

**JOHN M WELD**

Re: Copyright review

A situation has developed in Irish Racing which is impoverishing the sport.

Previously (and currently) the sport is funded on taxes/levies applied to bets placed on the sport.

This worked well until the development of the internet where bettors can now view the racing on their computers/wireless access and bet off shore without any tax/levy returning to the sport.

Tax/levy returning to horse racing has reduced to 1990 levels despite betting having multiplied by a factor of at least ten in that time.

This is causing considerable reduction in prizemoney and in subsequent income to the large number of people employed by this largely rural based activity.

Surely there must be some way in which the Racing Industry could command a reasonable price for the use of its data and activities.

At present betting companies and exchanges frequently pay absolutely nothing to utilise and make money on an activity which is funded by Irish Owners and Racing Professionals.

Owners license and register their names and racing colours, pay significant sums to buy and train their horses, pay jockeys, grooms and transporters to take them to the races. They readily accept that this is their prerogative and should not expect anyone to finance this activity. However, when the betting industry takes this for granted and expects all this information for free surely there is something amiss.

Surely there must be some form of copyright which these owners have established by registering their names and colours, further endorsed by paying to perform on the day. It does not seem reasonable that the betting industry is paying such a nominal amount for this information on which they base their business.

I look forward to your observations on this matter.