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**ASIAN RACING FEDERATION/INTERNATIONAL
FEDERATION OF HORSERACING AUTHORITIES
REPORTS**

Speaker:

David Hawk, General Manager, Planner & Infrastructure; Racing Victoria, Ltd

MR. DOUG REED: Appreciate you being here on time, I apologize. We'll get started. We've had a bit of an adjustment unfortunately. Our plan was to have a report on the Asian Racing Federation Conference as well as the International Federation of Horse Racing Authorities meeting that they had in October.

These are two international meetings much like ours, slightly different; and the idea was to report on those two venues to our attendees. I think these are the three major meetings perhaps throughout the world as far as the pari-mutuel industry. And they are. I've been to the Asian conference several times, I've not been to the one in Europe. And I think there are some great conferences.

Maurice, who was going to report from Europe on the International Federation did get very ill, and he was unable to make it. And so therefore at such late notice we couldn't get someone to do that report, so I apologize. And Andrew Harding, as you can see from his picture in here, David doesn't quite look like Andrew.

And David got called in at the last minute, otherwise — and you can tell it's the last minute because this was after the program was printed. Andrew had conflicts at home and had to stay there with some business at home. But I guess our speaker today should get the Award of Merit for extended work here at this conference.

I can't think, in my 11 or 12 years here, of any other speaker that had to do the duties that he's doing for us, so he's been a great pinch hitter. He had to do three sessions in a row.

I invited David here this summer, as early as this summer, to participate in the track surfaces panel, which will be later this afternoon. I saw some presentations from Racing Victoria at the Asian Racing Conference.

They had some great material to present and I thought it would be great for our audience to see what's going on in other parts of the world regarding that matter. As we're all familiar with some of the other local vendors, if you will.

So it's at the very last moment we had Andrew cancel and he got stuck on two other panels. David is the GM of planning and infrastructure for Racing Victoria. He's responsible for the infrastructure at 56 tracks in that state, so he's got quite a broad breadth of responsibility and knowledge, and he oversees the R and D on track surfaces.

But he's here today to give you a report on the Asian Racing Federation conference. So please welcome David.

(Applause)

MR. DAVID HAWKE: Thanks, Doug, for that introduction, and apologies; and unfortunately, as Doug pointed out, Andrew couldn't be here. I'll give Andrew's address and I'll try and answer any questions you might have as best I can. So I'll deliver Andrew's address and then we'll go to questions.

Ladies and Gentlemen: It is with the greatest pleasure that I address you on the proceedings and outcomes of the 30th Asian Racing Conference held in Seoul in May of this year.

While some of you have attended and enjoyed one or more of the Asian Federation's conferences, I might explain that the Asian Racing Federation, or ARF, is a grouping of 19 racing nations representing all of the major centers of racing within the Asian region.

Formed in 1960 with the wise and generous sponsorship of the Japan Racing Association, the ARF has developed as a conduit for the exchange of ideas, a vehicle for close cooperation between ourselves and a voice to promote our collective interests.

It is important to understand that while our membership is drawn from the Asian region, ideas are sought from everywhere. Indeed, we have counted ourselves very fortunate that the Director of the Arizona Race Track Program, Doug Reed, has been a contributor to several of our conferences, and his assistance has been instrumental in shaping our thinking on some of the major training issues.

For our part, we are continually working to ensure that the Asian Region plays its full part in developing racing as a global sport. Indeed, the theme for the 30th ARC was exactly this: "Asia's United Vision for World Racing."

"Consistency of Approach by Stewards." A practical demonstration of this was provided in the third business session, where the Internationally-recognized elder statesman of racing stewards, John Schreck, led a panel composed of senior

stewards from Hong Kong, Japan, India, South Africa, Australia, the United Kingdom and Korea.

With the benefit of patrol footage of commonly occurring racing incidents, such as careless riding and interference, John Scheck's interrogation of this panel illustrated a substantial range of disciplinary approaches to common problems, in many cases involving similar rules of racing.

The potential problems this may cause for us as a global sport, including problems with the reciprocal recognition of penalties, is something that has previously been identified by the International Federation at its Paris conference, and the IFHA has done a lot of good work towards addressing this through the international agreement.

We have now reached the point where the policemen on the beat, the stewards themselves, must be brought together to forge some greater consistency in their application of the rules. To make progress towards this, it is proposed that a two-day meeting of stewards be scheduled to coincide with the 31st ARC.

"Wagering." Wagering issues were the subject of their own business session in Korea, a discussion which saw a strong call being made for betting taxation reform and more effective legal protection to assist horse racing encountering the threats from illegal and unauthorized operators.

This is seen by the ARF as essential to its capacity to function as a vibrant sport, to generate tax income, and provide community support. The chairman of the session, Bob Charley, described the free-riding by unlicensed betting operators as "the scourge of our age." And a number of speakers identified betting exchanges as the most egregious of these threats.

The ARF Chairman, Mr. Larry Wong, summed this up by saying that, "Betting exchanges are a threat to horseracing's viability and integrity, which must be resisted. I see nothing in the business model that assists racing. On the one hand they pay nothing, and on the other they threaten integrity. Exchanges are a Trojan horse set to destroy racing as we know it."

Again, however, as well as identifying the problems by racing in the wagering arena, solutions were also explored. Hong Kong explained the case it is making for the reform of the taxation and regulation of its betting activities to enable it to become more competitive. Further headway has been made with the Hong Kong government even since the conference.

In other ARF countries racing bodies continue to lobby their governments to implement the Good Neighbor Policy, now Article 28 of the International Agreement, and in Australia legislation has been introduced that makes it a criminal offence to publish race fields on the Internet without the consent of the relevant racing authority.

"Welfare of Jockeys." The safety and welfare of the workers within racing received particular attention in Korea, with a special workshop on rider safety chaired by Denis Egan, as well as a paper in the third business session presented by Denis on the studies undertaken in his country into the physiology of jockeys, the effects of diet and dehydration, and implications for minimum riding weights.

Issues raised in the course of these discussions will be progressed in individual member countries; for example, in Australia a specialist National Rider Safety Panel has been commissioned and is operating. Sensibly, the results of these individual efforts both within the ARF and in other regions must be channeled through Christopher Foster's Technical Advisory Committee so that any improvements can be implemented for the benefit of the industry's participants world-wide.

"International Racing." Of particular importance to the theme of the Conference was the first operational session, chaired by Winfried Englebrecht-Bresges, and entitled "Racing as a Global Competition." The ARF was honored to receive the participation of M. Romanet, who was able to bring together for the benefit of the audience the threads of the changes made to the IFHA's committees operating in the area of race planning and grading.

This session received the exciting news of the substantial internationalization of Japanese racing. As the founder of the Federation, and as the elder brother that has always been so generous to other nations within its region, the conference united in supporting Japan in this, and the desirability of the strength of Japanese racing being appropriately recognized within the International Catalogue.

The conference was also pleased to support the establishment of the Asian Mile Challenge, which presently has links to Hong Kong and Japan, but will be extending to Dubai and Australia at least. This is seen as a tangible contribution by Asia to the promotion of global racing.

"Revitalizing the Racing Product." Of particular interest to many of those who attended the Korea conference were the papers presented in the second business session, which dealt with "Revitalizing the Racing Product in the 21st Century," and was chaired by Lawrence Wong.

Addresses by chief delegates from Singapore, India and Turkey identified the commercial underpinning of the modern-day success of racing in those countries. This was complemented by some fascinating insights into the strategies of some of racing's key competitors, with papers given by operators in both the casino and tourism fields.

"Bloodstock Code of Practice." The final operational session of the conference dealt with the topical subject of the protection of racehorse owners as consumers through bloodstock sales codes of conduct. A panel discussion canvassed the significant progress that is being made in this area in the UK and the USA.

Asia is now working to emulate these achievements. That racing depends so fundamentally on the support of owners makes this imperative.

Finally, no reference to the 30th ARC could be complete without some mention of the role played by the host of the conference, the Korea Racing Association.

Korea is fast emerging as one of the most vibrant centers of racing not just with Asia but on the world stage. This was more than amply reflected in the conduct of the 30th ARC, with the attendance of a record-breaking 900 delegates drawn from 29 countries across the globe. This was a major event that was managed with extreme professionalism.

I hope these remarks have given you a flavor at least of our discussions in Korea. If your appetites have been whetted, then more detail can be obtained by visiting our website at www.asianracing.org.

I thank you for your attention, and look forward to perhaps welcoming some of you at the next ARC in Dubai.

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