

**WINCANTON STEWARDS' REPORT****Monday 08 April 2024**

Stewards: Guy Upton (Chief Steward), Charlie Lane (Stewards' Panel Chair), Thomas Evetts (Steward), Beth Dowswell (Assistant Steward), Kelly O'Boyle (Raceday Assistant).

Going: **Chase Course**  
(GSt 4.9)  
**Hurdle Course**  
(GSt 4.3)

Rail: Fences & Hurdles remain on Innermost positions.

**Non-Runners**

Race	Horse and Trainer	Reason
4:08pm	DARTMOOR PIRATE, trained by Anthony Honeyball.	Going (Changed since declaration)
4:38pm	LIBOR LAD, trained by David Dennis.	Self Cert (Not Eaten Up)

**Race 1 - 2:38pm.****THE GOLF MEMBERSHIP ON SALE NOW MAIDEN HURDLE RACE (CLASS 4) (GBB RACE)**

Permission was given for GOLDEN MILLIE to wear a red hood to the start.

An enquiry was held into the running and riding of NORTHERN AIR (IRE), ridden by Paddy Brennan, and trained by Fergal O'Brien, which was held up in rear, before beginning to improve its position racing down the side of the course and then continuing its progress through the field under apparent tender handling up the home straight to finish second of ten runners, beaten by 3¼ lengths. The rider and trainer's representative were interviewed, and the trainer was interviewed by telephone and recordings of the race were shown. The Veterinary Officer performed two post-race examinations of the mare and had nothing to report on both occasions. The rider stated that his instructions were to switch NORTHERN AIR (IRE) off and take his time as the mare ran extremely keen in her previous race, before weakening in the final furlong, a national hunt flat race at Newbury. Brennan explained that the objective for today's run was to drop NORTHERN AIR (IRE) out and to get her to finish her race strongly as she was ridden handier at Newbury which resulted in the mare emptying out and finishing the race fairly distressed. He stated that the mare raced keenly throughout and that as he began to make up ground turning into the home straight, he heard NORTHERN AIR (IRE) make a respiratory noise. Brennan continued that being mindful that it was the mare's first run over hurdles, he wanted to ensure NORTHERN AIR (IRE) finished her race more positively and therefore focused on keeping the bit up in her mouth, being patient and riding her up the straight to hit the line. Brennan reported that he was happy with the mare's run as she had finished her race strongly today. Both the trainer and trainer's representative confirmed the instructions and were satisfied the ride accorded with those instructions. Brennan was suspended for 18 days and O'Brien fined

£4000 for schooling and conditioning the horse on the racecourse in that Brennan had failed to ride his mount in such a way that he could be seen to ask for timely, real and substantial effort to obtain the best possible placing on NORTHERN AIR (IRE) which was having its first run over hurdles today. NORTHERN AIR (IRE) was suspended from running in any race for 40 days.

**Race 2 - 3:08pm.**

**THE VISIT IRISH BLOODSTOCK SALES WITH ITM MARES' HANDICAP STEEPLE CHASE (CLASS 5)**

The performance of COMMITTEE OF ONE, which finished fifth, beaten by 42½ lengths, was considered. Tom Gretton's explanation that the mare ran flat on the drying Soft, Heavy in places ground on this occasion, was noted. The Veterinary Officer examined COMMITTEE OF ONE post-race and had nothing to report.

**Race 3 - 3:38pm.**

**THE FAMILY RACEDAY 21ST APRIL FREE ENTERTAINMENT HANDICAP STEEPLE CHASE (CLASS 3)**

Permission was given for ROYAL MER (FR) to wear a red hood to the start.

**Race 4 - 4:08pm.**

**THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS ON SALE APRIL 22ND HANDICAP HURDLE RACE (CLASS 3)**

MONVIEL (IRE) wore earplugs throughout the preliminaries which were removed upon arrival at the start and permission was given for RESPLENDENT GREY (IRE) to wear a red hood to the start.

The performance of HOME FREE (IRE), which started joint second-favourite and finished fifth, beaten by 16½ lengths, was considered. It was noted that the representative of Dan Skelton could offer no explanation for the gelding's performance on this occasion. The Veterinary Officer examined HOME FREE (IRE) post-race and had nothing to report.

Following the race, Freddie Gingell reported that BOURBALI (FR), unplaced, ran too free.

**Race 5 - 4:38pm.**

**THE HOLD YOUR EVENT AT WINCANTON RACECOURSE HANDICAP HURDLE RACE (CLASS 5)**

Permission was given for ROBBER'S BRIDGE (IRE) to be mounted in the chute and go early to post wearing a red hood.

ROBBER'S BRIDGE (IRE) collided with the rails going out onto the course. Having been checked by the Veterinary Surgeon at the start, the gelding was deemed fit to race.

**Race 6 - 5:08pm.**

**THE PAY TO PLAY GOLF AT WINCANTON VETERANS' HANDICAP STEEPLE CHASE (CLASS 4)**

Following the race, Freddie Gingell reported that COPPERHEAD, which started favourite and finished

fourth, hung right-handed.

#### Suspensions

Person	Race	Horse	Days	Suspended Days
Paddy Brennan	Race - 2:38pm	NORTHERN AIR (IRE)	18	16 May 2024 15 May 2024 14 May 2024 13 May 2024 12 May 2024 11 May 2024 10 May 2024 9 May 2024 8 May 2024 7 May 2024 6 May 2024 4 May 2024 27 Apr 2024 26 Apr 2024 25 Apr 2024 24 Apr 2024 23 Apr 2024 22 Apr 2024

#### Fines

Person	Race	Horse	Fine
Fergal O'Brien	Race 1 - 2:38pm	NORTHERN AIR (IRE)	£4,000.00