

STEWARDS INQUIRY DECISION

Date of Decision: 2.10.2019

Stewards Panel: L Lord (Chair), S Shinn, S Quill

Name: BLAME IT ON ME

Track/Race: Tasmanian Trotting Club, TASRACING EVICUS FINAL

Date: 14.07.2019

Rule no: AHHR 190(1), (2) & (4)

Charge(s): The particulars of the charges are that Mr. Douglas Nettlefold as the recorded trainer of the Standardbred BLAME IT ON ME when it raced at the Tasmanian Trotting Club in race four, the TASRACING EVICUS FINAL on the 14th of July 2019 presented that filly to race when not free of a prohibited substance, as evidenced by a pre-race urine sample taken on that night returning arsenic at a level greater than 0.30 nanograms per millilitre as detailed on the evidentiary certificates from Racing Analytical Services and Chem Centre for sample V619415, the level greater than 0.3 nanograms per millilitre being a prohibited substance under AHHR 188A(2)(b).

Prohibited Substance: ARSENIC

Inquiry Decision: Mr. Nettlefold was fined of \$2,000 for the breach of AHRR 190(1), (2) and (4) with \$1,000 of the fine suspended for a period of 12 months unless he offends in a similar manner.

FACTS: Arsenic above the permitted threshold has been detected in a pre-race urine sample from BLAME IT ON ME before it competed in and won the TASRACING EVICUS FINAL at the Tasmanian Trotting Club on 14th July 2019.

INQUIRY: Office of Racing Integrity Stewards inquired into reports from the analyst that Arsenic in excess of the prescribed allowable threshold had been detected in a pre-race urine sample taken from BLAME IT ON ME at the Tasmanian Trotting Club meeting on 14 July 2019.

Stewards considered evidence tendered by trainer Mr Douglas Nettlefold as to his feeding and husbandry practices and from representatives of Racing Analytical Services Limited and the Chem Centre and from consultant veterinarian Dr. Adam Richardson.

After giving the evidence tendered due consideration, Mr Nettlefold was charged pursuant to AHRR 190 (1), (2) and (4) for presenting BLAME IT ON ME for the subject race when not free of the prohibited substance Arsenic above the permitted threshold.

DECISION: Mr Nettlefold pleaded not guilty to the charges, however after considering submissions in relation to his not guilty plea, Stewards found Mr. Nettlefold guilty of the charges.

After taking submissions with regard to penalty, and taking into account all relevant factors, Stewards fined Mr Nettlefold the amount of \$2,000 for the breach of AHRR 190(1), (2) and (4) with \$1,000 of the fine suspended for a period of 12 months unless he offends in a similar manner.

Acting under the provisions of AHRR 195 Stewards ordered that BLAME IT ON ME be disqualified from the subject race and the placings will be amended accordingly. Mr Nettlefold was advised of his rights of appeal.