



Race Track Industry Program

## **34th ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ON RACING & GAMING**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2007**

### **Global Racing Part I – Racing Matters**

**Moderator:**

**Kenneth Kirchner**, President, FalKirk International

**Speakers:**

**Dr. W. Theodore Hill**, J.C. Steward, NYRA

**Matt Iuliano**, Vice President, Registry, The Jockey Club

**Klaus Koch**, President, On Track Worldwide

**MS. WENDY DAVIS:** I would like to thank Equineline for the breakfast this morning, as well as Canterbury Park, who sponsored the refreshment break just prior to this panel session. This session is entitled "Global Racing Part I -- Racing Matters." If you look on the other side of your program page there, we have "Global Racing Part II -- Wagering Matters." So we decided to go with a real international feel this morning and look specifically at different areas of racing and bring people in from all over the world to talk about that with you this morning. What we did do was get one moderator for both these panel sessions, from what I understand, Ken Kirchner, who is our moderator for both of these, signed on for session number two and at the last minute was asked to go ahead and be the continuity to pull these sessions together. So, Ken, thank you so much for pulling double duty for us this morning.

Ken is president and CEO of his own company FalKirk International. Prior to that he was a senior vice president with NTRA/Breeders' Cup where he managed all domestic and international wagering and simulcasting. So as you can see, he is certainly well versed in the international racing world, so I think we have a wonderful moderator for this panel.

At this point I would like to turn it over to Ken. I know he has a couple of remarks to make, but then we can get right on with our panel sessions.

Ken, thank you so much for being here and thank you to the rest of our panelists also.

**MR. KENNETH KIRCHER:** Thank you very much, Wendy, I certainly appreciate the opportunity to be here this morning and to be part of the Symposium, which does such a great job year in and year out in providing the industry with provocative and stimulating discussion that we can all carry forward.

As Wendy mentioned, I am president of Falkirk International, a consulting company I founded in 1996. I'm joined this morning though by three very distinguished panelists, each of whom enjoys an outstanding reputation in the global racing community, and each of whom has a very long resume of accomplishments.

Our goals this morning are fairly simple. One, to provide you with information. Two, to stimulate discussion on the issues brought forth here today. And three, to give the industry ideas for future action. My job as moderator is quite simple, I turn it over to the experts. And our first expert is Mr. Ted Hill, who has been a Jockey Club steward since 1996, he's well known, not only in the United States but in the global racing community. His resume and that of the other panelists is in the book, so I'll keep the time short. But, Ted, we certainly welcome you this morning and we look forward to your remarks.

**(Applause)**

**DR. W. THEODORE HILL:** Thank you. Good morning everyone, certainly a pleasure to be here, particularly looking at The Weather Channel and seeing what things are like back home.

I'm going to speak briefly about the stewards' issues in relation to global racing and I emphasize briefly, 12 minutes, I believe, something like that to sort of condense over the last year 16 or 20 hours or more of formal sessions at various meetings. So as they say at the starting gate, get tied on, we're going to go through this. If I run too far over, Ken, just give me a kick or something.

The 31<sup>st</sup> Asian Racing Conference was in Dubai in 2007, the theme in that conference was Racing Without Borders and that theme was clearly chosen to reflect the international nature of horse racing today. Sessions were focused to develop the theme on our increasingly globalized industry and sport.

There is much too much material to go over in this short session. I will focus on the stewards' areas but the business sessions were held over four days, there was a whole program way beyond the scope of this, but I'm sure you'll hear more from the other panelists. Topics covered a wide range, briefly, market, wagering, racecourse design, penalties, of course, horse health and medication issues. I would encourage you to take a few minutes to visit their Web site, [arcdubai2007.com](http://arcdubai2007.com) to take a look at the various sessions, the participants and, of course, the conference venue. I would be remiss if I didn't just take a few minutes even with this short time to give you a little taste of the hospitality afforded us by Emirates Racing Authority, private performance of Cirque Du Soleil, you don't have

that everyday. Just a magnificent setting and the facilities were excellent. Any of you may have had the opportunity to go to Dubai and experience some of it, it was certainly memorable. Desert party at night with the entertainment, fireworks, wonderful food, just terrific. I was asked if these were the stewards in Dubai and, no, they're not, that's a novel idea but I don't think that it would fly in New York. And of course, a night at the races, just a wonderful, wonderful time.

One of the business sessions specifically dealing with stewards' issues was entitled "Horse Racing as an International Sport," the session was harmonization in stewarding. There was a panel discussion moderated by Des Gleeson of Australia. The Japan Racing Association put together several case studies in stewards' issues, interference, basically, in inquiries and objections for stewards in various countries to review that and give their input and then we would have that panel. I have to especially thank the JRA for permission to use some of that material today. So placing under the demotion system of other countries, there were several cases that a number of us were asked to give our opinions, however, the one that got the most attention was a race out of Golden Gate Fields two or three years ago involving multiple disqualifications. In this case, you'll have to bear with me; I'll walk you through this briefly. horse A fouls horse B; subsequent to that and independent of that, during the running of the racehorse B fouls horse C. So you have a final, at least the original finish of A, B, C, and then how do you deal with that? In the United States, the traditional procedure for many years has been to take incidents of interference in order of occurrence, and that is from the start of the race to the finish. In this case we'll say horse A fouled horse B at the eighth pole, so you would put A behind the B. Subsequent to that, B would foul horse C at the 16<sup>th</sup> pole, both incidents independent, both of sufficient magnitude to warrant disqualifications. So you would move B behind the C, which would give you a final placing of A-C-B, which may strike some of you immediately as somewhat unusual because now you have an official winner, horse A, who clearly fouled another horse in the race being placed above that horse.

The demotion principle, disqualification in most other countries is dealt with a couple ways, that is, either finish to start, in the reverse order or the lowest rank objection first as being the preferred method. And by lowest rank objection I mean not the magnitude of the incident but in this case, A-B-C, C was the third horse, so that is the lowest rank objection, so you would deal with that first. B fouled C, so as you can see, first incident would be B behind the C, then A subsequently placed behind the B, with a final placing of C-B-A. I may have lost a lot of you so far but bear with me briefly here.

Now, what was particularly interesting, if you look at the countries, Australia, Emirates, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, South Africa, United Kingdom, C-B-A, the USA stood out alone with India as having A-C-B, it's a little difficult to explain that in a panel session. Some of you may have seen a short article in a trade publication about the conference shortly after that, in January or February, and specifically referring to this panel and the lack of steward consistency. Unfortunately, the author really did not, he neglected to point out the general

agreement among all the participants, the stewards, on a number of other of these cases. So that part was unfortunate.

When I came back, the ROAP, Racing Officials Accreditation Program, the stewards' advisory committee of ROAP undertook the task to review our procedures for multiple disqualifications and have been working that in the last several months, contacting a number of stewards, CE programs, to see if we can determine a best policy and make a recommendation for national and in fact international consistency in racing. ROAP, I would encourage you if you have a few minutes and you're looking for other Web sites related to horse racing, if you haven't been aware of it, go to [horseracingofficials.com](http://horseracingofficials.com). Take a few minutes to see what ROAP is all about, it's been an excellent program, it's made magnificent progress in a very short time. .... **Other terms, concepts and keywords contained in the balance of this transcript are:** International Stewards' Conference, international consistency of rules and regulations, reciprocity, demotion principle, Matt Iuliano, harmonizing rules and practices of racing and breeding, IRPAC, TAC, integrity in breeding and racing, Klaus Koch, harness racing, transporting horses over borders, obstacles of racing without borders, Sweden, medication violations.....If you desire a full transcript contact [bprewitt@ag.arizona.edu](mailto:bprewitt@ag.arizona.edu)

