

TURFCALL CRISIS APPENDIX C

Succinct Skeleton Part I

DAVID ASHFORTH'S WARNING in the Racing Post Saturday April 21st 2001

Quote “Racing must not loose out again. The betting industry has already taken defensive action, and certain sections of the racing industry seem oblivious to it. Racing has a history of being bamboozled by bookmakers and, if it isn't careful, it is going to get bamboozled again. In 1961, when there was the possibility of creating an off-course Tote monopoly and, with it, a properly funded racing industry, we ended up with a system that provided racing with a statutory levy on betting turnover, but structured in such a way that racing was unable to obtain a fair price for it's product.

In 1986 the creation of SIS offered another chance to extract a reasonable price for racing's betting product. But when the contract was renewed in 1992, racing failed to make effective use of the one real lever it possessed - it's control of live pictures.

In a post - levy world, racing's ability to negotiate an improved price for it's product depends to a large extent on the betting industry's need for live pictures of horseracing. The stronger the need, the higher the price.

Both sides are manoeuvring into position for the negotiations that will, eventually, determine racing's future revenue. The Betting industry, led by hard - nosed , profit - driven men, has already taken defensive action - and significant sections of the racing seem to be oblivious to it. British bookmakers are the last businessmen in the world to sit idly by and wait for racing to say, ' you can't exist without us, we demand a lot more money'. They are working hard to be in a position to reply, 'We don't need you, certainly not at the price you are asking and, unless you drop the price, we will get by without you'. To be able to say that, with some degree of creditibility, bookmakers need viable alternative products - and they are busily gathering them together.

TURFCALL CRISIS APPENDIX C Succinct Skeleton Part i Page 2

It is no coincidence that the latest BAGS contracts with greyhound tracks, traditionally covering one year, now cover three years, and would have covered five if BAGS had it's way. That takes them nicely beyond April 2002, when the Racecourse Association's current contract with SIS ends. Yesterday, the Racing Post reported that the Association of Irish Racecourses is on the brink of signing a new, three - year deal with SIS that would more than double the sum currently paid to Irish racecourses. that large carrot is not a coincidence, either. SIS and the bookmakers they serve, have got high margin dog racing in the bag. They are about to get high margin Irish racing. If enough small racecourses accept GG-Media's offer, they will have an adequate betting shop program of British horseracing. Where will that leave the BHB and the RCA when they go in to negotiate with the betting industry ? Small racecourses need to think very hard before they take up GG-Media's offer, attractive though it may seem, and the BHB and RCA need to address the smaller racecourses' legitimate grievances urgently.

RACING DOESN'T WANT TO BE OUT MANOUVERED BY THE BOOKMAKERS AGAIN BUT IT IS IN DANGER OF BEING JUST THAT".

Much depends on the aims of how one visualises racing to be in this country. What does everyone want it to be ? This is the question that needs an answer. Do we want to be seen as a nation who treats their vital workforce as second class citizens, to which human rights need not be applicable ?

Or do we want to be seen as a Nation that nurtures and cares for all it's citizens through understanding their rights and needs not only those of mankind but of all living creatures ? People all over the WORLD are calling out for some care and understanding. Something that Barney Curley and Johnny Murtagh recent venture has highlighted through the Racing Post. Bob Champion says he finds racing people so caring. The whole wide world and all the people and animals in it are calling out for some caring and understanding as to their everyday needs, to be allowed their human rights.

Racing is not the same as nursing, the police or the armed forces, Racing is infact a duel partnership between man and beast who compete as one in all preperation for the track and in competition on the track ... AS ONE. The competition of which generates £60 Million pounds a week we are told as a leasure industry to which the now Sunday Racing adventure into the unknown is hoping to develop futher. AND yet its vital work force THE KEY INGREDIENT NEEDS are not even being considered properly. John Gosden quote "As long as racing is divided by factions, the future is bleak for improving its financial state.

When are all these people going to wake up to the fact that they are strangling this living product ? That the 60 million a week income generated for some will not be there for the future if they do not wake up out of their stupor.

Bureaucratic red tape is strangling this country. The Foot and Mouth crisis, 5 layers of personnel baulking the emergency procedures. Slaughtered animals left lying dead in the corner of fields for 3 weeks or more ... Now on T.V. we see marksmen out in fields where ewes with their baby lambs at foot, are grazing, taking pot shots at them with their rifles ... where are these people at ? We racing people want to make a united stand for animals. It is no use town people coming out into the country and carrying on in this manner this is ignorant cruelty of the worst kind, appalling.

TURFCALL CRISIS APPENDIX C Succinct Skeleton Part i Page 3

Turfcall highlight's the facts that apply to the very heart of horseracing to which the copyright belongs. Turfcall states that this section the vital and key ingredient to Horseracing in this country is the victim and has been the victim over decades of daylight robbery. This is not just any one parties problem, it is the problem that has to be faced by ALL PARTIES that make up this complex industry. Each and every section is urgently needed to play their part of which there are many others parts all different but all need to unite to make up the whole, if Horseracing be allowed to reach it's true potential and world wide.

Further what fails to be addressed properly as well as the basic learning and development structures, is the Grade A and B personnel and their remuneration rights, they need to be recognised by more than just the trainer. They need to be recognised specifically right across the board for their vastly superior expertise. David Ashforth wrote in the Racing Post on 15.4.2000 quote " It is a workforce held together by sorely tested goodwill. Every year, about 1,400 newcomers arrive at the front door of training yards and, every year, the same number flee quietly out of the back door- this in a workforce of 6,300. Over a third of those who remain are dissatisfied." As can be seen in the Turfcall ii Appendix A remuneration reform brief suggestions the pay for Grade's A and B are nowhere in sight of what they should be.

Is Racing facing up to it's responsibility .. ? Is it ? Racing as a WHOLE is definitely not facing up to it's responsibilities AT ALL FULL STOP. The living proof evidence being the burden and very sad state that is evident at the very heart of this industry / sport.

Turfcall ii highlights what is going on, on page 8 opening para: Mark Johnston's quote "Over the last few years, those opposed to the racing industrys case for better funding have used political arguments against us. They have accused us of being a divided industry, unable to put our own house in order, and they have used this argument to excuse the daylight robbery by the Government and the big bookmakers, which has gone on for years and continues today."

As can be clearly seen it is not the fault of those working at the Heart of Horseracing to whom the copyright of this industry / sport belong they are infact the victims here . For example Bill Adams working over 16 years as The Secretary General to The Stable Lads Association for peanuts with little to no back up support to tackle a mighty problem with no money.

Horseracing is taking off world wide. If we = ALL parties involved here that go to make up the complete picture as a whole as in "jigsaw" if we now in this country fail to address fully the present serious state properly we will let a fantastic opportunity pass us by ... yet again ...

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**BUILDING A SAFE, JUST AND TOLERANT SOCIETY TO UPHOLD
THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND NEEDS OF BOTH MAN AND BEAST**