

Media Release

Racing Appeals & Disciplinary Board

14 November 2017

HRV RAD Board Hearing – Shannon Edwards

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 Shannon Edwards.

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 'Rocking Tess' after it finished first in Race 3, the 'South West Conveyancing Pace', at the Hamilton harness racing meeting on 12 June 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 'Rocking Tess' prior to finishing third in Race 7, the 'Terry Lewis HRAC Congratulations Pace', at the Horsham harness racing meeting on 10 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 Edwards pleaded guilty to both charges before submissions on penalty were heard from HRV Stewards and Mr Lance Justice, acting on behalf of Mr Edwards.

In deciding an appropriate penalty, the HRV RAD Board considered Mr Edwards' guilty plea and cooperation throughout the investigation; Mr Edwards' good record over 8 years as a trainer; both general and specific deterrence; consistency of penalty and other similar matters.

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

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.

In relation to the second charge, Mr Edwards was fined \$3000, which was wholly suspended for a period of 12 months.

The HRV RAD Board also ordered that, under AHRR 195, 'Rocking Tess' be disqualified from Race 3 at Hamilton on 12 June 2017 and also from Race 7 at Horsham on 10 July 2017, and that the respective placings be amended accordingly.

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

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