

STEWARDS INQUIRY DECISION

Date of Decision: 14 July 2019
Stewards Panel: Racing Integrity Stewards Panel - S Shinn (Chairman).
Name: Mr Rodney Ashwood
Date: 02 June 2019
Rule no: AHRR240(a)(ii)

Inquiry Decision: Mr Ashwood drivers licence was suspended for a period of four months.

FACTS:

Mr. Rodney Ashwood being the driver of SUTTER STAR in Race 6 at the Launceston Pacing Club meeting on 2 June 2019, in the opinion of the Stewards, caused Mr. John Walters driver of SUNNY SANZ, the \$1.80 favourite, to be unlawfully disadvantaged when Mr. Ashwood shifted SUTTER STAR wider on the track entering the back straight on the final occasion when his colt was giving ground resulting in SUNNY SANZ being checked with the sulkies of these runners locking wheels and both horses losing significant ground.

INQUIRY:

Stewards today completed an adjourned inquiry into Race 6 at the Launceston Pacing Club meeting on 2 June 2019.

Further evidence included results of an investigation into the betting activities which failed to reveal any concerns as well as past performances of runners.

Stewards issued Mr Ashwood a charge under the provisions of AHHR 240(a)(ii) which states –

240. *A person shall not, whether alone or in an association with others, do, permit or suffer anything before, during or after a race which in the opinion of the Stewards or Controlling Body:-*

- (a) may cause someone to be:-*
 - (ii) unlawfully disadvantaged*

Details of the charge were that Mr. Rodney Ashwood being the driver of SUTTER STAR in Race 6 at the Launceston Pacing Club meeting on 2 June 2019, in the opinion of the Stewards, caused Mr. John Walters driver of SUNNY SANZ, the \$1.80 favourite, to be unlawfully disadvantaged when Mr. Ashwood shifted SUTTER STAR wider on the track entering the back straight on the final occasion when his colt was giving ground resulting in SUNNY SANZ being checked with the sulkies of these runners locking wheels and both horses losing significant ground. Mr. Ashwood pleaded not guilty to the charge. Stewards found Mr. Ashwood guilty as charged.

DECISION:

After considering his submission in support of his not guilty plea, Stewards found Mr. Ashwood guilty as charged.

After considering his submission in regard to penalty, his past record and personal circumstances Stewards suspended Mr. Ashwood's reinsperson's licence for a period of four (4) months to commence midnight 14 July 2019 to expire midnight 14 November 2019.

Mr. Ashwood was advised of his right of appeal.

-----END-----