

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Murray Thomas

Date: 24 March 2025

Panel: N. Torpey, R. McCrae & L. Bahr

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today concluded an inquiry into the finding of testosterone above the threshold level in the samples taken from Lady Allegra on 6 June 2024 and 18 July 2024 and Ellis Street on 20 July 2024 and 17 August 2024. Lady Allegra and Ellis Street were both trained for these events by Murray Thomas.

Stewards commenced inquiries 4 December 2024 and again of 12 February 2025. Mr Thomas was issued with four(4) charges 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:

Charge 1: *Murray Thomas, as the trainer of the horse Lady Allegra, did present the horse to race at Redcliffe on 6 June 2024 when a urine sample taken from Lady Allegra upon analysis, was found to contain a prohibited substance, namely Testosterone above the prescribed level*

Charge 2: *Murray Thomas, as the trainer of the horse Lady Allegra, did present the horse to race at Redcliffe on 18 July 2024 when a urine sample taken from Lady Allegra upon analysis, was found to contain a prohibited substance, namely Testosterone above the prescribed level*

Charge 3: *Murray Thomas, as the trainer of the horse Ellis Street, did present the horse to race at Albion Park on 20 July 2024 when a urine sample taken from Ellis Street upon analysis, was found to contain a prohibited substance, namely Testosterone above the prescribed level*

Charge 4: *Murray Thomas, as the trainer of the horse Ellis Street, did present the horse to race at Albion Park on 17 August 2024 when a urine sample taken from Ellis Street upon analysis, was found to contain a prohibited substance, namely Testosterone above the prescribed level.*

Mr Thomas pleaded not guilty to all four (4) charges. After careful consideration of the evidence presented by Mr Thomas Stewards found him guilty of the four(4) charges.

In assessing penalty Stewards considered the following:

* Mr Thomas's individual circumstances,

* AHR Rule 190 (1) is a strict liability rule with the onus on the trainer to present a horse for racing free of a prohibited substance,

* The offence file of Mr Thomas

* Penalty precedents for matters of this type,

*The individual circumstances of the matters and Mr Thomas's degree of capability

* The need for any penalty to serve as a deterrent both general and specific.

Penalty

Charge 1- A 6 month disqualification was imposed

Charge 2 – A 6 month disqualification was imposed

Stewards ordered that the term of the disqualifications for charge 1 & 2 be served concurrently

Charge 3 – A 6 month disqualification was imposed

Charge 4 – A 6 month disqualification was imposed

Stewards ordered that the term of the disqualifications for charge 3 & 4 be served concurrently.

Further Stewards ordered that the terms of the two (2) penalties applied be served cumulatively.

Horse Action

Acting under the provision of AHR 195 Stewards disqualified Lady Allegra from Race 2 at Redcliffe on 6 June and Race 9 at Redcliffe on 18 July 2024 plus Ellis Street from Race 5 at Albion Park on 20 July 2024 and Race 3 on 17 August 2024 and amended the placings accordingly.

Acting under the provisions of AHR 190AA which states that a sample taken at any time from a horse has detected in it an anabolic androgenic steroid the horse is not permitted to start in a race or be used for the purpose of breeding for a minimum of 12 months from the date of the collection of the sample Stewards stood down Lady Allegra until 18 July 2025 and Ellis Street until 17 August 2025. Further an anabolic androgenic steroid certificate will be required.

Mr Thomas was advised of his right to an appeal.