8 February 2021

**DECISION**

**HARNESS RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**TREVOR MONK**

**Date of hearing:** 1 February 2021

**Panel:** Justice Shane Marshall (Deputy Chairperson) and Ms Amanda Dickens.

**Appearances:** Mr Andrew Cusumano appeared on behalf of the Stewards.

Mr Trevor Monk represented himself.

**Charge:** Australian Harness Racing Rule (“AHRR”) 190(1) states:

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

**Particulars of charge:** 1. On 23 June 2020, the horse ‘Terrorleen’ was presented to race at the Bendigo harness racing meeting in Race 6, the ‘Hygain Pace’;

2. At the relevant time you were the trainer of ‘Terrorleen’;

3. Following Race 6, the ‘Hygain Pace’, a urine sample was collected from ‘Terrorleen’ with subsequent analysis of that sample revealing the presence of Hydrochlorothiazide;

4. As the trainer of ‘Terrorleen’ on 23 June 2020, you presented that horse to race in the ‘Hygain Pace’ at Bendigo not free of the prohibited substance Hydrochlorothiazide.

**Plea:** Guilty

**DECISION**

1. Mr Trevor Monk is a registered harness racing trainer and the trainer of the horse “Terrorleen”. Terrorleen raced in and won Race 6 at Bendigo on 23 June 2020. A post race swab taken from the horse showed the presence of Hydrochlorothiazide, an anti-hypotensive drug and diuretic used to lower blood pressure in humans.
2. Stewards of Harness Racing Victoria (“HRV”) have charged Mr Monk under Australian Harness Racing Rule (“AHRR”) 190(1) with presenting a horse for a race while not free of a prohibited substance. Mr Monk pleaded guilty at the earliest opportunity and has cooperated with Stewards.
3. Mr Monk suffers from high blood pressure and from a medical condition that often requires him to urinate with little warning. He also takes Sevikar HCT as prescribed by his doctor to reduce his blood pressure. He believes that the most likely source of the contamination was his urinating at the entrance to the yard where horses are housed before being taken to the races.
4. Hydrochlorothiazide is found in Sevikar HCT. As a diuretic it would reduce the amount of fluid in a horse which is carried in a race and be likely to affect performance in a positive way. It is a prohibited substance.
5. The contamination caused in this case was inadvertent. Mr Monk no longer urinates in the holding yard. His offending against AHRR 190(1) was inadvertent.
6. In setting a penalty, we take into account Mr Monk’s guilty plea, his co-operation with the Stewards and his good record of over 40 years training. We also take into account specific and general deterrence and the importance of keeping a drug free industry.
7. In all the circumstances, we impose a penalty of a fine of $2,000, with $1,000 suspended for 12 months.
8. In addition, Terrorleen is disqualified from Race 6 at Bendigo on 23 June 2020, pursuant to AHRR 195.

Kathleen Scully
Assistant Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal