

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

Date of issue 25 May 2018

Stewards Inquiry John Hill – O’Loughlin

On the 24th May 2017, Office of Racing Integrity Stewards inquired into reports from the analyst that, Arsenic in excess of the prescribed allowable threshold had been detected in urine samples taken from ‘O’Loughlin’ prior to it competing in **RACE 2 – trchobart.com.au CLASS 1 HANDICAP** at the Tasmanian Racing Club on 18 February 2018.

Stewards considered evidence tendered by trainer Mr John Hill, Racing Analytical Services Limited, Racing Science Centre, Dr Peter Horridge and Analytical Services Tasmania.

Mr John Hill subsequently pleaded guilty to a charge pursuant to Australian Racing Rule (AR) 178, which states:

“Subject to AR.178G, when any horse that 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 were that Mr John Hill did present ‘O’Loughlin’ for racing at the Tasmanian Racing Club on 18 February 2018 when a urine sample taken from that horse was found to contain the prohibited substance Arsenic above the prescribed allowable threshold.

Mr Hill was fined \$2500 for a breach of AR 178.

In assessing the matter of penalty, Stewards considered Mr Hill’s guilty plea, his time involved in the racing industry (over 50 years), his record, penalty precedents, negative impact of such offences on the industry and that any penalty should reflect the serious nature of prohibited substances offences.

Acting under the provisions of AR 177, ‘O’Loughlin’ was disqualified from its unplaced performance at Hobart on 18 February 2018.

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