



INQUIRY INTO ANALYST'S FINDING OF TRENDIONE, TRENBOLONE AND EPITRENBOLONE IN POST-RACE URINE SAMPLE TAKEN FROM GIVE ME JOY AFTER WINNING AT WYONG ON 6 JANUARY 2024.

**Racing NSW Offices**

**Druitt Street  
Sydney**

**22 April 2024**

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

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Racing NSW Stewards today conducted an inquiry into the analysts finding of trendione, trenbolone and epitrenbolone being detected in a urine sample taken from Give Me Joy after winning Race 1 (F&M Class 1 Handicap) at the Wyong race meeting on 6 January 2024.

Evidence today was taken from Mr Tim Martin, trainer and registered part-owner of Give Me Joy, licensed stablehand Mr C Rea, Racing NSW Chief Veterinary Officer Dr C Garling and ARFL General Manager Mr J Keledjian.

**General**

The evidence established the following.

1. In June 2018 Racing NSW provided notification to the racing industry in respect to the detection of trace levels of the anabolic steroid trendione and/or trenbolone in certain batches of veterinary prescription animal remedies containing the progestogen altrenogest, used to control the cyclical activity of fillies and mares. Racing NSW advised that, until further notice, trainers in NSW should not administer injectable products containing altrenogest at any time. Further, trainers were advised they should not use oral altrenogest containing products within one clear day of racing and that these registered products must be used in accordance with the relevant manufacture's guidelines.
2. During a stable inspection conducted by Investigators and Stewards on 2 February 2024, the inspection discovered two (2) bottles of orally administered Ovumate. One was empty and one was approximately three quarters full. Also located during the inspection was a treatment book containing three (3) pages of entries. The treatment records indicated Give Me Joy received Ovumate on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> January, with the mare racing at Wyong on 6<sup>th</sup> January. Also located was an unlabelled container containing a number of tablets. Upon analysis, these tablets were found to contain acepromazine.
3. Whilst the stable treatment records indicated that Give Me Joy was administered Ovumate within one clear day and on race day, Mr Martin advised such administration did not take place on raceday and that this was an error in recording treatments retrospectively following a stable audit conducted by Stewards on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024. Mr Martin, however, could not provide an assurance that the administration did not occur within the one clear day of racing and conceded this could have occurred.

## Charges

Stewards gave careful consideration to which of the prohibited substance Rules of Racing should be applied and considered that, given the circumstances of the matter and having regard to the veterinary and scientific evidence, AR240(2) was the Rule of Racing that most appropriately reflected the relevant conduct.

Mr Tim Martin was therefore charged with the following offences.

- 1. Charge 1 - AR240(2)** – Presented Give Me Joy to race at the Wyong racecourse on 6 January 2024 and a post-race urine sample was found to contain the prohibited substance trendione, trenbolone and epitrenbolone.  
**Plea: Guilty**
- 2. Charge 2 - AR252(1)** – During a stable inspection conducted on 2 February 2024, he had on his stable premises an unlabelled container and within that container were a number of Acepromazine tablets that had not been prescribed, dispensed or obtained in accordance with the applicable Commonwealth and State Legislation.  
**Plea: Guilty**
- 3. Charge 3 - AR104** – During a stable inspection conducted on 2 February 2024 it was identified that he had failed to keep proper treatment records of the administration of the medication Ovumate to the horse Give Me Joy, by midnight on the day on which the administration was given, for the relevant period prior to it racing at Wyong on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2024.  
**Plea: Guilty**

## Penalty

Stewards considered the following matters in respect to penalty.

1. Notifications issued by Racing NSW in respect to the use of altrenogest products.
2. The nature of the substance detected, being listed on prohibited substance List A.
3. Failure to keep proper treatment records.
4. Guilty plea.
5. Personal and professional circumstances.
6. Three prior positive swab offences over 35 years of training.
7. General disciplinary record.
8. Principles applied by Stewards when issuing penalties.
9. Precedent penalties.

**Charge 1 AR240(2)** - Stewards determined the starting point for the offence under AR240(2) was a period of 6 months suspension of Mr Martin's trainer licence, with the penalty being reduced to 4½ months having regard to a 25% reduction for his guilty plea. Acting under the provisions of AR283(7) Mr Martin was provided with 7 days to care for horses in his care but is not permitted to start a horse in a race during this period. The period of suspension will expire on 5 September 2024.

**Charge 2 – AR252(1)** - \$1000 fine, reduced to \$750 for guilty plea.

**Charge 3 – AR104** - \$1000 fine, reduced to \$750 for guilty plea.

**Total penalty being a period of 4½ months suspension and \$1500 in fines.**

Stewards, acting under the powers of AR240(1), disqualified Give Me Joy from its first placing and amended the placings as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Ring Me Up
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Imposant
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Willingale
- 4<sup>th</sup> - Vos Savant
- 5<sup>th</sup> - Double Scoop

Stewards also ruled that, in accordance with AR248(4), Give Me Joy will not be permitted to start in any race, official trial or jump-out for a period of not less than 12 months from the date of the collection of the sample. Accordingly, Give Me Joy will be eligible to start in a race, official trial or jump-out until 6 January 2025 following the provision of the necessary Clearing Certificate as directed by Stewards.

### **Relevant Rules**

#### **AR 240 Prohibited substance in sample taken from horse at race meeting.**

- (1) *Subject to subrule (3), if a horse is brought to a racecourse and a prohibited substance on Prohibited List A and/or Prohibited List B is detected in a sample taken from the horse prior to or following its running in any race, the horse must be disqualified from any race in which it started on that day.*
- (2) *Subject to subrule (3), if a horse is brought to a racecourse for the purpose of participating in a race and a prohibited substance on Prohibited List A and/or Prohibited List B is detected in a sample taken from the horse prior to or following its running in any race, the trainer and any other person who was in charge of the horse at any relevant time breaches these Australian Rules.*

#### **AR 252 Possession of medication/substance/preparation in breach of legislation**

- (1) *A person must not have in his or her possession or on his or her premises any medication, substance or preparation which has not been registered, labelled, prescribed, dispensed or obtained in accordance with applicable Commonwealth and State legislation.*

#### **AR 104 Trainers must keep treatment records**


- (1) *A trainer must record any medication or treatment administered to any horse in the trainer's care by midnight on the day on which the administration was given.*

#### **AR 283 Penalties**

*(7) A person or body authorised by these Australian Rules to suspend or disqualify any trainer may defer the commencement of the period of suspension or disqualification for no more than 7 clear days following the day the suspension or disqualification was imposed, and upon terms and conditions considered fit.*

*(8) Notwithstanding that the commencement of a period of disqualification may be deferred under subrule (7), a trainer must not start a horse in any race from the time of the decision to disqualify that trainer until the expiration of the period of disqualification.*

#### **AR 248 Administration of anabolic androgenic steroids and selective androgen receptor modulators**



*(4) If a sample taken at any time from a horse has detected in it an anabolic androgenic steroid and/or a selective androgen receptor modulator, the horse is not permitted to start in any race, official trial or jump-out:*

- (a) for a period of not less than 12 months from the date of collection of the sample;  
and*
- (b) until after an Anabolic Androgenic Steroid Clearing Certificate and/or a Selective Androgen Receptor Modulator Clearing Certificate, as the case may be, is provided in respect of a sample taken from the horse on a date directed by a PRA or the Stewards.*

**S G Railton  
Chairman of Stewards**