

CHELTENHAM STEWARDS' REPORT

Wednesday 11 March 2020

Stewards: Shaun Parker (Chief Steward), George Welch (Stewards' Panel Chair), Roger Bellamy (Stewards' Panel Chair), Simon Cowley (Steward), Colin Vickers (Steward), Chris Hill (Assistant Steward), Guy Upton (Raceday Assistant)

Going: **CROSS COUNTRY Course**
Cross Country Race: Soft (Heavy in places) (GSt 5.1)

OLD Course
Chase Race: Soft (GSt 5.7)
Hurdle Race: Soft (GSt 5.7)

Rail: All distances as advertised. Cross Country Fence 4 (27) omitted due to waterlogged ground.

Fixture Note: Race 5: Fence 4 was omitted in this race due to the ground being under repair

Non-Runners

Race	Horse and Trainer	Reason
2:50pm	MISTER BLUE SKY (IRE), trained by W. P. Mullins.	Vets Cert (Lame)
3:30pm	ALTIOR (IRE), trained by Nicky Henderson.	Vets Cert (Lame)
3:30pm	CHACUN POUR SOI (FR), trained by W. P. Mullins.	Vets Cert (Abscess)
4:10pm	FACT OF THE MATTER (IRE), trained by Jamie Snowden.	Going (changed since declaration)
4:10pm	UTILITY (GER), trained by Sophie Leech.	Self Cert (Tied Up)

Race 1 - 1:30pm.

THE BALLYMORE NOVICES' HURDLE RACE (CLASS 1)(Grade 1) (Registered as The BARING BINGHAM)

LONGHOUSE POET (IRE) wore earplugs in the Parade Ring.

The performance of SPORTING JOHN (IRE), which started second favourite and finished seventh, beaten by 30¼ lengths, was considered. Philip Hobbs's explanation that the gelding finished distressed was noted. SPORTING JOHN (IRE) was routine tested.

Following the race, Rachael Blackmore reported that EASYWORK (FR), placed second, ran too freely. The Veterinary Officer reported that SON OF CAMAS (FR), which was pulled up, lost its left-fore shoe.

Race 2 - 2:10pm.

THE RSA INSURANCE NOVICES' STEEPLE CHASE (CLASS 1) (Grade 1)

ALLAHO (FR) wore earplugs throughout the race.

An enquiry was held to consider whether Harry Cobden, the rider of COPPERHEAD, which fell at the final fence, Daniel Mullins, the rider of EASY GAME (FR), which also fell at the final fence, and Robbie Power, the rider of SLATE HOUSE (IRE), placed sixth, had continued in the race when their horses appeared to be tired. The riders and the Veterinary Officer were interviewed and recordings of the incident were viewed. The Veterinary Officer stated that post-race examinations of COPPERHEAD and EASY GAME (FR) revealed both geldings recovered within normal parameters. Cobden explained that COPPERHEAD had jumped the second-last fence well but when approaching the final obstacle the gelding had not picked up when asked, resulting in the fall. Mullins explained that he also felt his mount had jumped the second-last fence well and was still galloping fluently towards the final obstacle. However, after a good jump at the last fence, Mullins explained that EASY GAME (FR) had tripped and fallen shortly after landing. Power explained that SLATE HOUSE (IRE) had been hampered at the second-last fence which cost the gelding momentum and SLATE HOUSE (IRE) had only tired just before the final fence, by which time he had insufficient time to safely pull up. Power added that having jumped the last the gelding had then galloped on at the one pace up the hill. The riders' explanations were accepted.

Race 3 - 2:50pm.

THE CORAL CUP HANDICAP HURDLE RACE (CLASS 1) (Grade 3)

GOLAN FORTUNE (IRE) appeared to be kicked by another runner in the Parade Ring. Having been examined by the Veterinary Officer in the Parade Ring, the gelding was deemed fit to race.

The Starter reported that Simon Torrens, the rider of KILFENORA (IRE), and Gavin Brouder, the rider of CRACKING SMART (FR), failed to walk or jig-jog into the start. The riders and the Starter were interviewed and recordings of the incident were shown. Torrens and Brouder were both suspended for 1 day for misconduct at the Start. Being 7lbs claimers, Torrens and Brouder were offered the opportunity to have someone accompany them in the enquiry, but declined.

Following the race, P. Townend reported that FRANCO DE PORT (FR), which was pulled up, ran too freely; the gelding was routine tested. Brian Hughes reported that CHAMPAGNE WELL (IRE), which was pulled up, made a bad mistake at the second-last hurdle.

Race 4 - 3:30pm.

THE BETWAY QUEEN MOTHER CHAMPION STEEPLE CHASE (CLASS 1) (Grade 1)

Permission was given for POLITOLOGUE (FR) to wear a hood to the start; DEFI DU SEUIL (FR) wore earplugs which were removed at the start.

An enquiry was held into the performance of DEFI DU SEUIL (FR), which started favourite and finished fourth, beaten by 13¼ lengths. Philip Hobbs and Barry Geraghty were interviewed. Hobbs could offer no explanation for the gelding's performance other than Geraghty reporting that DEFI DU SEUIL (FR) was never travelling. The Veterinary Officer reported that a post-race examination of the gelding, during routine testing shortly after the race, failed to reveal any abnormalities.

Following the race, the Veterinary Officer reported that a post-race examination of DYNAMITE DOLLARS (FR), placed second, during routine testing shortly after the race, revealed the gelding lost its right-fore shoe.

Race 5 - 4:10pm.

THE GLENFARCLAS STEEPLE CHASE (A CROSS COUNTRY STEEPLE CHASE) (CLASS 2)

D. Cottin was fined £140 as the record of vaccinations in the passport of EASYSLAND (FR) did not comply with the Rules of Racing.

TIGER ROLL (IRE), placed second, did not enter the winner's enclosure on veterinary advice.

The Starter reported that Mark Walsh, the rider of JOSIES ORDERS (IRE); Paddy Kennedy, the rider of NEVERUSHACON (IRE); Keith Donoghue, the rider of TIGER ROLL (IRE) and Darragh O'Keeffe, the rider of YANWORTH, failed to walk or jig-jog into the start, despite having been briefed about the particular procedure for the start of this race. The riders and the Starter were interviewed and recordings of the incident were shown. Walsh, Kennedy, Donoghue and O'Keeffe were suspended for 1 day for misconduct at the Start.

Following the race, the Veterinary Officer reported that the winner, EASYSLAND (FR), lost its left-hind shoe.

Race 6 - 4:50pm.

THE BOODLES JUVENILE HANDICAP HURDLE RACE (CLASS 1) (Registered as the FRED WINTER) (Grade 3)

SACCHOANDVANZETTI (IRE) wore earplugs in the Parade Ring and BAJAN EXCELL (IRE) and PALLADIUM wore earplugs throughout the race.

The performance of PALLADIUM, which started joint-favourite and was pulled up, was considered. Nicky Henderson's explanation that the gelding was unsuited by the ground, which was officially described as Soft on this occasion and in his opinion was riding tacky, was noted. PALLADIUM was routine tested.

The performance of BLACKO (FR), which started joint-favourite and was pulled up, was considered. Alan King could offer no explanation for the gelding's performance other than Tom Bellamy reporting that BLACKO (FR) stopped quickly. BLACKO (FR) was routine tested.

Race 7 - 5:30pm.

THE WEATHERBYS CHAMPION BUMPER (A STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE) (CLASS 1) (Grade 1)

Permission was given for ESKYLANE (IRE) to wear a hood to the start; APPRECIATE IT (IRE), FIVE BAR BRIAN (IRE) and PANIC ATTACK (IRE) wore earplugs throughout the race.

Having reviewed recordings of the false start, the Starters were satisfied that no riders should be reported for contravening the starting procedures.

Suspensions

Person	Race	Horse	Days	Suspended Days
Simon Torrens	Race - 2:50pm	KILFENORA (IRE)	1	25 Mar 2020
Gavin Brouder	Race - 2:50pm	CRACKING SMART (FR)	1	25 Mar 2020
Mark Walsh	Race - 4:10pm	JOSIES ORDERS (IRE)	1	25 Mar 2020
Darragh O'Keeffe	Race - 4:10pm	YANWORTH (GB)	1	25 Mar 2020
Keith Donoghue	Race - 4:10pm	TIGER ROLL (IRE)	1	25 Mar 2020
Paddy Kennedy	Race - 4:10pm	NEVERUSHACON (IRE)	1	25 Mar 2020

Fines

Person	Race	Horse	Fine
D. Cottin	Race 5 - 4:10pm	EASYSLAND (FR)	£140.00