

Anthony, Sandy (ORC)

From: bobwenda [bobwenda@persona.ca]
Sent: Friday, August 29, 2008 11:23 AM
To: Anthony, Sandy (ORC)
Subject: Atten, Wendy Hoogeveen, Director of Industry Development and Support. Submission on Use of the Whip

Dear Wendy Hoogeveen,

I am forwarding you a copy of a letter I wrote to the Canadian Sportsman regarding Whipping rule changes suggested by Dr Ted Clarke, CEO of Grand River Raceway and present member of SHOP. The self anointed Standardbred brake away separatist group of owners and various other dissatisfied members of the racing community who seem to have the ability to get their one sided views aired to the public through Standardbred Canada's web site. A luxury not bequeathed to all unfortunately.

I truthfully believe that educating the public about the important's of the whip as a tool to provide a driver the ability to create forward motion during a race be it at the start, middle or finish of the race is paramount and more important than changing the rule book. Stronger enforcement of the existing rules is the way to address this out cry towards the abusiveness of the whip in racing.

This Trevor Henry situation is a prime example of procrastination on the judges part to authoritatively enforce the rules. Why was the man given 87 chances to say I'm sorry for blatantly disrespecting the rules of racing ? Why wasn't he brought to task long before now? These type of questions I find hard to comprehend. Never the less a strong statement has now been sent to the drivers colony, disregard of the rule book will not be tolerated. Hopefully the rest will heed the message.

Maybe some good will come from making Mr. Henry maintain a hand in each line the entire duration of the race when he dose return to the drivers seat. This will provide the commission a good case study to see if Mr. Henry can still maintain his competitiveness with the rest of the drivers. If so then maybe the implementation of this act, {maintaining a line in each hand the entire duration of the race} would help improve the sports reputation. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion on this matter.

Regards

Robert Leatham

----- Original Message -----

From: bobwenda
To: David J Briggs
Sent: Sunday, August 24, 2008 2:24 PM
Subject: Whipping

Letter to the editor.

Aug/14th/2008, SHOP Endorses Whipping Rule Changes. What a Pile of Crap!!!

I pen this letter with a bitter taste in my mouth, so if I'm a little harsh with SHOP and Dr. Ted Clarke over the course of the following paragraphs, I'll apologize now. That Said.

I can't believe SHOP's endorsement of the whipping rule changes Mr. Clarke, their over rated underachieved associate proposed to the ORC and to throw salt on his open wound of idée-hocracie you the board of directors unanimously endorse his ill thought out recommendations. Are your intentions to also change the name of horse racing too "horse guiding" or "horse training" or "horse entertainment" and remove the competitive aspect of the sport altogether ??? Their isn't a decent gambler in North America that would wager a nickel on a race if these proposed restrictions come into play. Of the five rule changes suggested the only one with any merit at all is maintaining a hand in each hand holt the entire mile. The rest are ludicrous and actually make the board members of SHOP look like neeandrathals for backing him. Mr. Clarke's draconian attitude towards the driver's and trainer's in the industry are starting to portray his true chameleon colours and the board members seem content to mindlessly fallow in his footsteps like bleating sheep meandering down a meadow path. Everything's okay as long as it's Ted's way eh!!!!

8/29/2008

Mr. Clarke's suggestions show his lack of experience in driving and training horses himself. How many colts has he put to the races? How many driving victories do the record archives award him with? What makes him so knowledgeable? Is he the self appointed oracle of Standardbred Racing in the province of Ontario? I think not. Wake up Mr. Clarke there's alot bigger integrity issues a foot in your little feed silo Fiefdom of a racetrack. For instance was any colt that raced in your signature race the "Battle of Waterloo" out of competition tested for EPO?? I doubt it.

The horse whip is a necessary tool for the safety of Standardbred horse racing. Trevor Henry deserved the \$5000.00 fine and driving suspension the ORC issued him. He should have had his knuckles wrapped long before now. To have amassed 87 whipping infractions and still be left in the drivers seat is ridiculous. The man has no respect for the rules of racing, no respect for the judges and little if any respect for the horses he's driving. It's obvious. Now I consider Mr. Henry a friend but that doesn't cloud my judgement of his disregard for the rules of racing. If you do the crime be prepared to do the time young fella. Man up!!!

To coin a phrase, one bad apple doesn't spoil the whole bushell!! In other words we don't have to rewrite the rule book because of Mr. Henry's disregard for the rules. It's not conducive to the betterment of the sport or handle. What Mr. Clarke's proposing guts the opportunity for honest racing. For a driver to not be able to encourage a horse by laying a whip on it's back or whistling a whip across it's hind quarters during a race is dangerous to everyone involved with the race. You do realize these are animals and not machines don't you Mr. Clarke? They have brains not electronic components and that once in a while they just decide to stop on you and simply aren't going to go any further without whip encouragement. What happens then Mr. Clarke? Dose the driver shake the lines he has securely tightened in his hands and beg the horse to go on or what? Is he suppose to get off the bike in the middle of the race and reason with the animal? What recourse dose the driver have when you restrict the use of the whip to the extent your proposing. Have you ever been sitting behind a horse when they decide to pull up and you don't have a whip Mr. Clarke? It's obvious you haven't because know matter how tight a grip you have on the horses mouth, your really not in control of the animal.

A horse can stop on a dime and turn sideways into on coming traffic, lay down in a second, dig in their toes in one step, you name it their in control when the driver has no means to inforce forward motion. And guess what Mr. Clarke, they can do it going a quarter in 26 seconds or walking to the track. The results are always the same. Someone or something gets hurt or destroyed quicker than you can plead, giddy up!!

You {The newley formed, solidaridy busting organization, SHOP} doesn't seem to be worried about the gamblers that create the handle. This isn't horse jumping my friends. It's horse racing and a whip doesn't have to be abusive, it simply has to be applied within the parameters of the existing rules. You don't have to throw the baby out with the bath water. There's no need to use a backhoe to kill a fly on the kitchen counter. Use some commonsense and stop trying to appease new customers, who don't understand the actual importance of the whip in horse racing and view it as only a weapon and not as a tool. Educate them don't pacify them with ill thought out heavy handed legislature.

Regards,

Robert Leatham

Aug. 18th/ 2008