

**CHELTENHAM STEWARDS' REPORT****Wednesday 01 January 2025**

Stewards: Thomas Evetts (Chief Steward), Charlie Lane (Stewards' Panel Chair), Sophie Candy (Steward), Guy Upton (Steward), Kate Smith (Assistant Steward), Daniel Andrews (Raceday Assistant)

Going: SOFT

Rail: Chase rail +7y Hurdle rail +6y

**Non-Runners**

Race	Horse and Trainer	Reason
2:05pm	HITMAN (FR), trained by Paul Nicholls.	Going (Changed since declaration)
3:15pm	TWIG, trained by Ben Pauling.	Double Declaration (See report below)
3:50pm	LADY TADITA, trained by Jamie Snowden.	Self Cert (Not Sound)

**Race 1 - 12:20pm.****THE SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 3 IN CINEMAS NOW NOVICES' LIMITED HANDICAP STEEPLE CHASE (CLASS 3) (GBB RACE)**

Nothing to report

**Race 2 - 12:55pm.****THE RICHMOND VILLAGES AND BUPA CARE HOMES MAIDEN HURDLE RACE (CLASS 2) (GBB RACE)**

An enquiry was held to consider interference approximately two furlongs out involving the winner, DIVA LUNA (IRE), ridden by Kielan Woods, and NEWTON TORNADO (FR), placed second, ridden by Ben Jones. Woods was suspended for 3 days for careless riding as he moved his mount right-handed across the track and towards the rail when insufficiently clear of NEWTON TORNADO (FR), causing Jones to take a check and to switch his mount left-handed, in doing so losing both ground and momentum.

**Race 3 - 1:30pm.****THE BETFAIR HANDICAP STEEPLE CHASE (CLASS 2) (GBB RACE)**

The performance of BROADWAY BOY (IRE), which started favourite and finished fourth of five, was considered. It was noted that Nigel Twiston-Davies could offer no explanation for the gelding's performance; the Veterinary Officer examined BROADWAY BOY (IRE) post-race and had nothing to report.

**Race 4 - 2:05pm.**

**THE BETFAIR EXCHANGE HANDICAP STEEPLE CHASE (CLASS 1) (PREMIER HANDICAP) (GBB RACE)**

Permission was given for COLONEL HARRY (IRE) to wear a red hood, go early to post and be mounted in the chute.

The performance of GEMIRANDE (FR), which started joint-favourite and finished last of six finishers, beaten by 58½ lengths was considered. It was noted that Venetia Williams could offer no explanation for the gelding's performance; the Veterinary Officer examined GEMIRANDE (FR) during routine testing and had nothing to report.

**Race 5 - 2:40pm.**

**THE BEST ODDS ON THE BETFAIR EXCHANGE HANDICAP HURDLE RACE (CLASS 2) (GBB RACE)**

Permission was given for ITCHY FEET (FR), and WHAT A JOHNNY (IRE) to wear a red hood to post, and for TWIG to wear a hood in the Parade Ring.

**Race 6 - 3:15pm.**

**THE DORNAN ENGINEERING RELKEEL HURDLE RACE (CLASS 1) (Grade 2) (GBB RACE)**

Ben Pauling was fined £140 for doubly declaring TWIG to run in The Best Odds on the Betfair Exchange Handicap Hurdle Race (Class 2), and The Dornan Engineering Relkeel Hurdle Race (Class 1), both at Cheltenham, and the gelding ran in the former.

**Race 7 - 3:50pm.**

**THE RACERIDE CHELTENHAM "JUNIOR" NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (A STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE) (CLASS 1) (Listed Race) (GBB RACE)**

WALK IN THE WEST (IRE), unplaced, stumbled shortly after the start when racing on the outside of THE GOOSE (IRE), unplaced, which was running keenly, but after viewing a recording of the incident it was found no riding offence was involved.

Following the race, Kielan Woods reported that MERELY A DETAIL, unplaced, ran too free.

**Suspensions**

Person	Race	Horse	Days	Suspended Days
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Kielan Woods	Race - 12:55pm	DIVA LUNA (IRE)	3	16 Jan 2025 15 Jan 2025 4 Jan 2025
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