

## STEWARDS REPORT

Race Meeting: Cheshire

Date: March 26, 2023

Stewards: Gregg Morris  
Charles Fleischman  
Gus Brown  
Doris Paxson, Safety Steward

Weather: Clear, windy

Compaction: 9.1

Moisture: 6.2

Clerk of Scales: Barry Watson

Starter: Burley Vannote

### Official Actions:

During the course walk five days prior to race day, the Stewards indicated their recommendations for beacon and flag placement to the Clerk of the Course. In addition, the location of a third fence in the stretch was plotted. During their secondary course inspection on race day morning the Stewards noted that the new fence was in place but that a white flag had not been placed in a beacon situated between the 3rd and 4th fences, as they had requested. The flag was subsequently placed but not until after many of the riders had walked the course. During the riders meeting before the first race the Stewards pointed out the location of this flag and beacon to the riders and reminded them that it was part of the prescribed course.

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

First Race: CRACKER FACTORY, trained by Mark Beecher was randomly selected for pre-race TCO2 testing.

Second Race: The field was held at the start for approximately ten minutes while the fence crew finished repairing the course.

After the race a review of the video confirmed the fact that AWESOME ADRIAN (1st), ridden by Conor Tierney, MERCOUR (3rd), ridden by Virginia Korrell, and POCKET TALK (4th), ridden by Teddy Davies, had all gone off course at the aforementioned beacon with the white flag between the 3rd and 4th fences. Therefore all three were disqualified and MASTER SEVILLE was declared the winner.

The Stewards met with Korrell, Davies, and Tierney after the race to review the video. All were questioned as to why they remained in the race after going off course. Their explanation was that they did not know they were off course since they thought that flag was only to be honored on the second loop of the course. They also pointed out that this beacon/flag did not appear on the course map. Since this race had a purse of \$10,000 the disqualifications had an impact on the owners of the disqualified horses. All three riders were fined \$250 each for going off course. Additional penalties for staying in the race were waived due to the fact that the flag had not been in place the morning of the races and did not appear on the course map.

After the race starter Vannotte reported to the Stewards that Teddy Davies had complained loudly and profanely about the delay in starting the race. When questioned about this behavior Davies said that his horse was getting very agitated due to the delay and he was frustrated. The Stewards informed Davies that though his frustration was understandable, his behavior was not acceptable and warned him of the consequences if he persisted.

Third Race: Safety Steward Doris Paxson notified the Stewards that BELAY, trained by Jeremy Gillam arrived on the grounds at 10:28. The overnight clearly states that all non Lasix horses were to be on the grounds by 10:00. Gillam told the Stewards that he was not sure he was even bringing the horse since he didn't have a rider. When asked if there was a reason why he was late, Gillam denied any. BELAY was therefore scratched.

Fourth Race: BET THE POT was pulled up before the third last fence. (Tired).

FASHION LINE pecked on landing over the second last fence and lost Colin Smith. After examination by the course physician Smith was NOT CLEARED due to possible concussion.

After the race Parker Hendriks, the rider of LAP OF THE GODS, who finished 3rd, claimed foul against both FLETCHED (the winner) ridden by Elizabeth Scully, and CAUSE FOR PARDON (2nd) ridden by Freddie Proctor, for alleged interference in the stretch. After testimony from the riders involved and review of the video it was determined that Hendriks had a clear path up the inside throughout the stretch and was never crowded, bumped, or otherwise interfered with. The claim was disallowed. Later the Stewards met with Hendriks to ask why he thought he had a legitimate claim of foul. He stated that because the finish was so close he thought he should 'take a shot.' The Stewards acknowledged that the finish had been close but that in itself did not justify a claim of foul. Hendriks was fined \$250 for a frivolous claim of foul.

#### Official Comments:

The Committee is commended for raising the necessary funds to split the maiden timber race, resulting in increased opportunity for participation by more horses. This meet has become an important early fixture on the NSA calendar.

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Gregg Morris, Presiding  
(electronically signed)