

Handicapping Review Panel

WOULDUADAMANDEVEIT

22 February 2019

This is the outcome of the appeal by trainer Susan Gardner against the non-allocation of a mark to Woulduadamandevit, despite the six-year-old having completed three times in novice hurdles.

The panel examined in detail the submissions of Mrs Gardner and of the handicapper. It also viewed the video footage of Woulduadamandevit's three runs over hurdles.

While all three were well below the level of form Woulduadamandevit displayed in bumpers last season, the panel is instructed that ratings from bumpers can not be taken into account when calculating a horse's mark over hurdles, so it has considered only the evidence of this season's hurdles runs, over 2m at Kempton, 2m4f at Chepstow and 3m at Exeter.

The panel considered that the Kempton novice was an inadequate test for Woulduadamandevit, and noted that he improved when stepped up in distance at Chepstow, although once again he was never competitive and was well beaten.

The third run, over a further half mile at Exeter, was much less informative than it might have been, since Woulduadamandevit jumped left throughout and hung left up the finishing straight, though he did pass several tiring rivals over the last three hurdles before finishing well beaten again.

That third run was the subject of a running and riding inquiry by the Exeter stewards, where jockey Lucy Gardner stated that Woulduadamandevit hung and jumped badly left handed, because of which she was unable to ride him out.

The handicapper submits that Gardner's admission that she could not ride out was enough for him to decide that this run should not be counted as a qualifying run, yet Gardner was not found in breach and so the panel believes that this run should not be dismissed.

The opinion of the panel is that the Chepstow race represents solid novice form and it notes that Iwilldoit, who finished just over a length in front of Woulduadamandevit, has since won a handicap off 103 by 10 lengths and earned a revised mark of 113, and that Big Man Clarence, who finished one place and six lengths behind, has gone on to finish second off 98 and 100 and to earn a current mark of 106.

The panel was unanimous therefore in agreeing that the Chepstow race offers sufficient evidence for the handicapper to allocate a mark.

The appeal is therefore **ALLOWED**. Accordingly the handicapper should allot a rating to Woulduadamandevit and the trainer's deposit is to be returned.

The members of the Panel were: Graham Dench, Adrian Grazebrook and Timothy Steele