

Harness

Racing Appeals & Disciplinary Board

Media Release

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Mr Anthony Peacock and Mr Chris Hillman – 30 July 2014

The Harness Racing Victoria (HRV) Racing Appeals and Disciplinary (RAD) Board today heard a matter in regards to charges issued by HRV Stewards under Australian Rules of Harness Racing (ARHR) 190(1) and 90A(2.9)(a) against licensed trainer Mr Anthony Peacock and ARHR 196A(1)(ii), 190(1), 204, 187(2) and 239A against licensed stablehand Mr Chris Hillman.

ARHR 190(1) reads as follows:

A horse shall be presented for a race free of prohibited substances.

The charge under ARHR 190(1) issued by HRV Stewards against Mr Peacock and Mr Hillman related to a post-race urine sample taken from the horse 'Azumah The Booma' after it finished first in Race 6 the 'Central Goldfields Shire 3YO Pace' at Maryborough on 24 April 2014. Mr Peacock was the registered trainer of the horse at this time and Mr Hillman had been authorised to present the horse to race at Maryborough on behalf of Mr Peacock.

ARHR 190(3) reads as follows:

If a person is left in charge of a horse and the horse is presented for a race otherwise than in accordance with sub rule (1), the trainer of the horse and the person left in charge is each guilty of an offence.

Racing Analytical Services Limited (RASL) reported that analysis of the urine sample collected from 'Azumah The Booma' revealed the sample contained the prohibited substance Hydrocortisone Hemisuccinate. The Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory (ARFL) in Sydney reported confirmation of these findings in the reserve portion of the relevant urine sample.

The Racing Appeals & Disciplinary Board (RADB) is established under section 50B of the Racing Act (1958). The RADB is an independent Board established to hear and determine appeals in relation to decisions made under the rules to impose penalties on persons and to hear and determine charges made against persons for serious offences.

Mr Peacock pleaded not guilty to the charge under ARHR 190(1), however was subsequently found guilty to the charge. After hearing submissions regarding penalty, the HRV RAD Board imposed a fine of \$6,000 upon Mr Peacock. Mr Peacock was fined a further \$250 under ARHR 90A(2.9)(a) for failing to ensure Mr Hillman had held an appropriate licence prior to and on 24 April 2014.

Mr Hillman pleaded guilty to the charge under ARHR 190 and ARHR 196A(1)(ii), which reads as follows;

A person shall not administer or cause to be administered to a horse any prohibited substance: (ii) which is detected in any sample taken from such horse prior to or following the running of any race.

Mr Hillman made admissions during the investigation to the administration of the product solu-cortef approximately 48 hours prior to Azumah The Booma racing at Maryborough on 24 April 2014. After considering submissions regarding penalty, the HRV RAD Board imposed a disqualification of Mr Hillman's licence for a period of 6 months.

Mr Hillman pleaded guilty to ARHR 204 for carrying out the duties of a stablehand for a considerable period of time leading up to and including 24 April 2014, whilst not being the holder of a relevant licence. The HRV RAD Board imposed a disqualification of Mr Hillman's licence for a period of 1 month, which was ordered to be served concurrently with the disqualification imposed under ARHR 196A(1)(ii).

Mr Hillman pleaded guilty to the charge under ARHR 187(2) for giving false information to stewards when initially interviewed by HRV Stewards on 16 May 2014 where he advised that he was unable to explain the presence of the prohibited substance in the urine sample collected from 'Azumah The Booma'. For this offence, the RAD Board imposed a fine of \$1000.

Mr Hillman also pleaded guilty to the charge under ARHR 239A for failing to advise Mr Peacock of the administration of solu-cortef, which has led to a breach of the Australian Rules of Harness Racing as the treatment failed to be recorded in Mr Peacock's log book. For this offence the RAD Board imposed a fine of \$250.

Under ARHR 195, the HRV RAD Board ordered that 'Azumah The Booma' be disqualified from Race 6 at Maryborough on 24 April 2014 and that the finishing places be amended accordingly.