

STEWARDS REPORT

Race Meeting: Cheshire Foxhounds Pt to Pt

Date: March 28, 2021

Stewards: Gregg Morris, Presiding
Charles Fleischman
Clipper LaMotte

Weather: Rain

Course: Good to soft

Clerk of Scales: Conrad Sommers

Starter: Barry Watson

Official Actions:

Note: This race meet consisted of several non-sanctioned races and two sanctioned races. This report is limited to the two sanctioned races.

Eighth Race: McLane Hendriks, aboard OFFICER SYDNEY, went off course while in the lead and was therefore disqualified.
AQUIES was pulled up before the 3rd last, tired.

At a Steward's hearing after the tenth race McLane Hendriks stated that he went off course because the turn was too tight. This despite the fact that Hendriks had ridden the same course in a previous race with no difficulty. Hendriks was fined \$250.

Official Comments:

The Cheshire race committee is commended for providing additional racing opportunities by adding a sanctioned race to what had previously been a non-sanctioned point-to-point. However, doing so comes with a requirement to meet current NSA standards for sanctioned meets. The following were deficiencies noted on the day that will need to be addressed in future. These comments are included in the spirit of constructive criticism, not complaint.

- There was no video. This is especially important since there is part of the course that is not visible from the Steward's stand.
- Using a trailer for testing stalls did not work. The testing vet said that neither of the winners to be tested would go into the trailer, let alone allow for the collection of a urine sample. Per the current NSA guidelines for meets without permanent stabling, at least 4 temporary stalls with water and electricity must be available. There was also no water on hand for the horses being tested. Had it been a hot, sunny day this could have been a major problem. Having the temporary stalls available would also allow for emergency veterinary treatment for any horse needing it. The hunter barn is much too far away to use for much of anything.

- On the other hand, using a gooseneck trailer as the medical evaluation site was perfectly adequate. Even though it was not used on this race day it is an acceptable alternative to a separate tent.

ADDENDUM: After reviewing video coverage of the 8th race which was not available to the Stewards on race day but which was subsequently made available to the general public on the Cheshire Point-to-Point website, a telephonic hearing was convened on March 31st. Participants in the hearing were Gregg Morris, Charlie Fleischman, Clipper LaMotte, McLane Hendriks, and Bill Gallo.

At issue was Rule 7.7 F (2) which requires any horse which leaves the prescribed course to return to the place where it left the course before proceeding in the race or be disqualified. The rule further states that “A rider who continues in a race on a horse thus disqualified may be fined or suspended, or both.”

Hendriks stated that he was not aware of this rule but felt that he had not gone off course by jumping a fence that was not on the prescribed course and pointed out that he had gained no advantage by doing so.

However, after hearing the rule Hendriks did acknowledge that he was in violation of it. Hendriks was excused from the hearing and after further discussion the Stewards decided to assess Hendriks an additional \$250 fine for staying in the race.

Hendriks was notified of the additional fine and was encouraged to review the Rules of Racing on the NSA website, particularly those which pertain to the running of the race.

Gregg Morris, Presiding
(electronically signed)