

Stewards Report at Portmarnock Raceway Sunday 15th April 2018

Venue:	Portmarnock Raceway
Stewards:	P. Clarke, J. O'Sullivan, J. Levis
Assistants:	M. Behan (Starter), A. Gosson, P. Mc Carthy & G. Kane
Veterinary Surgeon:	P. O' Scanail
Weather:	Rain/Wind
Track:	Wet

Prior to the races, the stewards agreed to caution any drivers for any offences as this was the first day of the season. However, any incidents which would be felt as major, would be dealt with accordingly.

Race 1 Pace Grade G/G1 Handicap Pace (1600m):

¼: 31.2; ½: 1.01.9, ¾: 1.33.4, 1mile: 2.05.8

Change of driver of Blackfield Jennie to John Manning Jnr.

The race was deemed to be satisfactory, however Blackfield Jennie was pulled up after completing just over 800m, the stewards recorded this, considering her very uneasy qualifying held at the same venue a week previous. The drivers of One Cool Touch & Meadowbranch Titus were also recorded for over use of the whip.

Race 2: Trot Grade G & F Handicap (2400m):

¼: 32.2, ½: 1.06.3, ¾: 1.41.2, 1m: 2.13.2, 1 ¼: 2.46.3, 1 ½: 3.22.6

A false start was called after Dora De Saint Jore broke and interfered with Cilando Du Temps on the second line. A restart was immediately called placing Dora De Saint Jore on the outside of the second line. However, this time round none of the four horses on this line, kept to their mark. A steward's inquiry was immediately called after the start of the race. During the race, both Dora De Saint Jore & Cilando Du Temps were pulled up.

As the horses passed the winning post, the finishing order was as follows, Baron Nganda, Silvano Bello, Saxo De Marancourt, Blanpain Le Fol & Espoir Efbe. The stewards interviewed both Donal Murphy & Mary Kane after the race as neither driver kept to their 40yard trail at the beginning of the rerun. The stewards deemed the four horses on the second line to have broken their handicap and were disqualified under rule number L9.

The amended result was 1st: Saxo de Marancourt. 2nd: Blanpain Le Fol, 3rd: Espoir Efbe.

The stewards also noted that the Mary Kane could not control the horse Baron Nganda at the beginning of the race and this was notified to her during her interview.

It was also noted that Alan Wallace Snr, whilst pulling the horse Dora De Saint Jore up, used foul language against the starter. Any further similar comments will result in a penalty being issued.

The stewards and handicapper agreed that in future where possible its is beneficial to avoid having a single horse on the gate

Race 3: Trot Grade F to B Handicap (2400m):

¼: 32.8, ½: 1.05.,4, ¾: 1.38.1, 1m: 2.11.1, 1 ¼: 2.44.3, 1 ½: 3.17.6

Change of driver of horse Bicosan to Stephen Wallace.

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

Race 4: Pace Grade F -A2 Handicap (1600m):

¼: 32.3, ½: 1.03.1, ¾: 1.34.2, 1m: 2.07.2

Change of driver of horse Porterstown Road to Darragh Mitchell.

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

Race 5: Trot Grade D-B Handicap (2400m):

¼: 34, ½: 1.09.4, ¾: 1.44.3, 1m: 2.18.5, 1¼:2.50.5, 1½: 3.22.3

Non-Runner: Bolchoi de L'iton

The stewards were not satisfied with the performance of two horses, Tenor Meslois & Alineka Darche who both gave far more than 40 yards trail at the start of the race. The stewards felt that as both drivers are A class drivers, they should be far better at trailing distances than junior drivers. Their finishing times were noted, and their future performances will be closely monitored. It was also noted that Tenor Meslois' ear plugs were not pulled out at any stage of the race and the whip action of the driver was highly animated, yet no force was being used. Both drivers will be interviewed again in relation to this race. It was also noted that the winning time, was extremely slow for the top graded trotters over the course & distance and considering the weather, the track conditions, and the finishing times of the other races.