



Race Track Industry Program

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2007

Industry Updates and Initiatives

Moderator:

Ed Bowen; President, Grayson-Jockey Club Research foundation

Speakers:

Dell Hancock, Chairman, Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation

Stan Bowker, Chairman, ROAP Board of Directors

MR. ED BOWEN: Excuse me, ladies and gentlemen, we've been asked to go ahead and get this panel started. We've been asked to go ahead and get the panel started to help the Symposium keep to its time. Thank you for your attention.

I'm Ed Bowen, with the president of the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation. I'll be introducing the speakers, including myself. The first speaker is Dell Hancock, many of you know her, her family has Claiborne Farm, she's been very important in various aspects of the industry including the Kentucky Racing Authority, Graded Stakes Committee. She's given her time and her talents, she's also chairman, she is chairman of the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation, Dell Hancock.

MS. DELL HANCOCK: Thanks Ed. When Jack Goodman called me in September suggesting that I come to Tucson, I argued that no one here would really want to hear about the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation, as we have nothing to do with racinos, ADWs or immigration. But Jack reminded me that this is a gathering of racing and gaming leaders and he figured that this group should be concerned with and for the safety and the health of the horse which is what Grayson is all only about. The Grayson foundation was formed in 1940 and merged with the Jockey Club Foundation in 1989. It raises funds to be dedicated for equine research. The foundation does not carry out research itself; instead, it looks for the best and most relevant science that could help the horse. This work is done at various institutions worldwide, so we have no start-up lab costs, it's a tremendous savings. We address a wide variety of topics from infectious disease to racetrack surface safety to methods of avoiding injury and the best way to treat these injuries when they do occur. And don't forget we farmers need to give trainers an annual supply of healthy young horses, so Grayson sponsors projects investigating such things as stallion fertility and foal pneumonia.

How are we funded? We are funded primarily by individuals in the horse world who sign on as members at various levels. Some of your racetracks and organizations are members and donors. The NTRA has shown a lot of confidence in our model when they asked us to ensure the Barbaro Laminitis funds were appropriately dispensed. We convened a special evaluation committee and asked for innovative research proposals with the \$100,000 raised so far by the NTRA campaign; two projects have already been launched. Hopefully this research will save the lives of future of Barbaros and Secretariats, who also died as a result of this disease.

It takes more than memberships and contributions, however. We've been fortunate to be the designated recipients of special fundraising events such as the Belmont Bash and the Breeders' Cup Gala. Nancy Kelly heads these events up for us, she does a great job, so if you see her coming, know that she's probably got her hat in her hand but everybody will win. You'll have a great event and our horses will benefit.

Grayson is also fortunate with a team of terrific portfolio managers. This year we broke the barrier and provided over a million dollars to fund equine related science. This related to about 20 to 22 different projects. It's a great achievement that we're really proud of, but I'm often reminded of Shug McGaughey's words when he said, that's still not enough.

How do we make sure these dollars are well spent? A 32-person research committee chaired by Larry Bramlage carries out a detailed evaluation of each project submitted to Grayson. We are fortunate in that these renowned veterinarians and scientist do this gratis as they believe in our cause, and there's no hook. The committee meets in Fort Worth, Texas, in late January, Texas ice season, behind closed doors and really hashes out the strengths and weaknesses of every project, rating them top to bottom. The best are then recommended to the board of directors which approves funding for all that the budget allows in the following year. This board, comprised of stakeholders in the thoroughbred industry, gives their time, energy and expertise without pay. A dedication to do the best for our horses is the one common characteristic of our members. No one illustrates this better than your own Jack Goodman who is an example of how diverse the industry is and yet how it all comes back to the horse. As an inspiration to this Symposium, Mr. Goodman proved visionary in the business of the game, yet who can think of him without his cowboy hat, sitting on a horse in a western saddle? Clearly, Jack Goodman grasps the need to give the horses the best care possible.

Occasionally Grayson holds out funds to make a call for research on a particular problem. The latest example of this is Herpes Virus 1. As you know, outbreaks of this disease caused interruption of racing at several tracks last year. A prime example of all things coming to a halt if our horses aren't healthy. We ended up sponsoring two excellent projects on HV1, as well as circulating a set of procedures for anyone whose horse is stabled where infectious disease is diagnosed. This was sent via the TRA and to individual tracks as well. It's a very

useful document to post or to circulate to as many owners and trainers as possible as it will help contain disease. If you don't recall receiving this, please let us know and we will gladly resend it or you can check with The Jockey Club Information Systems booth here at the Symposium.

I've touched on a few hot topics, HV1 and laminitis, problems have been solved by past research, but Grayson is focusing on what is left to be done, and there is much. I thank all of you who have supported the Foundation in the past. If you haven't supported us, I hope that it's because you haven't been aware of who we are. Now you know and I trust that you will look at your own agendas, at your own departments, at your own racetracks and seriously ask if the horse, the driving force behind all of this, and his health and welfare is getting as much as he should. From a humane aspect, a PR aspect, and a business aspect, nothing exceeds the importance of the horse. Everyday we race, we ask the horse to give us his best, we should ask ourselves to do no less for him. Thank you.

(Applause)

MR. BOWEN: Thank you very much, Dell. I've been asked, given the privilege to give an update on what we call the Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit. This involved a cross section of prominent participants from the thoroughbred breeding and racing industry which came together at the Welfare and Safety Racehorse Summit in Lexington, Kentucky, last October. The Summit was coordinated and underwritten by the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation and The Jockey Club and was hosted by Keeneland Association. The goal was to identify critical issues that effect horse health and or shorten the careers of racehorses and to develop action plans to address those issues. Participants drafted recommended action plans in six areas to improve conditions in various facets of the thoroughbred industry. Since the Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit does not of course have any authority to implement change, these recommendations and proposed strategic ideas have been and will continue to be forwarded to potential responsible parties for their consideration and implementation.

Six committees were formed to pursue specific recommendations coming from the summit. I would like to review some key developments of some of them so far. **Other terms, concepts and keywords contained in the balance of this transcript are:** synthetic surfaces, continuing education, stallions, progeny, sound, durability index, steward, judges, model rules, racing official's resource guidebook, On-Track Injury Report, Racing Officials Accreditation Program, RCI, Dr. Mick Peterson, University of Kentucky, Jockey Club Information Systems, InCompass Systems.....If you desire a full transcript contact bprewitt@ag.arizona.edu