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July 2, 2008

Rod Seiling, Chair  
Ontario Racing Commission  
10 Carlson Court, suite 400,  
Toronto, Ontario M9W 6L2

Dear Rod,

We have spoken a number of times this year about the use of the whip during races and the increasing expressions of disapproval from some of the trackside observers. Striking an animal with forceful intent is not a concept that is easily justified. As you are aware I wrote a letter earlier this summer to Jim Whelan of OHHA asking that some thought be given to creating standards that provided protection for the horse while giving clear direction to drivers as to what is allowed. This in turn would give the officiating judges an absolute set of standards thereby eliminating the need for interpretation as much as possible. You suggested that this could be addressed as part of the rule changes that would be considered this fall by the industry and the ORC.

As a starting point in that discussion I will outline the proposal that I sent to Mr. Whelan.

Limitations to the use of the whip:

- 1) during a race the driver shall hold one line in each hand at all times until the finish line is reached and the event is complete.
- 2) During a race the driver shall maintain a steady hold on each line at all times to insure adequate control of the horse in order to maintain its course, or to make changes in direction safely.
- 3) There shall be no exaggerated movement by the driver to apply the whip either from the side or over the back of the horse.
- 4) Any contact of the whip with the horse must be above the shafts of the sulky
- 5) A driver may launch an objection against another driver in the same race regarding violations of these limitations.

## Penalty

Fines for an infraction of these limitations should be a minimum of \$100 and to a maximum of the drivers fee for the race in question.

The penalty for an exaggerated whipping action or the act of taking both lines in one hand to strike the horse with the whip held in the free hand, shall be placement of the horse to last.

This initiative started as a result of the similar negative feedback received from fans at our track and those at Clinton Raceway. At Grand River Raceway we are committed to attracting new fans to this sport to rebuild the same sort of customer base that was built during the 1970s. We believe that new customers can only be created as a result of visits to racetracks. We have deliberately drawn our customers attention trackside by creating The Tarmac Show. With the close proximity of the racing surface, all of the action comes under close scrutiny that has positive and negative outcomes. We seek to emphasize the positives and control the negatives as best possible.

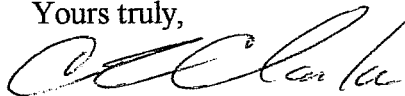
In addition to our direct relationship with our customers, our responsibility to demonstrate respect for the horses we depend upon elevates this discussion to a level of added significance.

Ian Fleming and I have been discussing this issue for approximately 2 years. We initiated a discussion with John Campbell in regard to the standards that would achieve our goal while still allowing the driver to have some ability to communicate to the horse safely and without harm. Although the penalty may seem extreme we feel that the sanction of placement will eliminate the temptation to make excessive movements to strike the horse. If the clarity of the description of the limitations needs to be improved to allow the judges to act then perhaps that can be addressed during the period for input from the industry.

If you have questions regarding this or if this method of raising the issue is inappropriate please advise.

Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Yours truly,



Dr. C. E. Clarke