

MR COLIN SANDERS- INQUIRY CONDUCTED

JULY 24, 2023

Harness Racing New South Wales (HRNSW) Stewards conducted an Inquiry today into a report received from the Australian Government National Measurement Institute (NMI) that Arsenic above the allowable threshold had been detected in the post-race urine sample taken from the horse ARGENT PEAK following its win in race 1, the GLEN MIA SADDLERY (ACT) PACE (1770 metres) conducted at Canberra on Monday 23 January 2023.

The 'B' sample was confirmed by the ChemCentre in Western Australia.

Mr Sanders appeared at the Inquiry and presented evidence in relation to his registered training establishment and the horse ARGENT PEAK. Evidence was also provided by HRNSW Regulatory Veterinarian, Dr Martin Wainscott, referencing a study conducted by the University of Melbourne to research the levels of arsenic in horses that had ingested a known amount of CCA treated timber sawdust.

In addition, evidence including photographs which showed extensive chewing of wooden fence posts and rails was provided to the Inquiry.

HRNSW Stewards also presented a Report of Analysis from the National Measurement Institute (NMI) confirming that wood samples obtained by HRNSW Investigator Ms Suzanne Campbell from Mr Sander's registered training establishment contained the substance Arsenic.

Mr Sanders pleaded guilty to a charge issued pursuant to Rule 190 (1), (2) & (4) for presenting ARGENT PEAK to race not free of a prohibited substance, being Arsenic above the allowable threshold.

In respect of that charge, Mr Sanders was convicted, however, Stewards did not impose a penalty on Mr Sanders as they were satisfied to the requisite standard that the detection of Arsenic was consistent with the chronic ingestion of treated wood by ARGENT PEAK.

Mr Sanders was cautioned that he must take all reasonable measures in future to manage his training establishment and horses to prevent any further prohibited substance matters arising as a result of the wooden fencing at his registered training establishment.

In considering penalty Stewards were mindful of the following:

- Mr Sander's first Prohibited Substance offence;
- Mr Sander's guilty plea;
- Circumstances involved in this matter;
- Class 3 Prohibited substance;
- The results reported by NMI and ChemCentre;
- The evidence presented by Mr Sanders and Dr Wainscott;
- Mr Sander's licence history and other personal subjective facts.

Acting under the provisions of Rule 195, ARGENT PEAK was disqualified from the abovementioned race.

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