

MR RODNEY BLYTHE - INQUIRY CONDUCTED

JUNE 14, 2023

Harness Racing New South Wales (HRNSW) Stewards conducted an Inquiry today into a report received from the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory (ARFL) that Morphine and Oripavine were detected in the post-race urine sample taken from KEAYANG DOMINO following its win in race 1, the EUGOWRA FLOOD DISASTER RELIEF PACE (1720 metres) conducted at Young on Friday, 2 December 2022.

The reserve portion and control solution were confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Limited in Victoria.

Mr Blythe appeared at the Inquiry and provided evidence in relation to his registered training establishment. Evidence from HRNSW Assistant Regulatory Veterinarian Dr Annie Knox and the Certificates of Analysis from ARFL and RASL were also presented to the Inquiry.

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

In respect of that charge, Stewards determined that a conviction would be recorded, however, Stewards did not impose a penalty on Mr Blythe as they were satisfied that the detection of Morphine and Oripavine had resulted from environmental contamination.

In considering penalty Stewards were mindful of the following:

- Mr Blythe's clear prior record;
- Prohibited substances involved;
- Circumstances involved in this matter;
- Mr Blythe's licence history and other personal subjective facts.

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

Mr Blythe was advised of his rights of appeal.

For further information on this matter contact:
HRNSW Integrity Department
(02) 9722 6655