



BRITISH HARNESS RACING CLUB

Disciplinary Hearing

Friday 18th September 2015 at BHRC Office, Goole

Present: Kirsty Lee (BHRC Secretary)
Enquiry Panel: Jackie Maguire (BHRC Steward), Bret Strickland (BHRC Steward), Jim McNally (BHRC Vice Chairman)
Parties: Alexis Laidler (trainer), Raymond Huschka (owner)

On Saturday 22nd August 2015 at Tir Prince a blood sample was obtained from the horse Merrington CheckM8. Following this sampling, the blood was tested by Laboratoire Des Courses Hippiques (LCH) where the substance Triamcinolone Acetonide was identified, reported and confirmed. The presence of this substance being in breach of Y18 of the BHRC Rules and Regulations.

A hearing was convened on Friday 18th September 2015 to examine and adjudicate this case. The BHRC presented the findings of LCH and from the Uniform Classification Guidelines for Foreign Substances identified Triamcinolone Acetonide as a Class 4 substance with a suggested Class C Penalty (automatic six month suspension of trainer licence, fine of £500, automatic disqualification of horse, horse to pass a BHRC Integrity Test before being eligible to race and costs of tests and hearings). The BHRC ascertained that sections Y10 and Y18 of the BHRC Rules and Regulations had been breached.

Mrs Laidler informed the panel that the horse had been treated by a Vet, who had recorded such at the time in the passport, and due to various issues she had entered the horse to race without giving the recommended withdrawal period.

The BHRC made submissions that a breach of section Y3[e] of the BHRC Rules and Regulations would need to be considered as when the passport for the horse was examined on behalf of the BHRC on 10th September 2015 there was no entry on the medication section, photographic evidence of which had been obtained.

Mrs Laidler conceded to the panel that she had requested the Vet add the information after the event and it had not been recorded on the day of treatment. Mrs Laidler apologised and stated that in future she would allow at least a 14 day period for withdrawal, the treatment involved was not a performance enhancer and she was relieved that the horse had not raced and in effect deprived another horse or connections the glory of a win.

The Panel established that Mrs Laidler was found in breach of section Y10 of the BHRC Rules and Regulations. On the issue of performance enhancing the panel put forward a section of a report by the Racing Medication and testing Consortium (RMTC):

'Use of corticosteroids close to time of the event in sufficient doses to hide these predisposing disruptions of bone and cartilage puts horses and people at increased risk of serious injury. It is this concern that drives the need to move treatment time and medication doses far enough away from the event to assure the horse is performing without joint concentrations of corticosteroids high enough to hide impending structural failure and is potentially catastrophic consequences for the horses and people involved.'

The Panel established that Mrs Laidler was found in breach of section Y3[e] of the BHRC Rules and Regulations.

The Panel, empowered under section V3 of the BHRC Rules and Regulations, for the benefit of racing and owners involved decided to not impose an immediate suspension

Penalties

Y3[e] - £1000 fine, all licences to be suspended for a period of 365 days from midnight 20th September 2015

Y10 - £500 fine, trainer licence to be suspended for a period of six months (in turn this fine and suspension to be suspended for 18 months from 20th September 2015)

A costs order to cover the testing and hearing expenses awarded against Mrs Laidler

The horse Merrington CheckM8 to pass a BHRC integrity test prior to being eligible to be entered for racing

The Panel directed Mrs Laidler to section W5 of the BHRC Rules and Regulations regarding recognition of ownership transfer in racing and also to section U3[b] which covers the right of appeal.

Signed:

Jackie Maguire - BHRC Steward

Bret Strickland - BHRC Steward

Jim McNally - BHRC Steward