

CHANNEL ISLANDS HORSERACING AUTHORITY

Handicap Review – Between The Covers

Decision

That the handicap mark of Between The Covers should remain at 62.

The purpose of the Handicap Review Panel is to determine the correct handicap assessment following an independent review of all relevant evidence, including the submissions of the Handicapper and the Applicant. The Panel is not bound by the Handicapper's original assessment and reaches its own independent conclusion on the appropriate handicap mark.

Background

Between The Covers commenced the 2026 season from a handicap mark of 65. Following performances during the early part of the season, the Handicapper progressively reduced the horse's mark before allocating a handicap mark of 60 for the meeting on 10 July.

On 10 July the horse won a two-mile conditions race by one length carrying 9st 6lbs. Following that performance, the Handicapper increased the handicap mark to 62.

Following the horse's subsequent run on 26 July, the Applicant requested that the Handicap Review Panel undertake an independent review of the handicap assessment.

Evidence

The Handicapper submitted that the reassessment reflected not only the winning margin but also the horse's previous performances, consistency of form and collateral form. Particular reliance was placed upon the horse's seasonal profile, its performance relative to Grecian Jewel and the fact that it remained below its opening handicap mark for the season.

The Handicapper further submitted that the race on 10 July was a conditions race rather than a handicap and that the subsequent weight carried should not be regarded as a direct consequence of the revised handicap mark. It was also noted that the horse had been eased once beaten on its subsequent start.

The Applicant submitted that a one-length victory would ordinarily justify a smaller increase under the accepted pounds-per-length scale and that the revised assessment was therefore excessive.

Findings

The Handicap Review Panel has independently reviewed all of the evidence presented by the Handicapper and the Applicant.

In reaching its decision, the Panel has considered the horse's previous performances, the merit of the performance on 10 July, the horse's consistency throughout the season, the collateral evidence, and the submissions made by both parties.

The Panel accepts that recognised pounds-per-length scales provide an important guide when assessing performance. However, they do not operate as a rigid formula and must be considered alongside the horse's established profile and the totality of the available evidence.

Having completed its independent assessment, the Panel concludes that the handicap mark of 62 most accurately reflects the demonstrated ability of Between The Covers at the time of the reassessment. The increase following the performance on 10 July is therefore confirmed.

Further Comments

Handicapping is necessarily a matter of professional judgement. Whilst numerical scales provide an important framework, they cannot replace a considered assessment of a horse's overall profile, consistency of form and collateral evidence. Having undertaken its own independent assessment, the Handicap Review Panel concludes that the correct handicap mark is 62.

Panel Members

Iulian Ovidiu Dina – Senior Handicapper of the Romanian Jockey Club
Jonathan Perrée- CIHA
Michael Shenkin – CIHA

6th August 2026