



## NATIONAL STEEPLECHASE ASSOCIATION

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### STEWARDS' REPORT

**Race Meeting:** High Hope

**Date:** September 23, 2018

**Stewards:** Gregg Morris  
Bernie Hettel  
Larry Curtis  
Cathy O'Meara, Safety Steward

**Weather:** Rain  
**Course:** Compaction: Soft/yielding  
**Moisture:** Wet

**Clerk of Scales:** Dana Burke

**Starter:** Rug Howard

#### Official Actions:

**Race 1:** SATISH lost rider Willie McCarthy at the second last fence. McCarthy was cleared after being examined by the course physician.

FLETCHED was pulled up by Sean McDermott before the second last fence.

**Race 2:** DYNAFORMERSREQUEST was pulled up by Willie McCarthy before the second last fence.

NAVAL GAZER was pulled up by Shane Crimin before the last fence.

**Race 3:** ABLE ARCHER, trained by Jonathan Sheppard, was randomly selected for pre-race 'milkshake' testing.

UNSINKABLE appeared reluctant to leave the starting box when the flag was dropped. He is already on the Watch List due to similar behavior. He will remain on that list. UNSINKABLE was later pulled up before the last fence.

ABLE ARCHER was pulled up before the second last fence.

**Race 4:** DEVIL'S WRANGLER was pulled up before the third last fence.

DAPPER DAN was pulled up before the second last fence.

L'AIGLE ROYAL fell with jockey Alex Leventhal at the second last fence. Leventhal was cleared by the course physician. Safety Steward Cathy O'Meara reported that L'AIGLE ROYAL was examined by the vet back at the barn and was reported to be OK.

**Race 5:** LONG HOUSE SAINT fell with Jack Doyle at the 7<sup>th</sup> fence. Doyle was cleared by the course physician and LONG HOUSE SAINT was cleared by the vet at the barn.

LAST FAREWELL was pulled up before the third last fence.

PINCER MOVEMENT was pulled up before the second last fence.

IT'S NOTHING was pulled up before the last fence.

**Official Comments:** The Race Committee, in particular Michelle Primm, is commended for perseverance despite the adverse weather conditions. Heavy rain the night before and up until noon on race day made for significant logistical problems but the races were run as scheduled without significant incident. Careful course preparation was evident during the course walk the day before the races. The following are suggestions for improvement going forward:

1.) There was a critical lapse in communication with the course physician. When Jack Doyle fell in the fifth race the physician could not be located for approximately 15 minutes. Fortunately, Doyle was unhurt but had he been injured there would have been no excuse for the lack of immediate care. One solution would be to have the course physician at the tower during the running of every race.

2.) Prior to the sixth race (flat race) a patrol judge notified the Stewards that the inside wing on what was the second last fence on the hurdle course had not been removed by the jump crew. The Stewards were unable to contact the jump crew by radio to have the wing taken down.

3.) The placement of the hurdle just past the wire is problematical since it becomes a significant obstacle when horses are pulling up after the race. If possible, it should at least be moved more toward the center of the track.

Gregg Morris  
(electronically signed)