

Additional Stewards Report



RACINGSSA

Stewards: - J. Petzer (Chairman), P. Ryan, E Scott and H Matthews

Tuesday, 19 December 2023

PERFECT COSTA – Mr. John Rowe

Stewards concluded an inquiry into the analysis of a post-race urine sample taken on Wednesday, 30 August 2023 from the racehorse Perfect Costa, which was presented to race in Race 2 the Thomas Foods International Maiden Plate run over – 904m at the Mount Gambier Racecourse. Analysis of the sample disclosed the presence of Arsenic, at a concentration of 0.38 mg/L, which is in excess of the threshold set for Arsenic under the rules of racing, being 0.30 mg/L (0.3 milligrams per Litre).

Evidence was taken from Mr. John Rowe, the trainer of **Perfect Costa**, Racing SA Chief Veterinary Surgeon, Dr. T. Koenig, and Racing Analytical Services Limited Laboratory Scientific Manager, Dr. A. Cawley. Stewards also considered a report received from the Racing Victoria Compliance Team who conducted a stable inspection at Mr. Rowe’s training location, on behalf of Racing SA. In addition, the findings of a study conducted in Australia relating to “Urinary excretion of Arsenic from wood ingestion in horses” was considered. Stewards noted, having regard for this study, that in certain circumstances, where there is evidence of a horse being exposed to ingestion of Chromated Copper Arsenate (CCA) treated wood fencing, it is possible for such horse to disclose elevated levels of Arsenic.

After considering the evidence, Stewards charged Mr. John Rowe under AR240(2) (a strict liability rule), the particulars being that as a licensed trainer and the trainer of the racehorse Perfect Costa at all relevant times leading up to and including Wednesday, 30 August 2023, he did bring the said racehorse to Mount Gambier Racecourse where it competed in Race 2 the Thomas Foods International Maiden Plate run over 904m, following which a urine sample taken from the horse disclosed upon analysis the substance Arsenic at a level of 0.38 mg/L in urine which is above the threshold declared under Part 2 - Division 3 – Prohibited List B Thresholds of 0.30 mg/L in urine (a prohibited substance under the rules of racing). Mr. Rowe pleaded guilty to the charge.

In determining penalty, Stewards had regard for the circumstances in this case, including the likely exposure of Perfect Costa to, and ingestion by the mare of CCA treated wood fencing. Consequently, Stewards imposed no penalty. The effect of this determination means that Stewards recorded a conviction without penalty.

Acting under AR240(1), Stewards determined that Perfect Costa be disqualified from Race 2 the Thomas Foods International Maiden Plate run over 904m on 30 August 2023 at the Mount Gambier Racecourse. Consequently, the new result of the race is:

1 st	Palace Keys
2 nd	Nextone
3 rd	In Her Sights
4 th	She’s Tuff Enuff
5 th	Belongtojill

Mr. Rowe was informed of his right of appeal.

J Petzer
General Manager Integrity