

STEWARDS' REPORT

DARWIN TURF CLUB SATURDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 2015

Weather: Fine

Track: Good

Rail: True Position

Stewards: D Hensler (Chairman), R Merritt, A Napier, L Jackson
J Lattenstien (Judge) L Ross (Clerk of Scales), C Manley (Deputy)
Veterinary: Howard Springs Veterinary Clinic
Number of Races: 4
Number of Runners: 33
Stakes Paid: \$50,450

General: At the request of SKY Channel the starting times for each race was amended to:
Race 1 – 4.00pm, Race 2 – 4.43pm, Race 3 – 5.22pm, Race 4 – 6.05pm

Race 1: Paspaley 0 – 64 Handicap 1600 metres

NERVOUS (C Spry) – Lay outwards through the middle stages.

ATLAS RISING (V Arnott) – Commenced to race ungenerously when crossed by another runner leaving the 1400m. When questioned rider advised that the mare resented the kickback and bounded in running near the 900m losing ground. Impeded when making ground near 100m.

DUBLIN LAD (F Bergstrand) – Raced wide from the 400m.

WATCH THIS SPACE (S Ridler) – Raced wide throughout.

BLONDE (C Lloyd) – Blocked for a clear run and steadied approaching the 200m.

DEVIL'S TALE (S Hillebrand) – Raced wide throughout.

DUCISSA (A Brown) – Yielded ground from the 600m.

Race 2: Maria Koko Headwear Designs 0 - 58 Handicap 1100 metres

YOUKNOWTHATHORSE (A Brown) – Raced wide and without cover in running.

APALA (F Bergstrand) – Lay inwards when being tested with the whip in the straight.

Race 3: Country Classics Handicap 1300 metres

IT'S BLACK MAGIC (B Davis) – Raced wide throughout.

General – Following this event Jockey S Hillebrand complained of back soreness and after being examined by the Paramedics did not fulfil his engagement in the last race. He was advised that he must present a medical clearance prior to riding again.

Race 4: Stomp Shoes TROBIS 3 & 4 YO Benchmark 57 Handicap 1300 metres

Prior to the declaration of correct weight Stewards viewed the patrol films to ascertain if there were grounds for an objection in relation to an incident near the 200m but after consideration no protest was lodged and correct weight was semaphored on the Judge's placing's.

TEAMSTER (F Bergstrand) – Returned having bled from both nostrils. Trainer Ms K Petrick was advised that the gelding cannot race until being cleared under the provisions of AR 53(4).

GOD'S AURA (B Davis) – Carried inwards, bumped and impeded leaving the 200m and again bumped near the 100m.

SILENT GEE (S Hillebrand) – Yielded ground in the straight. Trainer Mr S Hillebrand advised that despite the gelding having recovered well following the race, it will now be sent for a spell.

CHOBE (A Brown) – Bumped inwards leaving the 200m and when unbalanced shifted out near the 100m and bumped another runner.

DANCE THE BEAT (V Arnott) – Raced wide throughout.

INCISIVE (M Tyndall) – Rider advised that her saddle had shifted back shortly after start and continued to move in running and as a result she had difficulty correcting her mount in the straight after shifting inwards near the 200m. Rider advised that she had checked her saddle in the mounting yard and at the barriers prior to the race and was satisfied that all was in order. As the saddle has now shifted in consecutive races, trainer Mr S Clarke undertook to experiment with alternative packing and girths in an attempt to rectify this issue. He was advised that the gelding must barrier trial to the satisfaction of the Stewards prior to racing again.

NORTHERN COMMAND (S Ridler) – Dwelt at the start.

WICKED CHILD (S Rowley) – Mistrode near the 700m.

General : On inquiry it was established that approaching the 200m **INCISIVE** (M Tyndall) shifted inwards resulting in **GOD'S AURA** (B Davis) being carried inwards, bumped and impeded after making contact with **CHOBÉ** (A Brown). **CHOBÉ** became unbalanced in this incident and when being ridden along to maintain it's position, shifted outwards near the 100m resulting in **GOD'S AURA** again being bumped. On the evidence presented Stewards were of the opinion that the fact that the saddle had shifted on **INCISIVE** had been a contributing factor in this incident and therefore no further action was taken.

General: Post race swab samples were taken from all winners.

Pre race samples were taken from **KING KEV**, **CRACKED**, **SILENT GEE** and **INCISIVE**.

Summary fines/suspensions

Race 1 – Trainer C Pollard - \$100 for presenting **KIRKHAM** to race without it's gear (AR 140A)

General: From Race 1 the Coates Hire Handicap (1000m) - Saturday 14 February, 2015

Stewards inquired into jockey B Davis' handling of **LUCKY STRATEGY** in the home straight. He explained that the gelding has a normal tendency to lay out through the middle stages in races, which was confirmed by viewing the footage of its previous starts. He stated that in this event his mount uncharacteristically continued to lay outwards after entering the home straight and as a result whilst keeping pressure on his inside rein to keep the gelding racing truly, he had fumbled his off side rein nearing the 200m. When questioned as to the reason he did not test his mount with the whip he explained that he was aware he had **WHITE SAMBUCA** racing to his outside and was reluctant to draw the whip with his mount laying outwards. Whilst he stated that he was restricted in his ability to use the whip he felt the gelding was responding positively to his hands and heels riding. He added that in his opinion the track surface was quite firm which may have been the reason his mount had continued to lay out in the straight.

Trainer Mr Gary Clarke agreed with these comments and he indicated that the gelding had pulled up well following the event but does have feet issues that require ongoing management, evidenced by it's withdrawal on race morning of the DTC meeting on 26 January, 2015 due to lameness. Whilst he presented the gelding fit to compete, in his opinion these issues combined with racing on the firm surface would have invariably contributed to the gelding continuing to lay outwards in the straight. After viewing the gelding's previous starts and considering the circumstances Stewards were satisfied with the explanations tendered. Jockey B Davis was reprimanded and reminded of his obligations under AR140(b) to report to Stewards as soon as practicable anything which may have which may have affected the running of his mounts in a race.

D Hensler

NT Chairman of Stewards