



*INQUIRY INTO THE ANALYSTS FINDING OF DEXAMETHASONE IN A URINE SAMPLE TAKEN FROM SUGAR BUZZ SUBSEQUENT TO IT BEING PLACED FIRST IN THE BENCHMARK 66 HANDICAP 1610M CONDUCTED AT BALLINA RACECOURSE ON 5 JANUARY 2020.*

**Grafton Racecourse (via teleconference)**

**Monday 30 March 2020**

**Stewards: M A Holloway (Chairman)  
R W Loughlin**

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The Stewards today conducted an inquiry into two Analysts' findings of Dexamethasone in a post-race urine sample taken from *Sugar Buzz* following that gelding winning Race 6 Benchmark 66 Handicap 1610m at Ballina racecourse on the 5 January 2020.

Evidence was taken from the trainer of *Sugar Buzz*, Mr Brenton Andrew, Racing NSW Senior Official Veterinarian Dr Toby Koenig and ARFL Science Manager Dr Adam Cawley.

Mr Andrew pleaded guilty to a charge under AR240(2) in that as the trainer of the racehorse *Sugar Buzz*, he brought *Sugar Buzz* to Ballina racecourse on Sunday 5 January 2020 for the purpose of participating in Race 6 Benchmark 66 Handicap 1610m and the prohibited substance Dexamethasone was detected in post race urine sample N233655 taken from *Sugar Buzz* following it running, and being placed first, in that race.

When assessing penalty for each charge stewards considered –

1. Mr Andrew's plea.
2. Mr Andrew's disciplinary record
3. Mr Andrew's forthright evidence during proceedings
4. The nature of the prohibited substance identified
5. The seriousness of prohibited substance offences
6. Precedent penalties for similar offences
7. The potential impact the offence has on the reputation and perception of the racing industry.

Further, the general principles that apply when issuing penalty

6. What message is to be given to Mr Andrew's to ensure that in the future this type of conduct is not repeated.
7. What general message is required to be sent to the community at large to indicate to those who might be likeminded to engage in such conduct, what the likely consequences are.
8. The requirement to indicate to the broader community who are not likely to engage in the type of conduct that, should it be detected, the industry is operating at the highest possible standards.

Stewards believe the appropriate penalty be a fine of \$7,000. Appreciating Mr Andrew's guilty plea and mitigating factors, a fine of \$5,000 was issued.

Mr Andrew was advised of his right of appeal against conviction and penalty.

## **RACING NSW – STEWARDS REPORT**

Acting under the requirements of AR240(1), *Sugar Buzz* was disqualified from its 1st placing in Race 6 Benchmark 66 Handicap 1610m conducted at Ballina racecourse on the 5 January 2020 and the placing's were amended as follows:

1st *Jahez*  
2nd *Dream Builder*  
3rd *Foxy Walk*  
4th *The Equalizer*  
5th *Pierino*

### **Relevant Rules**

**AR 240 (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.

**AR240(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.

**M A Holloway**  
**Chief Steward NRRRA**