

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Mr Trevor & Peter Rowe, RE: Love Express

Date: 15 February 2024

Panel: Darryl Griffiths, Paul Gillard, Sam Copelin

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today reconvened an adjourned inquiry into a report from the RSC analyst that the prohibited substance Arsenic was detected in a urine sample taken from LOVE EXPRESS at Townsville on 8 November 2022. Mr Peter Rowe was not in attendance and was represented by Co-Trainer Mr Trevor Rowe.

After considering all the evidence, in that LOVE EXPRESS, which was brought to the Townsville Turf Club on 8 November 2022 and competed in Race 6 'Mitavite Open Handicap – 1250 Metres' - a post-race urine sample of LOVE EXPRESS was collected following its winning performance which upon analysis revealed the sample to contain ARSENIC above the permitted threshold, a substance prohibited under the Australian Rules of Racing AR 240(2).

Stewards noted that the rule in question is one of absolute liability which once the prohibited substance is found, matters concerning the reasons for the presence were more relevant to any penalty. It was also accepted that extensive soil testing and stable inspections were conducted at the Rowe's stable barns. Stewards, therefore, could not exclude to the requisite standard that the level of Arsenic detected was not the result of mitigating circumstances. There was no other evidence before the inquiry in relation to administration of products containing Arsenic. Under the circumstances and in addition to the forthright evidence and conduct throughout the inquiry of Mr Rowe, the stewards determined not to impose a penalty against Rowe's training partnership for the breach of AR 240(2).

Mr Rowe was further advised that it is his obligation to ensure corrective action and adequate measures are taken to prevent further possible breaches of AR 240(2).

Under the provisions of AR 240(1), LOVE EXPRESS was disqualified from its respective race of first placing in the above-mentioned race and the placings were amended as follows:

Townsville Turf Club 8 November 2022 - Race 6 Mitavite Open Handicap – 1250 Metres' (LOVE EXPRESS – Disqualified)

Amended Placings now become -:

1ST – SIREN ROCK

2ND – SO YOU DREAM

3RD – HELL OF A BOY

4TH – HELMAZ

5TH – VERBALIZER

Mr Rowe was advised of his appeal rights.