

MR GRANT JONES- INQUIRY CONDUCTED

NOVEMBER 19, 2019

On Wednesday 13 November 2019, Harness Racing New South Wales (HRNSW) Stewards conducted an Inquiry into a report received from the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory (ARFL) that scopolamine had been detected in the post-race urine sample taken from the horse NICOPOLIS following its win in race 4, the HRNSW REWARDS SERIES HEAT 2 (1740 metres) conducted at Wagga on Friday 22 March 2019.

The 'B' sample was confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Limited (RASL) in Victoria.

Mr Jones appeared at the Inquiry and presented evidence and submissions in relation to his registered training establishment and the horse NICOPOLIS.

HRNSW Stewards also presented Certificates of Analysis from ARFL confirming that grass, plant and weed samples obtained by HRNSW Stewards from Mr Jones' registered training property contained several substances including scopolamine. HRNSW Regulatory Veterinarian Dr Martin Wainscott also provided evidence to the Inquiry.

Mr Jones also informed HRNSW Stewards that he had taken steps to remove weeds from areas of his training establishment that were previously accessed by the horses he trained.

Mr Jones pleaded guilty to a charge issued pursuant to Australian Harness Racing Rule (AHRR) 190 (1), (2) & (4) for presenting NICOPOLIS to race not free of a prohibited substance, namely scopolamine.

In respect of that charge Stewards determined that a conviction would be recorded, however, Stewards did not impose a penalty on Mr Jones as they were satisfied to the requisite standard that the detection of scopolamine in the urine samples obtained from the horse NICOPOLIS had resulted from environmental contamination.

Mr Jones was cautioned that he must continue to undertake all reasonable measures in future to manage his training establishment and horses to ensure that his horses are not exposed to environmental contamination of this nature.

For further information on this matter contact:
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In considering penalty Stewards were mindful of the following;

- The results reported by ARFL and RASL;
- The evidence and submissions presented by Mr Jones;
- The evidence of Dr Wainscott;
- Environmental contamination;
- Mr Jones' first Prohibited Substance offence;
- Mr Jones' licence history and other personal subjective facts.

Acting under the provisions of Rule 195, NICOPOLIS was disqualified from the abovementioned race.

In addition, NICOPOLIS was disqualified from Race 4, the HRNSW REWARDS SERIES FINAL conducted at Wagga on Sunday 31 March 2019 pursuant to AHRR 195A as follows:

AHRR 195A. (1) This Rule is to apply to any race or series of races which the Controlling Body stipulates in the Conditions of Entry that it shall apply to; such a race or races being a qualifying race for some other race.

(2) If in relation to a race to which this rule applies a blood, urine, saliva or other sample or specimen is taken from a horse when it is presented for such race and a certificate from a person or drug testing laboratory approved by the Controlling Body certifies the presence of a prohibited substance in such specimen or sample then the horse shall be immediately disqualified from participating in any other race for which the race in question provides or provided a qualification for participation.

(3) This rule is to have effect and to be conclusive irrespective of whether further testing procedures or other circumstances establish that the horse was presented for the race free of any prohibited substances.

Mr Jones was advised of his right to appeal these decisions.

Harness Racing NSW (HRNSW) is the controlling body for harness racing in New South Wales with responsibility for commercial and regulatory management of the industry including 33 racing clubs across the State. HRNSW is headed by an industry-appointed Board of Directors and is independent of Government.

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