

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Lola Weidemann (Misty Creek)

Date: 30 September 2021

Panel: G. Goold, N. Torpey, B. McErlean

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards Supplementary Report

Misty Creek Race 2 Redcliffe 16 September 2021.

Stewards today finalised an inquiry opened on the 16th of September 2021 at Redcliffe regarding the driving tactics adopted by driver Lola Weidemann on her horse Misty Creek in race 2 the Redcliffe Leagues Club Pace.

After taking primarily evidence on the day, Stewards adjourned the inquiry to make further analysis of the betting regarding this race as well as a thorough review of the form and racing pattern of Misty Creek and other runners involved in the race. A comprehensive investigation into the betting revealed that whilst there was significant support for Misty Creek, no nefarious activity was found in relation to the betting on this race. Stewards were comfortably satisfied that the betting regarding this race had no bearing on the driving of Misty Creek or any other runner.

Further evidence today was presented by Ms Weidemann regarding the racing habits and pattern of Misty Creek as well as her reasons for the tactics she adopted. After careful evaluation of the evidence in its entirety Stewards, whilst having significant concerns regarding Ms Weidemann's decision not to contest a forward racing position in the early stages of the race, Stewards were not comfortably satisfied that her actions at that point of the race fell below the required racing standard when objectively judged, however Stewards were comfortably satisfied that her following decision to then move Misty Creek to the marker line leaving the 1200 metres was under the circumstances unreasonable. Stewards subsequently issued a charge pursuant to AHR Rule 149(1) which reads;

'A driver shall take all reasonable and permissible measures during the course of a race to ensure that the horse driven by that driver is given full opportunity to win or obtain the best possible placing in the field.'

The specifics of the charge being;

At a point leaving the 1200 metres when positioned behind Downtown Lucca in the one wide line driver Weideman directed Misty Creek away from this position to a position three back on the marker pegs behind Darby Brights and Lord Denzel, a position of distinct disadvantage, when it was reasonable and permissible to remain in a one wide position behind Downtown Lucca which would have availed Misty Creek with the option of clear running earlier than was afforded to the horse once it was positioned on the marker pegs

resulting in Misty Creek being denied its full opportunity to win by being held up for clear running until approaching the home turn with the horse making up significant ground to finish second beaten a half head.

Ms Weidemann pled not guilty to the charge however Stewards were satisfied the charge could be sustained and formally found her guilty.

After hearing submissions on penalty, Stewards imposed a penalty of suspension of her driving licence for a period of six weeks to commence midnight the 9th of October 2021.

When determining penalty Stewards considered Ms Weidemann to be a most experienced and competent driver over a number of years and also the fact that she had only one prior offence under this rule in a twenty-year period. However, Stewards were also mindful of the perception of offences of this nature have on the industry and the betting public and any penalty imposed must be one that ensures that the wagering public can bet with confidence.

Ms Weidemann was advised of her right to internal review.