

MR TOM ISON - INQUIRY CONDUCTED

MAY 26 2021

Yesterday HRNSW Stewards finalised an Inquiry regarding the actions of Mr T Ison as the driver of OVERTHEMOON in race 7 at Tamworth on 20 May 2021.

HRNSW Stewards issued the following two (2) charges against Mr Ison pursuant to the Australian Harness Racing Rules as follows:

Charge 1 - Issued pursuant to AHRR 168(1)(e)

AHRR 168. (1) *A person shall not before, during or after a race drive in a manner which is in the opinion of the Stewards:-*

(e) *improper*

(2) *A person who fails to comply with sub rule (1) is guilty of an offence.*

The particulars of the charge:

Mr T Ison as the driver of OVERTHEMOON did drive in an improper manner in that he purposely permitted his right foot to lower from the rests of the sulky and made contact with the leg of OVERTHEMOON on no less than 15 occasions during various stages of the event.

Charge 2- Issued pursuant to AHRR 170(1)(a) - In the alternative to Charge 1

AHRR 170. (1) (a) *A driver shall, throughout the course of a race, drive with both feet in the rests of the sulky, unless he is activating approved gear.*

(4) *A driver who fails to comply with sub-rules (1) or (2) is guilty of an offence.*

The particulars of the charge:

Mr T Ison as the driver of OVERTHEMOON did purposely permit his right foot to lower from the rest of the sulky and made contact with the leg of OVERTHEMOON on no less than 15 occasions during various stages of the event.

Mr Ison pleaded guilty to both charges.

Charge 1: 6-week suspension & \$1000.

Charge 2: As this charge was issued in the alternative to Charge 1, HRNSW Stewards did not proceed to the matter of penalty at this time.

When considering penalty Stewards took into consideration the following factors;

- Mr Ison's guilty plea
- Offence record
- Serious nature of the offence
- Mr Ison's obvious remorse

**For further information on this matter contact:
HRNSW Integrity Department
(02) 9722 6655**

Following the announcement of penalty, Stewards having considered the findings against Mr Tom Ison and the serious nature of the offence, invited further submissions from Mr Tom Ison and registered Trainer/Owner Mr Andrew Ison as to whether the provisions of AHRR 174(1) should be invoked by Stewards or otherwise.

AHRR 174 (1) *Where a driver is found guilty of an offence under a rule contained in part 9 and the offence relates to the way in which the driver has driven or behaved or controlled or failed to control the driver's horse at the start or during a race, the Stewards in relation to the race in which the offence occurred may give the driver's horse a lower placing or disqualify it for such period they think fit.*

(2) *A disqualification under sub rule (1) or alteration of placings does not affect settlement of bets or wagers.*

Having considered the objective seriousness of the offence, the deliberate and egregious breach of the rule, Stewards invoked the powers of AHRR 174 and ordered that OVERTHEMOON be disqualified from its first placing in race 7, the SCULLY PARK TAMWORTH PACE (1609 metres) at Tamworth on Thursday 20 May 2021. The results were amended to the following.

1st – BROKEN ARK
2nd – BRIE
3rd – TALK TO ME BABY
4th – COULDNTBETOLD NZ

Mr Ison has been advised of his right to appeal these decisions of HRNSW Stewards.

For further information on this matter contact:
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