



## NATIONAL STEEPLECHASE ASSOCIATION

400 Fair Hill Drive Elkton,  
Maryland 21921  
Phone 410-392-0700 • Fax 410-392-0706

### STEWARDS' REPORT

RACE MEETING: **Aiken Spring Races**

DATE: March 22, 2025

WEATHER: Sunny, Windy 70 degrees

COURSE: Bermuda overseeded with Rye  
COURSE CONDITION: Good  
COMPACTION: 110 psi  
MOISTURE: 5

CLERK OF SCALES: Harrison Young

STARTER: Barry Watson

STEWARDS: Cook Edens (Presiding)  
Greg Pachman  
Anne Mitchell

### OFFICIAL ACTIONS:

#### PRERACE:

Running rails were added to all fences and following a few minor adjustments were met with great response by all horsemen. Going forward hopefully, this will become standard at all NSA-sanctioned meets.

Several flagged beacons were moved out to improve the designated running surface as requested by the jockeys.

Pre-Race TC02 tests were requested on all runners in the 6<sup>th</sup>.

Post-race tests were performed on the winners of races 2 – 6.

### Race 1:

Scratches: HILLIARD

VORTIMER later reported to have a left front tendon injury

## **Race 2:**

**HE BE DA BOMB** pulled up after 8 (tired)

**ELUSIVE** pulled up after 9 (tired) (was later reported to have a left front tendon injury)

The trainer (Keri Brion) for **EQUATE** (ridden by Stephen Mulqueen) lodged a complaint with the Racing Secretary of rough riding in the stretch against Gerard Galligan, the rider of **BOX OFFICE WARRIOR**. The Stewards reviewed the stretch run several times with both riders and found no issue.

## **Race 3:**

Scratches: **BRIGHT EYED EAGLE** (late by trainer; track too fast)

**EASY SQUEEZE** pulled up after 7 (tired)

**TARTAN GREEN** pulled up after 9 (tired)

**EYE OF GUNFIGHTER** pulled up apparently lame after the finish and was walked back to the barn area (later report was a left front tendon bow)

## **Race 4:**

**FOREVER HOPEFUL** went off course after the 4<sup>th</sup> and dislodged her rider (Mel Boucher) due to a slipped saddle (the rider was cleared)

**LEFT UNSAID** pulled up after 9 (tired)

The rider on **BOLD LOOK** (James O'Sullivan) was 8lb overweight.

## **Race 5:**

There was a Stewards Inquiry subsequently followed by a claim of foul by Freddie Procter on **BONNEBOSQ** against James O'Sullivan on **BIGGER THAN BIG TIME**. Procter claimed he was not given sufficient room in the stretch run and was bumped, causing him to lose ground. Upon hearing testimony and reviewing the stretch run, the Stewards disallowed the claim, dropped their inquiry, and the results stood.

It should be noted that Declan Carroll aboard **JUST ANOTHER ONE** rode a quite sufficient race for his first start over fences under rules.

## **Race 6:**

No actions.

**OFFICIAL COMMENTS:**

The course was smooth and even. The turf was thick and had good cushion. The Race Committee should be commended for their continual improvement of the racing surface, the course was in excellent condition. As noted earlier, the addition of running rails on all fences was very well received.

The Stewards also recommend the following change to better facilitate the day's activities:

Place the Jockeys' tents and the scales next to the video trailer and the medical tent.

---

**Cook Edens**  
**Presiding Steward**

