

DARWIN TURF CLUB

Saturday 3rd March 2012

Track: Good

Penetrometer: n/a

Weather: Fine

Rail: True Position

Stewards: L Lane(Chairman), J Hamilton, R Merritt OAM, B Merritt, L Twomey, J Lattenstien, P Brennan D Merritt

Howard Springs Veterinary Clinic

Number of Races: 5

Number of Runners: 38

Stakes Paid: \$56,100

Race 1 – MAIDEN PLTE - 1200 metres:

SPIRITS FLY was examined by the Club's Veterinary Surgeon after it got away from the attendant en route to the course and galloped for some distance. The Clubs Veterinary Surgeon reported that SPIRITS FLY was fit to start.

The starter reported that SPIRITS FLY had blood in its mouth on arrival at the barriers. The Clubs Veterinary Surgeon inspected SPIRITS FLY and passed that gelding fit to start.

After being placed in the barriers SPIRITS FLY got down and came out the back gates. SPIRITS FLY was then reboxed.

As the gates opened SPIRITS FLY reared and dislodged its rider Ms J Cameron.

Stewards having viewed the patrol film and taking evidence from Ms J Cameron deemed that SPIRITS FLY had not been denied a fair start (AR134A).

On return to scale C Haddon rider of JUJU GEORGIA requested to view the official photo finish image.

Mr R Richard trainer of SPIRITS FLY was advised that a warning would be issued against that gelding for its behaviour at the start.

1st TIGERLANI 2nd JUJU GEORGIA 3rd PLYMOUTH

Race 2 – 3 & 4 YO BENCHMARK - 1300 metres:

The Clubs Veterinary Surgeon reported that BELOW had suffered superficial wounds to its off foreleg during the event.

**1st NEW YORK'S FINEST 2nd ARISTOCLOCHE 3rd FRISKEY
ALBERT**

Race 3 – 0 - 70 HCP - 1600 metres:

Stewards questioned Mr J Manning trainer of FLOPITIDOP which was a late scratching at 8:13am.

Mr J Manning advised that he had called the scratching service at 2 minutes to 8 o' clock however it was the wrong number and as he was on hold for several minutes he was then late calling the correct number.

Mr J Manning stated that time had got away from him and this was the reason he didn't not scratch earlier.

Stewards fined Mr J Manning \$200 for negligence in that he failed to lodge the above scratching by the prescribed time (AR175(k)).

On jumping away COLONEL JACK shifted in and bumped MONTEFALCO.

1st MYSTICAL BOND 2nd MONTEFALCO 3rd FORETHOUGHT

Race 4 – 0 – 64 HCP - 1100 metres:

On jumping away URIDASHI and HOULGATE were tightened for room between SPARTAN EAGLE and HIGHTOU both of which shifted ground. After being tightened HOULGATE had a tendency to lay in onto URIDASHI.

As a consequence URIDASHI was tightened in onto SPARTAN EAGLE and was hampered and SPARTAN EAGLE was tightened for room and had to be eased off the heels of EREMBOURG and clipped that geldings heels.

Approaching the first turn at the 650 metres SPARTAN EAGLE began to lay out onto HOLDING THE FORT and had to be eased causing it to lose ground.

SPARTAN EAGLE then had a tendency to hang out for the remainder of the race.

Stewards reprimanded Ms J Cameron rider of SPARTAN EAGLE for using her whip in the forehead manner in consecutive strides prior to the 100 metres, (AR137A(5)(a)(i)).

Stewards took into account that SPARTAN EAGLE had raced ungenerously and Ms Camerons overall use of the whip in the race. Further Ms Cameron was advised that she should ensure in future she rides so as not to breach this rule.

1st MAJOR NELSON 2nd EREMBOURG 3rd HIGHTOU

Race 5 – B/MARK 71 HCP - 1300 metres:

Stewards considered evidence tendered by Mr S Brown trainer of ROCKY BAY which was scratched from this event.

Mr Brown advised that ROCKY BAY had become lame in front subsequent to acceptances and in his opinion it was not in the geldings best interests to start. Stewards accepted the explanation of S Brown however reminded him of his obligations under NT 128(2)(b) that being that he must notify the stewards as soon as he becomes aware of an injury/lameness/disability which may require any of his horses to be scratched.

NOBLE CONNECTION was slow into stride when the gates opened.

Approaching the 650 metres ALCARNTSPELL raced up on to the heels of GLASGOW JIM and had to be eased.

Over the concluding stages GLASGOW JIM had to change course to avoid the heels of FASTER STRONGER which rolled in under pressure.

On return to scale C Haddon rider of NOBEL CONNECTION was 1 kg over his declared weight. C Haddon explained that the trainer had changed a girth and that he had a drink of water at the barriers.

Ms Halter trainer of NOBLE CONNECTION stated that as the girth supplied by C Haddon did not fit she replaced the girth which one she keeps in her gear bag.

Stewards advised both parties of their responsibilities under the rules and that any future breach would result in a penalty.

**1st ALCARNTSPELL 2nd FASTER STRONGER 3rd NOBLE
CONNECTION**

Swab samples were taken from all winners.