

## MR CAMERON ROSS- INQUIRY COMMENCED

JULY 12, 2023

**Harness Racing New South Wales (HRNSW) Stewards commenced an Inquiry today into a report received from the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory (ARFL) that dexamethasone was detected in the post-race urine sample taken MACHS LEGACY following its win in race 5, the MARES SLIPPER PACE (1609 metres) conducted at Newcastle on Friday 10 February 2023.**

The reserve portion and control solution were confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Limited in Victoria.

Trainer Mr Cameron Ross and his legal representative Mr Peter Morris (Jnr) appeared at the Inquiry by way of Zoom audio/visual technology.

Mr Ross provided evidence in relation to his registered training establishment and the horse MACHS LEGACY.

In addition, the certificates of analysis and evidence from HRNSW Assistant Regulatory Veterinarian Dr Annie Knox and HRNSW Regulatory Veterinarian Dr Martin Wainscott was provided to the Inquiry.

Mr Ross pleaded guilty to three (3) charges issued by HRNSW Stewards pursuant to the Australian Harness Racing Rules.

Charge 1 Issued pursuant to AHRR 190 (1), (2) & (4) as follows:

AHRR 190. (1) A horse shall be presented for a race free of prohibited substances.

(2) If a horse is presented for a race otherwise than in accordance with sub rule (1) the trainer of the horse is guilty of an offence.

(3) If a person is left in charge of a horse and the horse is presented for a race otherwise than in accordance with sub rule (1), the trainer of the horse and the person left in charge is each guilty of an offence.

(4) An offence under sub rule (2) or sub rule (3) is committed regardless of the circumstances in which the prohibited substance came to be present in or on the horse.

Charge 2 Issued pursuant to AHRR 196A (1)(ii) & (2) as follows:

AHRR 196A. (1) A person shall not administer or cause to be administered to a horse any prohibited substance

(i) for the purpose of affecting the performance or behaviour of a horse in a race or of preventing its starting in a race; or

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(ii) which is detected in any sample taken from such horse prior to or following the running of any race.

(2) A person who fails to comply with sub-rule (1) is guilty of an offence.

Charge 3 Issued pursuant to AHRR 190B (5) & (6) as follows:

AHRR 190B. (5) A trainer shall retain possession of a log book for a period of two years.

(6) A trainer who fails to comply with the provisions of sub-rule (1), (3), (4) or (5) is guilty of an offence.

Following an application on behalf of Mr Ross, HRNSW Stewards adjourned the Inquiry for penalty submissions to be provided prior to 4pm on Wednesday 2 August 2023.

HRNSW Stewards gave consideration as to whether AHRR 183 should be invoked or otherwise. Following submissions on behalf of Mr Ross, together with all available information, HRNSW Stewards invoked AHRR 183(d) as follows:

AHRR 183. Pending the outcome of an inquiry, investigation or objection, or where a person has been charged with an offence, the Stewards may direct one or more of the following -

- (a) that a horse shall not be nominated for or compete in a race;
- (b) that a driver shall not drive or otherwise take part in a race;
- (c) that the horses of certain connections shall not be nominated for or start in a race;
- (d) that a licence or any other type of authority or permission be suspended.

Consequently, the Trainer and Driver's licence of Mr Ross were suspended, effective immediately.

In addition, acting under the provisions of AHRR 195, the horse MACHS LEGACY was disqualified from the abovementioned race.

Mr Ross was informed of his right to appeal these decisions.

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