



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## Virginia Racing Commission

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### STEWARDS' REPORT

**RACE MEETING:** Virginia Gold Cup

**DATE:** May 6, 2023

**WEATHER:** clear, 73°

**COURSE CONDITION:**

Good

Compaction: 110

Moisture: 8

**CLERK OF SCALES:** Harrison Young

**STARTER:** Sterling Young

**STEWARDS:** Larry Curtis  
Beale Payne  
Tad Zimmerman

Wayne Van Sant (safety)

#### **OFFICIAL ACTIONS:**

**First Race:** *FLOP SHOT* lost his rider, Thomas Garner, at the first fence. Thomas Garner was examined by the Course Physician and cleared to ride.

*ABSAM* was pulled up one fence from home.

**Second Race:** All horses in the race had blood drawn pre-race for TCO2 testing.

*STOOSHIE* balked and ducked out before following his unseated rider, Barry Foley, over the fence. Barry Foley was examined by the Course Physician and cleared to ride.

**Third Race:** *GEARHEAD* fell three fences from home. His rider, Gerard Galligan was examined by the Course Physician and cleared to ride.

After the race was declared official, the Clerk of Scales informed the Stewards that the first three finishers had all weighed in fractionally underweight. Only the first three finishers were weighed in. After a careful review of the scale sheet and testimony from the Clerk of Scales, the results were left unchanged.

**Fourth Race:** All horses in the race had blood drawn pre-race for TCO2 testing.

*GOING COUNTRY*, ridden by Parker Hendricks, fell five fences from home. Parker Hendricks was examined by the Course Physician and not cleared to ride due to a concussion. After a short time, he was taken to the Hospital for further examination.

**Fifth Race:** All horses in the race had blood drawn pre-race for TCO2 testing.

*NOTJUDGINJUSTSAYING* was scratched on the advice of the Equine Medical Director during the pre-race examination and placed on the Vet's List.

*TOMGARROW* balked and dwelt at the start. He lost his rider, Harrison Beswick, at the eighth fence. Harrison Beswick was examined by the Course Physician and cleared to ride.

*CRACKER FACTORY*, while on the lead, failed to make the turn to the water jump, went off course and was pulled up.

After the last race, Jamie Bargary, the rider of *CRACKER FACTORY*, waived his right to notice and representation by counsel under 11VAC10-70-110. James Bargary was fined \$250 for having gone off course. See VRC Ruling # 2023-GM-1

**Sixth Race:** *TOPIC CHANGER* fell at the second to last fence. His rider, Barry Foley, was examined by the Course Physician and cleared to ride.

*TIGER TO REMEMBER* could not avoid the fallen *TOPIC CHANGER* and, as a result, was also a faller with Bernard Dalton aboard. Bernard Dalton was examined by the Course Physician and cleared to ride.

*HOFFMAN*, with David England up, led the entire race and crossed the finish line well to the best of the rest of the field. A Patrol Judge eventually reported to the Stewards that *HOFFMAN* had cut a beacon approaching the turn on the western end of the course and a Stewards' Inquiry was announced. The Stewards interviewed the Patrol Judge, all the riders in the race, consulted the course map, and reviewed the video which clearly showed *HOFFMAN* cutting the beacon that the rest of the horses had honored. *HOFFMAN* was found to have been off course and was therefore disqualified and declared unplaced.

After the last race, David England, the rider of *HOFFMAN*, waived his right to notice and representation by counsel under 11VAC10-70-110. David England was fined \$250 for having gone off course and an additional \$250 for remaining in the race after having gone off course. See VRC Ruling # 2023-GM-2

**Seventh Race:** *TAPWOOD*, with Graham Watters aboard, was a faller at the 4<sup>th</sup> fence from home. Graham Watters was examined by the Course Physician and cleared to ride. *TAPWOOD* was vanned off the course. Upon arrival at the stable area, he collapsed and died. He was taken to the Marion Dupont Scott Equine Medical Center for necropsy.

*EASGERLY* was pulled up lame before the second to last fence and was vanned off. He sustained a bilateral suspensory branch injury to his right front and was cleared to be shipped home in a boot.

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*KEYS DISCOUNT, MASTERMCGRATH, and FUSEE DE POCHE* were all pulled up before the last fence.

**OFFICIAL COMMENTS:**

The first and second place finishers in each race were selected for post-race testing.

After the last race the Stewards met with Stephen Mulqueen, the rider of the winner in the third race. The riders of the second and third place finishers were unable to attend due to injury. The Stewards impressed upon Stephen Mulqueen their consternation over having all of the riders who were weighed found to be fractionally underweight. They asked him to remind the other riders that they risked disqualification if they miscalculate and cut it too close.

After the last race, the Stewards asked to meet with trainer Leslie Young. She waived her right to notice and representation by counsel under 11VAC10-70-110. It had been brought to the attention of the Stewards that Leslie Young had been less than respectful in disregarding the directions given by Rhonda Davis, the Virginia Racing Commission Director of Pari-Mutuels and Licensing, according to her written statement. Additionally, Ms. Young had not been entirely candid and had misrepresented her daughter's identity regarding a VRC badge. Ms. Young acknowledged that she could have been more professional in her behavior towards Ms. Davis, a commission employee, and recognized the importance of accurate identification of individuals in regard to VRC badging. The Steward's asked Ms. Young to convey her apologies directly to Ms. Davis and fined her a total of \$300 for her unprofessional behavior towards a VRC employee and lack of accuracy in regard to badging. See VRC Ruling # 2023-GM-3

The course was in excellent shape. The drastic improvement in the condition of the course since last fall was enthusiastically commented upon by horsemen. It reflects an intensely focused remediation effort and very substantial investment by the Great Meadows Foundation over the past six months. The leadership that has been shown by the Great Meadows Foundation is commendable.

On track handle: \$96,604

Off track handle: \$15,270

Total handle: \$111,874



Tad Zimmerman, Commonwealth Steward