



NATIONAL STEEPLECHASE ASSOCIATION

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STEWARDS' REPORT

RACE MEETING: Middleburg Fall

DATE: October 14, 2017

WEATHER: Clear

COURSE CONDITION: yielding/good

Compaction: 100

Moisture: 8

CLERK OF SCALES: Bill Hair
Courtney Reid

STARTER: Graham Alcock

STEWARDS: Tad Zimmerman (Presiding)
Cook Edens
Norman Fraley
Sterling Young (Safety)

OFFICIAL ACTIONS: An automobile accident was reported on Route 15 north of Leesburg. This resulting traffic jam delayed the arrival of a number of trainers (Boucher, Fenwick, Young). In addition, Teddy Mulligan called and reported trouble getting one of his horses to load, Jeff Murphy called and reported a dead battery on his truck, and Julie Gomena was also somewhat tardy. None of the late arrivals were on the grounds any less than 90 minutes before the first race and there was no issue with timely Lasix treatment. Each trainer was spoken to individually and reminded that, absent extenuating circumstances, the penalty for late arrival is for the horse to be scratched. The point was made that any pattern of late arrival would certainly be treated with less understanding.

The meeting with the riders took place at the advertised time.

Race 2: SWELLELEGENT was pulled up 3 fences from home and was reported to have been running very green.

Race 3: MIGUEL GRAU and UNSINKABLE were compromised at the start and did not break at the flag drop.

ALAJMAL was pulled up before the last fence. His rider reported that he had hit the previous fence hard and was not running smoothly.

Following the race Starter Alcock reported that he had lost sight of the horses at the back of the field prior to dropping the flag and consequently two horses had not been given a fair opportunity to start. He indicated that had he been able to see the two horses he would not have dropped the flag when he did. The Assistant Starter's flag was lowered somewhat belatedly but was also dropped. Starter Alcock apologized and said he had been asked to pay particular attention to 4 of the 10

horses in the race. He accepted full responsibility and expressed his regret that because of his premature flag drop two runners were not given a full and fair opportunity to start.

Race 4: CLASS CHEROKEE was selected at random for pre-race testing.

GUSTO AT DAWN was trailing the field and pulled up two from home. He was vanned to the stable area. It was reported that he had an old bow which he may have reinjured.

CLASS CHEROKEE was pulled up before the last fence, tired.

The winner and second place finisher were tested.

Race 5: ETCHED IN TIME pecked badly and lost his rider three fences from home. His rider, Keith Dalton was examined by the Course Physician and cleared to ride. It was reported that the horse having met the fence long, chipped in.

Race 6: SPOILER ALERT was pulled up two fences from home, tired.

Race 8: The Stewards were contacted by the Clerk of Scales who reported that Darren Nagle, named to ride NAUGHTY IN NOLA with an assigned weight of 137, had weighed out at 150. The Stewards indicated that, as a professional rider, he was prohibited from carrying more than 10 pounds over the assigned weight. (Rules of Racing Chapter 7.6.A.3). With no other rider immediately available who could make the weight, NAUGHTY IN NOLA was scratched.

There was a Stewards Inquiry into the running of the race. The winner ERYX had drifted from the inside rail to the outside rail down the stretch, floating the second-place finisher OFFICER'S OATH across the course to his outside. There was no contact and Byron Moorcroft, the rider of ERYX, had his whip in his right (outside) hand. The winning margin was ½ a length.

The Stewards spoke via radio with Sean McDermott, the rider of OFFICER'S OATH. He did not seem to think that he had been interfered with or that having been carried wide had cost him the race. The Stewards, having reviewed the pan and corner video and having received testimony from McDermott, also considered how the horses were going and the margin at the wire in reaching a decision. The Stewards determined that the interference had not affected the outcome of the race and declared the race official.

Byron Moorcroft, suffering some heat/wasting exhaustion, was interviewed by the Stewards and shown the video of the stretch run. He indicated that he had his whip in his outside hand and had endeavored to ride a straight course but that his horse was lugging to the outside. The Stewards accepted his explanation and deemed the interference accidental.

The Stewards met with Darren Nagle and Bill Hair, the Clerk of Scales, to determine how it had become necessary to scratch NAUGHTY IN NOLA. Darren Nagle stated that he had informed the Clerk of Scales and the trainer at the beginning of the day that the best he could do was 150. The Clerk of Scales, while not recalling that specific detail, did not directly dispute Nagle's account. The Clerk of Scales had been under the impression that Nagle was still riding as an amateur, making the overweight less critical. Nagle indicated that he was unaware of the 10-pound overweight limit for professional riders.

The Stewards reminded Nagle that it was his responsibility as a rider to be aware of the rules of racing. It was also noted that it was not the Clerk of Scales responsibility to be aware of the professional/amateur status of riders.

OFFICIAL COMMENTS:

The Safety Steward informed the Stewards that he had observed Janet Elliot with a small syringe in the stable area. She was about to administer Acepromizine orally to her lead pony. The Safety Steward made himself known and watched as she did so. Her lead pony was not stabled in the vicinity of the horse she was running. The Safety Steward reminded her that syringes, including dose syringes, are not to be in possession of anyone other than veterinarians and that only veterinarians are permitted to administer medication in the stable area. The Safety Steward was confident that there was no nefarious intent. The Stewards discussed the incident with Trainer Elliot who expressed some surprise that this rule would apply to her lead pony. The Steward's reiterated that the administration of any medication in the stable area by anyone other than a veterinarian was strictly prohibited. Trainer Elliot was apologetic and indicated that in the future she would strictly observe this rule which she now understood more fully.

The procedure for "Quick Official" was followed and worked well and without incident. However, without any claims of foul, it was not really tested. The visibility and positioning of the official accepting claims is a concern, especially given the unavoidable variation week to week.

The course was in excellent condition.

Tad Zimmerman, Presiding