



*INQUIRY INTO THE MANAGEMENT OF MANDALOG PRINCESS FOLLOWING A BLEEDING ATTACK AT QUEANBEYAN RACECOURSE ON 12 NOVEMBER 2024.*

**Warwick Farm Racecourse  
Stewards Inquiry Room**

**Wednesday 19 February 2025**

**Stewards: T Moxon (Chairman)  
S Knight**

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The Stewards today inquired into the management of *Mandalong Princess* by trainer Mr Gary Nickson after the mare was found to have blood present at both nostrils following Race 4 at Queanbeyan Racecourse on Tuesday 12 November 2024.

The inquiry was conducted into the apparent failure of Mr Nickson to adhere to the provisions of AR79(4) which are in place to enforce a period of rest following an episode of bleeding in the interest of horse welfare and rider safety.

Evidence was taken from the trainer of *Mandalong Princess*, Mr Gary Nickson, Racing NSW Chief Veterinary Officer Dr Carly Carling and a report provided by cadet Steward Evie Norris was entered into evidence.

#### **Charge – AR79(4)**

The details of the charge being that licensed trainer Mr Gary Nickson did, without the permission of Stewards, train and exercise *Mandalong Princess* on a racecourse during the initial 2-month period following an attack of bleeding.

#### **Plea - Guilty**

#### **Penalty**

In assessing penalty stewards considered the following matters:

- Guilty plea and forthright evidence
- Mr Nickson's personal and professional circumstances
- Seriousness of the breach which relates directly to welfare and safety
- Principles of specific and general deterrence and what message is sent to the industry in respect to such conduct.
- Purpose of issuing penalties as a protective measure for the image and interests of the thoroughbred racing industry.

Stewards believe the appropriate penalty be a fine of \$6,000. Having regard to his guilty plea and other mitigating factors a \$4,000 fine was imposed.

**Mandalong Princess**

Stewards made the initial ruling that as *Mandalong Princess* has not met the requirements of AR79(4) it must not be trained, exercised or galloped on a racecourse, recognised training track, private training establishment, or other place for a period of two months. Stewards have provided the owners of the mare the opportunity to make submissions as to why such ruling should not be invoked.

***Relevant Rules***

***AR 79 Horses with bleeding***

*(4) A horse which, in the opinion of the Stewards, has had an attack of bleeding;*

*(a) for a period of 2 months after the attack of bleeding, must not, without the permission of the Stewards, be trained, exercised or galloped on a racecourse, recognised training track, private training establishment, or other place;*

**T Moxon  
Deputy Chairman of Stewards  
Racing NSW**