

EDITORIAL

Firstly I offer my apologies for not being able to attend the Awards Evening in February. Thanks to everyone that supported and attended and also to the organisers, the event is very upbeat and an occasion to look forward to. The new format for Horse of the Year to be announced on the night and the Drive of the Year supported by Tim Tetrick were definitely highlights and structure that has improved the event. Hopefully next years event will also include some TrotBritain and Le Trot presentations. Congratulations to all the winners.

The season is now almost upon us. Please be aware of the 28 day rule, ensure horses are registered as in training and all licences are fully renewed. There is no pleasure for anyone when horses are refused entry, but rules are rules and they will be applied to everyone.

On a positive note, racing returns at York this season with the 3YO Championship also being staged with a very reasonable entry. The Futurity and Derby will again be staged at Tir Prince for the second year of their three year term. Entry levels have held well and sponsors have been secured by the host track. Continued good luck to all the teams that stage juvenile stakes.

The Big Guns will enter a third year in 2017 thanks to the continued hard work of Huw Evans and the generous sponsorship of the Standardbred Sales Company. Venues for the races will be announced shortly with invitations for horses following shortly after.

TrotBritain have expanded the Le Trot races to a massive 3YO series for 2017 which has captured the attention of many and is bringing new licence holders. The races for the aged trotters continues with plenty of races throughout the season including more races planned at Chelmsford.

The BHRC are currently looking into the issue of online entry for the sport. It will be linked to a payment section so fees for stakes races etc can be submitted online. Also, subject to Promoters support, all race entries can be made online direct to the BHRC. A suggestion from TTC, this should simplify the way race entries are currently submitted and dealt with.

With the internet being the main source of information and conversation in this modern day, the BHRC are also looking into setting up a blogging platform and sponsoring some bloggers for the forthcoming season to get a 'trackside view' of the sport. With the internet and social media in mind, the BHRC have introduced a Social Media policy in line with similar policies of other Harness Racing Governing Bodies. Please take a moment to read and familiarise yourself with the document.

Best of Racing Luck for 2017!

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