**Flemington stewards' report**

01 January 2020 by ThoroughbredNEWS News Desk

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Victoria Racing Club @ Flemington

**Date:** Wednesday, 1 January 2020

**Track:** Good 4, upgraded at 2.30 pm to a Good 3, retrospective to Race 3

**Going Stick:** 9.8; inside 10.1, outside 9.6; Shear 11.4

**Weather:** Fine

**Rail:** +3 metres entire circuit

**Stewards' Panel**: Corie Waller (Chair), Wade Hadley, Sam Cochrane, Kirstie Vanderzeil and Glenn Fish

Riding Changes / Jockey Information

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  **Race** | **Horse** | **Rider** | **Replaced By** | **Reason** |
| 8 | Ghodeleine | Jamie Kah | Jye McNeil | Dual engagement |

***Race 1* NEW YEAR SPRINT 1000 metres:**

**Parlophone** Began awkwardly, attempted to buck shortly after the start and lost ground, failed to stretch out in the early and middle stages and tailed the field. Rider Damien Oliver reported that after losing ground in the early stages, the filly was reluctant to travel and despite his urgings failed to regain contact with the bulk of the field. Co-trainers Mick Price and Michael Kent (Jnr) were notified that Parlophone must perform to the satisfaction of Stewards in a jump‑out before racing again. A post‑race veterinary examination revealed minor lacerations to the near hind pastern.

**Always Definite** Began awkwardly. Approaching the 300m was brushed and hampered outwards by Marchena which shifted out. Eased down over the concluding stages. Apprentice Lachlan King could offer no explanation for the performance, however was of the opinion that the filly may have come to the end of its first race preparation.

**Marchena** Inconvenienced at the start between Always Definite and Parlophone which shifted ground. Passing the 400m was crowded inwards and hampered by Always Definite which shifted in and away from Stormborn. Rider Linda Meech reported the filly failed to travel and although it suffered some interference near the 400m was disappointing. A post‑race veterinary examination revealed the filly to be shinsore and lame in front. A veterinary certificate is required prior to racing again.

**Stormborn** Laid in from the 600m.

**A Beautiful Night** Passing the 300m was steadied when tightened by Stormborn (J. McNeil) which when laying inwards shifted in, then shifted out over the heels of Stormborn to obtain clear running. Rider Jye McNeil was severely reprimanded and advised to make greater effort to straighten his mounts when shifting ground.

**Night Raid** Laid in from the 200m and over the concluding stages was steadied when tightened between Stormborn, which had continued to lay in, and was then awkwardly placed close to the heels of Bombay Rocket which shifted out.

**Amateurish** Laid in under pressure over the final 200m.

**Who Runs The World** Rider Luke Currie was of the opinion that the filly would be better suited on tracks with more give. Co‑trainer Tony McEvoy advised the filly would be spelled.

***Race 2* SUMMER RACING HANDICAP - 1200 metres:**

The start of the race was delayed when the tongue tie on Divine Mr Tycoon was replaced upon arrival at the barriers.

**Mischa** Rider Damien Thornton was harmlessly dislodged shortly after leaving the mounting enclosure.

**Divine Mr Tycoon** Upon arrival at the barriers had the tongue tie replaced. Bumped at the start with Foxy's Star.

**Zoumanor** Slow to begin.

**Foxy's Star** Began awkwardly, shifted in and bumped with Divine Mr Tycoon.

**Rocking Eagle** Laid in between the 500m and the 100m. Apprentice Michael Poy reported that his mount, which was having its first start down the Flemington straight, would take benefit from the experience of the straight track.

**The Closer** Rider Linda Meech reported the mare was not suited by the moderate tempo in the early and middle stages and failed to quicken. Linda Meech further added that the mare may be better suited over distances further than today's event. A post-race veterinary examination failed to reveal any abnormalities.

***Race 3* WELCOME 2020 HANDICAP - 1400 metres:**

**Mamzelle Tess** Began awkwardly. Laid out in the home straight. Rider Ben Thompson reported that he had not intended to settle as far forward as he did on this occasion, however when wide in the early stages he was obliged to stride forward and settle outside the leader to obtain a position closer to the fence.

**Firsthand** Began awkwardly. Raced keenly in the middle stages. Over the concluding stages was held up and went to the line without being fully tested.

**Twitchy Frank** Passing the 1200m steadied to avoid the heels of Yulong January which had been carried in by Mamzelle Tess which had in turn been carried in when awkwardly placed to the inside of the heels of Morvada (Z. Spain). Rider Zac Spain was advised to show far greater caution in similar circumstances. Laid out in the home straight.

**Raghu (NZ)** Passing the 1200m steadied when placed close to the heels of Twitchy Frank which had been carried in.

**Think Bleue** Raced keenly in the middle stages. Rider Linda Meech reported when placed under pressure the mare failed to respond and in her opinion would be better suited on tracks with more give. A post‑race veterinary examination failed to reveal any abnormalities. Stewards will follow up with the stable.

***Race 4* STANDISH HANDICAP - 1200 metres:**

**Superhard** Change of tactics: intention to lead. Led.

**Spirit of Valor (USA)** Underwent a veterinary examination after getting its leg up in the barrier and was passed fit to race. Rider Mark Zahra reported the entire failed to travel and when asked for an effort did not respond to his riding and he therefore eased it down over the final 200m. Co‑trainer David Eustace was at a loss to explain the performance, however stated that the entire had previously performed below expectations for no apparent reason. Spirit of Valor (USA) must perform to the satisfaction of Stewards in a jump‑out before racing again. A post‑race veterinary examination failed to reveal any abnormalities.

**Snitzkraft** Began awkwardly.

**Smart Coupe** Began awkwardly and lost ground. Over-raced in the early stages.

**Bold Star** Bumped at the start by Choisborder which shifted in.

**Choisborder** Began awkwardly, shifted in and bumped with Bold Star. Rider Dean Yendall reported the gelding over-raced in the early stages with the reapplication of blinkers.

***Race 5* OFF THE TRACK PROGRAM HANDICAP - 1800 metres:**

**Dogmatic** Slow to begin. Bumped near the 1600m by Budd Fox which shifted in. Apprentice Michael Poy reported the gelding which was second‑up from a spell was disappointing as the gelding raced flat. Trainer Richard Laming reported that the gelding had worked well in the lead-up and they had expected a forward showing. He added he was at a loss to explain the performance and undertook to advise Stewards if anything comes to light which may explain the performance. A post‑race veterinary examination failed to reveal any abnormalities. A swab sample was taken for analysis.

**Necessitas (NZ)** Began awkwardly and lost ground.

**Approach Discreet** Began well and as a result settled closer from the good draw. Performed below market expectations. Tactics queried. Rider John Allen reported the gelding travelled well but failed to respond to his riding from the 400m. Co‑trainer Mick Price was of the opinion that the mare would be better suited on tracks with more give. A post‑race veterinary examination revealed a slow recovery.

**Budd Fox** Raced wide without cover for the majority of the event. Near the 1700m steadied to avoid the heels of Bowing (NZ) (E. Brown) which shifted in. Ethan Brown was advised to show far greater care in similar circumstances. Approaching the 1600m when attempting to shift in to gain cover bumped with Dogmatic before then being carried out by that gelding. Rider Damien Thornton reported could offer no explanation for the performance. A post‑race veterinary examination failed to reveal any abnormalities.

**Ignored (NZ)** Passing the 1600m got its head up when being restrained to obtain cover.

**Chaska** Near the 1600m had to be restrained after improving to the inside of Budd Fox which had shifted out slightly before shifting back in. Over the concluding stages laid in and away from Vinaceous (NZ) and was awkwardly placed close to the heels of Igniter before being checked when in restricted room between Igniter which had shifted out slightly and Vinaceous (NZ) which was tight to its outside.

**Bowing (NZ)** In the home straight laid in.

**Vinaceous (NZ)** Over the concluding stages crowded between Chaska which, after laying in, attempted to shift out and Bowing (NZ), which laid in under pressure.

**Igniter** A post‑race veterinary examination revealed lacerations to the off hind leg.

***Race 6* VICTORIAN JOCKEYS ASSOCIATION TROPHY - 1400 metres:**

**Pretty Bella** Change of tactics: to be ridden quieter from wide gate. Settled at the rear of the field.

**Simply Dreaming** Slow to begin. Raced wide without cover for the majority of the event.

**Goldifox** Slow to begin and was then tightened between Wish I Might and Super Hussey.

**Parlay Princess** When being restrained in the early stages over-raced and got its head up. Bumped near the 900m when over‑racing. Lost its near fore plate during the race. A post‑race veterinary examination revealed a slow recovery.

**Soaring Eagle** Over-raced in the early stages. Near the 900m raced in restricted room between Goldifox and Parlay Princess (L. Riordan) which shifted in before shifting out and bumping Parlay Princess. Continued to race in restricted room to the inside of Parlay Princess until passing the 700m when being eased. Apprentice Liam Riordan was severely reprimanded and advised to give runners to his inside far greater room in future.

**Rapidora** Over-raced in the early stages when being restrained to gain cover. Held up between the 500m and the 200m before obtaining a neat run to the inside of Regal Riffle.

**Metronome** Passing the 100m steadied when Regal Riffle laid out and then raced in restricted room between Rapidora and La Bella Costa. Rider Ethan Brown reported that following this incident he was reluctant to ride his mount along for a short distance as he was of the opinion his running may be further tightened.

***Race 7* BAGOT HANDICAP - 2800 metres:**

**Azuro (FR)** Near the 400m when improving was disappointed for a run between Midterm (GB) and Etah James (F. Kersley) which laid out away from El Don (NZ). Apprentice Fred Kersley was reprimanded and advised to make a greater attempt to straighten his mounts when they shift ground. As a result, Azuro (FR) was checked by its rider and steadied over the heels of runners to his inside to obtain clear running. When questioned as to whether there was an opportunity to obtain clear running to the inside of El Don (NZ) near the 100m, rider Mark Zahra stated that he had thought that El Don (NZ) was going to be straightened by its rider and this would have allowed him to obtain clear running to its outside. As this did not occur and El Don (NZ) continued to shift out, he in turn had to continue outwards to obtain clear running. He stated whilst in hindsight it may have been better to maintain his position to the inside of El Don (NZ) in the initial stages, he was satisfied with the decision he made at that stage. A post‑race veterinary examination revealed abrasions on the off foreleg.

**Pissaro** Raced wide without cover from the 2500m before gaining cover near the 1800m.

**Etah James (NZ)** After initially gaining cover one out one back behind Midterm (GB) was then carried three wide when passing the 1800m and then raced three wide before being permitted to stride forward to take up a position outside the leader passing the 1200m. When questioned, apprentice

Fred Kersley stated that he had thought that Midterm (GB) was beginning to shift down to the fence and he therefore strode forward to settle outside the leader. He added however that shortly after, Midterm (GB) shifted back out and he was therefore taken out to a three-wide position. He further stated that he was then unable to regain a position with cover. He agreed with the Stewards that in hindsight he should have been more patient in the early stages of the incident. Rounding the home turn was bumped by El Don (NZ) which shifted out slightly.

**El Don (NZ)** Laid out in the home straight.

**Secret Blaze** Rider Luke Currie stated that the gelding had to settle too far back and raced flat when asked for an effort in the straight. A post‑race veterinary examination revealed abrasions on both front fetlocks and a slow recovery. A swab sample was taken for analysis. Co‑trainer Tony McEvoy reported that in his opinion the gelding was not suited by settling so far back, however he was of the opinion that it may not have been suited by the step up in distance. He added that the gelding would be freshened up.

***Race 8* VISIT LIVING LEGENDS PLATE - 1600 metres:**

**Honorable Mention (NZ)** Began awkwardly, shifted out and bumped with Radiant Warrior.

**Mr Monaco** Began awkwardly. Rider Damien Oliver reported that the gelding which was second-up today raced flat. A post‑race veterinary examination revealed a slow recovery.

**Sovereign Award** Began awkwardly, shifted out and bumped with Pedro Ximenez. Over-raced in the middle stages. Rider Brett Prebble was severely reprimanded for breaching the provisions of AR132(7)(a)(i) in that he used his using his whip in consecutive strides prior to the 100 metres. A post‑race veterinary examination revealed the mare to be suffering a right shoulder skin condition. A veterinary certificate is required prior to racing again.

**Ghodeleine** Slow to begin. Rider Jye McNeil reported that his mount failed to stretch out and in his opinion may be better suited on tracks with more give.

**Manhattan Arch** Over-raced in the early stages when being restrained to gain cover and continued to over-race through the middle stages. Rider Zac Spain reported the gelding refused to settle and as a result failed to finish the race off as expected. A post‑race veterinary examination revealed the gelding to be lame in the off foreleg. Post-race endoscopy also detected a degree of internal exercise‑induced pulmonary haemorrhage that may have affected the horse's racing performance. A veterinary certificate is required prior to racing again.

**Radiant Warrior** Raced wide without cover from the 1200m after being bumped and taken wider by Mr Monaco which had been taken outwards slightly by Classic Weiwei. Passing the 100m steadied away from the heels of Jack Regan (GB) which shifted in when laying in.

**Classic Weiwei** Passing the 1000m when racing keenly had to be steadied away from the heels of Under Oath. When making ground approaching the 150m changed course to obtain clear running.

**Jack Regan (GB)** Laid in over the final 200m.

**Heavenly Emperor (NZ)** Apprentice Mitchell Aitken pleaded guilty under the provisions of AR132(7)(a)(ii) for using his whip 10 times prior to the 100 metres. Mitchell Aitken had his permit to ride in races for a period of eight race meetings, commencing midnight 3 January 2020 and to expire 10 January 2020 (2 metropolitan, 6 provincial). In assessing penalty Stewards took into account his guilty plea, record, the totality of his whip use and the fact he won the race.

**Ruby Skye** Rider Dean Yendall pleaded guilty under the provisions of AR132(7)(a)(ii) for using his whip 10 times prior to the 100 metres. Dean Yendall had his licence to ride in races for a period of six race meetings, commencing midnight 5 January 2020 and to expire 10 January 2020 (1 metropolitan, 5 provincial). In assessing penalty Stewards took into account his guilty plea and excellent record.

**Eureka Street** Lost its near fore plate.

SWAB SAMPLES

***Pre-race blood for post-race analysis:***

Race 1 Amateurish, Bombay Rocket, Chavanne

Race 2 Rocking Eagle, Mischa, Zoumanor

Race 3 Firsthand, Twitchy Frank, Morvada,

Race 4 Spirit of Valor (USA), Halvorsen, Bold Star

Race 5 Chaska, Vinaceous (NZ), Necessitas (NZ)

Race 6 Simply Dreaming, Super Hussey, Goldifox, Regal Riffle

Race 7 Azuro (FR), High Bridge (GB), El Don (NZ)

Race 8 Jack Regan (GB), Under Oath, Ghodeleine

***Pre-race urine for post‑race analysis:***

Race 2 Luca Bratzi

Race 4 Superhard

Race 6 Soaring Eagle

Race 7 Etah James

***Post‑race samples from following horses:***

All Winners

Race 4 Bold Star (2nd placegetter)

Race 5 Dogmatic (unplaced)

Race 7 Secret Blaze (unplaced)

**Raceday Summary**

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| **Reprimands:** | Race 7, Fred Kersley, careless riding, AR131(a) |
| **Severe Reprimands:** | Race 1, Jye McNeil, careless riding, AR131(a)Races 3 and 4, Ciaron Maher and David Eustace, late in mounting yard, AR194Race 6, Liam Riordan, careless riding, AR131(a)Race 8, Brett Prebble, consecutive whip use, AR132(7)(a)(i) |
| **Suspensions:** | Race 8, Mitchell Aitken, whip use, eight meetings, AR132(7)(a)(ii)Race 8, Dean Yendall, whip use, six meetings, AR132(7)(a)(ii) |
| **Horse Actions:** | Race 1, Marchena, lame, veterinary certificateRace 4, Spirit of Valor (USA), poor performance, jump-outRace 8, Manhattan Arch, lame, EIPH, veterinary certificateRace 8, Sovereign Award, skin condition, veterinary certificate |
| **Change of Tactics:** | Race 4, Superhard, intention to leadRace 6, Pretty Bella, ridden quieter from wide gate |
| **Follow Ups:** | Race 3, Think Bleue |