

RACING NSW - STEWARDS REPORT

INQUIRY INTO THE ANALYST'S FINDING OF THE PROHIBITED SUBSTANCE DEXAMETHASONE IN A URINE SAMPLE TAKEN FROM SUGAR LANE FOLLOWING THE GELDING BEING PLACED 1ST IN THE BENCHMARK 66 HANDICAP CONDUCTED AT GILGANDRA ON SUNDAY 6TH JANUARY 2019

RACING NSW OFFICES – DUBBO RACECOURSE

WEDNESDAY 27TH MARCH 2019

COMMITTEE OF STEWARDS: T.W. SMITH (CHAIRMAN), S.A. CULLEN, M.W. PURSE, Ms C.K. MCINTOSH & L.MARTIN (Trainee).

Stewards today conducted an inquiry into the Analyst's findings of Dexamethasone in a post race urine sample taken from Sugar Lane after it won the Benchmark 66 Handicap 1300m at the Gilgandra Jockey Club meeting on Sunday 6th January 2019.

Evidence was taken from the trainer of Sugar Lane Mr Collen Thurston, part-owner Mr Bryan Dixon and ARFL science manager Dr Adam Cawley.

Mr Collen Thurston pleaded guilty to a breach of AR240(2) in that as the licensed trainer of Sugar Lane at all times leading up to and including the 6th January 2019, He did present that gelding to race in the Benchmark 66 Handicap 1300m at the Gilgandra Jockey Club meeting held at the Gilgandra Racecourse on Sunday 6th January 2019, where a sample taken from it following its win in that race was found upon analysis to contain the banned substance Dexamethasone.

Mr Thurston's trainers license was suspended for a period of three months to commence immediately and to expire on the 27th June 2019.

In assessing penalty stewards took into consideration trainer Mr C Thurston's guilty plea, his very good record over a period of nearly 50 years in the industry, his personal circumstances, his stable security and record keeping and the seriousness of the offence.

Mr Thurston was advised of his right of appeal.

Stewards acting under the powers of AR240(1) disqualified Sugar Lane from its 1st placing in the aforementioned event and amended the placings to read:

1st – Malverna

2nd – Attalea

3rd – Amaretto

4th – Dunderry

5th – Bergdorf

Mr Thurston and Mr Dixon representing the owners were advised of their appeal rights in relation to the disqualification of the gelding under AR240(1).

Relevant Rules :

Division 2 – Prohibited substance in a sample taken from a horse

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.