



Stewards Report – Tuesday 28 November, 2017

Panel: D Hensler, R Hamilton, A Napier, S Copeland, P Carrol (Deputy)

Stewards today concluded an adjourned inquiry into a complaint relating to the alleged conduct of trainer Mr Chris Pollard prior to the running of the barrier trial at the Darwin Turf Club on Tuesday, 21 November, 2017. The allegation was that Mr Pollard had forcefully struck the race horse OCTOMINT (trained by him) over the head with his open hand in the vicinity of the race day stalls.

The inquiry commenced on Saturday 25 November, 2017 and evidence was tendered by (2) St Johns ambulance employees, Senior Steward Alan Napier, trainer Chris Pollard and jockey Phil Crich. It was established that OCTOMINT was cantankerous in the stalls and proved difficult to handle when being saddled. Trainer Chris Pollard denied the allegation of striking but explained that as the gelding was continually lunging forward in the tie up stalls it was a safety risk to him and other staff. He stated that as a result he had raised his arms and took hold of the gelding's bridle with his left hand and with his right hand he forcefully pushed the gelding's head back in an attempt to control its unruly behaviour.

After considering all the evidence, Stewards could not be satisfied to the requisite standard that Mr Pollard had struck OCTOMINT as alleged in the complaint and therefore no further action was taken. Mr Pollard was reprimanded under AR 175(q) for his conduct following this incident in that he made audible inappropriate remarks and used offensive language when attempting to encourage the gelding to proceed to the barriers.

Given the unruly behaviour of OCTOMINT, Mr Pollard undertook to barrier trial the gelding prior to racing again.