

Virginia Racing Commission  
5707 Huntsman Road  
Suite 201-B  
Richmond, Virginia 23250

STEWARDS' REPORT

RACE MEETING: Virginia Gold Cup

DATE: May 6, 2017

WEATHER: intermittent showers

COURSE CONDITION: soft  
93 psi, 9 moisture

CLERK OF SCALES: William Hair

STARTER: Graham Alcock

STEWARDS: Tad Zimmerman (presiding)  
Gus Brown  
Gregg Morris

The meeting with the riders took place at the advertised time. Robbie Walsh sought and was granted permission to be excused from attending the riders meeting.

OFFICIAL ACTIONS:

First Race:

*SHOW KING* was scratched due to the course condition.

*MOORLAND* was pulled up after the 10<sup>th</sup> fence. It was reported that he found the going too soft.

*BIEDERMEIER* and *HOODED* were pulled up after the 11<sup>th</sup> fence. They were reported to have tired.

*MUTIN* was pulled up after the 12<sup>th</sup> fence. He was reported to have tired.

In addition to the winner, *HOODED* was selected for post-race testing.

Second Race:

At the suggestion of the rider's representative, the open ditch (14<sup>th</sup>) fence was re-inspected and closed due to the poor condition of the hedge.

*COGNASHENE* was pulled up after the 12<sup>th</sup> fence. He was reported to have been scared.

*SALUDA SAM* pulled up after the 16<sup>th</sup> fence. He was reported to have tired.

Approaching the 18<sup>th</sup> fence, both *PRESELI ROCK* and *TRITON LIGHT* went off course. *TRITON LIGHT* was pulled up. *PRESELI ROCK* returned to the course between dowling poles without interfering with the field and finished third.

There was a Steward's Inquiry into the running of the race. The riders were interviewed separately. Darren Nagle, the rider of *TRITON LIGHT*, offered no excuse for having gone off course. Hadden Frost, the rider of *PRESELI ROCK*, testified that he did not believe he was off course as he had not missed a beacon. The Stewards informed him that he had deviated from the prescribed course and therefore was considered off course. *PRESELI ROCK* was disqualified from his 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish and declared unplaced.

In addition to the winner, *DYE FORE* was selected for post-race testing.

Third Race:

The chart for *UNSINKABLE*'s last start at Tryon is incorrect. He wore a hood and not blinkers in that start. A subsequent review of the Tryon video confirms he was not wearing blinkers.

The chart for *SIGNATURE LOOK*'s last start at Middleburg is incorrect. He wore blinkers in that start. A subsequent review of the Middleburg Video confirms he was wearing blinkers.

*EASY EXIT* froze at the start and refused to enter the starting box. Starter Alcock circled the field and lined them up a second time. Again *EASY EXIT* refused to enter the starting box and was scratched. The Stewards placed *EASY EXIT* on the Starters List with the understanding the he may not be entered in a race with pari-mutuel wagering or exclude the entry of another horse from a race until he has started successfully in a NSA sanctioned race.

*SIGNATURE LOOK* and *REPORTER* both pulled up after the 11<sup>th</sup> fence. Both horses were reported to have tired.

In addition to the winner, *TUBAL* was selected for post race testing.

Fourth Race:

All of the horses were pre-race TCO2 tested.

*CHORAL SOCIETY* was scratched due to the going.

*BALANCE THE BUDGET* was scratched with a vet excuse.

*HARDROCK ELEVEN* was pulled up after the 11<sup>th</sup> fence. He was reported to have shown a lack of interest in running.

*ALAJMAL* was pulled up after the 12<sup>th</sup> fence. He was reported to have tired due to the heavy going.

In addition to the winner, *SIMENON* was selected for post race testing.

Fifth Race:

All of the horses were pre-race TCO2 tested.

*LE CHEVALIER* was scratched with a vet excuse.

*RAVEN'S CHOICE* was pulled up after the 18<sup>th</sup> fence.

*CANYON ROAD* was pulled up after the 21<sup>st</sup> fence. He was reported to have tired in the deep going.

*GRAND MANAN* was pulled up after the 22<sup>nd</sup> fence.

In addition to the winner, *HOT RIZE* was selected for post race testing.

Sixth Race:

*POSTULATION* was scratched.

*GOTTA GET AWAY* went wide on the turn into the backstretch, went outside of a beacon for the timber course and pulled up. He was off course for failure to follow the prescribed course.

A Steward's Inquiry was announced.

Darren Nagle, the rider of *GOTTA GET AWAY*, indicated that he was unable to make the turn and that the horse was very difficult to hold and steer. The Patrol Judges in the vicinity were mixed in their opinion of whether the rider or the horse was to blame for having gone off course.

In addition to the winner, *DOMO ARTIEGATO* was selected for post-race testing.

Seventh Race:

*KEEPYURIONDABALDO* was scratched with a vet excuse.

*CORSTORPHINE* was scratched due to the going.

*HARD THUNDER* and *DELAWANA* both had blinkers off. These changes were announced to the general public.

*WILLIE'S MOJO* and *HARD THUNDER* were both eased. *HARD THUNDER* was reported to have tired in the deep going.

In addition to the winner, *DISOBEDIENCE* was selected for post-race testing.

Eighth Race:

*SUPER BIRD* was scratched with a vet excuse.

Jimmy Day, the trainer of *OFFICER'S OATH*, asked for permission to run without blinkers due to the course condition. The Stewards granted permission and this equipment change was announced the general public.

*JO PYE WEED* froze at the start and refused to enter the starting box. Starter Alcock circled the field and lined them up a second time. Again *JO PYE WEED* refused to enter the starting box and was scratched. The Stewards placed *JO PYE WEED* on the Starters List with the understanding the he may not be entered in a race with pari-mutuel wagering or exclude the entry of another horse from a race until he has started successfully in a NSA sanctioned race.

In addition to the winner, *OFFICER'S OATH* was selected for post-race testing.

Following the eighth race, the Steward's held two hearings.

Haddon Frost came before the Stewards for having gone off course in the second race on *PRESELI ROCK*. The Stewards went over the rule regarding the prescribed course and made clear that the dowling poles were considered obstacles under that rule. The Stewards assessed a fine of \$500 for having gone off course in violation of the Virginia Racing Commission's Rules of Racing 11VAC10-140-240, which reads, "If a horse leaves the prescribed course of a race and jumps any fence or goes around any beacon or other obstacle other than those on the prescribed course, it must turn back and resume the race from the point at which it originally left the prescribed course, or be disqualified. A rider who continues in a race on a horse thus disqualified may be fine, or suspended, or both..."

The Stewards explained that he was subject to a further fine for having continued in the race. However, given his having been unclear on whether the flag or the dowling poles were the demarcation of the prescribed course, the Stewards did not assess a further fine for having continued in the race.

Daren Nagle came before the Stewards for having gone off course in the second and sixth races. First the Stewards assessed a fine of \$500 for having gone off course on *TRITON LIGHT* in the second race in violation of the Virginia Racing Commission's Rules of Racing

11VAC10-140-240, which reads, “If a horse leaves the prescribed course of a race and jumps any fence or goes around any beacon or other obstacle other than those on the prescribed course, it must turn back and resume the race from the point at which it originally left the prescribed course, or be disqualified. A rider who continues in a race on a horse thus disqualified may be fine, or suspended, or both...”

Then the Stewards then reviewed with him the video of the sixth race. The Stewards impressed upon him the importance of making every effort to stay on course and noted that there was a lack of visible effort to stay within the timber beacon which in this case was considered a demarcation of the prescribed course. The importance of a visible effort in a race with pari-mutuel wagering was emphasized.

The Stewards also questioned him on his testimony that he was unable to keep *GOTTA GET AWAY* on the prescribed course and whether this indicated that the horse should be placed on the Steward’s List. The response given was that while rank and hard to hold, he did not feel that his performance was deserving of being placed on the Steward’s list. The Stewards found that *GOTTA GET AWAY* having gone off course was accidental and no fine was assessed.

The Stewards had spoken with Neil Morris, the trainer of *GOTTA GET AWAY*, who expressed his opinion that Darren Nagle had missed the turn and that the horse had not lugged or bolted. The Stewards subsequently asked Kieran Norris who had ridden the horse in his last race at Tryon how difficult he was to rate and control. The response was that he was a bit green and not easy but that he certainly did not represent a danger on the race course. The Stewards took no action in regard to *GOTTA GET AWAY*.

OFFICIAL COMMENTS: The total handle was \$100,509.

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Tad Zimmerman (presiding)