

Riverton RC 5 April 2021 - R 6 (request for a ruling) - Chair, Mr P Knowles

Rules:

[632\(1\)](#)

Stipendiary Steward(s):

Mr M Davidson - Stipendiary Steward

Name(s):

Ms M Gestain - Class B Jockey, Mr D Walsh - Apprentice Jockey Mentor, Mr S Batt - Starter

Facts:

Stewards lodged a request for a ruling to declare SERAPHIC a non-runner following Race 6. Stewards alleged that SERAPHIC be declared a non-runner under r 632 (1) after leaving its Jockey (Miss M Gestain) behind at the start. Miss Gestain appeared at the hearing assisted by Mr D Walsh.

Decisions:

Mr Davidson, with the aid of the videos, stated that SERAPHIC drew one at the barrier, in a five horse field. When the gates opened Miss Gestain was seated on the horse but did not have her feet in the irons. He said Miss Gestain was never ready for the start. He added that SERAPHIC was fractious in the preliminary and needed assistance to the start, was fractious behind the barrier and had been difficult to load. Once in the gate a Starter's Assistant had hold of its ear but was still fractious. Just prior to the gates opening the horse had dipped its head. He added that there was a communication breakdown between all the parties.

Starter Mr S Batt stated he was aware of the fractious nature of SERAPHIC but thought the Assistant and Ms Gestain were ready. He did not hear her calling for assistance at any point. He was watching another horse at the time the start was effected.

Miss Gestain stated the horse dipped its head and the Starter's Assistant had grabbed its ear. She was seated on the horse but did not have her feet in the irons.

SERAPHIC is declared a non-runner in this event, Race 6.

It's clear from the videos and evidence given that SERAPHIC was being difficult at the start despite the best efforts of the Starter's Assistant. Miss Gestain was not ready for the jump and was left behind when the gates opened. The Committee is satisfied that SERAPHIC was denied a fair start.