

# Stewards' Report

## Stewards Report: Benjamin Currie

**Date: 28 January 2021**

**Panel: P Chadwick**

Stewards of the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission concluded an inquiry into analysts' findings that the prohibited substance Dexamethasone was detected in a post-race urine sample collected from the thoroughbred gelding LIL RODGE at the Ipswich Turf Club on 5 December 2018.

The Stewards subsequently issued a charge to Mr Currie on 12 November 2020 pursuant to Australian Rule of Racing 178, which relevantly provides:

Subject to AR.177C, when any 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 Mr Currie, as the licensed trainer of LIL RODGE, brought that gelding to the Ipswich Turf Club on 5 December 2019 for the purpose of competing in a race, being the Follow ITC @IpswichTurfClub Class 2 Handicap over 1350 metres, and an analysis of the post-race urine sample collected from LIL RODGE detected the presence of Dexamethasone in the sample, which is a prohibited substance pursuant to Australian Rule of Racing 177B of the Australian Rules of Racing.

Mr Currie entered a plea of guilty to the charge.

In determining penalty in relation to the charge, the Stewards considered the following:

1. the nature, circumstances and seriousness of the offending conduct;
2. Mr Currie's disciplinary history;
3. Mr Currie's plea of guilty;
4. the respective penalty precedents for the offence;
5. the strict liability imposed upon trainers to present horses to race free from any prohibited substance in accordance with the Australian Rules of Racing; and

6. the need for each penalty to act as both a specific deterrent to Mr Currie to reduce the risk of further offending and a general deterrent to the wider racing industry for the integrity of the racing industry to remain paramount.

The Stewards, having considered the above factors, determined the appropriate penalty for the offence was a monetary penalty in the amount of \$3,000.00.

Further, in accordance with Australian Rule of Racing 177 the gelding LIL RODGE was disqualified from its 2<sup>nd</sup> placing in the subject race and the placings amended as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> WITHOUT REVENGE

2<sup>nd</sup> PETAIN

3<sup>rd</sup> CHAVO

4<sup>th</sup> WINE BARREL

5<sup>th</sup> MALCRIADO

6<sup>th</sup> BULLION BELLE

7<sup>th</sup> AJANI

8<sup>th</sup> TOGA PICTA

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