

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: James Hepworth - Aberlady

Date: 5th July 2021

Panel: Tate Hudson, Daniel Aurisch and Timothy North

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today concluded an inquiry into a report from the analyst that the prohibited substance Arsenic was detected in a urine sample taken from Aberlady at Gold Coast on 27th February 2021. Documentary evidence was tabled from the Racing Science Centre (RSC) and Racing Analytical Services Ltd (RASL) along with evidence from licensed trainer Mr James Hepworth. After considering all of the evidence Mr Hepworth 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 James Hepworth brought the horse Aberlady to Gold Coast on the 27th of February 2021 for the purpose of engaging in the WK Projects Benchmark 62 Handicap 2200m and a post-race urine sample taken was found to contain the prohibited substance Arsenic.

Mr Hepworth pleaded not guilty to the charge.

After considering all the submissions the Stewards were comfortably satisfied that sufficient evidence existed to substantiate the charge and Mr Hepworth was formally found guilty of the charge.

When assessing penalty, consideration was provided to the Applicant's submissions, cooperation, disciplinary history, penalty precedents and time 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 Hepworth was subsequently fined \$2000.

Furthermore, acting under the provisions of AR. 240 (1), Aberlady was disqualified from winning the WK Projects Benchmark 62 Handicap 2200m and the placing's were amended as follows:

Gold Coast - 27th February 2021 – WK Projects Benchmark 62 Handicap

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission

1st – D'Clone (NZ)

2nd – Miss Gem

3rd – Fu Ni

4th – Paris Crystal

5th – Classic Pearl

DQ - Aberlady

Mr Hepworth was made aware of his right to an internal review.