

THOROUGHBRED RACING SA LIMITED

STEWARDS' REPORT – Michael Bell / Jungle Edge

Stewards Panel: - J. Petzer (Chairman), M. Santoro, S. Callanan & J. Ho

TRSA OFFICES – THURSDAY, 13 AUGUST 2020

MORPHETTVILLE – SATURDAY, 2 MAY 2020

Stewards concluded an inquiry into the analysis of a pre-race and post-race blood sample taken on Saturday, 2 May 2020, from the racehorse Jungle Edge, which was presented to, and raced in Race 9, the D C McKay Stakes run over 1100 metres at the Morphettville Racecourse. Analysis of both the pre-race and post-race samples disclosed the presence of Meloxicam, a substance prohibited under the Rules of Racing.

Evidence was taken from Mr. Michael Bell, the Trainer of Jungle Edge, via video link, Thoroughbred Racing SA Veterinary Surgeon, Dr. Peter Horridge, Racing Analytical Services Limited Laboratory Scientific Manager, Mr. Paul Zahra, and South Australian Trainer, Ms. Leah Conlon.

After considering the evidence, the inquiry was unable to conclusively determine the cause for the detection of the Meloxicam, however noted the following salient facts: -

- Jungle Edge, on Mr. Bell's evidence, may have been treated with oral Meloxicam by him on Monday 27 April 2020.
- Jungle Edge departed Mr. Bell's stable on Thursday 30 April 2020, and arrived at the stables of South Australian trainer, Ms. Leah Conlon, on Friday morning, 1 May 2020.
- Ms. Leah Conlon agreed to present the horse to race at Morphettville on Saturday 2 May 2020, in Race 9, on behalf of Mr. Bell.
- There is no evidence to suggest that Ms. Leah Conlon, or any person connected to her stable, had treated Jungle Edge with any product containing Meloxicam after the horse's arrival at her stable and before its race engagement at Morphettville on 2 May 2020.
- Ms. Leah Conlon treated Jungle Edge, on instruction by Mr. Bell, with Meloxicam after the horse had competed in the said race, and only on return to her stable on 2 May 2020.
- Ms. Leah Conlon's medical treatment records in respect of Jungle Edge, detailing the treatments administered to Jungle Edge, while in her care, were accurate and up to date.
- In respect of the possible treatment of Jungle Edge, by Mr. Bell, on 27 April 2020, Stewards noted that it cannot be conclusively determined that this treatment, if it occurred, was the cause for the detection of the Meloxicam in both samples taken from Jungle Edge on 2 May 2020.

Notwithstanding these facts, having regard for the rules of racing, and their application, Stewards charged Mr. Michael Bell in the following terms;

Charge: under AR240(2).

The particulars of the charge being that – *Mr. Michael Bell, as a licensed trainer and the trainer of the racehorse Jungle Edge at all relevant times leading up to and including Saturday, 2 May 2020, did arrange for the said racehorse to be brought to the Morphettville racecourse where it competed in and won Race 9, the D C McKay Stakes run over 1100 metres, after which, two blood samples taken from the horse, one pre-race and the other post-race, disclosed upon analyses the substance Meloxicam, which substance is a prohibited substance under the rules of racing.*

Plea: Mr. Bell reserved his plea in respect of the charge.

Finding: Mr. Bell was found guilty of the charge.

Penalty:

In determining penalty Stewards had regard for Mr. Bell's acknowledgement of responsibility, his personal circumstances, factors relating to individual and general deterrence, the serious nature of breaches relating to prohibited substances and the fact that TRSA Stewards had provided notice on a number of occasions in recent years that offences in relation to prohibited substance matters may attract more severe penalties.

Stewards also noted that this was Mr. Bell's first offence under this rule. In the circumstances Mr. Bell was fined \$10,000 after applying a reduction for mitigating factors.

Further, Acting under AR240(1), Jungle Edge, which finished in first (1st) place, was disqualified from Race 9, the D C McKay Stakes, run over 1100 metres, at Morphettville on Saturday, 2 May 2020. The new result of the race is:

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|--------|--------|-----------------------------|
| First | No. 5 | BEHEMOTH (T. Pannell) |
| Second | No. 10 | KABINI (J. Toeroek) |
| Third | No. 6 | BOLD STAR (Z. Spain) |
| Fourth | No. 3 | VIRIDINE (J. Holder) |
| Fifth | No. 13 | KENYAN WONDER (D. Tourneur) |

Mr. Bell was informed of his right of appeal.

J. PETZER

CHAIRMAN OF STEWARDS

13 August 2020