

VICE CHAIRMAN'S VIEWS

We have just concluded what I think is the most successful stakes programme of Harness Racing ever staged in this country. From the first three year old race at Appleby in May to the futurity at Corbiewood in September, the standard of racing and prize money has been of the highest order. The yearlings on offer at this year's sales are a credit to their breeder's and show great faith in the format. I would like the BHRC to work with the promoter's and try to expand the season and give as many of these youngsters as possible the opportunity to race. I think the introduction of more four year old racing will also have a positive impact. The question "what about the handicappers" will hopefully be addressed by the panel appointed in the spring. Their report and decisions are due for publication shortly. It is difficult for me to put in words the description of the first season as Vice Chairman. We have made a few achievements and a

few firsts and almost certainly a few mistakes. The overriding feeling though is one of frustration. I still passionately believe we are underachieving as a sport. One of the highlights of the year for me was to locate and speak to Dr Iain McKenzie the owner of PRAKAS. He is an absolute gentleman and been most helpful and wishes us well for the future. I hope to have a full report on our meetings in the next calendar. Meanwhile the best part of the season for me is about to begin, breaking the yearlings. Good luck to everyone who has one.

Jim McNally