



*INQUIRY INTO THE TACTICS ADOPTED BY JOCKEY KATHY O'HARA ON SIPPITY SUP IN RACE – NEW ZEALAND
BLOODSTOCK MAIDEN PLATE 1400M CONDUCTED AT NEWCASTLE RACECOURSE ON 18 FEBRUARY 2021*

17 March 2021

Royal Randwick Racecourse

Stewards Inquiry Room

**Stewards: T P Moxon (Chairman)
W R Birch**

Racing NSW Stewards today continued an inquiry opened on Thursday 18 February 2021 in respect to Kathy O'Hara's riding of Sippity Sup in Race 5 conducted on that day. Evidence today was taken from K O'Hara and Trainer Mr C Waller. A written report from Mitchell Reid, Racing New South Wales Manager – Wagering Integrity, in relation to the wagering activity on the race which did not reveal any integrity concerns was also considered.

K O'Hara pleaded not guilty to the following charge under AR129(2) for failing to take all reasonable and permissible measures on Sippity Sup throughout the race to ensure that Sippity Sup was given full opportunity to win or obtain the best possible place in the field by reason of all or part of the following particulars;

- 1) That after riding your mount aggressively from shortly after the start, you then, contrary to the instructions issued, continued to ride Sippity Sup aggressively until a point near the 1250 metres when it was both reasonable and permissible to refrain from riding Sippity Sup aggressively and take a position trailing Ugly Nicos and Not a Choice in accordance with the riding instructions issued by trainer Chris Waller.
- 2) That shortly after being crossed by Crystal Waters near the 1200 metres you then again rode Sippity Sup aggressively until near the 900 metres when it was both reasonable and permissible to maintain your position to the outside of Ugly Nicos having regard to aggressive manner in which you rode and the effort required of Sippity Sup from the start to the 1200 metres.
- 3) Between approximately the 800m and 600m, after Sippity Sup had established clear margin on the remainder of the field, you then failed to make sufficient effort to restrain Sippity Sup and slow the mare to set a sustainable speed particularly having regard to the aggressive manner you had ridden Sippity Sup from the start to the 900 metres.
- 4) As a result of your failure to ride Sippity Sup in a manner as detailed in particulars 1 to 3 Sippity Sup was not given full opportunity to win or obtain the best possible place in the field.

After considering the evidence and submissions, Stewards found K O'Hara guilty of the charge.

Penalty

Having considered relevant matters in respect to penalty, including this was the first occasion K O'Hara had been found guilty of a similar offence in 18 years of riding and the penalty is to be served during the Autumn Carnival, her license to ride in races was suspended for a period to commence on Friday 26 March 2021 and to expire on Thursday 15 April 2021.

Relevant Rule

AR 129 Running and Handling

(2) A Rider must take all reasonable and permissible measures throughout the race to ensure that the rider's horse is given full opportunity to win or obtain the best possible place in the field.

Tom Moxon

**Stipendiary Steward
Racing New South Wales**