

STEWARDS REPORT

CLUB:	LAUNCESTON PACING CLUB
DATE:	SUNDAY 15th DECEMBER 2024
WEATHER:	FINE
TRACK:	GOOD
STEWARDS PANEL	
CHAIR	N Finnigan
PANEL	M Castillo, G Griffin, B Hine (Data)
CHECK IN/INSPECTIONS	E Morice-Smith
SWAB	D Luttrell
STARTER	A Emery
VETERNARIAN	Dr G Robins
MEDICAL PROVIDER	Medical Edge

RACE 1 – LOGAN DERBY TWO-YEAR-OLD – 1680m Mobile

CHEAT THE STORM – Completed the event with a broken near-side pole, also part of the deafeners fell to the track passing the 200. Tended to over-race.

PHLOW JO – Reinstated in the draw for races conducted under standing start conditions after satisfying reinclusion requirements.

RACE 2 – LADBROKES MATES MODE POTS PACE – 1680m Mobile

REMEMBER ME NOW NZ – Pulled hard during the score-up, driven forward after the start, unsuccessfully challenging for the early lead. Raced rough when eased on the first turn. Secured cover near

the 1100, under pressure from the 900, finishing in last place, beaten in excess of 40 metre, with an individual mile rate of 1:58.9. A post-race Veterinary Inspection could find no obvious abnormalities.

MODERN JIVE – Subjected to a pre-race Veterinary inspection as blood was detected the gelding's mouth during its preliminary. On inspection, MODERN JIVE was found to have bitten its tongue, and declared fit to take its place in the event.

RACE 3 – GOING SOUTH PACE – 1680m Mobile

MUZZAME MATE – Hung out in the score-up moments before the start, locking wheels with HELLO SWEETHEART. A warning was issued.

HELLO SWEETHEART – Checked as the start was being effected and raced rough shortly after due to MUZZAME MATE shifting up the track, locking wheels for a short distance.

RACE 4 – LU RAIDER PACE – 2200m Mobile

MAJOR LESTER – Had difficulty in secure clear running over the concluding stages.

WILL HE PIKE – Had difficulty in secure clear running over the concluding stages.

LOYOLA TRIOS – Had difficulty in secure clear running over the concluding stages.

MISTER FINNIGAN – Checked and locked wheels with KARALTA ARTEMIS leaving the 500 after that gelding broke gait.

PUNTARNO STRIDE NZ – Moved away from the inside on entering the back straight, easing KARALTA ARTEMIS wider. Moved out into three-wide line approaching the final turn.

KARALTA ARTEMIS – Broke gait approaching the final turn, shifted out and locked wheels with MISTER FINNIGAN.

General: Stewards questioned drivers M Ford (PUNTARNO STRIDE) and J Walters (KARALTA ARTEMIS) into the reason why KARALTA ARTEMIS broke gait approaching the final turn. Stewards, after taking evidence from both drivers, considering their own observations and reviewing the official race footage, charged driver Ford for causing interference through his movement wider on the track approaching the final turn which resulted in his sulky wheel contacting the legs of KARALTA ARTEMIS, causing that gelding to break gait and shift ground, causing further interference to MISTER FINNIGAN, resulting in both geldings taking no further competitive part in the event. Driver Ford pled guilty to the charge. Stewards, in considering penalty were mindful of driver Ford's guilty plea, his driving record, which shows similar recent breaches, and the degree of interference, suspended his licence to driver for four(4) Tasmanian Race Dates. At the request of driver Ford, Stewards stayed the imposition of penalty until he completes his driving engagements on Sunday 22nd of December, 2024.

RACE 5 – DOUG MARTIN DANBURY PARK CUP – 2698m Stand

KEAYANG FITZY – Will be excluded from the barrier draw in future standing start events after failing to begin in the required manner. Of note KEAYANG FITZY was placed on its last chance in the draw for races conducted under standing start conditions at its most recent standing start race. Tended to over-race.

GLENLEDI ELVIS NZ – Will be excluded from the barrier draw in future standing start events after failing to begin in the required manner. Of note GLENLEDI ELVIS NZ was placed on its last chance in the draw for races conducted under standing start conditions two starts previously.

THE CROUPIER NZ – Placed on its last chance in the draw for races conducted under standing start conditions after failing to begin in the required manner.

MAGNETIC TERROR NZ – Will continue to be excluded from the barrier draw in standing start events after failing to begin in the required manner.

BEYOND DELIGHT – Raced rough after the start for which a warning was issued. The near-side Murphy Blind failed during the event, dropping down out of position, which may have contributed to BEYOND DELIGHT hanging badly on the home turn. Connections were instructed to take the necessary action in an attempt this prevent the gear issue reoccurring.

RACE 6 – SHIRLEY MARTIN MOTHER OF PEARL – 2200m Mobile

INDELIBLE – Had difficulty in securing clear running over the concluding stages.

RACE 7 – BETTY LEE STAKES – 2200m Mobile

IDEN KAMAKAZI – Had difficulty in securing clear running over the concluding stages.

HAY MIKI – Subjected to a post-race Veterinary Examination after the event, as Stewards had reports that the gelding may have bled. On inspection the claim could not be substantiated. Stewards contacted trainer M Jones who was not present on the evening to inform him of the claim and further instructed him should any signs of blood or information from those present with HAY MIKI on course on the evening that he was obliged under the rules of Harness Racing to inform Stewards of such.

OUR BETTER BRO – Had difficulty in securing clear running over the concluding stages.

GROVE DALE – Had difficulty in securing clear running over the concluding stages.

RACE 8 – MERRY CHRISTMAS STAKES - 2200m Mobile

JAMES IN CHARGE – Shifted in on the final turn resulting in its sulky wheel brushing markers.

LETSGOBRO – Raced outside the leader where it tended to over-race.

VINCENZO – Completed the event with a broken no.2 hopple carry strap.

RACKETEERS BOY NZ – Shifted in on the turns resulting in its sulky wheel brushing markers.

Supplementary Report: Launceston Pacing Club, Sunday 15th December 2024

Race 7 – BETTY LEE STAKES – HAY MIKI

Trainer Mark Jones contacted Stewards on Monday morning 16th December, 2024, regarding HAY MIKI. Mr Jones informed Stewards he had conducted a search of the stabling area where HAY MIKI is housed and inspected the float that the gelding travelled to and from the Launceston Racing Complex, where he could find no signs of blood. On examining HAY MIKI this morning, firstly he noticed that the gelding had eaten up well, adding that on closer inspection that HAY MIKI had mucus in its nostril chambers, but again no sign of blood. Finally, Mr Jones added that as other horses in his care have shown signs of viral conditions, and as a result of this morning's findings, he would be treating HAY MIKI, and more than likely would not be starting the gelding for 2-4 weeks.

Supplementary Report: Launceston Pacing Club, Sunday 1st December 2024

Race 5 – 6TY BANDBOX – Mitch Ford – SHES A TINY DANCER

Stewards concluded their inquiry into the handling of SHES A TINY DANCER by driver Mitch Ford in Race 5, the 6TY Bandbox, conducted on Sunday December 1, 2024. Stewards opened the inquiry on the evening of the race, taking evidence from driver Ford and reviewing the official race footage. During the inquiry driver Ford contested that a gear malfunction, that being the tip of the near-side lugging pole had lodged in the ring on the extension bit, had made SHES A TINY DANCER difficult to drive both in restraining and maneuverability, however on review Stewards refuted this argument as driver Ford had clearly shown that although SHES A TINY DANCER was keen in running he was able to restrain the filly to the required level to allow SWIATEK LEIS to take the lead near the 1100, and secondly, whilst racing between the 600 and on to the final turn, driver Ford easily moved SHES A TINY DANCER wider on the track and then again back to the inside line. Stewards also took into consideration a later incident where driver Ford had failed to keep, or even attempt to keep, SHES A TINY DANCER on the course proper over the concluding stages, racing inside the line of markers, which had brought about the disqualification of SHES A TINY DANCER at an earlier inquiry. Stewards after considering all before them issued a charge against driver Mitch Ford under Australian Harness Racing Rule 149(2) which reads:-

“A person shall not drive in a manner which in the opinion of the Stewards is unacceptable”

With the particulars of the charge being, firstly after racing in an inside line position leading up to the 600, driver Ford eased SHES A TINY DANCER out into the one-out line, however on approaching racing on the final turn he elected to move back to the inside, into a position that left him covered up with no clear running, effectively driving for luck, which did not eventuate, and secondly, once in this pocket, in behind the leader SWIATEK LEIS, driver Ford failed to keep, or to at least, attempt to keep, SHES A TINY DANCER from racing to the inside of SWIATEK LEIS, thereby leaving the course proper, racing inside markers over the concluding stages, which subsequently brought about the disqualification of SHES A TINY DANCER.

On being charged, driver Ford immediately asked for an adjournment, which was granted, primarily due to him being a concession driver who is entitled to have an advocate present if desired, indicating he would be seeking advice from TasRacing appointed concession driver advocate Mr Neville Webberley before the resumption of the inquiry.

At tonight's reconvening, driver Ford confirmed he had spoken with Mr Webberley since the adjournment, and tonight was supported by Mr D Ford. Stewards, after hearing from both driver M Ford and his advocate D Ford, confirmed the original charge. Driver Ford, after consultation with his advocate, pled not guilty. Stewards, after hearing further submissions in support of his not guilty plea, found him guilty as charged. Finally, Stewards after being addressed on penalty, taking into consideration similar breaches of AHR Rule 149(2) and driver Ford's acknowledgement of his error over the concluding stages of the race in question, suspended his licence to drive for five(5) Tasmanian Race dates.

Driver Ford was reminded of his right of appeal.

RACE MEETING SUMMARY

	RACE	DETAILS	AHR Rule
SUSPENSIONS: 2	1.12.24	Mitch FORD; Unacceptable Drive - 5 Tas Race Meetings	149(2)
	4	Mitch FORD; Causing Interference – 4 Tas Race Meetings	163(1)(a)(iii)
FINES: 0		NIL	
REPRIMANDS: 0		NIL	
HORSE ACTIONS: 1	1	PHLOW JO; Back in Mobile Draw – BMD	
	5	KEAYANG FITZY; Out of Mobile Draw – ODM	
PRE-RACE SWABS: 7	3	MUZZAME MATE	
	4	MAJOR LESTER	
	5	GLENLEDI ELVIS NZ BEYOND DELIGHT	
	6	OUT OF EDEN	
	7	MACH MAJOR NZ	
	8	SETTEBELLO	
POST RACE SWABS: 8		ALL WINNERS	
POST RACE TCO2: 0		NIL	
FOLLOW UPS: 0		NIL	
ADJOURNED/PENDING INQUIRIES: 0		NIL	