

HEARING RESULT

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FROM: Registrar – Racing Appeals and Disciplinary Board

DATE: 6 December 2011

SUBJECT: **HEARING RESULT – TRAINER: COLETTE COOPER**

Panel Judge Russell Lewis (Chair), Mr Brian Forrest (Deputy Chair),
Mr Jeremy Rosenthal.

Appearances Ms Cooper appeared on her own behalf.

Mr Matthew Stirling, instructed by Racing Victoria's James Ogilvy,
appeared as Counsel for the Stewards.

Charge 1 Breach of AR 175(h)(iii)

The particulars being that Ms Cooper administered or caused to be administered a prohibited substance, being alkalinising agents as evidenced by total carbon dioxide (TCO₂) at a concentration in excess of 36.0 millimoles per litre in plasma, which was detected in a blood sample taken from the horse *Stella Blue* prior to it running in Race 4 the *Sunraysia Daily Maiden Plate* (1800m) at Mildura on Saturday, 21 May 2011.

Charge 2 Breach of AR 178 (alternative to Charge 1)

The particulars being that a prohibited substance, being alkalinising agents as evidenced by a total carbon dioxide (TCO₂) concentration in excess of 36.0 millimoles per litre in plasma, was detected in a blood sample taken from *Stella Blue* prior to it running in Race 4 the *Sunraysia Daily Maiden Plate* (1800m) at Mildura on Saturday, 21 May 2011.

Charge 3 Breach of AR 175(g)(g)

The particulars being that Ms Cooper made a false or misleading statement on or about 31 May 2011 in an interview with Ms Liz O'Brien from the *Sunraysia Daily* newspaper.

Charge 4 Breach of AR 175(g)

The particulars being that Ms Cooper provided false or misleading evidence during a Steward's inquiry on Thursday, 26 May 2011.

Plea

Charge 1 - Not guilty.
Charge 2 - Guilty.
Charge 3 - Not guilty.
Charge 4 - Not guilty.

Decision

The Board finds Charges 1-4 inclusive proved and Ms Cooper convicted on each charge.

In relation to Charge 1, Ms Cooper disqualified for a period of 6 months – commencing at midnight on Tuesday, 20 December 2011 and expiring at midnight on Tuesday, 19 June 2012.

In relation to Charge 2, Ms Cooper suspended for a period of 2 months – commencing at midnight on Saturday, 10 December 2011 and expiring at midnight on Thursday, 9 February 2012.

In relation to Charges 3 and 4, Ms Cooper suspended for a period of 1 month on each charge with the suspensions to be served concurrently with the suspension incurred for Charge 2. That is, they will commence at midnight on Saturday, 10 December 2011 and expire at midnight on Monday, 9 January 2012.

Pursuant to AR 177 *Stella Blue* disqualified as ninth placegetter of the *Sunraysia Daily Maiden Plate* at Mildura on Saturday, 21 May 2011 and the places amended as follows:

9th – *Fayebelle*, 10th – *Bruce's Girl*.

Georgie Curtis
Registrar - Racing Appeals and Disciplinary Board

**TRANSCRIPT OF
PROCEEDINGS**

RACING APPEALS AND DISCIPLINARY BOARD

**HIS HONOUR JUDGE R.P.L. LEWIS, Chairman
MR B. FORREST, Deputy Chairman
MR J. ROSENTHAL**

EXTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS

DECISION

TRAINER: COLETTE COOPER

MELBOURNE

THURSDAY, 6 DECEMBER 2011

MR M. STIRLING, with MR J. OGILVY, appeared on behalf of
the RVL Stewards

MS C. COOPER appeared on her own behalf

CHAIRMAN: In relation to Charge 1, Ms Colette Cooper is disqualified from being the holder of a licence to train for a period of six months. The period of disqualification is to commence at midnight on 20 December 2011 and to expire at midnight on 19 June 2012. Between the present time and 20 December, the Board will grant that time for Ms Cooper to make her personal arrangements and to place her horses wherever she wishes. Although the horse was apparently unplaced, the horse is disqualified under the rules from the race it contested.

In relation to Charge 2, Ms Cooper is suspended for a period of two months, such period of suspension beginning Saturday, 10 December 2011, to expire at midnight on Thursday, 9 February 2012, and the horse is disqualified from the race in which it contested.

In relation to Charges 3 and 4, Ms Cooper is suspended on each of those charges for a period of one month, beginning midnight Saturday, 10 December 2012, to expire at midnight on Monday, 9 January 2012. All periods of suspension in relation to Charges 2, 3 and 4 are obviously concurrent with the period of disqualification imposed in Charge 1.
