

RACING NSW - STEWARDS REPORT



INQUIRY INTO THE ANALYSTS FINDING OF ACEPROMAZINE AND ITS METABOLITE IN A PRE-RACE BLOOD SAMPLE TAKEN FROM HARRY'S COMET PRIOR TO BARRIER TRIALLING AT WARWICK FARM ON 21 NOVEMBER 2018

RNSW Offices
Druitt Street, Sydney

14 January 2019

Stewards: M F Van Gestel (Chairman)
J J Earl

The Stewards today conducted an inquiry into the analyst's findings of Acepromazine and its metabolite 2-(1-hydroxyethyl) promazine sulphoxide in a pre-race blood sample taken from Harry's Comet prior to barrier trialling at Warwick Farm on 21 November 2018. Harry's Comet was barrier trialling for the purpose of obtaining a permit to start again in a race, after being required to barrier trial to the satisfaction of the Stewards following racing at Randwick on 6 November 2018. Evidence today was taken from trainer of Harry's Comet Mr Mark de Montfort, Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory Science Manager Dr Adam Cawley and Racing NSW Chief Veterinary Officer Dr Toby Koenig.

Charge under AR177A

Mr de Montfort pleaded guilty to a charge under AR177A, in that he did present the gelding to barrier trial at the Warwick Farm barrier trials conducted on 21 November 2018, for the purpose of obtaining a permit to start in a race again, and a pre-race blood sample taken from the gelding was found to contain the prohibited substance acepromazine and its metabolite.

Penalty

Having received submissions in respect to penalty, the Stewards considered the following matters;

1. Mr de Montfort's clean record in respect to prohibited substances;
2. His guilty plea and cooperation with the Stewards;
3. Personal subjective factors including Mr de Montfort's licensing history which includes 10 years as a licensed trainer;
4. Precedent penalties.

In all the circumstances the Stewards issued a fine of \$2000. In issuing a fine the Stewards did not establish any deliberate acepromazine administration by Mr de Montfort to assist in the gelding being passed by the Stewards to race again.

Relevant Rule

AR 177A - When a horse is brought to a racecourse or recognised training track to engage in either –

- (a) an official trial,
- (b) a jump-out, or

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(c) any other test –

for the purpose of obtaining a permit to start in a race (whether after suspension or otherwise) and a prohibited substance is detected in any sample taken from it prior to or following such engagement, the trainer and any other person who was in charge of the horse at any relevant time may be penalised.

**M F Van Gestel
Chairman of Stewards**