

STEWARDS INQUIRY DECISION

Date of Decision: 10 June 2020
Stewards Panel: L Lord (Chair), H Edgecombe, R Brown, S Shinn
Name: Mr. Douglas Nettlefold
Track/Race: Launceston Pacing Club, Faithful Park Stud Stakes
Date: 05 January 2020
Rule no: AHHR190(1,2 & 4)
Charge(s): The particulars of the charge are:

1. You, Mr. Douglas Nettlefold are, and were at all relevant times, a trainer licenced by the Office of Racing Integrity Tasmania and are a person bound by the Australian Harness Racing Rules.
2. You were, at all relevant times, the trainer of the horse 'BLAME IT ON ME'.
3. 'BLAME IT ON ME' was nominated to compete in Race 2, the FAITHFUL PARK STUD STAKES, at the Launceston Pacing Club on 5 January 2020 and was declared the winner of that race.
4. On 5 January 2020 you presented 'BLAME IT ON ME' to the race when not free of any prohibited substance, given that;
 - a. A post-race sample of urine was taken from 'BLAME IT ON ME' (the sample).
 - b. Aminorex was detected in that sample.

Prohibited Substance: AMINOREX

Inquiry Decision: After taking into consideration the relevant aspects of this case, Stewards determined that no penalty be issued for the breach of AHHR190(1,2 & 4).

Acting under the provisions of AHHR195 Stewards directed that BLAME IT ON ME be disqualified from the subject race.

Acting under the provisions of AHHR256(5)(c) Stewards invoked a suspended fine of \$1000.00 for a previous breach of AHHR190(1,2 & 4) on 02 October 2019.

FACTS:

Prohibited substance Aminorex has been detected in a post-race urine sample collected from BLAME IT ON ME after it competed in and won in FAITHFUL PARK STUD STAKES at the Launceston Pacing Club on 05 January 2020 when trained by licenced trainer Mr. Douglas Nettlefold.

INQUIRY:

Office of Racing Integrity Stewards inquired into reports from the analysts, that Aminorex had been detected in a post-race urine sample taken from BLAME IT ON ME at the Launceston Pacing Club on 05 January 2020.

Stewards heard verbal evidence tendered by trainer Mr. Douglas Nettlefold as to his treatment and horse husbandry practices.

Stewards heard verbal evidence from Dr. Paul Zhara (Racing Analytical Services Limited) and Ms. Samantha Nelis (Racing Science Centre).

Verbal evidence was tendered by the Office of Racing Integrity Regulatory Veterinarian, Dr. Adam Richardson, in relation to the effects of Aminorex on horses.

After giving all of the evidence tendered due consideration, Mr. Nettlefold was charged pursuant to AHHR190(1,2 & 4) for presenting BLAME IT ON ME for the subject race when not free of the prohibited substance Aminorex.

DECISION:

Mr. Nettlefold pleaded not guilty to the charge, however after taking into consideration Mr. Nettlefold's submissions in relation to his not guilty plea, Stewards found Mr. Nettlefold guilty of the charge.

After taking into consideration the relevant aspects of this case, Stewards determined that no penalty be issued to Mr. Nettlefold for the breach of AHHR190(1,2 & 4).

Acting under the provisions of AHHR195 Stewards directed that BLAME IT ON ME be disqualified from the subject race.

Acting under the provisions of AHHR256(5)(c) Stewards invoked a suspended fine of \$1000.00 for a previous breach of AHHR190(1,2 & 4) on 02 October 2019.

Mr. Nettlefold was advised of his rights of Appeal.