

BHRC Committee Meeting Sunday 23rd February 2014

At BHRC Office, Goole

Present: Gordon Garnett (Chairman), Fred Hay (Steward), Jackie Maguire (Steward), Dawn Forrest (Steward), Bret Strickland (Steward), Rob Thompson (Regional Steward), Les Coward (EVHRA), Jason Podmore (MHRC)

Apologies: Barry Delaney (Vice Chairman), Jim McNally (Steward), Stella Havard (Steward), Roland Pugh (Regional Steward), Alan Muirhead (Regional Steward), Jim Kemp (MFDA), Huw Evans (TTC), Gwenan Thomas (CCB), Lee Price (WWHRA), Eric Witherspoon (NWSA), Anthony Fettah (YHR)

Discussion over the amount of people attending the meeting as it was thought poor.

Office

Members informed that Ms Collins has resigned from the company but throughout her time the BHRC have valued her time and input and wish her well for the future.

Members informed that the BHRC had been advised by a HR company and followed the advice and observed a request for confidentiality and would continue to observe that.

Minutes

Members reviewed the minutes.

Minutes carried.

Rule Changes

D8[k] – STAGBI duties

Members informed that the BHRC had tendered for the STAGBI administration work.

Members voted in favour of leaving the rule as written.

E1[d] before E1[c]

Members voted in favour. Rule change to be taken forward and voted on at next meeting.

Carried – take forward to vote at next meeting.

E22 – to include Deputy Regional Steward

In the absence of a Regional Steward or Deputy Regional Steward at any race meeting any BHRC Steward present shall have the power to act in the Regional Steward's capacity under the above rules.

Carried - take forward to vote at next meeting.

F16 –

Suggestion that Y1 should also be changed and the other rules brought into line.

Y1 - 'With the objective of protecting the integrity of harness horse racing, through controlling the use of substances capable of giving a horse an advantage or of it causing it to be disadvantaged in a race, contrary to the horse's inherent merits, a BHRC Council Member, Deputy Regional Steward, Integrity Officer and/or Chief Track Steward are empowered (in majority) to order an integrity test on any horse competing.'

F16 – 'At any time a BHRC Council Member, Deputy Regional Steward, Integrity Officer and/or Chief Track Steward (in majority) have the power to order any examination and/or test by a licensed Veterinary Surgeon [including the taking of samples for analysis] of any horse entered for a race or which has run in a race. If having regard to any pre-race examination or test of any horse due to run at a meeting, those responsible deem it necessary or advisable to do so, the Stewards shall withdraw such horse from racing at the meeting.'

F17 – ‘If an order has been made for a sample for analysis, either urine or swabs, or any other means to be taken from a horse, such a horse shall be kept at the racecourse or such place as the Stewards may appoint until the sample has been obtained’

F18 – ‘The owner of the horse concerned has no authority to remove a horse until the sample has been obtained, unless permitted to do so by the personnel who ordered the sample to be taken.’

F19[d] – ‘The result of all analyses of samples so taken must be made available to the personnel who ordered the samples to be taken as well as to the registered Trainer and/or Owner of the horse concerned.’

Proposed by Mr Coward, seconded Dawn Forrest.

Carried – take forward to vote at next meeting.

H6 – addition to include horses handicap mark

Members discussed information currently included on various racecards.

Addition – [g] specify the handicap mark of each horse

Carried – take forward to vote at next meeting.

H11 –

Members discussed the use of email as a form of contact and contact preference of Promoters.

H11 [b] forward a copy of the Start-sheet to all Owners and Trainers with horses engaged at the forthcoming meeting, listing, as a minimum, the runners in each race with their handicap marks, the time each race is to be run and the time the runners are required in the paddock.

Carried – take forward to vote at next meeting.

W5 –

Members discussed various issues in alteration of the rule and preventing horses racing.

Members agreed to take forward for further debate.

W59 – grass nails

Advice from farriers read to members.

Members in favour of leaving rule as written.

Appendix V –

Drafted edit:

BHRC INTEGRITY TESTING REGULATIONS

A BHRC Council Member, Deputy Regional Steward, Integrity Officer and/or Chief Track Steward are empowered (in majority) to order an integrity test on any horse competing.

If the above personnel are unavailable or not in agreement, the sample requested should be obtained and the decision whether to analyse the sample made at a later time.

THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES MUST BE ADHERED TO

Once selected the horse(s) will be escorted by an official (i.e. Track Steward, Integrity Officer etc) to the appointed place for testing

The horse may be washed down provided that the escorting official is present at all times

The horses passport must be produced for identification purposes

The horse must be scanned for a microchip and identified as the horse named in the passport (and Race Card where appropriate) to the satisfaction of the officials and Veterinary Officer present

The horse(s) will be held at the appointed place for testing until the sample(s) requested (urine, blood, hair, saliva or other such sample) has been obtained

The appointed Veterinary Officer or official shall obtain the sample(s) as per the instructions given by the BHRC.

Blood samples may only be obtained by the Veterinary Officer

Upon completion of the taking of the sample, the Veterinary Officer shall complete and endorse all paperwork supplied by the BHRC, including the seal of the sample package

The horses handler/person responsible shall complete and endorse all paperwork supplied, including the seal of the sample package. Such endorsement shall be taken as acknowledgement that he/she is satisfied with the procedure carried out

The official shall complete and endorse all paperwork supplied, including the seal of the sample package. Such endorsement shall be taken as acknowledgement that he/she is satisfied with the procedure carried out

The sample will remain in the custody of the BHRC who will be responsible for ensuring that the sample is safely packaged for transfer to the laboratory as soon as is practical

The BHRC section of the Integrity Testing Form to be forwarded to the BHRC Office as soon as is practical

Carried – take forward to vote at next meeting.

Driving –

Members agreed not to take the suggestion forward.

S25 – Driver Integrity Tests

Members discussed breath analysis, drink-driving and tolerance levels of other Governing Bodies.

Members agreed that an amount of kits should be purchased and distributed to Regional Stewards.

S25 – ‘When directed by the Stewards, or an authorised official of the BHRC, participants shall submit to a breath analysis test, or any other test. A driver showing a reading above .00 percent shall be subject to disciplinary action. Any participant who refuses to submit to a breath analysis test as required by the rules shall be prohibited from driving on that day and is liable to a fine and/or suspension and being referred to BHRC.’

Carried – take forward to vote at next meeting.

Reins –

Members discussed the safety of tying reins.

R6 –

[a] Headcollars may not be worn with the bridle whilst a horse is harnessed on the racetrack on race days.

[b] Driving reins must not be knotted together and should be placed on the sulky seat underneath the driver.

Carried – take forward to vote at next meeting.

Integrity – notification of results

Members debated and agreed that information should be included at the end of Appendix V.

‘Upon receipt of a positive integrity result notification will be provided as follows:

- Chairman informed
- Trainer informed
- Owner informed
- BHRC Council members informed
- Notice provided on BHRC website stating the fixture, date of test and class of substance’

Carried – take forward to vote at next meeting.

Results –

Members debated the current information provided by Promoters and discussed how best to improve it.

Members agreed not to take the suggestion forward.

K4 – Late Declarations

Members debated whether to change the rule and what current practice was for horses not declared.

Change to ‘**Failure to Declare on Time** – A declaration received after the specified time of closing may not be accepted, except those omitted due to error or negligence by an official or employee of the Track. At the Promoters discretion horses declaring after the specified time may be allowed to compete but must be given the outside draw.’

Carried – take forward to vote at next meeting.

Racing/Qualifying:

Members discussed safety issues of more than ten horses competing and various issues regarding qualifying.

Suggested alteration to M3 –

[a] It is a recommendation of the BHRC that for safety purposes a field of more than 10 horses should only be allowed to compete on a track measuring 5/8th of a mile or more.

[b] Every horse in the race must contest every race and every horse must be driven to the finish. If the Stewards believe that a horse is being driven, or has been driven previously, with design to prevent his winning a race which he was evidently able to win, or is being raced in an intentional inconsistent manner, or to perpetrate or to aid a fraud, they shall consider it a violation and the driver, and anyone in concert with him, to so affect the outcome of the race or races, shall be fined, and/or suspended or disqualified.'

Carried – take forward to vote at next meeting.

H18 –

Unless subject to Rule **F13.** above, the results of Track Stewards' Enquiries are to be announced to the public at the race meeting. If an appeal is pending, this should be made known at the time.

Carried – rule changed.

J6 –

The full amount of all added money, advertised by any meeting to be given in prizes, shall be made to the Owners, Lessees or their authorised agents, within fourteen days from the conclusion of the meeting. All cheques issued for prize money must be crossed 'A/C payee only'. Where the horse concerned has been subject of an integrity test the prize money shall be with-held until a negative result is returned.

Carried – rule changed.

L9 –

Penalties - A fine may be applied to any driver by the Starter or Stewards for:

[a] Delaying the start.

[b] Failure to obey the Starter's or Stewards instruction. (*Amended 2007*)

[c] Rushing ahead of the inside or outside wing of the gate.

[d] Coming to the starting gate out of position.

[e] Crossing over before reaching the starting point.

[f] Interference with another driver during the start.

[g] Failure to come up into position.

[h] Starting in advance of mark, and the horse will be disqualified

[i] Loose or no number cloth

[j] Leaving the track without permission

[k] Remaining in the race when disqualified

Carried – rule changed.

N5 –

No horse may be allowed to run in a Qualifying Trial unless it is registered with STAGBI, or its European passport has been ratified by STAGBI, and complies with rule Q1[a-c], its passport and vaccination record has been checked by the Regional Steward and a microchip number is recorded in the passport

Carried – rule changed.

Q1[ii][a] –

Members discussed whether changes suggested would allow for French Trotters to compete.

Suggested Q1[ii] To be eligible to race ALL horses must:

[a] be a full Standardbred (i.e. the progeny of a fully registered sire and a fully registered dam), be registered with STAGBI, or an internationally recognised harness racing authority, or have its European passport ratified by STAGBI.'

Carried – take forward to vote at next meeting.

Section Y Penalties:

To be included under the Owner sub-section of each category penalty:

'Any handicap penalties incurred on the date of sampling (from any race if a positive test is returned from either pre or post-race testing) shall be retained on the handicap mark relating to the horse'.

Carried – take forward to vote at next meeting.

Flu Vacs:

The Secretary explained that changes suggested brought the current flu vac regime in line with that of the BHA.

Alter Appendix II to:

EQUINE FLU VACCINATION REGIME

1st Primary Vaccination must be given

2nd Primary Vaccination between **21 and 92** days after 1st primary vaccination

3rd Primary Vaccination between **150 and 215** days after 2nd primary vaccination

Further booster vaccinations at intervals of not more than a year apart (or such lesser time as the Authority may, in an emergency, decide)

REMEMBER - The first two vaccinations must be given BEFORE a horse can be taken to a racetrack

REMEMBER - None of the vaccinations must have been given on the day of a race in which the horse is declared to run or on any of the six days before the race

REMEMBER - To COMPLETE the programme by having the third vaccination - the time for this could well be in Autumn after the horse has been turned out for winter

REMEMBER - The current Owner/Trainer of the horse is responsible for ensuring the FLU VAC RECORD is correct **NOT** the BHRC

Carried – rule changed.

Rules to be deleted – Q11, Q15 and Q17[d]

Rules deleted.

Promotion

Members gave thanks to Kayleigh Evans and Ceredrotian over the help to revamp the promotion leaflets.

Members viewed the leaflet drafts. 1000 per area to be produced free of charge.

Suggestion received regarding advertising on Facebook. To be investigated.

Fixtures

Members informed that NESA officials were now Mr Dent as the NESA Chairman, and Richard Wigham was the Secretary with either Mr Wigham or Mr Robson being the new Committee observer. Confirmation over fixture was still needed.

WWHRA work out dates withdrawn due to the field not being available. May fixtures would be staged at Presteigne and 1st Juen at Allensmore.

Letter from TTC read out regarding the Sire Stakes dates. Confirmed via telephone to keep Sire Stakes as 12th July.

Classic Races

Proposal that in 2015 and 2016 the National Pacing Futurity and National Pacing Derby have to be staged between the first and third Monday in July.

Proposal that in 2015 and 2016 the Sire Stakes are staged after second Monday in September (subject to York agreement for 2015).

These suggestions to be sent out to Committee for views and comments at next meeting. Then upon approval to be confirmed in the Calendar and on the BHRC Website.

Uniform Classification Guidelines

The panel recommended that the BHRC update to the current edition.

Members approved.

Officials Seminar

Feedback requested over attendance numbers.

The Chairman agreed that he would stage a Seminar at Carlisle.

Members agreed to cancel the Lymm Seminar on 16th March, arrange a date at Carlisle and a date at Hereford and contact Ms Havard to host the Hereford date.

Race Programmes

Feedback requested as to whether Promoters would wish to use the new race programme set-up offered by the BHRC at the prices suggested.

Members stated that Corbiewood probably would subject to talking to their Secretary, Pikehall would subject to arranging printing, Cullingworth, Wolsingham, Evenwood, Pateley Bridge and Staindrop were interested as were Hereford and Borders.

AOB

Constitution

Members offered thanks to Lee Price for looking into matters.

Members agreed to ask Mr Price to further explore the CIO issue.

WWHRA Regional Steward

Members agreed that the BHRC would like to receive the reports for each fixture and would monitor the situation with WWHRA.

BHRC Stewards

Members agreed that BHRC Stewards have a pass that entitles them to free entry to all fixtures and it was at their discretion as to whether they used that pass.

Next meeting to be held in late March or early April to finalise rules.

Meeting closed