

**FAKENHAM STEWARDS' REPORT****Sunday 19 January 2025**

Stewards: Anthony McGlone (Chief Steward), Mike Goodfellow (Stewards' Panel Chair), Louise Moore (Steward), Ben Ford (Assistant Steward), Simon Kirk (Raceday Assistant), Charlie Proctor (Trainee Stewards' Panel Chair).

Going: GOOD, GOOD TO SOFT (IN PLACES)

Rail: Fresh ground whole way around on both chase and hurdle courses.

**Non-Runners**

Race	Horse and Trainer	Reason
1:40pm	JACK DOYEN (IRE), trained by Ben Case.	Self Cert (Pricked Foot)
1:40pm	BOMBAY SUNSET (IRE), trained by Clare Hobson.	Self Cert (Runny Nose)

**Race 1 - 12:30pm.****THE SKY BET, FOR THE FANS HANDICAP HURDLE RACE (CLASS 5)**

Following the race, James Best reported that KADEX (FR), which was pulled up, hung left-handed throughout.

**Race 2 - 1:05pm.****THE SKY BET ACCA FREEZE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' NOVICES' HANDICAP HURDLE RACE (CLASS 5)**

The winner, MAVIS PIKE, appeared to show improved form compared with its previous run at Windsor on 15 December 2024, where the mare finished last of six runners, beaten 28½ lengths. Nigel Twiston-Davies' representative could offer no explanation for the improvement in form. MAVIS PIKE was routine tested.

Following the race, the Veterinary Officer reported that EKLIL, which was pulled up, had bled from the nose.

**Race 3 - 1:40pm.****THE SKY BET EXTRA PLACES EVERY DAY HANDICAP STEEPLE CHASE (CLASS 5)**

Permission was given for ANNIE NAIL (IRE) to wear a red hood to post.

**Race 4 - 2:15pm.****THE SKY BET BUILD A BET MAIDEN HURDLE RACE (CLASS 4) (GBB RACE)**

Permission was given for ESCAPOLOGIST (FR) to wear a red hood to post.

An enquiry was held to consider interference on the bend leaving the back straight on the second circuit, involving SUZY WOOD, which fell later in the race, ridden by Caoilin Quinn and WALK THE PLANK (IRE), unplaced, ridden by Ben Poste. The Stewards found the interference to be accidental as WALK THE PLANK (IRE) became unbalanced on the bend and shifted marginally right-handed, causing it to clip the heel of SUZY WOOD.

**Race 5 - 2:45pm.**

**THE SKY BET CHELTENHAM NON-RUNNER NO BET MARES' HANDICAP HURDLE RACE (CLASS 3)**  
**(Challenger Mares' Hurdle Series Qualifier)**

After an initial false start, the start was effected successfully on the second attempt. However, having reviewed recordings of the false start, the Starters were satisfied that no riders should be reported for contravening the starting procedures.

The winner, MERMAIDS CAVE (IRE) appeared to show improved form compared with its previous run at Sandown on 7 December 2024, where the mare pulled up on ground officially described as Heavy. James Owen's explanation for the improvement in form, was that MERMAIDS CAVE (IRE) had benefitted from a return to a sounder racing surface here today at Fakenham, on Going officially described as Good, Good to Soft in places. MERMAIDS CAVE (IRE) was routine tested.

The performance of STAR WALKING (IRE) which started favourite and finished eighth of nine finishers beaten 35 lengths, was considered. It was noted that Harry Fry's representative could offer no explanation for the mare's poor performance. The Veterinary Officer examined STAR WALKING (IRE), post-race and had nothing to report.

Following the race, Richie McLernon reported that SUNDAY SOLDIER (IRE), unplaced, made a bad mistake at the third last flight of hurdles and never travelled thereafter.

**Race 6 - 3:20pm.**

**THE SKY BET QUEEN BOUDICCA SERIES FINAL MARES' HANDICAP STEEPLE CHASE (CLASS 2) (GBB RACE)**

Permission was given for MICRONORMOUS (IRE) to wear a red hood to post and for MELUSINE DE PAIL (FR) to wear a hood in the parade ring.

After an initial false start, the start was effected successfully on the second attempt. However, having reviewed recordings of the false start, the Starters were satisfied that no riders should be reported for contravening the starting procedures.

Gearoid Harney, the rider of MICRONORMOUS (IRE), had fallen on the bend entering the back straight on the second circuit. After viewing a recording of the incident, it was found that there was possible interference resulting in MICRONORMOUS (IRE) falling. Harney was unable to be interviewed following the incident and therefore the enquiry was adjourned till a later date.



An enquiry was held, adjourned from Fakenham on Sunday 19 January 2025, to consider interference on the bend entering the back straight on the second circuit, involving MOVIDDY (IRE), placed second, ridden by Brian Hughes, MELUSINE DE PAIL (FR), unplaced, ridden by Jack Hogan, REGAL RENAISSANCE, placed sixth, ridden by David Bass and MICRONORMOUS (IRE), unplaced, ridden by GEAROID HARNEY. The interference was found to be accidental as Hogan stumbled independently causing Harney to clip his heel and fall.