

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Mr Stewart Dickson

Date: 3 April 2023

Panel: D. Farquharson, W. Barr & A. Havelberg

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today concluded an inquiry into reports from the QRIC Racing Science Centre (RSC) and the Racing Analytical Services Limited (RASL) that the prohibited substance Oxazepam had been detected in a post-race sample taken from the Stewart Dickson trained horse Magic Nitro following its winning performance at Redcliffe on 11 January 2023. Stewards commenced inquiries on 13 February 2023 and on 21 February 2023, Mr Stewart Dickson was issued with a charge pursuant to rule 190(1) of the Australian Harness Racing (AHR) rule, via written correspondence as follows:

AHR Rule 190 (1)

(1) A horse shall be presented for a race free of prohibited substances

The particulars of charge being that:

Licensed trainer Stewart Dickson, as the trainer of Magic Nitro, did present that horse to race at Redcliffe on 11 January 2023 when a post-race urine sample taken from that horse, upon analysis, was found to contain a prohibited substance, namely Oxazepam.

At an inquiry on Monday March 2023, Mr Dickson pleaded not guilty to the charge and provided submissions in support of his not guilty plea.

Following careful consideration of the evidence available to Stewards, Mr Dickson was found guilty of the charge and the decision on penalty was reserved to allow Stewards time to consider submissions relating to penalty.

Today in assessing penalty Stewards considered the following:

- * AHR Rule 190 (1) is a strict liability rule with the onus on the trainer to present a horse drug free for racing,
- * The offence file of Stewart Dickson and his good record under this rule over decades as a licensed trainer,
- * Penalty precedents for matters of this type,
- * The need for any penalty to serve as a deterrent both general and specific.

Stewards imposed a fine of \$3000 fully suspended for a period of 2 years.

Acting under the provisions of AHR rule 195 Magic Nitro was disqualified from its winning performance at Redcliffe on 11 January 2023 and all other placing were amended accordingly.

Mr Dickson was advised of his rights to appeal to the Racing Appeal Panel.