

AINTREE STEWARDS' REPORT

Friday 10 April 2026

Stewards: Shaun Parker (Chief Steward), Jeremy Barlow (Stewards' Panel Chair), Peter Heaton (Stewards' Panel Chair), Adrian Sharpe (Steward), Louise Moore (Steward), Beth Dowswell (Assistant Steward), Philippa Hardy (Raceday Assistant), Nathan Green (Raceday Assistant).

Going: **MILDMAY Course**
Chase Race: Good to Soft (Good in places) (GSt 5.4)
Hurdle Race: Good to Soft (Good in places) (GSt 5.3)

NATIONAL Course

Chase Race: Good to Soft (GSt 5.3)

Rail: All Mildmay/Hurdle bends out 8yds except home bend hurdle which is out 5yds. GN Bends in innermost position.

Non-Runners

Race	Horse and Trainer	Reason
4:05pm	PRAIRIE WOLF (IRE), trained by Joel Parkinson & Sue Smith.	Self Cert (Abscess)
4:05pm	THEATRE NATIVE (IRE), trained by Henry de Bromhead.	Vets Cert (Coughing)
4:05pm	JIPCOT (FR), trained by Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill.	Self Cert (Abscess)
4:40pm	NO DRAMA THIS END (IRE), trained by Paul Nicholls.	Vets Cert (Burst Blood Vessel) (Vets Cert issued on course by the Veterinary Officer)
5:15pm	MR MCLOUGHLAN, trained by Jack Jones.	Self Cert (Temperature)

Jockey Changes

Race	Horse	Declared Jockey	Replacement Jockey	Reason
4:40pm	CATCHINTSAVO (IRE)	Richie McLernon	Sam Twiston-Davies	(Twiston-Davies' intended mount declared a Non-Runner)

Race 1 - 1:45pm .

THE WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP HURDLE RACE (CLASS 1) (PREMIER HANDICAP) (GBB RACE)

Permission was given for RAMBO T (IRE), INDEEVAR BLEU (FR), FINGLE BRIDGE (IRE), ACT OF AUTHORITY (FR), SWINDON VILLAGE (IRE), BOWMORE (IRE), BALLYKINLAR (IRE), and TOP JIMMY to all wear a red hood to the start.

Racing into the first bend in a tightly bunched field, FIERCELY PROUD (IRE), unplaced, became

awkwardly placed on the heels of SIR GALAHAD (IRE), unplaced, causing it to clip heels and stumble, but after viewing a recording of the incident, it was found that no riding offence was involved.

After jumping the final hurdle, JAZZY MATTY (FR), placed fifth, edged slightly left-handed giving a bump to EMID'IO PEPE (FR), placed fourth, but after viewing a recording of the incident, it was found that no riding offence was involved.

The performance of JOYEUSE (FR), which finished unplaced, beaten by 23 lengths, was considered. It was noted that the representative of Nicky Henderson could offer no explanation for the mare's performance on this occasion and the Veterinary Officer examined JOYEUSE (FR) post-race during routine testing and had nothing to report.

Following the race, Tom Bellamy reported that his saddle slipped sideways shortly after jumping the final hurdle on FAVOUR AND FORTUNE (IRE), placed third.

Race 2 - 2:20pm .

THE WILLIAM HILL MILDMAI NOVICES' STEEPLE CHASE (CLASS 1) (Grade 1) (GBB RACE)

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

WENDIGO (FR) was kicked at the start by another runner. Having been checked by the Veterinary Surgeon, the gelding was deemed fit to race.

An enquiry was held into the riding of the winner, GOLD DANCER (FR), ridden by P. Townend, from jumping the final fence up until rounding the bend towards the pull up area after which the gelding was immediately assessed by Veterinary Surgeons and subsequently euthanised on welfare grounds. Townend and the Director of Equine Regulation, Safety, and Welfare were both interviewed and shown recordings of the incident. Townend explained that GOLD DANCER (FR) had made a bad mistake at the last fence after which it had taken a stride or two for the gelding to gather himself before, in his opinion, running on in a straight line to the winning line where GOLD DANCER (FR) felt sound. Townend added that it was only until rounding the bend towards the pull up area that the gelding's action changed when GOLD DANCER (FR) went from a canter to a trot after which he immediately dismounted from the gelding. After reviewing the footage, The Director of Equine, Safety, and Welfare explained that GOLD DANCER (FR)'s action was typical of a 3-mile chaser in the final stages of a race and supported the evidence of Townend. After hearing all of their evidence, the Stewards noted Townend's explanation.

Race 3 - 2:55pm .

THE THATPRIZEGUY TOP NOVICES' HURDLE RACE (CLASS 1) (Grade 1) (GBB RACE)

Following the race, Jonathan Burke reported that LA CONQUIERE (FR), placed sixth, made a bad mistake at the second-last hurdle.

Race 4 - 3:30pm .

THE JCB MELLING STEEPLE CHASE (CLASS 1) (Grade 1) (GBB RACE)

Permission was given for SAINT SEGAL (FR) to go early to post.

Following the race, Tristan Durrell reported that L'EAU DU SUD (FR), which was pulled up, was never travelling.

Race 5 - 4:05pm .

THE RANDOX TOPHAM HANDICAP STEEPLE CHASE (CLASS 1) (PREMIER HANDICAP) (GBB RACE)

Permission was given for MATATA (IRE) to go early to post wearing a red hood, for both BOOSTER BOB (IRE) and POUR LES FILLES to wear a red hood to the start, and for TEDDY BLUE (GER) to be mounted in the chute and go early to post.

Jumping the second-last fence, the winner, WILL THE WISE (IRE), jumped right-handed at the same time as BOOMBAWN (IRE), placed eighth, jumped left-handed resulting in GENTLEMAN DE MEE (FR), placed fourth, becoming short of room and its rider having to steady, 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 WILL THE WISE (IRE).

Race 6 - 4:40pm .

THE ODDSCHECKER SEFTON NOVICES' HURDLE RACE (CLASS 1) (Grade 1) (GBB RACE)

Permission was given for HARBOUR ISLAND (FR), JOHNNY'S JURY (IRE), MONDOUI'BOY (FR), and TALK TO THE MAN (IRE) to all wear a red hood to the start.

An enquiry was held to consider interference between the second-last and final hurdle involving FRANKIE JOHN (IRE), placed fourth, ridden by Daniel King, JOHNNY'S JURY (IRE), placed third, ridden by Jonathan Burke, and DALSTON LAD (IRE), unplaced, ridden by Harry Skelton. King was suspended 3 days for careless riding as he edged FRANKIE JOHN (IRE) right-handed when insufficiently clear carrying JOHNNY'S JURY (IRE) off its intended line which in turn caused DALSTON LAD (IRE) to become short of room and Skelton having to take a check on the gelding.

Race 7 - 5:15pm .

THE DEBENHAMS HANDICAP HURDLE RACE (CLASS 2) (CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' AND AMATEUR RIDERS' RACE) (GBB RACE)

Permission was given for both HARRY LOWES (IRE) and WANDERING EGO (IRE) to wear a red hood to the start.

After an initial false start, the Start was effected successfully on the second attempt from a standing start. 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, William Maggs reported that STAR OF GUITING (IRE), unplaced, was slow into stride.

Suspensions

Person	Race	Horse	Days	Suspended Days
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Daniel King	Race - 4:40pm	FRANKIE JOHN (IRE)	3	24 Apr 2026 2 May 2026 4 May 2026
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