

# Stewards' Report

## Stewards' Report – Harness Trainer – John McMullen

Date – 14 December 2021

Panel – D. Farquharson, L. Wilson & R. McCrae

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today inquired into the analyst's findings of testosterone at a concentration level in excess of the allowable threshold for a gelding under the provision of Australian Harness Racing (AHR) Rule 188 (2)(g) in a urine sample taken from Melton Max Gentle in Race 3 at Redcliffe on 22 April 2021. Melton Max Gentle was presented to race by trainer John McMullen.

Evidence was taken from Mr McMullen and owner George Michael and a submission tendered which included the results of testing conducted by the stable connections of Melton Max Gentle.

In response, QRIC officials carried out further testing on Melton Max Gentle.

Stewards also considered a report from Dr Adam Cawley (Science Manager at the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory, Racing NSW) and Dr Martin Lenz (Director of Veterinary Services QRIC), who provided evidence with regard to all reports.

Stewards, after careful consideration and having regard to both the scientific and analytical evidence available to them, were satisfied that the concentration of testosterone detected in the race day urine sample taken from Melton Max Gentle exceeded the threshold for geldings as defined in AHR 188(2)(g). Melton Max Gentle was subsequently disqualified from its winning performance at Redcliffe on 22 April 2021, under the provisions of AHR rule 195, and all remaining places will be adjusted accordingly.

*AHR 195: A horse which has been presented for a race shall be disqualified from it if blood, urine, saliva, or other matter or sample or specimen taken from the horse is found to contain a prohibited substance.*

Although fully aware of the provisions under AHR Rule 190(1), when considering the evidence taken in its entirety, Stewards were not satisfied to the requisite standard that any charge could be sustained.

The 12 months ban from racing imposed on Melton Max Gentle under AHR rule 190AA(8)(a) will remain in place until 22 April 2022.