

STEWARDS REPORT

MEETING DETAILS

Club - Track	Launceston Pacing Club		
Date	30 th August 2026		
Weather	Fine	Track Condition	Good
Chair	B. Scott	Panel	G. Griffin, B. Hine, J. Marsh, L. Jones (cadet)
Check In	C. Shaw (cadet)	Inspections	
Officials	D. Luttrell & S. Tedman (Sampling Officials)		
Starter	D. Bauld		
Veterinarian	Meander Valler Veterinary Clinic		
Medical Provider	Medical Edge		

GENERAL

Trainers with multiple runners in any one race advised their intended race tactics.

RACE-BY-RACE REPORT

RACE 1 – Ladbrokes Blackbook Pace – 2200m MS

Pl	Col	No	Horse	Driver	Incident
1		1	TAPPY	J. Duggan (C)	No report.
5		2	OMYBACNKNEES JUDGE	T. Rattray	Raced roughly near the 300 metres. Hung in and raced inside marker pegs on the final turn.
4		3	WINNING BREW	B. Davis (C)	No report.
2		4	A DRAGON FOR JOE	G. Rattray	No report.
6		5	MY FATAL CHARM	J. Laughner	No report.
3		6	TWILIGHT STORM	J. Chibnall (C)	Cast the offside front shoe in the race.

General: The all clear was delayed allowing stewards to determine whether OMYBACNKNEES JUDGE gained an advantage when it raced inside marker pegs on the final turn. It was established although OMYBACNKNEES JUDGE raced inside several marker pegs due to hanging, it did not gain any advantage to the detriment of other runners, therefore the all-clear was given.

RACE 2 – Ladbrokes Big Bets Copy Now Pace – 1680m MS

Pla	Col	No	Horse	Driver	Incident
		1	WAVES OF CHANCE		SCRATCHED
2		2	BETTABLACK TIGER	T. Rattray	Over-raced in the early and middle stages of the race.
1		3	GO THE RED	D. Ford	No report.
5		4	KEAYANG FITZY	T. Ford (C)	No report.
4		5	WATERMELON SUGAR	J. Laughher	No report.
3		6	MAEBEE	J. Duggan (C)	No report.

General: Stewards reviewed an incident near the 1000 metres where T. Rattray began to move BETTABLACK TIGER into the running line and at the same time GO THE RED was improving forward into the same position. T. Rattray then checked BETTABACK TIGER and returned to the marker pegs, however this has resulted in T. Ford having to steady KEAYANG FITYZY who had commenced to fill the partially vacated position of BETTABLACK TIGER. Stewards determined to note the circumstances.

RACE 3 – Labrokes Next Multi in Next Up Pace – 2200m MS

Pla	Col	No	Horse	Driver	Incident
3		1	CENTURIAN MISS	B. Davis (C)	No report.
1		2	ATOMIC BLACK	C. Castles	Shifted out over the concluding stages.
8		3	PHOTO FIRST	J. Duggan (C)	Moved three wide approaching the 800 metres but failed to improve its position. When questioned, J. Duggan stated PHOTO FIRST was travelling strongly prior to moving wide, however the gelding didn't progress as expected and was disappointing. He added when CUZZY BRO moved four wide around him near the 400 metres PHOTO FIRST picked up the bit for a short distance but then failed to run on. He stated the trainer indicated he would have the gelding examined by a Vet to establish the reason for its poor performance.
7		4	SMOOTH REASON	T. Ford (C)	No report.
6		5	CUZZY BRO	T. Rattray	Attempted to move three wide near 1500 metres, however, ROCKANDAHARDPLACE moved three wide in advance of him, obliging T. Rattray to return CUZZY BRO to the running line. Was hampered when trailing PHOTO FIRST approaching the 800 metres, when that gelding failed to take him into the race.
5		6	IORN CLAD	D. Ford	No report.

4		7	POWER UP NZ	G. Jones (C,5)	Hung in during the score up.
2		8	ROCKANDAHARDPLACE	J. Walters	Out of position at the start despite the efforts of J. Walters. A warning was issued.

RACE 4 – 6ty Stakes – 2200m SS

Pla	Col	No	Horse	Driver	Incident
6		1	TULLAH GIRL	C. Castles	A warning was issued for galloping out at the start. Failed to secure clear running and was not fully tested.
3		2	SAPPHIRE GAMBLER	G. Rattray	No report.
4		3	ZEUS IMMORTAL	J. Duggan (C)	A warning was issued for galloping out at the start.
1		4	HAMMER DAN	R. Backhouse (C)	Broke the nearside front carrying strap just prior to the finish of the race. The gear was inspected and found to be in good condition.
7		5	SPOOKY GIRL	J. Chibnall (C)	No report.
9		6	FLEETWOOD ROCK	T. Ford (C)	No report.
2		7	WE SALUTE YOU	D. Ford	Underwent a pre-race veterinary examination due to having raced in excess of 200 races. Passed fit to start.
5		8	WILL HE PIKE	G. Jones (C,5)	A warning was issued for galloping out at the start.
8		9	MONTGOMERY BURNS NZ	J. Laughher	No report.

RACE 5 – Impress Print Stakes – 1680m MS

Pla	Col	No	Horse	Driver	Incident
5		1	MISS COLLANN	B. Davis (C)	No report.
12		2	INTO THE HARKNESS	T. Ford (C)	No report.
10		3	MY WAY NZ	J. Laughher	Failed to secure clear running and was not fully tested.
9		4	MERRYWOOD PAUL	E. Arnott (C,5)	No report.
11		5	JOHN VINCENT	G. Jones (C,5)	No report.
7		6	TAMBROS TILLY	B. Davis (C)	Raced roughly on the first tur.
3		7	MISTA EAGLE	J. Duggan (C)	No report.

1		8	GOODTIME OSCAR	D. Ford	No report.
2		9	TOLD YOU TWICE	G. Rattray	No report.
6		10	ONEHANDONEBOUNCE	J. Chibnall (C)	J. Chibnall was fined \$50 under Rule 162(1)(h) for being out of position at the start.
4		11	MUZZAME MATE	T. Rattray	No report.
8		12	LYNRYD SKYNRYD NZ	A. Collins	No report.

RACE 6 – Lees Orchard Stakes – 1680m MS

Pla	Col	No	Horse	Driver	Incident
4		1	KEAYANG LEXI	B. Miller (C)	No report.
1		2	MIGHT AND TEMERITY	G. Jones (C,5)	No report.
8		3	MIKI SANZ	J. Walters	No report.
9		4	THE DEVILS FLAME	E. Arnott (C,5)	No report
11		5	BUSLOAD OF FAITH NZ	A. Collins	Over-raced in the early and middle stages of the race. Was steadied near the 300 metres when G. Jones (MIGHT AND TEMERITY) shifted out with minimal clearance.
10		6	KNOCK OUT NZ	J. Chibnall (C)	No report.
5		7	SOUTHERN LUCK	T. Rattray	No report.
3		8	NATIONAL NEWS NZ	J. Laughher	Underwent a pre-race veterinary examination due to having in excess of 200 races. Passed fit to start.
6		9	LIKEABLE ROGUE	B. Davis (C)	
7		10	JEREMY WELLS NZ	G. Rattray	
2		11	KENYA NZ	D. Ford	Underwent a pre-race veterinary examination due to having in excess of 200 races. Passed fit to start.

General: Stewards inquired into an incident that occurred on the final turn involving MIGHT AND TEMERITY (G. Jones), LIKEABLE ROGUE (B. Davis) and JEREMY WELLS (G. Rattray). It was established G. Jones moved MIGHT AND TEMERITY off the marker pegs into the running line which carried JEREMY WELLS up toward LIKEABLE ROGUE who had been on one rein and hanging. This resulted in JEREMY WELLS being placed in restricted room and being checked. LIKEABLE ROGUE was also checked. Stewards were of the opinion that no driver was careless and noted the circumstances.

RACE 7 – Labrokes Fast Payouts Pace – 2200m MS

Pla	Col	No	Horse	Driver	Incident
8		1	OUTBACK LASS	C. Castles	No report.
1		2	CRAYONS TO PERFUME	T. Ford (C)	No report.
10		3	B K WINDERMERE NZ	L. Alcorn	Gave ground to finish tenth, beaten 227 metres. A post race veterinary examination failed to reveal any abnormalities. Stood down from racing until the completion of one re-qualifying trial.
4		4	KLITSCHKO LEIS	B. Davis (C)	No report.
6		5	JILLSTIGER	J. Walters	No report.
7		6	ALL ABOUT SADIE	E. Arnott (C)	No report.
9		7	TASSIE DAZZLER	D. Ford	No report.
2		8	WEE GEORGIE WOOD	G. Rattray	No report.
3		9	POST KEG	T. Rattray	No report.
5		10	KEAYANG KEVIN	J. Laugher	Fractious in the score up resulting in a false start being declared. Out of position at the second score up and will continue to be excluded from the barrier draw for mobile races. Due to KEAYANG KEVIN'S starting record he has been stood down for two mobile re-qualifying trials.

General: KEAYANG KEVIN was fractious in the early stages of the score up requiring assistance from the Clerk of the Course. As KEAYANG KEVIN did not face the mobile as required under Rule 128(3), a false start was declared.

L. Alcorn was fined \$100 under Rule 89(1) for failing to report to stewards that he observed blood in one nostril of B K WINDERMERE when loading it onto the float after its last start on 21 August 2026. In determining penalty, stewards took into account there was no evidence that this blood originated from the lungs.

RACE 8 – Bevan Lee's Butchery Stakes – 1680m MS

Pla	Col	No	Horse	Driver	Incident
5		1	JET TO HEAVEN	D. Ford	Broke gait approaching the first turn and has been stood down from racing until the completion of one re-qualifying trial. Checked near the 300 metres.
7		2	SHEMEANSBUSINESS	G. Rattray	No report.
9		3	OUR BETTER BRO	M. Jones (C,5)	Locked wheels momentarily with JUST LIKA DREAM near the 300

					metres
3		4	SHADES OF SILK	P. Williams	No report.
8		5	JUST LIKA DREAM	J. Laughher	Hung in, checked and raced roughly and momentarily locked wheels with OUR BETTER BRO.
6		6	MY BAD	G. Jones (C)	No report.
4		7	ITZBUDDHA NZ	R. Backhouse (C)	No report.
2		8	ROCKY STRIDE	B. Davis (C)	Inconvenienced approaching the first turn by JET TO HEAVEN which had broken gait.
1		9	DIDYALOUSAROOSTA	T. Hillier	No report.

General: Stewards inquired into an incident that occurred near the 300 metres and the reasons for OUR BETTER BRO and JUST LIKA DREAM being checked. It was established J. Duggan moved DIDYALOUSAROOSTA wider to gain clear running and in doing so carried OUR BETTER BRO up toward JUST LIKA DREAM who was hanging in. This resulted in OUR BETTER BRO and JUST LIKA DREAM locking wheels momentarily and being checked. Stewards determined that JUST LIKA DREAM contributed to the incident due to hanging and noted the incident.

RACE 9 – Meridian Horse Transport Pace – 1680m MS

Pla	Col	No	Horse	Driver	Incident
6		1	WATCH YOUR BACK NZ	C. Castles	No report.
1		2	ART HUNTSMAN	T. Ford (C)	Shifted out under pressure over the concluding stages.
8		3	DENNY NZ	G. Rattray	No report.
7		4	CAN FEEL THE FURY NZ	J. Laughher	No report.
3		5	WEONA EAGLE	B. Davis (C)	Failed to secure clear running until near the 100 metres.
9		6	ROCKNALLOVERTHEWORLD NZ	D. Ford	No report.
5		7	LETSGOBRO	T. Rattray	No report.
4		8	MOVESLIKEALDY	J. Chibnall (C)	Out of position at the start and will continue to be excluded from the barrier draw for mobile races.
2		9	LAID BACK	B. Miller (C,3)	Will be re-included in the barrier draw for mobile races.

RACE 10 – The Bottle O Hadspen Stakes – 2200m MS

Pla	Col	No	Horse	Driver	Incident
5		1	QUEENOFDANCE NZ	T. Ford (C)	No report.
6		2	FEELINKINDALUCKY	G. Rattray	No report.
8		3	BARBETTE	R. Backhouse (C)	No report.
2		4	CHRIS BE QUICK	B. Davis (C)	No report.
7		5	ROBUST SALLY	E. Arnott (C)	No report.
4		6	ROSE NOIRE NZ	J. Chibnall (C)	No report.
3		7	TALK IS CHEAP	J. Laughher	No report.
1		8	GOBSMACKED	D. Ford	Underwent a pre-race veterinary examination due to having in excess of 200 races. Passed fit to start.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

Hobart 9 August 2026 – Race 7

Stewards finalised an inquiry that had been opened on 9 August 2026 into the tactics adopted by R. Backhouse on SAPPHIRE GAMBLER. The evidence from R. Backhouse was that in his opinion SAPPHIRE GAMBLER is a horse that is best driven on the pace, and he believed he would obtain the lead from I GOTTA GO and that is why he pursued his challenge for the lead. Stewards adjourned the inquiry to review the previous performances of SAPPHIRE GAMBLER and review wagering on the race. At the resumption of the inquiry on 31 August 2026, stewards presented evidence of SAPPHIRE GAMBLER'S previous mobile performances where the gelding had a pattern of being restrained at the start and being driven with cover. Stewards also presented evidence of average lead times and first quarters at Hobart over the same distance and established SAPPHIRE GAMBLER had contributed to the lead time and first quarter both being 2 seconds faster than average. Stewards subsequently charged R. Backhouse under Rule 149(2) which states: A driver shall not drive in a manner which in the opinion of the stewards is unacceptable with the particulars being that R. Backhouse drove in an unacceptable manner when he drove vigorously three wide from the start until the first turn and failed to take the opportunity to move to the running line behind NATIONAL NEWS when it was reasonable to take that position, and he challenged for the lead until at least the 1600 metres when there was no reasonable prospect of the lead becoming available. Additionally, R. Backhouse contributed to the fast lead time of 33.1 and was responsible for the first quarter being run in 29.8, with both of these sectionals being faster than average. In the opinion of the stewards, R. Backhouse failed to give SAPPHIRE GAMBLER any respite, and this was the reason SAPPHIRE GAMBLER tired to be beaten 61 metres. R. Backhouse pleaded not guilty but was found guilty and had his licence to drive in races suspended for 6 race dates.

RACE MEETING SUMMARY

CATEGORY	RACE	DETAILS	AHR RULE
SUSPENSIONS:		Ryan Backhouse – Hobart 9/8/2026. Unacceptable drive. 6 race dates	149(2)
FINES:	5	J. Chibnall. Out of position at start - \$50	162(1)(h)
	7	L. Alcorn. Fail to notify stewards - \$100	89(1)
REPRIMANDS:			
HORSE ACTIONS:	7	KEAYANG KEVIN. Starting offences – Stood down 2 mobile re-qualifying trials	63(2)
	7	B K WINDERMERE NZ - Stood down from racing until the completion of one re-qualifying trial.	63(2)
	8	JET TO HEAVEN – Stood down one re-qualifying trial	63(2)
	9	LAID BACK – Re-include in mobile barrier draw	
PRE-RACE SWABS:	OMYBACNKNEES JUDGE, BETTABACK TIGER, IRON CLAD, WILL HE PIKE, ONEHANDONEBOUNCE, MIGHT AND TEMERITY, CRAYONS TO PERFUME, JUST LIKA DREAM, WATCH YOUR BACK, TALK IS CHEAP.		
POST-RACE SWABS:	TAPPY, GO THE RED, ATOMIC BLACK, HAMMER DAN, GOODTIME OSCAR, MIGHT AND TEMERITY, CRAYONS TO PERFUME, DIDYALOUSAROOSTA, ART HUNTSMAN, GOBSMACKED.		
POST-RACE TCO2:	Nil		
FOLLOW UPS:	Nil		
ADJOURNED/PENDING INQUIRIES:	Nil		

Ms Barbara Scott
Chief Steward Harness

Steward's report as posted is provisional and subject to further review and amendment.

Date	Changes / Version
31/08/2026	Version 1