



# BRITISH HARNESS RACING CLUB

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## Committee Update

### Handicapping

The suggestions put to the last Committee meeting by the Council, acting as the Handicap Panel, had been discussed at some clubs but not voted on. There was some debate over the suggestions and it was decided that members who were mandated to vote would submit their vote, with those not mandated to do so emailing their vote to the BHRC (harnessgb@live.co.uk).

1. Widening of the bands. As was pointed out the suggestion did not show an increase in Grade 8, but Grade 10 band had doubled. Suggestions for widening of the bands are:

New:		Current:	
<b>Grade 1</b>	<b>up to £599</b>	Grade 1	up to £549
<b>Grade 2</b>	<b>£600 to £999</b>	Grade 2	£550 to £899
<b>Grade 3</b>	<b>£1000 to £1399</b>	Grade 3	£900 to £1249
<b>Grade 4</b>	<b>£1400 to £1999</b>	Grade 4	£1250 to £1749
<b>Grade 5</b>	<b>£2000 to £2849</b>	Grade 5	£1750 to £2499
<b>Grade 6</b>	<b>£2850 to £3999</b>	Grade 6	£2500 to £3499
<b>Grade 7</b>	<b>£4000 to £5499</b>	Grade 7	£3500 to £4749
<b>Grade 8</b>	<b>£5500 to £7499</b>	Grade 8	£4750 to £6249
<b>Grade 9</b>	<b>£7500 to £9999</b>	Grade 9	£6250 to £7999
<b>Grade 10</b>	<b>£10000 to £12999</b>	Grade 10	£8000 to £9999
<b>Grade 11</b>	<b>£13000 to £16999</b>	Grade 11	£10000 to £12499
<b>Grade 12</b>	<b>£17000+</b>	Grade 12	£12500+

2. The Lift System for 2011 is to be:

- 10% of horses finishing grade band per run - based on the new suggested band widths (i.e. horse finishing season in Grade 4 allowance to be £60 per run, horse in Grade 10 allowance to be £300 per run)
- Maximum allowance of two grade drop (i.e. horse finishing season as Grade 10 - 11500 with 23 runs (6900) lift capped to Grade 8 - 5500. Lowest mark allowed will be Grade 1 - 0)
- Grade 12 allowance per run to be that of Grade 11 plus 10% (i.e. £440 per run)

3. The Lift System for 2012 to be:

- 10% of horses finishing grade band per run (i.e. horse finishing season in Grade 10 allowance to be £300 per run)
- Maximum allowance of two grade drop (i.e. horse finishing season in Grade 10 - 11500 with 23 (6900) lift capped to Grade 8 - 5500)
- Grade 12 allowance per run to be that of Grade 11 plus 10% (i.e. £440 per run)

- Horses must complete six betting races within the current season to qualify for the lift system
4. Replication of the IHRC ~~–~~Mercy Dropø system:
- When a horse owner feels their horse has become uncompetitive, but still wish to race, they can apply to the Handicap Panel for a ~~–~~Mercy Dropø for their horse setting out their appeal
  - Criteria for assessment to mirror that used by IHRC and include, but not be restricted, to:
    - [a] Age
    - [b] Performances in the past two or three seasons (preferably with the same owner/trainer/driver to check consistency - minimum 5 races per season)
    - [c] Times of races over the past two or three seasons on both hard and grass
  - An allowance of one or two grades for successful applications
  - Applications must be made in writing only, with written representations only to be submitted

NB. All four points are to be adopted together or not at all

The issue of reintroducing a handicapping panel was suggested with mixed reactions. This suggestion to be taken back to clubs and associations for debate.

#### Licences

The suggestion made by the Council for free licences to new members did not receive any objections so was passed for the 2012 season:

Free Owner/Trainer/Driver/Provisional Licences:

- For New licence holders, or those renewing after more than five years absence
- First time licence holders only - not owners adding a trainer or trainers renewing an elapsed owner etc
- For the first year only
- Excludes Calendar Subscription

#### Classic Races

The issue of Classic Races was heavily debated with approved tracks, set dates and a three or more year commitment being the main topics. The topic was put to votes and decided:

- Classic races should return to Hard Tracks, therefore the approved tracks for the 2012 Classic Races are York, Tir Prince, Amman Valley and Corbiewood
- Dates windows should be set, therefore the 2012 Classics must be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2012

#### Integrity

The vote cast regarding how to finance the levy was close, but the majority vote was for the levy to remain as £4 per horse.

The issue of introducing an Integrity Guidelines Policy was discussed. Suggestions were made and the issue is to be referred back to committees and associations for debate and input, with further discussion over the next couple of months at Committee level.

#### Rules Changes

Members agreed that the first rule change suggestion would be covered by the introduction of an Integrity Guideline Policy.

The other two rule changes were discussed and debated. A vote was taken and both rule additions were approved subject to legal opinion:

*Addition:*

Where a trainer operates with a partner, either actual or implied such as, but not limited to: husband and wife, sibling, civil partner, parent or child, and that trainer receives a suspension under Section Y of these rules, then the partner will be barred from holding a trainer licence of any form for the same time as the length of suspension of the guilty trainer.

*Addition:*

All trainers must make available, if called upon to do so, themselves, their premises, homes, storage spaces and vehicles for inspection and if necessary search by BHRC Officials or their agents for prohibited substances. Where such substances are discovered and a satisfactory explanation backed by Veterinary support that the substance is rightfully and properly in the possession of the trainer, is not forthcoming, it will be taken that the substance is not there for bona fide purposes. The trainer will then be sanctioned in accordance with these rules as if one of his horses had tested positive for all the prohibited substances found in his possession.

Any Other Business

Tregaron Trotting Club put forward a suggestion that the Chairman's term of office should be three years. Members debated and agreed that it was a good suggestion, however it would require a change to the Constitution.

Andrea Barker applied to be a Deputy Regional Steward. Members discussed the application which was proposed and seconded and Ms Barker was appointed as a Deputy Regional Steward for England.