



TRNT Stewards Report – Sunday 14th July, 2019

Panel: D Westover, A Napier, W Preston

Venue: Alice Springs Stewards Room

The TRNT Stewards today conducted an inquiry into the analyst's findings that the blood samples taken from LIGHTSONTHEHARBOUR prior to competing and finishing 3rd at the Alice Springs Turf Club race meeting on 4th May 2019, contained the presence of the prohibited substance Lignocaine.

The Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory (ARFL) issued a first certificate for this finding and the confirmation analysis was performed and the second certificate was issued by Racing Analytical Services Limited (RASL). Evidence was tendered by trainer Mr George Cooke and his stable veterinarian Dr Ken Oliver via a telephone linkup.

Subsequently Mr Cooke pleaded guilty to a charge under Australian Rule of Racing 240(2) with the specifics being that as the trainer of LIGHTSONTHEHARBOUR, he did bring that gelding to the Alice Springs Turf Club race meeting held at Pioneer Park racecourse on 4 May 2019 for the purpose of participating in race 3, the Ladbrokes Oddsboost Maiden Plate run over 1100m, with the prohibited substance lignocaine being detected in the pre-race blood sample taken from the gelding. Lignocaine is included under Schedule 1, List B of prohibited substances under the Rules of Racing.

In consideration of a penalty Stewards took into account the following factors:

- The seriousness of the charge
- The therapeutic nature of the prohibited substance and the low level detected
- The evidence given by the veterinarian supporting a treatment prescribed to the gelding leading up to the event
- The admission from the trainer that he may have treated the gelding with a substance within the withholding period leading up to the event.
- His treatment records did not reflect any treatments given to the gelding in the period leading up to the race meeting.

- His guilty plea
- His long involvement in the industry and personal circumstances
- His good record with no previous similar breaches of the Australian Rules

Mr Cook was fined the sum of \$6000

Acting under the provisions of Australian Rule of Racing 240(1), the Stewards disqualified LIGHTSONTHEHARBOUR from third place in race 4 on 4th May, 2019.

Mr Cooke was advised of his rights of appeal to the NT Racing Appeals Tribunal and that the fine must be paid within 3 months.

Further Mr Cooke was found guilty of a charge under AR 104(1) with the specifics being that he had failed to record any medications given to that gelding prior to the lead up of that event.

Mr Cooke was fined the sum of \$250

Australian Rules of Racing referred to in this report:

Division 2 – Prohibited substance in a sample taken from a horse

AR 240 Prohibited substance in sample taken from horse at race meeting

(1) Subject to subrule (3), if a horse is brought to a racecourse and a prohibited substance on Prohibited List A and/or Prohibited List B is detected in a sample taken from the horse prior to or following its running in any race, the horse must be disqualified from any race in which it started on that day.

(2) Subject to subrule (3), if a horse is brought to a racecourse for the purpose of participating in a race and a prohibited substance on Prohibited List A and/or Prohibited List B is detected in a sample taken from the horse prior to or following its running in any race, the trainer and any other person who was in charge of the horse at any relevant time breaches these Australian Rules.

AR 104 Trainers must keep treatment records

(1) A trainer must record any medication or treatment administered to any horse in the trainer' care by midnight on the day in which the administration was given.