

# Media Release

## Racing Appeals & Disciplinary Board

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14 November 2017

### **HRV RAD Board Hearing – Chris Smythe**

The Harness Racing Victoria (HRV) Racing Appeals and Disciplinary (RAD) Board today considered a charge issued by HRV Stewards under Australian Harness Racing Rule (AHRR) 190(1) against licensed trainer Chris Smythe.

AHRR 190(1) reads as follows:

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

The charge under AHRR 190(1) related to a urine sample collected from the horse 'Mere Mortal' after it finished first in Race 4, the 'David and Sue Livingstone Pace', at the Charlton harness racing meeting on 2 July 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 Smythe pleaded guilty to the charge before submissions on penalty were heard from HRV Stewards and Mr Smythe.

In deciding an appropriate penalty, the HRV RAD Board considered Mr Smythe's guilty plea and cooperation throughout the investigation; Mr Smythe's good record over a long period in the industry; both general and specific deterrence; consistency of penalty and other similar matters. Mr Smythe was subsequently fined \$3000, of which \$2000 was suspended for a period of 12 months.

The HRV RAD Board also ordered that, under AHRR 195, 'Mere Mortal' be disqualified from Race 4 at Charlton on 2 July 2017 and that the placings be amended accordingly.

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