

Stewards Report

Race Meeting: Grand National

Date: April 19, 2025

Stewards: Charles Fleischmann, Presiding
Gregg Morris (SAC)
Norman Fraley
Barry Watson, Safety Steward

Weather: Overcast and warm

Compaction: 6 to 7

Moisture: 8 to 9

Clerk of Scales: Edward McLaughlin

Starter: Burley Vannote

Stewards' Secretary: Rosella Hunter

Official Actions Pre Race: Selected QUEENS EMPIRE, GREAT ROAD, WRESTLINGWITHRAE in the first race for TCO2 testing.

At Safety Steward's request, the Stewards met with Casey Pinkard, owner, trainer and rider of CITY OF GRACE in the fourth race to inform her that her horse had no tattoo or chip. The Safety Steward was able to positively identify the mare from her foal papers. She was allowed to run with the warning that the mare could not be entered again without a chip.

The Stewards met with rider Samantha English after the jockeys meeting since this was her first ride under rules.

MR.FINE THREADS in the first and THE KID ROCKS in the second were scratched

First Race: GOODOLDTIMES dwelt at the start.

Second Race: LARGY LEGACY bowed and was pulled up.

ITSKNOWNASTHEBERN was distanced when it refused at the 15th and lost rider Samantha English. The Stewards met with her and counselled her to not continue in a race where she is distanced. She acknowledged that the trainer, William Meister, had already talked to her about this and she would not repeat the error. Rider Samantha English was cleared to ride.

Connor Tierney, rider of the second place finisher HEY TEACHER, claimed foul against Dan Nevin, rider of the winning TRACK AND TRACE, for interference between the second last and the last fences. After reviewing the drone, the head on shot, the cell phone video of the patrol judge at the respective fences and interviewing the patrol judge at the respective fence, it was decided that there was contact but both riders contributed to the contact. The winner won by a widening 10 lengths so it was decided that any contact did not affect the outcome and the claim was disallowed.

Third race: Nothing to report

Fourth Race: CITY OF GRACE pulled up after the fourth while distanced. The rider Casey Pinkard said she was not handling the ground.

CHOSD MATE pulled up after the 15 tired.

The winner, IMPERIAL ASSASSIN was reported to be distressed back at the barn but was treated and recovered.

Official Comments:

Again, the Race Committee is to be commended on the modifications made in addressing the issue with last year where some fence boards split dangerously. There were no fallers but a number of broken rails in the maiden race. The ground had been well taken care of and was smooth with a good covering of grass. Almost all the volunteers were old pros having done their job for years, which made for smooth running.

There was concern that the temperature would be in the 80s. Due to that, there was 1,000 gallons of water just after the finish line and a full pallet of bags of ice. Halfway between the finish and the stables was another water tanker and additional ice. The meet provided generators to run the fans that the trainers brought to cool their horse if necessary. These precautions were obviously effective in addition to the weather cooperating and remaining warm but overcast with a light breeze most of the day.

The video was problematic. There was a monitor in a tent below the Stewards' tower but it was a medium sized monitor and during a race could only display the master feed with all the camera inputs in their separate windows, making the setup useless during the races. After the races, the video operator in the trailer could display one recorded feed full screen and respond to telephone or radio requests for different views.