

## Portmarnock May 16<sup>th</sup> Stewards Report

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

**Race 1;** 5 runners; no driving changes

G McCullough 5 strikes over and was issued a €50 fine + 1 demerit point

C Kavanagh 15 strikes over and was €100 fine ,1 day suspension + 2 demerit points; C Kavanagh also went off the wrong handicap position and was disqualified from race; stating he couldn't hold his horse as the gate going to slow. The Stewards noted the improper conduct of the use of the reins in under the horse's tail during this race and this will incur a penalty going forward.

Winner tested

No other issues reported in this race.

**Race 2;** 5 runners; no driving changes.

No issues reported in this race.

**Race 3;** 7 runners; 1 driving change Emma Kane drove No.3 Homer Oakwood

No.6 broke at start and was pulled up

No.4 & No.5 went over limit both placed at back of field

No.2 broke in last 200m & was disqualified.

No other issues reported in this race.

**Race 4;** 6 runners; no driving changes

O Quill put in a complaint regarding an interference by P Gilligan passing on inside. Following both the interviewing of Mr Gilligan and further examination of the head on camera, the stewards were satisfied with Mr Gilligan's explanation.

No.'s 1,3,4, 6 exceeded the strides allowed and were placed last.

Winner tested

No other issues reported in this race

*The stewards are to consider introducing a rule in relation to drivers who attempt to pass on the inside, where there is insufficient room as they approach the paddock turn. Thoughts on this will be sought from stakeholders in the coming weeks as this practice is occurring more frequently and as a result causing numerous inquiries over the past number of weeks.*

**Race 5;** 7 runners; No driving changes

W Stewart Jnr had 15 strikes in the last 500m and was 8 strikes over with whip and received a €100 fine & 1 days suspension & 2 demerit points.

No other issues reported in this race

**Race 6;** 6 runners; No driving changes

No.4 exceeded limit of strides placed last

Winner tested

No other issues reported in this race

**Race 7;** 5 entries; 1 non-runner No.2 IB Miss Sassy; No driving changes

No issues reported in this race

**Race 8;** 6 runners; 1 driving change P Giligan drives No.1  
No.3 went over limit in break placed last  
No other issues reported in this race

Other Matters:

1. Race Framing & Splitting:

The stewards would like to point out to all members that in recent weeks some extra provisions were made with regards to race day framing whereby horses were not alone split for trainer but also driver. This was carried out due to the small numbers of entries received and this will cease from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021 onwards as race day entries should be higher.

2. W Stewart Jnr:

Following an intensive inquiry into the start of Race 8 on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, the stewards have interviewed Mr W Stewart Jnr and the starting officials. The IHRA stewards feel that Mr Stewart deliberately disobeyed the starter and used inappropriate language at the starting officials. Mr Stewart Jnr is found guilty of Rule L9 (b) Failure to obey the Starter's or Stewards instruction and fined €50.

3. Face Masks:

Following a recent complaint regarding the wearing of face masks, all patrons are reminded to wear face masks whilst at an IHRA fixture. Furthermore, any driver found not to be wearing a face mask whilst on the track for workouts, qualifiers, or races during an IHRA race day fixture will be fined, as a first offence €25 immediately.

4. 2021 Whip Rule:

The IHRA stewards were presented with the correspondence received to the IHRA in relation to the new whip rules. At next week's meeting, the stewards will formally discuss the rule and the fine rhetoric and will subsequently send to the IHRA committee members any changes that are made.