

BHRC Committee Meeting Saturday 22nd October 2016
at Days Inn, Wetherby

Present: Roy Sheedy (Chairman), Jim McNally (Vice Chairman), Jason Podmore (Steward), Jackie Maguire (Steward), Bret Strickland (Steward), Fred Hay (Steward), Barry Delaney (Steward), Eric Witherspoon (NWSA & Tir Prince), David Edwards (TTC), Robert Thompson (EVHRA), Alan Haythornthwaite (Handicap Panel)

Apologies: Craig Stevenson (MFDA), Bob Lee (HHA)
WWHRA represented Jason Podmore, H&B HRC represented by Bret Strickland, SHRC 7 Corbiewood represented by Fred Hay

Minutes & Matters Arising

Minutes proposed by Barry Delaney, seconded by Fred Hay

Minutes carried

2017 Fixtures

Fixture applications were viewed month by month. Issues:

Hellifield requested provisional date for Sunday 25th June as they may move weekends due to the Cumberland Show
Musselburgh & Wolverhampton 23rd July - after extensive discussion agreement for BHRC to contact MFDA regarding alternative dates (10/11th June) and Wolverhampton to approach racecourse regarding 1st October. Pateley Bridge would like to look for an alternative to 23rd July due to Musselburgh

Tir Prince - agreement to stage 3YO Sire Stakes on 2nd September. Provisional added for Friday 1st September, as a possible alternative to 2nd September to try and avoid clashing with Wolsingham.

Fixture Applications to be tabled at the next Committee meeting for finalising

Voting Rights

Members reminded of new criteria for voting rights for owners associations and clubs. Information regarding membership and meetings to be submitted to the BHRC Office no later than 11th November 2016, failure to do so may impact on voting rights.

Discussion regarding attendance at members and association meetings. General consensus that attendance is dwindling at many clubs, but clubs want to continue where they can.

Members informed that the BHRC Council had discussed the issue of attendance at meetings and the current constitution and had determined that the constitution should be tackled and completely overhauled for the benefit of members, the sport and the business.

Council to update Committee further at the next meeting.

Handicapping Update

Members of the Handicap Panel informed the committee that they had held a meeting and had discussed the lift system. They were undecided and needed a second meeting to determine whether the lift system would remain, be changed or deleted. If the system stayed, changes would be discussed which would include only one run per day for the lift, such as in the cases of Heat and Final. Plus when horses receive a lift the money mark would not reset to the bottom of the grade, it would remain unchanged with just the grade dropping by one, horses therefore only require a win to advance in grade again.

The Handicap Panel explained that they were considering the option of removing grades 11 and 12 due to the small number of horses within these grades, but were mindful of the impact on grades 8 to 10.

This issue to be finalised at next Handicap Panel meeting.

An introduction of a 3 grade advance for horses winning a final of over £2000 had been discussed. This was brought up as some horses had won big finals and received a lift on the run so not advanced much in the handicap.

Handicap Panel to further discuss and decide.

Under the C Class drivers allowance it had been noted that C Class drivers were placed on the outside of the line rather than being placed in the draw. This was felt unfair as it was not always then a benefit to the driver.

The Handicap Panel to discuss whether horses should be included in the draw when in ballot races.

Members informed that the office were looking into including driver class information on the race card set up currently provided.

The issue of whether mares should receive a ten yard allowance in all races similar to other racing jurisdictions referred to the panel for discussion.

The issue of uncompetitive performances and non-trying was discussed at length. Members felt clarification was needed as to whether track officials dealt with unsatisfactory runs or whether they referred the issue to the Handicap Panel.

Agreement that track officials should advise owner/trainer/driver of any horse that had not been competitive and not satisfactory and remove the performance from the horses runs. If connections wanted to appeal such a decision then the appeal would be submitted to the Handicap Panel.

Rule Changes

Members informed that the Council had reviewed the rule change suggestions put forward and a final list to be approved by the Committee could be read out.

Members agreed to received rule changes via email update

BHRC Officials Seminars

Members informed that the BHRC intended to hold seminars over the winter months, but would change the format slightly so as not to be dictatorial but informative.

AOB

Driver Upgrades

Marc T Jones - *no objections. Approved*

James Haythornthwaite - *no objections. Approved*