

Media Release

Racing Appeals & Disciplinary Board

18 April 2018

HRV RAD Board Hearing – Gary Donaldson

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 Gary Donaldson.

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 'Bazzas Art' after it finished first in Race 5, the 'Bertocchi Pace', at the Bendigo harness racing meeting on 19 October 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 Donaldson pleaded guilty to the charge before submissions on penalty were heard from HRV Stewards and Mr Donaldson.

In deciding an appropriate penalty, the HRV RAD Board considered Mr Donaldson's guilty plea and cooperation throughout the investigation; Mr Donaldson's good record over a long period in the industry; both general and specific deterrence; and consistency of penalty with other similar matters. Mr Donaldson 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, 'Bazzas Art' be disqualified from Race 5 at Bendigo on 19 October 2017 and that the placings be amended accordingly.

HRV RAD Board Panel: Alanna Duffy (Chair), Kerry Willcock, Robert Abrahams.