



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Racing Commission

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STEWARDS' REPORT

RACE MEETING: International Gold Cup

DATE: October 22, 2022

WEATHER: clear

COURSE CONDITION:

Firm

Compaction: 115-125 p.s.i

Moisture: 7/10

CLERK OF SCALES: Harrison Young

STARTER: Sterling Young

STEWARDS: Larry Curtis
Beale Payne
Tad Zimmerman

Wayne VanSant (Safety Compliance Officer)

OFFICIAL ACTIONS:

First Race: *LOWCOUNTRY* was pulled up lame in his left front 4 fences from home and was placed on the Vet's List.

ZAKALANI was pulled up 3 fences from home and was reported to have tired.

WEBB fell 3 fences from home. His rider, Harrison Beswick, was examined by the Course Physician and cleared to ride.

Second Race: There was a Stewards' Inquiry into the running of the race.

MODUS OPERANDI did not leave the ground on time, hit the first fence hard, and unseated his rider. Parker Hendricks was examined by the Course Physician and cleared to ride.

REWIND was pulled up 2 fences from home and was reported to have tired.

Third Race: Following the running of the race, Jamie Bargary was summoned to the Steward's stand. After viewing video replays, he waived his right to the administrative

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requirements of a Steward's Hearing, and agreed to a fine of \$250, a one day suspension to be served on October 29, 2022, and 3 points for misuse of his stick.

Fourth Race: *The winner, ROBERT'S LUXURY*, pulled up lame in his left front and was placed on the Vet's List.

Fifth Race: All horses in the race were pre-race tested for TCO2.

Without incident.

Sixth Race: All horses in the race were pre-race tested for TCO2.

MASTER SEVILLE was pulled up two fences from home and was reported to have tired.

Seventh Race: *HURTGEN FOREST* suffered a right front condylar fracture on the first turn and was euthanized on the course.

TEASE AND SEIZE while in contention at the last fence, did not come off the ground well and was a faller. He got up, continued down the course and jumped the gate to the paddock and attempted to jump the rail fence out of the paddock where he had a rotational fall before arising again and running through spectators on Member's Hill before being caught. He was placed on the Vet's List to be checked without any requirement that blood be drawn. His rider, Graham Watters was examined by the Course Physician and cleared to ride.

Eighth Race: *REAL FACTOR* was pulled up 2 fences from home and reported to have tired. *ECONOMIC POLICY* was pulled up before the last fence and was reported to have tired.

Following the running of the race there was a claim of foul by Bernard Dalton, the rider of third placed *EYE OF GUNFIGHTER*, against the winner, *PING PONG CHAMP*, ridden by Graham Watters, for interference on the final turn. After reviewing the video and interviewing both riders the claim of foul was disallowed.

OFFICIAL COMMENTS:

The winner and second place finisher in each race were selected for post-race testing.

On September 25th Larry Curtis and Tad Zimmerman walked the course with Al Griffin. It was agreed that while much of the damage from the very wet ground at the Spring races had been remediated, there was still rough ground on both turns that should be addressed before the fall meeting. When all three Stewards walked the course on Friday before the races a number of rough spots were discovered under the thick turf and flagged for repair but it was clear that the rough ground had not been adequately addressed since the first course walk and the course had not been irrigated. The Clerk of the Course did not attend either course walk or the races.

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Several trainers and riders expressed to the Stewards their unhappiness with the hard and rough ground and with the published course inspection report which they characterized as less than accurate in regard to the smoothness of the course.

Given the short fields, the number of horses who came up lame, and vehemently critical comments from horsemen, greater attention needs to be paid to the repair and preparation of the racing surface if Great Meadow is to restore its reputation as a premier venue.

The total handle was \$57,023, of which \$47,783 was bet onsite.

Tad Zimmerman

Tad Zimmerman, Senior Commonwealth Steward