



Press Releases

[Archive](#)

Trio charged over HKJC membership scams

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An honorary voting member of the Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC) and two other persons have been charged by the ICAC in two separate cases for their alleged roles in fraud scams over the applications for HKJC racing membership.

In the first case, the defendants are Stanley Lawrence Freedman, 83, an honorary voting member of HKJC; and Tang Kang-chung, 49, a construction worker.

Freedman faces two counts of conspiracy to defraud, while Tang has been charged with three counts of dealing with property known or believed to represent proceeds of an indictable offence, contrary to Section 25(1) of the Organised and Serious Crimes Ordinance.

Freedman and Tang will appear at Eastern Magistracy at 9:30 am tomorrow (Thursday) for mention.

One of the conspiracy charges alleges that between September 2009 and January 2010, Freedman conspired together with Robert Ng Ka-ki and John Douglas Mackie to defraud HKJC by falsely stating that the information in an applicant's racing membership application form was true.

They were alleged to have provided false information on the acquaintance of sponsors with the applicant, their respective length of acquaintance and respective nature of relationship with him.

Another conspiracy charge alleges that between January and March 2009, Freedman conspired together with others to defraud HKJC by dishonestly stating their acquaintance, respective length of acquaintance and nature of relationship with another applicant in an application for HKJC racing membership.

The remaining three charges allege Tang of having dealt with a total of \$1.25 million between late 2008 and July 2010, knowing that the monies represented the proceeds of an indictable offence.

In another case, Chan Wing-fai, 43, a company director, faces one count of conspiracy to defraud in relation to his application for HKJC racing membership.

Chan will appear at Eastern Magistracy at 9:30 am tomorrow (Thursday) for plea.

The charge alleges that in 2009, Chan conspired together with Freedman, Mackie, Tong Kam-pui, Ho Wai-shek and another person to defraud HKJC by dishonestly stating their acquaintance, respective length of acquaintance and nature of relationship with Chan in his application form for HKJC racing membership.

The above cases arose from a corruption complaint. Subsequent ICAC enquiries revealed the above alleged offences.

HKJC had rendered full assistance to the ICAC during its investigation.

The three defendants have been released on ICAC bail, pending their court appearance tomorrow.

[Back to Index](#)

[+ back](#)[+ top](#)