

MR LEON JURD - INQUIRY CONDUCTED

OCTOBER 24, 2023

Harness Racing New South Wales (HRNSW) Stewards conducted an Inquiry today in relation to a report from the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory (ARFL) that flunixin was detected in the pre-race blood sample taken from MELPARK MAGIC prior to race 1, the CHARIOTS OF FIRE 18 FEB TROTTERS MOBILE (1609 metres) conducted at Tabcorp Park Menangle on Tuesday 31 January 2023.

The 'B' sample was confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Limited (RASL) in Victoria.

Licensed Trainer Mr Leon Jurd was present and provided evidence to the Inquiry, together with stable employee Mrs Stephanie Morris. In addition, the Certificates of Analysis and evidence from HRNSW Assistant Regulatory Veterinarian Dr Annie Knox were presented to the Inquiry.

Mr Jurd was unable to provide an explanation for the detection of flunixin in the pre-race blood sample taken from MELPARK MAGIC.

Mr Jurd pleaded guilty to a charge issued by the HRNSW Stewards pursuant to Australian Harness Racing Rule (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.

Mr Jurd was disqualified for a period of 3 months to commence immediately.

In considering penalty Stewards were mindful of the following:

- Mr Jurd's 1st prohibited substance matter;
- Class 3 Prohibited Substance;
- Mr Jurd's personal and financial subjectives;
- Mr Jurd's guilty plea;
- Mr Jurd's involvement in the harness racing industry for approximately 40 years as a licensed trainer and driver;
- Mr Jurd's harness racing offence record;
- HRNSW Penalty Guidelines.

Acting under the provisions of AHRR 195, MELPARK MAGIC was disqualified from the abovementioned race.

Mr Jurd was advised of his right to appeal these decisions of the HRNSW Stewards.

For further information on this matter contact:
HRNSW Integrity Department
(02) 9722 6655