

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: John Smerdon – Think I'm Dreaming

Date: 26 November 2022

Panel: Rion Hitchener, Daniel Aurisch & Pauline Reardon

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today concluded an inquiry into a report from the analyst that a blood sample taken from THINK IM DREAMING on the 22 August 2022, prior to mare participating at the Beaudesert Official Trials returned a positive result for the substance Furosemide.

Documentary evidence was tabled from the Racing Science Centre (RSC) and the Racing Analytical Services Laboratory along with evidence from Mr John Smerdon the trainer of the mare.

After considering all of the evidence Mr Smerdon was issued with a charge pursuant to AR241(a) which reads:

If a horse is brought to a racecourse or recognised training track to participate in:

(a) an official trial.

and a prohibited substance on Prohibited List A and/or Prohibited List B is detected in a sample taken from the horse prior to or following the relevant event, the trainer and any other person who was in charge of the horse at any relevant time breaches these Australian rules.

The specifics of the charge being that Trainer Mr J Smerdon did present THINK IM DREAMING at the Beaudesert Official Trials on the 22 August 2022 when a pre-race blood sample taken from the gelding was found upon subsequent confirmatory analysis to contain the prohibited substance Furosemide.

In determining penalty Stewards considered the specific circumstances of the case, Mr Smerdon's guilty plea and forthright evidence, his record in relation to the rule, relevant penalty precedents as well as the negative impact such breaches have on the image of the industry.

Mr Smerdon was subsequently fined \$2000.