

Media Release

Racing Appeals & Disciplinary Board

14 November 2017

HRV RAD Board Hearing – Tim Bolitho

The Harness Racing Victoria (HRV) Racing Appeals and Disciplinary (RAD) Board today considered two charges issued by HRV Stewards under Australian Harness Racing Rule (AHRR) 190(1) against licensed trainer Tim Bolitho.

AHRR 190(1) reads as follows:

A horse shall be presented for a race free of prohibited substances.

The first charge related to a urine sample collected from the horse 'All Eyes And Ears' after it finished first in Race 5, the 'Australian Pacing Gold Pace (1st Heat)', at the Geelong harness racing meeting on 5 January 2017. Racing Analytical Services Limited (RASL) reported that analysis of that urine sample revealed the sample to contain arsenic in excess of the allowable threshold.

The second charge related to a urine sample collected from the horse 'All Eyes And Ears' prior to it finishing in sixth place in Race 1, the 'DNR Logistics Pace Final', at the Tabcorp Park Melton harness racing meeting on 17 March 2017. Racing Analytical Services Limited (RASL) reported that analysis of that urine sample revealed the sample to contain arsenic in excess of the allowable threshold.

Mr Bolitho pleaded guilty to both charges before evidence was heard from Associate Professor Cate Steel and submissions on penalty were put forward by the HRV Stewards and Mr Bolitho.

In deciding an appropriate penalty, the HRV RAD Board considered Mr Bolitho's guilty plea and cooperation throughout the investigation; Mr Bolitho's good record over 12 years as a trainer; both general and specific deterrence; the evidence of Associate Professor Steel; and the steps taken by Mr Bolitho to obviate the problem after the initial notification.

In relation to the first charge Mr Bolitho was fined \$3000, of which \$2000 was suspended for a period of 12 months.

In relation to the second charge, the HRV RAD Board issued no penalty.

The HRV RAD Board also ordered that, under AHRR 195, 'All Eyes And Ears' be disqualified from Race 5 at Geelong on 5 January 2017 and also from Race 2 at Tabcorp Park Melton on 13 January 2017, which was a race through which the Geelong race provided qualification. The HRV RAD Board also ordered that 'All Eyes And Ears' be disqualified from its sixth placing in Race 1 at Tabcorp Park Melton on 17 March 2017.

HRV RAD Board Panel: Brian Collis (Chair), Peter Kilduff, John Denahy

The Racing Appeals & Disciplinary Board (RADB) is established under section 50B of the Racing Act (1958). The RADB is an independent Board established to hear and determine appeals in relation to decisions made under the rules to impose penalties on persons and to hear and determine charges made against persons for serious offences.