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## **The Control Room: Monitoring the Heartbeat of the Gambling Day at the Races**

**SPEAKER:**

**Dayle Brown**, Executive General Manager – Integrity Services, Racing Victoria

**Mr. Dayle Brown:** The court was asked did the stewards act appropriately. Should they have all this power to regulate? Should they be able to then hold their own tribunal, give their own observations, their own evidence and come to their own findings? Well, the courts have supported that and the courts have supported it for a very, very long time. If we went back to the courts today, we would gather that we wouldn't get that support. I'll show you how the traditional role of the stewards has changed from that perspective.

In 2004, the Racing Victoria created a Racing Appeals and Disciplinary board and it's a board that acts for serious offenses. What happened was the stewards weren't judge, jury, and prosecutor anymore. They became the investigator for serious matters so they could ask questions in a more aggressive manner. They didn't have to observe the niceties of being a judge. They could look at things from a different perspective, but then they became the prosecutor only. The Racing Appeals Board is chaired by a former judge, industry experts, and lawyers and that matter is taken before them to determine. They're like your medication control matters. They're open to the public. They're transparent. They're reported on. The media cover them, cover them a lot.

In relation to other serious matters like, I don't know if you remember the Damien Oliver matter. He was a champion jockey in Melbourne, Australia. Not many jockeys have had movies made about them, but he has. He had a bet in a race on another horse for \$10,000.00 and the horse won. Now he was disqualified for eight months. Some thought that was light. That was his first offense and he had the most outstanding career. He was much loved. He'd ridden all around the world. I

don't know if he'd ridden in the States, but I know he's ridden all over Asia and in the UK. The stewards in that sense became the prosecutor and put these matters before an independent board. They lost part of that power to hear everything in their own right.

Then we had another scandal in 2008. Our chief executive was caught betting under a German war hero — oh, no, sorry — a South African war hero's name on the telephones. A former judge came in and looked at the whole industry broadly: harness, Victoria Racing, thoroughbreds, and the greyhounds. He commented on the effectiveness of the RAD board and the RAD board then became an entity across greyhounds and harness racing as well.

We get to the control room. What I want someone to touch on was — I heard about some cases the other day where there were some issues at Belmont Park, I think. People were looking for a comment about some serious matters that happened, where there was a deceased jockey. I think much of that was Belmont Park but another matter had occurred and the stewards weren't accessible. One of the great things we've learned in Australia

**[Laughter]**

is that you might have a scandal, and racing's not far from the next scandal. They're gonna happen because there'll always be one person who wants to push the envelope just a little bit. Now, that's just human nature and racing's no different. The thing racing has to do is respond to a matter quickly, take ownership of it, and show it's in control. Now, it might leave a bad taste in your mouth that the media write a certain way about it, but people accept that these things happen. If you don't take control, don't control the message that goes out, don't be seen to be doing something, then that's when people lose confidence in the sport and betting then may decline and participation declines. You turn people away.

We're now in an era, especially in Australia, where you now can bet on all range of sports through corporate bookmaking. The pari-mutuel exists in not a vacuum anymore. It's in a competitive environment, Tabcorp pari-mutuel. That competitive environment is competing for people to invest in particular sports. Sports now, corporates can offer great value. They try and get a better price than the pari-mutuel, so it's really, really important that racing sets a high integrity standard.

When I spoke in Hong Kong in May about this point, the theme was integrity in sport, racing as the frontrunner. Because sport has not had integrity regimes at all because it never had betting. Now that they've got betting and wagering, they are subject to manipulation of pools, corruptions, tennis players pulling sets, all sorts of things and they weren't ready for it. Racing's got one key factor to it. It's been doing it for 100 years. It knows about the wagering. It knows how to deal with it.

That's a real critical piece about the sport here, that it should demonstrate it's in control. It should show people that it can respond when something happens,

something really, really disastrous could occur. You get through those moments. I know what it's like. It's easy to come out and talk about all the good stuff, but it's hard to walk up to a throng of cameras like you're walking to the presidential White House to tell someone about bad news and they're all at you about, "Why did the jockey have a bet? Didn't he get enough time?" You've gotta deal with those matters. If you show you're in control, people mightn't agree with the decision of the umpire, but they respect the fact that you're in control and you're doing something about it.

Let's talk about the control room. This has been going for about 18 months now and it was started as a pilot project at the Caulfield Racetrack. What we decided to do was try and look at the traditional role of the stewards. They're all sitting in the racetrack. They go out, they watch the race, they come back in. You've got swabbing people. You've got a lot happening, frenetic activity, trainers coming in, gear changers, a light scratching at the barrier, all sorts of things. We thought to ourselves, "Well, how can we ensure that we capture everything we need to be looking at?"

What we did, we came up with an idea of having a room of experts back at Racing Victoria sitting behind the stewards panel, looking at the races from a second set of eyes. This panel has strategic race analysts on it, betting, bet mongering analysts. It has speed map analysts and it has also other race analysts in there. What they do is they sit there and they look at the race in isolation. They don't have to worry about anything else. They just look at the race. They pull the race apart. They look at their pre-race speed mapping. They look at all the matters that are relevant to the race and the information the stewards need to know.

You say, "Well, how does that work? Well, how do they stewards know about it?" We did video connectivity, so we've been able to run video from that room into the stewards room. What that does is that the stewards and this panel of experts can speak to each other in real time. When the stewards come back in from the race and everyone's wanting to know what's happening and people are coming to the door, this panel then says to the stewards, "Right. Five Happy Jack should've gone forward. Its race history, here's its race history. We got it here. We got all the databases open. Should've gone forward. We think the jockey's gone against riding instructions. You'd better have a look at it." It engages the inquiries right away. Deal with it quickly. The men are at the door going, "This thing was \$1.20. It's gone to the front. It's given up like a busted balloon and it's finished last. Why?" There are the things you can capture quickly, then deal with quickly so you've got the information you need to deal with the matter with the media, with the public, and with all the other participants that are interested in those outcomes.

As I said, you got live video conferencing, a second panel of experts that sit in this room. What I'm gonna do now is I'm gonna play you a video presentation. What it's gonna show you is how this room actually works.

**[Video Begins]**

**Male Voice 1:** Thanks, Andre. What have we got there? The first 2400 meter race?

**Male Voice 2:** Sneak a peek lob into a handy mid-spot in the 2400.

**Male Voice 1:** The control room's been a gradual process for about the last 18 months. We used one of our metropolitan tracks, the Caulfield Racecourse. The control room's at headquarters at Racing Victoria at Epsom Road, Flemington. That's basically the hub of it. Designed to service not only Caulfield and the metropolitan area, but the country areas as well.

We're pleased with what we've established and found so far. We've got expert analysts as far as the form is concerned, the betting is concerned, tactics adopted by riders in races. We've got people we believe are certainly experts in their field, to assist the stewards back at the track.

**Male Voice 2:** One ball pit's being \$10.00 into 650.

**Male Voice 1:** Money speaks all languages, and obviously we rely heavily on the feedback as far as the betting is concerned. That will help dictate to us what horses are drug tested at race meetings and that also would steer which way we would go inquiring into horses' performances, particularly those that have been poor or improved performance.

**Male Voice 3:** Pat Carey, the trainer, notified us that Beauty Perception, he wants to ride it with some cover due to the small field. How does that weigh up with previous?

**Male Voice 2:** Terry, Beauty Perception in the first, it's led its last start over 2400. Similar journey today.

**Male Voice 1:** Well, part of Alf Matthews's role is we're fortunate that we have a library here of videos that goes back to 2005 Spring Carnival that are on an archive system. If we need to check a horse's previous run, whether it be for performance, whether it be for gear that they're worn, that's something Alf Matthews has at his fingertips, being based here and can then relay that to us back at the track.

**Male Voice 2:** Tryin' to include a nice handy mid.

**Male Voice 1:** Speed maps are something that's really gained momentum in Australian racing and we're fortunate we've got one of the best in the business. Andre Kassay does that for us. We need to police where horses are in the run and speed maps are on everyone's lips these days. We get live feeds from the track as far as photo finish is concerned as an additional check to make sure that errors are reduced even further. To be able to sit there in the head office and be looking at a photo finish 300 or 400 kilometers away we find has been really a big step in the right direction. Ideally, we wanna get to the point where every TAV meeting in Victoria is covered, which is something like 500 meetings a year. By having the

control room there, I would like to think that this would help improve consistency in stewards decisions.

**Male Voice 3:** Now, this is the new Hawk-Eye technology. You can see all screens aligned here in terms of side on, head on, reverse angle, and all around you can see.

**Male Voice 1:** The whole Hawk-Eye system basically captures the footage that we already get. We can have a look at four different angles of an incident all on the one screen, all at the one time, compare them at the same time. Incidents at the barrier, you can pause and blow it right up, if a horse is badly away at the start, we've had a couple of high-profile improper riding charges of recent times where the Hawk-Eye vision has proved that it certainly has been of great assistance to making sure our races are run cleanly and people go home in one piece.

The electronic scales that have been implemented in Victoria, we're pretty proud of. It was the brainchild of some people here at Racing Victoria to develop a system where we have records of exactly what riders have weighed out at. It's been developed to the point where it's been rolled out right throughout Australia. Previously, we never ever had a record of exactly what a rider weighed out at and that caused confusion. In the event of a horse weighing in light, it's very transparent. It's displayed up on big monitors in the scales area for all to see, trainers will know exactly what the weight their riders have weighed out at.

There's around about 130, 140 trainers turned up from all over Victoria and even the state, that have got licenses here in Victoria. I think they all went away quietly surprised as to what exactly we do around here. Obviously, they were very impressed with the Hawk-Eye and there was races live at [inaudible] at the time. There were trainers there that had runners at that meeting. To be able to sit there and watch the race, watch the photo finish and also be privy to communication live at the track certainly opened up a few eyes.

[Video ends]

**Mr. Dayle Brown:** As you can see, this is a wonderful way of being able to take information that comes almost instantaneously and rely it to the stewards on track. As you heard the chief steward, Terry Bailey, say, it helps with horse sampling selection. It assists in the immediacy of questioning rides that are questionable. It also provides a line of questioning for the stewards in relation to the tactics adopted by jockeys and trainers related to history. As you saw before, we've have an automated speed mapping system, a database with horses' racing history and supporting footage, bet monitoring, systems with direct access to live bets placed by bookmakers on course, and also live access to BetFair betting exchange.

Let's talk about Hawk-Eye. As you saw in the footage, Hawk-Eye is a system where you can take direct control of all the feeds, aggregate them into one spot, and put them into the hands of the administrators that need the vision to perform the different roles they perform. In relation to Hawk-Eye, it's well known for its tennis.

As you've seen the line calls where the ball is in or out. The player then disputes the call and the footage is shown. It's become quite a popular thing, especially in Australia. They'll call clap and cheer to see if the player's right or wrong. It can be quite an entertaining addition to the sport.

James Japhet's here from Hawk-Eye and he's gonna take us through Hawk-Eye in a minute and show us some other riding cases. By the way, the young jockey that fell, he was fine. There was only some bruising, so he was very, very lucky. It just goes to show you that was a really, really difficult case where it was very, very hard. Without those angles and being able to zoom it in, we couldn't work out what happened because of the tight racing. Tight racing is very prevalent in Australia.

Hawk-Eye can record and review up to 12 high-definition angles per system. Any combination of dynamic split screen is possible. You can get any split screen you want to look at a particular incident that you're interested in. Record of every angle in multiple formats or record the split screen that has been created. Customized layouts and controls and multiple systems can run off the servin' machine, meaning stewards, vets, and jockeys can all have independent access to that information.

Where it does become very, very effective is in protest hearings or objections where a jockey contests the outcome of the race cuz he believes he's suffered interference and he was disadvantaged by that particular move or maneuver of the jockey or the actions of the other horse. As I said earlier, whilst these things have a very, very profound influence on integrity, they also have a very, very profound influence across other parts of the business because you can adapt them across, especially in this digital age, to be very, very effective for the customer. James, can we go through the Hawk-Eye vision?

What we're gonna show you, you heard Terry Bailey talk about a couple of improper riding cases. We're gonna show you one of those.

[Pause]

**Mr. Dayle Brown:** That's better. I'm just tryin' to — just run it back — thanks, James — for me, please.

**Mr. Dayle Brown:** Thank you.

[Movie Clip Playing]

**Mr. Dayle Brown:** You'll see here this is a — James, can you split the screens up for me, mate, please? Just give us the three. That's it. That's it.

**Mr. Dayle Brown:** Can you zoom in on the bottom one on the left, please?

**Mr. James Japhet:** Dayle?

**Mr. Dayle Brown:** Yep?

**Mr. Dayle Brown:** Okay. This is the case of Hugh Bowman. You could just go back, James, to the incident and just point it on the pointer, cuz I'm — just go back. Right, now just start-run it-take it back a bit further, please, and we'll run it forward. Okay, let it go. Let's watch. Watch these horses here. See the pressure being applied by the rod on the outside, that's Hugh Bowman on Boss. Watch the horse back here. Look at that head on. It looks quite like competitive riding a bit overdone by the jockey. What was interesting, what we picked up was this guy here was centimeters away from going to the turf. The reason that was — was because when the move was made by Bowman out here to push Boss to the fence or effectively campdraft him down, this fellow here was starting to push up into the gap.

On conventional footage, we couldn't pick that up to the clarity you can do with Hawk-Eye because you can't line up the three different angles to see at that point in time, where was that horse's feet to there. Now, blot out the horse's feet, James, down at the bottom, please. There. Here, he's touched the horse's head and the steward's were of the view if the horse was not eased the rider may have been in trouble. Bowman was found guilty of improper riding and he was suspended. He didn't even appeal on the basis of the charge. He only appealed on the length of suspension, which was 20 meetings.

We just put up the Rawiller one please now, James? We'll just quickly show Rawiller.

**[Movie clip playing]**

**Mr. Dayle Brown:** Oh, do Schofield. We'll do Schofield please. Yeah. This caused a lot of controversy in Australia. Chief steward, Terry Bailey, was placed under a lot of pressure over this because effectively people said, "Well, competitive riding's out the window." At the end of the day, the most important thing for the stewards in the way they police racing is two things. First, it's the integrity but also equally important, it's safety. It's the safety of the riders to ensure that they ride in a safe manner. Whilst we don't want them to not make the maneuver in a race which they should, but we don't want them to place other horses in a position where people are in danger. This is the Schofield matter we will touch on here.

**[Movie clip playing]**

**Mr. Dayle Brown:** As I said earlier, this is the young jockey that went to the ground.

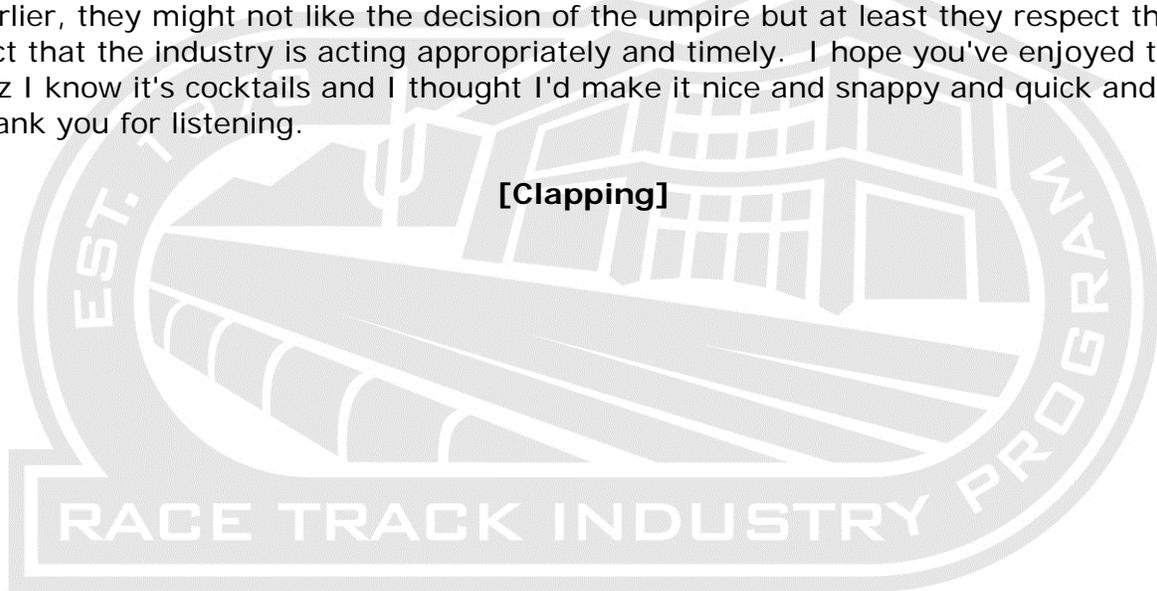
**[Movie clip playing]**

**Mr. Dayle Brown:** You'll see here Schofield was going for a gap. Now, we looked at that just from a helicopter point of view and we couldn't really tell who was at fault. In the end, the girl here, Michelle Payne, actually came out and took the legs of this fellow, Schofield here. Now, it looks like the other two have closed in, but

when you line all the angles up and you actually assess the footage properly, you can actually determine who was at fault. These cases are critical because if he had have been really injured, there could've been a case for some action by the individual over his injuries to a court to get compensation. It's key that we have this type of information and footage available to us so we can go back to the jockeys, post the time they spent on suspension to show them what happened and what went wrong. Thanks, James.

Sorry, everyone, about that. The technology's just a bit difficult to line it all up. I'd just like to finish on the point I was talking about earlier about controlling the sport effectively in the sense that you are in a position where the public as a onlooker sees that you're in charge of your industry, you've got control of a scandal when it happens, you deal with it quickly, you get information out quickly, and you be transparent. It's not always gonna be pleasant, but when you do that, as I said earlier, they might not like the decision of the umpire but at least they respect the fact that the industry is acting appropriately and timely. I hope you've enjoyed that cuz I know it's cocktails and I thought I'd make it nice and snappy and quick and thank you for listening.

**[Clapping]**



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