

Media Release

Racing Appeals & Disciplinary Board

21 May 2018

HRV RAD Board Hearing – David Barnes

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 David Barnes.

AHRR 190(1) reads as follows:

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

The charge relates to a post-race urine sample taken from the horse 'Deedenuto' after it won Race 5, the 'Hyland Harness Colours 3YO Pace', at Cranbourne on 11 April 2017.

Racing Analytical Services Limited (RASL) reported that analysis of the urine sample revealed it to contain arsenic, a prohibited substance when present above the allowable threshold. The Racing Science Centre (RSC) in QLD confirmed the level of 0.33µg/mL in the reserve portion of the sample, however applied a measurement of uncertainty of 0.03µg/mL.

Submissions were heard from HRV Stewards and Mr Barnes, which included evidence that under the AHRR's the certificate from RASL is prima facie evidence of the presence of a prohibited substance. Mr Barnes was subsequently found guilty of the charge.

In deciding an appropriate penalty, the HRV RAD Board considered Mr Barnes' cooperation throughout the investigation; Mr Barnes' clear record in regard to prohibited substance matters over a 10 year involvement in the industry; both general and specific deterrence; and the need to apply a consistent penalty with that of similar matters from that time. Mr Barnes was subsequently fined \$2000, of which \$1500 was suspended for a period of 12 months.

The HRV RAD Board also ordered that, under AHRR 195, 'Deedenuto' be disqualified from Race 5 at Cranbourne on 11 April 2017 and that the placings be amended accordingly.