



FRONTRUNNER NEWS-



JUNE 2010

Champion Stakes going to Ascot

Change for Changes Sake



Was this bronze of perhaps the best ever Champion Stakes winner to have been moved as well?

Every cloud has a silver lining and it seems that the insane idea of moving the Champion Stakes being put forward by RFC can no longer be afforded.

Most of the “radical” RFC ideas could have been got for free on most racing forums instead of spending hundreds of thousands on RFC’s wages for coming up with these radically silly new thoughts

Now you may think this is the usual negative bitching that accompanies any suggestion that the BHA propose. Actually it is more serious than that, the idea that you can just move the Champion Stakes to Ascot is frightening. It shows an underlying gross misunderstanding of the sport the BHA and RFC are supposed to be looking after. To announce it as a fait accompli is just typical of the way the sport is run now. Wrong, really really wrong.

Racing For Change, has so far cost £900,000, before the recruitment of Jon Williams, Nigel Roddis and a small PR team.

Racing for Change, who are basically Racing Enterprises Ltd (REL), and who are REL? Step forward the Racecourses and the Horsemen’s Group...with the Jokey Club right behind it?

OLD JOKES HOME (I)

My son is being forced to smoke by our French exchange student.

Pierre Pressure

Racing Goes Karting Grand Prix

sponsored by The Castlebridge Consignment

in support of the Friends of Camilla Milbank Appeal



Thursday 24th June 2010

Venue - Red Lodge Karting Centre

(4 miles from Newmarket)

Race starts 7pm

Format - 1½ hour endurance race, each team is three drivers alternating

This has been oversubscribed with the maximum of fifteen teams of racing’s finest going head to head with three drivers in each team. Those that have secured places on the starting grid are: Juddmonte, Tattersalls, BBA Shipping, Badgers Bloodstock, Consignature (Simon Mitchell), David Simcock Racing, Dukes Stud, International Racehorse Transport, Jeremy Nosedo Racing (2 teams), J. Winter Landscapes, The Castlebridge Consignment, Jockey Club Estates (2 teams) and Lycetts Insurance.

“Spectator teams” are invited to donate to the Friends of Camilla Milbank Appeal and to attend the evening and watch what promises to be a fiercely competitive event - the first Racing Goes Karting Grand Prix. The race kicks off at 7pm.

All enquiries to Camilla Evetts on 01638 561116 or camilla@castlebridge.eu

MAKFI MOMENT OF THE WEEK

Teddy Grimthorpe: "Workforce won't be going for the Derby as he's by a miler. We see him more as a mile or mile-and-a-quarter horse.

RIP GREV



We were saddened to read of the late Great Geville Starkey's demise, and regret that the vast majority of obits referenced "that derby", ffs, time to shutup perhaps? Also amazed at the lack of real acknowledgement of his real talents. The "best stopping jockey" you will ever see, "best barker", best "hand signals" to others when riding Goodwood.

OLD JOKES HOME (II)

These new 3D TVs are so realistic. I fell asleep whilst watching a Liverpool game and when I woke my wallet was gone.

Open letter to Nic Coward



Dear Nic

You and your ilk contrived to allow me the privilege of being at a historic racing moment - Kempton night meeting Wednesday 7th April.

For the first time racing took place with no bookmakers in the ring (five on the rails).

Who will take responsibility (and I do mean responsibility as opposed to taking their wages) for the lucky owners receiving £1340 from Decency's victory in the 9.00?

That was more, but not by a lot, than the fifth home in the claiming hurdle at Auteuil the previous Saturday. Ireland is skint. Last Sunday they had two meetings, one of them at Kilbeggan, a sort of lesser Plumpton. Prize money at Kilbeggan equalled that at the THREE UK meetings.

British racing isn't the best in the British Isles and Ireland, let alone the world.

Quote from Paul Roy May 2008

"We don't want to put on dross, where 500 people, three bookmakers and a lot of low quality horses turn up".

RFC Success at last



Racing for Change (RFC) has published data on its 'free week' of racing and given itself a bit of a pat on the back. Not quite sure why as my reading of the figures suggests that a lot of people went only because it was free, that the majority were middle-aged men (better known as Brians) and interaction with the horses and the subsequent competition scored quite low and certainly below the weather and meeting friends. Meanwhile the British Horseracing Authority has suddenly copped on that there really is a funding crisis in the sport with far too many fixtures and not enough money to finance them. They had previously assured us that all this substandard racing would generate oodles of levy proceeds from the good old generous bookmakers. Funnily enough, punters don't seem particularly moved by the endless stream of uninspiring racing and consequently haven't chucked a huge amount of cash at it. So now we're stuck with this inflated fixture list and empty coffers.

Findlay accepts £500,000 to get introduction to Prince



Having backed his horse (which won) to win his customary squillions Harry the horse (marginally better looking than Fergie btw) laid it for fourpence halfpenny because he thought having the equivalent of Andrew's salary on it was being greedy. On balance he still backed it to win (massively). However this has got him an invite to meet Prince Paul Scotney, who must be even more inbred than any of the Windsors judging by his inability to grasp adding up. It staggers Fronrunner to think that Scotney and his merry men think that their ridiculous rules make sense. Fortunately for Harry the horse he is employing Scotney's arch enemy Mr Kelsey "Robin Hood" Fry to explain how maths works. Watch out for capitulation before public humiliation (another one) from Security.

OLD JOKES HOME (III)

I broke into a pet shop today and stole a rabbit.
Then I made a run for it.

Horse Safety behind watering courses



What about horses slipping because the ground is overwatered and "loose on top" (anyone see the Lingfield Derby Trial)

These idiots will now have these in their official stats as injuries on good to firm and will no doubt wheel out these false figures to defend themselves.

Fast horses need their hooves to get purchase on solid (wrong word?) ground to run fast.
If they try to run on loose topsoil then they can't get a grip and they either run slower or risk injury by trying too hard.

In future any injury stats for flat courses should state whether the ground was watered or not.
Then we'll get a true picture of safety

Derby day

At last summer has arrived, but we still have jump meetings, instead of prating about redesigning whips so that when used it looks like you are battering your horse, could the accountants at High Holborn who think summer jumping is fun be sent the vets bills after today's runners get home. Even ignoring that (though I should not because summer jumping sickens me), does anyone working at Race planning know what planning is?

Champion hurdle day.....Southwell AW
Queen Mother Chase day.....2 AW meetings
World Hurdle day.....2 AW meetings
Gold Cup day.....2 AW meetings
Grand National day.....2 AW meetings
Derby Day.....2 jump meetings

Levy revenue going down the toilet

Major shock, unless you had been in a betting shop anytime during last five years.

"Team will have to get tough with bookmakers", so what have they been doing for the last few decades then?

Could we have the cv's of those employed by the levy board. I cannot think that the maths behind the levy negotiations was put together by anyone who even understands decimals. Really, it is shocking. As for the English used, they should all be ashamed. Fortunately we can rely on their tough negotiating skills rather than their IQ's to raise cash for themselves-racing.

A spokesman for the BHA hits back - lol

Ralph Topping, the chief executive of William Hill, has called for "immediate and urgent" reform of the horse racing industry after the bookmaker's betting turnover fell 20pc on Saturday's Epsom Derby.

Mr Topping called for the flat season's blue riband event to be restored to Wednesday – or even another weekday such as Friday evening – when it faces much less competition from other leisure pursuits.

"How much more of a wake-up call does racing need before genuine reform takes place?" asked Mr Topping. "That turnover means there was more interest shown on the Cheltenham Gold Cup – which is run on a Friday – than in the Derby, by a factor of nearly three."

He said the industry's Racing for Change programme lacked the necessary innovation.

A spokesman for the British Horseracing Authority hit back, saying: "What racing needs from Ralph Topping is some consistency and not just soundbites. We are trying to work with the betting industry on all manner of promotional initiatives. – That told him!

TESIO REMEMBERED

Hayley Turner asked by Eleanor Oldroyd on Radio 5 on Friday afternoon what was so great about Derby Day. The reply: getting dressed up and having a laugh. Brilliant, give her a job as "racing' s ambassador" .

Newmarket Hatchfield Farm house planning rejected.



How much money does Lord Derby want?
What was he thinking?
Very inappropriate behaviour and he should hang his head in shame.

Lord Derby is now looking like a very sore loser when the local Council finally came to its' senses and threw out the hugely inappropriate application to build three million new homes on the edge of Newmarket. He says he will appeal against the decision and will not be building a new horse road crossing in the meantime. Oh just get real and go away, leave Newmarket in peace.

OLD JOKES HOME (IV)

Are tops of Mountains called 'The Summit' because no-one could think of a name

Paul Roy in the Racing Post – yawn



Paul Roy's Racing Post Interview, did anyone get any comfort from it? Why are other members of the BHA not battering the door down to get him out rather than electing him unopposed for a further term of office?

The answers of BHA chairman Paul Roy to questions in his Racing Post interview can be boiled down to just a few words – taken out of context (ed.) Taken in context and you'd never make it to the end. Much more of same in subsequent powder puff ATR interview.

Q: Does the might of the Levy Board and racecourses prove frustrating, particularly for a man with your financial expertise? (Give the interviewer a job).

A: It was the structure I inherited.

Q: The organisational structure makes the need for consensus unavoidable. Is that frustrating?

A: Nah (actually that IS definitely out of context – Roy didn't say it). Our style is to be independent and non-factional. We see our role as supporting and co-ordinating.

Q: Decision by consultation and consensus isn't conducive to quick or radical change. Doesn't it encourage decisions based on the lowest common denominator?

A: I will not allow the consultation process to get in the way of decisions (all the while "supporting and co-ordinating").

Q: But you don't control the decisions, do you?

A: We're not going anywhere if the BHA thinks it is in the wrong direction (sic and see above).

Q: You are a strong supporter and defender (there's a difference) of Racing For Change.

A: We've got the Crown Jewels of world racing... we haven't done enough in terms of promoting and branding... we're not very good at explaining or simplifying... we don't explain.

Q: Do you support the idea of an end-of-season championship finale?

A: I think the principle of having a finale day is a good one. The question is, what is its content? (eh?).

Q: Given the pressure on the levy, is there a case for the betting industry and racecourses funding integrity costs of fixtures staged largely for their benefit? (No, we aren't sure the question makes sense either).

A: If people want to put on additional fixtures, they are going to have to be funded from elsewhere.

Q: Racing has long argued that the betting industry does not pay a fair price for the product. What makes you think you can persuade the government to act when racing has failed in the past?

A: We'll wait and see what happens.

(Roy is a member of the Levy Board asking for £135-£150m from the bookmakers. The likely figure is £77m. This is a "man with financial expertise").

Q: In practice, won't it be very difficult to force offshore bookmakers to pay levy?

A: There's going to have to be some legislation.

Q: What is your position on betting exchanges given that past governments have, in effect, accepted Betfair's arguments rather than those of bookmakers and racing?

A: The Treasury stated there wasn't sufficient evidence. If there isn't sufficient evidence now I don't know when there will be because it's staring you in the face. (What is? Ed).

Q: The Treasury clearly fears that, if exchange users are made to pay tax, it might open the door for gambling losses to be set against other income for tax purposes. Isn't that a big obstacle?

A: I know these people should be paying levy.

Q: Media rights income has grown. Do you think this will ultimately replace the levy system?

A: The levy is a secure and statutory mechanism.

Q: What is your position on the Tote?

A: There will have to be negotiations with government.

Disclaimer: of course the original answers were longer than the questions, but what has been left out didn't answer those questions – procrastination is the thief of time.

OLD JOKES HOME (V)



Never marry a lamb.....

They're all compulsive gambollers