

## **TRNT Stewards Report - Monday 27 October, 2014**

Stewards panel: D Westover, M Hurley, B Lysaght, T Trace (Deputy)

Stewards today reconvened an adjourned inquiry into apprentice Kacie Connor's handling of LEAVE A MESSAGE which finished in fifth position after competing in Race 5 the 1300 FLY NTAS Handicap 1100m at Pioneer Park on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

Further evidence was taken from Mrs K Connor, trainer and master Mr Greg Connor and veterinary evidence was tendered by veterinarian Dr H Waters.

Apprentice K Connor was subsequently found guilty of a charge under AR 135(b) which reads:

*"The rider of every horse shall take all reasonable and permissible measures throughout the race to ensure that his horse is given full opportunity to win or to obtain the best possible place in the field"*

The specifics being that after racing in a rearward position in running from the 400m to the end of the race she did fail to ride her mount with sufficient vigour and displayed a distinct lack of urgency or purpose in attempting to so improve the horse's position at the finish, when in the opinion of the Stewards it was reasonable and permissible in all the relevant circumstances to do so.

Under the provisions of AR 135(c) apprentice K Connor was suspended from riding in races for a period of (3) months to commence immediately and expire after 27 January, 2015.

In consideration of penalty, Stewards took into account the following:

- LEAVE A MESSAGE started (\$3) favourite in the event
- The race meeting had TAB status and is covered nationally on SKY channel
- The serious nature of the charge and the high end of culpability involved
- K Connor's high level of experience as a non claiming apprentice in the final year of her indentures

Mrs Connor was advised of her right of appeal

David Westover – Alice Springs Chief Steward

