

# Media Release

## Racing Appeals & Disciplinary Board

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20 July 2015

### **HRV RAD Board Hearing - Chris Alford**

The Harness Racing Victoria (HRV) Racing Appeals and Disciplinary (RAD) Board today heard a matter in regards to a charge issued by HRV Stewards under Australian Rule of Harness Racing (ARHR) 190(1) against licensed trainer Mr Chris Alford.

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 Alford related to a post-race urine sample collected from the horse 'Stormed Out' after it won Race 5, the 'Bendigo Bank Pace', at Geelong on 8 April 2015. Racing Analytical Services Limited (RASL) reported that analysis of the urine sample revealed the sample to contain the prohibited substance phenylbutazone and its metabolite oxyphenbutazone. The Racing Science Centre in Queensland reported confirmation of these findings in the reserve portion of the relevant urine sample.

Mr Alford pleaded guilty to the charge before submissions on penalty were heard from HRV Stewards and Mr Alford. In deciding an appropriate penalty, the HRV RAD Board considered the nature of the substance involved, other previous cases involving the substance in Victoria, Mr Alford's evidence of administering 10 ml of the substance in a therapeutic manner almost 8 full days prior to the relevant race and his expectation that the substance would be eliminated in such a time period, Mr Alford's early guilty plea and co-operation throughout the investigation, Mr Alford's excellent record throughout his lifetime involvement in the industry and a number of references supplied in support of Mr Alford's character. In considering all of these matters, the HRV RAD Board imposed a fine of \$3000. The HRV RAD Board also imposed a \$200 fine upon Mr Alford after he pleaded guilty to breaching ARHR 190(1)(b) in that he had forgotten to

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record the relevant administration of phenylbutazone in his log book as the administration occurred late at night after returning from the races on 31 March 2015 and the log book was not present at the time of the administration owing to it being used by another stable member at the time for accounting purposes.

The HRV RAD Board also ordered that 'Stormed Out' be disqualified from Race 5 at Geelong on 8 April 2015 and that the finishing places be amended accordingly.

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