

CHELTENHAM STEWARDS' REPORT

Wednesday 12 March 2025

Stewards: Shaun Parker (Chief Steward), George Welch (Stewards' Panel Chair), Charlie Lane (Stewards' Panel Chair), Thomas Evetts (Steward), Guy Upton (Steward), Daniel Andrews (Assistant Steward), Milly Bersey (Raceday Assistant), Chris Hill (Raceday Assistant)

Going: **CROSS COUNTRY Course**
 Cross Country Race: Good to Soft (Good in places) (GSt 5.1)
OLD Course
 Chase Race: Good to Soft (GSt 5.1)
 Hurdle Race: Good to Soft (GSt 5.1)

Non-Runners

Race	Horse and Trainer	Reason
5:20pm	HIGHLAND HAVEN, trained by Fergal O'Brien.	Self Cert (Rash)

Jockey Changes

Race	Horse	Declared Jockey	Replacement Jockey	Reason
4:00pm	FOUND A FIFTY (IRE)	Jack Kennedy	Danny Gilligan	(Kennedy signed off by the RMO)
5:20pm	KALYPSO'CHANCE (FR)	Jack Kennedy	Danny Gilligan	(Kennedy signed off by the RMO)
5:20pm	SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY (FR)	Sam Ewing	Donagh Meyler	(Ewing signed off by the RMO)
4:40pm	AMERICAN MIKE (IRE)	Jack Kennedy	Jordan Gainford	(Kennedy signed off by the RMO)
3:20pm	GALVIN (IRE)	Jack Kennedy	Mr Derek O'Connor	(Kennedy signed off by the RMO)
3:20pm	COKO BEACH (FR)	Sam Ewing	Sam Twiston-Davies	(Ewing signed off by the RMO)

Race 1 - 1:20pm.

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

Permission was given for POTTERS CHARM (IRE), SIXMILEBRIDGE (IRE) and THE YELLOW CLAY (IRE) to each wear a red hood to post; SIXMILEBRIDGE (IRE) wore earplugs which were removed at the start.

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 and that the false start was due to SIXMILEBRIDGE (IRE) being difficult when approaching the starting tape.

At the first hurdle, KAPPA JY PYKE (FR), placed sixth, jumped left-handed badly hampering KAID D'AUTHIE (FR), which was later pulled up, who in turn hampered FORTY COATS (IRE), placed fourth, but 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 KAPPA JY PYKE (FR).

On the bend passing the stands on the final circuit, in a tightly bunched field KEL HISTOIRE (FR), placed eighth, became short of room between FORTY COATS (IRE), placed fourth, and KISS WILL (FR), placed seventh, forcing its rider to take a check, but 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 either FORTY COATS (IRE) or KISS WILL (FR).

An enquiry was held to consider interference after the final flight of hurdles involving THE YELLOW CLAY (IRE), placed second, ridden by Jack Kennedy and the winner, THE NEW LION, ridden by Harry Skelton. Kennedy was suspended for 3 days for careless riding as he allowed his mount to drift right-handed under a left-handed drive without correction, brushing THE NEW LION and taking the gelding off its intended racing line.

Race 2 - 2:00pm.

THE BROWN ADVISORY NOVICES' STEEPLE CHASE (CLASS 1) (Grade 1) (Registered as The BROADWAY NOVICES' CHASE) (GBB RACE)

Permission was given for STELLAR STORY (IRE) to wear a red hood to post; BALLYBURN (IRE) and LECKY WATSON (IRE) wore earplugs throughout the race.

Following the race, P. Townend reported that BALLYBURN (IRE), placed fifth, made a bad mistake at the seventh fence and thereafter never travelled and jumped with a lack of fluency; the Veterinary Officer examined the gelding post-race and had nothing to report.

Race 3 - 2:40pm.

THE CORAL CUP HANDICAP HURDLE RACE (CLASS 1) (PREMIER HANDICAP) (GBB RACE)

Permission was given for MIGHT I (IRE) to be mounted in the chute and to wear a red hood to post and for MAXXUM (IRE), SANDOR CLEGANE (IRE), BECKETT ROCK (IRE), SA FUREUR (IRE), BE AWARE (FR), LOSSIEMOUTH and JIPCOT (FR) to each wear a red hood to post.

Entering the bend at the top of the hill in a tightly bunched field, SANDOR CLEGANE (IRE), unplaced, ran

onto and was checked off the heels of COMFORT ZONE (IRE), unplaced, but after viewing a recording of the incident, it was found that no riding offence was involved.

The Stewards noted that at the second last flight, VISCHIO (IRE), unplaced, made a bad mistake.

The performance of COMFORT ZONE (IRE) which finished unplaced, was considered. Joseph Patrick O'Brien explained that the gelding had over raced and jumped poorly before stopping quickly when coming down the hill. His explanation was noted. The Veterinary Officer examined COMFORT ZONE (IRE) post-race and had nothing to report.

Following the race, P. Townend reported that BUNTING (FR), which was pulled up, ran too freely.

Race 4 - 3:20pm.

THE GLENFARCLAS CROSS COUNTRY STEEPLE CHASE (A LIMITED HANDICAP) (CLASS 2) (GBB RACE)

Permission was given for both GALVIN (IRE) and CHEMICAL ENERGY (IRE) to wear a red hood to post; MISTER COFFEY (FR) wore earplugs which were removed at the start.

The Starter reported that Keith Donoghue, the rider of STUMPTOWN (IRE), Sean Flanagan, the rider of VANILLIER (FR) and J. J. Slevin, the rider of BUSSELTON (FR) had not approached the tape at a walk or jig-jog thereby causing a false start. Donoghue, Flanagan, Slevin and the Starter were interviewed and shown recordings of the incident. Donoghue and Flanagan were suspended for 1 day for misconduct at the start. As this was his second offence within the previous 12 months, Slevin was suspended for 2 days for misconduct at the start.

Sean Flanagan appeared before the Stewards regarding his riding after the third fence and in particular, the line that he had taken. Having heard his evidence, Flanagan was reminded of his obligations to familiarise himself with the course layout.

Following the race, Dylan Johnston reported that IWILLDOIT, which was pulled up, made a bad mistake at the water jump on the final circuit. The Veterinary Officer reported that GALVIN (IRE), which was pulled up, was found to be lame on its right-fore.

Race 5 - 4:00pm.

THE BETMGM QUEEN MOTHER CHAMPION STEEPLE CHASE (CLASS 1) (Grade 1) (GBB RACE)

Permission was given for FOUND A FIFTY (IRE) to wear a red hood to post; JONBON (FR) wore earplugs which were removed at the start.

CAPTAIN GUINNESS (IRE) kicked the railing in the parade ring. Having been checked by the Veterinary Surgeon at the start, the gelding was deemed fit to race.

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.

Following the race, Nico de Boinville reported that JONBON (FR), placed second, made a bad mistake at the sixth fence from the finish. The representative of Willie Mullins reported that ENERGUMENE (FR), which was pulled up, lost its action coming down the hill; the Veterinary Officer examined the gelding post-race and had nothing to report.

Race 6 - 4:40pm.

THE DEBENHAMS JOHNNY HENDERSON GRAND ANNUAL CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP STEEPLE CHASE (CLASS 1) (PREMIER HANDICAP) (GBB RACE)

Permission was given for WESTERN ZEPHYR (IRE) to wear a red hood to the start and to go early to post and for both DANCING ON MY OWN (IRE) and TRAPRAIN LAW (FR) to wear a red hood to the start.

TRAPRAIN LAW (FR), trained by Lucinda Russell had entered the Parade Ring after the signal to mount had been given. After being interviewed, Russell was fined £140.

The Starter reported that Jordan Gainford, the rider of AMERICAN MIKE (IRE), Danny McMenamin, the rider of NELLSON, Conor Stone-Walsh, the rider of THE KING OF PRS (IRE), Darragh O'Keeffe, the rider of JASKO DES DAMES (FR), and Derek Fox, the rider of PRIMOZ (IRE), and Rachael Blackmore, the rider of DANCING ON MY OWN (IRE), had not approached the tape at a walk or jig-jog thereby causing a false start. Gainford, McMenamin, Stone-Walsh, O'Keeffe, Fox and the Starter were interviewed and shown recordings of the incident. The Stewards adjourned their enquiry in respect of Blackmore until Thursday 13 March, as she had left the course. Gainford, McMenamin, O'Keeffe and Fox were suspended for 1 day for misconduct at the start. Stone-Walsh's explanation that his mount locked on and despite his best efforts, was difficult to restrain from charging the tape was accepted.

Race 7 - 5:20pm.

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

Permission was given for LANCELOT ALLEN (FR) to wear a red hood to post. Both COPACABANA and SORTUDO (IRE) wore earplugs throughout.

An enquiry was held to consider interference approximately 1 ½ furlongs out involving SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY (FR), placed third, ridden by Donagh Meyler and EL CAIROS (FR), placed fifth, ridden by Mr David Maxwell. Meyler was suspended for 2 days for careless riding as allowed his mount to drift right-handed without sufficient correction making contact with EL CAIROS (FR), placed fifth, on two occasions, taking that runner off its intended racing line.

Suspensions

Person	Race	Horse	Days	Suspended Days
Jack Kennedy	Race - 1:20pm	THE YELLOW CLAY (IRE)	3	28 Mar 2025 27 Mar 2025 26 Mar 2025

Person	Race	Horse	Days	Suspended Days
Sean Flanagan	Race - 3:20pm	VANILLIER (FR)	1	26 Mar 2025
Keith Donoghue	Race - 3:20pm	STUMPTOWN (IRE)	1	26 Mar 2025
J. J. Slevin	Race - 3:20pm	BUSSELTON (FR)	2	26 Mar 2025 25 Mar 2025
Rachael Blackmore	Race - 4:40pm	DANCING ON MY OWN (IRE)	1	26 Mar 2025
Danny McMenamin	Race - 4:40pm	NELLS SON (GB)	1	26 Mar 2025
Jordan Gainford	Race - 4:40pm	AMERICAN MIKE (IRE)	1	26 Mar 2025
Derek Fox	Race - 4:40pm	PRIMOZ (IRE)	1	16 Mar 2025
Darragh O'Keeffe	Race - 4:40pm	JASKO DES DAMES (FR)	1	26 Mar 2025
Donagh Meyler	Race - 5:20pm	SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY (FR)	2	25 Mar 2025 26 Mar 2025

Fines

Person	Race	Horse	Fine
Lucinda Russell	Race 6 - 4:40pm	TRAPRAIN LAW (FR)	£140.00