**Stewards Report at Portmarnock Raceway Sunday 22nd April 2018**

**Venue:** Portmarnock Raceway

**Stewards:** P. Clarke, J. O’Sullivan, J. Levis

**Assistants:** M. Behan (Starter/Gear), G. Kane (Mobile/Brands), A. Gosson (Paddock)

**Veterinary Surgeon:**     Dr. P. O’ Scanail

**Weather:** Dry, Clear

**Track:** Standard

Prior to the races, the stewards agreed to withdraw the following horses “Totem Turgot & Elton De Kerosay” until after the upcoming Stakeholders meeting due to concerns from members during the week.

**Race 1 Trot Grade F/E Handicap (1600m):**

*¼: 31 ½: 1.04.9, ¾:1.36.3, 1mile: 2.07.5*

Non-Runners: Dora De Saint Jore; Silvano Bello

Change of driver of Driver of Brasilia Match to Patrick Kane was recorded. The stewards noted the performance and losing distance of Deolsa Des Tithais but put it down to lack of track work prior to her seasonal debut performance.

**Race 2: 4 Year Old Trot Series (1600m):**

*¼: 34.2, ½: 1.10.4, ¾: 1.45.2, 1m: 2.17.9*

Non-Runners: Espoir Efbe

With drawn by Stewards: Elton De Kerosay

The stewards decided prior to the race to allow all trotters in the 4 year series 25 strides before being disqualified.

Etoile Quick was noted to have broken 23 strides.

**Race 3: Pace Grade G/G1 Handicap (1600m):**

*¼: 29.8, ½: 1.02.5, ¾: 1.35.1, 1m: 2.04.4*

Non-Runner: House of Dreams

The stewards noted the whip action of the driver of Waxies Dargle, John Manning Jnr who’s body was highly strung behind the horse as he was approaching the finish. The bouncing on the sulky along whip the use of the whip was noted and should this continue throughout the season, further action will be taken.

**Race 4: Trot Grade F - C Handicap; Apprentice Race (1600m):**

¼: 34.6, ½: 1.10.4, ¾: 1.33.4, 1m: 2.05.5

Non-Runner: Belina Royale

Withdrawn by Stewards: Totem Turgot

Cilando du Temps was disqualified for exceeding 15 strides during the race. It was also noted that the driver, Erin Flanagan seemed to have no control of the horse as she was unable to pull up the horse after he had galloped over 500m of the track.

The stewards were also very critical of the start of the race as this was a very unfair start for the horses that trailed. After the race, the stewards spoke to the starter about this issue and the starter agreed to take more caution with young drivers and trailing at the start of such future races.

**Race 5: Trot Grade F-C Handicap Clockwise (1600m):**

*¼: 33.3, ½: 1.03.5, ¾: 1.37.4, 1m: 2.06.9*

Non-Runner: Tenor Meslois

The stewards felt the start of the race was again very bad. Two reasons caused this: (i) Jack Killeen for failing to come up to the gate & (ii) Sean Kane for failure to keeping his handicap mark.

Any similar tactics by these drivers will result in a disqualification.

**Race 6: Trot Grade F-D Handicap (1600m):**

*¼: 32, ½: 1.03.4, ¾: 1.34.8, 1m: 2.06.4*

Non-Runner: Bicosan; Urbano De Selles

The Stewards had some concerns over this race. They noted the whip action of the driver of Saxo De Marancourt and any further offence of the whip will incur a penalty.

The stewards also acknowledged the improvement of Twist Du Layon during the race as he did not break throughout the race. However it was duly felt that the horse could have been more competitive in the race and his future performances will be observed.

The driver of Bian Luis Porsguen was also noted for having a very loose rein while driving which resulted in an extra scope and range for the use of the whip. The stewards would prefer for safety and control that all drivers would keep tightly held reins during any race.

**Race 7: Pace Grade F-A1 Handicap (1600m):**

*¼: 33.5, ½:1.06.3 , ¾: 1.37.0, 1m: 2.06.8*

Non-Runner: Meadowbranch Roman; Porterstown Road

The stewards noted the whip use of the driver of Pandercrombie and any more future races have the same issues, a penalty will follow. It was also noted that it took 3 attempts before the plugs were pulled and this looked very bad as the race was being watched. It was also felt that the Porterstown Courage ran a fair race, yet his performance could have been better especially with the late, fast finish to the line. His further performances will be observed.

**Race 8: Trot Grade C-A Handicap (1600m):**

*¼: 32, ½: 1.04.0 , ¾: 1.35.8, 1m:2.07.5*

Non-Runner: Vaillant De Gueham; Alineka Darche; Balarou Des Iles; Bolero De La Fye; Ultimo D’ouvile

The Stewards had no issues with the running of this race.