

## US crime-buster swaps ideas with Jockey Club

By Richard Evans  
(Filed: 25/07/2005)

The presence of the Queen, not to mention the current security nightmare, guaranteed a large number of police officers on duty at Newbury on Saturday - but few who could match the experience of Frank Fabian.

Until earlier this year, he was one of the FBI's senior men, based at their Washington DC headquarters, where he worked in the counter-terrorist division and specialised in tracking money to identify supporters of terrorism.

During 20 years with the Bureau, he spent much of his time working undercover investigating organised crime - the Mafia - and drug gangs. In 1996 he was awarded the prestigious Directors Award for Excellence, given to one agent a year, for his key role in convicting a murderous gang of drug dealers.

Hardly a PC Dixon of Dock Green, then.

However, in March he started pursuing the crooks who target racing when he became only the fourth president of the Thoroughbred Racing Protective Bureau, based in Maryland.

The TRPB was founded in 1946 with the help of J Edgar Hoover, himself a keen racing fan, with the aim of helping the racing industry to police itself. The bureau is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Thoroughbred Racing Association of North America, which comprises the top 46 racetracks in the country.

Around \$16 billion was wagered on horses in North America last year and, as in other countries, criminals are lured to such large-scale gambling like moths to a flame.

Fabian says: "The Mafia wake up every morning trying to figure out how it is they will get a little bit of it. I wake up every morning trying to figure out how they are going about it and how to work with others to impede that.

"The goal is to ensure the integrity of racing, and not only to make it a level playing field for horsemen but also for the wagerer, because this industry produces a product for the public, not just the American public, but to the world market."

As the new man in charge of security for racing in the US, Fabian was keen to understand fully the challenges facing the Jockey Club and only too happy to accept an invitation from his opposite number, Paul Scotney, the former Metropolitan Police detective who has done so much to improve the Jockey Club's security department.

There are subtle differences between some of the issues and problems the two men face. There are no bookmakers - apart from the illegal ones - or betting exchanges in the US, but wagering integrity remains a concern, along with 'medication' and illegal substances given to horses.

Fabian highlighted how an investigation started by his bureau, before being passed on to the FBI in New York, resulted in the indictment of 17 men, including three members of the Gambino organised crime family, in January. The charges relate to an illegal gambling business which brokered more than \$200 million of bets on horses and sports events - and fixing a horse race at Aqueduct.

Over the next six months, Fabian wants to spend time with Scotney and their counterparts in other leading racing nations to find the best way "of exchanging timely information and intelligence which would be of benefit to all of us."

He says: "Clearly racing is a world-wide product and just as the signals for a race go across the globe, so do issues relevant to medication and integrity. We have got to be able to communicate and work with each other very timely."

Although the problems faced by the two men may be different, "our challenges are the same."

The global fight against threats posed to racing's integrity is likely to become even more relevant in the months ahead when the City of London police investigation into horse racing corruption reaches its climax.

Information appearing on telegraph.co.uk is the copyright of Telegraph Group Limited and must not be reproduced in any medium without licence. For the full copyright statement see Copyright