

STEWARDS REPORT

Race Meeting: Grand National

Date: April 20, 2019

Stewards: Gregg Morris

Weather: Clear

Gus Brown

Bruce Rodman

Norm Fraley, Safety Steward

Course: Good

Clerk of Scales: Jake Chalfin

Starter: Chris Daney

Official Actions:

The course walk with race director Peter Fenwick took place on April 17th. At that time it was determined that due to wet ground on the landing side of fence #2 of the Grand National course the fence would be closed and the field redirected to jump the adjacent fence as #2 and #14. After more rain on the Friday before the races the Stewards on race day morning decided to close fence #16 on the Western Run course. The field was redirected around the fence and an additional flag was positioned on the course to assist in the approach to the last fence.

Around 9:30am on race day trainer Richard Valentine notified the Stewards that his van was broken down on the interstate just north of the Washington beltway. Another van had been dispatched but Valentine stated that he did not think his horse, OLD TIMER, would be on the grounds in time for his Lasix. He further stated that since he would run the horse without Lasix if allowed to do so. Valentine said that he had been preparing OLD TIMER to run in the Grand National and next week in the Maryland Hunt Cup. The Stewards are well aware of NSA MEDICATION GUIDELINES #14 which states "Consistent with current practice, a horse that is entered on Salix and does not receive Salix will not be permitted to run." However the Stewards decided that due to the extenuating circumstances and also to the unique nature of these Maryland timber events (in that they only occur once a year and horsemen spend months preparing their horses to compete in them) they notified Valentine that he would be allowed to run without Salix provided he arrived on the grounds in time for the pre-race vet check. The Stewards directed testing vet Dr. Odian to pull a special on OLD TIMER after the race.

First Race: GAS CAN EDDIE was randomly selected for pre-race "milkshake" testing.
GAS CAN EDDIE lost rider John Brophy at the 8th fence.
OLD TIMER pulled up before the 15th fence. (tired).
CLASS INDIAN lost rider Justin Batoff at the 16th fence.
ADRAHAN fell with Martin McIntyre at the 17th fence.
SOVEREIGN FUND lost rider Bethany Baumgardner while trying to avoid the fallen ADRAHAN.
MONSTALEUR lost rider Forrest Kelly at the 18th fence.
ADRAHAN was euthanized on the course although the course vet told the Stewards that the horse had probably expired before she got to him. She

confirmed that a blood sample had been drawn and that the horse would be sent for necropsy.

All riders who had fallen in the race were cleared by the course physician with assistance from the athletic trainer.

After the race the Stewards were notified by someone watching the live streaming of the race that WILDCATTER, who finished sixth, had gone off course at the 7th fence. The Stewards have no view of this fence from the stand so rely on the video coverage on that part of the course, as well as the patrol judge. The Stewards were informed by the video person operating the monitor at the base of the stand that he could not access the video from that part of the course due to problems in the control truck. The Stewards contacted the patrol judge who was standing next to fence #7. She denied that anyone had gone off course at her fence. The Stewards finally got a chance to see video from the drone which confirmed that WILDCATTER had indeed ducked to the right and jumped the wing outside the flag on the 7th jump. WILDCATTER was therefore disqualified.

Second Race: PURED IT lost rider Martin McIntyre at the 9th fence.
OUT PLAYING was pulled up after the 15th fence (tired).
BATTLE ARAY was pulled up after the 16th fence (tired).

Martin McIntyre was again cleared by the course physician.

After the races the Stewards were finally able to view the oncourse video of the 7th fence in the Grand National, which they did along with Major Harry Wallace, the rider of WILDCATTER. Wallace stated that his horse had ducked to the right at the fence and he had almost fallen off so was unaware that he had gone off course. The Stewards agreed that there was little he could have done to avoid going off course so held him blameless for that. However, he should have been aware that he had gone off course so was fined \$250 for staying in the race after going off course.

Official Comments:

After the races the Stewards discussed the problem of getting replays of the various cameras on the course after a race with Mary Ellen from TPH Productions. She stated that due to the live streaming program, the video from some of the cameras on course are not available to the Stewards immediately after the race. Although we recognize the importance of the live stream in showcasing our sport to the public it should not be at the expense of the video coverage available to the Stewards, especially on a course like the Grand National where so much of the course is out of view of the Stewards stand. It is also interesting to note that those watching the live stream are able to see more of the race than the Stewards. Hopefully a solution can be found that will not jeopardize either aspect of the video coverage.

Once again video provided by a drone proved to be a valuable adjunct to the video coverage. It is hoped that this will become a part of the video coverage at every race meet.

The Race Committee & Chairman are congratulated for the course preparation under the adverse conditions we've had this spring and for race day organization.

Gregg Morris, Presiding
(electronically signed)