



Director of Racing

For immediate release

Wednesday, 2 October 2024

Independent Stewards Panel Report

The Independent Stewards Panel investigating the matters raised in the Murrphy Report has handed down its findings.

The panel has charged four industry participants under the Australian Harness Racing Rules.

These charges relate to one of the 15 races identified by Mr Murrphy and the mistreatment of horses. Charges have also been laid against a licenced participant who did not fully cooperate with the investigation.

Chairman Dayle Brown and members Larry Wilson and Barry Delaney, who collectively have about 90 years' experience in harness racing and sport law, have conducted a legally robust investigation.

This process has enabled witnesses to present evidence and for it to be tested in a manner that has assured procedural fairness.

The participants who have been charged – Nathan Ford in regard to his actions during race 9 at Launceston on 26 February 2023, Ben Yole and Tim Yole for the mistreatment of horses in a wash bay and Corey Bell for not cooperating with the investigation - will now have an opportunity to respond by October 14 prior to a final determination by the panel.

Evidence relating to three other issues is still being examined and the panel will determine any further action by October 14.

The Director of Racing has issued Ben Yole and Tim Yole with show cause notices regarding them being fit and proper persons to maintain a harness trainer licence pending the outcome of determinations by the Independent Stewards Panel.

The Independent Stewards Panel Report is available on the NRE Tas website www.nre.tas.gov.au

ENDS

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