



# The Role And Training Of Stewards And Integrity Issues In The Racing Industry From A Stewards Perspective

By John Schreck



## Racing Stewards Should Have These Qualities:

- The ability to supervise and control a race meeting and to provide leadership and supervision of all officials at such meetings.
- Loyalty to the Club conducting the meeting, the industry and its participants, and, last but not least, the public.
- An intimate knowledge of the standardbred horse, its condition, pace and temperament.
- A thorough knowledge of the Rules.
- The ability to lead a panel and to conduct inquiries.
- The ability to take into account the idiosyncrasies of licensed people.
- The ability to read a race and to give evidence of his observations.
- A knowledge of human nature, the courage of one's convictions and a judicial mind.
- A thorough knowledge of betting.
- The ability to read betting moves and to deduce their possible implications.



## Main Stages Of Inquiries

- Introduction.
- Taking Evidence including film evidence.
- Deciding on the evidence whether a charge should be laid.
- Laying charge and accepting evidence and submissions in reply to the charge.
- Deciding whether charges are sustained.
- If charges are sustained, the accepting of submissions on penalties.
- Assessing penalties.
- Announcing decision.



## Onus Of Proof

- When a person is charged under the Rules the onus of proving such a charge lies with the Racing Stewards, who are the prosecutors.





## Standard Of Proof And Evaluation Of Evidence

- It has been settled in the courts over the years that there are varying degrees of proof. For instance, in criminal proceedings, in which a person may be deprived of his liberty, there is a very high standard of proof; that is, proof beyond reasonable doubt. We must never forget the onus of proof lies upon the prosecution at all times during the hearing. IT NEVER, NEVER SHIFTS.



## Emerging Challenges

- loss of public trust
- loss of respect
- loss of co-operation
- loss of revenue
- loss of jobs



## Evaluate Our Current Defences

- The activities that I have described have brought about serious harm to business operations and reputations. I would suggest that the current model we use within Racing to maintain integrity, protect our business image and interests is inadequate.
- Our current practices, however well intended are not effective in our current environment. We need to look internally at the structure and systems in place to address malpractice and be prepared to make changes, if warranted.
- We need to examine how we communicate as an industry, to ensure we speak with one voice and are armed with the facts and supporting documents to advocate our position.
- We cannot afford to be **reactive** and must develop strategies to address the current cancers negatively impacting the industry.
- Harness Racing needs to assess both the effectiveness of the current level of policing, and secondly examine our current lobbying efforts to influence public opinion, lawmakers and strengthen the cohesiveness within the Racing community.



## The Way Forward

- To succeed in protecting the reputation of the sport, we must be willing to change. A work culture or attitude that *"we have always done it this way"*, serves as a barrier to effectively address areas needing improvement.