

Media Release

Racing Appeals & Disciplinary Board

11 November 2019

HRV RAD Board Hearing – Alison Alford

On 29 October 2019, the Harness Racing Victoria (HRV) Racing Appeals and Disciplinary (RAD) Board considered a charge issued by HRV Stewards under Australian Harness Racing Rule (AHRR) 190(1) against licensed trainer Alison Alford.

AHRR 190(1) reads as follows:

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

The charge related to a urine sample collected from the horse 'Argentine Tango' after it won Race 3, the 'Happy 80th Mick Clover Trotters Handicap', at the Maryborough harness racing meeting on 22 May 2019. Racing Analytical Services Limited (RASL) reported the sample contained arsenic in excess of the allowable threshold.

Mrs Alford pleaded guilty to the charge before submissions on penalty were heard from the HRV Stewards and Mrs Alford.

In deciding an appropriate penalty, the HRV RAD Board considered Mrs Alford's guilty plea and cooperation throughout the investigation; the circumstances of the case and Mrs Alford's good record. Also the purpose of the rules in relation to prohibited substances to protect the integrity of the industry and to ensure drug free racing; penalties in similar cases; both general and specific deterrence; and past industry notices regarding arsenic.

Mrs Alford was fined \$3000, of which \$1500 was suspended for a period of 12 months. The HRV RAD Board also ordered that, under AHRR 195, 'Argentine Tango' be disqualified from Race 3 at Maryborough on 22 May 2019 and the placings be amended accordingly. The HRV RAD Board further ordered that any prizemoney won by 'Argentine Tango' from the race in question be returned to HRV.

HRV RAD Board Panel: Judge Graeme Hicks (Chair) and Dr. Hugh Millar