

MR BRAD ELDER- INQUIRY CONDUCTED

OCTOBER 10, 2023

Harness Racing New South Wales (HRNSW) Stewards conducted an Inquiry yesterday in relation to reports from the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory (ARFL) that Levamisole was detected in the post-race urine samples taken from:

- LITTLE RIPPER NZ following its win in race 7, the NATIONALTROTGUIDE.COM.AU PACE (1609 metres) conducted at Newcastle on Friday 4 November 2022;
- LITTLE RIPPER NZ following its win in race 2, THE FEATURE SWEEPSTAKES MAIDEN PACE (2030 metres) conducted at Newcastle Monday 7 November 2022;
- LITTLE RIPPER NZ following its win in race 2, the BESTINBEDS.COM.AU WARATAH FINAL (1609 metres) conducted at Tabcorp Park Menangle on Saturday 10 December 2022.

The reserve portions and control solutions were confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Limited (RASL) in Victoria.

Licensed Trainer Mr Brad Elder was present with his legal representative and provided evidence to the Inquiry. In addition, the Certificates of Analysis and evidence from HRNSW Regulatory Veterinarian Dr Martin Waincott were presented to the Inquiry.

Mr Elder pleaded guilty to three (3) charges issued by the HRNSW Stewards pursuant to Australian Harness Racing Rule (AHRR) 190 (1), (2) & (4) as follows:

AHRR 190. (1) A horse shall be presented for a race free of prohibited substances.

(2) If a horse is presented for a race otherwise than in accordance with sub rule (1) the trainer of the horse is guilty of an offence.

(3) If a person is left in charge of a horse and the horse is presented for a race otherwise than in accordance with sub rule (1), the trainer of the horse and the person left in charge is each guilty of an offence.

(4) An offence under sub rule (2) or sub rule (3) is committed regardless of the circumstances in which the prohibited substance came to be present in or on the horse.

Mr Elder was disqualified for a period of 10 months to commence immediately.

In considering penalty Stewards were mindful of the following:

- Mr Elder's personal, professional and financial subjectives;
- The circumstances of this matter;
- Serious nature of the substance;
- Class 2 Prohibited Substance;
- Mr Elder's guilty pleas;
- Mr Elder's first prohibited substance matters;
- Mr Elder's involvement in the harness racing industry;
- Mr Elder's limited history as a licensed trainer.

Acting under the provisions of AHRR 195, LITTLE RIPPER NZ was disqualified from the abovementioned races.

Mr Elder was advised of his right to Appeal these decisions of the HRNSW Stewards.

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