

# Stewards' Report

## Stewards Report: Martin Hanrahan

**Date: 18 November 2021**

**Panel: D. Farquharson, L. Wilson, N. Torpey**

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards concluded an inquiry into reports from the QRIC Racing Science Centre (RSC) and the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory (ARFL) that the prohibited substance Testosterone above the prescribed threshold as defined in Australian Harness Racing (AHR) Rule 188A(2)(g)(i) had been detected in a sample taken from the Martin Hanrahan trained horse Feelin Flirty following its winning performance at Redcliffe on 16 December 2020.

Stewards commenced inquiries on 2 February 2021 and on 19 May 2021 Mr Hanrahan was issued with a charge pursuant to rule 190(1) of the Australian Harness Racing (AHR) rules, via written correspondence as follows:

### **AHR Rule 190 (1)**

***(1) A horse shall be presented for a race free of prohibited substances***

The particulars of charge being that:

*Licensed trainer Martin Hanrahan, as the trainer of Feelin Flirty, did present that horse to race at Redcliffe on 16 December 2020 when a post-race urine sample taken from that horse, upon analysis, was found to contain a prohibited substance, namely Testosterone above the prescribed threshold as defined in AHR rule 188A(2)(g)(i).*

On 16 June 2021, Mr Hanrahan recorded no plea to the charge via written correspondence and requested that the charge be dismissed.

On 5 August 2021, Stewards found the evidence supportive of a guilty finding under AHR rule 190(1).

On 16 August Stewards received a submission from Mr Hanrahan.

On 19 October 2021, Stewards received a further submission from Mr Hanrahan in answer to penalty should one be imposed by Stewards for the breach of AHR 190(1).

When assessing the matter of penalty, Stewards gave careful consideration to:

- \* AHR Rule 190 (1) is a strict liability rule with the onus on the trainer to present a horse drug free for racing,
- \* The offence file of Martin Hanrahan which indicated a previous breach of this rule,
- \* Penalty precedents for matters of this type,
- \* The need for any penalty to serve as a deterrent both general and specific.

Mr Martin Hanrahan was disqualified for a period of six months effective immediately.

Stewards further determined that Feelin Flirty be disqualified from its winning performance at Redcliffe on 16 December 2020 under the provisions of AHR 195 and all remaining placings be adjusted accordingly.

Mr Hanrahan was advised of his rights to an internal review.