

Stewards Decision

TRC 7th July 2024
Race 4
Tasmanian Bloodstock
Maiden 1600m

Date of Decision Thursday 24th September 2026

Decision Makers T T Styles, A D Hyde, J W Marsh

Summary of Facts

1. On 7th July 2024 Stewards adjourned an inquiry into the reasons ALL ABOUT LUNA (H. McCarthy) and OXY BOLT (A. Darmanin) were both dislodged from their mounts rounding the home turn in Race 4 (The Tasmanian Bloodstock Maiden) held at Elwick.
2. On 3 September 2026 it was brought to the attention of Stewards that this matter had not been heard.
3. The incident in question was reviewed from all available vision by the panel who established the possible contributors and consequently this inquiry was opened.
4. Prior to today's inquiry Stewards attempted to contact Apprentice Ryota Morimoto (LITTLE LIONEL) through the Japanese Racing Association (JRA) whose mount may have been a factor in the incident.
5. The Chief Steward of the JRA confirmed in writing that Mr. Morimoto after departing Tasmania had not been relicensed by this Authority and that they were unaware of his present whereabouts.
6. Stewards made contact with the other stricken rider in the incident, namely Anthony Darmanin who confirmed that he had no recollection of how the incident occurred and would not be able to contribute to the evidence that could be considered by the Stewards.
7. At today's inquiry Stewards with Hayley McCarthy in attendance viewed all available films of the incident and it was their unanimous opinion that there were circumstances surrounding the incident which included that LITTLE LIONEL had commenced to give ground and had laid out marginally which may have had a major bearing on the incident in question. It would therefore be unfair to the rider of this horse to consider his involvement without providing him with an opportunity to tender evidence in his defence.

Decision Discussion The Stewards accepted that this inquiry should have been concluded as soon as possible after the incident. For two years to have elapsed was unacceptable even when considering that this was due largely to staffing changes.

The Stewards accepted the seriousness of the matter and for the requirement for these associated inquiries to be concluded in a timely manner to ensure the highest standards of rider safety, horse welfare and integrity.

Stewards were unable to hold any one rider or horse accountable for the incident and concluded the inquiry.

Ms. McCarthy and Mr. Darmanin were advised of the outcome of the inquiry and the reasons for the decision of the Stewards.