

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Robert Heathcote

Date: 27 June 2022

Panel: P Chadwick, D Aurisch, J Adams and P Zimmermann

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today concluded an inquiry into records contained in the stable treatment book and Hemoplex being found at the stables of Mr R Heathcote during a stable inspection 23 April 2022.

The inquiry was initially commenced on 3 May 2022 and adjourned for future documentary evidence to be tendered.

After considering all the evidence and submissions tendered, trainer Mr R Heathcote was issued with three (3) charges pursuant to Australian Rules of Racing:

CHARGE 1

AR 252A *Possession of injectable products containing cobalt salts*

(1) A person must not have in his or her possession, or on his or her premises, any injectable product which contains cobalt salts.

The specifics being that Mr Robert Heathcote a Trainer licensed with the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission, during a stable inspection conducted by QRIC Integrity Investigation Officers on Saturday 23 April 2022, was found to have on his registered stable premises 10 Bottles of Hemoplex, which contain cobalt salts a banned substance under the Rules of Racing effective 1 May 2021.

CHARGE 2

AR 254A *Administration of cobalt salts by injection*

(1) A person must not:

(a) administer

a product containing cobalt salts to a horse by injection.

The Specifics being that Mr Robert Heathcote a Trainer licensed with the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission, did administer Hemoplex, which contain cobalt salts a banned substance under the Rules of Racing effective 1 May 2021, on various times during the period 1 May 2021 to 31 December 2021

CHARGE 3

AR 254A Administration of cobalt salts by injection

(1) A person must not:

(a) administer

a product containing cobalt salts to a horse by injection.

The specifics being that Mr Robert Heathcote a Trainer licensed with the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission, did administer Hemoplex, which contain cobalt salts a banned substance under the Rules of Racing effective 1 May 2021, during the period 1 January 2022 to 23 April 2022 on 23 occasions being on the dates as follows:

February 4 2022 – 6 horses,

- Startantes
- Warp Speed
- Fasano
- Hatchet
- Mosshiki
- Holiday Dreams
-

March 30 2022 – 8 horses,

- Starvirgo
- Guntantes
- Rayjen
- Hamlet Von Snitzel
- Fighting Mad
- Release the Beans
- Dusty Tycoon
- Savvy Oak

April 6 2022 – 3 horses

- Crynenotears
- Brilliant Concept
- Extremist

April 16 2022 – 6 horses

- Startantes
 - Prince of Boom
 - Stoked
 - Crymenotears
 - Starvigo
 - Blitzen Pasture
-

Mr Heathcote pleaded guilty to Charge 1 and not guilty to Charges 2 and 3.

After considering the evidence and further submissions, Mr Heathcote found guilty to charges 2 and 3.

Mr Heathcote subsequently made submissions in respect of any penalty to be imposed.

In determining penalty in relation to the charges, the Stewards considered the following:

1. The nature, circumstances, and seriousness of the offence,
2. Mr Heathcote's personal circumstances, character, and general background, noting Mr Heathcote has held a licence in the racing industry for over 25 years. Also, that he currently employs numerous Staff and has 96 horses under his care;
3. Mr Heathcote's disciplinary history, noting that he has held a Thoroughbred Trainer's Licence for over twenty-five (25) years and that his disciplinary history showed similar breaches during this time;
4. The penalty precedents for breaches of Australian Rule of Racing 252A (1) and AR 254A (1)(a);
5. The requirement for penalties to act as both a specific deterrent to Mr Heathcote and as a general deterrent to the wider racing industry for the integrity of the racing industry to remain paramount.

The Stewards' Panel, having considered the above factors determined the appropriate penalty for the offences as specified was as follows:

CHARGE 1 - \$4,000

CHARGE 2 - \$15,000

CHARGE 3 - \$15,000

Mr Heathcote was advised of his rights to apply for an internal review of the decision pursuant to Chapter 6 of the *Racing Integrity Act 2016* (Qld).
