

# FRONTRUNNER NEWS

JULY 2005

## DON'T PANIC

By Frankie Howard

MARTIN BROUGHTON THE MAYOR OF POMPEII ASSURED ALL CITIZENS THAT THE VOLCANO HAS NOT EXPLODED AND THAT ALL IS WELL. Meanwhile many loyal (i.e. those unable to find new jobs) staff continue to run around like headless chickens desperately hoping that the Racecourse Association stop laughing long enough to employ them.

Now let Frontrunner explain the situation:

The European Court decided (not surprisingly)

1. That if someone puts together a compilation cd of various artists, they do not own the copyright. (My 10 year old could have told them this)
2. That the data (racecards) involved was not a commercial database at all, just a statement of fact. For example to inform you that London and Paris were in the running for the 2012 Olympic bid does not infringe any copyright, and further to which, if I bet on the outcome then I do not "owe" the International Olympic Committee any percentage of my bet. (Phil Bull told them this)
3. The BHB are merely agents in a contract between the racecourse and the owner. (The Jockey Club could have told them this, since they bought a case 80 years to prove just this point – Jockey Club vs. Edgar Wallace)

What were they lawyers thinking about (other than their fee?)



Shaftesbury Avenue Explodes as members of the RCA drop by to express their condolences.

What happens next is that the racecourses negotiate payment for the pictures transmitted from the course (no question of dodgy copyright, clearly theirs), and sooner rather than later the BHB's income falls to zero, power shifts to the racecourses and what happens to NH racing turf racing owners and jockeys remains to be seen.

But why should the BHB get the money? So Shaftesbury Avenue can keep 40% and control how the rest is dished out?

Please look at the programme for Novice Chasers to see what happens when the Mayor of Trumpton is put in charge, and also the current funding dilemma, created ironically enough by Savill, who now wants to tell everyone how to solve the mess he created in the first place.

## Fear Not - Donoghue's here



Thank heavens. Contrary to scurrilous rumour mongers – who make such claims that he was the man who held the pen for Robert Maxwell while he stole the pensions. – a claim strangely not condemned by the Press Complaints Commission!

Racings' saviour was both cheap and available when we needed a political fixer (anyone remember Lord Wakeham?)

Claims that he will be unavailable and will look very expensive in a few years time are just cheap and easy. Though if we accept his story that he detected no financial wrongdoing whilst taking the Maxwell shilling then does he not disqualify himself on the grounds of incompetence?

The proof however is in the pudding and we can all understand his appointment when we see that his vastly expensive stable staff report has indeed revolutionized the way staff are now employed!!!

**Journalists (well Alistair Down actually) – snippet stolen from the Betfair forum, so thanks Harvey, whoever you are.**



I read your article from today's Racing Post and apart from being somewhat self indulgent it was an acceptable piece. I am however drawn to your final paragraph "one of the country's major jump breeders recently informed me that as a mere hack I was a parasite and that with friends like me jump racing needed no enemies".....you go on to refer to his views as brainless.

Now I have an idea to whom you refer to, and perhaps may illustrate what he and others feel.

When the BHB cow towed to the bookmakers demand that many jump fixtures were moved from customer friendly slots to less favourable days.....*where were you?*

When the talk was of a fixture explosion and at the same time it was suggested that the number of jump racing fixtures might fall below the crucial 500 mark.....*where were you?*

When the current owners of Sedgefield tried to set a precedent of switching NH fixtures to AW fixtures (something that would have the former owner spinning in his grave)..... *where were you?*

When the new Novice chase system was introduced was introduced, which many of us felt was detrimental to the welfare of horses and acted as a disincentive to NH patrons.....*where were you?*

When the bookmakers cut payments for races of less than 8 runners which may lead to a proliferation of low grade hcap hurdles (some might say the tail wagging the dog)..... *where were you?*

When Jim Cremin penned what many of us thought regarding the threat to the long term future of NH (the only writer in a publication dedicated to Horseracing to do so).....*where were you ?*

Still when there was a threat to your other employer, channel 4 racing you were there for them.

p.s have tried to post on your papers letters page, but unless I change my name to Tom Kelly or Peter Savill I doubt you'll ever print a word.

**Paul Stutters**



Paul Struthers is John Maxse's new replacement as PR for the Jockey Club.

If you think it couldn't get any worse, it just did. Coincidentally at just the time no one applied for John's job no money could be found to pay the marketing department wages so Stutters was jolted sideways into the spin doctors job. Regrettably marketing men speak with forked tongues and within weeks of his appointment he has upset most sections of the industry by being completely crap, and just this week thoughtfully organised members of the press to attend Kevin Darley's appeal, at which the Appeal Board was described as ridiculous and insane. But for his invites the press had stopped attending such events, now they saw at first hand how the lunatics run the asylum.

**Starting Stalls**



**Taken from the Racetech website:**

*"RaceTech is constantly finding ways to make the starting process more streamlined, and more palatable for horses and jockeys."* – really?

Just today Racetech claimed that the stalls are finer because 42 others countries use them. – Eat shit, 50,000,000,000 flies cannot be wrong.

- 1.Once again earth calling racetech earth calling racetech.
- 2.Dear John Blake, please copy out the following:

*Dear Arena Leisure*

*Having noted that you will not be using the stalls handlers which my members have learnt to trust, and who have proved themselves capable of minimising accidents albeit on poor rates of pay. Please note that none of my members are prepared to ride horses at meetings where you are employing less qualified personell.*

*The Jockeys Association*

### **Doncaster Racecourse (also stolen from Betfair forum)**

There were further meetings yesterday between Arena Leisure and senior members of staff at Doncaster racecourse ...office . Catering, security etc.

Arena Leisure was represented by a new chairman who wanted everyone to know that he had been a senior member of London's Olympic bid team since 2002.

he proved to be the perfect politician by answering all questions put to him but not saying much.

#### **THE FACTS**

as local people will know, Doncaster racecourse grandstand is used constantly every week for non racing events.

Antique fairs, custom car shows, budgie shows, beer festivals etc ...the list goes on

the most common, though, are wedding receptions. These are extremely popular and are reserved well in advance..

the catering manageress tells me that all bookings for October onwards have been cancelled and no further wedding parties are being accepted from then on.

It remains a rumour that Doncaster racecourse stands are being demolished , along with the weighing room , pre parade ring etc.

but , could racing continue at a building site with tented accommodation ???

the catering think not to any acceptable level.

As I say, the arena leisure chairman would not be drawn to give any detail of the plans.



**A member of Doncaster Racecourse committee getting John Sanderson's leaving present "The Asbestos Cup", sponsored by ATR, broadcast by RUK**

## **Clive Reams**

The man with the antimidas touch

At last someone has noticed that the NJPC has a problem. Specifically Ian Duncan Smith has raised questions in the house about it. Now everyone at the racecourse knew about the smell years ago, not so the BHB who employed Racefax for a trial period to monitor odd goings on in the betting ring – eminently qualified for this! No doubt there will be no resignations, no apologies when Parliament points out what most grown ups in racing knew before Postman Square were too naïve to even be aware of.

## **And finally**



How nice to be able to show a picture from Ascot/York that does not suggest anything other than a good feel factor. (Look again – closer this time).

A man goes to the doctor and says,  
"Doctor, I'm having trouble with my hearing".  
"What are the symptoms?" asks the doctor.  
The man replies, "A yellow TV cartoon family".