



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## Virginia Racing Commission

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### STEWARDS' REPORT

**RACE MEETING:** International Gold Cup

**DATE:** October 28, 2023

**WEATHER:** partly cloudy 76°

**COURSE CONDITION:**

Firm

Compaction: 125 p.s.i

Moisture: 8/10

**CLERK OF SCALES:** Harrison Young

**STARTER:** Sterling Young

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

Wayne VanSant (Safety Compliance Officer)

#### **OFFICIAL ACTIONS:**

**First Race:** *PRAGHAS CEART* was scratched on the advice of the Equine Medical Director. He was reported as lame in his right front and was placed on the Vet's List.

*FIELD MARSHALL* did not come off the ground well and fell at the first fence. It was reported that he had sustained a superficial knee laceration. His rider, Gerard Galligan was examined by the Course Physician and cleared to ride.

Several horses slipped and lost their footing on the far turn. After meeting with the riders, the beacon box entering the turn was moved out and the dowing poles adjusted to make the turn more gradual.

**Second Race:** *HIGH DEF* was incorrectly listed in the program as having been treated with Lasix. The chart from Foxfield incorrectly indicated that he had run on Lasix his last time out. Dr. Witwer, the Lasix Veterinarian on the day and at Foxfield consulted his log and confirmed that the horse had not been treated at Foxfield. This correction was announced to the public and the chart will be revised accordingly.

*PARQUETRY* was pulled up after the first fence having grabbed his right front tendon over the fence. He was shipped to the Marion Dupont Scott Equine Medical Center for surgery and placed on the Vet's List.

*GIANTSBANE* slipped and fell entering the far turn. His rider, Thomas Garner was examined by the Course Physician and cleared to ride.

*IRELANDS CALL* propped at the water jump and unseated his rider, Harrison Beswick. Harrison Beswick was examined by the Course Physician and cleared to ride.

*IRELANDS CALL* suffered a contusion to his left eye while running loose and was cleared to ship home and placed on the Vet's List.

*TRANSIT* was pulled up two fences from home and reported to have tired.

**Third Race:** The third race was delayed by 20 minutes in order to address the condition of the far turn. Two large loader buckets of sand were spread and then the turn was chain harrowed. This remediation effort, along with the dissipation of the heavy morning dew, corrected the slippery condition.

There was a Stewards' Inquiry into the running of the race. *DON'T SHOUT* ducked inside the beacon after the second fence and was pulled up. The Stewards interviewed the rider, Virginia Korell, who reported that her horse jumped to the inside and ducked inside the beacon before she could correct course. The beacon is very close to the landing side of the fence. The off course was determined to be accidental. No further action taken.

Teddy Davies, aboard *OUR FRIEND* who finished fourth, took a more direct route to the final turn than the rest of the field. The course had been altered with the substitution of an Easy Fix hurdle in place of the nearby timber fence. The course map had been annotated in rudimentary fashion to reflect this change.

The Stewards interviewed Teddy Davies and Harrison Beswick, the rider of the winner. Both riders maintained that the other was in fact off course. No rider had cut a flag. The prescribed course was difficult to determine with any degree of certainty as the location of the Easy Fix fence altered the route and a strong case could be made that all horses had strayed from the prescribed course. No action taken.

**Fourth Race:** without incident

**Fifth Race:** All horses in the race were pre-race tested for TC02.

without incident.

**Sixth Race:** without incident

**Seventh Race:** *ANCIENT TIMES* was a late scratch. The Stewards interviewed the trainer, Arch Kingsley, who acknowledged that the scratch had not been properly communicated in a timely fashion. He waived his right to formal notice of a hearing and representation by counsel under 11VAC10-70-110 and accepted a fine of \$250 for a late scratch necessitating a refund. See VRC ruling # 2023-GM-4.

Gerard Galligan, the rider of *EYE OF GUNFIGHTER*, cut the beacon at the end of the backstretch the second time around and pulled up. The Stewards interviewed Gerard Galligan, who waived his right to formal notice of a hearing and representation by counsel under 11VAC10-70-110 and accepted a fine of \$250 for having gone off course. See VRC ruling # 2023-GM-5.

**Eighth Race:** *GO TAKE CHARGE* jumped the first fence awkwardly and lost his rider, Parker Hendriks. Parker Hendriks was examined by the Course Physician and cleared to ride.

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

#### **OFFICIAL COMMENTS:**

The winner and second place finisher in each race were selected for post-race testing, except in the seventh race, where only the winner was tested.

Following the last race, it was brought to the attention of the Stewards that several unlicensed individuals had been evicted from the tent that serves as the men's Jockey's Room prior to the last race. A licensee had brought the situation in the Jocks Room to the attention of Izzy Saavedra, the Virginia Racing Commission investigator who took action to correct the situation. In the course of so doing, a less than satisfactory conversation with rider Mikey Hamill had occurred. The Stewards interviewed Izzy Saavedra and Mikey Hamill together.

The following facts emerged. Mikey Hamill had not picked up his Jockeys License and was thus unable to present it for inspection when requested by Investigator Saavedra. Mikey Hamill did not know the young ladies in question who were seated next to him but did not make that fact known immediately, instead vehemently insisting on his right to be there. No foul language was used by Mikey Hamill but the conversation was perhaps heated and less professional than expected as it took some time for the facts to emerge. It was agreed that the Jockey's area was not secured and the lack of security created a less than ideal situation which was frustrating for all involved. In the future a uniformed security presence at the entrance to the Jockey's Room should correct this situation.

The total handle was \$101,954, of which \$61,576 was bet onsite.



Tad Zimmerman, Senior Commonwealth Steward