

International Race Day Medication Summit

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**Chairman – European Horserace Scientific
Liaison Committee**



ESTABLISHED 1790



EHS LC

European Horserace Scientific Liaison Committee

Flat Racing:

- ❑ Flat
 - 42% Races (993)
 - 39% Runners
 - 11,925 Runners
 - Average field size 12
 - No. of starters 3,164
 - Average starts 3.8
- ❑ Flat Races
 - 5 furlongs - $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles
- ❑ Season
 - $8\frac{1}{2}$ months



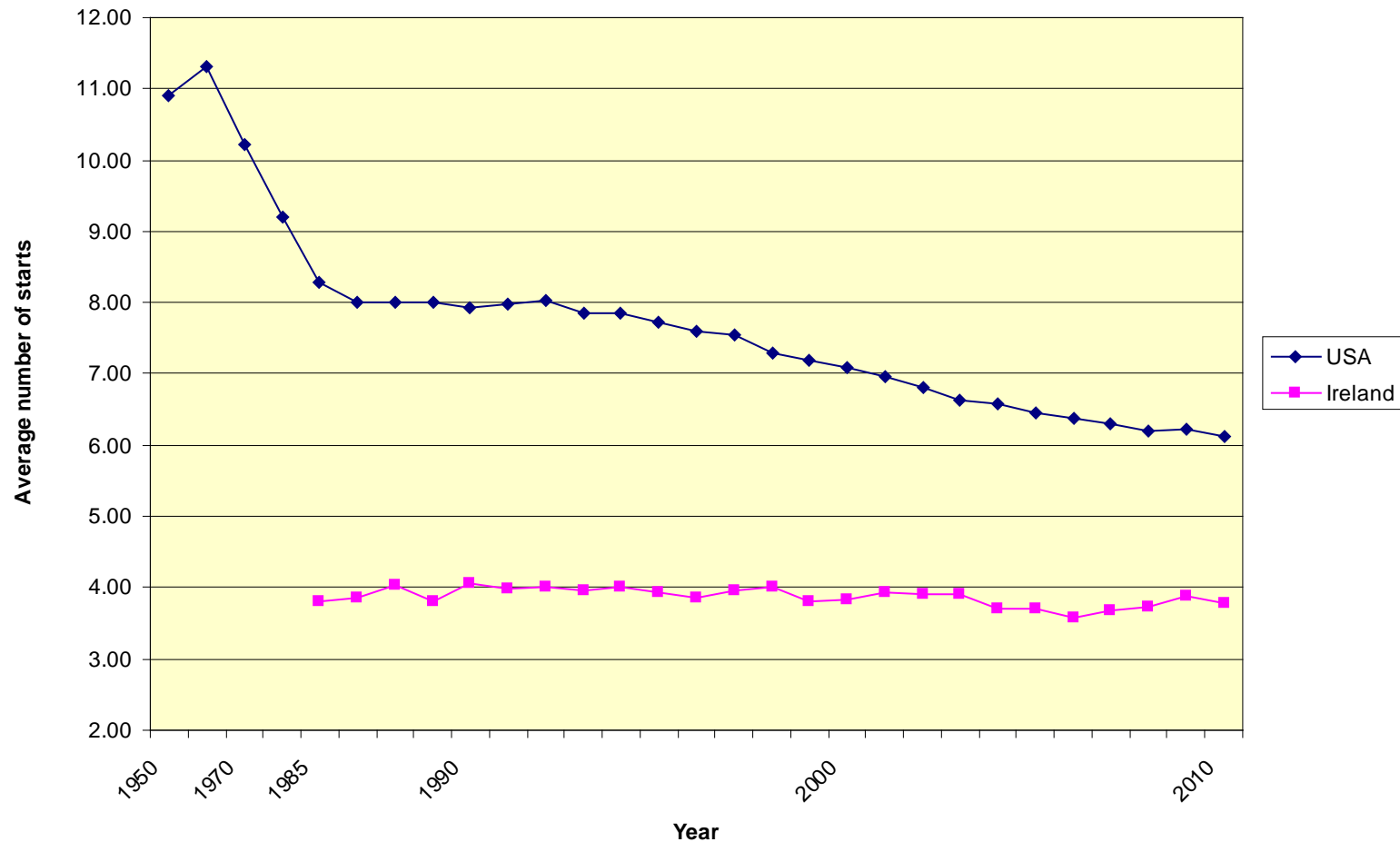
National Hunt Racing:

- ❑ National Hunt : 58% Races (1,388)
61% Runners
18,665 Runners
Average field size 13.4
No. of starters 5,600
Average starts 3.3
- ❑ Jump races: 2 miles - 4 miles
- ❑ Season: All year round
- ❑ Grass



Analysis of average starts – Flat Racing

Starts per Horse (Flat races)



Analysis of Starter Origins

Flat

	IRE Bred	G.B. Bred	USA Bred	Others Bred
2010	2,379	433	272	80
2009	2,422	478	313	129
2008	2,553	524	314	138
2007	2,519	537	286	114
2006	2,427	445	232	105
2005	2,349	391	214	89
2004	2,322	341	237	62
2003	2,234	330	222	62
2002	2,111	330	237	42
2001	1,900	317	224	43
Average	75.5%	13.4%	8.3%	2.8%

Analysis of Starter Origins

National Hunt

	IRE Bred	G.B. Bred	USA Bred	Others Bred
2010	4,705	457	109	329
2009	5,068	482	120	389
2008	5,454	530	126	382
2007	5,367	520	133	324
2006	5,006	476	118	275
2005	4,898	426	106	212
2004	4,473	375	107	174
2003	4,332	340	95	177
2002	4,191	318	96	135
2001	4,144	322	69	113
Average	85.8%	7.6%	1.9%	4.7%

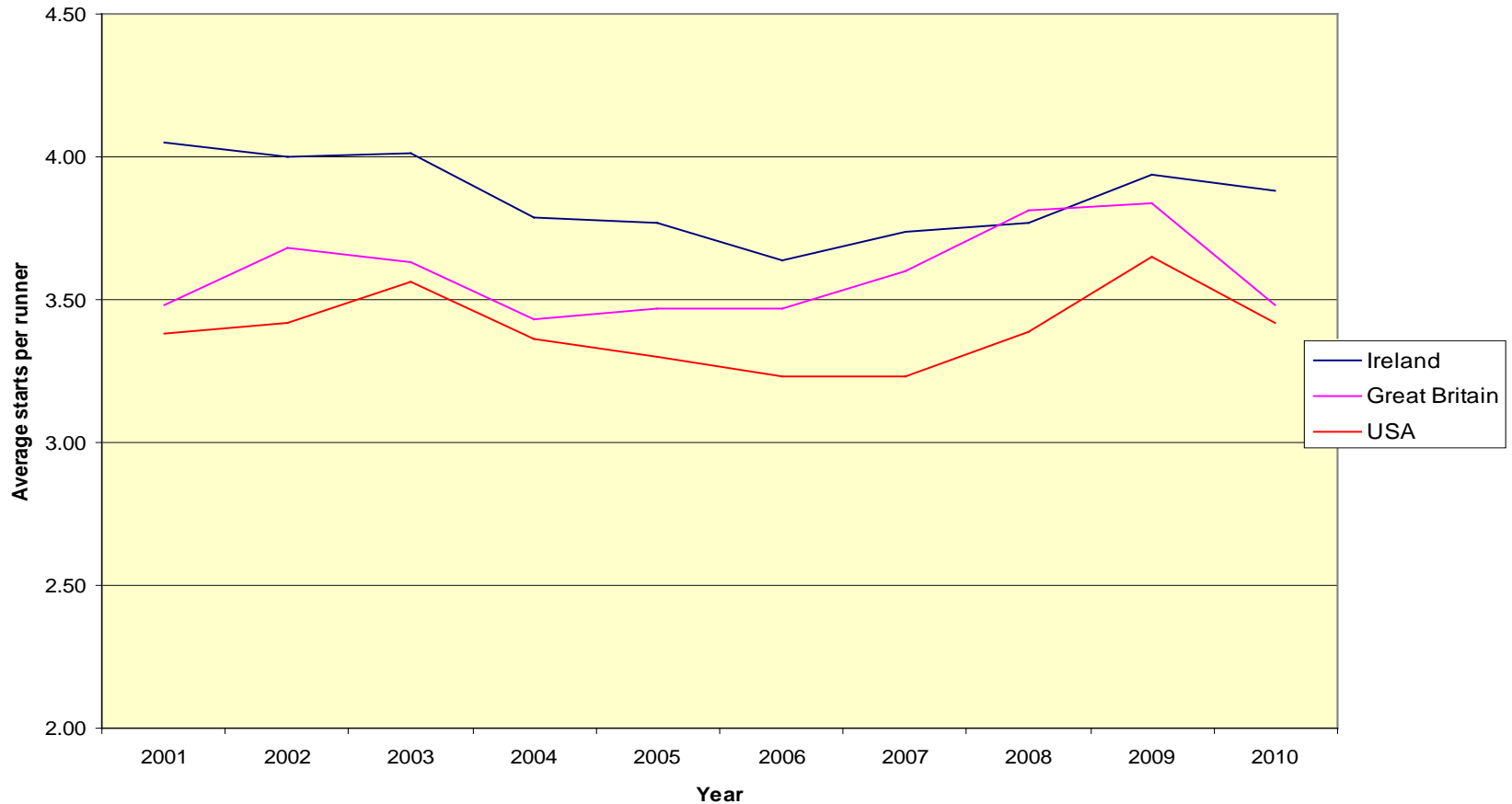
Analysis of Average Starts per Runner

Flat

	IRE Bred	G.B. Bred	USA Bred
2010	3.88	3.48	3.42
2009	3.94	3.84	3.65
2008	3.77	3.81	3.39
2007	3.74	3.60	3.23
2006	3.64	3.47	3.23
2005	3.77	3.47	3.30
2004	3.79	3.43	3.36
2003	4.01	3.63	3.56
2002	4.00	3.68	3.42
2001	4.05	3.48	3.38

Analysis of Starter Origins - Flat

Analysis of average starts - Flat Racing



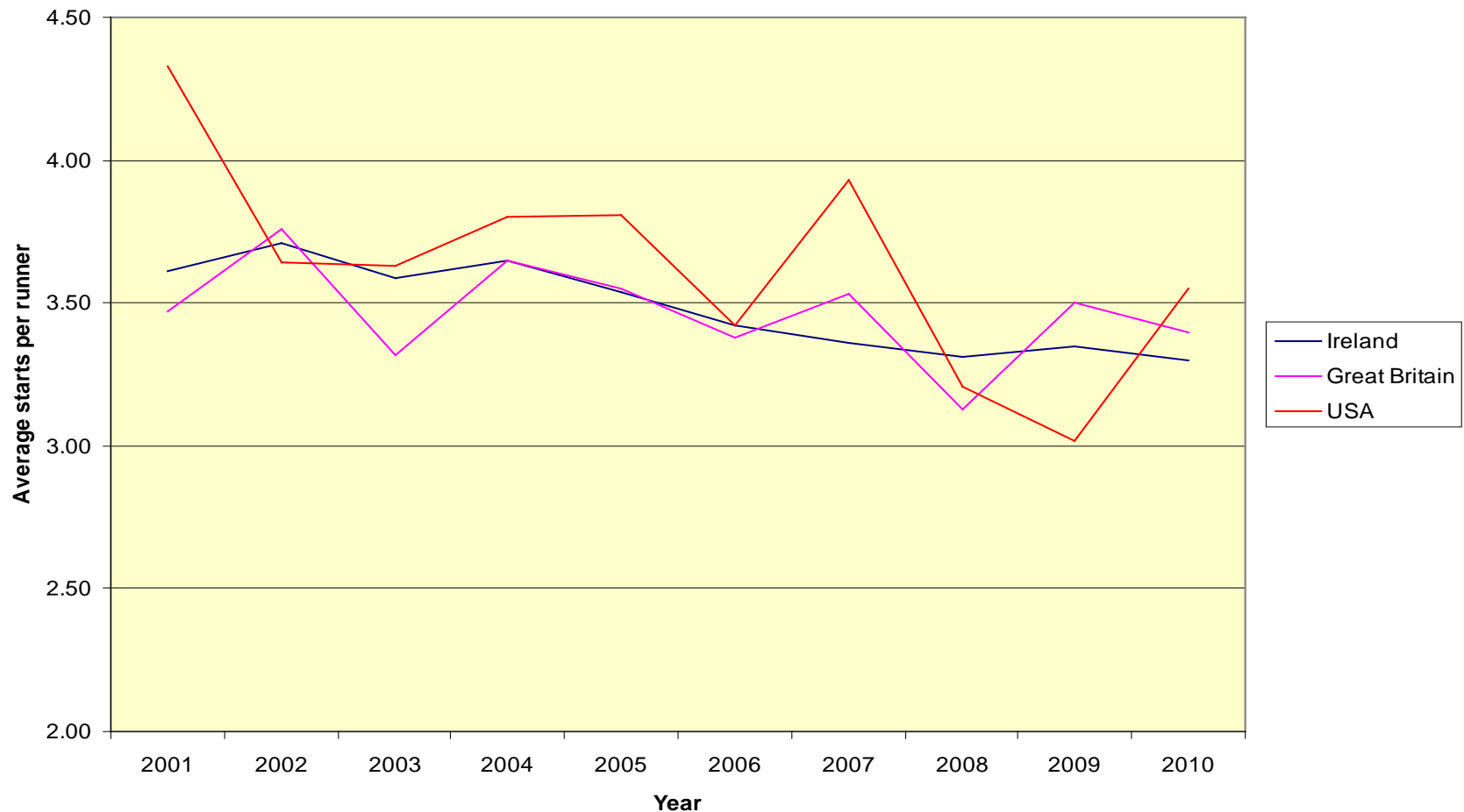
Analysis of Average Starts per Runner

National Hunt

	IRE Bred	G.B. Bred	USA Bred
2010	3.30	3.40	3.55
2009	3.35	3.50	3.02
2008	3.31	3.13	3.21
2007	3.36	3.53	3.93
2006	3.42	3.38	3.42
2005	3.54	3.55	3.81
2004	3.65	3.65	3.80
2003	3.59	3.32	3.63
2002	3.71	3.76	3.64
2001	3.61	3.47	4.33

Analysis of Starter Origins – Jump Racing

Analysis of average starts - Jump Racing



The data shows for USA Bred Horses:

- ❑ Average number of flat starts has remained the same since 2001.
- ❑ Average number of Jump starts has equalled or bettered the equivalent figures for Irish breeds in 7 of the last 10 years (small sample).
- ❑ All achieved without the use of Lasix on a raceday

Bleeding Statistics

Trainers must report

- ❑ If a horse is found before leaving the racecourse to have a nasal or internal haemorrhage.
- ❑ Anything which might have affected the running of their horse in a race.
- ❑ Anything that comes to their notice after the horse has left the course which might have a bearing on the past or future running of the horse.

Flat Racing

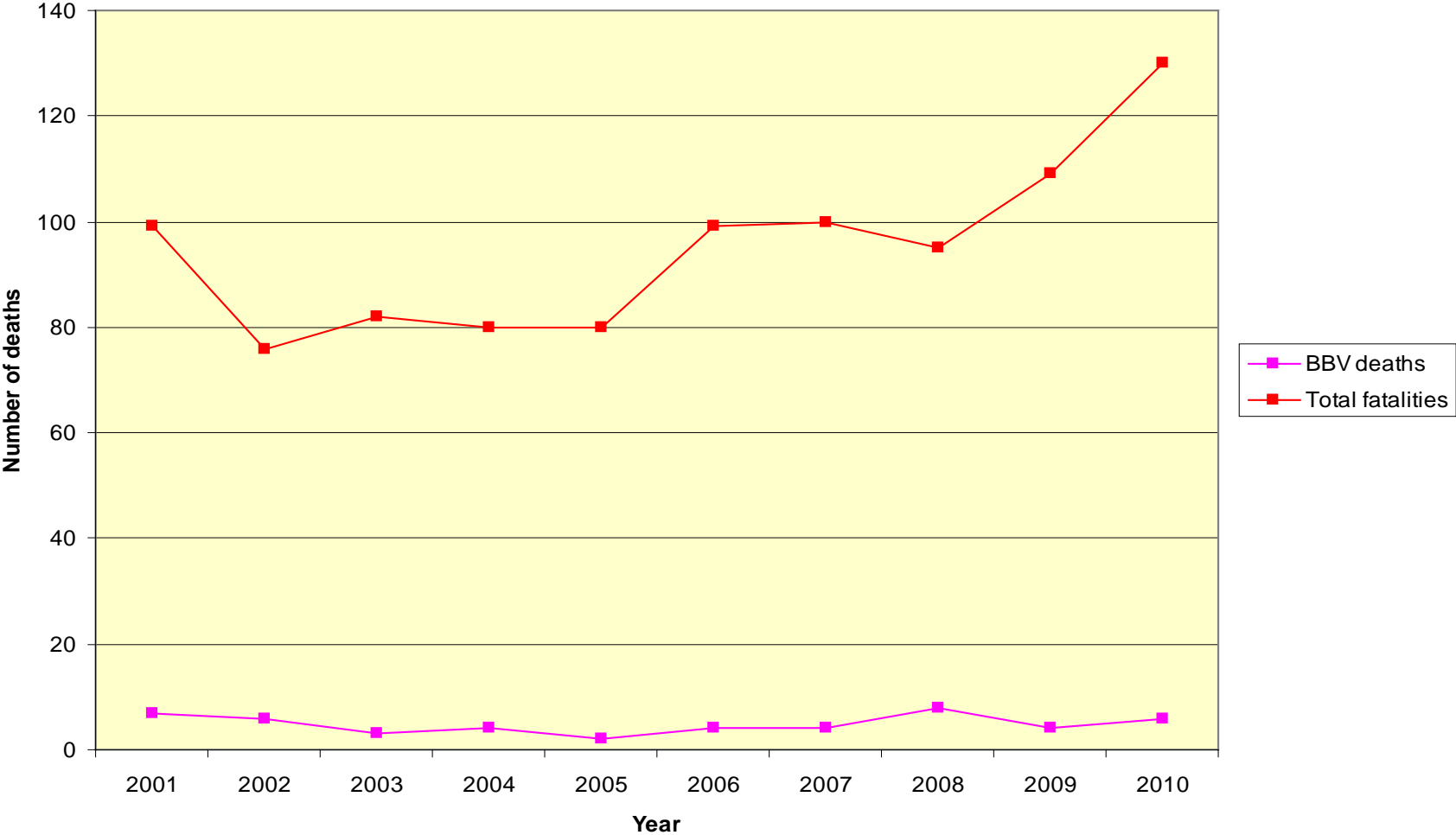
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
No. of runners	11,477	12,681	13,148	12,945	11,925
Burst blood Vessels (BBV)	6	9	15	8	18
No. ran again	4	6	15	5	8
No. won	4	2	8	0	1
BBV deaths	0	0	1	0	0

Jump Racing

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
No. of runners	20,119	21,610	21,444	20,295	18,665
Burst blood Vessels (BBV)	50	87	77	79	81
No. ran again	32	56	53	52	36
No. won	11	21	12	16	11
BBV deaths	2	4	7	4	6

Racecourse fatalities

Racecourse Fatalities



The Data Shows

- ❑ Very low incidence of bleeding in Irish racing
- ❑ Flat racing 1:1100 runners
- ❑ Jump racing 1:274 runners
- ❑ Vast majority of bleeding occurs in jump racing – older horses
- ❑ Fatality Rate – Jump racing 1:4,450 runners
- ❑ Over 60% of horses that bleed run again
- ❑ Over 30% of those that run win races

Management of the Racing Schedules to minimise the Risk of Bleeding

Trainers views on bleeding

Causes

❑ Hereditary

- Bleeders are bred
- Genetic

❑ Stress – major cause

- Don't overstress
- Keep calm – gallop first
- Don't feed before work
- Quality of the groom
- Use lasix in training to build confidence

Trainers views on bleeding

Causes

❑ Environment

- Keep clean and dust free
- Dust is a major cause of upper respiratory tract (URT) infection
- Bedding and feed must be top class
- Airflow

❑ Allergies

- Major cause of bleeding
- Weaken lungs
- Importance of fresh air
- Trained from the field



Curragh Training Grounds

Trainers views on bleeding

Causes

❑ Don't work horses as hard

- The harder you work the greater the stress and pressure
- $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ speed in training



Trainers views on bleeding Management

❑ Scoping

- Scope regularly as it indicates problems at an early stage

❑ Know your horse

- Every horse is different
- Observe
- Chances of bleeding reduced by good stable and training management
- Less than 10% of horses receive Lasix in training

Trainers views on bleeding

Treatment

❑ Stop Training

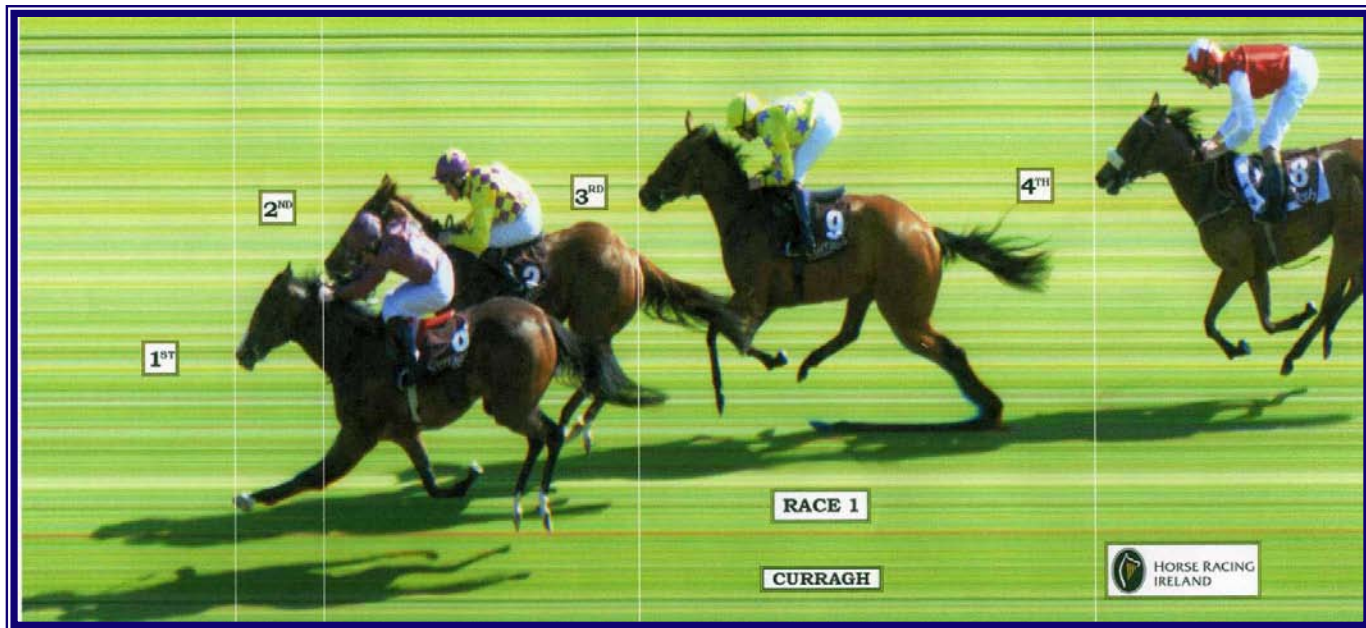
- If the horse has an infection – URT causes 90% of horses to bleed
- Scope
- Give plenty of anti-biotics
- Let horse recover before going back into work

Trainers views on bleeding

General

- ❑ Use lasix when running in the USA – to level the playing pitch
- ❑ “Because we can”
- ❑ Lasix is very hard on a horse – can flatten and depress
- ❑ Send bleeders to run in the USA
- ❑ Don't want to use raceday lasix in Ireland
- ❑ Very small percentage of horses retire annually (Less than 2%)

Influencing the results of competition



Influencing the results of competition

- ❑ Lasix is performance enhancing as it reduces the possibility of a bleed
- ❑ Imposes an unfair advantage on normal unmedicated horses
- ❑ A bleeder is an acknowledged cause of deficiency in performance capacity and capability of the horse
- ❑ Lasix camouflages the actual physical health state of the horse and allows them to compete
- ❑ Lasix doesn't cure bleeding
- ❑ Is it right to allow compromised horses compete

Influencing the results of competition

- ❑ Each individual horse has its own inherent characteristics both positive and negative which directly influences its performances – medication will alter these factors
- ❑ Impacts on the formbook
- ❑ Perception – use of drugs in sport
- ❑ Cycling/weightlifting
- ❑ American Racing – tainted, loss of sponsorship?
- ❑ Not what we think – but what everyone else thinks
- ❑ People will vote with their feet

Effect of Lasix on the sales market



Views – Owners, Breeders, Trainers

- ❑ Stallion quality disimproving
- ❑ USA stallions who may have raced on lasix and bute not comparable to “clean” European stallions
- ❑ Damage to genetic pool
- ❑ Bleeders are bred
- ❑ Horses not building up natural immunity
- ❑ Solution to problems may not be medication
- ❑ If USA is serious about the breed eliminate lasix now or face the consequences

Views – Owners, Breeders, Trainers

- ❑ European buyers drifting away
- ❑ Progeny of USA stallions more likely to bleed than Europeans
- ❑ Can be difficult to train in Europe
- ❑ USA bred horses are not as sound
- ❑ Will only send mares to USA stallions that have had success in Europe
- ❑ Performances being treated with skepticism