



BRITISH HARNESS RACING CLUB

Council Update

The BHRC Council met on Sunday 21st November 2010 to discuss handicapping issues as they are empowered to do under rule G3.

Following invitation representations were received from Anthony Fettah, the Scottish Harness Racing Club, Les Coward, Ray Jenkins, Gordon Garnett, Stella Havard, Trot Britain, Harness Horseman's Association and Gwenan Thomas.

Suggestions ranged from a complete movement towards the utilising of Conditioned and Selling races, Maidens entering the system with no monies, widening of the Grade bands, allowances for juveniles, to no change at all. The Council had lengthy and in-depth discussions on all issues raised.

The conclusion of the meeting:

- **Maidens to enter the system as Grade 1 [£0] after their first win. Maidens only permitted to race with Maidens.**
- **No extension or changes to the Grade bands**
- **All prize money to count. All prize money penalties to be net of race entry fee and any current BHRC charges levied (this cannot be a negative sum)**
- **All horses to receive a £30 per run lift for their 2010 performances**
- **From 1st January 2011 lifts to be in season and determined by number of runs and earnings accrued:**
 - [a] Grades 1 to 3**
Horses that have not had a race win in their last seven BHRC performances and have not accrued £250 in prize money during that period will receive a lift of one Grade (horses cannot go lower than Grade 1)
 - [b] Grades 4 to 7**
Horses that have not had a race win in their last seven BHRC performances and have not accrued £500 in prize money during that period will receive a lift of one Grade
 - [c] Grades 8 to 12**
Horses that have not had a race win in their seven BHRC performances and have not accrued £750 in prize money during that period will receive a lift of one Grade.
 - [d] Any horse after receiving a lift under sections [a] to [c] that suddenly perform at a much higher standard will revert to their original Grade and the trainer and driver will be penalised**
The sentiment of the meeting is that the penalty should be the driver fined twice the value of the race and also a six month suspension. This issue to be debated at the Committee meeting on Sunday 5th December
- **The juvenile sector extended to include four year olds**
Four year olds to have penalty value imposed reduced by 50%. This applicable only to races organised, set-up and advertised with clear conditions before the first race of the season

- **The juvenile lifts for two year old, three year old and four year olds to be applied to British bred horses only (i.e. horses foaled in England, Scotland, Wales or Ireland).**
- Grade 0 and 1 trotters be permitted to race with Pacers at the Promoters discretion (this to be reviewed when considered appropriate)
- **The following will be taken forward to the Committee meeting on 5th December 2010 for a formal vote:**
 - [a] the maximum trail be totally abolished**
 - OR**
 - [b] the maximum trail can be deviated from in races not exceeding £1500 first prize**

The majority view of the meeting was that the current system needs at least three to five years to be embraced and be successful and also the use of Conditioned and Selling races should be extended and Promoters should be fully encouraged to set-up, advertise and run these types of races.