

FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH



A New Season with New Challenges

MAR/2018 ISSUE

FROM THE CEO

THE JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE

Article by Lyndon Barends, CEO of NHA

The Journey to Excellence requires that we persevere with our efforts to improve the quality of our service to the industry.

We must keep going until it becomes a way of life. Even then, we must keep going until our standards are much higher than before. We have to keep going despite constant criticism, insults, badgering, allegations, etc.

Sometimes the criticisms are warranted for various reasons; at times we are slow to react, we don't communicate clearly and timeously, we don't necessarily do things in the most efficient manner; but we must be compelled and committed to make the necessary changes. We cannot allow ourselves to stagnate or regress.

At times the criticisms are unwarranted by those who do not necessarily understand the processes and challenges we face.

We have lots of naysayers, people who would like us to fail, or they have personal agendas, chip on their shoulders from the past etc., but yet again we must investigate and consider each criticism, because it should make us stronger, more diligent and lift our standards.

It's easy to, at times, become despondent and then feel that we've not accomplished much.

We must take what seems "unwarranted" seriously and look at it objectively to further assist us on our

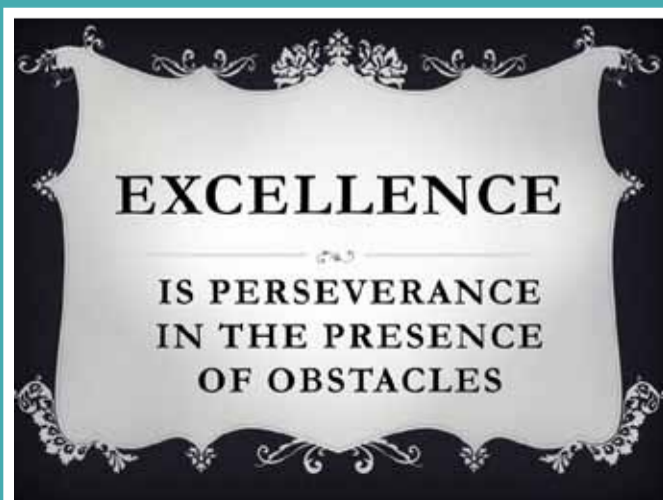
journey of excellence. Rome wasn't built in one day, but we mustn't stagnate.

At the moment it seems as if we are not making enough progress fast enough and in the areas that matter most. Therefore it's time for introspection and to evaluate how far we've come.

We are taking stock of a number of issues raised on various forums and by various people including areas that we ourselves feel we are not up to standard, like starting stalls, equine welfare procedures at sales and auctions, etc.

"EXCELLENCE IS PERSEVERANCE IN THE PRESENCE OF OBSTACLES"

ANONYMOUS.



The Journey to excellence is tough, it requires team effort, we have to pull in the same direction so that the effort is maximised.

We must demand excellence in every department of the organisation, nothing less!

At times we even get sidetracked. We are slowed down by irrelevant but necessary tasks, but we must journey on. It's very difficult to cast aside the many trivial things and focus on the vital few. We will have to make some tough decisions to propel us forward again on the journey to excellence.... Even though its uncomfortable.

"EXCELLENCE IS NOT A DESTINATION; IT'S A CONTINUOUS JOURNEY THAT NEVER ENDS."

ANONYMOUS

Excellence/Perfection is not a destination; it is a continuous journey that never ends.



NHA LABORATORY

COMPLIANCE OF THE LABORATORY TO INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES AND DECISIONS

The International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) incorporates a membership of more than 40 racing jurisdictions from all over the world. This wide membership ensures that decisions made within this federation are both truly international and representative of worldwide policy and opinion. Similarly the European Horseracing Scientific Liaison Committee (EHSCL) provides scientific and veterinary opinion on specific issues within European countries. The Asian Racing Federation (ARF) then in turn represents many racing jurisdictions in the Australasian region.

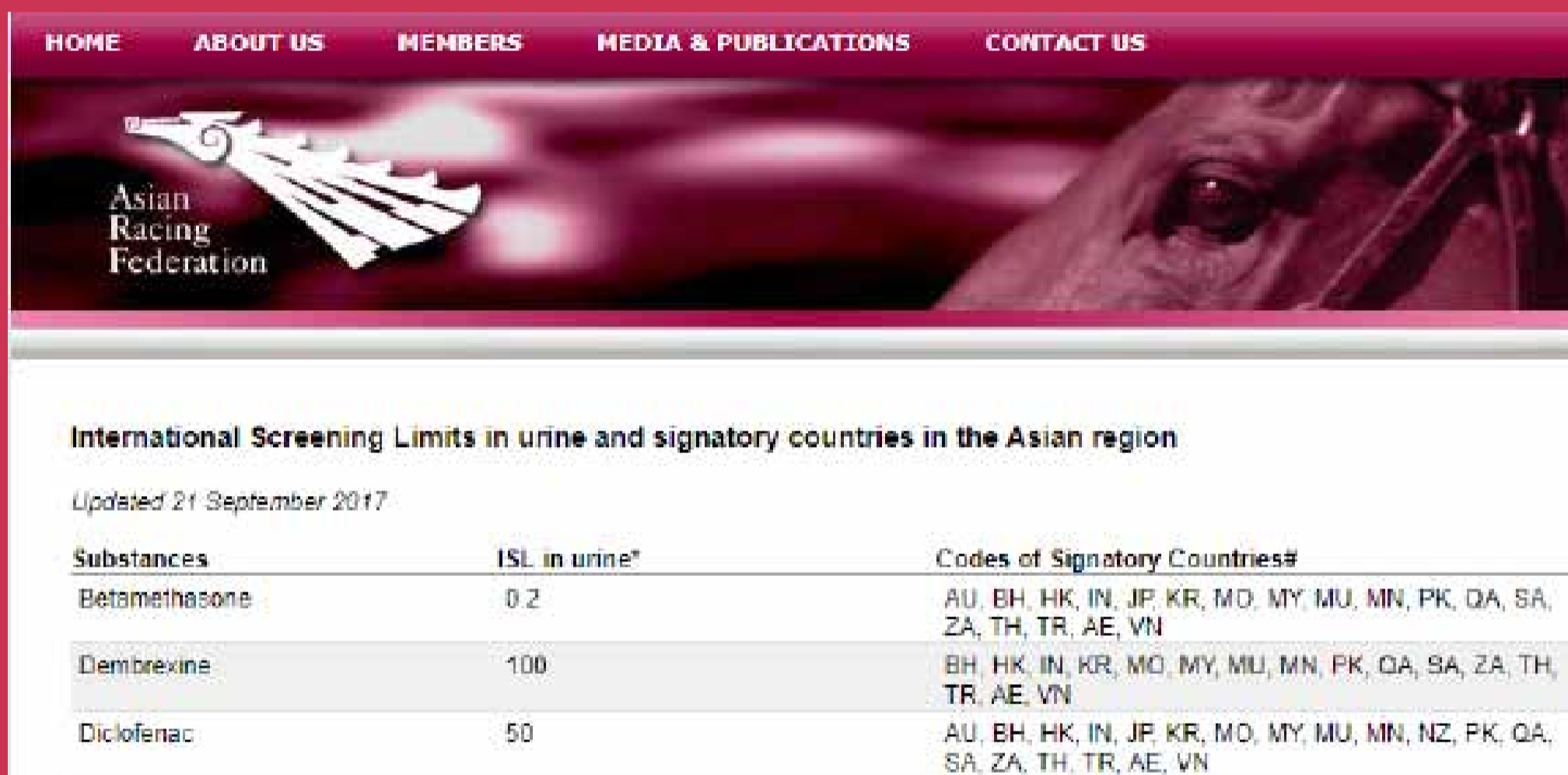
The Asian Racing Federation has a scientific and veterinary committee that considers scientific decisions that are discussed with the European group to obtain consensus for international (IFHA) approval. The Laboratory Director of the NHA is one of three racing chemists who constitute this ARF Drug Control Committee.

This committee investigates horse administration trial data and other scientific data relating to prohibited substances which includes the excretion and metabolism of such substances. The decisions made by this committee, when studying such data, provides new screening limits, thresholds and detection period guidance (especially for the veterinarians that treat horses) within Australasia.

This involvement of the NHA Laboratory in the international knowledge base of prohibited substances and their detection is important for the NHA on many levels.

This allows for a deeper understanding of the potency and excretion of specific prohibited and forbidden substances, which result in sensible policies and practises to be applied to the racing industry in relation to screening and prosecution sensitivities

Article and photo provided by: Dr Schalk de Kock
NHA Laboratory Director



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Asian Racing Federation

International Screening Limits in urine and signatory countries in the Asian region

Updated 21 September 2017

Substances	ISL in urine*	Codes of Signatory Countries#
Betamethasone	0.2	AU, BH, HK, IN, JP, KR, MO, MY, MU, MN, PK, QA, SA, ZA, TH, TR, AE, VN
Dembrexine	100	BH, HK, IN, KR, MO, MY, MU, MN, PK, QA, SA, ZA, TH, TR, AE, VN
Diclofenac	50	AU, BH, HK, IN, JP, KR, MO, MY, MU, MN, NZ, PK, QA, SA, ZA, TH, TR, AE, VN

NHA STUD BOOK

STUD BOOK STAFF VISIT A STUD FARM

The Stud Book Department yearly processes thousands of email requests, transactions and payments relating to the status and the activities of horses (from foal birth to final retirement) in breeding, sales and in the racing industry.

Extensive time and attention is focused on the approximate 3000 thoroughbred foals that are born every year which require documentation of parentage, visual identification, microchip checks and subsequent payment. Such controls are critical before foals can be formally introduced into the industry as registered foals with passports that reflect the identity and compliance of such thoroughbreds destined for a career in racing.

It was therefore fitting that Stud Book staff members visited one of the stud farms this year, especially since for most it was for the first time ever. The farm was the large Summerhill Stud thoroughbred breeding and boarding facility which is just outside the scenic town of Mooi River in the Natal Midlands. Following an overnight stay in the accommodation provided, we

embarked on a full day's activity as special guests of Summerhill Stud. A full program provided the relevant staff with explanations and demonstrations of all the activities and functions of the farm.

The infrastructure, teamwork and support systems required in running such a large operation with about 400 horses (of which 98 are foals) within 1000 hectares (as far as the eye could see) re-emphasized the important role Stud Book plays to assist the stud farm breeding.

We sincerely thank Summerhill Stud for their hospitality. They need to be commended for running a very effective and impressive breeding business.

The timing of this visit coincided with the process of foal microchip implantation; blood collection for DNA based parentage verification and visual image capturing of the 98 foals which were born on this farm during the latter part of 2017. This process and the significance of Stud Book in witnessing this process during this year will be explained in a future newsletter.



Article and photos provided by: Dr Schalk de Kock

