

AINTREE STEWARDS' REPORT

Saturday 15 April 2023

Stewards: Shaun Parker (Chief Steward), Jeremy Barlow (Stewards' Panel Chair), Caroline Tellwright (Stewards' Panel Chair), Adrian Sharpe (Steward), Gregory Pearson (Steward), Polly Greco (Assistant Steward), Beth Dowswell (Raceday Assistant), Nathan Green (Raceday Assistant).

Going: **MILDMAY Course**
Chase Race: Good to Soft (GSt 5.8)
Hurdle Race: Good to Soft (GSt 6.0)

NATIONAL Course

Chase Race: Good to Soft (Soft in places) (GSt 5.2)

Fixture Note: An enquiry was held adjourned from 14 April 2023, following a report from the Starter in Race 5 that the following riders had not approached the tape at a walk or jig-jog: Keith Donoghue the rider of FINAL ORDERS, Shane Fitzgerald the rider of EPSON DU HOUX (FR), Adam Wedge the rider of NUMITOR, Simon Torrens the rider of HEREDITARY RULE (IRE) and Ricky Doyle the rider of HARDLINE (IRE). The riders and the Starters were interviewed and recordings of the incident were shown. After being found in breach of misconduct at the start, Donoghue, Fitzgerald, Wedge and Doyle were suspended for 1 day; Torrens was suspended for 2 days this being his second offence within the previous 12 months.

Non-Runners

Race	Horse and Trainer	Reason
1:45pm	NOTLONGTILLMAY, trained by L J Morgan.	Vets Cert (Abscess)
1:45pm	BANBRIDGE (IRE), trained by Joseph Patrick O'Brien.	Self Cert (Other) (Ran at Aintree on 13/04/2023)
3:00pm	MOFASA, trained by Michael Scudamore.	Self Cert (Not Eaten Up)
5:15pm	ESCARIA TEN (FR), trained by Gordon Elliott.	Vets Cert (Lame)

Jockey Changes

Race	Horse	Declared Jockey	Replacement Jockey	Reason
6:20pm	WESTERNINTHEPARK (IRE)	Jonathan Burke	Daryl Jacob	Burke signed off by the Racecourse Medical Officer.

Race 1 - 1:45pm

THE EFT SYSTEMS MAGHULL NOVICES' STEEPLE CHASE (CLASS 1) (Grade 1) (GBB RACE)

JONBON (FR) wore earplugs which were removed at the start. Permission was given for MARVEL DE CERISY (FR) to wear a red hood to post.

Race 2 - 2:25pm.

THE VILLAGE HOTELS HANDICAP HURDLE RACE (CLASS 1) (PREMIER HANDICAP) (GBB RACE)

Permission was given for VINA ARDANZA (IRE) to wear a red hood to post.

REGARDING RUTH (IRE) made contact with the rail twice in the chute. Having been examined at the start by the Veterinary Surgeon, the gelding was deemed fit to race.

An enquiry was held to consider interference approaching the second last hurdle involving GOOD TIME JONNY (IRE), placed fourth, ridden by Liam McKenna, GATSBY GREY (FR), placed fifth, ridden by Phillip Enright, AN TAILLIUR (FR), placed eighth, ridden by Jonjo O'Neill Jr. and POUNDING POET (IRE), placed second, ridden by Robert Dunne. O'Neill was suspended for 4 days for careless riding as he had manoeuvred his mount right-handed around the heels of the winner, WEST BALBOA (IRE), when insufficiently clear, badly hampering GOOD TIME JONNY (IRE), which in turned caused GATSBY GREY to be tightened up for racing room and make contact with POUNDING POET (IRE), resulting in that geldings quarters being turned.

An enquiry was held to consider interference between the second last and last hurdle involving POUNDING POET (IRE), placed second, ridden by Robert Dunne and MEXICO (GER), unplaced, ridden by Ciaran Gethings. Dunne was cautioned for careless riding as he switched his mount right-handed when insufficiently clear, taking MEXICO (GER) off its intended line.

The performance of HENRY'S FRIEND (IRE) which finished unplaced, was considered. Ben Pauling's explanation that the gelding became upset in the preliminaries and was unsuited by the large field on this occasion was noted. The Veterinary Officer reported a post-race examination of HENRY'S FRIEND (IRE) during routine testing failed to reveal any abnormalities.

The performance of MOON HUNTER which finished unplaced, was considered. Henry Daly could offer no explanation for the gelding's performance.

Following the race, Nick Kent reported that ERNE RIVER (IRE), unplaced, didn't stay the trip of 3 miles on this occasion. The Veterinary Officer reported that AN TAILLIUR (FR), placed eighth, lost its left hind shoe and that REGARDING RUTH (IRE), unplaced, lost its right fore shoe.

Race 3 - 3:00pm.

THE TURNERS MERSEY NOVICES' HURDLE RACE (CLASS 1) (Grade 1) (GBB RACE)

Permission was given for BLOW YOUR WAD (IRE) to wear a red hood to post.

Following the race, Connor Brace reported that CRAMBO, placed seventh, was hampered by the faller at

the third last hurdle. Adam Wedge reported that HALLWOOD (FR), made a bad mistake at the fourth hurdle resulting in him pulling the gelding up, Mark Rimell further added that HALLWOOD (FR) had a respiratory issue and the Veterinary Officer reported a post-race examination found the gelding to have a haematoma on its right-fore.

Race 4 - 3:35pm.

THE JRL GROUP LIVERPOOL HURDLE RACE (CLASS 1) (Grade 1) (GBB RACE)

Permission was given for MARIE'S ROCK (IRE) to wear a red hood to post.

MARIE'S ROCK (IRE) collided with the rails in the chute on the way out onto the course. Having been checked by the Veterinary Surgeon at the start, the mare was deemed fit to race.

An enquiry was held to consider interference between the third last and second last hurdle involving FLOORING PORTER (IRE), placed third, ridden by Daniel Mullins, DASHEL DRASHER, placed sixth, ridden by Rex Dingle, MONMIRAL (FR), placed seventh, ridden by Harry Cobden and MARIE'S ROCK (IRE), placed second, ridden by Nico de Boinville. Mullins was suspended for 3 days for careless riding as he had over corrected his mount from hanging left-handed and steered notably right-handed into the path of MARIE'S ROCK (IRE) carrying that runner off its intended line and causing it to give DASHEL DRASHER a significant bump, which in turn resulted in MONMIRAL (FR) being slightly hampered.

The performance of HOME BY THE LEE (IRE) which started second favourite and was pulled up, was considered. The representative of Joseph O'Briens' explanation that the gelding ran flat and may be feeling the effects of a long and busy season was noted. The Veterinary Officer reported a post-race examination of HOME BY THE LEE (IRE) during routine testing failed to reveal any abnormalities.

Following the race, the Veterinary Officer reported that MARIE'S ROCK (IRE), placed second, lost its left-hind shoe.

Race 5 - 4:15pm.

THE WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP STEEPLE CHASE (CLASS 1) (REGISTERED AS THE FREEBOOTER HANDICAP STEEPLE CHASE) (PREMIER HANDICAP) (GBB RACE)

BOWTOGREATNESS (IRE) wore ear plugs throughout the race.

It was noted that DALY TIGER (FR), which was pulled up, was badly hampered by a faller at the fifth last fence.

An enquiry was held to consider interference on the run to the last fence involving BOWTOGREATNESS, placed second, ridden by Ben Jones, the winner, MIDNIGHT RIVER, ridden by Harry Skelton, and ELDORADO ALLEN (FR), placed fifth, ridden by Brendan Powell. Jones was suspended for 2 days for careless riding as he had allowed his mount to drift left-handed without sufficient correction carrying MIDNIGHT RIVER several horse widths off its intended line, which in turn briefly inconvenienced ELDORADO ALLEN (FR).

Approaching the final fence, the winner, MIDNIGHT RIVER, lugged sharply right despite the rider's best

efforts, hampering SHAKEM UP'ARRY (IRE), placed fourth, which in turn inconvenienced KINONDO KWETU, placed third, but after viewing a recording of the incident, it was found that no riding offence was involved and that it had not improved the placing of MIDNIGHT RIVER.

Following the race, Robert Murphy reported that DARRENS HOPE (IRE), which was pulled up, never travelled and jumped poorly.

Race 6 - 5:15pm.

THE RANDOX GRAND NATIONAL HANDICAP STEEPLE CHASE (CLASS 1) (PREMIER HANDICAP) (GBB RACE)

MISTER COFFEY (FR) and NOBLE YEATS (IRE) wore earplugs which were removed at the start. Permission was given for A WAVE OF THE SEA (IRE), LIFETIME AMBITION (IRE), GABBYS CROSS (IRE) and GALVIN (IRE) to wear a red hood to post and for LONGHOUSE POET (IRE) to wear a hood in the Parade Ring only.

Permission was given for the horses not to parade for this race due to the delays on course concerning protestors.

Approaching the elbow, THE BIG DOG (IRE), placed fifth, lugged right-handed crowding BORN BY THE SEA (IRE), placed sixth, onto ROI MAGE (FR), placed seventh, causing it to become briefly unbalanced but after viewing a recording of the incident, it was found that no riding offence was involved and that it had not improved the placing of THE BIG DOG (IRE).

An enquiry was held following a report from the Veterinary Department to gather information from Jody McGarvey, the rider of CAPE GENTLEMAN (IRE), into the events prior to and after he pulled his mount up in the home straight on the first circuit. Having heard evidence from McGarvey and two Veterinary Surgeons, the Stewards were satisfied that McGarvey had acted appropriately in the circumstances and in the best interest of his mount.

The performance of AIN'T THAT A SHAME (IRE), which finished unplaced, was considered. It was noted that the representative of Henry de Bromhead could offer no explanation for the gelding's performance other than AIN'T THAT A SHAME (IRE) may have failed to stay the trip of 4 miles and 2 furlongs on this occasion.

Following the race, Mark Walsh reported that ANY SECOND NOW (IRE), which was pulled up, was badly hampered at the second fence.

Race 7 - 6:20pm.

THE WEATHERBYS nhstallions.co.uk STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (CLASS 1)(Grade 2) (GBB RACE)

GO TO WAR (IRE) wore earplugs which were removed at the start. Permission was given for BEAT THE BAT (IRE), FLORIDA DREAMS (IRE), WESTERNINTHEPARK (IRE), POUR LES FILLES and ASLUKGOES to all wear a red hood to post.

The Veterinary Officer reported that ESPIRIT DU POTIER (FR) was grey and not bay as published in the

race card.

CAPTAIN CODY (IRE) collided with the rails in the chute on the way out onto the course. Having been checked by the Veterinary Surgeon at the start, the gelding was deemed fit to race.

Approximately 1 furlong after the start, a free running CENTARA (IRE), which was later pulled up, shifted right-handed crowding BEAT THE BAT (IRE), unplaced, onto POUR LES FILLES, placed fifth, which was significantly hampered and in turn caused BERTIE'S BALLET, unplaced, to be tightened for racing room, but after viewing a recording of the incident, it was found that no riding offence was involved.

Rounding the home turn, a weakening CENTARA (IRE), which was later pulled up, hung right and had to be steadied off the heels of WESTERNIN THE PARK (IRE), unplaced, which had edged slightly left-handed but after viewing a recording of the incident, it was found that no riding offence was involved.

Approximately 1 furlong out, BLIZZARD OF OZ (IRE), placed second, lugged quickly left-handed despite the rider's best efforts, briefly hampering ESPIRIT DU POTIER (FR) placed sixth, but after viewing a recording of the incident, it was found that no riding offence was involved and that it had not improved the placing of BLIZZARD OF OZ (IRE).

Following the race, Bryony Frost reported that TARAS HALLS (IRE), unplaced, stopped quickly and the Veterinary Officer reported that a post-race examination of the gelding failed to reveal any abnormalities. Harry Cobden reported that CENTARA (IRE), which was pulled up, ran too free and the Veterinary Officer reported that a post-race examination of the gelding failed to reveal any abnormalities.

Suspensions

Person	Race	Horse	Days	Suspended Days
Jonjo O'Neill Jr.	Race - 2:25pm	AN TAILLIUR (FR)	4	9 May 2023 24 Apr 2023 6 May 2023 1 May 2023
Danny Mullins	Race - 3:35pm	FLOORING PORTER (IRE)	3	8 May 2023 23 Apr 2023 1 May 2023
Ben Jones	Race - 4:15pm	BOWTOGREATNESS (IRE)	2	26 Apr 2023 1 May 2023