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MEDIA RELEASE

Harness Stewards Inquiry – Trainers Greg & Skye Bond – FLYING MISTER IDEAL

Racing and Wagering Western Australia's (RWAA) Stewards have finalised an inquiry into the report from the ChemCentre in Perth that arsenic at a concentration in excess of 30 micrograms per millilitre, being the threshold prescribed in the Harness Rules of Racing, had been detected in a urine sample taken from FLYING MISTER IDEAL at Pinjarra on 25 November 2019 after it competed and finished first in Race 5.

At the inquiry evidence was heard from:

- Ms E. Cook – Analyst (ChemCentre)
- Dr J. Medd – RWAA Industry Veterinarian
- G. & S. Bond – trainers of FLYING MISTER IDEAL

Mr and Mrs Bond pleaded guilty to a charge under Harness Rule of Racing 190(1), (2) and (4) with the particulars being:

Particulars

That as trainers, they have presented FLYING MISTER IDEAL to race at Pinjarra on 25 November 2019 where it competed and finished first, not free of the prohibited substance arsenic, evidence by a concentration of arsenic at a level in excess of 30 micrograms per millilitre in urine.

Stewards have determined that no penalty be imposed.

In determining not to impose a penalty the Stewards were satisfied that extensive efforts and precautions were taken by the training partnership in response to the identified and well publicised risks, which included the removal of the majority of treated timber posts at a cost of in excess of \$100,000 and the ongoing work to completely eliminate treated timber posts from the property. It was not the case that the partnership were unaware of the risks and had taken no precautions or efforts to eliminate them.

The decision not to impose a penalty should not be taken to be precedent for all future cases. Trainers should be aware that every case will be determined on its own specific merits and may result in penalties being imposed in the future, even where the ingestion of CCA treated timber product is determined to be the likely source of the arsenic leading to a breach of the Rules of Racing.

Further acting under Harness Rule of Racing 195, FLYING MISTER IDEAL was disqualified from the race in question with placings to be amended accordingly with the commensurate implications for all stake money and payments to apply.

In determining the matter, stewards took into account the following:

- Trainers G & S Bond's unblemished record in relation to prohibited substances over a long period of time
- The nature of the substance
- The reported level of arsenic is likely to have arisen due to the ingestion of CCA treated timber posts on the property
- The active steps taken by G & S Bond to remove treated timber from their property.

ENDS



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