at Redcliffe on 13 August 2020. Its You Not Me was trained for this event by Trent Hodges.

Analysis of the sample by the Racing Science Centre indicated an elevated level of TCO₂ of 36.6 M/Mol. Evidence was taken from Mr Hodges who explained his training and feeding regime leading up to the race day in question.

After considering of the matter, Stewards issued a charge against Trent Hodges pursuant to AHR 196C(2)(c).

Australian Harness Racing Rule 196C (2)(c) states the following:

2) Any person who:-

(c) causes an alkalinising agent to be administered; contrary to sub-rule (1) is guilty of an offence.

The specifics of the charge that:

Trent Hodges, as the trainer of the Its You Not Me, did present the horse to race at Redcliffe on 13 August, 2020 when a pre-race blood sample taken from Its You Not Me, upon analysis, was found to contain an elevated TCO₂ level evidencing the administration of an alkalinising agent within one clear day of the race.

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

Stewards determined that on the balance of probabilities that the charge had been established, and found Mr Hodges guilty as charged.

Stewards believed the only creditable explanation for the elevated TCO₂ levels detected in the sample was the result of the administration of an alkalinising agent on race day.

In determining an appropriate penalty, Stewards considered:

- Mr Hodges 'personal and financial situation
- Mr Hodges' previous disciplinary record

The 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 Trent Hodges the sum of \$5,000.

Further, acting under the provisions of AHR 196C(1)(3), Its You Not Me was disqualified from Race 2 at Redcliffe on 13 August, 2020 and the placings amended accordingly.

Mr Hodges was advised of his rights to an Internal Review