



NATIONAL STEEPLECHASE ASSOCIATION

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STEWARDS' REPORT

RACE MEETING: Willowdale Steeplechase

DATE: 05/12/19

WEATHER: Rain, 52°

COURSE CONDITION:

Compaction: soft

Moisture: wet

CLERK OF SCALES: Jacob Chalfin

STARTER: Christopher Daney

STEWARDS: Gus Brown

Charles Flesichmann

Dave Hershbell

Charlene Hershbell, Safety Steward

OFFICIAL ACTIONS:

Due to rainfall during the week and heavy rain throughout the morning of the races, the Stewards inspected the racecourse and met with both the trainers and jockeys representatives and determined that the course was soft, and was safe for racing, and would be monitored throughout the day.

At 10:00 am, Trainer Billy Meister contacted the Stewards and informed them that he was having mechanical issues and may be a few minutes late for the 2 hour check-in time of 11:30 am required of all non-lasix runners on the day's program. After confirming his situation and confirming with Safety Steward Charlene Hershbell of his arrival time on the grounds at 11:45 am, Trainer Meister was granted permission to run both Dr. K'Eogh in the 5th race and Grand Manan in the 6th race. Testing veterinarian Dr. Michael Odian was asked to perform special tests on both runners.

Race 1: Jockey Aaron Sinnott, who was not cleared to ride from a fall the previous day, was replaced by Paul O'Neill on INDIGO HEART

Race 2: SUNRISE SUNSET pulled up before the 9th fence, reported tired. MASQUERADER fell at the 11th fence with Kieren Norris. Norris was cleared by the Course Physician. Norris, as well as multiple other jockeys in this race, felt that the ground around the last become waterlogged from the steady rain that had continued to fall and Norris believed this contributed to his fall. After consultation with the jockeys and inspection of the racecourse, this fence was removed for the final race. The

jockeys did feel that the racecourse remained safe and racing could continue, and this was isolated to this particular area of the racecourse. After further inspection, the Stewards agreed that the course was safe to continue racing. Also in this race, jockey Barry Foley aboard BE SOMEBODY was referred to the Stewards Advisory Committee for further review of his use of the whip.

Race 3: MOORLAND (IRE) was a late scratch due to heavy ground. In this race, Tom Garner replaced Aaron Sinnott aboard LEAD INVESTOR. MONTAUK MAN pulled up before the 8th fence, tired.

Race 4: MONSTALEUR was chosen at random by the Stewards for pre-race TCO2 testing. CLASS INDIAN pulled up before the 19th fence. SOVEREIGN FUND pulled up before the 22nd fence.

RACE 5: MR. BRIGHTSIDE was a late scratch due to the heavy ground. In this race, Tom Garner replaced Aaron Sinnott aboard ABLE ARCHER. ROLLFORWARD pulled up before the 14th fence.

Race 6: BIEDERMEIER was a late scratch due to the heavy ground. DERWIN'S PROSPECTOR pulled up before the 11th fence. SUMO POWER unseated apprentice jockey Mackenzie Rosman at the 13th fence. EMBARRASSED pulled up after the 13th fence. During the running of this race, the last fence sustained significant damage in the first circuit of the race and was deemed unsafe to jump by patrol judge Tuck Hunter. The fence was closed and the proper wave around procedures were implemented by Hunter, members of the fence crew and the outriding staff from River Hills Foxhounds. Also during the running of this race, SUMO POWER, who had unseated his rider earlier in the race, while trailing the field through the infield, attempted to jump a drainage ditch inside of the racecourse. The horse fell and did not immediately get up. The veterinarians, outriders and horse ambulance responded to the scene in under a minute. He was immediately medicated and stabilized and allowed to rest before being put on an equine sled and loaded onto the ambulance and transported to New Bolton Equine Hospital for further evaluation and treatment.

OFFICIAL COMMENTS:

The Race Committee and volunteers should be commended given the conditions present on the day. A particular thank you to the trainers, their employees and the jockeys for working to make the day move forward as quickly as possible.

Dr. Chuck Arensburg, Dr. Bernadette Smith, Jimmy Riggins from New Bolton Center, and the River Hills Fox Hounds staff should be commended for their rapid response time in the day's last race. Everyone showed great professionalism in very trying conditions.

Gus Brown