

# MEDIA RELEASE

---

## **For immediate release**

Date of issue 3 August 2018

### ***THOROUGHBRED – STEWARDS' INQUIRY TRAINER GRAEME McCULLOCH***

Office of Racing Integrity Stewards today concluded their inquiry into the reasons for WINDRIDER, trained by Mr Graeme McCulloch, returning a pre-race urine sample which upon analysis was found to contain the prohibited substance ORIPAVINE.

Oripavine is a prohibited substance under the *Rules of Racing* and is an opioid narcotic analgesic substance.

Oripavine is also an opiate that can be extracted from the Opium Poppy.

Evidence was tendered from Mr Graeme McCulloch trainer of Windrider, Mr Paul Zahra Scientific Manager with Racing Analytical Services, Mr John Keledjian General Manager Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory and Veterinarian Dr Peter Horridge Racing SA.

Mr McCulloch was found guilty of a charge under the provisions of AR 178 which reads,

*AR. 178. Subject to AR. 178G, when any horse has been brought to a racecourse for the purpose of engaging in a race and a prohibited substance is detected in any sample taken from it prior to or following its running in any race, the trainer and any other person who was in charge of such horse at any relevant time may be penalised*

The particulars of the charge being that Mr Graeme McCulloch as the trainer of WINDRIDER did present that horse to race at the Tasmanian Turf Club on 24 April 2018 when a urine sample taken from WINDRIDER prior to it competing in Race 6 Governor's Plate BM58 Hcp (1220 metres) upon analysis was found to contain the prohibited substance ORIPAVINE.

In determining penalty Steward's took into account,

- Mr McCulloch's not guilty plea
- His length of time involved in the industry (over 40 years)
- Mr McCulloch's disciplinary record
- Mr McCulloch is licenced to grow poppies at his training establishment
- Mr McCulloch grows crops at his training establishment, which have been used to feed his racehorses
- The measures Mr McCulloch takes to prevent any regrowth of poppies after harvesting
- That the presence of Oripavine was most likely due to feed contamination

-Relevant penalty precedence

-Any penalty must serve as a deterrent to ensure the integrity of races and welfare of the animals.

Mr McCulloch was subsequently fined \$2,500 wholly suspended for 24 months.

Acting under the provisions of AR 177, Windrider was disqualified from its 1st position and placings will be amended accordingly.

Mr McCulloch was advised of his rights of appeal.

Scott Quill

Chairman of Stewards

- ends -