



## Senior Stewards Report

<b>Name of Track</b>	Fort Erie		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Monday, 1 Sep 2025</b>	<b>Post-time</b>	12:15
<b>Weather</b>	Race 1 - 7: Clear (Temp: 23 deg. C)		
<b>Track Conditions</b>	Type: Dirt, Fast	Turf:	Firm Rail Lane 1
<b>Number of Races</b>	7		
<b>Scratches</b>	Vet: 1	Stewards: 1	Track:

Senior Steward	Associate Steward	Associate Steward
Fenton Platts	Paul Nielsen	Justin Stein

**Report on day's Events:** (Backstretch - accidents, fines, suspensions, objections, disqualifications, refunds, pertinent incidents, general details etc., Film Reviews, Races, Claims)

### Backstretch:

A report from the presiding Stewards at Fort Erie has been released regarding the 4<sup>th</sup> race on August 4, 2025.

### Review of Fort Erie Race 4 on August 4th, 2025

The AGCO has completed a comprehensive review of Race 4 at Fort Erie Racetrack on August 4th, 2025, with a focus on the ride given to "Princess O Denmark" who, after leading by a significant margin during the stretch run, was passed late and finished second. Interviews were conducted with Jockey Kirk Johnson and Trainer Richard Davis, in addition to Veterinarians familiar with the filly, and a previous trainer. What follows are the key points: - Mr. Johnson had not been aboard the horse previously. He was instructed by Mr. Davis to 'let her go' from the gate and hopefully she would last, as if she is ridden aggressively, she may bolt to the outside and/or encounter airway problems. - Mr. Johnson advised that he rode as instructed and tried to nurse her along. He felt she went quite quickly in the beginning, and he could sense she was slowing significantly in the stretch. He looked back to determine how much he could nurse her along to the wire without 'scrubbing on her', as per instructions. When he did get down to ride her aggressively in the final stages, he feels she did not respond and may have slowed further. Mr. Johnson believes that the filly did encounter an airway problem during the stretch run. - Mr. Davis advised that the "Princess O Denmark" is very difficult to ride and train and confirmed that he did provide instructions to Mr. Johnson not to ride her aggressively, but rather just to let her go and run her race. He noted that her past performances show that she has difficulty finishing her races,

Mr. Davis was satisfied with the ride given to her during the race in question and believes that her airway was affected during the stretch run. - Review of the recent races of "Princess O Denmark" show that she does tend to fade badly towards the end of her races. - In reviewing the race video and charts of Race 4 on August 4th, the stewards noted that "Princess O Denmark" went very fast (21.12 seconds) in the first quarter, then slowed progressively throughout the remainder of the race. Also, in the stretch run, Mr. Johnson did subtly encourage her with taps of the crop on her shoulder. He also got down and rode her more aggressively in the final stages. The video does not show that either tactic led to an increased report from the filly. - The Canadian Pari-mutuel Agency (CPMA) was consulted and confirmed that there were no irregular betting patterns with respect to the race in question. It is clear that "Princess O Denmark" presented certain challenges to her rider that resulted in an unusual trip that caught the attention of Race Officials and the wagering public alike. While looking back multiple times during the stretch run is unusual, the stewards have accepted Mr. Johnson's explanation that, given the challenges of riding this particular filly, he was judging his lead so he could try to ration her speed to the wire as much as possible. In consideration of all available information, the AGCO Stewards are satisfied that Mr. Johnson and the connections had every intention of winning Race 4 on August 4th, 2025, and that there were no violations of the rules of racing.  
Thank You.

Jockey Alexis Sanchez issued a two-day riding suspension, to be served September 8 and 9, 2025. Ruling to follow.

#### **Film Reviews:**

None

#### **Races:**

Dr. Matt Nugent and Dr. John Starmer on duty today.

48 Entries

Race 1, #3 Big Lady, on advisement of the Official Veterinarian, was scratched, Stewards' Inquiry, #5, M. David, 4<sup>th</sup> at the start, upon review of back tower and speaking with the starter it was evident that #5 did pop the starting gate stall doors prior to the starter releasing the field in a valid start. Is a complete refund as it is considered to be advantaged. Total refund of \$35,833.

Inquiry video: [https://youtu.be/6KDfM14QM\\_w](https://youtu.be/6KDfM14QM_w)

Race 2, Was a 42-minute tote delay for payouts on the first race, Race All clear

Race 3, incidental contact, #5 He's a Shooter, K. Johnson, 6<sup>th</sup>, bore in slightly at start and made contact with #4 to its inside, no issues

Race 4, Turf, #2 Diva's Ghost, unseated Jockey D. Bynoe during post parade ran off to the stable area, out of our sightline and was subsequently a Steward scratch, Refund of \$3,373. Race was all clear.

Race 5, All clear

Race 6, Horsepeople's Luminary Cup, All clear

Race 7, Puss n Boots Cup, Turf, All clear

Mutuel handle: \$983,328.

**Claims:**

Race 2, #5 Always a Way for \$5,000.00 by Owners Jim Vetere and Mike Newell/Trainer Sharon Ceccato-opted in for observation-cleared by Official Veterinarian