

Stewards Report: Benjamin Bowen

Date: 9th February 2023

Panel: Clayton Warren & Tony Preston

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today concluded an inquiry into a Social Media post made by licensed Trainer Mr Benjamin Bowen.

After considering all the evidence Mr Bowen was charged under the provisions of AR228(a) which reads:

A person must not engage in:

- (a) Conduct prejudicial to the image, interest, integrity, or welfare of racing, whether or not that conduct takes place within a racecourse or elsewhere;*

The particulars of the charge being that Mr Bowen did engage in conduct prejudicial to the image and interest of racing by posting a comment on Facebook which suggested an act of cruelty should be enacted against a horse.

Mr Bowen pleaded guilty to the charge and was subsequently fined the sum of \$4000, furthermore under the provisions of AR283(5) Stewards ordered \$1500 of that amount be wholly suspended for a period of two (2) years under the proviso that Mr Bowen does not reoffend under this rule or any similar rule during that period.

In determining penalty Stewards considered Mr Bowen's guilty plea, the circumstances of the breach as well as his remorse. Stewards were also cognisant of the seriousness of the breach and the imperative importance that must be placed on protecting the image and interest of racing whilst considering the damage Mr Bowen's actions may have done to such, as well as the need for any penalty to act not only as a specific deterrent to Mr Bowen but to the wider industry cohort.

Mr Bowen was advised of his right to an internal review.