

**BHRC Committee Meeting**  
**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2015 at Days Inn, Wetherby**

**Present:** Roy Sheedy (Chairman), Jim McNally (Vice Chairman), Fred Hay (Steward), Stella Havard (Steward), Bret Strickland (Steward), Jackie Maguire (Steward), Barry Delaney (Steward), Rob Thompson (Regional Steward), Les Coward (EVHRA), Bob Lee (HHA), Anthony Fettah (YHR), Jason Podmore (MHRC), Mick Welling (YHR), John Smart (CW), Sarah Thomas (SHRC), Jeff Langford (WWHRA), Huw Evans (TTC) Kirsty Lee (Secretary)

**Apologies:** Lee Price (WWHRA), Gwenan Thomas (CCB), Richard Wigham (NESA), Jim Kemp (MFDA)

**Minutes and Matters Arising**

Members informed that the internal enquiry had found that the BHRC could not state one person was to blame, the company was not prepared for the issue but they had learned from it and wanted to move on. Totals costs had been just above £18,000

Minutes carried.

**BHRC Changes**

Feedback was requested on the recent information published to the BHRC website, a proposal to give the BHRC a new shape and set-up.

Views were expressed over changing the constitution, allowing WBCRA to be on board, democracy and fairer representation of licence holders and areas.

The appointment and role of Regional Stewards was discussed and confirmed that applicants are invited and the Council appoint a person to the role.

Agreement was made for the issue of the set-up of the BHRC and the constitution to be reviewed by the Council and reports produced.

**Handicapping**

Members agreed that some feedback regarding the changes had been negative.

Members informed by the Council that due to the controversy over the new system, changes would be suspended for 2015 and the handicap revert to the 2014 system. In addition a handicap panel would be formed.

Conditioned racing was debated as a way forward and how to fill the races.

Preferred racing was debated as in some areas it was not a popular format.

*Members debated a Young Drivers initiative.*

*Members to be advised regarding Handicap Panel issue.*

**Classic Tenders**

The Chairman and Vice Chairman reviewed the bids submitted by York and Corbiewood.

Classic races are defined as the National Pacing Futurity, National Pacing Derby, European Pacing Classic, Roosevelt Series and Prakas Trot.

Members debated whether the races should be allocated to the highest bidder or the package offered.

**European Pacing Classic**

Corbiewood - £400 20<sup>th</sup> September 2015

York - £301 19/20<sup>th</sup> September 2015

**National Pacing Futurity**

Corbiewood - £500 27<sup>th</sup> September 2015

York - £481 19/20<sup>th</sup> September

**National Pacing Derby**

Corbiewood - £700 27<sup>th</sup> September 2015

York - £701 19/20<sup>th</sup> September 2015

Proposal put forward that Corbiewood stage the NPF and York the rest. Proposal seconded.

*All in favour*

*Members agreed that York would stage the NPD, EPC, Roosevelt and Prakas and Corbiewood the NPF.*

Members discussed the possibility of building identity back into the Classic Races, setting dates for them, splitting them into packages and allowing tenders for more than one year.

*Members to be advised from Council on the tender process for future years*

### National Pacing Series

Members informed regarding a new series formulated by Mr Evans with sponsorship from the Standardbred Sales Company. At present without interest from York or Tir Prince it wouldn't work.

Further information regarding the race series were given - 6 races with £2,000 purse, 12 horses in at £500 each with horses guaranteed 5 runs.

Members discussed the possible clash with the Crock of Gold at Tir Prince and a clash of fixtures with Wolverhampton and Pikehall.

York offered to support the idea and take all 6 races if no other promoter bid.

Members thanked York.

The idea to be taken forward to tracks and promoters.

### Rule Changes

*Rules approved in November Committee meeting all adopted*

#### **Entry Premium**

Suggestion put forward that licence holders that enter horses that are not cleared have to pay a premium, this would not prevent horses from running though.

Suggested that any premium be split 50/50 between BHRC and promoter.

*Members agreed*

*Members discussed the wording regarding May as horses are still not cleared after this date*

*Members agreed the issue was covered by rule Q1 and the minimum fine level of £20 would be introduced*

Suggested that the issue be reviewed at the end of 2015.

#### **Fatal Injury**

*Members debated a procedure to follow*

Agreed that the BHRC can send out advisory notes and recommendations on the issue.

#### **Horses Boxes**

Members discussed how the paddock can sometimes be blocked off by wagons not parked or aligned well.

Agreed that BHRC include information in the recommendations.

#### **Stewards Enquiry**

*Members agreed to highlight in recommendations that all persons involved in enquiries should be interviewed together*

#### **U3c**

Discussion over the current appeal procedure.

*Members agreed to take forward*

#### **X9**

Discussion over the conditions for classic races differing to the rules.

*Members agreed to put conditions as per rule - 5 days*

Discussion and debate over two year old horses being able to fulfil the requirements to race.

Proposal the rule be altered to; Two Years Olds must qualify twice and complete one betting races OR qualify and complete two betting races. Proposal seconded.

Majority in favour - carried.

#### **Non-Trying**

*Members discussed penalties and issues*

Proposal that the minimum fine be altered to £100. Proposal seconded.

All in favour - carried.

### 2016/17 Fixtures Dates

Members discussed whether the fixture dates could or should be arranged more in advance than they are at present. The certainty of venues for the future was discussed. York guaranteed racing for the foreseeable future at the venue. Members agreed to leave current procedure in place.

### BHRC Seminar

Suggested that a weekend to deal with fixtures, meeting information, AGM and presentation evening be organised. STAGBI may be interested in an shared event.  
*Members agreed to take the idea forward*

### AOB

#### Dates of Meetings

Suggested that alongside the fixture list the Committee be informed of all dates for meetings of the committee and council for the full year ahead.

Members informed that the office at Goole had been utilised to save on costs but the new premises were not big enough.

#### A Class Driver - Grant Cullen

Clarification given that under the rules and regulations the committee deal with licence upgrades.

Members discussed the application.

*Members agreed to grant the upgrade and advise Mr Cullen that the decision was not unanimous with concerns raised*

#### Health & Safety

Members informed that a template for a risk assessment was available from BHRC.

Members discussed insurance for events, with NFU given as the best provider.

### IHRC

Members informed that the IHRC were feeding information into their database and the plan was for both systems to be linked to share data.

*Members discussed updates to the database information and publication of results*

*Members discussed possible passport issues in light of developments in Ireland*

### PMU

BHRC advised that the PMU was still some time away but would not be paid to a body that governs pacing.

### WWHRA AGM

WWHRA put forward that due to lack of officials they would request a review of those that had been previously denied licences due to their involvement with WBCRA and other issues.

Agreed for issues to be reviewed as the sport was desperately short of track stewards and volunteers.

### Prakas

Members informed that the BHRC were trying to locate Dr McKenzie or his family to try and explain the current situation and expand on ideas for the fund.

### Classic Races

Issues raised over the additional funding of the classic races.

Members informed that the integrity fund could only be used for integrity and no added money was available at present.

### Bookmakers Levy

Suggestion that the BHRC introduce a Bookmakers Levy.

Members discussed levy board funding, licensing and track rents.

*Members agreed to take forward.*

### STAGBI

Members informed that the BHRC racing and horses only amounted to about 30% of STAGBI income and at present no funding was forthcoming for racing.

*Meeting closed*