

Additional Stewards Report



RACINGSA

Stewards: - J. Petzer (Chairman), S. Callanan, M Zarb and H. Matthews

Friday, 24 May 2024

WHISTLER GIRL – Ms. S. Croxford

Stewards concluded an inquiry into the result of the analysis of a post-race urine sample taken on Thursday, 11 January 2024 from the racehorse **Whistler Girl**, which was presented to race in and competed in Race 6 – The DiGiorgio Family Wines Rating 0-56 Handicap run over – 1600m at the Penola Race Club. Analysis of the sample disclosed the presence of **Xylazine and its metabolite 4-Hydroxy Xylazine**, substances prohibited under the Rules of Racing.

Evidence was taken from Ms. Sharon Croxford, the Trainer of **Whistler Girl**, Racing SA Industry Regulatory Veterinarian, Dr. Simone McColgan, and Racing Analytical Services Limited Laboratory Scientific Manager, Dr. Adam Cawley. In addition, part-owner Ms. Jaimi Dalglish requested and was afforded the opportunity to attend the hearing. Ms Dalglish made submissions in respect of the matter on her own behalf and also on behalf of, and with the authority of, the other part-owner of the horse, Mr. Anthony Davis.

After considering the evidence, Stewards issued two charges against Ms. S. Croxford;

Charge 1:

Under AR240(2), the particulars being that as the trainer of the racehorse **Whistler Girl** at all relevant times leading up to and including Thursday, 11 January 2024, she was the person responsible for the horse being brought to the Penola Race Club where it competed in Race 6 – The DiGiorgio Family Wines Rating 0-56 Handicap run over – 1600m, after which a urine sample taken from the horse, disclosed upon analysis the substance **Xylazine and its metabolite 4-Hydroxy Xylazine**, which substances are prohibited substances under the rules of racing.

Plea to Charge 1:

Ms. Croxford pleaded guilty to the charge.

Finding Charge 1:

On the evidence Stewards recorded a guilty finding.

Charge 2:

Under LR20.8, the particulars being that Ms. Croxford, as the trainer responsible for **Whistler Girl** at the Penola racemeeting on Thursday, 11 January 2024 failed to notify the Stewards of the person who would be responsible for **Whistler Girl** in her absence.

Plea to Charge 2:

Ms. Croxford pleaded guilty to the charge.

Finding Charge 2:

On the evidence Stewards recorded a guilty finding.

Penalty Charge/Finding 1:

In determining penalty Stewards had regard for a number of factors including the nature of the rule relating to Prohibited Substances, elements of individual and general deterrence. In the circumstances Stewards imposed a fine of \$6,000, however, having regard for mitigating factors, which included Ms. Croxford's guilty plea, her cooperation and forthrightness during the process, her clean record in this regard and her long standing involvement in the industry, Stewards reduced the penalty to a fine of **\$4,000**.

Penalty Charge/Finding 2:

In determining penalty Stewards had regard for a number of factors including the nature of the charge, and Ms. Croxford's guilty plea, her cooperation and forthrightness during the process and her clean record in this regard, and in the circumstances imposed a - **Reprimand**.

Submissions by part-owner Ms. Dagleish:

Ms. Dagleish made submissions on behalf of the ownership interest in the horse in respect of the disqualification provisions in AR240(1).

While those submissions were considered, Stewards noted that the provisions of AR240(1) provide no discretion in respect of the disqualification of a horse where the relevant elements of AR240(1) are proven.

In view of these findings, acting under AR240(1), **Whistler Girl**, which was declared the winner of the race, was disqualified from this event, and the result of the race was amended as follows;

1 st	Fizique
2 nd	Sandual
3 rd	Lord Turnbury
4 th	Lucky Jackson
5 th	Fighting Sweet

Ms. S. Croxford & Ms. J. Dagleish were informed of their rights of appeal.

J Petzer
General Manager Integrity