



Date: 5 March 2023	Time: 12:30pm
Venue and Location: Rangiora Racecourse	
Venue Contact Person: Glen Hames	
Activity being engaged in: Harness Racing	

Background leading up to the incident:

Significant amount of rain overnight prior to the race meeting.

Details of the Incident:

Track Inspection undertaken by Stipendiary Stewards S Renault and N McIntyre commenced just over 2 hours prior to the scheduled start time of Race 1 at 12:59pm. Stewards inspected the track by vehicle and stopped at a number of areas on the track to examine the surface. Stewards also drove in the middle of the track on both bends to determine what traction the mobile barrier would have when commencing the score up of a race. It was noted that it was difficult for the vehicle to maintain traction at speed and concern was raised if the mobile would be able to be in operation. The surface itself appeared to have quite a hard base and overall whilst the track was very wet, it was decided that it was best to wait and assess the conditions again within the next hour.

Stewards spoke with Club President G Wright and advised him of what was identified at the initial track inspection once arriving in the Stewards Room a short time later.

The rain gauge at the racecourse showed there had been approximately 32mm of rain overnight and another 12mm from 11:00am this morning.

Stewards again looked at the track approximately 1 hour and 10 minutes prior to the first race being scheduled to run. Mr McIntyre walked the track whilst Stewards S Renault and M Sole went to the stables in search of any Senior or experienced drivers.

Stewards were able to have K Cox, K Cameron, P Davis, R Cameron and B Hope meet on the track and have them express their opinion. All drivers were unsure of how safe the track would be as it appeared to be inconsistent in areas. The track was safe in parts however very soft in other areas of the track. Stewards had concerns with how much the track had deteriorated within an hour of the first inspection.

Stewards and Drivers met with the HRNZ Track and Venue Inspector J Denton, Horse Ambulance Driver L Hanrahan and Starter D Gaffaney on the final bend of the track where the vehicle had driven earlier. It was concerning that the base of the track appeared to be coming up to the surface of the track and was very soft in that area.

Every person present expressed concern about the impact of all the horses racing on the track and how the animals would handle the inconsistent nature of the surface. Visibility for drivers was very much at the forefront of everyone's thinking as well.

Discussion was held whether any remedial work on the track could be undertaken however with the continued rain forecast, it was decided that it was not a viable option.

It was unanimously decided by all people present at the inspection of the track that the safety of horses and drivers could not be guaranteed with the current state of the track and having another 15mm of rain forecast in the next few hours meant that track conditions were only going to deteriorate further.

Stewards met with Club President G Wright and Club Secretary G Hames in the Stewards room a short time later and advised them the opinion of all parties present on the track who both agreed it was the only outcome available in the circumstances.

The race meeting was formally abandoned at approximately 12:30pm.

What could have caused the incident? (Reason / Identify Hazard)

Not applicable

Recommendations to prevent reoccurrence: (include time frame and follow up person if necessary)

The Club should meet with Mr Denton to discuss the track preparation prior to the meeting and consider whether any changes to the preparation of the track can be made when rain is forecast.

Track Inspection Team:

Nigel McIntyre
Shane Renault
Matt Sole
Katie Cox
Peter Davis
Ben Hope
Kyle Cameron
Ross Cameron
John Denton
Laurence Hanrahan
Dave Gaffaney

Witnesses available:

(record names and contact details)

Club President, Secretary of the Club and early arrivals of TAB staff.

Injured Person Details: NOT APPLICABLE


Name:

Phone Number:

Address:

Date of Birth:

Additional Information: NOT APPLICABLE	
Was any first aid treatment given?	
By whom?	
Follow up treatment hospital or doctor?	
Was there any damage to property?	
Is further investigation required?	
Has the Venue contact been notified?	
Tasks to Action	

Steward – Shane Renault	Date – 5 March 2023.	Signature – 
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