

## **CHELTENHAM STEWARDS' REPORT**

**Friday 23 October 2020**

Stewards: Simon Cowley (Chief Steward), Roger Bellamy (Stewards' Panel Chair), Thomas Evetts (Steward), Louise Moore (Social Distancing Officer), Chris Hill (Assistant Steward), Jennifer Dewhurst (Raceday Assistant)

Going: **OLD Course**

Chase Race: Good

Hurdle Race: Good

Rail: All hurdle rails dolled out 7 yards, adding 44 yards to each circuit for races over 2m and 3m and 66 yards for races over 21/2m. All chase bends dolled out 10 yards adding 63 yards to each circuit for races over 2m and 3m and 90 yards for races over 21/2m  
Distances as follows: Race 1 add 66 yards Race 2 add 126 yards Race 3 add 66 yards Race 4 add 63 yards Race 5 add 44 yards Race 6 add 63 yards Race 7 add 44 yards.

### **Non-Runners**

Race	Horse and Trainer	Reason
1:50pm	GLOBAL FAME (IRE), trained by Fergal O'Brien.	Self Cert (Going)
3:00pm	HOMETOWN BOY (IRE), trained by Stuart Edmunds.	Self Cert (Abscess)
4:10pm	CHAMPAGNESUPEROVER (IRE), trained by Olly Murphy.	Going (changed since declaration)
4:10pm	PIPESMOKER (FR), trained by Nicky Henderson.	Vets Cert (Lame)
5:15pm	BYRON FLYER, trained by Ian Williams.	Going (changed since declaration)

### **Race 1 - 1:50pm.**

#### **THE BALLYMORE NOVICES' HURDLE RACE (CLASS 2) (GBB RACE)**

It was noted that DOMAINE DE L'ISLE (FR), placed fourth, was hampered by the fall of FINISK RIVER at the eighth hurdle.

Following the race, the representative of Paul Nicholls reported that ASK FOR GLORY (IRE), which started joint-favourite and finished fifth, had a breathing problem.

### **Race 2 - 2:25pm.**

#### **THE MATCHBOOK BETTER WAY TO BET NOVICES' STEEPLE CHASE (CLASS 2) (GBB RACE)**

Permission was given for GALVIN (IRE) to wear a hood in the Parade Ring only.

A query was raised to consider why Fergal O'Brien was running ASK DILLON (IRE) here at Cheltenham on going described as Good, having declared the gelding a non-runner at Chepstow on 9 October 2020 on ground with the same official description. The trainer's representative stated that the ground at Chepstow had dried and, in their opinion, was on the faster side of Good, whereas at Cheltenham the ground, in their opinion, was on the easy side of Good and they were therefore happy for ASK DILLON (IRE) take its chance on this occasion.

**Race 3 - 3:00pm.**

**THE squareintheair.com HANDICAP HURDLE RACE (CLASS 3)**

A query was raised to consider why Nicky Henderson was running FIX SUN (FR) here at Cheltenham on going described as Good, having declared the gelding a non-runner at Chepstow on 10 October 2020 on ground with the same official description. The trainer stated that, in his opinion, the ground at Chepstow was riding faster than the official description, whereas at Cheltenham the ground was on the easy side of Good and he was therefore happy for FIX SUN (FR) to take its chance on this occasion.

The performance of HIJACK (IRE), which started favourite and finished unplaced, was considered. Nicky Henderson could offer no explanation for the gelding's performance other than Nico de Boinville reporting that HIJACK (IRE) made a mistake at the third-last hurdle; the gelding was routine tested.

Following the race, Daryl Jacob reported that FIX SUN (FR), unplaced, stopped quickly; the Veterinary Officer reported that a post-race examination revealed the gelding had sustained wounds to its right-fore and left-hind. The Veterinary Officer further reported that EXOD'ELA (FR), placed fifth, lost its left-hind shoe.

**Race 4 - 3:35pm.**

**THE BENTLEY FLYING SPUR HANDICAP STEEPLE CHASE (CLASS 2) (GBB RACE)**

Permission was given for DOITFORTHEVILLAGE (IRE) to wear a hood in the Parade Ring only.

A query was raised to consider why Paul Henderson was running DOITFORTHEVILLAGE (IRE) here at Cheltenham on going described as Good, having declared the gelding a non-runner at Chepstow on 10 October 2020 on ground with the same official description. The trainer stated that, in his opinion, the ground at Chepstow was riding faster than the official description, whereas at Cheltenham the ground was on the easy side of Good and he was therefore happy for DOITFORTHEVILLAGE (IRE) to take its chance on this occasion.

Following the race, Brendan Powell reported that NORTHERN BEAU (IRE), unplaced, ran too freely. Paul Henderson reported that DOITFORTHEVILLAGE (IRE), unplaced, was unsuited by the going, which was officially described as Good on this occasion, and would prefer a slower surface.

**Race 5 - 4:10pm.**

**THE CATESBY ESTATES MAIDEN HURDLE RACE (CLASS 3) (GBB RACE)**

Permission was given for PRESENTANDCOUNTING (IRE) to go early to post.

**Race 6 - 4:45pm.**

**THE TWO FARMERS CRISPS NOVICES' STEEPLE CHASE (CLASS 2) (GBB RACE)**

FUSIL RAFFLES (FR) wore earplugs throughout the race.

A query was raised to consider why Nicky Henderson was running FUSIL RAFFLES (FR) here at Cheltenham on going described as Good, having declared the gelding a non-runner at Chepstow on 10 October 2020 on ground with the same official description. The trainer stated that, in his opinion, the ground at Chepstow was riding faster than the official description, whereas at Cheltenham the ground was on the easy side of Good and he was therefore happy for FUSIL RAFFLES (FR) to take its chance on this occasion.

**Race 7 - 5:15pm.**

**THE BACK AND LAY AT MATCHBOOK CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE RACE (CLASS 3)**  
**(Challenger Two Mile Hurdle Series Qualifier)**

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

It was noted that FAIR MOUNTAIN (GER), unplaced, was hampered by the fall of STERNRUBIN (GER) at the second-last hurdle, causing Callum McKinnis to lose his irons before regaining them prior to the final hurdle.