



BRITISH HARNESS RACING CLUB

Committee Update

The Committee Meeting on Saturday 30th October at Goole was very well attended and many significant and critical issues were discussed. Ideas and reports were submitted and motions put forward for the next session.

Review of 2010

The majority of associations agreed that, despite the country being deep in recession, Harness Racing had continued not unaffected, but generally had gone well. Ffos Las had been a good addition to the racing calendar, Scotland had seen a very good year with excellent racing, Wales and West had put on six successful meetings, the shows of Scorton and Wolsingham had been well supported and Hereford and Borders had seen record entries. A total of six records had been broken, one of which was a world record so all in all a good year with excellent racing.

Handicapping Review

Just to buck the trend this item did not take up hours nor did it get flogged to death. Wales and West Harness Racing Association and also the Vice Chairman, Barry Delaney, are happy with the current system as it stands but would like to see more and better promotion of conditioned and claiming races. The Chairman has put in a thought provoking and controversial system which provides substantial assistance to small stables and mid range horses. Reports and ideas for tweaking the system have been submitted from various clubs and associations and copies of these were distributed. The Council will meet on Sunday 21st November 2010 to debate and vote on proposals. Any club or association wishing to submit anything further on handicapping must do so to the BHRC office, in writing, no later than 12pm Friday 12th November 2010. Ideas submitted to date are appended at the end of this report.

Integrity

Further to the Council meeting last week, discussion was undertaken as to how the testing process for the BHRC should proceed. Debate was had as to methods of testing, out of competition and in competition testing, the taking of samples and most importantly the funding of the programme. The motion from the Council meeting that the current £3 per horse levy should change to an Integrity Levy which would be 5% of prize money (i.e. prize money, win or place, of £200 would see £10 paid direct to the BHRC as the Integrity Levy and the remaining £190 paid to the owner, and this would be the handicap amount).

This motion is due to be voted on at the next Committee meeting on Sunday 5th December 2010 - mandates will be required on this issue from clubs and associations.

Classic Races

As decided last year when the Classic Races were opened up to approved tracks, the issue was revisited and hotly debated. The motion from the Council meeting that Classic Races should only be held on Hard Tracks was introduced and also that specific date windows for the races should be set. Debate was had on which races would receive priority, where the Classic races could fit in the racing calendar without excluding some tracks from tendering, the BHRC funding in the races and also a pertinent issue was the lateness in the year of the discussions and the timescales of resolving

the issues so that tenders could be invited. A suggestion was made that the 2011 Classic Races should be run under the rules that are presently in place, thus allowing tenders to be invited and opened at the next Committee meeting and therefore the 2011 Classic Races allocated before Christmas, and also at that meeting the approved tracks and date windows should be set for the 2012 Classic Races. This suggestion was formally proposed and seconded. A vote was taken and the majority of members in favour.

A formal proposal that due to the current financial situation and climate, the BHRC should not put added money into the Classic Races in 2011, was tabled and seconded. A vote was taken and the majority of members in favour.

Therefore:

- tender forms for the 2011 Classic Races will be distributed to the approved tracks, with tenders being invited, in writing by recorded delivery post, to the BHRC no later than Wednesday 1st December 2010. The tenders will then be opened on Sunday 5th December and the Classic Races for 2011 allocated.
- there will be no added money from the BHRC for the 2011 Classic Races, the purses will be formed from the entry and tender fees

The motion to resolve the approved tracks and date windows for the 2012 Classic Races is due to be voted on at the next Committee meeting on Sunday 5th December 2010 - mandates will be required on this issue from clubs and associations.

Rules

Many rule alterations were submitted, some removals suggested and also new ideas brought forward. These covered a cross section of the rule book, including addition of some definitions and race types, duties of Stewards and Regional Stewards, driving rules, appeals, drug testing, application for trainer licences and also a rule involving health checks for drivers. All suggestions received are appended at the end of this report.

The next stage will be for the Committee to vote on Sunday 5th December 2010 which rule suggestions to take forward for final refinement and inclusion in the BHRC Rules and Regulations - mandates will be required on this issue from clubs and associations

Fixture Applications 2011

The first airing of the applications for the 2011 season was had at the meeting. Musselburgh is sticking to the July weekend, Corbiewood dates range from April to late October with the Murdoch weekend back again, Appleby New Fair have an either or in June, Tir Prince have applied for six dates (which depend on the Rasmus/S4C schedule for 2011), York have applied for 17 dates which include the York Major Classic Weekend late in June, Pikehall are considering an extra fixture for 2011, Ceredigion return with the three day format and Amman Valley may well move to Wednesday night racing (again dependent on the Rasmus/S4C schedule for 2011). There is a date clash in July between Staindrop and Pikehall to be resolved and York applications clash with Wolsingham and Stanhope shows in September which also will need to be resolved. A second viewing of the applications will be had at the next Committee meeting on Sunday 5th December 2010, after which a provisional fixture list will be published.

Online Provision of Streaming and Pool Betting

Further to the article, prepared by Mr David Hood, in the recent Calendar members debated the possibility of the BHRC and Promoters taking the initiative on board. The actual logistics and financing of the project were the most prevalent issues so the Chairman agreed to contact Mr Hood for further information, with a view to Mr Hood speaking at an upcoming meeting.

Any Other Business

Two applications were put forward for drivers to be upgraded from B Class to A Class. Both applicants received glowing references and their applications were granted. The applicants were:

Sarah Mould
Brian Gilvear

BHRC Annual Awards

The timing of the voting process in the calendar was lightly debated and members agreed to vote on the Annual Awards at the next Committee meeting. Nominations are invited in writing to the BHRC office by Friday 19th November 2010.

Categories are: Horse of the Year, Mare of the Year, Two Year Old of the Year, Three Year Old of the Year, Trotter of the Year and Overseas Horse of the Year.

Nominations will be circulated to clubs and associations on Friday 19th November 2010 and a vote will take place at the Committee meeting on Sunday 5th December 2010 - mandates will be required on this issue from clubs and associations.

HANDICAPPING

The following report was submitted by York Harness Raceway:

Handicap Review Report

Thank you to all those that attended and had an input in the Handicap Meeting. The following report covers the main points discussed and the solutions offered at the meeting. This will be taken forward to the BHRC Committee.

1. Maidens

Problems arise where horses win a Maiden race and enter the Grades at Grade 2 and above and then race in Heats and Finals and are outclassed and without experience:

- [a] Reintroduce the Maiden, Novice and Improver before the Grade system
- [b] All horses enter Grade 1 with 0 monies

2. The Bands

Too many horses move through the handicap too quickly, widening of the bands would slow down the advancing of horses through the Grades:

[a]	Grade 1	0-649	(649)
	Grade 2	650-1299	(649)
	Grade 3	1300-1999	(699)
	Grade 4	2000-2999	(999)
	Grade 5	3000-4499	(1499)
	Grade 6	4500-6499	(1999)
	Grade 7	6500-8999	(2499)
	Grade 8	9000-11999	(2999)
	Grade 9	12000-15499	(3499)
	Grade 10	15500-19999	(4499)
	Grade 11	20000-24999	(4999)
	Grade 12	25000+	(Convert to Lifetime Earnings)

[b]	Grade 1	0-879	(879)
	Grade 2	880-1439	(559)
	Grade 3	1440-1999	(559)
	Grade 4	2000-2799	(799)
	Grade 5	2800-3999	(1199)
	Grade 6	4000-5599	(1599)
	Grade 7	5600-7599	(1999)
	Grade 8	7600-9999	(2399)
	Grade 9	10000-12799	(2799)
	Grade 10	12800-15999	(3199)
	Grade 11	16000-19999	(3999)
	Grade 12	20000+	(Convert to Lifetime Earnings)

3. Place Money

Some horses move through the Grade system without winning in that Grade:

- [a] Place money to be reduced by 50%

4. End of Season Lifts

The current £30 per run does not benefit horses above Grade 2:

- [a] Horses to receive 10% of Grade per run. Horses must complete six penalised races to qualify for lift.

5. Penalty Free
To encourage early and late season racing and increase entries at Hard Tracks:
[a] To be introduced and run from 1st October to 30th May or Appleby Spring fixture (whichever comes first) every year. Only applied to races of £500 total purse or less. Horses must complete eight penalised races to qualify for penalty free racing.
6. Maximum Penalty
After one big win horses can be immediately outclassed and uncompetitive:
[a] Maximum penalty per day of £2500
7. 4YO Penalty
To take horses beyond their 2YO and 3YO career:
[a] 25% reduction for 4YOø in nominated 4YO races

The following report was submitted by the Scottish Harness Racing Club:

At a meeting of the SHRC the following points regarding handicapping were made for consideration:

1. Any place money less than £200 should not count.
2. Any maiden after winning goes into Grade 1 with £0 prize money.
3. Grade 1 becomes £0-549.
4. All other bands unaltered.
5. No penalty free racing.
6. No maximum penalty.
7. Percentage for prize money for 2YO and 3YO only. None for 4YO.
8. End of season lift should be approximately 7 to 8 percent in each band:

Grade 1	-	£30
Grade 2	-	£35
Grade 3	-	£40
Grade 4	-	£50
Grade 5	-	£60
Grade 6	-	£80
Grade 7	-	£100
Grade 8	-	£120
Grade 9	-	£140
Grade 10	-	£160
Grade 11	-	£180
Grade 12	-	£200

The following report was submitted by Les Coward:

Suggested Handicap System for 2011

Grade 0 to win a race before progressing to Grade 1, only win money to count when leaving Grade 0, Maximum **purse** for Grade 0 to be £300.

Each Grade will have a trail of **5 yards**, horses in Grades 0 to 2 should not be permitted in the handicap.

<u>New Handicap</u>	<u>Money Range</u>	<u>Monies won before moving to next</u>	
<u>Grade</u>		<u>Grade</u>	
Grade 0	Win Money only to count	Race win	End of Season Lift
Grade 1	up to £550	£550	Grades to 1 to 3 £300
Grade 2	£551 to £850	£300	
Grade 3	£851 to £1150	£300	
Grade 4	£1151 to £1550	£400	Grades 4 to 7 £400
Grade 5	£1551 to £1950	£400	
Grade 6	£1951 to £2350	£400	
Grade 7	£2351 to £2750	£400	
Grade 8	£2751 to £3250	£500	Grades 8 to 11 £500
Grade 9	£3251 to £3750	£500	
Grade 10	£3751 to £4250	£500	
Grade 11	£4251 to £4750	£500	
Grade 12	£4751 to £5400	£650	Grades 12 & 13 £650
Grade 13	£5401 to £6050	£650	
Grade 14	£6051 to £6800	£750	Grades 14 & 15 £750
Grade 15	£6801 to £7550	£750	
Grade 16	£7551 to £8350	£800	Grades 16 & 17 £800
Grade 17	£8351 to £9150	£800	
Grade 18	£9151 to £10150	£1000	Grades 18 & 19 £1000
Grade 19	£10151 to £11150	£1000	
Grade 20	£11151 to £12450	£1300	Grades 20 & 21 £1300
Grade 21	£12451 to £13750	£1300	
Grade 22	£13751 to £15250	£1500	Grades 22 to 24 £1500
Grade 23	£15251 to £16750	£1500	
Grade 24	£16751		

Horses must have completed 5 races to qualify for end of season lift.

Maximum trail 80 yards (this should not be abused)

Horses to race in grades where possible

The following report was submitted by Ray Jenkins:

Handicapping

A few thoughts on handicapping from someone who has been involved in creating several handicap systems for the BHRC over 20 years, and who is involved in race promoting, race framing, and actually racing.

I see the Council are going to take it over, probably a good idea as it is the Council and Committee who get blamed when people don't like the system, so why not make the decisions you are going to be blamed for. However as the Council are self elected, and make their own decisions on voting, they carry no representation from any members. So I see more complaints coming.

I think the existing system has worked remarkably well, with very few complaints in Wales, but maybe a few tweaks are needed. These would be my suggestions:

1. Winners of Grade 0 (Maiden races) enter the system with only the winnings from winning their Grade 0 race (their previous place money is disregarded).
2. Current allowances for 2 and 3YO races is reviewed and also extended to include 4YO races.
3. Currently promoters can only pay a maximum of 70% to the first placed horse, meaning 30% is paid in place money. Several promoters have already ignored this, and the BHRC have ignored this transgression. If the maximum first place money is increased to say 80%/85%, then less money is paid in place money, reducing the number of horses moving up grades because of place money.
4. Lower grade horses when winning a big handicap can jump several grades. Several ways to stop this:
 - a) Grade 1-3 horses are only allowed to run once in a day, except for stakes races.
 - b) If a win takes a horse up more than 2 grades, then handicap is adjusted to the lowest figure in his new grade. For example a Grade 2 horse (750) wins a £1500 purse taking him to 2250 Grade 5, he is adjusted to £1750 which is the lowest point in grade 5. Another example a grade 4(1500) horse wins 2500 taking him to 4000 grade 7, would be adjusted to 3500.
5. Bands could be widened slightly, but this should only be necessary if prize money is increasing (which it isn't). If bands are widened then horses can win more before moving up, making less competitive racing. As entry fees are increasing then the current £30 end of season allowance could be increased to £40 per run.
6. The existing system allows promoters great flexibility, but is seldom taken advantage of. Why not run no trail racing. This was done at Ffos Las last year, but not taken up by anyone else. Why not run races based on horses race times (some promoters think this how horses should be handicapped yet have not run one race based on times).

Best of luck.

The following report was submitted by Gordon Garnett:

Handicapping Submission for Autumn 2010 Considerations

No subject arouses so much interest, anxiety or debate as handicapping. It always will because we either cannot, will not or do not want to really grasp the nettle. We should either do as the North Americans do and rely on Stakes Races, FFAø, Conditioned Races and Selling Races or have a panel of handicappers, people not involved in racing horses, beyond reproach who (as in Thoroughbred racing) determine the mark of a horse. We however want to do it ðour wayö and the graded racing system we have had for a number of years based on monies won has a lot to commend it, is difficult to ðfiddleö and at least everyone knows where they standí good or bad. For many reasons horse owners/trainers and race framers do not want to give conditioned racing a real go and finding a panel of three ðknowledgeable Saintsö is nigh on impossible. Applications are invited but no ðslipped halosö, please.

In my opinion the handicapping system should fulfil certain objectives:

- 1) It should be easy to understand and apply
- 2) It should stimulate racing
- 3) It should be progressiveí the better a horse is the ðfurther back in the handicap it should beö
- 4) Every horse should have a chance to win races and when a horse cannot win its position within the system is reviewed.
- 5) It should be difficult for licence holders to manipulate the system.

With these aims in mind I would suggest the following adjustments to the current system, starting with the premise that a horse in Grade 0 is a maiden and ending with the very best horsesí .not nearly the very bestí .are in Grade 12, i.e. the likes of Crown Manhattan, Doonbeg etc .

- 1) All monies earned to count, but those earnings to be net of any integrity charge levied and entry fee paid. However it cannot be a negative amount. If a horse races and earns £100 and the entry fee is £150 the earnings are nil, not minus £50. There are no minimum total purses. If people want to race for £100, let them. Stella Havard invented and has run ðPathfinder Racesö for years. If these are developedí low entry fee and low prize money this facilitates ðentry level ö races for young and inexperienced horsesí say Grades 0-3 allowing these horses to race against their own kind and develop. And it also allows sport for horses that might be family pets but not good enough to win at York. A grassroots series if you like.
- 2) In order to stimulate juvenile racing (and I would like to see juvenile races being mainly for three and four year olds, not two and three year olds) all bona fide races for two, three and four year olds have their earnings factorised by 50%. However so far as four year old races are concerned these races have to be set up, advertised as such with entry conditions before the start of the season, so that Race Framers/Promoters do not put a tranche of four year olds who just happen to be entered to race at a meeting, into a ðfour year old raceö so as to take advantage of the reduced penalty.
- 3) Grade 0 Maidens
- Grade 1 For horses who have won a race and start their career on the value of the first win, not earlier place money earned and extends to £499
- Grade 2 £500 - £999 (499)
- Grade 3 £1000 - £1649 (649)
- Grade 4 £1650 - £2499 (849)
- Grade 5 £2500 - £3749 (1249)
- Grade 6 £3750 - £5249 (1499)
- Grade 7 £5250 - £6999 (1749)
- Grade 8 £7000 - £8999 (1999)
- Grade 9 £9000 - £11499 (2499)
- Grade 10 £11500 - £14999 (3499)
- Grade 11 £15000 - £19999 (4999)
- Grade 12 £20,000+

4) Allowances:

Horses over 10 years old receive a 10yd allowance earnings as actual but programme reads: WAL (with age allowance)

Horses trained by a Permit Holder (who has never held a Public Trainers Licence) AND driven by an Amateur Driver (one who has never driven for reward) to receive a 10yd allowance. Programme to read: WAA (With Amateur Allowance). The Permit Holder cannot train in or as part of a stable where a Public Trainer operates. Race Framers should wherever possible ensure that a situation with one horse on the gate is avoided. This allowance NOT to apply to Stakes Races, FFA& PFFA&, Conditioned Races and Selling/Claiming Races.

5) Lifts:

In an effort to ensure a horse is never out of the handicap

- a) Where a horse in grades 1-3 has not earned £250 in its last 7 races it is eligible to a lift of one grade. But cannot go lower than Grade 1. Programme to record actual earnings but programme to read WPL (With performance lift).
- b) Where a horse in grades 4-7 has not earned £500 in its last 7 races it is eligible to a lift of one grade. Again with WPL on programme.
- c) Where a horse in grades 8 and above has not earned £750 in its last 7 races it is eligible to a lift of one grade. WPL applies.
- d) If a horse does not earn the above amounts after 10 races i.e. an extra three races it is eligible for a lift of two grades.

CAVEAT: If a horse on receiving a lift of one or two grades suddenly performs at a much higher standard than it has over the last 7-10 races and a Panel of three Stewards are of the opinion that the lift has been achieved as a result of not running the horse to the best of its merits it will receive an automatic regrading to its original grade and a fine of double its earnings after the lift as well as a suspension for both the trainer and driver of 6 months. The new lift system to apply from the start of the 2011 season, i.e. it is not retrospective.

These suggestions to be eligible for the 2011 season, all horses to be regraded where necessary, but earnings accrued to date are not net of entry or Integrity fees. In the case of the eligible earnings of maidens that is to apply to retrospective earnings for the 2010 season only. Four Year Old Allowances to apply from 2011 onwards.

No doubt this will stimulate debate as some of it is controversial, it certainly favours the little man, who whether we want to admit it or not is the backbone of our sport. I have tried to take on board much of what people have said to me, at least the sensible bits and especially some of the views of Michael Lord, John Gill, Paul Cullen, Eck Taylor, Heather Hardwick, Tony Richards, Ray Jenkins, Jason Podmore, Glen Watson, Brian Reynolds, Huw Evans, Dawn Forrest, Stella Havard, Michael Welling, John Ripley, Fred Hay, Jackie Maguire, Jim Kemp, Jack Maguire, Bob Lee, Barry Delaney, Kirsty Lee and Nicky Hannon to name but a few. I commend its consideration to you and trust you will all seek out the knowledgeable Saints we need them asap. And before you ask I am not within their haloed ranks.

The following report was submitted by Stella Havard:

I was totally opposed to the introduction of rule X1 ii (a) a few years ago forbidding trotters and pacers to race together. It immediately ruined the sport for several people in Wales & West who preferred to race a trotter but could not afford to travel to the hard tracks. (Even I had a trotter that I had to sell, thanks to this short-sighted rule.)

There is little to recommend the rule; I am pleased that TROT Britain & Ireland have staged a revival (they support this letter), and we held a Trot at Allensmore in 2010. But when Malcolm Ali's maiden trotter had to be returned because of the handicap, frustratingly, it could not race in a maiden with pacers -which he would happily have done- and he had to travel hundreds of miles with just one horse. On the occasions when York have not had sufficient entries to stage a Trot, disappointingly, these returned horses have been unable to race on the card at all -ridiculous when the track were desperate for entries in all the races! They WANTED to run, and couldn't- It is very hard to keep horses race-fit when there are so few opportunities for them TO actually race. With economics as they are, we are hardly encouraging people to train trotters-particularly young ones - less licences and races -less revenue for BHRC = BAD BUSINESS POLICY?

Helen Langford has had a trotter in training all year with practically no local opportunity. Emyr Edwards, a Pembrokeshire dairy farmer, has had a home-bred trotter in the Wales & West qualifiers in 2010, but unless this rule is changed, is very unlikely to be able to race it regularly, if at all. (Low grade trots, particularly, are thin on the ground!)

The rule was introduced due to some vague notion that we might get sponsorship/recognition from Europe. This hasn't happened, and is unlikely in the extreme. As the Governing Body, we should be looking to the wants and needs of our own license-holders here at home.

I urge the removal of the rule, which would benefit licence holders with trotters, and help Promoters who cannot accommodate trotters due to lack of entries for a Scheduled Trot, or if the handicap span necessitates a returned horse/s. Naturally, wherever possible, trotters MUST race together, but if this is impossible, and connections wish to race in the correct grade against pacers, I can see no earthly reason why the BHRC should deny this.

I hope trotting enthusiasts will consequently enjoy more chances to compete in 2011.

Stella Havard

TROT *Britain & Ireland*

Encouragement & Promotion of Trotting throughout
Great Britain & Ireland



Dear BHRC Council & Committee,

I have been asked to write to you on behalf of the above association, with regards to trotters being allowed to run in low grade pacing races.

Our thoughts are that it would be of benefit to the younger and low grade trotters, to allow them to enter in low grade races to gain race experience, such entry to only be permitted where there is a meeting that does not have sufficient entries to run a trot race in its own right, if you do allow such we feel that it should be restricted to low grade trotters needing the opportunity to race

We feel that such a rule change would encourage owner to keep a trotter in training and get to race in all areas of Great Britain, allowing such to gain experience then the ability to move into trotting races when promoted,

The reasoning behind this is that we are aware of a number of trotters that were not able to get races in the last few seasons due to location and the current ruling that restricts the racing of trotters & pacers

Best regards

Brian Peachey (Chairman / Administrator)

The following report was submitted by Harness Horsemanø Association:

1. Won only monies to count
2. No lifts to individual horses 2010. We proposed adding £500 to Grades 1-5. This done to leave all grades with £600.

Grade 1	£0-£599
Grade 2	£600-£1199
Grade 3	£1200-£1799
Grade 4	£1800-£2399
Grade 5	£2400-£2999

All horses will be lifted in the system.
3. Grades 1 and 2 excluded from racing against higher grades except in stakes and condition events (this will in effect be a return nov/imp/int area in the handicap which owners constantly ask for).
4. Increase handicap annually each year by inflation 3%, this will put lifts in place without debate i.e. if proposal effected now the equation at end 2011 season:
 $£0 - £13000 \times 3\% = £390$
The inflation increase £390 must be added to the Grades 3+ (outside new nov/imp/int grade).
5. Maidens to enter system at point where win monies put them, i.e. £275 win maiden starts at £275, this only to apply to horses that start their racing career in UK or EIRE, all previously raced overseas maiden start as per set out equation previously used.
6. Stop all same day heats and finals
This will help spread monies out, comply with betting industry, facilitate a better use of conditions races with perhaps only 5-6 finals a year and take away savingømarks or pot hunting.
7. A conditional race compulsory at every meeting (list to follow).

The following report was submitted by Gwenan Thomas:

Have read the suggestions re handicapping, and followed some of the discussions on the website etc. It would appear that the most frequent comment is 'widened the bands, because horses are going back too fast'. Rather than plough in with more advice/suggestions etc, I decided to look at the current position and this is what I found. The figures make interesting reading and should be taken into account if you are considering changes to the system and the bands.

Of the 890 horses listed on the BHRC website at the beginning of Sept,

24.3% horses were Grade 0	4.8% horses Grade 7
16.9% horses Grade 1	3.8% horses Grade 8
11% horses Grade 2	1.8% horses Grade 9
8.7% horses Grade 3	2.1% horses Grade 10
6.4% horses Grade 4	1.1% horses Grade 11
8.8% horses Grade 5	2.9% horses Grade 12
7.5% horses Grade 6	

What this shows is that (Sept 2010) **over 52%** of the horses running under BHRC rules are Grade 0, 1 & 2

Or put another way over 60% are Grade 3 or below
Grades 3-6 have a relatively even distribution (6.4% - 8.8%)
and less than 17% of the horses are in Grade 7 or higher

Under the current the system it would appear that there is a gross imbalance in the grades with a significant overload in the lower grades. It would be unreasonable to expect an even distribution between all grades (i.e. 8.3%), as the nature of racing is that every horse has to enter the system (Grade 0) and only a small percentage will make it to the (Grade 12). However, if widening the bands is deemed necessary then what effect will this have on the number of horses in each Grade. If the bands are widened the number of horses in the lower grades will go up. So we could end up with 70-75% or more of the horses in Grades 0-3. Therefore more horses in the lower grades and even less horses in the higher grades. This will mean that it will be even harder for lower grade horses to win (as more competition) and even harder for higher grades to win as they could be trailing greater distances or no race at all as not enough horses of those grades to create a race.

Dare I say there is an argument that horses should actually move back quicker (!!) so that there is a more even distribution between the grades. I don't know why there is such a 'taboo' about horses moving up the handicap - it is the same for everyone. If more horses moved up the grades then it would be easier to have more graded races and less need for horses to trail. The other key factor is that whatever the handicap system, there are 890 horses but probably only approximately 850 races so not every horse will win a race, and for every horse than wins one more race, that means than some other horse will never win a race. There simply aren't enough races to go round!

There are some good suggestions:

Grades 0 wins, then it enters Grade 1 with £0; Allowance for 4yo races; £30 lift/run at the end of season, could be increased to £40 and adjusted pro-rata as you go up the grades as currently of little benefit to horses in mid-high grades.

But I think what would provide the biggest solution to racing sits in the hands of race framers, who need to be actively encouraged to create conditions. It would appear that it is not actually being in a higher grade that upsets people, it's having to trail. So create a race based on time/money/wins/non-wins - create the condition and run them as preferred FFAs.

Good Luck!

RULE CHANGE SUGGESTIONS

REGUMATE (altrenogest) to cease to be a prohibited substance for fillies and mares. It is presently permitted in some equestrian divisions but restricted to mares.

(Dave Thomson)

Section B - Definitions

Addition - Preferred Free For Alls - definition and conditions which apply

Section E - Stewards and the Stewarding of Race-Meetings

Addition - Deputy Regional Steward - definition, duties and powers

Addition - BHRC Integrity Officer - definition, duties and powers

Regional Steward - their position within the integrity regime needs adding

Section F - The Stewards of the Meeting

F9[a] - needs deleting

Section G - Race Framing and Handicapping

G9 - needs deleting

Section H - The Organisation of Race Meetings

H38 - Proviso should be added that where a Veterinary Surgeon is asked to give an opinion, treat and especially to take a sample from a horse within the Integrity Testing Regime and that horse is owned or trained by a client of that Veterinary Surgeon then this must be notified to the Chief Steward, Regional Steward or BHRC Steward present as being a possible conflict of interest. Failure to do so will result in an immediate notification of the matter to the RCVS.

Section M - Racing and Track Rules

M8[b] - *Clarify* - rule wording and penalty differ

M12 - *Add* - Any licence holder who fails to comply and intentionally hits another horse or licence holder or official, shall be subject to a mandatory fine of not less than £1000 and warning off for not less than one year.

M31 - *Add* - [b] In cases where a horse has been declared to have fallen or the driver unseated, then the driver must be examined by medical personnel and be pronounced fit to drive before they may compete in subsequent races on that day.

Section N - Qualifying Trials, Time Trials and Records

N3[b] - *Amend* - Any horse that has not raced or qualified in the previous season

Section P - Postponement

P1 - *Add* - BHRC Stewards and Land Owners

Section Q - Horses

Q9 - *Add* - Failure to lodge a copy of the lease agreement with the BHRC within 7 days of its finalisation shall incur a fine of £250 payable by both the lessor and lessee.

Q12[d] - *Amend* - Where an imported horse has either qualified or raced within a qualifying time in its country of origin in the 12 months prior to importation that horse will not be required to requalify.

Addition - Where there are costs outstanding, having been levied by the BHRC or other recognised affiliated body and those costs involve the naming of a horse, for example testing costs incurred in the Integrity Testing Regime on that horse, then the horse will not be allowed to race, nor progeny from that horse will be allowed to race, until those costs (which may incur interest) are paid in full.

Section S - General Rules Governing Participants

Addition - All licence holders shall complete a form agreeing to abide by the Rules and Regulations of the BHRC and where fines/costs are levied against them, undertake to pay both those fines and costs.

Addition - All participants licensed by a recognised Governing Body will be required to complete a form agreeing to abide by the Rules and Regulations of the BHRC and where fines/costs are levied against them, undertake to pay both those fines and costs.

Addition - All drivers who have reached the age of 65 must undergo, at their own cost, a medical examination by a BHRC approved Doctor and provide a Certificate of Suitability to drive.

Section U - Appeals to the Stewards of the BHRC

Define - U2 and U3 apply to Appeals against the decision of Track Stewards

Addition - Appeals from a decision of the BHRC Stewards, not being a decision to dismiss an appeal, but includes an appeal panel's decision to increase a penalty, can be appealed subject notice being made in writing to the BHRC and a fee of £250 being paid within 28 days of the decision.

Section W - Owners, Trainers and Drivers Licences

W39 - *Add -* An application for Licence to Train can only be considered when the applicant has been held a Permit to Train for a minimum of three years and trained at least five winners. Or has held a training licence from another affiliated recognised body which confers similar qualification.

Add - An application for a Public Trainers Licence can only be considered when the applicant has held a Licence to Train for at least two years and has trained not less than 30 winners during his/her career. Or has held a training licence from another affiliated recognised body which confers similar qualification.

Addition - Where a person is a trainer in name only, a possible reason for this being to allow another person not licensed or suspended or warned off to train, then that trainer shall be fined not less than £1000 and warned off for a period of not less than one year.

Section X - Types of Race Permitted

X1[ii] [a] - *Amend -* allow Trotters and Pacers to race together

Addition - Preferred Free For Alls

Section Y - Medication and Drug Control

Amend - Section Y [a] - Medication and Drug Control (Y1 to Y14)
Section Y [b] - Thresholds (Y15 to Y19)

Amend - Provision be made that Urine, Hair and Excrement samples can be taken by a Regional Steward, Deputy Regional Steward, BHRC Steward or BHRC Integrity Officer providing within the last five years that person has been trained to take samples by HFL. This negates the need for a Veterinary Surgeon in other than blood tests.

Y13 - *Amend -* acting on or having an effect on

Amend - Provision be made that tests for TCO₂ can be analysed by the BHRC or a qualified Veterinary Surgeon using their own Blood Gas Analyser.

Amend - Provision be made that the threshold for TCO2 readings be altered with appropriate penalties being:

1. 35mm £500 fine plus 6 month suspension
2. 36mm £1000 plus 12 month suspension
3. 37mm £2000 plus 24 month suspension

Add - Provision should be made that where the licence holder requests a second analysis and/or confirmatory analysis by a recognised testing laboratory such as HFL, within 24 hours of the initial test carried out, if that test shows a blood gas reading of more than 35mm then the costs of that second analysis to be borne by the licence holder.

Add - In the event that a Blood Gas Analyser test shows a reading of 35mm, the horse tested will not be permitted to compete in any ensuing races until any or all hearings are concluded.