

1. Do you believe greater transparency and accountability measures need to be implemented with respect to Racing NSW and the racing industry generally? If so, please explain what measures you would like to see introduced.

For the sake of the safety of industry personnel, transparency is needed as a matter of urgency in the reporting of any and all use of sedatives for horses undertaking ridden work on race-tracks or training grounds.

When I gave evidence to the Committee on the 9th August, I referred to the **deplorable, but common, practice of sedating horses prior to ridden work**. This practice is dangerous, unsustainable and extremely difficult to defend. It plainly reveals how poorly managed and trained the treated horses are.

Please find attached evidence that RNSW is aware of this practice. I direct you to the matter of Mr A. Cummings in the General section of the attached Stewards Report. Across the industry, this practice must be investigated by SafeWork NSW and eliminated as a matter of workplace safety.

STEWARDS REPORT

Australian Turf Club WARWICK FARM RACECOURSE

Wednesday 7 February 2024

Weather: Fine
Track: Soft (7); upgraded to Soft (6) at 2.29pm
Rail: +5m from 1000m to WP, +2m remainder
Penetrometer: 5.69

COMMITTEE OF STEWARDS: T. P. Moxon (Chairman), C. L. Albrecht, S. T. Matthews and Cadets L. J. Lee, B. D. Beasley and M. F. Vilo.

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Supplementary Report:

Gosford Thursday 1 February 2024

Race 3 – Social Membership Only \$49 Class 1 Handicap 1600m:

La Freccia – Trainer's representative Mr T Charlton reported that the stable was satisfied with the post-race condition of **La Freccia** and the intention is to drop the filly back in distance for her next race start.

General:

Trainer Mr A. Cummings pleaded guilty to a charge under AR104(1) in that he failed to record treatments of acepromazine administered to horses in his care prior to working. Mr Cummings was fined \$300.

LATE RIDER CHANGES:

As J. McDonald was indisposed due to injury, Stewards approved the following rider replacements:

Race 1	App. Z. Lloyd on Bosustow
Race 2	J. Collett on Listentozou
Race 3	T. Berry on Suit Of Armour
Race 4	J. Collett on Opito Ballerina
Race 5	K. McEvoy on About A Girl
Race 6	App. Z. Lloyd on Stylised
Race 7	T. Berry on Introducing

RACE 1: Racing and Sports Plate 1300m:

Bosustow – En route to the racecourse became loose and sustained lacerations to the near-hind leg. The colt was a late scratching at 1.13pm on veterinary advice. Trainer Ms A. Neasham was advised that a veterinary clearance will be required before **Bosustow** is permitted to race/barrier trial again.

Counterpart – T. Clark reported that after settling at the rear of the field his mount was not suited by the tempo of the race, which made it difficult for the colt to make up any appreciable ground in the straight. A post-race veterinary examination did not reveal any abnormalities.

Linebacker – After being loaded into the barriers, lunged forward and hit the front gates. **Linebacker** was removed from the barriers, underwent a veterinary examination and declared unsuitable to race at 2.23pm on veterinary advice when blood was detected in its offside nostril. Stewards ruled that all moneys invested on **Linebacker** be refunded in full and that all successful wagers made prior to 2.23pm be subject to the following cents in the dollar deductions from the face value of each ticket:

1 st	<i>Waterville</i>	39¢, 29¢
2 nd	<i>Evenflow</i>	27¢
3 rd	<i>Okami Star</i>	31¢

Trainer Mr J. O'Shea was advised that a veterinary clearance will be required before **Linebacker** is permitted to race/barrier trial again. Mr O'Shea was advised also that a warning would be recorded against **Linebacker** regarding the colt's barrier manners.

Tartaglia – S. Clipperton reported that after being slow to begin the colt settled towards the rear of the field. He added that when the tempo of the race was only moderate, **Tartaglia** was inclined to race keenly throughout the early and middle stages. He added that **Tartaglia** was carried wider by *Okami Star* near the 400m and then was inclined to lay out away from that runner rounding the home turn. He said that **Tartaglia** then failed to respond to his riding in the straight and was disappointing in the manner in which it closed off the race. A post-race veterinary examination revealed the colt to be slow to recover.

Temple Bells – Near the 900m was steadied when crowded between *Okami Star* and *Tartaglia* (S. Clipperton), which, when racing keenly, shifted in slightly. S. Clipperton was advised to exercise more care.

RACE 2: Farnan Yearlings Selling Now Plate 1200m:

Acheson – Raced keenly in the early and middle stages.

Detendu – Jumped awkwardly, shifted in and bumped *Early Fusion*. App. Z. Lloyd reported that soon after straightening **Detendu** commenced to hang in. He said that approaching the 200m, when he attempted to place the gelding under full pressure it shifted in abruptly, obliging him to stop riding and straighten his mount. He added that when **Detendu** continued to hang in, he lost the use of his nearside reign from the 200m until approaching the 100m, which resulted in him being unable to ride his mount out with his usual vigour.

Ducasse – The colt, which was late arriving on course, underwent a veterinary examination and was passed suitable to race.

Early Fusion – Jumped awkwardly, was bumped by **Detendu** and, as a consequence, lost ground.

Listentozou – A post-race veterinary examination did not reveal any abnormalities.

Man From Brussels – Shifted in abruptly soon after the start.

Redbreast – Near the 200m was steadied when crowded for room by *Detendu*, which hung in before being corrected by its rider.

RACE 3: Earthlight First Yearlings Handicap 2400m:

Oakfield Wallaby – Slow into stride.

McGeehan – Hit the running rail passing the winning post on the first occasion.

Suit Of Armour – From a wide barrier was shifted behind runners in the early stages. Held up from the 350m until approaching the 200m.

California Grass – Stumbled on jumping. Near the 500m became awkwardly placed at the heels of *Fun Sunday* when that runner was taken out by *Oakfield Wallaby*. App. Z. Lloyd reported that after being obliged to make a sustained run, his mount did not quicken as he expected and, in his opinion, raced flat. A post-race veterinary examination did not reveal any abnormalities.

Fun Sunday – Raced wide and without cover passing the winning post on the first occasion and until the 1400m. Near the 500m was hampered and carried wider by *Oakfield Wallaby* (J. Collett), which shifted out. K. McEvoy reported that after settling behind midfield he then was obliged to make a wide run from the 600m. He said that after being hampered a short distance later by *Oakfield Wallaby*, **Fun Sunday** then did not respond to his riding and was disappointing in the manner in which it closed off the race. A post-race veterinary examination revealed the mare to have been galloped on the off-hind and near-hind cannon.

Wilshire Boulevard – Near the 500m when attempting to improve to the outside of *McGeehan* was eased from that runner's heels when it shifted out slightly.

RACE 4: The Arrowfield Advantage Handicap 1100m:

Super Bright – Blundered on jumping. App. D. Gibbons lost the use of his nearside rein for a short distance inside the 100m.

Dame Cartland – On straightening was crowded by *Vinolass* (App. Z. Lloyd), which shifted out when not clear. App. Lloyd was reprimanded. A post-race veterinary examination revealed the mare to be displaying cardiac arrhythmia. Trainer Mr N. Doyle was advised of Racing Australia's Code of Practice under AR88B(2)(b).

Euros – T. Berry reported that after the blindfold was removed and prior to the start being effected **Euros** got its head up and, as a consequence, when the start was effected, lost ground (3L). He said that this resulted in **Euros** settling at the rear of the field, which was further back than he had intended. He added that after placing his mount under pressure in the home straight, when he had some concerns with its action, he did not test the mare over the final 100m. A post-race veterinary examination revealed the mare to be lame (3/5) in the off-foreleg. Trainer Mr J. Pride was advised that a veterinary clearance will be required before **Euros** is permitted to race/barrier trial again.

Head First – After arriving behind the barriers the mare underwent a veterinary examination at the request of A. Collett, who expressed some concern with her mount's action. Subsequently, **Head First** was a late scratching at 4.05pm acting on veterinary advice when found to be lame (2/5) in the near-hind leg. Stewards ruled that all moneys invested on **Head First** be refunded in full and that all successful wagers made prior to 4.05pm be subject to the following cents in the dollar deductions from the face value of each ticket:

1 st	Super Bright	0¢, 2¢
2 nd	Vinolass	1¢
3 rd	Opito Ballerina	2¢

Trainer Mr M. Attard was advised that a veterinary clearance will be required before **Head First** is permitted to race/barrier trial again.

Opito Ballerina – J. Collett was permitted to ride the mare a half kilogram over its allotted weight of 55.5kgs. Prior to the declaration of correct weight Stewards viewed the patrol films to ascertain whether there were grounds to lodge a protest on behalf of connections against *Vinolass* being declared 2nd placegetter, relative to an incident on straightening. While Stewards were satisfied that the contact between **Opito Ballerina** and *Not That Easy* was due to *Vinolass* carrying *Dame Cartland* wider, they could not be comfortably satisfied that had the interference not occurred **Opito Ballerina** would have finished in advance of *Vinolass* and, therefore, declined to lodge a protest and correct weight was declared.

Not That Easy – Began awkwardly. On straightening was bumped and carried wider by *Dame Cartland*.

RACE 5: James Squire Handicap 1400m:

Glad You Think So – From a wide barrier was shifted behind runners in the early stages. When questioned regarding the colt settling at the rear of the field, App. M. Bourke stated that she was issued no specific instructions where to position **Glad You Think So**, which was resuming, other than to have it settle where comfortable. She said that after beginning only fairly and having regard to her instructions, she was reluctant to ride her mount forward to obtain a position closer to the leaders, therefore, after travelling a short distance she eased **Glad You Think So** to obtain cover and this resulted in the horse settling at the rear of the field.

Carpaccio – From a wide barrier was shifted behind runners in the early stages. C. Schofield reported that the gelding hung out rounding the home turn, however, did not respond to his riding in the straight and was disappointing. A post-race veterinary examination did not reveal any abnormalities.

Llanddwyn – Raced keenly in the early stages.

Battlefield – On jumping was crowded for room between *Llanddwyn* and *Soldier Of Rome*, both of which shifted ground. A post-race veterinary examination revealed the gelding to be displaying cardiac arrhythmia. Trainer Mr M. Vella was advised of Racing Australia's Code of Practice under AR88B(2)(b).

About A Girl – K. McEvoy was permitted to ride the filly one kilogram over its allotted weight of 55kgs. Slow to begin. Raced keenly in the early stages.

RACE 6: Ole Kirk First Yearlings Handicap 1400m:

Givara – On jumping bumped with *Bend The Knee*. From its wide barrier was shifted behind runners in the early stages.

Island Press – Near the 300m was steadied when crowded by *Cadetship* (K. McEvoy) which shifted to the inside of *Bend The Knee*. K. McEvoy was told to exercise more care.

Spaltet – The gelding was a late scratching at 9.03am on veterinary advice.

Romeo's Choice – When questioned regarding his riding in the early and middle stages, C. Schofield stated he was instructed to obtain a prominent position, however, he was instructed also to ride the gelding in a manner that would give it every opportunity to run out the 1400m. He stated that after beginning satisfactorily, **Romeo's Choice** immediately held a prominent position. He said that in the early stages he noticed *Bend The Knee* and *Island Press*, which were drawn to his outside, being ridden positively and, therefore, having regard to his instructions, he was reluctant to ride **Romeo's Choice** forward to hold those runners out. He added that after the 1200m **Romeo's Choice** commenced to race keenly and for this reason he restrained his mount in an endeavour to obtain cover, which he felt would give the gelding a better chance to travel more comfortably and to run out the 1400m. He added, however, that after being crossed by *Bend The Knee* at the 1000m the tempo of the race then reduced, and when *Stylised* improved to his outside, this resulted in **Romeo's Choice** continuing to overrace at the heels of *Bend The Knee*. He said that near the 700m, when the tempo continued to reduce, **Romeo's Choice** was checked and shifted out to avoid the heels of *Bend The Knee*. Trainer Mr R. Litt confirmed the instructions issued to C. Schofield and emphasised that he was specific in his comments about the gelding running out 1400m. Stewards advised C. Schofield that he had made an error in judgement in allowing *Island Press*, and more so *Bend The Knee*, to cross his mount when the more advantageous position would have been to hold his spot inside those runners, which would have resulted in **Romeo's Choice**

racing in a more prominent position and prevented the difficulties he encountered in the middle stages when the race tempo reduced.

Bend The Knee – On jumping bumped with *Givara*.

Stylised – Raced wide and without cover throughout the event. A post-race veterinary examination revealed the gelding to be slow to recover.

Venelope – Slow to begin.

RACE 7: TAB Handicap 1200m:

Huon – App. A. Villiers was cautioned against the practice of using his whip in an action where his arm was raised above shoulder height.

Introducing – Jumped awkwardly.

Silentsar – Raced wide and without cover for the majority of the event. Passing the 900m was carried wider by *Lancaster Bomber*, which shifted away from the running rail. This resulted in **Silentsar** then racing wide and without cover from that point. Near the 150m was eased from the heels of *The Extreme Cat* (A. Morgan), which shifted ground when inclined to lay in under pressure. A. Morgan was advised to exercise more care. in. A post-race veterinary examination did not reveal any abnormalities.

Oakfield Duke – From a wide barrier was shifted behind runners in the early stages.

Putt For Dough – Whilst being loaded made contact with the barrier, underwent a veterinary examination and was passed fit to race. From a wide barrier was shifted behind runners in the early stages. Held up for clear running from the 350m until near the 150m.

Lancaster Bomber – Held up for clear running from the 300m until passing the 200m. A post-race veterinary examination did not reveal any abnormalities.

Tamaroa – Slow to begin.

The Extreme Cat – Hung in in the home straight.

GENERAL:

Summary of whip use

The Stewards noted the following riders exceeded the permitted strikes of the whip prior to the 100m under AR132(7)(a)(ii). Bearing in mind the totality of whip use, no action was taken.

Race 1	T. Berry (Waterville)	6 strikes
Race 3	App. Z. Lloyd (California Grass)	6 strikes

	A. Collett (Wilshire Boulevard)	7 strikes
Race 5	T. Clark (Soldier Of Rome) T. Berry (Llanddwyn)	7 strikes 6 strikes
Race 6	T. Berry (Givara)	6 strikes
Race 7	T. Berry (Introducing)	7 strikes

Swab samples were taken from all winners and the following runners:

Race 1: Bosustow, Evenflow (2)

Race 2: Acheson, Detendu, Ducasse (2)

Race 3: Suit Of Armour, Yarrowonga (2), Wilshire Boulevard

Race 4: Dame Cartland, Tycoon Jenny, Vinolass

Race 5: Glad You Think So, Last Straw, Carpaccio

Race 6: Romeo's Choice, Bend The Knee, Cadetship

Race 7: Introducing, Oakfield Duke, The Extreme Cat

SUMMARY	
Fines	General: Trainer Mr A. Cummings fined \$300 – fail to record treatments of acepromazine (AR104(1)).
Reprimands	Race 4: App. Z. Lloyd (Vinolass) – careless riding shifting out (AR131(a)).
Suspensions	Nil.
Warnings	Race 1: Linebacker (trainer J. O'Shea) – barrier manners.
Trials	Nil.
Certificates	Race 1 Bosustow (trainer A. Neasham) – lacerations to near-hind leg. Race 1: Linebacker (trainer J. O'Shea) – blood in offside nostril after hitting barrier front gates. Race 4: Euros (trainer J. Pride) – lame (3/5) off-foreleg. Race 4: Head First (trainer M. Attard) – lame (2/5) near-hind leg.
Bleeders	Nil.
Cardiac arrhythmia	Race 4: Dame Cartland (trainer N. Doyle) – first time (AR88B(2)(b)). Race 5: Battlefield (trainer M. Vella) – first time (AR88B(2)(b)).
Falls/Injuries	Nil.
Tactics notified	Race 6: Stylised – To settle further forward: Settled midfield. Race 7: Thunderlips – To be ridden further forward from the barrier: Settled outside lead.
Change of Colours	Nil.
Change of Gear	Nil.
Follow-up	Nil.

(2) At the moment, there is very little public reporting on horse breeding numbers, deaths and rehoming from Racing NSW – why is this problematic?

This problematic because these numbers must be reported if Thoroughbred racing is to retain its social license to operate as revealed by the findings of Justice McHugh when breeding was recognised as the central threat to the loss of social license to operate in greyhound racing.

(3) Horse traceability has been raised as a concern throughout this Inquiry. Do we have any sort of horse register or traceability in NSW at the moment or at a national level – and if not, why is this a problem?

There's no traceability of racehorses in New South Wales when they have finished racing. This is a problem because it means we have no data to act as a benchmark for industry initiatives to be judged upon.

4. To your knowledge, has Racing NSW been supportive of increasing horse traceability or creating a national horse register?

My understanding is that Racing NSW (RNSW) informed a government working group examining models to improve horse traceability that they were opposed to a national horse register that would call for all horses, whether a Thoroughbred or other breed, to be registered. This project, which is still continuing, was being led by the Victorian government on behalf of all other states and territories as well as the federal government.

I have been told RNSW opposed this mandatory registration, which is really the only way to know where all horses are at all times, because they said Thoroughbreds were already registered by the Australian Stud Book and under the rules of racing. However, This position overlooks the absence of any system for registering the movement of Thoroughbreds after they leave the racing and breeding industry, which most racehorses do at the end of their career on the track.

(5) To your knowledge, has Racing NSW worked to block welfare reforms for horses on a state or national level (e.g., through Racing Australia)? If so, please provide details.

Yes, absolutely. Racing NSW (RNSW) has repeatedly blocked welfare proposals at Racing Australia (RA).

For example, in 2022, Racing NSW used their veto to block RA from even discussing the report published by the Thoroughbred Aftercare Welfare Working Group (TAWWG). This group, which had been commissioned and funded by industry participants and was led by the national breeders' association, had produced a wide-ranging and well-thought-out strategy to improve Thoroughbred welfare nationally. However, RNSW prevented even a discussion of its recommendations, meaning that none of the report's recommendations have been implemented.

Then, at a meeting in early 2023, a number of measures were sent to the board of RA, with the full support of the RA Equine Welfare committee (which included representatives from NSW).

These proposals included:

- sharing RA data with equine welfare researchers from the University of Queensland;
- sharing retirement and deceased horse notification data across Principle Racing authorities (PRAs) nationally;
- adopting standardised reporting nationally of deaths, euthanasia & injuries sustained during racing & training;
- agreeing to and implementing national minimum welfare standards for Thoroughbreds;
- and
- supporting a national horse welfare forum.

In each case, RNSW preferred a state-based, not a national, approach. Indeed, RNSW was the only PRA to vote against the resolutions.

(6) What other welfare issues do you think Racing NSW needs to address urgently?

Whips

Whipping tired horses in the name of sport. NSW must recognise that whipping causes pain and observe the [Australian Veterinary Association policy](#) that states that **whips must not be used in equine competitions to influence the result of a competitive event.**

Racing NSW should assure the public that whips incur no harm by routine screening of both hindquarters of winners of all races with a **thermographic camera.**

Running rails

There has also been a chronic lack of investment in training centres and racecourses across NSW. On many tracks, for both racing and training, **there are still metal running rails**, which are highly dangerous for both horses and riders. I understand that all race and training tracks in Victoria have had plastic running rails for close to a decade.