



INQUIRY INTO THE TRAINING AND SUPERVISION OF HORSES UNDER THE CARE OF LICENSED VISITING TRAINER MS TEGAN KEYS AND THE CONDUCT OF MS KEYS AND THAT OF SUSPENDED TRAINER MR SCOTT BRUNTON

**Racing NSW Offices  
Via Videoconference**

**25 September 2023**

**Stewards: S G Railton  
T P Moxon  
C L Albrecht**

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Racing NSW Stewards today conducted an inquiry into the training and supervision of horses under the care of licensed visiting trainer Ms Tegan Keys and into the conduct of Ms Keys and also that of suspended trainer Mr Scott Brunton.

Evidence was today taken from Ms Keys and Mr Brunton as well as from Racing Victoria Senior Legal Counsel – Integrity Services, Mr Marwan El-Asmar, who provided clarity in respect of the advice given to Mr Brunton in relation to the disabilities imposed upon him under AR267 following the decision of the Victorian Racing Tribunal to suspend his trainers license for a period of four months, commencing on 7 September 2023.

Stewards also considered a brief of evidence provided by Racing NSW Investigator, Mr Jared Rodger, who on Tuesday 19 September 2023 conducted an unannounced inspection of the stables occupied by Ms Keys at Bong Bong Farm, Moss Vale. During this inspection evidence was taken from Mr Brunton who made certain admissions in respect of his involvement with horses trained by Ms Keys on that day.

The following charges were issued against Ms Keys and Mr Brunton.

**Charge – Ms Tegan Keys – AR232(b) Fail to comply with a direction**

The details of the charge being that Ms Tegan Keys did fail to comply with a direction of the Stewards by reason of the following particulars;

1. At all relevant times, she was:
  - a. a trainer licensed by the Office of Racing Integrity in Tasmania;
  - b. a Visiting Trainer with Racing NSW, and
  - c. bound by, and required to comply with, the Rules of Racing of Racing NSW.
2. On Thursday 7 September 2023, she participated in a telephone conversation with Racing NSW Chairman of Stewards, Mr Steve Railton. During the telephone conversation, Racing NSW Stewards issued her with the following directions to be adhered to while in New South Wales. Such directions being to:
  - a. strictly comply with the restrictions placed upon her license by the Office of Racing Integrity in Tasmania not to ride and/or handle horses under her care, until such time that restriction is lifted by that racing authority, and

- b. ensure her partner and suspended trainer, Mr Scott Brunton strictly complied with the prohibitions on the conduct of trainers during a period of suspension under AR267 which prohibits him being able to:
  - (i) participate in any way in the preparation for racing or training of the horses under her care;
  - (ii) carry out the duties of a stable hand (including handling horses),
  - (iii) give instructions, and
  - (iv) be present in the mounting yard and other restricted areas on race day.
- 3. She failed to comply with the directions of the Stewards by any one or combination of the following.
  - a. On Monday 18 September 2023, she rode *The Inevitable* during track work at Bong Bong Farm, NSW, being the location approved on her visiting trainer's permit with Racing NSW.
  - b. On or around the evening of 18 September 2023, she left her horses in the care, control and custody of suspended trainer, Mr Scott Brunton. She allowed Mr Scott Brunton to participate in the preparation for racing and training of horses under her care. She permitted him to handle such horses and perform duties of a stable hand in her absence from the evening of 18 September to the evening of 19 September 2023.

#### **Plea – Guilty**

#### **Charge – Mr Scott Brunton - AR232(b) Fail to comply with a direction**

The details of the charge being that Mr Scott Brunton did fail to comply with a direction of the Stewards by reason of the following particulars.

1. At all relevant times, he was a person connected with racing. He was bound by and required to comply with the Rules of Racing of Racing NSW.
2. At all relevant times, he was a suspended trainer. His suspension expires on 7 January 2024. As a suspended trainer he is bound by the provisions of AR267, which places certain prohibitions upon him.
3. On 5 September 2023, the Director of Racing for the Office of Racing Integrity, Tasmania, revoked his trainer's license under AR13.
4. On Thursday 7 September 2023, he heard and participated in a telephone conversation with his partner and licensed trainer, Ms Tegan Keys and Racing NSW Chairman of Stewards, Mr Steve Railton. During the telephone conversation both he and Ms Keys were given certain directions to ensure he strictly complied with the prohibitions on the conduct of trainers during a period of suspension under AR267, which prohibited him from:
  - a. participating in any way in the preparation for racing or training of the horses under Ms Tegan Keys' care;
  - b. carrying out the duties of a stable hand (including handling horses),
  - c. giving instructions, and

- d. being present in the mounting yard and other restricted areas on race day.
5. He failed to comply with a direction of the Stewards by reason of the following particulars:
  - a. On or around the evening of 18 September 2023, licensed trainer Ms Tegan Keys left horses in his care, control and custody.
  - b. Between the evening of 18 September to the evening of 19 September 2023, he participated in the preparation for racing and training of those horses. He handled those horses and performed the duties of a stable hand for licensed trainer, Ms Tegan Keys in her absence.

### **Plea – Guilty**

### **Penalty – Ms Tegan Keys**

The Stewards considered the following matters when determining an appropriate penalty.

- Guilty plea and contrition displayed for breaching this rule.
- Professional and personal circumstances.
- Disciplinary record whilst licensed in the industry
- 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 issued a penalty of 6 months disqualification, reduced to 4 months disqualification for guilty plea and other relevant considerations as set out above. Accordingly, Ms Keys is disqualified for a period to commence immediately and to expire on Thursday 25 January 2024.**

### **Penalty – Mr Scott Brunton**

The Stewards considered the following matters when determining an appropriate penalty.

- Guilty plea and contrition displayed for breaching this rule.
- His personal circumstances.
- Disciplinary record which included a number of conduct related breaches
- The need for persons penalised under the rules to comply with the restrictions placed upon them so as to not undermine the effect and purpose of such penalty.
- 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 issued a penalty of 6 months disqualification, reduced to 4 months and 2 weeks disqualification for guilty plea and other relevant considerations as set out above. Accordingly, Mr Brunton is disqualified for a period to commence immediately and to expire on Thursday 8 February 2024.**

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## **Relevant Rules**

### **AR 267 Prohibitions on conduct of trainers during period of suspension**

*Unless otherwise authorised by the PRA or the Stewards in whose territory a suspension was imposed on a trainer (and upon such conditions as the PRA or the Stewards may in their discretion impose), a suspended trainer must not, during the period of that suspension:*

- (a) as a trainer or permit holder, nominate a horse for a race, official trial or jumpout;*
- (b) train, or participate in any way in the training or preparation for racing of, a horse (including without limitation the giving of instructions);*
- (c) be registered as a stablehand;*
- (d) be employed by, or otherwise engaged to provide any service in any capacity to, any thoroughbred racing stable; or (e) enter the mounting yard, scales area or horse stall area at a racecourse, save that a suspended trainer may enter such an area if he or she is the owner of a horse in that area.*

### **AR 232 Failure to observe processes and directions of PRAs or Stewards**

*A person must not:*

- (b) fail or refuse to comply with an order, direction or requirement of the Stewards or an official;*

**S G Railton**

**Chairman of Stewards  
Racing NSW**