

COMMUNIQUE

1 October 2019

The Mauritius Turf Club (MTC) Racing Stewards today concluded an inquiry into a report received from the MTC Approved Laboratory Quantilab that the prohibited substance “Zolpidem” was detected in a urine sample taken from Jockey R. Simons on Saturday 21 September 2019.

Jockey Simons pleaded guilty to a charge pursuant to MTC Rule of Racing 53 A (1) (b) for delivering a sample when directed by the Racing Stewards on Saturday 21 September 2019 and which was found, upon analysis, to contain the prohibited substance “Zolpidem”.

It was established and evidence produced, that Jockey Simons had been prescribed “Zolpidem” by his Doctor in South Africa for sleeping assistance. Mr. Simons also said that the drug was purchased by him in South Africa. He admitted taking the medication on the Friday night preceding the race meeting and added that he has been taking that medication regularly for the last 3 years usually on the eve of a race meeting in view to have a good night sleep and be properly rested on the race day. He also said that he had been sampled previously in South Africa and in Mauritius with the results coming back clear.

In relation to the penalty, the Racing Stewards considered the following:

- Jockey Simons’s guilty plea.
- The circumstances of this matter.
- Jockey Simons’s clean record in relation to breaches of this rule.

Jockey R. Simons was fined the sum of Rs.30,000.

Further, acting under Rule 53 A (3) (a), Jockey Simons has provided a urine sample which was found to be clear of prohibited substances, as such, was allowed to resume riding at trackwork on the 01 October 2019.

Stéphane de Chalain
Chairman of Racing Stewards