



Racing Officials Accreditation Program Newsletter

January 2009

Upholding the integrity of racing is our most important responsibility

Calendar of Events

Continuing Education

Delta Downs Jan 26-27
 Delaware Feb 9
 U of Louisville Nov 2009

Accreditation Schools

Delta Downs Jan 26-Feb2
 U. of Louisville Nov 2009

ROAP Board Meeting Lexington, KY

The next ROAP board meeting will be held in Lexington, Kentucky, date TBA. Many topics are expected to be discussed, including: recommendations for the RCI Model Rules Committee meeting, planning an accreditation school in the Caribbean, and planning for next year's ROAP conference. Please contact the ROAP office for additional information on attending the board meeting. All ROAP committees and board meetings are open to interested parties.

Message from Stan Bowker, Chairman



I would like to take this opportunity to thank NTRA Advantage and Breeders' Cup for sponsoring the first "Conference on

Officiating Horse Racing." Many thanks to the ROAP conference committee for your hard work in making the conference a wonderful event!

The first Conference on Officiating Horse Racing was a great success. More than 100 people attended, representing all aspects of the regulatory side of the industry.

For those of you who did not attend the conference, Frank Lamb, former executive director of the Wyoming Horse Racing Commission, moderated discussions led by speakers including Alan M. Foreman, Hugh Gallagher, and Duayne Didericksen. Mr. Foreman's presentation filled the room with questions and interaction. Some of the other topics covered included house rules, uniformity of penalties and the review of high profile race videos.

I hope that next year many more of you can

attend as this is going to become an annual event for ROAP.

To bring everyone up to date, continuing education classes will have a new focus for 2009. Points of Emphasis for 2009 are: mock hearings, rule writing, daily reports and consideration of mitigating and

aggravating factors when reaching decisions on penalty phase. To view the new Points of Emphasis please visit the ROAP website at www.horseracingofficials.com



I encourage you to interact with ROAP by serving 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



Changing culture requires renewed diligence for Stewards/Judges

By: Hugh Gallagher

What a year was 2008! **CHANGE** was not only the mantra in the political arena, but also the cornerstone concern for the horse racing industry including the ARCI,

“What was it about 2008 that caused so much concern for change? What happened in this past year that was more catastrophic than the 1990 Breeders’ Cup at Belmont that witnessed a broken clavicle to a jockey and three extraordinary equine athletes running their last races as a result of fatal injuries? Could it have been the unavoidable consequence of an unfortunate series of racing tragedies the equine flesh is heir to...or was it more? Was it more than the confluence of nearly 25 years of seemingly isolated accidents that insiders call “bad racing luck” combined with a more sensitive society ala James Herriot’s “All Things Bright and Beautiful” that resulted in the outcry for care and concern of the swiftest and the strongest, particularly when...“the heartaches and the thousand natural shocks that flesh is heir to...” happens to be EQUINE FLESH? The confluence that resulted in the year that changed racing’s public perception, in a very lasting way, is tripartite in nature: 1. The almost 25 year accumulation of horse racing accidents (and that’s what they really are in themselves—accidents, freakish isolated accidents given the volume of racing— not bad conditioning or reckless risks by equine caretakers), 2. A heightened awareness of the dependence of racehorses on the people entrusted with their care; and 3. An outside force, such as MLB’s confrontation with Congress on anabolic/androgenic steroids. These elements are the foundation of the year that changed racing’s public perception.

Hambletonian Society, NTRA, The Jockey Club and the HBPA. What was it about 2008 that caused so much concern for change? What happened in this past year that was more catastrophic than the 1990 Breeders’ Cup at Belmont that witnessed a broken clavicle to a jockey and three extraordinary equine athletes running their

last races as a result of fatal injuries? Could it have been the unavoidable consequence of an unfortunate series of racing tragedies the equine flesh is heir to...or was it more? Was it more than the confluence of nearly 25 years of seemingly isolated accidents that insiders call “bad racing luck” combined with a more sensitive society ala James Herriot’s “All Things Bright and Beautiful” that resulted in the outcry for care and concern of the swiftest and the strongest, particularly when...“the heartaches and the thousand natural shocks that flesh is heir to...” happens to be EQUINE FLESH? The confluence that resulted in the year that changed racing’s public perception, in a very lasting way, is tripartite in nature: 1. The almost 25 year accumulation of horse racing accidents (and that’s what they really are in themselves—accidents, freakish isolated accidents given the volume of racing— not bad conditioning or reckless risks by equine caretakers), 2. A heightened awareness of the dependence of racehorses on the people entrusted with their care; and 3. An outside force, such as MLB’s confrontation with Congress on anabolic/androgenic steroids. These elements are the foundation of the year that changed racing’s public perception.

Accidents None of the following resulted in a Congressional Inquiry:

- Ruffian vs. Foolish Pleasure, 1975 Match Race
- Swale, 1984
- Go for Wand, Mr. Nickerson, Shakers Knit-1990 Breeders’ Cup
- Prairie Bayou, 1993
- Holy Bull, 1995- retired to breeding
- Charismatic, 1999- retired to breeding
- Barbaro, 2006 (d.2007)

Although all of these incidents were serious cause for solemn reflection for their loss to racing the ramifications did not, for the most part, go outside the circle of adoring fans who continue to love the sport (if not the business) of racing. However, the world was evolving into a more compassionate and caring one regarding the care of animals—both large and small. With the publication of “JUICED: Wild Times, Rampant Roids, Smash Hits and How Baseball Got Big.” America’s pastime was preparing for its day before Congress. It was inevitable. Two developments transformed a questioning society into a cynical one: 1. March 17, 2005— Rafael Palmeiro’s adamant denial in a Congressional hearing under oath that



he never used steroids and 2. Rafael Palmeiro’s unappealable suspension from MLB for a laboratory report of a positive finding for **STANOZOLOL**. At this juncture horse racing’s intelligentsia, in large part to the intuitive instincts of RMTTC Director Scot Waterman, knew that racing had a problem— a BIG problem. Measures were enacted to get mobilized to prohibit/control the presence of AAS in racehorses. Unfortunately, independent jurisdictions were hard pressed to establish and maintain coast-to-coast uniformity on this critical issue that was very prominently a public awareness buzzword.

By the first Saturday in May 2008, the stage was set for triumph and calamity. Triumph if all went well with the overpowering development of lightly raced Big Brown and calamity as the tragic ending of a heroic filly’s relentless stretch drive resulted in the most singular misfortune ever witnessed and assessed by a legendary veterinarian in the person of recently honored AAEP Distinguished Life Member Dr. Larry Bramlage. He had never seen anything like it. Hopefully, none of us ever will either. Weeks later in Baltimore a seemingly nonchalant, factual comment about training preparations and treatments for the 2008 Kentucky Derby winner set a shockwave of **concern** felt well outside the interest of racing *insiders*. The confluence of these elements led to the June 19 Congressional Hearing for our industry leaders to explain who we are and what we do; not only to Congress, but to the entire court of public opinion. It was tough sledding. They all did an admirable day’s service fighting with truth, passion and zeal for the industry they love and that provides our employment.



What does this mean to you, a steward or harness racing judge?
Why is this in a ROAP newsletter?
Quite Simply—CONCERN.

Although Congress has a different set of migraines to address these days, I have a suggestion and a challenge for every one of you. Do not take solace in the changing focus of Congress, rather make it your resolution to **change** everything and **change** nothing this year. Here's my request:

CHANGE NOTHING: If you go to the stand every day looking at every race as if it were the first race you ever officiated; realize the uniqueness of every event you work; hold firm to your convictions in what you see and what you believe to be fair; and expect the maximum effort from every participant in every race *including but not limited to* the preparation of every trainer; the skill of every rider and driver the responsibility of management to put a quality performance on the track for the participants and the public; and the duties of those that share the stand with you for these contests. Challenge your fellow officials to defend their decisions; discuss rules and what they mean and how they should be applied; and establish

“Above all realize that you DO make a difference, so act accordingly.”

and maintain a level playing field for every participant. Above all realize that you DO make a difference, so act accordingly. Enforce existing rules and if you do not think they are the right rules for the right situations suggest changes to them. Challenge the pervasive acceptance of racing being a drug culture and ask questions like why certain medications are allowed. Protect our greatest asset—the horses—at all costs. Remember, in Dante's *Inferno*, the ninth circle of Hell is Cocytus—a frozen lake. It is frozen for those who remain idle, inactive in a time of crisis by committing complex acts of fraud—the fraud of not accepting and executing your obligation to be the very best racing official you can possibly be and become.

CHANGE EVERYTHING: If none of the above applies to your approach to your work; if you do not realize that there is a rapidly changing world outside (*and inside*) the stand; if you do not feel you DO make a difference and that massive changes did occur in 2008; if everything is OK and all this talk of change will pass; if you believe all that, then I ask you to resign and let the next wave of officials begin to make the difference that is to become racing's destiny.

Announcements



Matt McCarron, the two-time champion steeplechase jockey, has retired from racing after suffering multiple injuries as the result of a fall at the Palm Beach Steeplechase in Wellington, Fla., Nov 29. He exits with 187 career wins, ninth on the all-time list.

Tampa Bay Downs will be releasing the daily Stewards' Reports and Rulings on its website, www.tampabaydowns.com, under the Horsemen's Information section in order to keep the public current on all rulings, fines and applicable information.

On December 11, **Roger Huston** called his 150,000th race in his Hall of Fame career. Best known for his voice of the Meadows in W.PA.

Charles “Chuck” Bailey, former president of Mountaineer Park's Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association, died Jan. 3 after a long battle with cancer.

USTA is discussing the merits of ten proposed rule changes. Members can comment on the proposed rule changes and give opinions. Final action on the changes will take place at the annual meeting of the USTA board of directors Feb. 3. See www.ustrotting.com for additional information.

Delaware Park announced Dec. 8 that **Pat Pope** had been appointed racing secretary for the track's upcoming 72nd meet. He will assume his duties at Delaware Park in April after the meet ends at Oaklawn Park, where Pope also serves as racing secretary.

World-renowned trainer **Maurice Zilber** died December 18 after a long battle with cancer.

Clever Allemont 27-year-old son of Clever Trick, will be calling Old Friends his new home.

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

RTIP Student's Perspective of Conference

By: Shannon Reynolds, RTIP Student

Fall of 2008 was my first semester as an RTIP student, and I cannot think of a better way to cap it off than by attending the Conference on Officiating Horse Racing. During my first semester at the RTIP, I took the class "Introduction to Racing Laws." I greatly enjoyed seeing all that I had just learned put into practice. It made the subject material come to life, and seeing how it was actually used really helped my understanding of how officiating racing works.

I come from an emergency medical background (where everything you do is licensed and certified with continuing education mandated). It doesn't matter how long you have been an EMT, paramedic or nurse, you must complete a specified number of hours of continuing education every year or you lose your certifications. The process of certification/licensure of stewards/judges and officials was refreshing and like coming home. If the public were made more aware of all that officials do to get accredited, I think the respect for racing would increase in the eyes of the general public. The efforts to keep racing safe and honest are extensive, and I believe that John or Jane Q. Public has no idea how hard officials work. I have new respect for officials after attending this conference. I was very interested to see the amount of resources available to racing officials and have been looking forward to using the website for future classes.

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Alan Foreman's presentation on determining penalties for rule violations was interesting. The amount of thought and work that goes into analyzing races, breaking down placings, and rule violations highlighted again why stewards/judges need to have sharp eyes, experience, and thick skin.



I enjoyed hearing from Chris McCarron about how early decisions in a meet can affect the tone and riding styles of the rest of the meet. The take-home message for me was the enormous responsibility of the racing officials in making decisions that will stand up in court, and the importance of trainers in being in control of their barns (absolute insurer rule), making sure their horses are fit, well schooled, and ready to race in a safe manner.

As a student I was also very interested in Reid McClellan's presentation on the Elite Program. My opinion is that more should be required of grooms and trainers in order to get and keep their licenses. If everyone knows how to properly care for a racing animal, knows the rules, and the consequences for not following the rules, I believe the animals and racing will benefit.

As a student, I can never see enough film reviews of races that had incidents or were tough calls. I'd also like to explore how racing officials can educate the public and the horseman about major incidents and the rules of racing.

I'm very interested about how racing injuries (both equine and human) occur and what is being done to track them. Dr. Ted Hill's overview of the InCompass Equine Injury Database was refreshing to see, and I'd like to hear about its ongoing progress and research. I hope that I may be able to study this topic in depth before I leave school.

The discussions in the round table sessions about new rules, enforcing those rules, and the importance of education were also very insightful into the racing industry. It was fun for me to have an "inside look" at regulation in action. I'm looking forward to future ROAP seminars and educational opportunities.



"Strengthening the Integrity of Racing"

For information on important medication and drug testing research funded by RMTC and its industry-wide stakeholders, please visit us at:

www.rmtcnet.com

Suspensions/Fines

Stewards at Woodbine suspended jockey **Simon Husbands** for one year after determining he did not give his best effort to win the third race on November 30, 2008. Simon finished second to his brother Patrick Husbands, who won the race aboard Come On Love.

Garrett Gomez was suspended two racing days for careless riding issued by Hong Kong Jockey Club on December 14, 2008.

Trainer **Aidan O'Brien** was fined \$2500 for violation of CHRB Rule # 1845 (Authorized Bleeder Medication) October 24, 2008.

John R. Velazquez was suspended from participating in races for seven days for careless riding during the 8th race December 14, 2008, at Belmont Racetrack.



Did you know **USTA** post fines and suspensions every Friday on their website www.ustrotting.com located under Ruling & Regulatory.

International News

New Betting Tsar to Come Into Fold

By: Murray Bell Source: SCMP.com

The Jockey Club of Japan is in the final stages of hiring a new stipendiary steward who will specialize in form and betting. Chief Executive Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges said the move had been prompted, in part, by customer feedback, with a number of punters saying they were unhappy with the way certain trainers and jockeys were suddenly changing the way horses were ridden.

“The feedback is that the customers are concerned,” Engelbrecht-Bresges said. “We are close to recruiting an expert in form, betting and betting-pattern behavior. Having someone like this on our panel will be a big help.”

Executive Director of Racing Bill Nader described the move as being all about “assembling better intelligence.”

“Better intelligence would lead us to make better decisions,” Nadar said.

The first steward to identify the need for a full-time betting steward was Australian Ray Murrihy, the former boss and mentor of HKJC stewards Jamie Stier, Kim Kelly and Philip Dingwall. That role fell to a former bookmakers’ clerk and professional punter, Terry Griffin, who has held the position in Sydney for more than a decade.

Griffin’s role has been to do the form like a professional punter, gain intelligence from around the betting ring, advise fellow stewards of his expectations [on form] before each race and warn them of betting moves he considers significant— not just horses that firm substantially but those horses with good form which encounter an unexpected lack of demand.

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