

**CHELTENHAM STEWARDS' REPORT****Tuesday 14 March 2023**

Stewards: Shaun Parker (Chief Steward), Joanne Hawkins (Stewards Panel Chair), Guy Upton (Steward), Tom Evetts (Steward), Milly Bersey (Assistant Steward), Kate Smith (Raceday Assistant), Dan Andrews (Raceday Assistant)

Going: SOFT

**Non-Runners**

Race	Horse and Trainer	Reason
4:10pm	MIDNIGHT GINGER, trained by Andrew Martin.	Vets Cert (Rash)
4:50pm	MORNING SOLDIER (IRE), trained by Thomas Mullins.	Self Cert (Not Eaten Up)

**Race 1 - 1:30pm.****THE SKY BET SUPREME NOVICES' HURDLE RACE (CLASS 1) (Grade 1) (GBB RACE)**

FACILE VEGA (IRE) and DIVERGE wore ear plugs throughout the race.

An enquiry was held to consider interference after the final hurdle involving DIVERGE, placed third, ridden by Mr P. W. Mullins and INTHEPOCKET, placed fourth, ridden by Rachael Blackmore. Blackmore was cautioned for careless riding as she allowed her mount to drift right-handed away from the whip without sufficient correction, giving a slight bump to DIVERGE.

Jumping the second hurdle, DIVERGE, placed third, improved to the inside of INTHEPOCKET, placed fourth, before being restrained by its rider in order to negotiate the bend. After viewing a recording of the incident, it was found that no riding offence was involved.

Shortly after jumping the third last hurdle, CHASING FIRE, unplaced, drifted slightly left-handed taking HIGH DEFINITION (IRE), placed seventh, TAHMURAS (FR), unplaced, and RARE EDITION (IRE), which was pulled up, off their intended lines. After viewing a recording of the incident, it was found that no riding offence was involved.

Jumping the final hurdle, FACILE VEGA (IRE), placed second, made a mistake, became unbalanced and lugged quickly right-handed giving a bump to the winner, MARINE NATIONALE (IRE). After viewing a recording of the incident, it was found that no riding offence was involved.

The performance of TAHMURAS (FR), which finished unplaced, was considered. Paul Nicholls' explanation that the gelding was outpaced down the hill, was noted.

Following the race the Veterinary Officer reported that PALACE BOY (GER), unplaced, lost its right fore

shoe.

**Race 2 - 2:10pm.**

**THE SPORTING LIFE ARKLE CHALLENGE TROPHY NOVICES' STEEPLE CHASE (CLASS 1) (Grade 1) (GBB RACE)**

Following the race Davy Russell reported that HOLLOW GAMES (IRE), which was pulled up, was never travelling.

**Race 3 - 2:50pm.**

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

Permission was given for REMASTERED to wear a red hood to post.

Shortly after the start HAPPYGOLUCKY (IRE), unplaced, shifted slightly right-handed taking HARPER'S BROOK (IRE), which was pulled up, THE BIG BREAKAWAY (IRE), which was pulled up, THREEUNDERTHRU FIVE (IRE), placed eighth, and GLAMORGAN DUKE (IRE), which was pulled up, slightly off their intended lines. This resulted in GOOD BOY BOBBY (IRE), unplaced, who was racing on the stands-side, having its hind quarters turned causing it to become unbalanced, and causing REMASTERED, which was pulled up, to be squeezed out losing its position. After viewing a recording of the incident, it was found that no riding offence was involved.

Shortly after jumping the first fence, THE BIG BREAKAWAY (IRE), which was pulled up, drifted right-handed at the same time as HARPER'S BROOK (IRE), which was pulled up, went left-handed resulting in THREEUNDERTHRU FIVE (IRE), placed eighth, becoming short of room and losing its position. After viewing a recording of the incident, it was found that no riding offence was involved.

Jumping the third last fence, FANTASTIKAS (FR), unplaced, jumped left-handed giving HARPER'S BROOK (IRE), which was subsequently pulled up, a bump resulting in both runners becoming unbalanced. After viewing a recording of the incident, it was found that no riding offence was involved.

The performance of INTO OVERDRIVE, which was pulled up, was considered. Mark Walford's explanation that the gelding ran flat was noted, and he further confirmed the report from Jamie Hamilton that the gelding was never travelling; the Veterinary Officer reported that a post-race examination of the gelding during routine testing failed to reveal any abnormalities.

Following the race Shane Quinlan reported that LASKALIN (FR), which was pulled up, jumped poorly.

**Race 4 - 3:30pm.**

**THE UNIBET CHAMPION HURDLE CHALLENGE TROPHY (CLASS 1) (Grade 1) (GBB RACE)**

Nothing to report

**Race 5 - 4:10pm**

**THE CLOSE BROTHERS MARES' HURDLE RACE (CLASS 1) (Registered as The DAVID NICHOLSON MARES' HURDLE) (Grade 1) (GBB RACE)**

Permission was given for MARIE'S ROCK (IRE) and LOVE ENVOI (IRE) to wear a red hood to post and for LOVE ENVOI (IRE) to be mounted in the chute.

The performance of MARIE'S ROCK (IRE), which started joint favourite and finished seventh, beaten by 11 lengths, was considered. Nicky Henderson's explanation that the filly was unsuited by the slow pace of the race was noted; the Veterinary Officer reported that a post-race examination of MARIE'S ROCK (IRE), during routine testing, failed to reveal any abnormalities.

The performance of EPATANTE (FR), which finished eighth, beaten by 17 lengths, was considered. Nicky Henderson's explanation that the filly was unsuited by the slow pace of the race was noted; the Veterinary Officer reported that a post-race examination of EPATANTE (FR), during routine testing, failed to reveal any abnormalities.

**Race 6 - 4:50pm.**

**THE BOODLES JUVENILE HANDICAP HURDLE RACE (CLASS 1) (Registered as The FRED WINTER) (PREMIER HANDICAP) (GBB RACE)**

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

The Starter reported that the following riders had not approached the tape at a walk or jig-jog: Mark Walsh, the rider of TEKAO (FR); Daniel Mullins, the rider of SIR ALLEN; P Byrnes, the rider of BYKER (IRE); Luca Morgan, the rider of SAMUEL SPADE (GER); M. J. M. O'Sullivan, the rider of JAZZY MATTY (FR); Mr Harry Swan, the rider of ACTION MOTION (IRE) and David Noonan, the rider of ROMANCERO LE DUN (FR). The riders and the Starters were interviewed and recordings of the incident were shown. For being found in breach of misconduct at the start, Mullins, Byrnes, O'Sullivan, Swan and Noonan were suspended for 1 day; Morgan was suspended for 2 days this being his second offence within the previous 12 months. Walsh's explanation that his horse had followed the other runners rather than him encouraging the gelding was accepted. The Stewards also wished to interview Simon Torrens, the rider of SUNDIAL (IRE), but were unable to do so as he had left the course; they adjourned the enquiry to Cheltenham on Wednesday 15 March.

SAMUEL SPADE (GER), unplaced, jumped the first hurdle awkwardly, causing its rider to lose his left iron which he regained shortly after.

Jumping the third last hurdle, TEKAO (FR), unplaced, made a bad mistake, giving a severe bump to ACTION MOTION (IRE), unplaced, taking that horse noticeably of its intended line. After viewing a recording of the incident, it was found that no riding offence was involved.

Jumping second last hurdle, RISK BELLE (FR), placed third, edged right-handed giving a slight bump to PUNTA DEL ESTE (FR), unplaced, who became unbalanced, shifting markedly right-handed and as a result gave a severe bump to MR FREEDOM, placed fifth. This caused the rider of MR FREEDOM to become unbalanced, his saddle to slip and for him to lose his left iron. 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 RISK BELLE (FR).

Following the race the Veterinary Officer reported that MCTIGUE (IRE), which was pulled up, and BAD (FR), unplaced, both lost their right-hind shoes; ROMANCERO LE DUN (FR), unplaced, lost its right-fore shoe and had a wound on its right-fore and MR FREEDOM, placed fifth, was struck into on its left-hind. Mark Walsh reported that TAKEO (FR), unplaced, made a bad mistake jumping the third last, and Robert Dunne reported that his saddle slipped jumping the first hurdle on MR FREEDOM, placed fifth.

#### **Race 7 - 5:30pm.**

#### **THE WELLCHILD NATIONAL HUNT CHALLENGE CUP AMATEUR JOCKEYS' NOVICES' STEEPLE CHASE (CLASS 1) (Grade 2) (GBB RACE)**

Permission was given for CHEMICAL ENERGY (IRE) to wear a red hood to post. MISTER COFFEY (FR) wore ear plugs which were removed at the start.

Rounding the home bend with a circuit to go, COOLVALLA (IRE), which was subsequently pulled up, become short of room on the inside rail in a tightly bunched field. After viewing a recording of the incident, it was found that no riding offence was involved.

The performance of MINELLA CROONER (IRE), which was pulled up, was considered. Gordon Elliott reported that the gelding stopped quickly; the Veterinary Officer reported that a post-race examination of the gelding, during routine testing, failed to reveal any abnormalities.

#### **Suspensions**

Person	Race	Horse	Days	Suspended Days
Simon Torrens	Race - 4:50pm	SUNDIAL (IRE)	2	28 Mar 2023 29 Mar 2023
P. Byrnes	Race - 4:50pm	BYKER (IRE)	1	28 Mar 2023
David Noonan	Race - 4:50pm	ROMANCERO LE DUN (FR)	1	1 Apr 2023
M. J. M. O'Sullivan	Race - 4:50pm	JAZZY MATTY (FR)	1	28 Mar 2023