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CHRB NEWS RELEASE

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WEEKLY UPDATE

SACRAMENTO, CA – This is the California Horse Racing Board’s weekly update of complaints, accusations, stewards rulings, and Board decisions involving Class 1, 2, and 3 medication violations and other significant matters.

The California Horse Racing Board, acting on an appeal, approved a stipulated agreement with Dr Kim Kuhlmann staying 15 days of a 30-day suspension that had been issued last December by the stewards at Golden Gate Fields against Dr. Kim Kuhlmann for negligence. This was in regards to the identification of the Class 2 prohibited substance 3-hydroxy lidocaine in the post-race urine sample of El Sierra Tahoe. 3-hydroxy lidocaine is the major urinary metabolite of lidocaine, a local anesthetic. Dr. Kuhlmann had reported treating El Sierra Tahoe with the approved bleeder medication furosemide, but no furosemide was present in the post-race sample. Dr. Kuhlmann had previously sutured a wound on another patient using lidocaine as the local anesthetic and accepted responsibility for the medication error. The stewards found the veterinarian in violation of CHRB Rules 1843 (a) (b) (d), 1843.5 (c), 1845 (e), and 1887.

The Board considered the appeal during executive session on October 15. Under the terms of the stipulated agreement, Dr. Kuhlmann began serving 15 days of the suspension on October 16. In recognition of Dr. Kuhlmann’s cooperation in this case, the remaining 15 days are stayed provided Dr. Kuhlmann has no additional Class 1, 2, or 3 violations during his one year probation. Jeff Bonde was the trainer of El Sierra Tahoe, which finished first in the ninth race at Bay Meadows on September 1, 2007. At the request of the CHRB, the complaint against Bonde in relation to the 1843 violations for 3-hydroxy lidocaine in the post-race urine sample of El Sierra Tahoe was dismissed in an earlier action. The stewards previously disqualified El Sierra Tahoe and ordered a redistribution of the purse.

The stewards at Golden Gate issued a 60-day suspension to trainer Sean McLaughlin for violation of CHRB Rules 1843 (a) (b) (d) and 1887 after the Ken Maddy Laboratory at UC Davis determined the urine sample collected from a horse in his care, Dab of Lightning, contained 3-hydroxy lidocaine. Industrial Laboratory confirmed the presence of 3-hydroxy lidocaine in the split sample. McLaughlin was on probation for two earlier Class 3 violations at this time of this violation. Dab of Lightning finished first in the ninth race at the Solano County Fair on July 20, 2008. A hearing for the disqualification of Dab of Lightning and redistribution of the purse is pending. McLaughlin began serving the suspension October 24.

The stewards at Golden Gate Fields ordered the disqualification of Gold Ruckus and the redistribution of the purse after the Maddy Laboratory determined the urine sample collected from Gold Ruckus contained 3-hydroxy xylazine. Pennsylvania Equine Toxicology Laboratory confirmed the presence of 3-hydroxy xylazine in the split sample. 3-hydroxy xylazine is the major urinary metabolite of xylazine, and FDA-approved tranquilizer for horses. This is a Class 2 violation. Gold Ruckus finished second in the first race at Golden Gate Fields on June 2, 2007. A hearing is pending for Jerry Hollendorfer, the trainer of Gold Ruckus.

The stewards at Golden Gate Fields ordered the disqualification of Dixie Crisp and the redistribution of the purse after the Maddy Laboratory determined the urine sample collected from Dixie Crisp contained scopolamine, a Class 3 violation. Scopolamine is an anticholinergic drug that is also the toxic agent in the poisonous plant Jimsonweed, a poisonous plant of the Datura species found in California and much of the U.S. Dixie Crisp finished first in the eighth race at Bay Meadows on February 19, 2007. A hearing is pending for Jerry Hollendorfer, the trainer of Dixie Crisp.

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