



BRITISH HARNESS RACING CLUB

Committee Update 14th February 2012

Handicapping

The final votes were taken regarding changes to the handicap system and the following was decided:

1. An across the board widening of the bands:

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|---------|
| Grade 1 | up to £599 | (£599) |
| Grade 2 | £600 to £999 | (£399) |
| Grade 3 | £1000 to £1399 | (£399) |
| Grade 4 | £1400 to £1999 | (£599) |
| Grade 5 | £2000 to £2849 | (£849) |
| Grade 6 | £2850 to £3999 | (£1149) |
| Grade 7 | £4000 to £5499 | (£1499) |
| Grade 8 | £5500 to £7499 | (£1999) |
| Grade 9 | £7500 to £9999 | (£2499) |
| Grade 10 | £10000 to £12999 | (£2999) |
| Grade 11 | £13000 to £16999 | (£3999) |
| Grade 12 | £17000+ | |

2. Re-introduction of the Maiden and Novice bands

Maiden (a horse that has not won a race - horse moves to Novice band on first win)

Novice (a horse that has won one race - horse moves to Grade 1 [£0] after Novice race win)

These two bands replace the previous Grade 0

3. Introduction of the -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

4. The Lift System was decided at £50 per run for horses performances in 2011.

Whip Use and Dangerous Driving

Some driving footage was shown and debate was had over driving situations and styles. Stewards Seminars are being held at York Harness Raceway on Saturday 21st April and Saturday 28th April. York have welcomed all Stewards to attend.

Fixtures 2012

Final changes to the 2012 fixtures were agreed:

Amman Valley 16th June (York will not run)

Tir Prince 21st July (York will not run)

H&B HRC 8th August

Staindrop not running Wednesday 18th July - replaced with a provisional date for EVHRA

Tregaron to run Friday 24th, Saturday 25th, Sunday 26th August

AOB

Rule Changes - Further to legal advice the suggested rule changes will not be introduced

Sire Stakes - a committee of breeders are starting to establish a new series and have information to go in the Calendar

Gastric Ulcers - the BHRC are to contact HFL regarding substances to treat gastric problems

A Class Drivers - Julian Price and Richard Haythornthwaite were granted upgrades. Chris Nicol was not granted an upgrade.

Deputy Regional Stewards - Simon Clarke (for England) and Charles Inglis (for Scotland) were approved by Committee and will now be passed to the Council