

Additional Stewards Report



Thursday, 10 June 2021

Stewards: - G T Rudolph (A/Chairman), S B Callanan & M P Zarb

Apprentice S. So – MRS MOURINHO

Balaklava, Wednesday 12 May 2021 - Race 6, Taylors Wines Benchmark 58 Handicap - 1050 metres.

Stewards today resumed an inquiry, opened on Wednesday, 12th May 2021, into Apprentice Ms S So's riding of MRS MOURINHO, particularly in respect to the vigour that she applied to the filly in the early and middle stages. Evidence on the day was taken from Ms So, trainer's representative, Mr T Stokes and Apprentice Riding Master, Mr Darryn Murphy. Additional evidence today was taken from her master, trainer Mr J Pickering and Apprentice Training Supervisor, Mrs B Moore, assisted Ms So at the inquiry.

Ms So advised that her instructions were to settle in a rearward position, as had been the filly's normal racing pattern and that she was to allow the filly to finish the race off, as she had done when successful over 1200 metres at Strathalbyn, on 16th December, 2020.

Ms So stated that after being slow to begin and slightly hampered at the start, she allowed to her mount to settle in a rearward position in accordance with her instructions and that she was also mindful that the filly had a tendency to over race. She added that MRS MOURINHO travelled well in the early stages, however, she was surprised by the quicker than expected tempo and the filly got further back than expected, being approximately six lengths off the second last horse, RANGER FRANK, from the 900 metres to approaching the home turn, near the 500 metres. Ms So further added that she then put the filly under pressure and shifted to the outside of the field in order to get uninterrupted running in the straight, after which the filly ran home well into fourth place.

After considering the evidence provided, conducting a review on the wagering on the event which did not reveal any abnormal betting trends and reviewing the filly's previous starts, Stewards agreed with Ms So that she had erred in not riding MRS MOURINHO with more vigour from the 900 metres to the 500 metres, in order to maintain a closer trailing position to the rest of the field.

She was further advised that, in relation to the sectional times of the race and having regard to the margin which she was required to make up in the straight, she should have placed MRS MOURINHO under more vigorous riding in the early and middle stages, in order to provide the filly with the best chance of winning or obtaining the best possible place in the field.

In assessing her culpability and in not proceeding with a charge under AR129(2), Stewards considered that, whilst Ms So's riding of the filly had lacked judgement, having regard to all the circumstances, including her relative inexperience as an apprentice jockey, her ride was not considered blameworthy. She was advised however, that she should ride her mounts in a manner that does not invite question from the Stewards.