

LEVELLING THE PLAYING FIELD IN SPORT

ANTI-DOPING TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS FOR THE EQUINE INDUSTRY

Proven Experience in Animal Welfare

The EventLog team has already established an enviable position in the field of off-the-shelf and bespoke software and technical solutions for the animal welfare industry.

Since 2015, we have formed a close working relationship with the team at the British Horseracing Authority, based in Holborn, London.

The first initiative worked upon was the development of a mobile app designed to allow the reading of horse microchip and barcode information. Since then, EventLog has developed an all encompassing app based technical solution to help BHA to be smarter, more dynamic and to take a more strategic view of their constantly evolving Anti-Doping Programme.

Establishing the British Horseracing Authority Requirements

The British Horseracing Authority worked closely with software and app developers at EventLog to scope their basic requirement. In doing so, they also liaised with testing laboratories, who provide unrivalled and internationally trusted expertise in all aspects of doping control for sports.



EventLog Solution

We proposed a fully integrated solution, using the Enterprise Data Capture device for Long Range RFID Microchip and Barcode scanning, coupled with a dedicated SmartPhone App to process the data and securely forward it to the testing labs and BHA. We also proposed to develop a dedicated BHA database with Web Service interfaces to store this data and to automatically match the lab test results against the sampled horses.

BHA Requirement Summary

Mobile scanning of RFID microchips



- Read the microchip implanted in a horse upon its arrival at the stables and validate that the horse is listed to run in a specified race that day.
- Horses can be assigned stabling at arrivals.
- Random checks can be requested – e.g. random horse passport checking.
- Stables allocated by the stable hands and can be marked as 'out of action'.
- Race checking functionality being incorporated to ensure correct runners.

Mobile scanning of 1d / 2d barcodes



- Read an employee identity card and validate that they are permitted to be with the horse.
- Scan the barcodes of post-race samples and consignment packaging and store in a data file.

Signature capture capability



- Collect sample witnessing declaration confirmation on screen of device.

Secure data file transfer



- Transfer of data both to testing labs and BHA.
- Fixtures, times and horses/trainers data sent to device.

Store the data file information in BHA database



- Testing labs provide positive or negative results and assigns to horse record within BHA database. Automatic matching of lab test results against BHA database.

Out of Competition Testing

Besides testing in a competition environment, the app is required to accommodate 'out of competition' testing. Typically, a vet is assigned a trainer to visit. The vet visits the assigned stables, samples all horses and takes urine and blood. After each sample is collected, the trainer signs a witness declaration to confirm the correct horse has been sampled. By process of elimination, any unexpected horses present at the stables are identified.



Pre-race Data Download

Eventhough 4G download is an option, to avoid any dependency on network connectivity at the racecourse, we enabled the list of daily runners and allowable employees to be downloaded to the smartphone prior to the days racing commencing. Furthermore, allowance was made, should this not be possible before arrival at the racecourse, for the daily runners to be downloaded using the WiFi connection available in the Race Stewards office.

Manual Input Capability

A manual input or override capability was incorporated for all data entry in case Microchip and Barcode information cannot be scanned (e.g. because of chip failure).

Usability

The smartphone app and scanner operation was designed to be as simple and intuitive as possible. Little or no training is required to operate the system.

Phone Network Connectivity

The smartphone app functions in a 'stand alone' fashion if no phone network connectivity is available at the racecourse. Data automatically syncs securely to the central servers whenever connectivity is re-established.



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