

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

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HARNESS GIULIANI NZ INQUIRY, 22 MARCH 2018- MARC BUTLER.

Panel – A Crowther, M Hoyle, R Brown.

Office of Racing Integrity Stewards today inquired into reports from the analyst that Arsenic in excess of the prescribed allowable threshold had been detected in a urine sample taken from GIULIANI NZ at Launceston Pacing Club on 10 September 2017.

Stewards considered evidence tendered by trainer Mr Marc Butler as to his feeding and husbandry practices and from representatives of Racing Analytical Services Limited and the Racing Science Centre.

Mr Butler subsequently pleaded guilty to a charge pursuant to Australian Harness Racing Rule 190 (1) (2) and (4) which states *“A horse shall be presented for a race free of prohibited substances”*

The particulars of the charge were that Mr Butler did present GIULIANI NZ for racing at Launceston on 10 September 2017, when a urine sample taken from the horse was found to contain the prohibited substance Arsenic.

Stewards were mindful of a report published by Melbourne University, which found that ingestion of CCA timber could lead to elevated Arsenic levels in urine and the evidence could not exclude to the requisite standard that the level of arsenic detected was not the result of GIULIANI NZ ingesting Arsenic as a result of chewing treated pine posts. . Photographic evidence tendered by Stewards also confirmed signs of significant and fresh damage to the wood consistent with chewing.

Stewards also considered that the offence occurred prior to the publication of the industry notice advising of the risks associated with the use of CCA timber.

Stewards determined not to impose a penalty against Mr Butler for the breach of AHHR 190(1) in these circumstances.

Acting under the provisions of AHRR 195, GIULIANI NZ was disqualified from its fourth place in Race 5 at Launceston on 10 September 2017. Stewards directed that the placings in the race be amended accordingly.

- ends -

Adrian Crowther
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