

Media Release

Racing Appeals & Disciplinary Board

10 October 2019

HRV RAD Board Hearing – Brent Thomson

On 1 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 Brent Thomson.

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 'Sheer Modern' after it won Race 5, the 'Charlton & District Community Bank Pace', at the Maryborough harness racing meeting on 15 May 2019. Racing Analytical Services Limited (RASL) reported the sample contained arsenic in excess of the allowable threshold.

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

In deciding an appropriate penalty, the HRV RAD Board considered Mr Thomson's guilty plea and cooperation throughout the investigation; The circumstances of the case and Mr Thomson's good offence 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.

Mr Thomson was fined \$3000, of which \$2000 was suspended for a period of 12 months. The HRV RAD Board also ordered that, under AHRR 195, 'Sheer Modern' be disqualified from Race 5 at Maryborough on 15 May 2019 and the placings be amended accordingly. The HRV RAD Board further ordered that any prizemoney won by 'Sheer Modern' from the race in question be returned to HRV.

HRV RAD Board Panel: Judge Graeme Hicks (Chair) and Robert Abrahams (Deputy Chair)