



100 YEARS  
FAMILY OWNED

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# OFFICIAL PROGRAM

## THROUGH THEIR EYES

Some of you love them; some of you hate them. It all depends on the last call. Some know them by name, others know them by action, but for most track patrons, the Stewards are pretty much off the radar: that is until one of their rulings affects the outcome of the race. We never see the deliberations but occasionally the Stewards will give us some insight in the process, though they don't discuss the local races. They will, however, occasionally watch infractions at other venues, with those of us in the press box, and describe what they see. It's quite a learning experience...especially when one of the Stewards is a former rider.



RICK EVANS

It's a little bit different when you can see things through their eyes. They've been there and done that. They question many of the things that we take for granted and are quick to point out that some of the things that we thought we saw didn't really happen. They "school" us the way they schooled the young horses they rode.

Rick Evans, a former rider on this circuit and the Association Steward at Hawthorne, explained what was involved with becoming a Steward.

"I rode for about 11 years, mostly in Chicago. The best horse I ever rode was Banner Bob. I was aboard for his maiden win and won a first-level allowance race with him. I won the Arlington Washington Futurity with a horse named All Fired Up. The purse of that race was \$577,000 at the time. That was the biggest race I ever won.

"When I stopped riding, I took about a year off, then came back to the track and got a job as a racing official, serving in various positions, for about 10 years, in Illinois, Kentucky, Iowa, and Indiana. In the late 1990s, I went through Steward school. Two years later I received my first Steward position. That was in Louisiana. Since then I've served as Steward in other states, including Indiana, Colorado, New Mexico, and of course, Illinois.

"I'm the Association Steward for Hawthorne Race Course. The duties of State Stewards and Association Stewards are basically the same but State Stewards answer more to the state commission while an Association Steward answers more to track management.

"Accredited Stewards and accredited Racing officials are becoming more common. The industry is trying to make sure that the new openings are filled by people who have gone through Steward school. That isn't a strict requirement in most jurisdictions, but that is something the industry is striving for.

"It's a 60 hour course, currently offered only at the University of Arizona and the University of Louisville. It's supervised by a national agency, the Racing Official Accreditation Program. It sets the criteria for all accreditations for Stewards in the nation. After the course, you have to pass all of the exams, including film analysis. The written sections include medications and drug testing, legal and regulatory, and general rules and regulations. Every two years we have to go back and take 16 hours of refresher courses to keep up on our accreditation.

"There are different levels of accreditation: Racing Official, Steward, and Senior Steward. All of the Stewards in this area carry Senior Steward status.

"There's also an experience requirement, depending on whether you want to become accredited as a Racing Official or a Steward, which includes experience as a licensee on the racetrack, and experience as a racing official.

Rick has been doing this for a while.

"There will never be anything that I enjoy as much as I enjoyed riding racehorses. I still miss it. But, we all have to move on.

We're glad that he was able to make the transition.

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APRIL 25th



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GUEST SPEAKER  
TIMOTHY THORNTON - JOCKEY  
SUNDAY 3RD FLOOR,  
AT NOON

Spring Live Racing, March 6th -April 27th, Thursdays - Mondays • First Race 1:25 pm  
Check our website for upcoming promotions [www.HawthorneRaceCourse.com](http://www.HawthorneRaceCourse.com)

Post Time: 1:25 p.m.

Sunday, April 19, 2009

32nd Racing Day