

STEWARDS REPORT

Race Meeting: Grand National

Date: April 22, 2023

Stewards: Gregg Morris
Tad Zimmerman
Rug Howard
Barry Watson, Safety Steward

Weather: Thunderstorm
Course: Compaction: 90-110
Moisture: 8

Clerk of Scales: Ed McLaughlin

Starter: Chris Daney

Official Actions:

First Race: RENEGADE RIVER, trained by William Dowling, was randomly selected for pre-race “milkshake” testing.
OUR FRIEND fell with jockey Teddy Davies at the 4th fence.
Davies was NOT CLEARED by the course physician.
Course vet Dr. Megan Delp reported that OUR FRIEND sustained a laceration to his elbow but was otherwise sound.

Second Race: Eric Poretz replaced the injured Teddy Davies on BOGEY’S IMAGE.
SHOOTIN THE BREEZE lost rider Conor Tierney at the 2nd fence. Tierney was cleared by the course physician.
PROFITEER was pulled up after the 12th fence.
HERO’S RETURN fell on the flat after rounding the beacon after the 12th fence. Rider Brett Owings was cleared by the course physician.
DRUID’S ALTAR was pulled up before the 15th fence.

Fourth Race: PADDY’S CROWN was scratched due to the fact that there was no suitable apprentice rider.
IT’S NOTHING was pulled up by Conor Tierney after the 15th fence.

Official Comments:

Once again, the weather proved to be erratic during the afternoon. A thunderstorm with brief torrential rain necessitated a 30-minute delay between the 2nd and 3rd races. The course held up well and actually seemed to be improved after the storm.
Video coverage at this meet continues to be problematic. Because of the location of sponsor tents along the stretch, the video trailer was parked about 150 yards from the Steward’s stand located at the finish line. For some reason the Stewards in the stand were unable to communicate with the Steward in the video trailer by radio or cell phone. A monitor that was installed in the tent next to the Stewards stand was never functional during the day. (Fortunately, the photo finish camera and its monitor *were* working.) Given the size of the new temporary Steward’s stand it seems plausible that the video trailer could and should be placed next to the stand, thus eliminating the need for the tent and solving the communication problem. It is recommended that the Committee investigate this option with the video company prior to next year’s races.

Gregg Morris, Presiding
(electronically signed)