



MEDIA RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE – MIGHTY REGAL NZ

Stewards have concluded their inquiries into the circumstances a post-race sample taken from MIGHTY REGAL NZ after winning at Globe Derby Park on 7 November 2020 was found to contain O-desmethylvenlafaxine, a prohibited substance.

On 17 February 2021 Stewards issued a charge against Trainer William Drury under HRR 190(1) which states: "A horse shall be presented for a race free of prohibited substances."

Mr Drury was charged "As the trainer of registered horse MIGHTY REGAL NZ on 7 November 2020, he presented that horse to race in Race 1 the 'TAB Long May We Play Pace' at Globe Derby Park when not free of a prohibited substance."

The particulars of the charge being;

1. He was a trainer licensed by HRSA for the period 1 September 2019 and concluding 31 December 2020.
2. At the relevant time he was the trainer of the registered horse MIGHTY REGAL NZ;
3. Following Race 1, the 'TAB Long May We Play Pace', at Globe Derby Park on 7 November 2020 a urine sample was collected from 'MIGHTY REGAL NZ' with subsequent analysis of that sample revealing the presence of O-desmethylvenlafaxine;
4. O-desmethylvenlafaxine is a substance prohibited under the Rules.

On Monday 1 March 2021 Mr Drury pleaded guilty to the charge of presentation.

After considering substantial evidence, including from HRSA Veterinary Surgeon Dr R Haensel, and considering the circumstances of the offence and the Trainers record, Stewards being satisfied the presence of O-desmethylvenlafaxine had occurred through contamination, imposed a fine of \$1000, fully suspended for a period of twelve months on the proviso Mr Drury did not breach the rules relating to prohibited substances during that period.

In determining the penalty Stewards acknowledged the following matters;

- O-desmethylvenlafaxine is a metabolite of a human medication, Venlafaxine.
 - o Venlafaxine is prescribed for Major Depressive Disorder, Generalised Anxiety Disorder and related conditions in people.
- Venlafaxine and its active metabolite o-desmethylvenlafaxine are not available in veterinary medications registered for equine use.

- Venlafaxine and o-desmethylvenlafaxine, when excreted in urine, (in relatively high concentrations related to the dose) into the environment, are relatively stable in the environment.
- The prescription of venlafaxine for human medication is widespread and common, so along with its longevity as a stable chemical in the environment, it is considered sufficiently common to be an almost ubiquitous contaminant of wastewater and waterways associated with humans.
- Samples collected from the property at which MIGHTY REGAL NZ was stabled and an Adelaide stable property at which the horse had rested prior to racing had contained both Venlafaxine and O-desmethylvenlafaxine.
- No warnings regarding the contamination through the excretion of human preparations had been distributed in the State.
- Mr Drury's guilty plea and general cooperation with the inquiry.
- Mr Drury's 50 plus year involvement in the harness racing industry, during which he had not previously had a similar offence.

Mr Drury was informed of his right to appeal this decision.

Acting under the provisions of Rule 195, the Stewards ordered MIGHTY REGAL NZ be disqualified from Race 1 the 'TAB Long May We Play Pace' at Globe Derby Park on 7 November 2020.

The amended result is:

First -	5 CELESTIAL DAYBREAK	C Johnson
Second -	7 SON OF RAYSON	D Hill
Third -	1 ACES DAUGHTER	T McMahon
Fourth -	2 ILLAWONG JERRY	M Billinger

Graham Loch
Acting Chief Steward HRSA
 5 March 2021