

BHRC Committee Meeting
Saturday 31st October 2015 at Days Inn, Wetherby

Present: Roy Sheedy (Chairman), Jim McNally (Vice Chairman), Bret Strickland (Steward), Jackie Maguire (Steward), Fred Hay (Steward), Robert Thompson (Regional Steward), Les Coward (Eden Valley), Jason Podmore (MHRC), Anthony Fettah (York), John Smart (Corbiewood), Sarah Thomas (SHRC), David Edwards (TTC), Bob Lee (HHA), Alan Haythornthwaite (Handicap Panel)

Apologies: WWHRA, Barry Delaney (Steward), Richard Wigham (NESA), Jim Kemp (MFDA)

Minutes and Matters Arising

Minutes proposed and seconded.

Minutes carried

2016 Fixtures

Members advised of a possible new fixture near Monmouth for June.

16th and 23rd April added at Work Out days at York.

Members advised 7th May at Tir Prince was provisional and 21st a definite.

5th June NESA fixture to be provisional until AGM.

12th June added as a provisional for Monmouth.

23rd and 24th June at Corbiewood dependant on Musselburgh dates.

24th and 25th June for Musselburgh and York fixtures discussed. MFDA had applied for the dates, York intended to stage the York Championship and would object.

Members agreed to contact Musselburgh Racecourse expressing the concerns raised and neither approve nor remove either at this time.

Tir Prince dates that coincided with Ceredigion and Tregaron were provisional in the case of these fixtures not going due to bad weather.

Suggestion that NESA on 10th July and Pikehall on 17th July swap. Members agreed to contact NESA with the suggestion.

Corbiewood wanted to move to the day before Musselburgh if possible depending on what was decided. No objections.

16th and 23rd August at Tir Prince to remain as provisional.

Concerns raised over Tir Prince on 4th September from Haugh Field Committee. Members advised this date would be the start of an Autumn Series at Tir Prince. Agreement that Vice Chairman should contact Lampeter and Haugh Field committees to discuss.

Objection raised on behalf of SHRC against Musselburgh on 10th September as it would clash with the Murdock event. Corbiewood had rearranged to allow the races at Musselburgh in 2015. Alternative dates for Musselburgh were identified.

Members agreed to raise this in the contact with Musselburgh Racecourse.

Suggestion that the Wolsingham Charity Event would be better on 17th September than 18th. Members agreed EVHRA to approach the committee to discuss.

Members advised that the Council had set up packages and guidance regarding the Classic and Sire Stakes races on the tender application forms.

Members debated the most appropriate dates for the Sire Stakes.

Suggestion that a dates/fixtures committee be formed similar to the handicap panel to arrange the racing calendar.

Members advised that the Council would be deciding on the tenders for the Classic races on the best package offered.

Suggestion tabled that the Sire Stakes be rotated through different tracks.

Handicapping 2016

Members informed that the new system was to create a fair system where all horses will have a rating, how races are framed will be decided by the promoter.

Members questioned whether one grade would be equal to ten yards or a line. Panel to clarify.

Members advised claiming races would be for a minimum of £300 not a maximum. It would not be compulsory for a card of 11+ races to stage a claiming races.

Members advised that penalty free races are not eligible towards a lift. Ten runs would result in a lift to the bottom of the grade below. Any runs over ten from 2015 would be banked for future lifts. All horses for 2016 will start at the bottom of the grade they are in.

Members advised that the panel wanted in-season lifts to keep horses competitive and in racing.

Request that the number of runs since last win is printed in race cards.

Members advised there would be no limit on trails.

Members advised that horses winning on their tenth run would gain the lift applicable. Any grade 12 winning on the tenth run would receive a lift to grade 11 but wins would move it back to grade 12.

Members advised that the system is adopted for three years and the handicap panel can alter during this time.

Panel agreed to review races of unsatisfactory runs.

A vote of thanks was given to the panel.

Members advised that the drivers scheme was to try and introduce new people to the sport. Panel agreed it would be for C class drivers.

Members discussed the link up of BHRC and IHRA systems and processing of information.

The new system will be formally adopted at the AGM.

The BHRC to check records for drivers' wins.

Members discussed the role of the handicap panel. Members agreed that the system would be sent out the clubs and associations for discussion but would be adopted at the AGM. No changes would be made.

Rule changes

A1 and A6 - no objections

D8 and E9 deleted - no objections

F2 to be updated - no objections.

F19 amended - no objections.

Integrity Officers confirmed as Andrea Barker, Robert Thompson, Fred Hay and Wesley Jones - they cannot take blood samples only urine and hair.

H1 conflicting part to be deleted - no objections.

N5 -

Amendment for horses to be cleared for racing in advance. Confirmed applicable to permit holders and Irish horses also. Proposed and seconded. No Objections.

N7 deleted - no objections.

Q1 update to coincide with N5 - no objections.

Q4 same - no objections.

Query whether it would be possible to advise owners 28 days in advance of a flu vac expiring. Agreed it may be possible under the new rules of information being provided in advance. A fine of £20 charged when flu vacs are out of date. No objections.

S3 update - concern expressed over the reasoning of the update. Majority in favour.

W12 update - no objections.

W36 update to cover horse welfare issues - no objections.

W37[b] update - no objections.

Questions raised over the licensing of premises when a trainer has lost their licence. Members advised that if a trainer loses their licence, the premises they train from becomes unregistered.

W38 update - no objections.

W40 - members advised that the BHRC in the future may obtain corporate cover, the BHRC are legally responsible for issuing of licences. No objections.

W41 amendment - no objections.

W42 - dealt with.

W53 amendment - no objections.

W60 amendment - no objections.

Proposal from MHRC discussed. Confirmed the Vet has authority to withdraw horses not deemed sound. Agreement to add to Stewards Advisory notes as officials should work with Vets on welfare issues. Proposal for a horse with a positive integrity result to be automatically suspended for 12 months tabled. Members discussed the responsibility of the trainer and owner, the passing of further tests and factors in individual cases.

Majority vote against the proposal.

Steward seminars

The office to put together a list of issues stewards and officials disagree on and obtain uniformity.

Suggestion that stewards should be paid and given proper training.

Members informed that the Regional Steward is present to advise officials and licence holders and the Chief Steward should guide Track Stewards on the rule book and have a casting vote if necessary.

Stakes races

The distribution of these to be discussed at the AGM.

AOB

NESA

No information to put before the meeting. Application rejected until the information is forthcoming.

Owners association

Members informed that the office would calculate the reduction in figures as a percentage which would then be discussed.

Photo finish equipment

Issue of photo finish equipment being installed and utilised.

Members agreed due to cost factors it would be difficult to impose as a requirement.

BHRC Nominations

Clarification sought over an IHRC horse nominated as Mare of the Year.

Members agreed to look into the individual nomination.

Meeting closed.