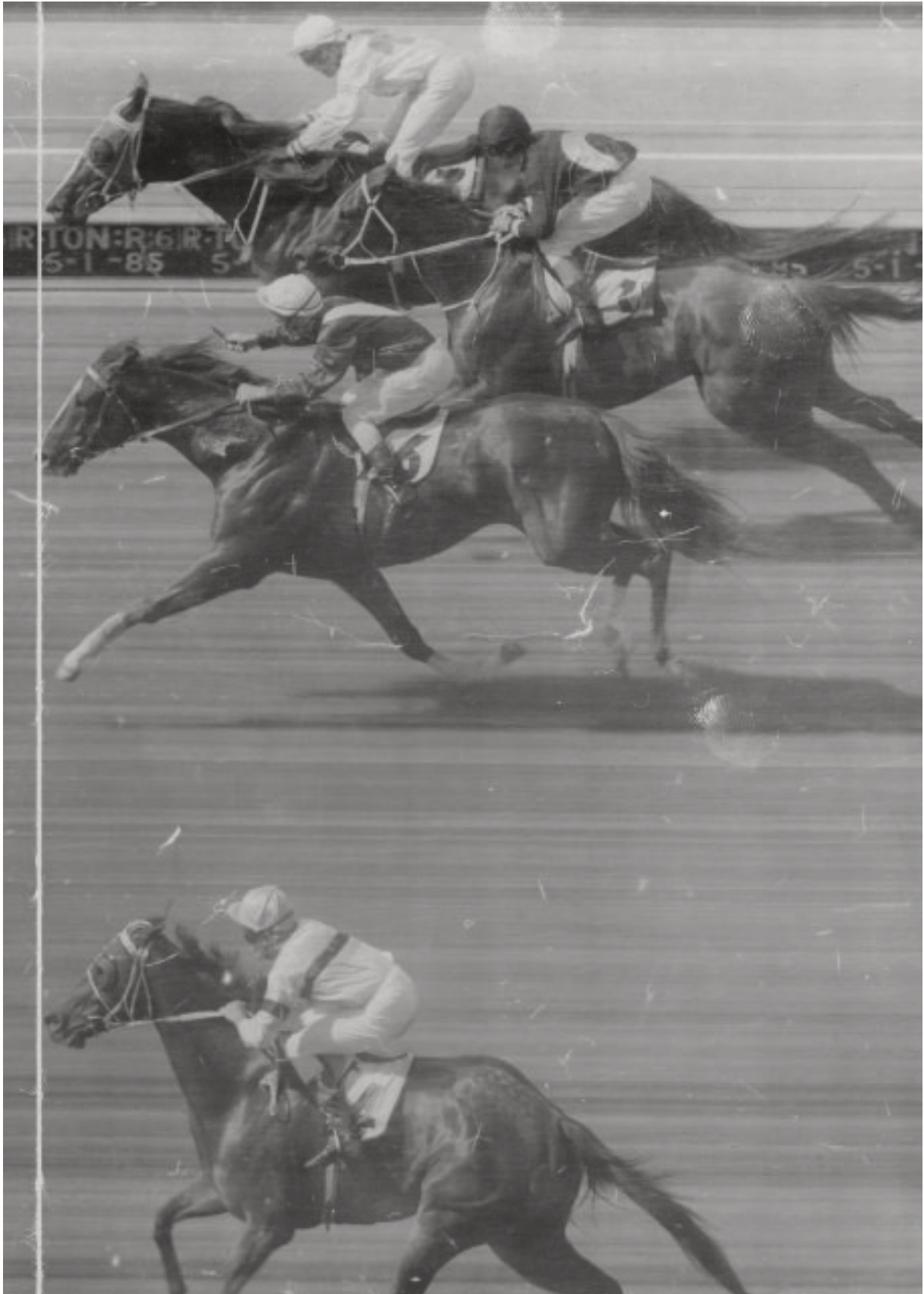


A close finish explained



10644	OPEN HCP
\$1,300, \$475, \$147, \$147, 1300 metres. 49 kg min.	
9-4ef KUCEK (NZ) (b g, 6, Double Speed (USA) - Gate Lover (NZ)) 54 (N Coyne)	1
4 Sea Strike 49, cd 50 (J Flanders) . . .	2
8 Yes to Success 53 (A Davison)	3
8 Binnen Boy 50, cd 51½ (W Devine)	3
9-4ef Yarra 54½ (W Cameron)	5
12 Bern Wood 49½ (G Booth)	6
2¼ len, short ½ head, 1-17.7	
Owner: R C & B A Peckett; Trainer: T J Coyne	
Judge's Nos 2, 6, 3 4	
Dead heat for third between yes to success and binnen boy	

The preceding images tell a story that will be best appreciated by the few of us who were racetrack photo-finish operators.

The photo finish is for second and third places of a race run at Callaghan Park, Rockhampton, on 5 January 1985.

The judges declared Sea Strike (No 6) second and a dead-heat between Yes To Success (No 3) and Binnen Boy (No 4).

A close examination of the print shows that the outside horse (No 4) *did* have a margin over the inside runner (No 3). I was operator that day and kept a spoil copy of the print.

The next image proves my assertion. I have excised a close up of the declared dead-heaters and lined them up. This can be verified by referring to the full-sized print.

Even though the margin is minute; there *is* a margin. However, I don't disagree with the judges' decision.

There's only a couple of millimetres difference. They would have looked at it through a magnifying glass and concluded a dead-heat was acceptable.

I can't recall if I kept the print because I saw an anomaly but since I revisited the result, I must have had questions at the time.

As discussed elsewhere, operating photo finish equipment before the digital age was a considerably more taxing and hands-on experience.

It required a level of expertise racing no longer needs because technology has changed so much.

Although it was demanding in the moment, there was a level of satisfaction in completing the task.

As long as the operator didn't make a mistake and the equipment worked, there was a negative to develop from which a print could be produced.

