



INQUIRY INTO THE ANALYSTS FINDING OF TRIAMCINOLONE ACETONIDE IN THE BLOOD SAMPLE TAKEN FROM ASTRONOMOS (GB) FOLLOWING THE GELDING BEING PLACED 4TH IN THE JRA PLATE CONDUCTED AT ROYAL RANDWICK ON 15 APRIL 2017.

RNSW Offices
Druitt Street
Sydney

Thursday 8 June 2017

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

The Stewards today inquired into the detection by the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory (ARFL) and Racing Analytical Services Limited (RASL) of the prohibited substance triamcinolone acetonide in a post-race blood sample taken from the John Thompson trained *Astronomos (GB)*, following the gelding being placed 4th in the Group 3 JRA Plate conducted at Royal Randwick racecourse on 15 April 2017.

Evidence today was taken from trainer of *Astronomos (GB)* Mr John Thompson, Veterinarian Dr Rachel Salz, Partner of Randwick Equine Centre Dr Jonathan Lumsden, Racing NSW Senior Official Veterinarian Dr Craig Suann and ARFL Science Manager Dr Adam Cawley. A written authority from owner of *Astronomos (GB)* Mr P Fudge was tendered to permit Mr Thompson to represent his interests.

The evidence established that Mr Thompson, in consultation with his veterinarian Dr Salz, authorised Dr Salz to perform the intra-articular administration of the corticosteroid triamcinolone acetonide into two joints in the right stifle of *Astronomos (GB)* on 6 April 2017, 8 clear days prior to the gelding running at Randwick on 15 April 2017. The administration was made to treat a minor grade 1/5 lameness in the right stifle associated with a small bone cyst on the medial femoral condyle, previously detected with the use of radiographs. The administration of triamcinolone acetonide was done in accordance with the provisions of AR64M, which prohibits a horse from racing within 8 clear days of the intra-articular administration of a corticosteroid.

Charge against Mr Thompson

Mr Thompson pleaded guilty to a charge under AR178. The details of the charge being he brought *Astronomos (GB)* to Royal Randwick racecourse on 15 April 2017 for the purpose of engaging in the Group 3 JRA Plate and the prohibited substance triamcinolone acetonide was detected in a post-race blood sample taken from *Astronomos (GB)* following the gelding running and being placed fourth in that race as:

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- a. Triamcinolone acetonide is a prohibited substance pursuant to AR178B(1) as it is capable of causing an action and effect on the musculo-skeletal system, the nervous system, the endocrine system and the immune system;
- b. Triamcinolone acetonide is a prohibited substance pursuant to AR178B(2) as it is categorised as an anti-inflammatory agent and a corticosteroid;

Penalty

In assessing penalty Stewards considered the following matters

1. Mr Thompson's record in respect to similar offences, which showed one prior offence in 2010;
2. Guilty Plea;
3. Relevant circumstances of the matter;
4. Precedent penalties.

Mr Thompson was fined the sum of \$6000 and was advised of his right of appeal.

Astronomos (GB)

Acting under the provisions of AR177 *Astronomos (GB)* was disqualified from its fourth placing in the Group 3 JRA Plate conducted at Royal Randwick on 15 April 2017 and the placings amended to:

- 1st. Top Of My List
- 2nd. Sons Of John
- 3rd. Rudy
- 4th. New Tipperary
- 5th. Happy Hannah

Relevant Rules

AR178 - *Subject to AR 178G, when any horse that has been brought to a racecourse for the purpose of engaging in a race and a prohibited substance is detected in any sample taken from it prior to or following its running in any race, the trainer and any other person who was in charge of such horse at any relevant time may be penalised.*

AR 177. *Subject to AR 177C, any horse that has been brought to a racecourse and a prohibited substance is detected in any sample taken from it prior to or following its running in any race must be disqualified from any race in which it started on that day.*

M F Van Gestel
Chairman of Stewards