

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Garry Stephens – The Grouse

Date: 20 May 2021

Panel: T Hudson & P Zimmermann

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today concluded an inquiry into a report from the Racing Science Centre that the prohibited substance Arsenic was detected in a urine sample taken from The Grouse at Kilcoy on 26th January 2021. Documentary evidence was tabled from the Racing Science Centre (RSC) and Racing Analytical Services Ltd (RASL) along with evidence from licensed trainer Mr Gary Stephens. Expert evidence was also provided, by Dr Martin Lenz, Director of Veterinary Services and Animal Welfare, QRIC.

After considering all the evidence Mr Stephens was issued with a charge pursuant to AR 240 (2) which reads:

Subject to subrule (3), if a horse has been brought to a racecourse for the purpose of participating in a race and a prohibited substance on Prohibited List A and/or Prohibited List B is detected in any sample taken from the horse 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 Mr Gary Stephens brought the horse The Grouse to Kilcoy on the 26th of January 2021 for the purpose of engaging in the Somerset Regional Council Maiden Plate 1060m and a post-race urine sample taken was found to contain the prohibited substance ARSENIC.

Mr Stephens pleaded guilty to the charge and made submissions on his behalf.

When assessing penalty, consideration was provided to the Applicant's submissions, cooperation, guilty plea, mitigating circumstances, disciplinary history, penalty precedents and longevity in the industry. However, the stewards were also mindful of 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.

Mr Stephens was subsequently fined \$2000.

Furthermore, acting under the provisions of AR. 240 (1), The Grouse was disqualified from winning the Somerset Regional Council Maiden Plate 1060m and the placings were amended as follows:

Kilcoy 26th January 2021 - Somerset Regional Council Maiden Plate

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission

1st – CRAIGLEA DANIEL

2nd – MADAM GRACE

3rd – THE LAST DRAGON

4th – MY BOY MISCHKE

5th - FINGERTIPS

Mr Stephens' was advised of his rights to an internal review.
