

### STEWARDS INQUIRY DECISION

<b>Date of Decision:</b>	28 May 2020
<b>Stewards Panel:</b>	S Quill (Chairman), T North, D Tyson
<b>Name:</b>	Scott Brunton
<b>Track/Race:</b>	Tasmanian Racing Club / Race 5 Tasmanian Derby
<b>Date:</b>	1 February 2020
<b>Rule no:</b>	AR240(2), AR104(1)
<b>Charge(s):</b>	Present horse with prohibited substance – Fail to maintain treatment records
<b>Prohibited Substance:</b>	Meloxicam
<b>Inquiry Decision:</b>	Fine \$12,000 (AR240(2)), Fine \$1500 (AR104(1))

#### FACTS:

A pre-race blood sample taken from Vamos Raffa prior to it competing in the Listed Tasmanian Derby 2200 metres at the Tasmanian Racing Club Meeting on 1 February 2020 upon analysis was found to contain Meloxicam, which is a prohibited substance under the rules of racing.

#### INQUIRY:

Stewards inquired into the presence of meloxicam in a pre-race blood sample taken from Vamos Raffa.

A certificate was firstly issued by Racing Analytical Services Limited (RASL) and was subsequently confirmed by The Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory (AFRL). Stewards considered evidence tendered by trainer Scott Brunton, RASL representative Paul Zahra, Dr Adam Cawley from the AFRL and the Office of Racing Integrity regulatory veterinarian Dr Adam Richardson.

Stewards also considered evidence obtained in a stable inspection conducted at Mr Brunton's stable on Thursday the 19<sup>th</sup> of March, 2020.

Subsequently trainer Scott Brunton pleaded guilty to two charges. The first charge being that of a breach of AR240(2) in that he presented Vamos Raffa to the Tasmanian Racing Club meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the February, 2020 for the purposes of participating in Race 5, The Tasmanian Derby over 2200m, where a pre-race blood sample taken from the gelding upon analysis was found to contain meloxicam, which is a prohibited substance under the rules of racing.

Further, trainer Scott Brunton pleaded guilty to a charge under AR104(1), in that he failed to maintain and complete treatment records for Vamos Raffa.

#### DECISION:

In determination of penalty, stewards took into account the following considerations:

##### Charge 1 AR240(1)- *Prohibited substance in sample taken from horse at race meeting*

- His guilty plea
- Honesty and forthright evidence throughout the inquiry
- The therapeutic nature of the substance and the low level detected in the blood sample
- That a post-race urine sample taken from the gelding produced a negative result
- Veterinary advice regarding the absorption and excretion rates of Meloxicam
- That initial evidence provided at the time of notification was consistent with veterinary evidence
- The substance was administered in accordance with the established withholding period
- His personal circumstances

- His stable practices
- His previous history regarding prohibited substance matters (environmental contamination)
- That the race in question was a significant feature race in Tasmania
- The importance of having races run free of prohibited substances and the negative impact such cases have on the racing industry
- Any penalty applied to act as a deterrent
- Consideration of relevant precedence regarding Meloxicam both in Tasmania and other racing States

Trainer Scott Brunton was fined \$12,000.

Charge 2 AR104(1)- ***Trainer must keep treatment records***

- His guilty plea
- His record

Trainer Scott Brunton was fined \$1500.

Acting under the provisions of AR240(1), Vamos Raffa was disqualified from its first placing in the Tasmanian Derby. The places will be amended accordingly.