



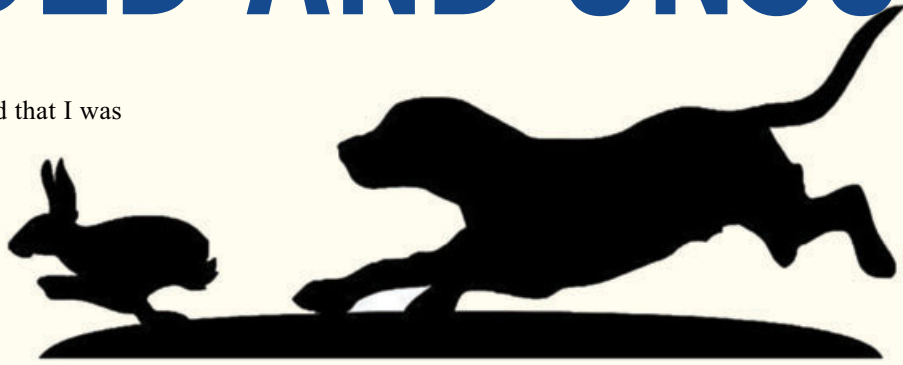
Mark Johnston's

MISGUIDED AND UNSUSTAINABLE

IT COULD, and perhaps should, be said that I was doing nothing more than stating the obvious when, back in our May issue, I said that Animal Rising and their pals at Just Stop Oil were targeting those events which would bring maximum exposure regardless of whether or not the disrupted event had any connection with their objectives. I was not the only one who recognised this and, when Animal Rising offered to stop protests at race meetings this summer in return for an hour of televised debate, the BHA were right to reject the proposal.

There is, however, a part of me that now thinks we might do better to give these people a platform to voice their opinions, allow them to publicly air the full extent of their views and beliefs, expose the total ridiculousness of their proposals, and, in short, let them fall on their own sword. The turning point came for me when I heard that an Animal Rising spokesperson, Nathan McGovern, had said in an interview with the Racing Post that, 'for us, it's not an animal welfare issue. It's not specifically anti-horse racing.', and he went on to state that 'there is an intention to cause the Derby to be delayed or cancelled, with the ultimate goal being to bring the spotlight on what we would call our broken relationship with animals in the natural world.'

I've now heard this many times, in relation to Animal



Rising: this suggestion of a 'broken relationship' with animals, and I would genuinely like to understand what is meant by it. Surely, for a relationship to be 'broken', it must at some point have been intact. I would like to know what that relationship between man and animals looks like to them as they have also often stated that they object to all 'use' of animals by man and the same spokesperson has said that they ultimately want to stop people having domesticated animals, from horses through to dogs and cats.

I can only think that, before man began domesticating animals around 10,000 years ago, the only relationship between humans and other animals was that of hunter and hunted. But Animal Rising propose a purely plant-based diet for humans, rewilding of 70% of farm land and, if I'm not mistaken, turning all the horses and other domesticated animals loose. That, in the UK, means 850,000 horses; 9.6 million cattle; 5.2 million pigs; 33 million sheep; 188 million chickens and other fowl; 11 million dogs; 11 million

Straight Talking

BHA's own goal on whip

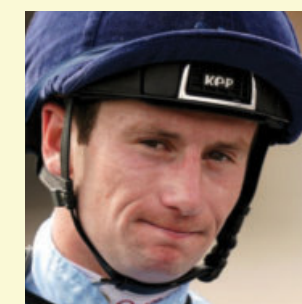
RICHARD FORRISTAL, despite his ridiculous and unforgivable condemnation of stayers and staying races two years ago, is still one of the best journalists in racing and his summary of the 'BHA's whip fixation' last week should be recommended

reading for all racing enthusiasts, and compulsory for those administrators who have dragged us down this road to ruination. It is surprising that anti-racing groups bother to organise protests when the BHA churns out a continuous stream of anti-racing propaganda on a daily basis.



Richard Forristal

Ironically - or, perhaps, intentionally - Richard Forristal's piece was followed on the very next page by an interview with Brant Dunshea in which the BHA's chief regulatory officer sought to defend the new rules which have resulted in substantial bans for Frankie Dettori and Oisin Murphy after they infringed the new rules at Royal



Oisin Murphy

Ascot. At least, this time, he didn't give us the usual cliches about public perception. Maybe he knows, but feels he cannot admit, that the public perception of whip use in racing is being driven far more by the actions of the stewards and the new 'whip review committee' than it is by the actions of the jockeys on the track.



Frankie Dettori

THE NATIONAL Trainers Federation sends a weekly email newsletter to trainers and I am lucky to still be included despite the fact that I no longer hold the licence. In fact, I still get three copies. I did point this out at this year's AGM when the chief executive was bemoaning the fact that such a small percentage of trainers open the email. I only open one of my three so, if the same applies to all other trainers (and ex-trainers), they are starting with a best scenario of 33%.

Anyway, occasionally there are some really interesting snippets of information in the newsletter and a few weeks ago a paragraph headed 'Natwest Bank' caught my eye. It told us of a trainer who was refused a loan by Natwest because it is against the bank's policy to lend to racehorse trainers. The NTF sought clarification on this and were told that, 'lending to businesses associated to racecourse trainers currently falls outside the bank's appetite'. Please note that

Discrimination that is hard to stomach

the use of the phrase 'racecourse' trainers is not a Klarion misprint. This is exactly as it is written in the newsletter and may be the bank's exact wording.

Well, well. Isn't that interesting. You'd think there would be a law preventing discrimination on the grounds of occupation. I wonder what sort of appetite they have for lending to junior doctors, nurses or train drivers and, if they also fall 'outside the bank's appetite', whether they would dare state that fact in writing to the unions. Somehow, I doubt it.



I don't think we do any business with Natwest but I will be checking credit card providers and others to make sure that I am not inadvertently sending any of my hard-earned cash in their direction. And I would like to urge any Klarion readers who do bank with Natwest, especially if you are a depositor rather than a borrower, to review the situation and, at least, ask them for further clarification on their policies relating to those associated with horseracing.