



BRITISH HARNESS RACING CLUB

Committee Meeting - Sunday 22nd November 2009 - BHRC Office, Goole

A busy but successful Committee Meeting of the BHRC was held on Sunday 22nd November 2009 with a full schedule of business and good attendance. Chaired by Gordon Garnett, the room was informed by Huw Evans that our friend Raymond Jenkins is making very good progress in his battle against a recent serious stroke. Our best wishes and encouragement go to Ray and his family.

Key issues of the agenda included:

Racing Dates:

A provisional list of dates has been developed, compromises reached on some potential clashes and tremendous encouragement received that Musselburgh The Theatre of Dreams may well be having a Good Friday Harness Meet in 2010. Discussions between Ffos Las, the new racecourse in South Wales, are at an advanced stage following the second meeting of Gordon Garnett and Huw Evans with Course representatives. Dates of 9th May and 20th June 2010 are pencilled in. Hopefully final resolutions will be in place for the Committee Meeting of 6th December 2009.

(Fixture List attached)

Classic Races:

Conclusions were arrived at that Classic Races, such as the BHRC Sire Stakes, should no longer be restricted to half mile hard tracks and thus the tendering process will be formally opened up to other venues. Much discussion was held on the place and future of the Classic Races such as the Two Year Old Futurity, Three Year Old Derby, European Pacing Classic and Roosevelt Trot, in the landscape of British Harness Racing. It was felt that instead of the BHRC sponsoring these races, maybe a fund should be set up, managed by a sub-committee with delegated authority, and promoters invited to come up with innovative ideas leading to a bid for sponsorship. The fraternity is invited to convey their opinions on this so that the matter can be debated at the next meeting.

Rule Changes:

Following the now traditional process of inviting Rule Changes, an interesting assortment of additions, amendments and deletions were tabled and debated. Those thought worthy of further debate are now passed back to Clubs and Associations for further consideration. So if you want an input be a member of a club or association!

(List attached)

Finances:

Projected Income and Expenditure balance sheets for 31st December 2009 and 31st March 2010 (Year End) were tabled, which shows the BHRC to be in an overall healthy position. However, there is a short term cash flow issue caused by some Tracks and Licence Holders not paying what they owe. The office has been vigorously chasing outstanding debts up, but some remain difficult to resolve. The room was united in its belief that habitual offending tracks will not be granted dates nor will similarly difficult licence holders be granted a licence in 2010.

Awards:

Awards such as 'Horse of the Year' are voted on at the AGM. The next such meeting will not be until September 2010 at the earliest, so it was felt that such important business should be dealt with at the end of the Calendar Year. We are hoping to resolve this early next year for inclusion in the February Calendar.

Mrs Janet Justice has resigned as a Steward of the BHRC and has been appointed as Regional Steward for North Wales and the Midlands. She follows in the distinguished footsteps of Ray Davies and Gordon McCallum - we wish her well.

Regards
Gordon Garnett
BHRC Chairman