

# RACING NSW – STEWARDS REPORT



*INQUIRY INTO INJURY SUSTAINED BY LEVENDI IN HEAT 5 OF THE WARWICK FARM BARRIER TRIALS CONDUCTED ON 5 FEBRUARY 2019 AND CONDUCT OF LICENSED ASSISTANT TRAINER MR MANNY GELAGOTIS.*

**RNSW Offices**  
**Druitt Street, Sydney**

**8 April 2019**

**Stewards: M F Van Gestel (Chairman)**  
**P C Dingwall**

Racing NSW Stewards today conducted an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding Levendi sustaining a pelvic injury to its off hind leg in heat 5 of the Warwick Farm barrier trials conducted on 5 February 2019 and also the conduct of assistant trainer Mr Manny Gelagotis during this incident.

Evidence today was taken from Mr Manny Gelagotis, Trainer Mr Peter Gelagotis, Trainer Mr Con Karakatsanis and Racing NSW Official Veterinarian Dr James Mizzi. In addition, statements were tendered by jockey Brenton Avdulla, ATC Starter Mr Dale Jeffs and ATC Barrier Attendants Mr Gavin Moses, Mr Andrew Grills, Mr Martin Begg and Mr Ryan Englebrecht. Treatment and veterinary records supplied by Sydney Equine Practice were also considered in addition to a written reference provided by Dr David Garth of Sydney Equine Practice.

The inquiry established the following facts;

1. Levendi was subject to arthroscopic knee surgery in April 2018;
2. The horse was stabled at the Warwick Farm stables of Mr Con Karakatsanis from mid-January 2019, as the horse was to race during the Sydney Easter and to take advantage of the softer Sydney work tracks;
3. During this time Levendi was under the care of permitted veterinarian Dr David Garth. Records show Dr Garth treated the horse in accordance with the Rules of Racing and there were no records of any hind limb lameness;
4. Mr Karakatsanis rode Levendi in all its trackwork and he advised there had been no issues with the horse leading up to 5 February 2019;
5. On the morning on 5 February 2019 whilst exiting its stable Mr M Gelagotis and Mr Karakatsanis advised that Levendi took an unusual step but displayed no additional issues and walked freely to the racecourse from Mr Karakatsanis' off course stables.
6. When Levendi arrived on-course it was trotted up under the observation of Mr Gelagotis and Mr Karakatsanis who could detect no issue with the horse.
7. Whilst proceeding to the barrier jockey Brenton Avdulla advised that he had some concern with the action of Levendi whilst cantering. When trotted up behind the barriers Levendi displayed no signs of lameness.
8. Soon after the start of the barrier trial Brenton Avdulla became concerned with the action of the horse and eased it out of the trial.

9. Levendi was sedated on course by Racing NSW Official Veterinarian Dr James Mizzi when he observed Levendi to be lame behind and the horse was transported back to Mr Karakatsanis' stables, where Dr Garth inspected the horse.
10. Dr Garth performed an ultrasound on the horse and diagnosed Levendi have sustained a sagittal fracture through the wing of the right ilium and an associated hematoma. Dr Garth recommended box rest for Levendi and advised the horse had a good prognosis to return to racing.
11. Whilst Dr Mizzi was treating Levendi on course Mr Manny Gelagotis conducted himself in an aggressive manner towards Dr Mizzi.

### **Presentation of Levendi**

After considering all the evidence the Stewards determined that Mr Manny Gelagotis (being the person in charge of Levendi at the relevant time) did not present Levendi in the knowledge the horse had a pre-existing condition and therefore no action was taken. Mr Gelagotis was advised that given the horse took an unusual step upon leaving the stable that, rather than performing the trot-up without veterinary supervision, that the horse should have been presented to the Official Veterinarian prior to starting to ascertain its suitability to barrier trial.

### **Conduct of Mr Manny Gelagotis**

Mr Gelagotis was found guilty of a charge under AR228(c) in that did engage in improper behaviour towards Racing NSW Official Dr James Mizzi in relation to his functions and duties, as Dr Mizzi was treating Levendi on course.

After considering relevant matters in respect to penalty, including this was Mr Gelagotis's second offence under the rule, he was fined the sum of \$1500.

### **Relevant Rule**

#### ***AR 228 Conduct detrimental to the interests of racing***

*A person must not engage in:*

- (c) improper or insulting behaviour at any time towards a PRA, the Stewards, a Club, or any official, employee, contractor or agent of any of them in relation to the relevant person's functions, powers or duties;*

**M F Van Gestel**  
**Chairman of Stewards**