



## **Press release**

# **Asian Racing Federation shows commitment to protecting integrity with addition of two global experts to Anti-Illegal Betting Taskforce**

27 July 2020

The Asian Racing Federation's Anti-Illegal Betting Taskforce ('the Taskforce') announced today that it has strengthened its capability to protect global racing integrity with the addition to the Taskforce of former Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police, Graham Ashton, and the Project Manager of INTERPOL's Match-Fixing Task Force, Claudio Marinelli.

Both have decades of experience in combatting international sports corruption linked to illegal betting and other financial crimes.

As Chief Commissioner, Mr. Ashton was the key driver in setting up Victoria Police's Sporting Integrity Unit, which was the first law enforcement unit anywhere dedicated to combatting match-fixing and is regarded as the leading police sports integrity unit in the world.

Mr Marinelli, a Criminal Intelligence Officer seconded to INTERPOL from Italy's Guardia di Finanza (Financial Police), has been instrumental in leading the work of INTERPOL's Match-Fixing Task Force since the creation of this initiative, which involves law enforcement agencies and other stakeholders from around the world to combat match-fixing and corruption in sport and maintains a global network of match-fixing investigators to share intelligence and best practices.

With the addition of these new members, the Taskforce now comprises 14 experts in sports and racing integrity, law enforcement, academia, and intergovernmental relations.

Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges, chairman of the Asian Racing Federation, said: "The threat from illegal betting is one of the key challenges facing the global racing industry. The ARF is committed to combatting this threat both by sharing its own expertise, and engaging with other stakeholders from the wider sports environment. We are delighted to add the expertise of Mr Ashton and Mr Marinelli to the Taskforce."

Martin Purbrick, chairman of the ARF's Anti-Illegal Betting Taskforce, said: "Graham Ashton's vast knowledge of and passion for horse racing, his leadership of sports integrity

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**Asian Racing Federation**

c/o The Hong Kong Jockey Club, One Sports Road, Happy Valley, Hong Kong

Tel: + 852 2966 7993 • Fax: + 852 2966 1098 • Email: [arf@hkjc.org.hk](mailto:arf@hkjc.org.hk)

and his status as a well-regarded senior police officer will be of huge benefit to the Taskforce and the ARF.

“INTERPOL’s Match-Fixing Task Force is one of the world’s leading bodies dedicated to combatting sports corruption and the ARF Taskforce is delighted to engage with it and its project manager, Claudio Marinelli, who likewise has huge experience in the field of sports integrity.”

*Background on the Asian Racing Federation and its Anti-Illegal Betting Taskforce:*

The Asian Racing Federation is a regional federation comprising 28 racing authorities and racing-related organisations, with a wide geographic spread from New Zealand to South Africa. Among its core objectives is the promotion of integrity in the sport of horse racing. In 2017, the ARF established the Anti-Illegal Betting Taskforce, which now comprises 14 members from organisations engaged in racing and sports integrity, law enforcement, intergovernmental agencies, and academia (a full list of members and their organisations is below).

The purpose of the Taskforce is to research the scale and negative impacts of illegal betting and associated financial crime risk, particularly as it relates to racing integrity, and to collaborate with international stakeholders to raise awareness of and combat these negative impacts. To this end, the Taskforce has produced an [internationally syndicated white paper](#) on the scale of illegal betting in Asia and will in 2020 publish a Handbook “*Good Practices in Addressing Illegal Betting*” with practical advice to racing and sports organisations to mitigate threats to integrity caused by illegal betting.

The Taskforce believes that close international cooperation and information sharing are key factors to combat illegal betting given the international dimension of sport. It has been expanding its scope to foster and enhance international cooperation among horse racing operators, regulators, intergovernmental organisations and government agencies in order to better combat not only the threat of illegal betting but also other financial crime risks to horse racing integrity in particular, and sport in general.

*Further reading:* [Illegal Betting in an Asian Context](#)

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*List of Taskforce members and contact emails for further information:*

Martin Purbrick <a href="mailto:mtpurbrick@mac.com">mtpurbrick@mac.com</a>	Chairman; Former Director of Security & Integrity, Hong Kong Jockey Club
Douglas Robinson	Deputy Chairman; Executive Manager, Due Diligence and Research, Hong Kong Jockey Club
James Porteous <a href="mailto:james.ak.porteous@hkjc.org.hk">james.ak.porteous@hkjc.org.hk</a>	Secretary; Due Diligence & Research Manager, Hong Kong Jockey Club
Jack Anderson	Director of Studies, Sports Law, Melbourne Law School, University of Melbourne
Graham Ashton	Former Chief Commissioner, Victoria Police
Tom Chignell	Executive Manager, Racing Integrity and Betting Analysis, Hong Kong Jockey Club
Brant Dunshea	Chief Regulatory Officer, British Horseracing Authority
Neil Grimstone	Manager, Integrity Assurance, New Zealand Racing Integrity Unit
Claudio Marinelli	Criminal Intelligence Officer, Italian Guardia di Finanza Financial Police); Project Manager, INTERPOL Match-Fixing Task Force
James Ogilvy <a href="mailto:arf@hkjc.org.hk">arf@hkjc.org.hk</a>	Secretariat, Asian Racing Federation; Executive Manager, Racing Authority (External), Hong Kong Jockey Club
Ronan O'Laoire	Coordinator of Global Programme on Safeguarding Sport from Corruption and Crime United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
Tim Robinson	General Manager, Intelligence & Integrity Services Racing Victoria
Tak Sung-hyun	General Manager, Responsible Betting Department, Korea Racing Authority
Damian Voltz	Senior Intelligence Analyst, National Integrity of Sport Unit, Australia Criminal Intelligence Commission

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