



NATIONAL STEEPLECHASE ASSOCIATION

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STEWARDS' REPORT

RACE MEETING: Virginia Gold Cup

DATE: June 27, 2020

WEATHER: clear

COURSE CONDITION: good
compaction: 113
moisture: 9

CLERK OF SCALES: Bill Hair

STARTER: Graham Alcock

STEWARDS: Rug Howard
Gregg Morris
Tad Zimmerman

Sterling Young (safety)

OFFICIAL ACTIONS:

First Race:

GOLD SHIELD and *DRAPERS GUILD* were pulled up and reported to have tired.

Second Race:

COMPASS ZONE was pulled up and reported to have tired.

ZEN'S LAND was pulled up and reported to have lost his action due to the firm ground.

Third Race:

CURVE OF STONES, ridden by Barry Foley, cut a beacon on the west end of the course. He was followed off course by *PEPPAY LE PUGH*, ridden by Michael Mitchell. Both horses were pulled up promptly.

DAPPER DAN, ridden by Graham Watters, hit the stone wall and fell. *THE HOLY ONE*, ridden by Archie Macauley, went down on landing due to *DAPPER DAN*'s mishap. *DAPPER DAN* fractured his left front leg and was euthanized on the course. Graham Watters was transported to the medical tent with his left wrist in a splint where he was examined by the Course Physician. He cleared his concussion screening and was transported to the Fauquier Hospital

with a suspected fracture of his left wrist. Archie Macauley was examined by the Course Physician and cleared to ride.

Keri Brion reported that PAC YER TACK had injured his tendon at the stone wall.

The Steward's Report's Official Comment from the 2019 International Gold Cup bears repeating. It reads as follows:

The safety of the stone wall jump on the Steeplethon course should be improved. One possible solution would be to replace the turf cap with a half round telephone pole bolted to the top and to dress the top stones to smooth their jagged edges.

A Steward's hearing was held and Barry Foley and Michael Mitchell were both fined \$250 for having gone off course.

Fourth Race:

With Graham Watters out, Richard Boucher completed the application for a rider's license and rode *MACCABEE*.

SKYDIVING, NO WUNDER, and VENEER OF CHARM were pulled up and reported to have tired.

Fifth Race:

BALANCE THE BUDGET and *IRANISTAN* were pulled up and reported to have tired.

In addition to the winner, the second placed horse was selected for post-race testing.

Sixth Race:

ANDI'AMU was selected at random for pre-race testing.

STORM TEAM, ridden by Sean McDermott went off course at the top of the stretch the first time around, jumping a timber fence that was not on the prescribed course. He was followed off course by *ANDI'AMU*, ridden by Thomas Garner. Both horses were promptly pulled up.

A Steward's hearing was held and both riders were fined \$250 for having gone off course.

Seventh Race:

Darren Nagle reported that he was exhausted by the heat and took himself off his mounts for the rest of the day. The Stewards met with Darren Nagle, who was clearly exhausted.

WEST NEWTON was a late trainer scratch due to lack of a rider.

SEA MIST was pulled up and reported to have tired.

MOJAVE was pulled up lame and vanned off the course.

Eighth Race:

MAXIMUM HORSEPOWER and *HOLIDAY MOUSSE* were pulled up and reported to have tired.

Elizabeth Scully, aboard *GLOBAL FREEDOM*, lost her irons at the water jump. She jumped the next hurdle successfully without irons and steered her horse to the outside. She came off after jumping the following hurdle. She was examined by the Course Physician and cleared to ride.

Ninth Race:

Gus Dahl, who had been named on several horses, was reportedly not feeling well and had stayed home. With Graham Watters and Darren Nagle now both out, the rider shortage was acute.

With Gus Dahl unavailable, Tom Garner had accepted the ride on *DEMELZA*. Subsequently Richard Boucher, who had schooled *DEMELZA*, was named to ride him. Tom Garner, accepted the ride on *SUPERVILLAN*, who, the now unavailable Darren Nagle had been named to ride.

BELAY, *LOVE OF THE BAY*, and *DEMELZA* were pulled up and reported to have tired.

VINCNT VAN GOGO jumped the water jump awkwardly, appeared to lose his action, and was pulled up.

ROAD TO OZ, lost his rider, Sean McDermott, at the second to last fence. Sean McDermott was examined by the Course Physician and cleared to ride.

After the race, Sean Clancy, the owner of *DEMELZA*, complained to the Stewards that Tom Garner had failed to honor his engagement to ride *DEMELZA*.

After the last race a Steward's Hearing was held. Tom Garner explained that he had taken himself off *DEMELZA* because he was tired and did not think he would be up to riding. Ricky Hendricks, in need of a rider for *SUPERVILLAN*, approached him and asked him to ride in order to avoid scratching his horse. Tom Garner, feeling a bit stronger, accepted the ride. The Stewards explained that there was no problem with him having taken himself off *DEMELZA*. However, having done so, he was not free to accept a ride on another horse in that race. It was the Steward's understanding that the rider changes had been agreed to by all parties. Clearly that was not the case.

The Stewards ruled that Tom Garner had not fulfilled his responsibilities as a rider under the National Steeplechase Association's *Rues of Racing* 6.4.C.1 and fined him \$250.

Tenth Race:

ARGENTIC, *SUPER BIRD*, and *FLUSHED* were late trainer scratches due to lack of riders.

BOLD ESCAPE and *CHEETAH BEACH* were pulled up and reported to have tired.

OFFICIAL COMMENTS:

The Virginia Gold Cup, and their staff, made a huge effort to mount the races under extraordinarily trying circumstances. The participant's compliance with the mask requirement was universal. Some shortcomings in the usual high standards of course maintenance, beacon placement, and course maps were noted and will be corrected in the future. It was a very warm day. The availability of water, ice, and fans helped the horseman avoid the potential for heat exhaustion.

Tad Zimmerman, Presiding