



Stewards' reports reveals shocking suffering of horses used in Grand National

The drama of the Aintree Grand National Meeting has finished for another year.

In its wake, it left one horse dead, another seriously injured and others carrying painful racing-related wounds.

The British Horseracing Authority (BHA) – that has horse welfare as part of its remit – published the Racecourse's Stewards' Reports of the meeting on its website:

<https://www.britishhorseracing.com/>

The briefly written reports make for uncomfortable reading. A number of incidents concerning the horses were questioned by the Stewards but, perhaps not unsurprisingly, they failed to question anything that related to the death of race horse **Lilbitluso (IRE)** who was destroyed after a fall on the Grand National Course (Thur 12 April). This is a persistent failure by Racecourse Stewards when a horse death occurs.

Seven of the 38 runners in The Grand National race itself were reported to have suffered negative physical symptoms:

- **Shantou Flyer (IRE)** suffered from a breathing problem.
- Three horses, **Anibale Fly (FR)**, **Carlingford Lough (IRE)** and **Raz De Maree (FR)** – all ended the race distressed, suffering post-race heat stress.
- Two horses, **Seeyouatmidnight** and **Milansbar (IRE)** were reported to be lame. Lameness is a common term that is used to describe anything from a minor injury to something life-threatening – there was no further information on this.
- **Chase The Spud** bled from the nose – a frequently used term along with 'bleeding lungs'. It is, in fact, Exercise Induced Pulmonary Haemorrhaging – a serious and often progressive problem.
- Alarmingly, there were no reports on six of the fallers or on the two horses who were brought down by colliding with stricken horses. The most serious of these incidents involved the horse **Saint Are (FR)**, who was brought down, sustained an injury and was subsequently taken off the racecourse in a horse ambulance.

Says Animal Aid's Horse Racing Consultant, Dene Stansall:

'The BHA Stewards' Reports have failed to explain, in any meaningful terms, the injuries suffered by the horses at The Grand National Meeting and do not provide any information at all about the death of Libitluso. It is also doubtful that further information will be provided by the BHA. Animal Aid is campaigning to remove the BHA from its horse welfare role and replace it with an independent regulator that will put horse welfare first. Please sign our e-petition in support of this.'

Editors' Notes

Please sign the e-petition here: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/211950>

For a full list of horse deaths at Aintree since 2007, see our [Race Horse Death Watch website](#).

Read the Stewards report here:

<https://media.britishhorseracing.com/pdf/stewardsreport/?fixtureId=1114&year=2018>

8