

# EDITORIAL

I would like to start this editorial with an apology. It seems that you are all stuck with me for another 12 months!!

I would like to thank all the clubs and associations who made me very welcome at their meetings. If there were meetings which I could not attend I apologise, however, I endeavour to catch up with you during the New Year. I would like to think that we are making progress, nevertheless, I feel there is still a long way to go. We need to work on increasing income into the BHRC as I feel that no more cost-cutting can be done. It is imperative that we look at the bigger picture and the way the BHRC is structured. I think we have to start at the core with the revamp of our constitution. I am fully aware that I mention a change in the constitution on a regular basis, but I must stress it was written 30 years ago, and as such, the way it is written seems to be causing problems when we approach financial institutions and other governing bodies. As most of you are aware, it is my ambition that everybody works together to support such changes which will allow harness racing to meet the demands of the 21st century. I would hope for the support of you all in altering the constitution, by providing every license holder with a vote. Over the years, numerous figures have been produced about the cost of changing the constitution. It is my intention to use my honorarium money and other monies I have financially secured to pay for this. It will therefore cost the BHRC nothing!!

I think as a council who run the business of the BHRC, there are a lot of things which still need to be looked into. I feel that a promotions panel and a date to be very helpful going forward. We have all seen the success of the handicap panel who have worked tirelessly, and who can

only be highly commended for their work ethic. I think that the use of these panels will assist the council, thus allowing them more time to work on the core running of the business.

As chairman, I have always made it quite clear that myself and fellow directors are there to be on-hand and contactable for any concerns you may have. This could be via email, telephone or text. However, if as a sport we are to move forward and gain the respect that we deserve, inappropriate and negative comments on social media directed towards officials of the BHRC are not aiding our ability to progress. As such, I ask that any complaints you may have are emailed to the office or to me personally. We are concerned that the derogatory comments which are published on social media are making the sport seem unprofessional and suggest that our sport is in disarray!! It is our intention that as of now, any such comments will be looked at in more detail and those who are responsible for the comments could face disciplinary action.

On a lighter note, it is my intention to visit and support as many race meetings as possible next season, where I will always be available for you to chat to and listen to any comments you may wish to raise with me positive or negative. Once again I would like to thank Kirsty and Helen in the office for all of their hard-work as the build up to the AGM was quite stressful as usual!

Finally, I would like to wish everybody good luck and good racing in 2016.

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