

VICE CHAIRMAN'S VIEWS

Thanks to everyone who supported me in the recent Council elections and for returning me as Vice Chairman for a second term. The immediate concern I have taken from the elections was the apparent lack of interest from the licence holders and poor turnout at club and association meetings.

Whilst many aspects of the sport are improving the underlying number of licence holders and horse registration are not increasing. I believe we must now look at the whole structure of the BHRC not just the voting system. We must seek advice from similar bodies on how best to proceed with this process. There is an imbalance within the BHRC regionally and I believe we must address this problem first. By appointing two representatives from say four areas to create a Council who then appoint a Chairman from within their ranks would go a long way to solving this.

The most talked about issue has been the lack of racing dates and I have worked hard

along with Adam Williams and Eric Witherspoon to create a new and longer season at Tir Prince.

By bringing all the major BHRC Stakes races to one track and retaining them for the next three years we can hopefully build them to be the equal of anything raced. The Autumn Series is something we have never tried before and I ask everyone to support it in any way you can. Online account betting is the only way this sport will produce an income that will enable it to progress.

With a summer of great festival meetings on the grass circuit to look forward to I am hopeful we can provide a Calendar of racing with something for everyone.

Happy Christmas and have a great New Year!

Jim McInally