The Inter Dominion has come and gone and from an integrity perspective it was an important time in Victoria harness racing to ensure we played our role in guaranteeing a level playing field for all participants involved in this major event.

Our functions during those three weeks involved an increased focus on stable inspections, especially for horses entered in the heats and finals, out of competition testing was conducted on all horses engaged in the finals and security guards were installed at the registered training addresses for horses that competed in the Inter Dominion finals.

Acting on intelligence, we also deployed the unmanned aerial vehicle (drone) during the Inter Dominion series on three licensed trainers and I am pleased to report no breaches of any Australian Harness Racing Rules were detected. We will continue to use technology and various surveillance options to ensure that horses are not being treated on race day.

The race day stewards performed their roles admirably, ensuring drivers and trainers complied with the rules. There was a significant focus on swabbing throughout the three weeks with a variety of samples conducted including blood, urine, hair and saliva.

In other news, Anthony Pearce has resigned as HRV Manager Investigations and Compliance to take up a position as a Senior Steward at GRV, which encompasses Shepparton and Bendigo.

This new role is much closer to home for Anthony and will greatly reduce travel time to and from work, which was a large factor when considering this change.

Anthony has been a great mentor and role model for so many of the staff in the Integrity Department and, personally, it was great when I commenced at HRV to have Anthony as part of the team. His knowledge and understanding of harness racing is immense and he always demonstrated a willingness to work with the industry in order to achieve good outcomes. He was a great asset to HRV and I wish him all the best with all his future career endeavours.

Finally, starter Doug Gretrix retired on January 31 and I just wanted to say thanks to Doug for his wonderful contribution to harness racing and to wish him all the best in the future.

Brent Fisher
HRV General Manager - Integrity

Trainers and owners are reminded of their obligations under Australian Harness Racing Rule 96A(3) to ensure Harness Racing Victoria is notified if a horse is retired by lodging 'Form R25A/ Notification of Deregistration or Death of a Standardbred' with the Registration Department.

AHRR 96A(3) reads:

Where a registered horse has been retired from racing or a decision has been made to not race the horse, the owner or trainer of the horse at the time of its retirement must, with one month of the horse's retirement, notify the Registrar by lodging the relevant form prescribed by the Registrar.

Trainers and owners are advised that effective 1 March 2019 any horse which is identified as having been retired from racing, and notification has not occurred as required above, penalties may be imposed with a minimum penalty of $500 applicable.

Harness racing participants are also to be reminded of the provisions of the Australian Harness Racing Rule 194 which provides:

A person who procures or attempts to procure or who has in his possession or on his premises or under his control any substance or preparation that is not registered or labelled in accordance with either State or Commonwealth legislation is guilty of an offence.

Participants are encouraged to exercise extreme caution with respect to the possession and use of supplementary products upon their horses. No product should be purchased or used without seeking appropriate veterinary guidance to ensure that the product is necessary, registered, labelled and dispensed in compliance with the relevant law. Participants are warned against purchasing or using any product that does not have a label listing all active constituents. Participants are also warned about purchasing or using any product from sources of unknown repute.

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority is the Australian government authority responsible for the assessment and registration of pesticides and veterinary medicines. The authority has a publicly available database, which can be used to check whether products that claim to be veterinary products are registered. It can be found via: https://portal.apvma.gov.au/pubcris.

In addition to checking with veterinarians, participants may also contact the authority directly or the HRV Integrity Department regarding any queries they have regarding a particular product or substance.

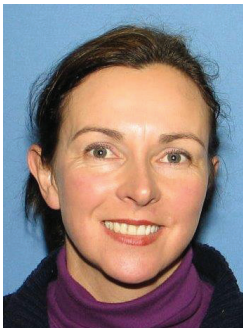
Brett Day
Acting HRV Chairman of Stewards

Integrity Matters

Contact **Integrity Matters** any time via email: **integritymatters@hrv.org.au** or phone: **03 9214 0651**

This week 'Integrity Matters'focuses on women in harness racing and the differing roles they have in the Victorian industry. They discuss how they became involved in sport and how they have seen integrity evolve over the years. I thank Elizabeth Clarke (HRV Deputy Chair), Anne-Maree Conroy (trainer/driver), Marianne Barca (stablehand) and Kylie Harrison (Senior Steward) for their contributions.

Brent Fisher, HRV General Manager — Integrity



Trainer/driver Anne-Maree Conroy

Tell us about your background and how you got involved in harness racing?

My dad was a professional trainer/driver and both my brothers drove, but I wasn't really interested when I was younger. I was horse mad, but preferred riding. I did pony club, shows, gymkhanas, endurance riding and jumping. I was really keen to go to agricultural college and do a horse management course but I worked for Dad after leaving school to earn enough money to pay for that. During my course at Marcus Oldham College I started to get my trainer's and driver's licenses and after the course I got a job in New Zealand with National Bloodstock. While I was over there and away from being in the cart I started to miss it and decided I wanted to be a trainer/driver, so I came home and started driving when I was 22.

Tell us about your current role in harness racing?

Before my Dad passed away I worked for him and Mum alongside my two brothers and drove for him and my husband, Mick Barby, who trains from our property. After Dad passed we had his horses transferred into my name and we are trying to carry on the business as Dad did (pretty big shoes to fill). I have been a trainer, driver, stablehand, monte rider, breeder and owner. I am secretary of the Daylesford trotting track reserve, committee person of the Victorian Square Trotters Association and their representative on the Harness Racing Advisory Council.

How have you seen integrity evolve since you commenced harness racing?

Not as much as I would like, however it is good to see the current administration — from the board members down — are very visible and are getting out and about meeting the trainers and drivers and taking an interest in the industry. There is more pre and post-race testing and out-of-competition testing, but unfortunately it's hard to keep up with the evolution of drugs.

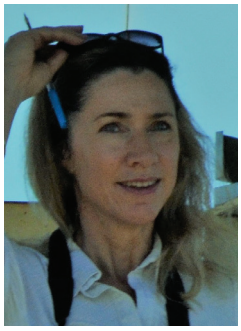
What does integrity mean to you?

Integrity means doing the right thing by yourself and others and not trying to cheat the system. We all have our own ideas on what is right or wrong but something that particularly irks me is people using drugs and illegal treatments on their horses. People say they love their horses but if you were to give drugs to a person or force a tube down their throat you'd go to jail. Some of the horses that bleed, suffer broken bones and twisted bowels could have been prevented if they weren't given things that they shouldn't have. It's not just the trainers who are responsible, those that turn a blind eye so long as they get a winning result are guilty too. Australians pride themselves on being good sports but when someone gives a horse something that they know is performance enhancing and is likely to make a horse go many lengths better they are stealing from the other competitors as surely as if they were taking the dollars out of your pocket. Something my Dad taught me was not to associate with crooks and I wish others would show their hand by doing the same and squeeze them out of the game. I think the stewards and integrity need to take a zero tolerance stance and show that race fixing, doping et cetera is unacceptable and people will respect them for that. Many people have left the industry because they feel they can't compete. Anyone can make a mistake but when you set out to deliberately cheat the other competitors that is a different thing. I think it would help too if integrity could be a little more public as there are a lot of stories that go around. Wouldn't it be great to see a level playing field, after all we are in this sport together and we need to work together to make it great.

Have you always found harness racing to be an inclusive environment?

Yes, one of the great things about it is that it is open to all people to compete, regardless of age, size, weight, race or sex, harness racing people embrace all types.

Continued PAGES 30-31



Senior Steward Kylie Harrison

How did you get involved in harness racing?

From a very early age I rode and competed in horse shows, dressage and eventing and spent almost all of my free time refining my skills and enjoying horses. My parents and grandparents had bred, trained and raced mainly standardbreds. My father also owned, pre-trained and raced a few thoroughbreds during my childhood, and had a bookmaking stint around country thoroughbred tracks where I would study horses form and conformation. I was about 14 years old when my grandmother suggested I get my licence to drive. A small number of women had started to make inroads into the male dominated sport and I watched and cheered on these women and were inspired by the likes of Karen Dunsford, Anne Frawley and Debbie Turner. I gained my drivers' licence to drive in 1984 aged 16.

Tell us about your current role?

I've been a steward for more than 20 years. My current role involves upholding the integrity of the industry as a panel member and Chairman at race meetings throughout Victoria. I participate in and run inquiries and investigations at race meetings, drug testing of participants and horses, stable inspections and I manage the Clerks of the Course. My role also involves preparation and presentation of cases at appeal.

Did you encounter any difficulties entering harness racing?

I remember the magnified scrutiny and criticism on the drive of any reinswoman from others within the industry. Although women continued to perform well, the opportunities went mostly to the men. I became disillusioned at the limited opportunities available outside of our family stable. The sport's administration was also male dominated and my interest in its integrity and the stewards department developed. With General Manager Richard King encouragement I applied for, was offered and accepted a Cadet Steward position in 1998. I didn't think it would be easy being the first woman to work on the stewards panel and I was right. There was a lot to learn.

How have you seen integrity evolve?

In 35 years I've seen many changes particularly over the past four or five years. Supportive technologies and resources that ensure stewards can investigate, test and follow up information has been hugely beneficial for the integrity of the industry. A larger non race-day panel, horse welfare officer and veterinary department have helped compliment and support stewards working throughout the state. The continued updating and refining of laboratory drug testing and the panels close association with Vicpol has continued to strengthen the ability of the stewards to work more effectively.

What does Integrity mean to you?

Integrity means fairness, honesty and equality. It means participants are able to participate with confidence that they are competing on a level playing field and that all members are treated fairly and heard. Integrity is also the catalyst to ensure the industry's future growth.

Have you always found harness racing to be an inclusive environment?

Over time, and with the persistence of some very determined women, their has been a shift towards inclusion. Kerryn Manning's great success as a driver shifted opinions about women's abilities. Many other women started to get the opportunities they rightfully deserved and a wave of successful reinswomen and trainers ensued. I'm extremely proud of our industry that this respect and notoriety has been achieved.

HRV Deputy Chair Elizabeth Clarke

How did you get involved in harness racing?

I was 17 and secretary of the Terang Trotting Club, as it was known then, asked if I could attend race meetings, take shorthand for stewards after each race and type their reports. I was also asked to do the pay clerks job for race meetings. I really relished the challenge. It was intense, but the stewards were very supportive of me.

Tell us about your current role?

I have been a Harness Racing Victoria board member since September 2011. In 2017 I was appointed Deputy Chair. I am also Chair of the Harness Racing Advisory Council, a member of the Show Cause Sub Committee and an observer on the Integrity Council. I was a full member of the Integrity Council from 2011 to 2018 but, as HRV Deputy Chair, I was required to step down to an observer's role.

Did you encounter any difficulties entering harness racing?

When I commenced in club administration in harness racing (1995) there was only one other female in a senior role in management of clubs in Victoria. On occasions when we attended industry meetings it was not always comfortable presenting an opinion, but as time passed that has changed. Very few women were involved in any type of administration, owned a horse, were licensed to drive in races and/or were licenced trainers. We had one female steward, Kylie Harrison, whose appointment was ground breaking.

How have I seen integrity evolve since you started in harness racing?

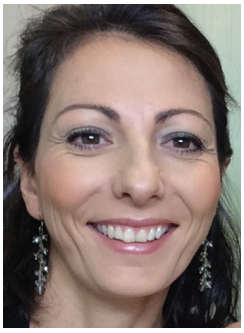
When I started there were very few swabs taken. People participated in the industry without being licensed, brands were rarely checked, the stewards had minimal resources and everything was completed manually, leaving possibility for genuine human error. Insignificant data was recorded. Animal welfare was not a point of discussion among any governing body. Tracking processes had not been developed and, in fact, integrity was not a specific focus … not at all. Now investigations are conducted with superior technological mechanisms, covert intelligence gathering and highly-skilled investigative procedures and personnel.

What does integrity mean to me?

Integrity has long been a robust focus of mine. I believe integrity is the number one priority — if the honesty of any organisation, including all participants, is not as sound as it possibly can be then there is little hope of it being effective. When integrity is a recognised precedence, engaging and working with fit and proper individuals in order to enhance and grow that business will produce positive results. Lack of integrity very quickly turns people away and the business suffers, often irreparably. I give my total and unconditional support to the integrity department, personnel and management. It is often a very challenging role. I am grateful to the integrity team for their efforts and their vigilance, which result in substantial outcomes for the betterment of the industry and its participants.

Have you always found harness racing to be an inclusive environment?

I have not experienced exclusion, however, on many occasions when I have been appointed to a particular role within the industry it has been said to me: 'You are the first female to be appointed to this role'. In 2018 there are still many 'first appointments of females' to roles in the industry. I deem it an honour to be selected for any role based on my integrity, my merits and skills.



Stablehand Marianne Barca

How did you get involved in harness racing?

I became involved in harness racing at a very early age. My father trained and drove horses as a hobby trainer and by the age of eight I was driving track work and assisted in the care of the horses.

Tell us about your current role in harness racing?

I own and part-own a number of horses. I have held a driver's licence, but due to work commitments I have scaled back on my direct role with the horses and focused time on setting up a professional training complex. I would like to become more involved in the industry on a consultative or board level, because I believe that many participants in the industry are not represented.

Did you encounter any difficulties entering harness racing?

I left the industry initially to go to university and work interstate in remote areas of Australia. When I came back to Victoria, I decided to drive our own horses. There were a few people who were not receptive to my being a part of the industry and were very vocal about this, but there were also many people who I respected in the industry who gave constant support and encouragement.

How have you seen integrity evolve since you commenced harness racing?

Integrity has evolved a great deal in the last few years. It is great to see issues in the industry being dealt with, when in the past it was overlooked as "just being a part of our industry". People are now questioning inequities and wanting a fairer racing industry with both animal welfare and racing ethics.

What does Integrity mean to you?

The crux of integrity is ethics, which means a number of things to me. This includes everyone being treated the same; same rules, same reprimands for all participants, whether a professional who should be setting a high standard or a hobbyist. It also means clean racing, where every horse and driver has a chance to excel and enjoy a great sport. It is imperative to employ people that are strong and have the courage to be fair to all stakeholders. People who can challenge and encourage behaviours that we want modelled in our industry. Integrity is our moral compass and the future direction of fair racing.

Have you always found harness racing to be an inclusive environment?

There are still some areas of improvement in the industry that can be changed and improved upon and involve people speaking up about inequities but also feeling safe to do so. It is important that that we all work together and the voices of people are heard and they see action in relation to their concerns. It is crucial all persons in the industry get treated the same, but even more so in integrity, as a consistent approach and similar outcomes — whether that be to the rules of racing, for 'serious offences' at the HRV RAD Board or any other integrity function — ensures whatever you are a hobbyist or professional, you are part of an inclusive environment and the same outcomes can be expected on all occasions.

HRV HORSE HEALTH & WELFARE

The food process

The sheer size and volume of the horse's gastrointestinal tract is amazing, with more than 30 metres of twists and turns.

It is therefore vital to understand how it works and how important regular feeding is to keep it running like a well-oiled machine.

At first glance the equine digestive system looks like a mistake. The stomach, for example, is surprisingly small (7.5 t 15 litre) for a 500 kg animal.

In contrast the small intestine reaches an amazing 22 metres in length, but Mother Nature is smart. The horse was never expected to eat large quantities of food in one sitting, it is designed for a wandering lifestyle and eating small food constantly.

The horse grinds its food down with powerful molar teeth mixed with saliva, which immediately launches the digestive process. The stomach does not break down food so it's the teeth's job to do this. Dentistry maintenance is incredibly important therefore to kick off the whole process. From there it's over the soft palate, down the flexible oesophagus to the stomach, where massive muscular contractions move it in only one direction. What goes down has to stay down. Horses have no capacity for vomiting. The food stays here only for 15 minutes before heading to the small intestine. There's no time for major food breakdown, only for it to be liquefied.

Although it's only a short time, the foods presence has a direct bearing on your horse's health. The stomach lining is extremely sensitive to stomach acid and will easily ulcer if left empty. Food being present in the stomach absorbs this acid. Horses that are fed infrequently, one or two meals a day, rather than several small ones, are at risk of stomach ulcers.

The next stop on the tour is the small intestine, the first section has a u-shape, presumably to stop it returning to the stomach should it become distended.

It can hold 30 per cent of the GI tract capacity. It digests proteins, starches/sugars, amino acids and fats, which then are absorbed into the blood and off to the liver (the major chemical processing lab). On average it takes 60 to 90 minutes to pass through to the next stage — the large intestine.

This is where the bulk of the hard work is done. Digestion is via microbes (billions of bacteria) rather than enzymes. They break down plant fibres to volatile fatty acids. Any change in feed/stress can upset and kill off the bacteria and may lead to colic and other gastrointestinal problems.

The large intestine includes the caecum (1.3m approx.), large colon, small colon and rectum.

The caecum is the fermentation vat and the first stage of digestion. It breaks down the plant fibres in four to five hours. From here food moves to the large colon (4m in length it can hold up to 60 litres in food), where the food dwells the longest (36 to 48 hours).

Once processed the food moves into the small colon (also about 4m) and the process is nearly complete.

Most of the food by now is absorbed, so the main function is to reclaim any excess moisture until eventually it's dried out enough into faecal balls and eliminated. The perfect manure should gently just break apart as it hits the ground. Neither too hard (dehydrated) or too soft (diarrhoea).

The take home message is to feed your horses small meals and often, or have access to ad lib hay or pasture. Have good access to water and keep their teeth in top shape to start the digestion process well from the very beginning.