



THOROUGHBRED RACING SA LIMITED

STIPENDIARY STEWARDS' REPORT – MR. JOHN A O'CONNOR

MORPHETTVILLE OFFICES – MONDAY, 9 APRIL 2018

OAKBANK – TUESDAY, 13 MARCH 2018

Stewards have concluded an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding an alleged incident at the Oakbank Trials, at the Oakbank Racing Club on Tuesday, 13 March 2018, involving trainer Mr. John O'Connor and Thoroughbred Racing SA Limited (TRSA) Steward, Mr. Andrew Hayles. Evidence was taken from Mr. O'Connor, Mr. Hayles and a number of racing participants. Stewards also note that after initially giving evidence at the inquiry, Mr. O'Connor refused to remain at the inquiry despite being provided with an official direction to do so.

After considering the evidence Mr. O'Connor was charged (**Charge 1**) under Australian Rule of Racing – AR.175(q), the particulars of the charge being - that Mr. John O'Connor, a licensed trainer with TRSA for the racing season 2017/18 conducted himself in an improper manner at the Oakbank Trials, at the Oakbank Racing Club on Tuesday, 13 March 2018, the improper conduct being that he directed foul and abusive language at TRSA Steward, Mr. Andrew Hayles, in his official capacity as a Steward.

Mr. O'Connor was also charged (**Charge 2**) under Australian Rule of Racing – AR.175(p), the particulars being - *that Mr. John O'Connor, after being officially directed at the inquiry into the subject matter relating to an incident on 13 March 2018 at the Oakbank Racing Club, on Monday 9 April 2018, that he needed to remain at the inquiry, failed to do so and left the inquiry room, indicating that he would not return.*

Having regard for Mr. O'Connor's absence, Stewards entered, on his behalf, a "not guilty" plea in respect of both **Charges 1 & 2**. Stewards further considered the matter and found Mr. O'Connor guilty of both **Charges 1 & 2**. In determining penalty in respect of both **Charges 1 & 2**, Stewards had regard for a number of factors and determined;

In respect of **Charge 1** – to suspend Mr. O'Connor's license to train for a period of three (3) months. Acting in accordance with AR.196(6) Stewards determined to defer the commencement of the suspension of his license to midnight on Monday, 16 April 2018. The effect of this penalty means that Mr. O'Connor's license to train is suspended from midnight Monday, 16 April 2018 to conclude at midnight Monday, 16 July 2018.

In respect of **Charge 2** – to fine Mr. O'Connor the sum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00).

Mr. O'Connor was informed of the Steward's decision in this matter, in writing, and he was also informed of his Right of Appeal.

JOHAN PETZER
CHAIRMAN OF STEWARDS