

# STEWARDS REPORT

11th June 2011

Present: L A Lane, B Merritt, L Twomey, J Lattenstein

Stewards today questioned licensed trainer Mr M Rattley regarding a report from a member of the public into the treatment of a horse at the practise barrier stalls on the 9th and 10th May.

The report stated in part that persons (unknown) were mistreating a horse which they were placing in the practise barriers. That on the 9th the horse was "flogged" for an hour before being taken away from the barriers. On the 10th the horse was returned to the practise barriers and "severely flogged" for over an hour with whips and towels. The horse was then alleged to have been placed in the barriers with the use of a rope. After being placed in the barriers it is stated that the horse collapsed in the barriers and was then taken away from the area.

Mr Rattley advised that he did take a horse trained by him to the practise barriers on the 9th and 10th May. Mr Rattley stated that the horse concerned had been in work for sometime and he had taken it to the barriers on the 9th to ensure it was going to load and jump out appropriately. After trying unsuccessfully for sometime to get the horse in the barriers on the 9th they went back on the 10th and after getting the horse in it refused to jump away and then threw itself down in the barriers. Mr Rattley stated that the horses did not sustain any serious injuries in the incident.

Mr Rattley did say that the horse was hit with a padded jockeys whip and a towel was used in the attempt to get the horse in the barriers. Further that a tail rope was used to lift the horses into the barriers. However Mr Rattley denies that the horse was flogged for an hour on the 9th or that it was severely flogged for over an hour on the 10th. Also that the use of the rope on the 10th was simply used as an aid to lift the horse in the barrier and not to hit the horse. Further that when the horse got down in the barriers they immediately made every endeavour to get it out without injury.

Mr Rattley advised that he and those involved are people who take horse welfare issues seriously and although a member of the public has taken exception to their actions he believed that they had done nothing untoward.

Stewards reminded Mr Rattley of his responsibilities as a licensed trainer and of his obligations under the rules, especially AR175(n)(o) relating to the welfare of horses.

Mr Rattley was further advised that in the stewards opinion there was no place in racing for any person who did not fully place the highest priority on animal welfare issues.

L A Lane