



Racing Officials Accreditation Program Newsletter

Volume 5 Issue 4

April 2009

*Upholding the integrity
of racing is our most
important responsibility*

Calendar of Events

Continuing Education

USTA	Oct. 2009
U of Louisville	Nov. 2009
Delaware	Nov. 2009

Accreditation Schools

U. of Louisville	Nov. 2009
Puerto Rico	TBA



Congratulations to ROAP's newly accredited Racing Officials:

Susan Ditter- Flat
David Mogan- Harness
Ross Pierce- Flat
Brett Revingtin- Harness
Luann Reynolds- Harness
Ralph Theroux- Flat

For more information on
these newly accredited
individuals please go to the
ROAP Directory at:

www.horseracingofficials.com

Message from Stan Bowker



What an exciting few months we have ahead of us in the racing industry. This is the time of the year we all have been waiting for! We have

some talented horses that will be making names for themselves starting the first weekend in May.

As for ROAP we have some new things happening. That I would like to share with you. For the first time ROAP will be holding a 60 hour accreditation school taught in Spanish and hosted by Puerto Rico. Additional details will be announced as they become available.

We are also working on a two-part survey that will service the industry. Part is to evaluate the needs of our website users while the second part will evaluate pay scales of racing officials in the industry. I highly encourage everyone to participate in this survey, which will be sent to you via e-mail. If you do not have an e-mail address on file with ROAP please contact the office for alternate arrangements to receive the survey.

ROAP is in the planning stages for the 2009

Conference on Officiating Horse Racing, which will be held at the University of Arizona Racing Symposium in December. Details on the event will be posted on the website as they become available.

A new feature that will be added to our next newsletter is the Spotlight Corner. The Spotlight Corner will recognize an official, steward, or judge for their contributions to the industry. If you would like to nominate an individual please send ROAP an e-mail at: contactus@horseracingofficials.com.

I encourage you to interact with ROAP by participating on a committee, sending in videos for our library, or hosting a CE. Don't forget to look at the ROAP directory and make sure your information is correct and current.

We would love to hear from you. Please send articles, letters, and commentary to be considered for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Best Regards,

Stan Bowker



Steward Advisory:

Last meeting was on via conference call. ROAP will be strengthening efforts to reach out to

more commissions to inform them about ROAP. An update was given on Model Rule changes, and a discussion was led about the possibilities of creating an "On Call" Steward Program. Those interested in joining this committee please contact the ROAP office.

Steering Committee:

Last meeting was on March 24th via conference call. An update was given on the ROAP conference that is to take place in December 2009. A status report was given in regards to an accreditation school to take place in Spanish. A draft of the ROAP survey was reviewed for feedback on content and format. Fundraising efforts for 2009 were briefly reviewed. The committee discussed at length necessary to the experience requirement for accreditation. Look for changes on the website in late April.

Technology in the Judges'/Stewards' Stand

By: Denny Oelschlager

My perspective on technology as it relates to judges and stewards is pretty simple. It is way past time that we get on board and actively participate in dynamic (not incremental) change in what we do and how we do it. Today, that means becoming proficient in using technology, more specifically information technology, to restructure everything we do, now – not next week, next month, or next year. Doing much more with much less is a challenge stewards cannot and should not try to avoid.

As stewards we can take full advantage of rapid and inevitable changes that are re-defining and restructuring the horse racing industry every day. In my view the first and most important thing we can do has nothing at all to do with technology – and everything to do with commitment.

“The irony of commitment is that it is deeply liberating – in work, in play, in love. The act frees you from the tyranny of your internal critic, from the fear that likes to dress itself up and parade around as rationale hesitation. To commit is to remove your head as the barrier to your life.”

Anne Morris, www.starbucks.com/wayiseeit

Commitment frees your mind to see every problem as an opportunity.

Think in terms of concepts and terminology associated with **process innovation** - more than trying out good ideas. Process innovation involves fundamental concepts and techniques for defining processes and outcomes, and developing new solutions.

Explore new ways of communicating and collaborating with other stewards –very good and free (to those who use the Internet) tools are readily available.

Be involved – focus on processes with potential for significance quickly. Look for processes that could be improved 50 percent in a few months, not projects that might show 5 percent improvement a year for 10 years.

Horse racing and pari-mutuel wagering is increasingly in the hands of people who see challenges facing the industry as great opportunity, people who have a willingness to challenge the old way of doing things. Stewards must be part of the process, or they will individually and collectively find themselves outside looking in at the racetracks of tomorrow.

Here is my top 10 list – changes I expect to see before 2013:

1. Ninety percent of the paper now found on stewards' desks, hanging on the walls, in desk draws, in files and stacked in shelves and on top of files, will be eliminated.
2. Ninety percent of stewards will have a computer or terminal on their desk and in the stand, and will actually be using it.
3. Ninety percent of pari-mutuel tickets will be paperless.
4. Ninety percent of racing licenses will be issued and validated by a multi-jurisdictional racing license system.
5. Races will be available on free, high-definition digital clips that are instantly accessible by the Internet.
6. A racing database will provide free access with direct links to past races, programs, charts, photo finishes, stewards reports, mutual reports, news clips, and profiles of trainers, jockeys and owners.
7. An interface to an off-site racing office system will replace the racing office staff, with the exception of the racing secretary.
8. Wagering on fixed races will be detected and reported for investigation before a race is made official.
9. The takeout rate on wagering will drop by 25 percent on average.
10. Pari-mutuel races with the horses running on different racetracks at the same time.

Having ventured to predict changes in horse racing, it is a good time to close with another favorite quotation.

“All models are wrong, but some are useful”

George Box

USTA NEWS



An Equine Job Fair will be held Wednesday, April 29, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Harness Racing Museum at 240 Main Street in Goshen, N.Y., directly adjacent to Historic Track.

The job fair is open at no cost to the first 20 potential employers who are either USTA or museum members and request a spot at the fair. Employers who are not members can join prior to participation. Each employer will be given a 6-foot table and the opportunity to collect resumes and speak with potential employees. Employers need not have immediate personnel needs to participate. They can have any kind of employment opportunity, current or future, seasonal, part-time or permanent.

The event is free for job seekers, who are asked to bring 25 copies of their resumé and to be prepared to meet potential employers. Those who do not have a prepared resumé will be offered assistance in completing a standard application detailing horse experience and will be provided with copies.

For more information or to request a table at the job fair, contact Katie Vermilyea, Education Coordinator, at hrmlibrary2@gmail.com or call (845) 294-6330.

Video offers fair track maintenance tips

Columbus, OH – It may be months before the county fair season kicks off again, but it's never too early to begin thinking about your next fair racing meet.

To help you get your racing surface in the fastest, safest condition possible, the USTA has asked Greg Coon, noted track consultant and the track superintendent and starter at the Delaware County Fair in Delaware, Ohio, for some track maintenance tips.

This video will help in getting your track ready for the 2009 meet. To download a copy of the USTA Best Fair Practices Manual, visit <http://fairs.ustrotting.com>

SHOW TIME: Down the Stretch, the popular weekly show covering North American horse racing on Sirius Satellite Radio, has added a segment focusing on WEG Standardbred racing. This is in addition to the existing 30-minute segment on harness racing sponsored by the U.S. Trotting Association and Harness Tracks of America.

Hosts Bill Finley and Dave Johnson cover the world of racing every Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon (EST). The show, which also includes reporter Caton Bredar, also features the latest insider news, stakes previews and handicapping segments. For more information, visit <http://www.sirius.com/horseracing>.

Announcements

Ron Mullins of Louisville has been named track announcer at Presque Isle Downs.

1988 Horse of the Year **Alysheba** was euthanized on March 27 at night Hagyard Equine Medical Institute in Lexington, Kentucky.

At Sunland Park, **Gone to the Mountain** set the 870-yard world and track records in the time of 43.02 seconds, and earned a speed index of 115.

Top journeyman **Jonathan Hernandez** received a one-year suspension for deliberately losing a race aboard favorite Blue Ocean at Santa Ana Park in the Philippines.

The **New York Racing Association** has banned owner-breeder **Ernie Paragallo** from doing business at its tracks after authorities seized 177 horses at his Hudson Valley farm.



Imagine having live-streaming video of every American Quarter Horse race in the country and unlimited access to archived racing video. In a few weeks, www.aqharacing.com will

launch a revolutionary service that will make American Quarter Horse racing accessible to everyone, everywhere. The live-streaming service will let fans watch simulcast signals from across the country, and each race will be archived.

New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing (NZTR) announced on April 21 that padded whips will become mandatory in that country on Aug. 1, the same day that the new softer instrument will go into use in Australia.

To send in announcements (appointments, special events, obituaries, special reports, miscellaneous) please e-mail contactus@horseracingofficials.com.



Steeplechase News



Palm Beach Cancels Spring Steeplechase

The Palm Beach Steeplechase, scheduled for April 4 in Wellington, Fla., was cancelled due to management's concerns about the safety of the grass track in light of weather conditions.

A drought weakened the grass roots and left the area with 1.63 inches of precipitation this year compared to the average 9.26 inches. In addition, severe thunderstorms forecast for the week before the meet threatened to jeopardize the safety of horses and riders.

Bizarre Accident Mars Piedmont Hunt Point-to-Point

A freak accident interrupted an otherwise good day of steeplechasing at the Piedmont Fox Hounds Point-To-Point in Upperville, Va., March 21, sending several patrons to area hospitals.

The incident occurred in the second race of the seven-race card, when owner-rider Noel Ryan's horse, the 13-year-old Quick Line, started to show distress just after crossing the finish line. The pair went through the outside rail snow fence, catapulting Ryan into a parked Ford Explorer while Quick Line crashed into several tailgaters.

The consensus among race officials and the course veterinarian was that Quick Line had suffered cardiac failure after the race. Quick Line succumbed to the condition shortly after the accident.

162nd Running of The Grand National

Liam Treadwell guided Mon Mome, a 9-year-old, home-bred to a strong win, and no one would have known his odds were 100/1 or that the 23-year-old was riding his first National mount.

Spring Schedule

BLOCK HOUSE , Tryon , NC	Saturday, April 18
GRAND NATIONAL , Butler , MD	Saturday, April 18
MIDDLEBURG , Middleburg , VA	Saturday, April 18
ATLANTA , Kingston , GA	Saturday, April 25
FOXFIELD SPRING , Charlottesville , VA	Saturday, April 25
MARYLAND HUNT CUP , Glyndon , MD	Saturday, April 25
QUEEN'S CUP , Mineral Springs , NC	Saturday, April 25
VIRGINIA GOLD CUP , The Plains , VA	Saturday, May 2
WINTERTHUR , Winterthur , DE	Sunday, May 3
IROQUOIS , Nashville , TN	Saturday, May 9
WILLOWDALE , Kennett Square , PA	Sunday, May 10
RADNOR , Malvern , PA	Saturday, May 16
HIGH HOPE , Lexington , KY	Sunday, May 17
FAIR HILL , Fair Hill , MD	Saturday, May 23



Tough hurdle: De Luain Gorm falls and loses jockey G. Gallagher during the John Smith's Fox hunters' chase during the first day of the Grand National horse race meeting at Aintree Racecourse, Liverpool, England.



"Strengthening the Integrity of Racing"

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www.rmtcnet.com

International News

Soften the Blow

BY: Tim Habel and Matt Stewart, Herald Sun

JOCKEYS will grudgingly accept the introduction of padded whips in Australia from August 1 but have welcomed a 1 percent of prize money increase in riding fees from July 1.

In a historic move, the Australian Racing Board yesterday announced sweeping changes to whip use and approved the percentage increase, which is set to bring extra insurance security for jockeys.

Among the reaction to the whip changes: AUSTRALIAN Jockeys' Association chief executive Des O'Keeffe said jockeys approved of limits on whip use but were against padded whips.

ANIMAL welfare spokesman Lawrence Pope commended the changes.

LEADING jockey and Victorian Jockeys' Association committeeman Brad Rawiller said he was surprised padded whips would be compulsory.

ARB chief executive Andrew Harding advised jockeys to modify their whip style immediately, but he promised a moratorium after August 1 before penalties were imposed.

Modified use of the whip, including no more than five hits before the 200m and not in consecutive strides from then on, would not affect a result, O'Keeffe said.

'Punters will have confidence they have got a fair run for their money,' he said.

Pope, the Victorian Advocates for Animals president, added: 'Animal welfare people have long held the view the whip is largely superfluous.'

Renowned whip rider Craig Newitt admitted: 'Everyone has got to abide by the rules.'

Asked if the changes would compromise his style, he said: 'No, not at all.'

Rawiller said it seemed strange to bring in a rule to use the whip less, yet also have it padded. 'I've never seen a horse come back injured by the whip. This (double whammy) has come as a surprise to me,' he said.

O'Keeffe said the rules brought Australian racing into line with England and South Africa and the changes didn't signal a future ban on whip use.

'We read this as full and final changes for whip use in Australian racing,' he said.

Harding said the ARB had 'dealt with the matter, period' and the whip was 'here to stay.'

The range of penalties will be decided at a national stewards' conference next month. Padded whips have been used by Aussie jumps jockeys for the past year, but a padded whip for flat jockeys has a longer shaft and a felt tip.

Australian Jockeys' Association chairman Ross Inglis, hailed the 1 percent increase as 'a historic day for jockeys.'

It will be funded by each state racing body and Inglis said the result would be improved personal accident, death and disability and public liability insurance premiums.

A committee of Racing Victoria CEO Rob Hines, Racing NSW CEO Peter V'Landys and Queensland Racing's Malcolm Tuttle will work with the AJA to administer insurance cover.

Many Thanks to our Sponsors



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