

# Stewards' Report

## Stewards' Report: Ronald Finch – Dunny's Star & Try Before Dubai

**Date: 17 August 2018**

**Panel: I Brown, P Lane & B Farrell**

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards today inquired into the results of analysis of urine samples taken from DUNNY'S STAR and TRY BEFORE DUBAI at the Charters Towers Race Club race meeting on Saturday 21 October 2017.

Documentary evidence was tabled from the Racing Science Centre and the Racing Analytical Services Limited along with evidence from licensed trainer Ronald Finch.

Mr Finch pleaded guilty to two breaches of Australian Rule of Racing 178, which reads:

*Subject to AR. 177C, 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 specifics of the charges being:

### Charge 1

That Mr Ronald Finch as the trainer of DUNNY'S STAR brought that horse to the Charters Towers Race Club on 21 October 2017 and a urine sample taken from it following Race 1 on that date, did upon analysis, reveal a prohibited substance, namely COBALT above the excepted threshold.

### Charge 2

That Mr Ronald Finch as the trainer of TRY BEFORE DUBAI brought that horse to the Charters Towers Race Club on 21 October 2017 and a urine sample taken from it following Race 4 on that date, did upon analysis, reveal a prohibited substance, namely COBALT above the excepted threshold.

In determining penalty, Stewards acknowledged Mr Finch's guilty plea and that this was his first breach of this Rule. However, Stewards were also mindful of similar penalty precedents, the negative impact such breaches have on the image of racing and the need for a penalty to serve as an appropriate deterrent to ensure racing is conducted free of prohibited substances. Mr Finch was disqualified for a period of nine months, for each charge, to commence immediately.

Pursuant to the provisions of AR 196 (3) Stewards ordered that the penalties be served concurrently.

DUNNY'S STAR and TRY BEFORE DUBAI were both disqualified, pursuant to AR 177, from Races 1 and 4, respectively, at Charters Towers on Saturday 21 October 2017 and the placings amended as follows:

**Race 1 – 0-50 Handicap 1000m**

1<sup>st</sup> BORN TO FIRE  
2<sup>nd</sup> SAMUEL JAMES  
3<sup>rd</sup> SPLASH OUT  
4<sup>th</sup> SERIOUSLY HAPPY

**Race 4 – Class B Handicap 1400m**

1<sup>st</sup> GORGEOUS GAL  
2<sup>nd</sup> SEEKTOWIN  
3<sup>rd</sup> HIDONAL  
4<sup>th</sup> MYTANG

Mr Finch was advised of his right to an internal review.