

# Stewards' Report

## Stewards Report: Bridget Grylls

**Date: 21 August 2017**

**Panel: I Brown, C Albecht, P Zimmermann**

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards' today concluded an inquiry into the running and handling of Alastriona in the Aquis Park Fillies and Mares Class 1 over 1400m at the Gold Coast Turf Club on Saturday 12 August 2017. Of particular concerns to the Stewards was jockey Bridget Grylls' handling of Alastriona approaching and rounding the home turn and in the early stages of the home straight.

The inquiry was opened immediately following the race in question at which point initial evidence was taken from Bridget Grylls and David Joice as the jockey and trainer of Alastriona respectively. A veterinary examination of the mare also occurred which failed to identify any significant abnormalities at the time of examination. The inquiry was then adjourned to allow Stewards the opportunity to review the mare's previous races and wagering transactions on the race.

Upon today's resumption of the inquiry, further evidence was taken from Ms Grylls and Mr Joice, along with evidence of wagering on the race including wagers made by Mr Joice and the owner of ALASTRIONA supporting the mare to win.

After considering all of the evidence Ms Grylls was issued with a charge under Australian Rule of Racing 135 (b) which reads:

*The rider of every horse shall take all reasonable and permissible measures throughout the race to ensure that his horse is given full opportunity to win or to obtain the best possible place in the field.*

The specifics of the charge being that Ms Grylls:

- (a) *Failed to ride Alastriona with any purpose or vigour between the 500m and 400m of the race when it was reasonable and permissible for her to do so;*
- (b) *Failed to ride Alastriona with sufficient purpose or vigour upon straightening in an effort to improve into a run between They call me Rose and Cushty Princess when it was reasonable and permissible for her to do so.*

*Which in the opinion of the Stewards prevented Alastriona from obtaining its best possible place in the field.*

In pleading not guilty to the charge Ms Grylls stated that she had been instructed to settle Alastriona towards the rear of the field and then to try and follow another horse into the race before producing the mare for a finishing sprint over the final 300m. Ms Grylls advised that these instructions had been formulated on the back of Alastriona's run two starts ago at Ballina when it appeared to peak on its run over the final 100m. Ms Grylls added that upon straightening she was reluctant to improve into the run between They Call Me Rose and Cushty Princess because she was concerned that They Call Me Rose was going to shift out thereby potentially causing her interference.

In considering the submissions made by Ms Grylls in defence of the charge Stewards' found that whilst bearing in mind the instructions, as confirmed by Mr Joice, Ms Grylls had an opportunity to shift to the outside of Cushty Princess leaving the 500m of the race in order to commence improving into

the race. In failing to commence a movement to improve into the race at such a critical point Ms Grylls lost ground on the runners forward of her. Furthermore, bearing in mind the way Alastriona finished of its races at the Gold Coast on 1 July 2017 and Ballina on 18 July 2017 Stewards' were not satisfied that the mare was limited to a sprint of not more than 300m.

Stewards' also found that upon straightening there was more than sufficient room for Ms Grylls to place Alastriona under full pressure in an effort to improve into the run available between They Call Me Rose and Cushty Princess. Whilst noting that They Call Me Rose did eventually shift out approaching the 200m, had Ms Grylls ridden with sufficient purpose and vigour upon straightening Alastriona would have improved into the run before They Call Me Rose had an opportunity to shift ground.

Stewards gave particular consideration to the ground Alastriona lost on Stellar Jewel (1<sup>st</sup> place) and favoured runner, On A High (3<sup>rd</sup> place) as a consequence of Ms Grylls' failure to improve her position between the 500m and 300m in comparison with the overall finishing margins between those horses. On the basis of which, Stewards' were satisfied to the requisite standard that Alastriona had been denied the opportunity to obtain its best possible place in the field and subsequently found Ms Grylls guilty of the charge as specified.

In determining an appropriate penalty, Stewards acknowledged that this was Ms Grylls' first offence under this rule along with similar penalty precedents. Stewards were also of the opinion that as a metropolitan jockey Ms Grylls' actions on this occasion fell well below the standard expected of a rider of her experience. Any penalty should act as a general deterrent given the detrimental effect such breaches have on wagering on the racing industry. Acting under AR 135 (c) Ms Grylls' license to ride in races was suspended for a period of four weeks to commence midnight Wednesday 30 August 2017 and expire midnight Wednesday 27 September 2017.

Ms Grylls was advised of her rights to an internal review.

Mr Joice was advised that Stewards could not identify any breach of the rules on his behalf.