

STIPENDIARY STEWARDS REPORT



MEETING DETAILS:

Club:	Manawatu Racing Club	Date:	Saturday 30 th March 2013
Weather:	Fine		
Track:	Dead (4)		
Rail:	True		
Stewards:	R Neal (Chairman); N Goodwin; G Whiterod and B Bateup		
Typist:	P Penketh		

GENERAL:

Following the release of nominations for today's meeting on Tuesday 26th March 2013 Stewards questioned trainer J Bridgman with respect to **BETTER THAN EVER** being entered for both the FAIRDALE/GOODWOOD STUDS FLYING HANDICAP and the LAWNMASTER AWAPUNI GOLD CUP when media reports had stated that the gelding was being set for the latter race.

Mr Bridgman denied making any statement to the media with respect to his intentions for **BETTER THAN EVER** and added that he had been entered **BETTER THAN EVER** for both races as he was undecided as to which race the horse would be best suited to contest. Mr Bridgman further stated that he would monitor both horses work during the week and make his decision closer to race day.

Stewards today again questioned Mr Bridgman, seeking reasons why **BETTER THAN EVER** was withdrawn from the FAIRDALE/GOODWOOD STUDS FLYING HANDICAP in preference to starting in the LAWNMASTER AWAPUNI GOLD CUP; this being the second occasion this racing season that **BETTER THAN EVER** had been accepted for the same race as stablemate **BURGUNDY** and subsequently scratched after acceptances. The Stewards particular concern being that as a consequence of **BETTER THAN EVER** being a more highly rated horse, its nomination for FAIRDALE/GOODWOOD STUDS FLYING HANDICAP had resultantly compressed the weights for this event which, in consequence, had resulted in **BURGUNDY** being more favourably treated with respect to the weights it would be allotted.

Mr Bridgman stated that the dual nomination was a consequence of his taking the time to assess what was best option for the horse which suffered from wear and tear and took careful management including veterinary interventions to prepare for racing. Mr Bridgman added that while **BETTER THAN EVER** was capable of running either distance he wished to maintain an open option to see if he was fit enough to run in a 2000 metre event. Mr Bridgman went on by saying that the determining factor for him starting over the longer distance today was the three weeks between the horse's races. Stewards advised Mr Bridgman that their concern over the matter under investigation was echoed by NZTR who had written to the RIU voicing concerns that this was the second occasion the horse had been scratched in similar circumstances.

At the conclusion of the interview Mr Bridgman was advised that the Stewards had significant concerns regarding this matter and that investigations would continue with respect to a perceived breach of Rule 526 of the Rules of Racing.

SUPPLEMENTARY:

Nil

SUMMARY:

Swabbing:	HER TO ETERNITY; BATMAN; IAMISHWARA; IRISH DREAM; SURVIVED; USAINITY; EARL OF DONCASTER; RECITE; AL STRADA; CONSTELLATION; BURGUNDY; I DO; BETTER THAN EVER; RANSOMED; KINGS COURT. Pre-blooded was carried out at the meeting.		
Suspensions:	Race		
Protests:	Race		
Fines:	Race		
Warnings:	Race	5	M Cameron – [Rule 638(1)(d)] -shifting ground 1600m
		6	A Collett – [Rule 638(1)(d)] shifting ground 1800m
		6	J Parkes – [Rule 638(1)(d)] shifting out 600m

Bleeders:	Race
Horse Actions:	Race
Medical Certificates:	Received from Richard Dee and Alysha Collett
Rider Changes:	Race
Late Scratchings:	Race

RACE COMMENTS:

Race 1	KEVIN O'CONNOR & ASSOCIATES PREMIER
<p>TACTICIAN began awkwardly and was slow away.</p> <p>NO CHANGE dipped on leaving the barrier.</p> <p>DIAMOND GRACE; BRAVADO; BELLA VI; LITTLE DRAGON GIRL and TACTICIAN all over-raced in the early stages due to the lack of pace ahead.</p> <p>BRAVADO raced wide throughout without cover.</p> <p>HER TO ETERNITY was trapped wide early so was allowed to stride forward to lead towards the end of the back straight.</p> <p>MASH was held up for a short distance passing the 250 metres.</p> <p>EMMA LUCY was inclined to hang in under pressure in the home straight.</p> <p>LITTLE DRAGON GIRL had difficulty obtaining clear running in the early part of the home straight.</p> <p>DIAMOND GRACE was held up for some distance in the home straight prior to being angled wide to improve near the 100 metres.</p> <p>When questioned regarding the run of TACTICIAN, rider P Turner reported that the gelding was unsuited to the indifferent tempo of the race.</p> <p>When questioned regarding the run of BELLA VI, rider M Du Plessis reported the mare was hesitant leaving the barriers and in addition was unsuited by the tempo of the race.</p>	
Race 2	LINCOLN LODGE PREMIER
<p>BATMAN was cleared by the vet at the barrier after blood was observed in the gelding's mouth.</p> <p>DESERT STAR jumped outwards abruptly at the start dictating LADY DE CHINE outwards onto AWAHURI which was checked. Also affected was HAMMER which made contact with AWAHURI and became unbalanced.</p> <p>LADY DE CHINE raced fiercely in the early stages.</p> <p>PETITE BRIGITTE was eased near the 1100 metres when racing in restricted room.</p> <p>Approaching the 900 metres MISS CENTREFOLD improved up onto the heels of BATMAN and had to be steadied, in consequence MISS CENTREFOLD shifted in crowding PETITE BRIGITTE and DESERT STAR.</p> <p>BATMAN hung out around the final turn and early in the home straight with the rider changing the whip to the offside.</p> <p>When questioned regarding the performance of HAMMER which gave ground quickly when placed under pressure, rider M Du Plessis reported that the gelding had over-raced in the early stages and commensurately had little left at the finish.</p>	
Race 3	MILLS REEF / HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB TROPHY PREMIER
<p>CHOPPER began awkwardly and settled back</p> <p>LUMIERE BLUE raced keenly when racing in restricted room near the 1000 metres.</p> <p>CHOPPER had to change ground outwards to improve over the final stages.</p> <p>When questioned into the performance of the favourite MANU which was eased down over the final stages, rider O Bosson reported that the gelding was very agitated prior to the start and passing the 600 metres changed stride on several occasions then commenced to give ground, and despite his urgings, failed to respond. A post-race veterinary examination of MANU revealed the gelding to have a slow recovery rate. Trainer R Bergerson advised Stewards that MANU would undergo an endoscopic examination in subsequent days with the outcome to be advised to the Stewards.</p>	
Race 4	GSA DESIGN PREMIER
<p>HELL YEAH began awkwardly and then over-raced in the run through the back straight.</p> <p>THE MENACE raced three wide without cover throughout.</p> <p>Passing the 800 metres TYNE COT became awkwardly positioned inside the heels of THE MENACE and when attempting to improve its position near the 600 metres, was unable to do so after IRISH DREAM improved to its outside and from that point was held up until well into the home straight, only obtaining clear running passing the 200 metres.</p> <p>TAAXMAN had to steady over the final stages when placed in restricted room.</p> <p>When questioned regarding the run of MISS ANA, rider R Myers was of the opinion the mare may be better suited to a firmer surface.</p>	
Race 5	HIGGINS MANAWATU CLASSIC – Group III
<p>SURVIVED underwent a veterinary examination at the barrier and cleared to start after dislodging rider J Riddell in its preliminary and galloping for a short distance before being recaptured.</p>	

FIFTYSHADESOFGREY began awkwardly.

SURVIVED began awkwardly and was then hampered, settling back.

SWORNTOPERFERCTION was slow to begin.

M Cameron was issued with a warning after allowing **SINGLE ACT** to shift in near the 1600 metres when not clear of **BREAKING DAWN** which had to be restrained.

SINGLE ACT was obliged to race three wide rounding the first turn.

HIGH FASHION was held up near the 200 metres then had to change ground in order to improve.

When questioned into the performance of **HIGH FASHION**, rider M Du Plessis could offer no tangible excuse but was of the opinion the filly may be feeling the effects of recent racing.

When questioned into the performance of **SINGLE ACT**, rider M Cameron reported that the gelding had proved fractious prior to the start which had been detrimental to its performance.

Race 6	RICOH PREMIER
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GAME CHANGER jumped outwards abruptly at the start and bumped heavily with **EARL OF DONCASTER**.

WE ARE ROYAL was tightened at the start and got back.

Apprentice A Collett was issued with a warning after allowing **MYMINKCOAT** to shift in the passing the winning post on the first occasion when not sufficiently clear of **EVEN BETTER** which had to be restrained.

J Parkes was issued with a warning after he allowed **SKYTOWER** to shift out near the 600 metres making contact with **HOT LIPS** which became unbalanced and in turn shifted out and bumped with **REGAL SECRET** which lost momentum for a short distance.

JULIANN returned to enclosure minus the near front and off hind plates.

When questioned into the run of **GAME CHANGER**, rider L Allpress reported that the gelding travelled indifferently throughout. A post-race veterinary examination failed to reveal any abnormalities.

Race 7	THE OAKS MANAWATU SIRES' PRODUCE STAKES – Group I
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RECITE and **KIRRAMOSA** bumped heavily at the start.

CHARLESTOWN began awkwardly

DELZZUP raced keenly in the early stages.

RECITE had to be straightened when shifting ground in the home straight.

When questioned into the run of **CHARLESTOWN**, rider R Hannam could offer no excuse.

When questioned into the run of **TOUCHE**, rider J Riddell could offer no excuse.

AL STRADA slipped and fell outside the swab box and suffered superficial skin abrasions which were treated by the veterinarian.

Race 8	FAIRDALE / GOODWOOD STUDS FLYING HANDICAP - Listed
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OPEN 'N' SHUT commenced to over-race in the run down the back straight and was eased out near the 1000 metres to avoid heels of the runner ahead and in doing so forced **GALAXY STAR** over extra ground. **OPEN 'N' SHUT** then race three-wide without cover for the remainder.

THE KNIGHT was held up for a short distance near the 400 metres.

I DO lay in under pressure near the 350 metres and bumped with **BURGUNDY**. **I DO** and **BURGUNDY** continued to race in close contact for the remainder of the event and bumped on several occasions.

When questioned into the run of **CHOICE BRO**, rider M Du Plessis could offer no excuses. A post-race veterinary examination of **CHOICE BRO** revealed no abnormalities.

During routine post-race swabbing, **BURGUNDY** was treated by veterinary staff for thumps (dehydration), a condition caused by an electrolyte imbalance.

Race 9	LAWNMASTER AWAPUNI GOLD CUP – Group II
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BETTER THAN EVER began awkwardly and shifted out tightening **MUNGO JERRY** which settled back.

ALEGRIO jumped sideways on leaving the barrier and took **JEU DE CARTES** over extra ground.

JEU DE CARTES was obliged to race three-wide throughout without cover.

M Du Plessis advised the Stewards that he was of the opinion **VOLKSWOOD** may have got his tongue over the bit during the running.

During routine post-race swabbing, **BETTER THAN EVER** was treated by veterinary staff for thumps (dehydration), a condition caused by an electrolyte imbalance.

Race 10	CROMBIE LOCKWOOD PREMIER
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NINE IRON was slow and settled back.

MAROTIRI MISS was slow away.

DAME MARGOT commenced to race erratically shortly after the start and lost several lengths when being restrained.

NINE IRON made the first bend awkwardly.

JERRICO raced three-wide without cover throughout.

MY CHARMAINE and **PALMERS PRIDE** both had difficulty finding clear running in the home straight.

BOB VALDEZ raced in restricted room near the 100 metres.

When questioned regarding the run of **JUDGING LAW** rider S Collett could offer no excuses for the disappointing but felt the gelding may improve with racing.