

AINTREE STEWARDS' REPORT

Saturday 11 April 2026

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

Going: **MILDMAY Course**
 Chase Race: Good to Soft (Good in places) (GSt 5.0)
 Hurdle Race: Good to Soft (Good in places) (GSt 5.4)
NATIONAL Course
 Chase Race: Good to Soft (GSt 5.0)

Rail: All rails in innermost position.

Non-Runners

Race	Horse and Trainer	Reason
1:55pm	CAME FROM NOWHERE (IRE), trained by Jeremy Scott.	Going (Changed Since Declarations)
2:30pm	AIN'T THAT A SHAME (IRE), trained by Tom Ellis.	Going (Changed Since Declarations)
2:30pm	AMIRITE (IRE), trained by Henry de Bromhead.	Other (Running in the Grand National)
2:30pm	STOLEN SILVER (FR), trained by Georgina Nicholls.	Self Cert (Bruised Foot)
2:30pm	MYRETOWN (IRE), trained by Lucinda Russell & Michael Scudamore.	Vets Cert (Abscess)
2:30pm	IMPERIAL SAINT (FR), trained by Philip Hobbs & Johnson White.	Other (Running in the Grand National)
3:05pm	HAPPY JACKY (IRE), trained by Mark Fahey.	Travel (Transport Issues)
4:00pm	NICK ROCKETT (IRE), trained by W. P. Mullins.	Self Cert (Coughing)
4:00pm	PIED PIPER, trained by Gordon Elliott.	Self Cert (Lame)
4:00pm	SPILLANE'S TOWER (IRE), trained by James Joseph Mangan.	Horse not Qualified

Jockey Changes

Race	Horse	Declared Jockey	Replacement Jockey	Reason
5:00pm	BARACHIEL (IRE)	Robert Dunne	Tom Bellamy	(Dunne Injured)

Race 1 - 12:45pm .**THE HALLGARTEN & NOVUM WINES MAGHULL NOVICES' STEEPLE CHASE (CLASS 1) (Grade 1) (GBB RACE)**

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

The winner, MIRABAD (FR), appeared to show improved form compared with its previous run at Bangor-on-Dee on 25 February 2026, where the gelding finished second of three runners, beaten by 31 lengths. The representative of Dan Skelton's explanation that MIRABAD (FR) had benefited from the quicker ground, officially described as Good to Soft, Good in places and a change in tactics, that resulted in the gelding settling better on this occasion was noted and MIRABAD (FR) was routine tested.

Following the race, Sean Bowen reported that ALNILAM (FR), blundered at the sixth fence, resulting in his saddle slipping badly and that he subsequently pulled the gelding up.

Race 2 - 1:20pm .**THE WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP HURDLE RACE (CLASS 1) (PREMIER HANDICAP) (GBB RACE)**

Permission was given for both HOLD THE SERVE (IRE) and IKARAK (FR) to wear red hoods to post.

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.

The performance of KAKA'S COUSIN (IRE), which finished unplaced, beaten by 28¼ lengths, was considered. It was noted that A.J. O'Neill offer no explanation for the gelding's performance. The Veterinary Officer examined KAKA'S COUSIN (IRE) post-race during routine testing and had nothing to report.

The performance of ABSOLUTELY DOYEN (IRE), which finished unplaced, beaten by 50¾ lengths, was considered. The representative of Paul Nicholls' explanation that the gelding may be feeling the effects of a long season was noted.

Race 3 - 1:55pm .**THE TURNERS MERSEY NOVICES' HURDLE RACE (CLASS 1) (Grade 1) (GBB RACE)**

Permission was given for BOSSMAN JACK, SCORPIO RISING (IRE) and SOLDIER REEVES (IRE) to all wear red hoods to post and for KOSAC D'OUDAIRIES (FR) to be mounted in the chute and wear a red hood to post.

Race 4 - 2:30pm .**THE WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP STEEPLE CHASE (CLASS 1) (REGISTERED AS THE FREEBOOTER HANDICAP STEEPLE CHASE) (PREMIER HANDICAP) (GBB RACE)**

Permission was given for CRUZ CONTROL (FR) to wear a red hood to post.

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, J. J. Slevin reported that BRAVE FORTUNE (IRE), which was pulled up, jumped poorly, the Veterinary Officer examined the gelding post-race and had nothing to report.

Race 5 - 3:05pm .

THE JET2 LIVERPOOL HURDLE RACE (CLASS 1) (Grade 1) (GBB RACE)

Permission was given for both HONESTY POLICY (IRE) and LAVIDA ADIVA (IRE) to wear red hoods to post.

An enquiry was held to consider interference passing the winning post on the first circuit, involving the winner, HOME BY THE LEE (IRE), ridden by J. J. Slevin, and HEWICK (IRE), which was later pulled up, ridden by Paddy Hanlon. Slevin was cautioned for careless riding as he shifted left-handed when insufficiently clear of HEWICK (IRE), resulting in Hanlon taking a slight check.

Following the race, Paddy Hanlon reported that HEWICK (IRE), which was pulled up, never travelled. Sean Bowen reported that STRONG LEADER, which was pulled up, never travelled, the Veterinary Officer examined the gelding post-race and had nothing to report.

Race 6 - 4:00pm .

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

Permission was given for JAGWAR (FR), FAVORI DE CHAMPDOU (FR), MONTY'S STAR (IRE) and STELLAR STORY (IRE) to all wear red hoods to post and for TWIG to be mounted in the chute and wear a red hood to post.

An enquiry was held to consider whether Toby McCain-Mitchell, the rider of TOP OF THE BILL (IRE), who fell at the last fence, should have pulled the gelding up, having been in a prominent position before weakening rapidly. The rider and the Veterinary Officer were interviewed and recordings of the incident were viewed. Having considered the evidence, McCain-Mitchell was suspended for 10 days for failing to pull up when the horse had tailed off.

Race 7 - 5:00pm .

THE WEATHERBYS nhstallions.co.uk STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (CLASS 1)(Grade 2) (GBB RACE)

Permission was given for COOLTOBECARELESS (IRE), FORTHFACTOR (IRE), GOVERNORS ROCK (IRE), MERRY AWAY (IRE), MOMENTS AWAY (IRE), RICES POOL (IRE), RISKY OBSESSION (IRE) and SMILE JOHN BOY (IRE) to all wear red hoods to post.

LOOK ME (FR) wore ear plugs throughout the race.

Following the race, Harry Cobden reported that BASS HUNTER (FR), unplaced, hung left-handed, the Veterinary Officer examined the gelding post-race and had nothing to report. Lorcan Williams reported that MERRY AWAY (IRE), placed fourth, hung left-handed, the Veterinary Officer examined the gelding



post-race and had nothing to report.

Suspensions

Person	Race	Horse	Days	Suspended Days
Toby McCain-Mitchell	Race - 4:00pm	TOP OF THE BILL (IRE)	10	11 May 2026 10 May 2026 9 May 2026 8 May 2026 7 May 2026 6 May 2026 5 May 2026 4 May 2026 2 May 2026 25 Apr 2026