

# Stewards' Report

**Stewards' Report – Harness Trainer – Daren Garrard**

**– Harness Stablehand – Catherine Baines**

**Date – 20 December 2023**

**Panel – D. Farquharson, R. McCrae, R. Ride**

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards today conducted an inquiry into the circumstances of Classie Washington NZ being nebulised within one clear day of racing at the stables of Daren Garrard on 17 November 2023.

QRIC Stewards interviewed Mr Garrard and stable employee Ms Catherine Baines on 17 November and Classie Washington NZ was subsequently scratched from its engagement in race 1 at Albion Park on 18 November 2023.

Today, Mr Garrard explained he had issued instructions to Ms Baines to administer a saline nebuliser treatment to Jilliby Jackpot and these instructions were mistakenly administered to Classie Washington NZ. Mr Garrard further outlined Ms Baines had been working for the stable for a short period of time. Evidence obtained by senior steward Steven Shinn confirmed Mr Garrard had given instructions that the nebuliser was to be administered to Jilliby Jackpot.

After consideration of the evidence, Daren Garrard was charged and pleaded guilty to a charge pursuant to Australian Harness Racing (AHR) rule 193(2) which states,

193 (2) A person shall not attempt to use or use an atomiser, face mask or other device on a horse nominated for a race or event within one clear day of the commencement of the race or event.

In assessing the matter of penalty, Stewards were mindful of the provisions of AHR rule 90A(2.10 a & b) which states,

(a) A trainer is at all times responsible for the administration and conduct of his stables.

(b) A trainer is at all times responsible for the care, control and supervision of the horses in his stables.

Stewards also took into account

- Mr Garrard personal circumstances
- a clear disciplinary record for matter of this type over a period of 40 years
- The particular circumstances of the case
- Penalty precedents including relevant appeal decisions;

Mr Garrard was fined the sum of \$5000.

Catherine Baines pleaded guilty to a charge pursuant to Australian Harness Racing (AHR) rule 193(2) which states,

193 (2) A person shall not attempt to use or use an atomiser, face mask or other device on a horse nominated for a race or event within one clear day of the commencement of the race or event.

In assessing the matter of penalty, Stewards considered

- Ms Baines limited experience in harness racing
- The particular circumstances of the case.
- Ms Baines personal circumstances

Ms Baines was fined the sum of \$5000 fully suspended for a period of 12 months.

Against the decision of the Stewards, Ms Baine and Mr Garrard have the right to appeal to the Queensland Racing Appeals Panel.