



Technology in much of the industry is seriously dated, other participants noted. Some of the largest entities in racing, including the Japan Racing Association, the HKJC and Australia's Tabcorp, rely on betting systems developed 15 to 30 years ago, said Christophe Leray, PMU's chief information officer. There is no market standard in terms of software, he added.

While there were no breakthrough advancements announced at the forum, two totalizator companies operating in North America revealed some new initiatives.

Keith Johnson, vice president of marketing/technical sales for AmTote International, said that company has finished testing with PMU and is readying to provide France's jackpot wager, Quinte Plus, to its customers. AmTote plans to follow with Sweden's jackpot V75 bet and the British Tote's Scoop6.

Meanwhile, Sportech has signed a strategic agreement with Longitude LLC to develop sports betting in single pools. Longitude, with servers in New York, is relying on patented calculations developed by financial traders that can assemble all bet types in a single pool and calculate odds for each type.

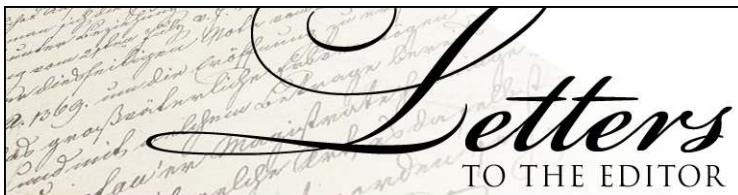
Ian Hogg, chief executive of Sportech in the United Kingdom and online, said the company considered working with Longitude on horse racing, but determined there were too many organizations to deal with in the sport to make it likely to succeed.

"We'll go live with single pools and see if it works," Hogg said. "It fits with our ideas of innovation."

Sportech also has signed a strategic relationship with UK social betting operator Bodugi.

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As Rob Whiteley's commentary ([click here](#)) explained in depth, since 2007, the challenges which commercial breeders face have steadily expanded to the point that it is rapidly becoming a "rich man's" game." Salvaging a break even position year after year via a breakout sale on 15% of production is not a viable business plan, it's a wish. Best, Jeffry Morris



My name is Glenn Thompson and I am a trainer and the author of the book "The Tradition of Cheating in the Sport of Kings."

Letters to the Editor cont.

I have been training for over thirty years and feel that if we do not clean our own house and do it in a hurry, we are going to lose more of our precious horses and fans. I think that the biggest issue that we all face is the drug problem with racing and the biggest drug issue concerns the use of lasix. The lasix issue is a very complicated issue and even though people claim to know the truth, no one really knows. I took a couple of horses off of lasix this summer to try and find out where I stand and to feel confident that they would not bleed, I also did not give them any of the pre-race meds, bute, banamine, azium ect. I feel that the pre-race meds set a horse up to bleed. I had surgery this past year and the doctor really stressed not to take any NSAIDs within a week of the surgery due to the risk of bleeding. We allow our horses to get the NSAIDS 24 out from the race and then scratch our heads and wonder why they bleed!! The two horses that I did this with, Herculon and Mad Dancer, did not bleed. It is a trade off, as both horses did have minor problems that the pre-race meds might have helped and you have to wonder if the 20 to 30 pounds that the horses lose because of the lasix would make a big difference. The sad part is that on the days that they ran, they were the only horses for the whole day that ran without lasix. In hindsight and thinking it through, I feel that Herculon would have run better with the pre-race meds and lasix and Mad Dancer was better off without it. Both horses recovered from the races much better than they did when they got the lasix, so I felt very good about that and could bring them back on a quick return if needed. My honest opinion is that only about 25% of the horses would bleed if they were not given any of the pre-race meds and if the pre-race meds are in play then 75% will bleed. My opinion as well as all the other trainers, owners, vets and gamblers means nothing without proof so I came up with an idea that I feel will resolve the issue and let us know the direction we need to take within three months. The idea is to have 10 racetracks across the country have 2 races per day that are drug free or limit the drugs. These races will either have a bonus for the trainers or simply enhance the purses so we get the maximum participation. Have 2yo, 3yo, 4yo and up, fillies and colts, long and short. Have races where pre-race meds are allowed but no lasix, have races where nothing is allowed at all. After each race, every horse in the race is scoped by a Racing Commission Vet and have the records very well documented. In three months we will have a 10,000-12,000 horse research project that will let us know exactly where we stand and let us know for sure what needs to be done. We will not be counting on some small study that was done in South Africa years ago. I know that this will be a very expensive experiment but feel that it is the most important thing we can do and hope that the racing community can pitch in and get it done.