



INQUIRY INTO THE DETECTION OF LIGNOCAINE IN A POST-RACE BLOOD SAMPLE TAKEN FROM
JOYFUL JINK FOLLOWING IT RACING AT WEAN ON 13 JULY 2024

Stewards Room
Muswellbrook Racecourse

26 September 2024

Stewards: J P W Prior (Chairman)
D R Hadley
K E Blanch

Racing NSW Stewards today conducted an inquiry into the analyst's finding of lignocaine in a post-race blood sample taken from *Joyful Jink* following it racing at the Wean meeting on 13 July 2024.

Evidence was taken from Mr Les Roberts, trainer of *Joyful Jink*, Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory (ARFL) General Manager Mr John Keledjian and Racing NSW Veterinary Officer Dr Rose Bensley.

The evidence was unable to conclusively establish how lignocaine was found to be present in the sample.

Charge 1 – AR240(2)

Mr Roberts was charged with a breach of AR240(2)

The details of the charge being that he presented *Joyful Jink* to race in Race 1 the Gunnedah Business Houses Bracelet Trophy Handicap at Wean Racecourse on 13 July 2024 and a post-race blood sample taken from the mare was found to contain the prohibited substance lignocaine.

Plea: Guilty

Penalty

Stewards considered the following matters in respect to penalty.

1. Guilty plea.
2. Co-operation throughout the investigation and inquiry.
3. Exemplary record in that this was his first breach of this rule in over 40 years as a licenced trainer.
4. Personal and professional circumstances.
5. Principles of specific and general deterrence and what message is sent to the industry in respect to such conduct.
6. Purpose of issuing penalties as a protective measure for the image and interests of the thoroughbred racing industry.

Mr Roberts was fined the sum of \$4000, reduced from \$6,000 for his guilty plea and other relevant considerations.

Charge 2 – AR104

Mr Roberts was also charged with a with a breach of AR104(1)

The details of the charge being that at all relevant times he failed to maintain proper records of medication or treatments administered to horses in his care

Plea: Guilty

Penalty

Mr Roberts was fined the sum of \$500, reduced from \$750 for guilty plea and other relevant considerations.

Joyful Jink

Under the provisions of AR240(1) Stewards disqualified *Joyful Jink* from its 1st placing in Race 1 – Gunnedah Business Houses Bracelet Trophy Handicap at Wean Racecourse on 13 July 2024 and amended the placings to read.

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|--------------------|-----|
| 5. Super Hot | 1st |
| 8. Real Salty | 2nd |
| 3. Sparks | 3rd |
| 4. Annie's Street | 4th |
| 9. The Defiant One | 5th |

Relevant Rules

AR 240 Prohibited substance in sample taken from horse at race meeting

- (1) *Subject to subrule (3), if a horse is brought to a racecourse and a prohibited substance on Prohibited List A and/or Prohibited List B is detected in a sample taken from the horse prior to or following its running in any race, the horse must be disqualified from any race in which it started on that day.*
- (2) *Subject to subrule (3), if a horse is brought to a racecourse for the purpose of participating in a race and a prohibited substance on Prohibited List A and/or Prohibited List B is detected in a sample taken from the horse prior to or following its running in any race, the trainer and any other person who was in charge of the horse at any relevant time breaches these Australian Rules.*

AR 104 Trainers must keep treatment records

- (1) *A trainer must record any medication or treatment administered to any horse in the trainer's care by midnight on the day on which the administration was given.*
- J P W Prior (Chief Steward Hunter & North-West Racing Association - Racing NSW)