



# THE BLACK HORSE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 3 – NOVEMBER 2021 - William Jones

Shining a fierce light on the GREED, CORRUPTION, EXPLOITATION and INJUSTICE in horse racing and bloodstock around the world.



Happy Valley Racetrack, Hong Kong

# RACING EXPOSED

## AIDAN O'BRIEN DENIES HE IS THE LANCE ARMSTRONG IN IRISH RACING

In an extraordinary address to the nation, O'Brien scolded the Irish people for spending too much time speaking out of the side of their mouths in pubs while he and his sons, Joseph and Donnacha, always tell the truth.

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# SPEAKING OUT OF THE SIDE OF YOUR MOUTH



Joseph O'Brien in the Royal colours at Gowran Park

O'Brien invoked comparisons with an infamous lecture to the country from Taoiseach (Prime Minister) Charlie Haughey, who warned the Irish people over 40 years ago they were living way beyond their means and had to change while he enjoyed a lavish lifestyle living in a mansion on a 250 acre stud farm paid for by big business, including Coolmore Stud.

After his retirement from politics, **"The Great Houdini"** was one of the nicer epithets given him as revelations of corruption, embezzlement, tax evasion and gun running for the IRA emerged.

O'Brien warned the Irish people they have to change their ways as they are damaging the reputations of racing and himself with idle talk. Praising the old days when rigid censorship controlled what the peasants could say, he told the *Racing Post*:

**"In the past, if someone wanted to put information out there that wasn't true, they'd have to go through the media or someone in a position of responsibility, and they'd then use their professionalism or education or discretion to make a judgement call.**

**People shouldn't be talking out the side of their mouths. My thing would always be that nothing is ever hidden, but you can't be listening to pub talk.**

**I'm all for things to be written and discussed, but don't try to expose stuff that's not there. Speak the truth, and don't be afraid to speak the truth, but people in Irish racing have worked too hard for 50 years to build its reputation as a racing jurisdiction that isn't reliant on drugs.**

**As I say, people talking out of the side of their mouths, and the way they are entertained then by those who don't have the facts, that all has to stop."**

O'Brien has spoken but no one is listening - the facts clearly show that doping is endemic in Irish racing. **"Again, I can only speak for us here, and for Joseph and Donnacha, and there is no such extreme they would go to."** Presumably, Joseph's violation for the banned performance enhancing substance cobalt doesn't count.

The truth is few believe what O'Brien and Coolmore Stud say anymore; they've heard enough propaganda to last two lifetimes. He didn't want to talk about Jim Bolger, the legendary trainer who blew the whistle loud and clear with his allegation there is a Lance Armstrong in Irish racing. O'Brien told Richard Forristal, Ireland editor of the *Racing Post*: **"Drug talk must stop - you can't tear the sport apart with no facts."**

A quick search of the Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board's database shows the use of perfor-

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mance enhancing drugs is actually out of control, so Forristal avoided asking Ireland's Champion Trainer for over two decades any hard questions thus ensuring the customary Coolmore Christmas gift of a dozen bottles of rather good Champagne will soon be on its way. Here are a few questions O'Brien should be asked, but he refuses to speak to me.

**1. There have been many rumours circulating for months about you, Joseph and Donnacha, including that your horses tested positive for prohibited drugs but Denis Egan, IHRB chief executive, prevented an investigation taking place. A legal source also told me an injunction was granted in the High Court preventing the media reporting a doping story you were involved in, but that has since disappeared into the ether. Why did you wait until two days after Egan stepped down as chief executive of the IHRB before raising issues about drugs you suddenly see as important? There is no smoke without fire; couldn't you have done more to protect the reputation of Irish racing before?**

**2. Mendelssohn, who you trained, won the UAE Derby by a scarcely believable 18 lengths in 2018 and never won another race. Considering Dubai's contempt for international law and human rights, isn't it also reasonable to have doubts about its record on anti-doping in their biggest races? Do you think Mendelssohn could have been doped?**

**3. How do you explain the remarkable transformation of Snowfall, who only won a maiden in seven runs as a two year old in 2020, into a Classic winner who won the Epsom Oaks by a scarcely believable 16 lengths the following year? Besides her maiden win at the Curragh at the end of June 2020, she was beaten a total of 51 lengths on the six other occasions she ran that year. After a break of 215 days, she came back a different horse, winning her first start as a three year old, a Group 3 at York, before annihilating the opposition in the Epsom Oaks on 4 June 2021. Was her initial transformation and then steep decline in form later in the year indicative of the use of performance enhancing drugs?**

**4. Order Of Australia was last of nine runners in a Group 3 at the Curragh on 11 October 2020, beaten 47 lengths. Three weeks later he won the Breeders' Cup Mile at Keeneland as an outsider at odds of 80-1, the only time he's won at Group 1 level, when injected four hours before the race with Lasix, an anti-bleeding medication that is also a diuretic which can mask the use of performance enhancing drugs like EPO. He returned to America to run at the same track on 9 October 2021, coming last of nine runners as favourite. This time he wasn't injected with Lasix, which is now mostly prohibited in US racing. The horse was administered this drug in 2020 for the only time and for no legitimate medical reason, as he is not a "bleeder"; it was administered to artificially improve his performance, which is what happened according to all available form figures. Do you consider Order Of Australia to be an imposter, a Group 1 winner only in name and a potential stallion who could damage the breed because of doping? While the injection you gave the horse in 2020 was permitted, it was also voluntary. Shouldn't you set a much better example regarding performance enhancing drugs or is winning at all costs your only motive?**

**5. Joseph reached 100 domestic winners in a season in Ireland on 9 October 2021. Apart from you reaching this milestone, no other trainer has achieved this since Jim Bolger and Dermot Weld in 1994. Joseph also has 50 winners already posted in the new jump racing season. I have received solid intelligence that alleges Joseph is using performance enhancing drugs. In 2020 IHRB vets made an unannounced visit to his training yard to test four horses for prohibited drugs, but they were unable to complete their task because the horses weren't there, they had been moved to a satellite yard owned by someone else and the IHRB at that time only had jurisdiction to test horses on a trainer's premises. This was**

supposed to be an unannounced surprise visit but Joseph had been tipped off, almost certainly by one of three IHRB senior managers, including Denis Egan. You revealed in the Racing Post your horses were tested by the IHRB and the Department of Agriculture a few weeks ago, after Egan had left the regulator. Was this an unannounced inspection or by appointment and will you supply a complete list of all the horses tested? Do you think, in the interests of transparency and integrity, your horses should have been tested at the start of the season as well as at the end now 12 months after Jim Bolger first said doping is the number one problem in Irish racing and the playing field isn't level? What is your response to the common accusation that you and your sons are protected by the IHRB?

FOOTNOTE:

*Issue 2 of The Black Horse Newsletter told of how a UK trainer commissioned a leading toxicologist to carry out hair tests on six horses he acquired from Ireland to find out if they had been administered with performance enhancing drugs. It was revealed that three horses with the strongest indications of steroid use had formerly been trained by Willie Mullins, Liz Doyle and John Halley.*

*Analysis of the hair samples from the other three horses suggested the presence of a number of keto steroids. Issue 3 of The Black Horse Newsletter now reveals the identity of who previously trained those horses. They are Joseph O'Brien, Denis Hogan and David Harry Kelly.*



# THE CLOWNS IN CHARGE OF BRITISH HORSE RACING

Never forget this rule.

**JUST BECAUSE THE PERSON WHO IS TELLING YOU WHAT'S BEST IS A QUEEN'S COUNSEL, SENIOR COUNSEL OR EVEN A JUDGE, NEVER ASSUME THEY MUST KNOW WHAT THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT.**

In fact, the default position to adopt in these circumstances is to believe they are actually clowns. I know this from first hand experience of the legal world, albeit in Ireland. The question to ask then is are they big clowns or little clowns or somewhere in between? But be sure they are clowns of some description.

Just look at what Christopher Quinlan QC and His Honour Brian Barton CBE QC have done to the British Horse Racing Authority's anti-doping policy. They are the architects of the early guilty plea and fast-track system for dealing with drug cheat trainers now in operation. Trust us, nothing to see here, move on.

There is no need to go into more detail here, you just have to look at the templates they have used for this scheme - the Nursing and Midwifery Council and General Dental Council.

When I last looked, midwifery and dentistry are not classed as sports with a history and future of doping horses with drugs. I suppose, at a push, you might say the activity which eventually results in the need of a midwife might be loosely regarded as sport, but I don't get the dentistry angle at all.

But when explaining their new programme for regulating racing, this is what the BHA states: "**Many regulators such as the Nursing and Midwifery Council and General Dental Council have systems which repli-**

**cate what is known in the criminal arena as an 'early guilty plea' scheme.**

**An early admission of guilt is rewarded with a reduced sanction but also a swifter resolution to the regulatory proceedings."**

The fast-track scheme compliments an early guilty plea to tackle "**the numerous small breaches and administrative failings that are currently taking up a great deal of time and resource."**

Doping violations are now being classed as small breaches and British racing's integrity is shot to pieces. The reason is a shortage of funds to properly police an important sport now swamped with illegal drugs.

Julie Harrington, chief executive of the BHA, said just weeks ago that although changes have been made in the way the government funded the racing industry, which brought in an extra £90 million, the sport desperately needs further reforms despite the next review not being due until 2024.

**"We are struggling to pay today's bills let alone invest in the future."**

Harrington further revealed there is a projected revenue shortfall into the industry of over £160 million up to 2024. In the meantime, to cut costs doping has been relegated to minor status, like illegal parking, to be disposed of quickly and cheaply, as cases involving William Haggas, Kim Bailey and Oliver Greenall demonstrate.

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## WILLIAM HAGGAS

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He sets the standard, a big fish in UK racing. A Derby winning trainer and son-in-law of Lester Piggott. Tons of clout.

This is the full text of the disciplinary decision posted on the BHA website last month. Note that this drug violation occurred over two years ago - July 2019. It has now been dealt with under the fast-track scheme, which enables the BHA to avoid answering any questions about the case. This is it, take it or leave it.

### William Haggas - Rule (G)2.1, fast-tracked

### Disciplinary Panel - Fast-Tracked Decisions 20 Sep 21

#### £1,000 fine -

breach of Rule (G)2.1 of the Rules of Racing in that on 17 July 2019 FIVE DIAMONDS ran in the 4Head Median Auction Maiden Fillies' Stakes (Class 6) at Yarmouth finishing 1st. Following the race the Stewards ordered FIVE DIAMONDS to be post-race tested. On 7 August 2019 it was reported that the post-urine sample returned by FIVE DIAMONDS tested positive for HEPS. Under Rule (A)47.2 FIVE DIAMONDS will be disqualified from the race and the placings were revised. Also, the prize money on hold will be paid to the revised placings.

There are many questions arising from this totally inadequate report, which the BHA refuses to answer. Apart from why there has been a two year delay, what is HEPS, the drug found in the Haggas trained horse? That wouldn't mean much to anyone other than a veterinarian and the BHA is too busy cutting costs to explain.

This is where it starts to get interesting, because this looks like a cover-up.

A breach of the BHA's anti-doping rules pursuant to rule (G)2.1, as in this case, will be classified as suitable for the fast-track process if the unnamed investigating officer decides there are no "residual integrity" concerns.

The BHA states: **"Provided both the Investigating Officer and Regulator Advisor are content that the source is not one of direct administration for doping purposes or that there are no wider integrity concerns, the case will be placed in the fast-track process."** But they don't have to tell anyone outside their little private clique what the back-story is.

HEPS is a metabolite of the powerful tranquilizer and painkiller, Acepromazine (ACP), the same drug a foreign criminal gang was alleged to have used to dope Charles Byrnes' horse, Viking Hoard, to lose a race in a betting scam which brought huge shame on Irish racing earlier this year and saw the trainer banned for six months.

The Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board sanctioned Byrnes for leaving Viking Hoard unattended at Tramore Racecourse before his race which allowed an unknown assailant time to access his stable and inject him with a potentially lethal amount of ACP. He was 100 times over the permitted threshold when tested post-race.

This drug has even more history which makes a mockery of the BHA's attempt to sweep the Haggas case out of sight without a proper investigation. ACP is prohibited for use in horses, but it can be given to dogs and cats. It started out in the 1950s as a treatment for schizophrenia in humans, but it caused such serious side effects it was withdrawn and switched to animal use to satisfy the corporate greed of the pharmaceutical conglomerates.

In addition to its use as a sedative, it reduces blood pressure and body temperature with potentially serious consequences for any animal with underlying health problems, known or unknown. When it lowers blood pressure the body's response is to make the heart work harder in order to raise the blood pressure back to normal.

Even now, seventy years later, it is not one hundred percent certain how this drug works but it's acknowledged that it can have a profound effect on the central nervous system.

Another major consideration is its reaction to other drugs being administered at the same time. It can go in one of two ways, either accentuating the actions of another drug making it much more potent or it can neutralise the other drug rendering it ineffective.

And then there is how it can be used to mask blood doping with EPO in human athletes and racehorses. In simple terms, red blood cells carry oxygen around the body. The proportion of red blood cells in the blood is expressed as a percentage and this is referred to as the hematocrit.

For example, a hematocrit of 25 per cent means there are 25 milliliters of red blood cells in 100 millilitres of blood. The normal ranges for a hematocrit produced naturally in adult males is 42 to 54 percent while in horses the naturally produced hematocrit is between 32 and 48 percent.

A low figure can indicate anemia and an abnormally elevated red blood cell count in a fit athlete or horse can indicate blood doping.

Athletes and racehorse trainers who want to cheat can artificially increase the hematocrit by administering drugs like EPO. This means the blood contains many more red blood cells so that increased amounts of oxygen can be transported to muscles around the body and enhance athletic performance.

If tests show an athlete's hematocrit is above 54 percent or a racehorse's above 48 percent there is a strong possibility blood doping has taken place. This is where ACP can play a crucial role for the cheats, because this drug can reduce an artificially high hematocrit by as much as 50 percent and, magically, the athlete or horse is now within the acceptable levels for red blood cells and won't test positive for doping.

**However, the benefits EPO can give remain with the athlete or horse.**

The worse case scenario in racing would be for a horse to test positive for ACP, by far the lesser of two evils compared to a violation for blood doping. And the really clever chemical trainers usually employ the really clever vets and pharmacists who know exactly how much EPO and ACP to administer so that neither shows up at test.

The key question with a horse positive for this drug is this: why has the trainer administered a powerful tranquilizer to a horse so soon before a race? Whatever the answer, of all the sedatives available he chose the one which can hide blood doping. ACP metabolizes quickly and is soon undetectable in a routine blood or urine test.

Which brings us to Steve Asmussen, who holds the record for the most individual career wins in the US and a serial doper who has earned over \$300 million in prize money. Asmussen was suspended from training for 30 days for a pair of ACP positives in late 2019.

One horse was seven times over the limit for this powerful sedative, but still won his race. Haggis' horse also won despite being positive for the same drug.

He may have a good explanation, but neither he nor the BHA decided to share it with the rest of the horse racing world. They deemed this case suitable for their fast track scheme, two years after the horse tested positive, to save time and money despite the presence of a dangerous drug. It looks like a cover-up. So much for the integrity of horse racing.

Final word from Julie Harington, the CEO of a regulator that is shredding the sport's honesty and killing its reputation.

**“As we emerge from Covid, breeding and racing make up a resilient, world class industry that Britain is lucky to have, contributing over £4 billion to the economy every year.”**

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**KIM BAILEY**

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As a trainer of over forty years standing and the winner of three of the biggest races in the world of National Hunt racing - the Aintree Grand National and the Gold Cup and Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham - Bailey's recent appearance for a drug related offence in a BHA report made for sombre reading.

**“After arriving at Ludlow the horse was scanned into the stable yard, during which the Equine Welfare and Integrity Officer noticed a substance around Subway Surf's mouth and the Veterinary Officer was informed. Following the report, a bag and lorry search was carried out and two unlabelled 50ml syringes containing an unidentified brown liquid were found. One syringe was full, the other was empty, but with the brown liquid residue still within. His (Bailey's) representative explained to the Veterinary Officer that she had witnessed the horse being administered one of the syringes by one of the Head Lads either before or as the horse was being loaded to travel on the morning of the race. Furthermore, she explained that the substance was 'Pullman Pro' (sic) and the horse was due to be administered the second syringe after the race.”**

This broke the golden rule that only normal feed and water should be administered on the day of a race, to prevent a horse being doped, and the Stewards ordered the horse be withdrawn and sampled. The syringes were confiscated and sent for testing.

**“Subway Surf's sample result was reported as negative. However, the substance within the syringe was reported to have screening findings for multiple prohibited substances. Although the analysis of the two dosing syringes showed the presence of numerous screening findings for prohibited substances, Subway Surf's sample was reported as negative and therefore an Anti-doping violation has not been committed. However, by administering a substance which was not normal feed and water on**

**the day to Subway Surf, he is in breach of Rule (D)11.”**

The case was brought under the Fast Track scheme and Bailey was fined £1,000 with no further explanation recorded from the trainer or the BHA. Racing media, like it increasingly does these days, decided not to report the case because it was more bad news. Social media is a lot more genuine, which says everything about the Racing Post.

Bailey eventually appeared on the Nick Luck podcast and tried to explain away the violation, which only made things worse. Why would anyone believe a trainer trying to make excuses - it's the BHA who should answer the many questions these drug cases throw-up, but they are in hiding.

When this story broke I emailed the BHA asking Chris Watts, the Head of Integrity, and Robin Mounsey, Head of Media, a couple of questions. I wanted to know the identity of the multiple prohibited substances found when the syringes were tested, which the regulator had mentioned but not named.

They both declined to reply, which seems to be the way with the BHA these days, they are understaffed and no doubt underpaid or just can't be bothered. Go whistle in the wind is the attitude.

A week later news broke that Watts, formerly a senior officer with the Metropolitan Police, had suddenly left his position after four years with the regulator in what was described as mysterious circumstances, which have since remained mysterious as no one has been willing to explain what has been going on. Just another day at crazy BHA.

So the identity of the prohibited drugs found in the sample will remain a secret. Why?

Bailey subsequently said everyone in racing is giving their horses Pulmon PRO and there is nothing sinister going on, it contains only natural ingredients, which it doesn't.

It is claimed Pulmon PRO is formulated to support healthy lung function, maintains elasticity in the blood capillaries and supports healthy blood pressure. Using the power of Nitric Oxide combined with a blend of active in-

redients and amino acids it helps provide the necessary precursors for the ultimate respiratory performance. Pulmon PRO is successfully used in the racing industry and in high performance competition horses. It is competition safe and suitable for long term use and conforms with FEI Prohibited Substances List.



So what's the real story here?

Bailey said Pulmon PRO is used by every racehorse trainer in the country, but it's not listed as one of the best selling products on the website of the manufacturer, Equine Exceed Ltd, formerly known as Equine Science Ltd, and there are only two testimonials for this product, neither from a racehorse trainer.

For best results mix with food, the manufacturer states, but Bailey was administering this powder in a fluid into the horse's mouth before a race. The manufacturer further claims it contains no prohibited substances, but the BHA report indicates there were multiple prohibited substances in the sample they tested.

So what's the real story here?

This looks like a clear case of attempted doping. Multiple prohibited substances appear to have been added to this supplement but not in sufficient quantities to trigger individual positives - it's called microdosing.

This wouldn't have been picked up but for the vigilance of the integrity officer noticing

the suspicious liquid smeared on the horse's mouth when it arrived at Ludlow Racecourse.

But the BHA decided this was no big deal and fast tracked the case with no questions asked, they didn't want to know what the real story was.

Four days after she was withdrawn from her intended race at Ludlow, Bailey ran Subway Surf at Market Rasen where she was second of eight runners over hurdles as joint favourite. No integrity concerns were recorded.

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## OLIVER GREENALL

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Furius De Ciergues, a French bred gelding foaled in 2015, looked a bit of a liability in three runs over hurdles for trainer Emmanuel Clayeux as a four year old, beaten a total of 49 lengths. Clayeux has a good reputation as a horseman, producing Apples Jade and Al Boum Photo as young horses before they went on to great success with Willie Mullins and Gordon Elliott.

Furius De Ciergues then switched stables and has since been trained by Oliver Greenall, a scion of the famous brewing family of the same name, at his farm in Cheshire. His first three runs for Greenall were even worse, beaten a combined 102 lengths in the first two and was then pulled up in the third.

There was, perhaps, a glimmer of hope on the horizon when he followed up with a third on his second start over fences. He then had a 258 day break from racing and came back a different horse. Since a fourth place in his first chase back in October 2020, he has won twice, been second six times and third twice, all his starts.

Maybe he just needed time to mature. Maybe the trainer is a genius. But there's one problem. Greenall breached a vital rule designed to keep British racing clean of illegal drugs, that only basic feed and water is given on race day and absolutely no medications. A BHA Disciplinary Panel report states:

**“On 18 March 2021 FURIUS DE CIERGUES (FR) was due to run in The Mansionbet Faller Insurance Handicap Steeple Chase (Class 5) race at Doncaster Racecourse.**

**However, at 4:10pm the Equine Welfare and Integrity Officer reported to the Veterinary Officer that FURIUS DE CIERGUES (FR) had dried blood on the left jugular vein as well as having a green sticky substance on the right side of its mouth.”**

Greenall’s representative said the horse had been administered a supplement and electrolyte but was unsure when. The presence of the dried blood on the jugular vein indicated the horse had been injected with an unknown substance but the Veterinary Officer said it was difficult to establish exactly when that occurred.

The Stewards at Doncaster suspected the horse had not been given only normal feed and water on the day of the race so he was withdrawn and drug tested. The sample was subsequently reported negative for any prohibited substances.

According to the disciplinary report, Greenall gave no explanation for the circumstances which led to his horse being withdrawn. He was found in breach of Rule D(11) and fined £1,000.

The bottom line on this unsatisfactory situation is that the trainer appears to have had Furies De Ciergues administered with unknown substances by IV injection and orally against the rules of racing. No prohibited substances were found at test, but that only means the BHA was unable to identify any.

As with these other drug stories mentioned here, the BHA needs to urgently up its game, the dopers are way out in front.

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### WILLIE MULLINS

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Ireland’s Champion Jumps Trainer also had a bit of explaining to do when blood was found on the jugular of one of his horses at Galway recently.

Dr Lynn Hillyer, Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board’s Head of Anti-Doping, told the Stewards the blood was clearly visible on the jugular of Buildmeupbuttercup when the mare was inspected before the JPK Fencing Race on 2 August 2021.

The Stewards interviewed Ben Delmer, Mullins’ authorised representative on the day, who

told them the suspicious mark was caused when the horse **“had a blood sample taken by a veterinary practitioner in the yard prior to the horse travelling. Dr Hillyer confirmed that, having spoken to the veterinary practitioner, she was satisfied with this explanation.”**

The Stewards were not so quick to believe this fairy story. It would be unusual at the very least for a horse to have blood taken from it just before it set off for the races and such a mark could be an indication the mare had been injected with a substance which was not permitted on race day.

The Stewards decided to allow Buildmeupbuttercup to run **“on condition written confirmation was provided by the trainer’s vet to the effect that the horse had been blood sampled privately and that the horse will be sampled post race.”**

They were critical of what had happened, advising Delmer that it was unacceptable to present a horse in such a manner and reminded him of the trainer’s future responsibilities in this regard.

I emailed the IHRB and asked them three questions: who was the vet who said he had taken blood from the horse prior to leaving Mullins’ yard, why did he do this and did the post-race test on the mare reveal the presence of any prohibited drugs?

They declined to answer.

Yet again Hillyer shows why the IHRB has little or no credibility. If a small trainer out in the sticks had a horse presented before a race in such suspicious circumstances Hillyer would have crucified him or her to show how tough she is on doping.

But when it’s Willie Mullins or an O’Brien they are waved through, no proper questions asked. How does the rest of racing know that any horse trained by Mullins or the O’Briens has ever had a sample tested?

IHRB accounts to no one but themselves and Hillyer’s word has been repeatedly shown to be worthless. This case reveals the Stewards at Galway that day were also not prepared to believe what she said.

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## WESLEY WARD

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It was some debut season. Within a year of starting training in 2005, California Horse Racing Board hit Wesley Ward with a \$25,000 fine, a sixty day suspension and a probation order for 12 months.

He had doped one of his horses with Phen-termine, a banned stimulant from the amphetamine range of drugs normally used to suppress appetite when treating obesity in human medicine.

His rap sheet now stands at 42 violations of the rules of racing, maybe about to become 43 if current allegations in the US are true. Some of these concern administrative issues, but there are enough serious drug infractions to show he is a serial doper who doesn't seem capable of training racehorses successfully without the use of Clenbuterol, a bronchodilator which is also a steroid in all but name.

It's a favourite of weightlifters and fighters, who say it increases energy exponentially and has been the scourge of horse racing for decades. While not technically a steroid it has the same anabolic properties; it can be legally administered in the US as a therapeutic remedy for breathing problems but that's not why trainers use it.

It's the go-to drug in racing for artificially building muscle mass to improve strength, power and stamina. It's beauty, for the dopers, is that it exits a horse's system quickly, usually within 48 hours after last use, but the physical improvements it brings stay in a horse. Hair testing is the best way to catch the ones who have been using this drug over the long term.

Ward has five violations for Clenbuterol which showed up in race day drug tests.

He has a reputation as a successful trainer of two year olds, particularly in his annual raids on Royal Ascot, where he usually brings a few which look and run unlike the locals.

His two year olds appear like three year olds, bigger and stronger than anyone else's. That's what Clenbuterol can do - puts muscles on their muscles. He's a likeable sort of guy and a popular visitor to the Royal meeting every summer, but a serial doper nonetheless.

He enjoys a close relationship with Coolmore principals Magnier, Tabor and

Smith, who have recently bought into one of his top horses, Golden Pal, another Superman of a two year old last year. Golden Pal has now won four races for his new owners, including a Grade 1 at the recent Breeders' Cup Championships in California ahead of a stallion career at Magnier's Ashford Stud in Kentucky. Ward has worked his magic for Coolmore again

Reports coming in from the US say Averly Jane is another runaway Ward two year old winner who failed a drug test. If correct, that's two big winners by Coolmore Stud's favourite trainers - Bob Baffert is the other - who have won with doped horses this season.

John Magnier and his associates are big backers of the biggest dopers in US racing: Ward, Baffert, Pletcher and Biancone. And another Coolmore favourite, particularly for Michael Tabor, was busted last week.

Simon Callaghan was suspended for 15 days and fined \$5,000 in an appalling case of illegally shockwaving a horse on three occasions so that he could continue training him even though he was injured. Shockwaving acts as a painkiller.

**But Magnier, Tabor and Smith don't care, they are bigger than the sport.**

Then answer this question: when the Coolmore Stud partners are unequivocally connected to the biggest dopers racing has ever seen, with Jason Servis another who has a case pending in the US, why would anyone believe Aidan O'Brien is not the Lance Armstrong of Irish racing just because he says so?

Even more so when he then trashed his own reputation by talking out of the side of his mouth. Asked by a journalist his views now that Lasix has been banned on race day at the Breeders' Cup, he said: "We don't medicate our horses over here at all and very rarely give any. The only medication they get is antibiotics for cold and flu or infections. They're really the only medications we use."

Records show that horses O'Brien has trained at Ballydoyle have run 170 times at the Breeders' Cup after being administered with Lasix, a proven performance enhancing medication, on race day including in 2020, winning over \$26 million in prize money.

# THE BRYONY PAPERS

ON 4 JUNE 1913, EMILY DAVISON DIED WHEN SHE THREW HERSELF UNDER THE KING'S HORSE IN THE ENGLISH DERBY WHILE FIGHTING FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS; 108 YEARS LATER JOCKEY BRYONY FROST THREW HERSELF UNDER A BUS WHEN SHE COURAGEOUSLY STOOD UP FOR HER RIGHTS.



*Emily Davison*



*Bryony Frost*

Frost started the long haul back from the Robbie Dunne scandal in spectacular style at Down Royal. Escaping into her own special world for the 6 minutes 16 seconds it took Frodon to win an exhilarating Ladbrokes Champion Chase, she and the sport in which she excels now need the British Horseracing Authority to wake up and hold the delayed inquiry into the bullying and harassment claim she made last year.

Is that too much to expect? There could be a classic jumps season ahead, but like everything else the BHA touches right now it is taking forever to resolve and racing's reputation is indelibly stained.

In December 2020, at the age of 25, she rode Frodon to victory in the King George VI Chase at Kempton, becoming the first woman jockey to win the iconic race. It was her 175th career win, making her the all-time leading female National Hunt jump jockey.

But Frost had a problem, principally that she's female and she doesn't know her place. She needed to be taught a lesson and when lessons are dished out the weighing room is a good place to do it. That's where the misogynists hang out, led by those who belong to the spineless Professional Jockeys Association.

Her second problem was that while she has always been willing to learn she was not prepared to put up with repeated abuse that one particular senior jockey subjected her to. If she had known her place there wouldn't have been a problem, it's as simple as that.

She sealed her fate when, mentally shattered and physically frightened for her safety, she made a complaint to the British Horseracing Authority on 15 September 2020.

There was no turning back, racing would make her pay for going public on the torment Dunne put her through. One place he promised to put her through was the wing of a fence in a race, which could have maimed or killed her, because he didn't like the way she rode.

Such disagreements should be resolved in-house, those in the weighing room said, but it didn't happen, as much as Frost wanted it to. Af-

ter four years of harassment she had to do something about it.

This wouldn't have happened in his day, said Marcus Armitage, a Grand National winning jockey on Mr Frisk in 1990 and now an accomplished journalist with the Daily Telegraph.

"A senior jockey or a valet would have stepped in, knocked heads together, hands would have been shaken and it would have been forgotten a day later." What happens, though, if the perpetrator is a senior jockey and everyone else is afraid of him? Frost knows the answer.

Now, over a year on from making her complaint, which she did as an absolute last resort, the BHA has still not held an inquiry and made a final determination. The investigation they carried out was completed before April this year, with a recommendation that Dunne be charged with "**conduct prejudicial to the integrity and good reputation of the sport.**"

But another eight months have since passed and the BHA still hasn't brought that damning report before the Disciplinary Panel, without explaining why.

Two weeks ago, David Walsh, the highly respected chief sports writer on the Sunday Times, blew the story out of the stagnant pond the BHA inhabits with a devastating expose based on the report of the investigation.

Someone had given him a copy, which the BHA then disclosed was probably the second "leak" as the documents it contains may have previously escaped somehow from inside the BHA. The Data Commissioners are now investigating the investigation, and the BHA is a headless chicken.

Chris Cook was also a highly regarded journalist when he worked for The Guardian newspaper. I remember him fearlessly exposing wrongdoing in sport, and particularly in racing, but now he's just another hack at the Racing Post which hustles bettors to throw as much money as possible at horses recommended by its herd of marauding tipsters. The commission the Racing Post earns from the gambling industry are its main source of revenue these days, they don't need scandals distracting punters - come on, bet like real men!

And there he was in full arrogant flow posing, would you believe, on the moral high ground. He claimed Walsh was deliberately drip-feeding the bad news just to cause maximum damage to the sport, as the Racing Post followed up with a steady stream of ancient ex-jockeys, including Ireland editor, Richard Forristal, who believes ev-

everyone is ganging up on them with accusations of misogyny, whatever that is. Jump jockeys love the weighing room like some get emotional about men's sheds.

Forristal claims Frost was responsible for the death of a horse Dunne was riding, despite race day Stewards unequivocally deciding the opposite, and characterised Dunne (42) exposing himself in front of Frost (26) as nothing more than a bit of "insolence."

The Racing Post website claims it employs 300 people; as far as I can tell it has only one female journalist, the excellent Maddy Playle. Perhaps the editor, Tom Kerr, would like to reveal how many of the 300 are female and whether as an organisation it might have a serious problem about women's rights.

And then Cook had a go at the whistleblower.

**"It was clear from the first story that the paper's David Walsh had an exciting source who had access to documents which journalists hardly ever see. That truth was reinforced by Sunday's story, based on witness statements from a dozen jockeys and three valets.**

**The motivation of Walsh's source can only be guessed at, but a consequence of their actions is that the reputations of both the sport and the BHA have taken a pummelling. Was that the intended effect?**

**The first story was published the day after Champions day, one of the marquee days for the sport in Britain and the most expensive in terms of prize-money. When executives and officials must have been hoping for coverage that would reflect the best of racing, they picked up The Sunday Times and got a punch in the face.**

**Now we learn that some of the leaked evidence was held back for a week, so that a left hook could follow the initial right upper-cut. Is the source enjoying the spectacle of this one-sided battle? And what more blows are yet to be delivered?"**

Late one afternoon two weeks before Champions Day, I received unannounced in my inbox the 133 page report covering all the documents relating to the investigation the BHA had carried out into Frost's complaint that Dunne had repeatedly bullied and harassed her.

The sender asked me to write about it in The Black Horse Newsletter, which focuses on corruption in racing. He said he believed the racing media wouldn't tell the full story, it hides bad news.

I spent much of that night reading and rereading the extraordinary documents. The next morning I checked out the bona fides of the source - he is rock solid - and then told him I would write about the investigation but that I also believed it was such an important story of major public concern we needed to give it the best possible platform and we agreed to send the full report to Walsh at the Sunday Times.

The BHA had sat on this report since last April and I believed there was a strong possibility the full story would never have been told, even more so now it has been revealed one of the report's authors, Chris Watts, the Head of Integrity, has suddenly left the regulator in unexplained circumstances and will not be cooperating with any inquiry called to finally decide Frost's complaint.

The BHA has every reason to bury this report and it regularly withholds information in doping cases it believes could damage racing's image, as explained earlier, because it is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act and can't be forced to answer one single question about anything. The Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board is the same.

**Racing is full of dirty secrets - it badly needs to be cleaned up.**

It was now or never; the BHA had to be forced out into the open. If they kept the shocking details of this complaint secret the racing establishment, which includes the Racing Post, would have circled the wagons and closed it all down and yet another nail would be hammered into the coffin named integrity.

The latest news is that the BHA will hold an inquiry into Frost's complaint at the end of November, which will be open to the media. If it refuses to publish the complete set of documents relevant to the investigation it carried out, the full dossier will be posted on The Black Horse Newsletter's website - [www.goldrushpublications.com](http://www.goldrushpublications.com)

# THE TRAGIC STORY OF TIGER MOTH



*Tiger Moth*

Tiger Moth ran his heart out in the Melbourne Cup in 2020 trying to claim one of the few big international races to have eluded Aidan O'Brien since he started training at Ballydoyle in 1996.

He also had a jockey on his back who was ready to whip him half to death to make sure he tried hard enough in the race for glory.

Tiger Moth came agonisingly close but had to settle for second in the great Australian race on 3 November 2020, beaten half a length. He was three years old, in just his fifth start and had left his homeland for the first time to travel to the other side of the world in pursuit of ever more riches for his owners, John Magnier, Michael Tabor and Derrick Smith.

He was never the same horse again.

He was Coolmore bred and raised, a son of the great Galileo out of Lesson In Humility, a winner of six races and twice Group 1 placed, so had the usual high expectations when he went into training at Ballydoyle in the autumn of 2018.

He was a late foal, born on 16 May 2017, and had just one run as a two year old when third of 14 in a Curragh maiden on 22 October 2019. It was a promising debut on heavy ground, beaten less than a length, and he built on that when he reappeared as a three year old the following June, winning a maiden at Leopardstown over 10 furlongs.

Just over two weeks later O'Brien pitched him straight into Group 1 company, the Dubai Duty Free Irish Derby at the Curragh no less, where he was second by a head to Santiago. O'Brien trained the first four home to put the lion's share of the E750,000 prize fund into the pockets of the Coolmore mafia.

The news was not so good at the other end of the race where yet another Coolmore horse suffered a fatal injury. Sherpa, bred and raised by the O'Briens and running in partnership with Magnier, Tabor and Smith, was trained by Donacha O'Brien.

Tiger Moth's next run brought victory in a Group 3 at Leopardstown and he then flew to Australia as part of Aiden O'Brien's ill-fated Melbourne Cup team. On 3 November 2020, Tiger Moth bravely gave his all to scoop over half a million pounds in prize money, but Anthony Van Dyck paid for the privilege with his life when suffering a catastrophic leg injury.

**Racing Victoria's Stewards were incensed by the ride jockey Kerrin McAvoy gave Tiger Moth. McAvoy hit the horse 13 times with his whip before the 100 metre mark when a maximum of 5 are permitted, and 21 times in total. They fined him a record \$50,000 and banned him from riding at 13 race meetings.**

He subsequently appealed the severity of the fine and had it reduced to \$30,000. Judge John Bowman said it was an excessive fine for excessive use of the whip.

Tiger Moth came back to Tipperary after the Melbourne Cup and resumed training at Ballydoyle. He reappeared on the track in the Tattersalls Gold Cup at the Curragh nearly seven months later, on 23 May 2021, coming last of eight runners beaten 18 lengths. His former trademark courage was missing, giving up the fight in the last two furlongs. He never ran for O'Brien again.

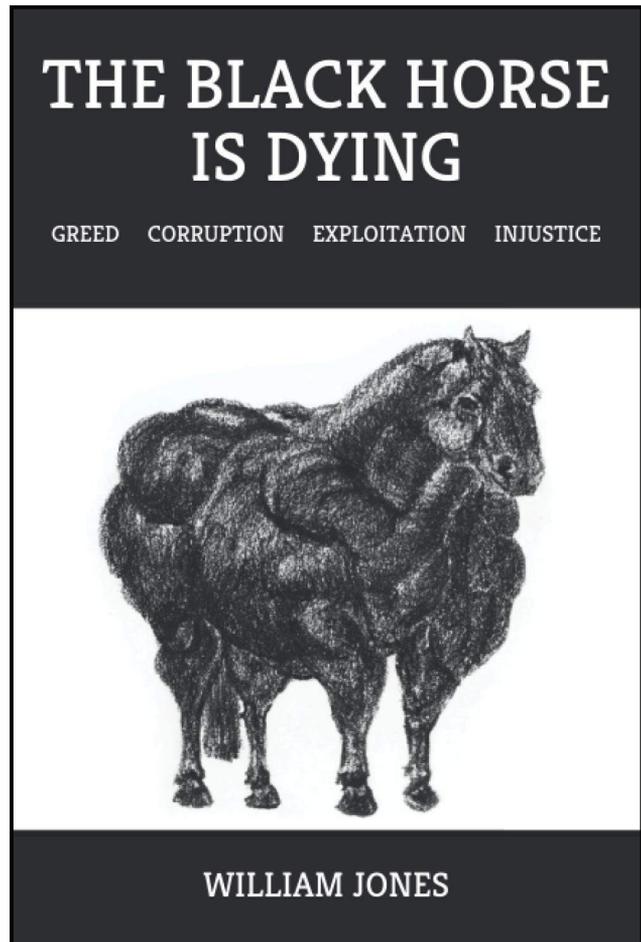
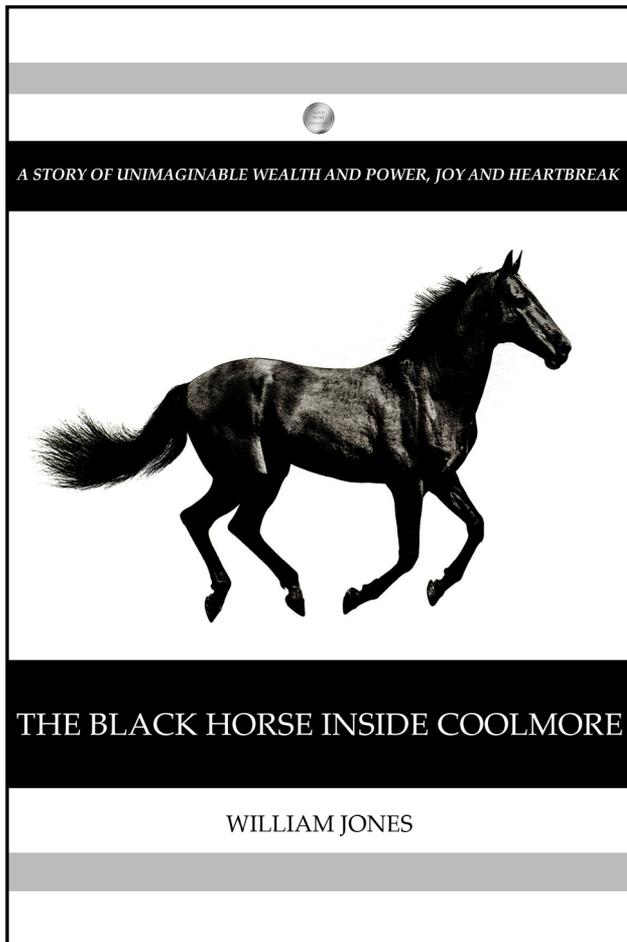
Two weeks ago, Tiger Moth was sold by Coolmore Stud at the Tattersalls Horses In Training Sale at Newmarket. He was bought by bloodstock agent Linda Sadler for 20,000 guineas, a fraction of what he was worth before he was sent to race in Australia.

Whether it was because he was carrying scars, physical or mental, after Melbourne or something else unknown, the market spoke with the pitiful valuation it now placed on Tiger Moth.

Why was such a young and inexperienced horse with huge potential sent across the world to compete in a race with such a recent record for fatalities and injuries, numerous suffered by past and present Ballydoyle runners, which emphasises what a tough race it is to survive let alone win?

To most other trainers and owners Tiger Moth would have been their horse of a lifetime, the star of their show. To O'Brien, Magnier, Tabor and Smith he was just another number - £761,709 - the total amount of prize money he won for them.

Plus the 20 grand from the Newmarket sale, his future unknown.



**The Black Horse Inside Coolmore** and  
**The Black Horse Is Dying** are available on  
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