DECISION
RACING VICTORIA STEWARDS
and
MONICA CROSTON

Date of Hearing 17 July 2019

Panel Judge John Bowman (Chair)
       Mr Darren McGee (Member)
       Dr June Smith (Member)

Appearances Justin Hooper of Counsel, instructed by Simonette Foletti, appeared on behalf of the Stewards.

       Adrian Anderson of Counsel instructed by Joe Naccarata, appeared on behalf of Monica Croston.

Charge 1 AR 175(h)(i) - Administration of a prohibited substance for the purpose of affecting the performance or behaviour of a horse in a race.
       Withdrawn

Charge 2 AR 175(h)(ii) – [Alternative to Charge 1]

       The Principal Racing Authority (or the Stewards exercising powers delegated to them) may penalise:

       (h) Any person who administers, or causes to be administered, to a horse any prohibited substance:

       (ii) which is detected in any sample taken from such horse prior to or following the running of any race.

Summary The Stewards allege that prior to the race on 29 June 2016, Ms Croston administered, or caused to be administered, to Hezza Tidal Wave a prohibited substance being cobalt at a concentration in excess of 200 micrograms per litre in urine which was detected in a urine sample taken from Hezza Tidal Wave prior to the running of the race.

Charge 3 AR 178 [Alternative to Charges 1 and 2] - Presentation of a horse to race with a prohibited substance.
       Falls Away
**Plea**

Charge 1  Withdrawn  
Charge 2  Guilty  
Charge 3  Falls away

**Penalty**

Ms Croston is suspended for a period of four months.

In accordance with AR 177, *Hezza Tidal Wave* is disqualified from Race 5 at Sandown racecourse on 29 June 2016 and the places amended accordingly.

____________________________

Grace Gugliandolo  
Registrar  
Racing Appeals and Disciplinary Board