

BHRC Committee Meeting
Saturday 14th March 2015 at Mercure Hotel, Wetherby

- Present:** Roy Sheedy (Chairman), Jim McNally (Vice Chairman), Fred Hay (Steward), Jackie Maguire (Steward), Bret Strickland (Steward), Barry Delaney (Steward), Robert Thompson (Regional Steward), Caroline Cullen (SHRC), Paul Cullen (CW), Richard Wigham (NESA), Jason Podmore (MFDA), Anthony Fettah (YHR), Les Coward (EVHRA), Mick Welling (York), David Edwards (CCB), Lee Price (WWHRA), Bob Lee (HHA)
Kirsty Lee (Secretary)
- Apologies:** Jim Kemp (MFDA), Stella Havard (Steward), Lisa Knott (Steward), Roland Pugh (Regional Steward), Huw Evans (TTC)

Minutes and Matters Arising

Amendments to minutes requested and approved.

No objections to amendments requested

Minutes proposed and seconded. Minutes carried subject to amendments.

Qualifying Times

Proposal put forward that all qualifying times be reduced by two seconds.

Proposal put forward that grass tracks remain at 2.20.

Proposal put forward that a standard of 2.10 be introduced for Amman Valley, Tir Prince and York. Proposal seconded.

Majority In Favour - Carried.

Members discussed standard times and rules regarding discretion on conditions.

Proposal that all grass tracks qualifying time be set at 2.20. Proposal seconded.

Proposal that Corbiewood qualifying time be set at 2.14.

Majority in favour - Carried.

Handicap Panel

Members debated the format for appointing the panel members.

Proposal that votes be cast on each candidate. Proposal seconded.

Members voted:

Alan Haythornthwaite - 12 votes

John Gill - 2 votes

Les Coward - 10 votes

Craig Stevenson - 5 votes

Gregor Menzies - 13 votes

David Edwards - 11 votes

Eric Witherspoon - 11 votes

Handicap panel to be Alan Haythornthwaite, Les Coward, Craig Stevenson, Gregor Menzies, David Edwards and Eric Witherspoon.

Thanks were offered to all those that put their names forward.

Members discussed guidance and remit levels for the panel.

Agreement that the panel would have the authority to put forward a new system with reasons and rationale explained, the Council would not be involved.

Panel to be in place for three years with a review at the end of every season.

Rule Changes

Suggestion that the Council should look into the complaints procedure and process rather than just the fine levels.

Members informed that the BHRC did not want people in a situation where they could not appeal, but the issues had been discussed at length and agreed.

Members voted in favour of all rule changes.

Classic Races

Members discussed the issue of changing the format of the tender process. Various suggestions put forward; package for all races, trotting and pacing packages, one three and five year tenders, location, date schedules and rotation of races.

Suggestion that a calendar of all BHRC and IHRC stakes races be available at sales so that people buying horses know where they can be raced.

Suggestion that stakes races be grouped or graded which would explain the status and prize money levels of competition.

BHRC Seminar

Agreement that the BHRC would look into to the idea of a seminar event that would deal with awards and AGM.

Members in favour

2015 Fixtures

17th May York

York application removed.

25th & 26th July SHRC

Members discussed the various applications.

SHRC wanted to keep racing in Scotland for the dates.

Members agreed for SHRC to work with Haugh Field to secure some racing.

York provisionally to be granted Sunday 26th July subject to SHRC confirmations.

8th August

Members agreed York to get the date

22nd August

Members agreed Tir Prince to get date

AOB

Voting Rights

Issues and opinions over the constitution and voting rights were debated. Options of proportional representation and electronic voting were discussed.

Suggestion that the BHRC further investigate possibilities.

Members agreed

WTC

Members informed that Mrs Thomas had attended the World Trotting Conference as a STAGBI representative, there had been no costs in relation to this for the BHRC. Mr Bill Hutchison had not claimed expenses either.

Members were given an update from the WTC on integrity, international cobalt levels, drivers championship, public relations, promotion and animal welfare. It had been accepted by the WTC Council that STAGBI are the recognised Breed Society and BHRC the Governing Body for Harness Racing in our country.

Members informed there would be an opportunity for a horse from the UK or Ireland to compete in the Inter Dominion in Australia. Suggestions for a format included an invitational race with conditions of travel for horses entered. There was no buy into the final, any horse would qualify for the elimination heats.

Members informed that the BHRC has a nominated member of IRIIS, an integrity intelligence service.

Trot Britain

Concern was expressed over a document published by TrotBritain.

The membership and set-up of TrotBritain debated.

Members agreed that the BHRC would try and arrange a meeting with TrotBritain and invite STAGBI and report back.

Members informed that the BHRC and STAGBI would be looking into ways to better link their systems and work closer together.

Recognition of Sport

Members informed that Mr Wigham had been trying to get Harness Racing recognised by Sport England and get the British Equestrian Federation. By June or July answers should be known which could mean possible government funding and Tote money available.

Meeting closed