

Portmarnock May 23rd Stewards Report

Stewards: P Clarke, J O Sullivan, M Behan, A. Gosson, J Levis

Race 1; 8 runners; 1 driving change A Wallace Jnr drives No.7 Frisson D'yvel
P Giligan 4 strikes over with whip cautioned as it was his first offence.
No other issues reported in this race

Race 2; 5 runners; 1 driving change C Foran drives No.1 Oakwood Tempress
No issues reported in this race

Race 3; 6 runners; No driving changes

J Coudens horse broke coming into home straight no interference from any other driver placed last
The stewards noted the overuse of the reins by E Flanagan, approximately 30 times in the last 500m.
(Rule M11)

The stewards noted C Flanagan close driving with E Murphy after the 1 mile marker.
No other issues reported in this race.

Race 4; 7 runners; No driving changes

A Wallace Snr 4 strikes over €100 fine 1 day +2 demerit points (use of shoulder action)

D McCarthy 15 strikes €100 fine 1 days suspension +2 demerit points

Anglesey Fasttrack didn't seem to handle the track very well after breaking several times during the race.

M Kane 35 strikes €100 fine 1 days suspension +2 demerit points

The stewards spoke to M. Kane regarding his excessive whip use to say the least and pointed out that he could have been disqualified from the winning position if this were to happen again. Although he said this was not in the rules or rule book, it could not happen.

By constantly whipping his horse he had an unfair advantage over the other drivers and is a clear breach of rule M9(g)- not giving the horse time to respond. This is also covered under rule M21(5) improper use of whip, and the penalties are outlined in rule M22, it covers rules M9 to M12 which allows the stewards to demote a horse from its winning position if he had gained an unfair advantage by improper use of the whip .

This needs to be forwarded to the drivers because they may think by excessive whipping may only get them a fine and/or suspension (depending on their offences) and keep the race. The stewards feel that this matter needs to be addressed to all drivers immediately as there are many major fixtures to come throughout the remainder of the season with larger purses whereby the whip usage may be used at a far greater extent. Although we have a new ruling regarding the use of the whip, ultimately it will be up to the stewards to decide if the drivers have gone beyond the new ruling and into improper driving.

No other issues reported in this race

Race 5; 6 runners; 2 driving changes

B Nicholson drives No.1 Highland Princess and D Murphy drives No.3 Hianca H.A.

Start delayed P Kane's Harry knows had broken pole.

No 4 pulled up & No. 1 & 5 placed behind field due to breaking over the maximum amount of strides

Winner tested

No other issues reported in this race

Race 6; 5 runners; No driving changes

Winner tested

No other issues reported in this race

Race 7; 8 entries; 1 non-runner, No.8 Coumbaya Wind

2 driving changes; No.3 Boyardo driven by A Wallace Jnr & No.9 driven by P Hill

Very erratic start 2nd line not giving proper handicap this needs to be addressed ASAP

No other issues reported in this race

Race 8; 5 entries; 1 non-runner No.2 Allbetsareoff

1 driving change A Wallace Jnr drives No.4 Indie Hanover

Handicap change No.4 Indie Hanover lifted 10 yds from gate as A Wallace Jnr does not receive the Amateur Allowance.

No other issues reported in this race

Additional Matters Discussed:

1. The stewards have noted the large number of driver changes on the card recently. The framed and drawn races are now published every Wednesday evening and the race card is finalised every Thursday. Taking this into account, all driver declarations must be made to the IHRA office by 12noon each Thursday. (Rule K13)
2. The 2021 whip was reviewed following submission made by members and committee members. The full reviewed document will be forwarded to all members ahead of this weekend's race fixtures.