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**From:** Malcolm Tuttle [mtuttle@racingqueensland.com.au]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 July 2011 8:45 AM  
**To:** Shara Murray  
**Subject:** FW: Wednesday Whinge  
**Attachments:** image001.png; image002.png; image003.png

**Importance:** High

Shara

Pls include the appropriate bits and pieces from this in the file. It is critical that the file is detailed and up to date. Have you been able to confirm LNP policy yet and are we on track to get the draft advice from Norton Rose this week.

Pls advise.

Tks Mal.

Malcolm Tuttle

Chief Executive Officer

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**From:** Shaun Rigby [mailto:shaun@sequelpr.com]

**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 July 2011 8:29 AM

**To:** R Bentley

**Cc:** Malcolm Tuttle; Siobhan Dooley; Christen Hill

**Subject:** Wednesday Whinge

RESPONSE TO SPECULATION ON CHANGES AT RQ AFTER THE NEXT ELECTION

THERE was a strong response to last week's compilation of e-mails concerning changes to the RQ Board and administrative roles at RQ in the event of the LNP winning the next election. Here is a cross-section of what was received that we hope relays the general message:

'HAVING read the list of prospective candidates for a new Board and management positions at Racing Queensland in the event of a change of Government, there will obviously be no shortage of legal expertise.

When you consider that three of those being suggested are lawyers in Bill Andrews, Barry Taylor and Bill Millican, therein lies a surefire cure for the unrealistic cost burden that the industry has been exposed to in legal costs in recent years.

Many in the industry cannot understand the need to waste money on outside legal firms or legal consultation when there are lawyers on the staff. The exception to that of course is when expert advice is needed in specialized areas or in the event of major court action. Racing Queensland has its own legal department as far as I am aware. There should be no need for outside consultation to the degree that has occurred in recent years if we had the likes of Andrews, Taylor or Millican on the Board or in a management role.

Barry Taylor might not be as well known to racing industry stake-holders in the south-east of the state as those in the north but rest assured he would be an excellent choice for the RQ Board or even as Chairman.

Here's hoping that those who count in the industry are listening to the call which is growing to a groundswell of support for Taylor since his name was raised.' - Vince Grogan, Townsville.

'ONE important aspect of the appointment of a new Board to run racing in Queensland has been overlooked in all the speculation and that is the need for independence.

Many stake-holders are keen to support Brisbane Racing Club boss Kevin Dixon as the new RQ Chairman when the LNP wins Government next year.

My friends and I have been involved in racing for more years than we care to remember and the issue we wish to raise is how independent can Mr Dixon be if he moves to RQ from the BRC?

We are not questioning his ability to do the job - he obviously has the credentials - but the BRC and old QTC brigade are the first to criticize Bob Bentley over his alleged conflict of interest as a Board member of Tattersalls.

Why then are we not entitled to question the independence of an official from the major club if he was to join RQ? This was the draw-back to the system of the past when Board members were drawn from regions and clubs. Most found it virtually impossible to serve two masters, their clubs or the overall industry.

What a new Board of RQ needs are appointments with no political affiliations or background prejudices in racing. What we don't need are people out to right the wrongs they believe the Bentley Board has done to their mates.

What we don't need are big owners with ties to studs or major stables. What we need are young professional appointees with no axes to grind from the past but a passion for racing and a desire to market and improve the product that continues to suffer because of political hatreds.

The other thing that is desperately needed is a big shake-up of the appeals system, the integrity department and the administration of Racing Queensland. It's time for a complete restructure, a new-look and some fresh faces at the helm at headquarters.' - Claude Simpson, Sunshine Coast.

'THERE needs to be some comment concerning this on-going speculation about Board and administrative changes at Racing Queensland after the LNP bolts in at the next election. I support some of the Bob Bentley initiatives but do not support the appointment process or lack of accountability that his Board enjoys or the way it spends too much money on pie-in-the-sky projects and consultancies.

It came as a surprise to a lot of racing folk when a businessman with a racing background of Gary Pemberton was suggested as a possible Board chairman - he sounds perfect.

I have no problem with what Kevin Dixon has achieved for the BRC in a short time but believe he would be a political appointment and also have concerns about the fact that he has links to top stables, pre-training establishments and the major club (even though he would no doubt resign as chairman there).

One also has to question what treatment clubs that have supported the Bentley Board - such as Ipswich, Sunshine Coast, Rockhampton and others in the country would receive under a new-look control body.

There needs to be a suitable blend of youth and experience - racing and business - on the new Board. If you have representatives of the regions, major clubs and stake-holder groups elected to run the industry it is fraught with danger and hasn't worked in the past. It is time to cut the ties with vested interests and appoint an independent qualified Board of businessmen or women who are determined to get racing in Queensland back on track and headed in the right direction free of the politics of the past.

As for the key administrative roles - the need for a vibrant, energetic, respected, well credentialed CEO has never been more evident. Not an ex-steward who many feel has been catapulted into the role.

Scott Whiteman is the obvious choice but it would not be cheap luring him back from Country Racing Victoria. As the saying goes, if you pay peanuts, you get monkeys.' - Albert Williams, Redcliffe.

'I haven't stopped laughing at some of those being suggested for the new Board or to run the management side of Racing Queensland if things change after the next election.

Some mentioned like Kevin Dixon and Bill Andrews smack of political appointments - what the critics are claiming has occurred under the Bentley regime and Labor. What can we expect, more of the same, just from a different political perspective?

Those other old dinosaurs being suggested from the QTC - National Party era are too silly to even contemplate. As for the speculation about one bush racing identity to the Board, well that would be just reward for all his hard work on behalf of the LNP.

There should be a total ban on anyone with political affiliations or from the media being selected for the Board. Surely Wayne Wilson would be too busy hosting travel tours overseas and working for Kevin Dixon and crew trackside at the BRC to take on another

role. That is unless RQ decided to start its own racing travel company, then he would come into his own with the host of experience he has had.

As for the CEO position I liked the suggestions of Bill Millican and Scott Whiteman who worked successfully together at the Gold Coast Turf Club as chairman and CEO. Both have plenty to offer and could hardly be considered political appointments.

As for your web site suggestions - how could you possibly revisit CEOs of the past like Kevin Hasemann, leave him where he belong at Swimming Queensland? And if Mary Collier wins a Board seat after the way one adviser to the LNP is bagging her, I'll give up going to the races - then again that might be more profitable.' - Peter Hansen, Toowoomba.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Where do I start. I do not know Kevin Dixon and have never spoken to him. If he can do for racing in Queensland what he has for the merged Brisbane Racing Club in such a short time then he looks the ideal man to head up a new Board. Apart from his official duties, he has experienced racing as an owner and a breeder. He understands the need to make racing pay as evidenced by the return that this major development project at the BRC promises. That can only benefit the overall industry. The prospect of not spending so much on outside legal consultancies is long overdue. The trio named in the early e-mail could well fit that gap. I am amazed by the response to the suggestion that Barry Taylor would make a terrific Board member. The Townsville-based lawyer has a groundswell of support statewide. As I said last week ultimately it's up to the LNP to come clean on what they have planned for the selection process of a new Board to replace the one they have already said will be sacked.

#### LICENSING DEBACLE 'AN ABSOLUTE EMBARRASSMENT' FOR RACING QLD

'IF some of the stories doing the rounds are correct this club licensing debacle is developing into an absolute embarrassment for Racing Queensland.

Club officials are telling of receiving their new license requirements almost a week after the dead-line. Did someone forget to mail it out or were the administrators at RQ working to public service hours as per usual?

To make matters worse there is a story doing the rounds that the new Brisbane Racing Club licensing requirements were a total botch.

Some legal eagle at headquarters apparently got the lots mixed up at Eagle Farm and instead of the racetrack required the BRC to relicense a paddock on their property which is leased to leading trainer Rob Heathcote and the back-yard of track manager Bill Shuck. Little wonder the LNP has a list as long as your arm of prospective administrative and legal replacements for the new Board that takes control when the current one is show the door after the next election.'

Kevin Brown, Hendra.

EDITOR'S NOTE: We afforded Racing Queensland the opportunity to respond to the above e-mail. Here is what Chairman Bob Bentley had to say:

'The facts of the matter of quite simple:

(a) The real property description attached to the Brisbane Racing Club's (BRC) 'Club and Venue License' was transcribed from a registrar that was obviously incorrect. Racing Queensland Limited (RQL) has acknowledged this error.

(b) Mr Steven Ferguson of the BRC advised RQL of the incorrect lot descriptions tendered by RQL and forwarded the real property descriptions as per the BRC's registrar. The BRC's registrar was also incorrect.

(c) RQL conducted an in-depth title reference search of all 15 titles held by the BRC.

(d) The 'Club and Venue License' was e-mailed to the BRC on 28 June 2011 and the original was sent by post.

(e) The 'Club and Venue License' was intended to be prescriptive than the existing format and align the license period to a financial year, similar to Greyhound and Harness licenses.

(f) The BRC advised RQL that it was considering not proceeding with its scheduled mid-week race meeting on Wednesday, 6 July 2011 on the basis that it disagreed with the conditions on its renewed license and it was of the view that its previous license should continue.

(g) In fact, BRC's previous license expired on 30 June 2011. While RQL had intended toward the end of 2010 to move to a calendar year license (and in fact received applications and payment of fees from Clubs on that basis), given the events of January 2011, that did not eventuate and instead clubs were issued with licenses from 1 July 2011 in accordance with the practice of previous years. Accordingly, BRC's only license was that which operated from 1 July 2011.

(h) While BRC was prepared to abandon the meeting, RQL, acting in the interests of all

stakeholders to have the meeting proceed, advised BRC that the license would operate from 1 July 2011 in the same terms as its previous license until such time as it had the opportunity of discussing the operation of the new license.

(i) On Friday, 8 July 2011, the BRC again advised RQL that it was considering not proceeding with its scheduled Queensland Cup race meeting on Saturday, 9 July 2011, stating that they disagreed with two clauses of the new proposed license.

(j) RQL received calls from two (2) other race clubs declaring that the 'Club and Venue License' issued were not valid, and there were two (2) clauses that were new within the license. Both clubs accepted the assurances from RQL that the clauses were not an additional imposition and both clubs sensibly moved on.

(k) RQL immediately advised the BRC that the club could race on the extension of the existing license format, and the new license would be issued under the old format. This was e-mailed to the BRC on 8 July 2011.

The above could have been avoided had the BRC liaised with RQL in amicable manner. There was no need to involve the media and/or cause disruption within the Queensland racing industry for an administrative issue that could have been resolved in a timely and agreeable manner. - RG Bentley, Chairman, Racing Queensland Limited.

#### DESPERATE NEED FOR A NATIONAL TOTE POOL TO COMBAT CORPORATES

'INSTEAD of continually highlighting the alleged conflict of interest Racing Queensland Chairman Bob Bentley has with his TattsBet Board position, perhaps the critics should be encouraging him to use his influence to push for a national tote pool.

As Terry Butts highlights in his 'Silks & Saddles column' the only way of combating the invasion of the major British corporate bookmaking organizations is for the three TABs in this country to amalgamate.

The argument that the ACCC raises concerning a monopoly shows how out of touch they are with the problems confronting the financial viability of the racing industry in this country.

Don't they realize the enemy is the corporate bookmaker, especially Betfair, which was not allowed to enter Asia, especially Hong Kong where they race for such big money?

Mr Bentley also needs to use his influence as ARB Chairman to have more of the turnover from Fixed Odds betting returned to the industry than currently occurs.' - Glen Irwin, Gold Coast.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Couldn't agree more Glen - there is a desperate need for a national TAB pool. The corporate agencies will continue to hold an unfair advantage while they can offer best of three totes. It's like the Government saying you can only invest with one bank despite the fact that others are offering a higher interest rate.

#### OWNERS CONCERNED ABOUT CONSISTENCY IN APPLYING THE RULES

'AS a syndicate of owners who are relatively new to the racing game we have enjoyed a little success and our share of bad luck but we are struggling to come to terms with what we believe is anomaly in the system.

Several times when we have backed horses that were fancied by the stable they have got back in the field in a slowly run race and the trainer has told us there is nothing you can do when they set a slow tempo.

That's fine and we accept it but these days slow front-running tactics seem to becoming a regular occurrence in Brisbane racing. The winners are normally heavily-backed and little pressure is applied to them and of course they get home.

We accept that there is little stewards can do to overcome this unless horses that normally race on the pace are ridden back in the field then they can ask why.

But what we strongly object to is a situation like that which occurred at Eagle Farm on Saturday when Strumming got to the front and put the brakes on, causing horses back in the field to be checked off heels.

On a couple of occasions our jockeys have paid the price for careless riding when, in desperation to get into the clear they have caused interference to rivals, some of which we felt was relatively minor. We would never want them to deliberately endanger the safety of a fellow jockey but would expect that they do everything possible to win for us and the punters.

With all due respects to the stewards who have a tough job to do the situation on Saturday was quite alarming when Strumming slowed the pace and caused some major problems back in the field. Horses were checking off heels and it was only luck and good riding skills that saved a more serious situation from occurring.

Some of us believe that the tactics were far more serious than shunting horses out of the way to get out and win races yet all the jockey received from stewards was a reprimand. In our opinion it makes a complete mockery of the racing rules when this happens.

We just wanted to express our displeasure at what happened and to explain how many others in the industry, even jockeys and trainers, feel that there is one set of rules for one situation and another set for what is basically the same situation but not regarded as such.' - Name and address with-held..

EDITOR'S NOTE: Jason Taylor isn't the only jockey who does this but he was the offender on this occasion. The fact that he escaped with only a caution displays the lack of consistency in the approach of stewards to actions which place rivals jockeys in awkward situations. Once Taylor adopted the tactics he did on Saturday the horses back in the field were deprived their chances of winning - not because his was a smart tactical ride but because some were forced to be checked.

#### URGENT NEED FOR SEPARATION OF INTEGRITY DEPARTMENT FROM RQ

'THE urgent need to have a separation of powers between Racing Queensland and the Integrity Department was again highlighted by the recent inquiry involving a prominent Brisbane bookmaker and one of the country's leading punters in Sean Bartholomew. Regardless of the rights and wrongs of this particular case, there appears to have been some aspects of the incident that have not been addressed by the stewards. It came as a great surprise that the Chief Steward did not officiate in this case and that it was left to a deputy whose track record since returning to Racing Queensland has been littered with criticism.

Some bookmakers seem to have nine lives when it comes to alleged infringements of the rules and this leads to all sorts of unsubstantiated allegations doing the rounds in the industry.

More than a shade dismayed by the outcome of this inquiry I thought it might be appropriate to repeat an e-mail I sent to the Wednesday Whinge some weeks ago which expressed my feelings then:

'IT would seem that some of the brave bookmakers in the betting rings of Brisbane only want to bet the 'mug' punters and when a professional arrives on the scene they head for the hills.

After getting burnt recently by one of the country's most successful punters, Sean Bartholomew, some of these weak-kneed fielders are reportedly not even prepared to accept his bets - even for the amount they are required to.

Bartholomew inflicted some financial wounds on the Eagle Farm ring when he plunged successfully on Hurtle Myrtle on Oaks day. His betting agents have since had trouble getting set.

As a young runner for Bartholomew tried unsuccessfully to get set on Stradbroke day - when most of the ring was betting ridiculous percentages - I witnessed one leading fielder yell an abusive comment at him which I wouldn't care to repeat.

A wonderful public relations effort on the biggest day of the year, in full hearing of many interstate visitors, but what more would you expect from a supposedly fearless fielder who I am assured only seems to grow balls when they cannot win?

I read somewhere that Queensland stewards are keeping an eye on the situation. Well the betting steward must be watching it with his eyes closed because it's the talking point of the track and has reached joke status interstate yet nothing seems to be happening.'

The question I would now like answered - that did not seem to be addressed in the Stewards' Report of the inquiry is this: Did they ask any questions about the abusive comment allegedly directed to the young runner placing bets for Sean Bartholomew?

Circumstances or not that saved the day here, it is obvious that the Brisbane bookmaking ring has won out and will not have to combat an assault by Bartholomew in future. There are too many other outlets, where he can not only get set, but his staff is not treated with contempt.

It's a victory for some of the 'gutless' bookies of Brisbane but a major loss of respect for the industry in Queensland where punter confidence in racing is already at an all-time low.

They might as well not have a Betting Steward at TAB tracks in Queensland. Then again I am told the good ones that did that job were shown the door in the past. And my mates in the north try to convince me that things have changed up there. - Wally Graham, Sydney.

EDITOR'S NOTE: It seems that some big bookmakers in Brisbane would rather take bets from mug punters than the likes of Sean Bartholomew. I feel sorry for the fielders in the ring

whose reputation is being tarnished by this sort of thing and are struggling to survive after often being the target of hefty bets from well-informed colleagues. Some of the issues which continue to haunt Brisbane racing were raised at the Racing Inquiry but seem to have fallen on deaf ears. Below is the Stewards' Report of the incident referred to in the e-mail, which was concluded at Eagle Farm on Saturday when Daniel Aurisch chaired the meeting:

'Stewards today concluded an inquiry into a complaint lodged by Mr Matthew Bradley, a betting agent for Mr Sean Bartholomew, regarding a bet he attempted to place on WILLY JIMMY in Race 3 at Eagle Farm on 11 June 2011 at the odds of \$5.50 with licensed bookmaker Lindsay Gallagher who had provided evidence that the price on offer at that stage was \$5. Today evidence was taken from Mr Gallagher's clerk, Mr Kevin Smith, and further evidence was considered from Mr Bradley and Mr Gallagher. After considering all the available evidence, stewards took no direct action as they were unable to establish the price on offer at that particular time.'

#### BLAME BOB GIBBS FOR THE DISASTROUS TAB PRIVATISATION DEAL

'IT should come as no surprise to the racing industry in Queensland that the return from the TAB has 'flat lined' as RQ chief executive Malcolm Tuttle told the media.

That was always going to happen eventually under the ridiculous Privatization Agreement that former Labor Racing Minister Bob Gibbs steam-rolled through.

They can blame increased interest in Fixed Odds betting and lack of confidence in the Queensland product or whatever they like, the finger should be pointed directly at Gibbs and his race club mates of that era who forced this situation upon us.

The damage that Gibbs did to this industry came flooding back to many of us as we watched him strolling around Eagle Farm on Saturday - the club he tried so hard to destroy - as though he owned the place.

He is all but forgotten in retirement these days but memories of his fateful days as Racing Minister linger on as the industry continues to suffer. There doesn't seem to have been the political golden hand-shake appointments for Bollinger Bob since his term in the United States ended.

One suspects that even Gibbs would like his time over when the affects of the TAB Privatization Agreement are starting to impact heavily on prize-money.

About the only winner Bob can count on celebrating in the weeks ahead is the horse he was at Eagle Farm to watch go around on Saturday - Gypsy Heart trained by his old mate Pat Duff. It ran an eye-catcher and looks a 'good thing' when next produced in midweek grade.' - Barry O'Dea, Brisbane.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Many in racing would be surprised to know that one of the strongest opponents to the TAB Privatisation Agreement was the current chairman of RQ, Bob Bentley. In fact he resigned in protest from the committee that was drawing up the deal because he did not believe it was in the best interests of racing in Queensland. It wasn't often that Bentley and the QTC agreed on an issue but this was one of them. They both lost out but have been proven right in the end. And by the way Barry, thanks for the tip on Gypsy Heart. I had a look at the replay and it did run a real eye-catcher.

#### 'SPIN DOCTORS' SERVING IT UP TO UNDER SIEGE GCTC CHAIRMAN

'ANDREW Eggleston, the under siege chairman of the Gold Coast Turf Club, might not be everyone's cup of tea, but the pasting he is copping at the hands of the Gold Coast Bulletin 'spin doctors' is over the top.

As we watch from afar the credibility of the Murdoch Empire crumble in Britain amid the demise of the News of the World, perhaps some-one should remind the Bulletin of the requirement to disclose a conflict of interest.

Whether the Bulletin is right or wrong - and they are probably right - that Mr Eggleston is on borrowed time as GCTC chairman, there is a responsibility on the newspaper's behalf to declare that a former boss in Bob Gordon is standing for a rival team at the up-coming committee elections of the club..

Racing writer Daniel Meers, obviously a protégé of Bob Bentley's 'spin doctor' Peter Cameron, seems to be hellbent on destroying the credibility of Andrew Eggleston whose appeal against a three month misconduct suspension over an incident involving security guards at the Turf Club is yet to be handed down.

The Bulletin wound up with egg of its face predicting the demise of Mr Eggleston at the hands of his committee when they met last Friday. Now they are saying - courtesy of a Meers article - that his tenure is in its final lap.. Come on guys how about approaching

your job with a little more integrity and professionalism.' - Andy Harding, Gold Coast.  
EDITOR'S NOTE: Here is the article referred to above written by Daniel Meers in the Gold Coast Bulletin:

ANDREW EGGLESTON'S tenure as chairman of the Gold Coast Turf Club could be on its final lap. It is understood several board members are lobbying to roll Eggleston after his 700-word tirade from

Thailand, in which he lambasted the governing body, and his ongoing misconduct saga. Eggleston has been sidelined and replaced by deputy chairman Brett Cook as club representative at several

meetings alongside senior executive Brian Fletcher and chief executive Grant Sheather. It is well known Eggleston has a sour relationship with Racing Queensland chairman Bob Bentley. Some at the club now fear it could impact on the club receiving funding for an upgrade of the Bundall venue.

Eggleston survived at a board meeting on Friday, but the troops are becoming increasingly restless.

It has been suggested the board is in "caretaker mode" after a crucial new corporate governance agreement which

was to be passed on Friday but was deferred to make more changes.

The next board election is still more than two months away.

#### GREED OF QTIS SUPPORTERS SAD INDICTMENT ON RACING IN QLD

'THE racing industry in Queensland can't have it both ways. If they want prize-money to increase across the board then something has to give in these tough times.

If that means a reduction in level of QTIS prize-money then so be it. Of course those privileged enough to live off the fat of the lamb - the bonuses of this Scheme - will be the first to bleat.

The Thoroughbred Incentive Scheme never achieved its objectives of improving the quality of the stallions and mares in this state because of sheer greed on the part of the breeders.

They created the current problem and predictably are the first to object when Racing Queensland suggests cutting back QTIS funding and redirecting that money to mid-week and provincial stakes.

RQ has produced a 'discussion paper' outlining this proposal and already the 'fat cats' in the breeding and ownership brigade are ready to mutiny. They couldn't care less about the battling owners who are struggling to make ends meet racing for inferior stakes at the mid-weeks and provincials.

For too long they have suffered while owners and breeders of second rate two-year-olds have lined up like Saturday at Eagle Farm for a QTIS race worth \$250,000 (\$160,000 to the winner). If those that fought out the finish of this are the result of an incentive scheme that has improved the quality of our stock then the breeders need to take a long look at their industry and objectives.

While this inferior stock raced for \$250,000, the restricted races on the card were run for a paltry \$45,000 and the feature Listed Queensland Cup and Ascot Handicap for \$150,000 and \$80,000 respectively.

It's time racing in Queensland got its priorities right and cut these QTIS 'fat cats' of the breeding industry back, ensuring that the rank and file enjoy the stakes that they have been deprived of for far too long.' - Alan Shepherdson, Sunshine Coast.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Unfortunately QTIS has become a dirty four-letter word in the eyes of many in Queensland racing. For more than two decades those racing QTIS horses have cashed in on a scheme designed to boost the local breeding industry and improve the quality of sires and mares which arguably has not occurred. With a black-hole in TAB returns the time has come to stop paying some of the outrageous stakes for QTIS and distribute it across the board to the rank and file who are desperately in need of a prize-money increase.

#### AT LEAST THE OWNERS' ASSN ISN'T JUMPING ABOARD THE LNP LOVE BOAT

'TOO often these days the Queensland Racehorse Owners' Association is accused of supporting the Racing Queensland Board of Bob Bentley.

At the same time the Trainers' Association could be accused of jumping political ship and trying to get an early berth aboard the LNP 'Love Boat.'

From the perspective of an owner all I can say is thank God we have the QROA. It was hardly an endorsement of RQ when QROA president Grant Morgan publicly declared during the week: "Owners are sick and tired of the hostility between Racing Queensland and some race

clubs."

Many owners in Queensland are disenchanted. They are sick of the political power-play with many high profile club officials keen to earn Brownie Points with the LNP as it looks set to win the next election.

Owners are also fed up with the poor prize-money levels being offered when for too long the breeding industry has been pandered to through the QTIS scheme. It's time the funding that is available was shared around and not just enjoyed by a privileged few.' - Name and address with-held by request.

EDITOR'S NOTE: There is a need for an end to the hostility between some race clubs and Racing Queensland but unfortunately there are political points to be scored at present as we head to an election and this is bound to continue. A general cross-section of the industry has been impressed by the pro-activeness of Grant Morgan since taking on the presidency of the QROA.

NOT THE SAME 'CONTRIBUTORS' AS THOSE THAT RACING LIKES TO CONTROL?

'I read with mixed interest an article on your site on the 8th instant by a Mr Dixon of the BRC waffling on about the redevelopment of Eagle Farm and or Doomben.

One of the many points that were raised was a reference by Mr Dixon in the third paragraph to your 'CONTRIBUTORS.'

The one reason I tune into this site is that I have great difficulty in following other web sites who on occasions seem to sell their soul for the almighty dollar.

I do not agree with your views on many occasions but I have always felt that they ARE NOT SUBJECT TO OUTSIDE INFLUENCE i.e. financial contributors and or sponsors.

Considering the support that the BRC gets from one well known turf scribe in Brisbane, I trust this comment by Mr Dixon about CONTRIBUTORS was an innocent remark and not meant in the true meaning of the word?' - Ernie Morris, Redcliffe.

EDITOR'S NOTE: I think you are misinterpreting the meaning of the BRC response from Kevin Dixon and his Board. This web site will never be the subject of outside influence. We are here to protect the interests of the battling punters whether that offends those in official positions or not. We also try to let them have their say in an objective way through the Wednesday Whinge which continues to prove our most popular features and attracts thousands of individual hits every week.

'SELECTIVE APPROACH' FROM CRITICS WHEN IT COMES TO POSITIVE SWABS

'IT seems that the critics from racing in Toowoomba take a selective approach when it comes to positive swabs.

When Mark Webb hit a swabbing hurdle all hell broke loose over his treatment by Racing Queensland because he was the trainer for former Toowoomba Turf Club chairman Neville Stewart.

Not a murmur has been heard from those same critics in recent times when Tycoon Terror from the Michael Nolan stable returned a positive swab after his win at Clifford Park in May.

Incidentally, Tycoon Terror is raced by current TTC chairman Bob Frappell and his good mate, former RQ Board member, Bill Andrews.

It seems the critics of Mark Webb don't want to know about this positive. I will be very interested to see what coverage it gets on racing radio on the Downs from the chairman's mates who now enjoy the privilege of an earn on the side for doing the race-book form-guide.' - As I am a member of the TTC and don't want to be involved in a fracas when I go to the races you will understand why I do not wish to have my identity revealed.

EDITOR'S NOTE: It's extremely sad that a good bloke and top trainer in Michael Nolan and a fine racing family in Toowoomba has been dragged into this crap fight. Regardless, here is the Stewards' Report posted on Tuesday concerning the positive swab referred to in the above e-mail:

Stewards today conducted an Inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the analyst's finding's of a post race urine sample taken from TYCOON TERROR, following it competing in Race 4 at the Toowoomba Turf Club meeting on Saturday 7th May 2011. The sample was found upon analysis to contain the presence of TESTOSTERONE in excess of the allowable threshold as prescribed by the Australian Rules of Racing.

Trainer of TYCOON TERROR Mr. Michael Nolan today provided evidence to the inquiry informing Stewards that the gelding had been treated several days prior to racing but he had only administered this treatment under advice that the withholding period for such treatment was sufficient. Mr Nolan also presented a record of treatments administered for



that period, however no such entry was recorded for treatment to this horse on the day Mr Nolan had advised.

Trainer M Nolan subsequently pleaded guilty to a charge under AR.178 for presenting TYCOON TERROR to race at the Toowoomba Turf Club when a urine sample taken from the gelding, upon analysis, was found to contain the prohibited substance TESTOSTERONE in excess of the allowable threshold.

When assessing penalty Stewards took into account Mr Nolan's evidence in relation to the findings of the analysis, the manner in which he conducted himself, his guilty plea and previous good record.

Trainer M Nolan was fined the sum of \$4000.

Acting under the provisions of Rule AR.177. 'TYCOON TERROR' was disqualified from its 1st placing in Race 4 on 7th May, 2011, and the placings were amended accordingly. 1st - Show Flight 2nd - Prepared 3rd - Pukekura Boy 4th - Philocracy.

Cheers Shaun

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