

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Trinity Bannon

Date: 21 April 2022

Panel: Josh Adams and Chris Allison

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today concluded an inquiry into the bona fides of the registered thoroughbred GRACIOUS GARCON between 1 February 2020 and 14 September 2021.

After examining phone and banking records and interviewing parties involved, Stewards were able to ascertain that Ms Trinity Bannon, who was licensed with the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission as a Jockey/ Trainer, fraudulently declared Mr Kris Thomas as an owner of GRACIOUS GARCON attempting to conceal Ms Bannon's ownership which would contravene AR116.

After considering all of the evidence, Ms Bannon was issued with two charges.

Charge 1.

AR 116 Jockeys and apprentice jockeys not to have an interest in horses

(1) A jockey or apprentice jockey is not permitted to own, take a lease or have any interest in any unnamed horse or named horse. [subrule amended 1.5.21]

The particulars being that Ms Trinity Bannon as a licensed Jockey/ Trainer with the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission between 1 February 2020 and 14 September 2021, owned the registered horse GRACIOUS GARCON.

Charge 2.

AR 229 Corruption, dishonesty and misleading behaviour

(1) A person must not:

(a) engage in any dishonest, corrupt, fraudulent, improper or dishonourable action or practice in connection with racing.

The particulars being that Ms Trinity Bannon as a licensed Jockey/ Trainer with the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission between 1 February 2020 and 14 September 2021, fraudulently declared KRIS THOMAS as the owner of GRACIOUS GARCON to conceal her ownership, which contravenes AR116(1).

Ms Bannon pleaded guilty to both charges and made further submissions in relation to penalty.

Penalty

When considering an appropriate penalty, Stewards view breaches of this kind very seriously, as it can have a detrimental effect on the image of racing, and penalties must serve as a general deterrent to illustrate to the entire racing industry that these activities cannot be condoned. Stewards also considered previous penalties for breaches of these rules, including minimum mandatory penalties, penalty submissions, guilty pleas and Ms Bannon's record.

Charge 1.

When considering an appropriate penalty, AR116(3) states that If a jockey or apprentice jockey breaches subrule (1), a disqualification of not less than 2 years must be imposed unless there is a finding that a special circumstance exists, in which case that penalty may be reduced.

When considering LR117(b), In this regard, Stewards also considered whether special circumstances existed which would allow for a reduction in the minimum mandatory penalty. Stewards were able to establish special circumstances, which allowed for a reduction in penalty of 6 months.

Ms Bannon was disqualified for eighteen (18) months.

Charge 2.

Ms Bannon was disqualified for twelve (12) months.

Acting under AR283(4), stewards order both periods of disqualification to be served concurrently to commence midnight 21 April 2022 and to conclude midnight 21 October 2023.

Ms Bannon was advised of her rights to an internal review.