

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Kelly Doughty – Husson's Pride

Date: 22 October 2018

Panel: I Brown, D Aurisch & N Finnigan

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today concluded an inquiry into reports from the QRIC Racing Science Centre (RSC) and the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory (ARFL) that the prohibited substances 4-Hydroxy xylazine and testosterone were detected in a urine sample taken from Husson's Pride at the Sunshine Coast on 20 May 2018.

Confirmatory analysis of the urine sample by the ARFL revealed the presence of testosterone at a concentration of 17 micrograms per litre. As this was under the excepted threshold of 20 micrograms per litre for geldings pursuant to AR178C (1)(g)(i) no action was taken regarding the presence of testosterone. Furthermore, the presence of testosterone was deemed to be consistent with an endogenous source.

Notwithstanding, Mrs Kelly Doughty pleaded not guilty to a charge under Australian Rule of Racing 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 specifics being:

Mrs Kelly Doughty, as the trainer of the thoroughbred, Husson's Pride, brought that horse to the Sunshine Coast Turf Club on 20 May 2018 for the purposes of engaging in Race 8 on that date, when a pre-race urine sample taken from it, upon analysis, revealed the presence of a prohibited substance, namely 4-Hydroxy xylazine.

Mrs Doughty in pleading not guilty made submissions that at no stage has she ever been obliged to administer a substance containing 4-Hydroxy xylazine to Husson's Price. Consequently, the only reasonable explanation, in her opinion, was that contamination of the sample had occurred during the collection process.

Stewards could not be reasonably satisfied that any contamination of the gelding's sample had occurred and bearing in mind the strict liability of AR 178 found Mrs Doughty guilty of the charge.

When assessing an appropriate penalty, Stewards took into account Mrs Doughty's personal circumstances, which included in excess of 20 years as a licensed trainer. Stewards also considered Mrs Doughty's previous breach under this rule in 2012 and relevant penalty precedents. Stewards were also mindful of the detrimental effect such breaches have on the integrity of the industry and the requirement for any penalty to serve as an adequate deterrent to ensure racing is conducted free of prohibited substances.

Mrs Doughty was fined \$4000.

Under the provisions of AR 177, Husson's Pride was disqualified from its 4th place in Race 8 at the Sunshine Coast on 20 May 2018, and the placings amended as follows:

- 1st Currumbin Craft
- 2nd Hard Ruler
- 3rd Uncharted
- 4th Talapus

Stewards advised Mrs Doughty of her right to an internal review.