

BHRC Committee Meeting - Saturday 16th November 2013
at BHRC Office, Goole

Present: Gordon Garnett (BHRC Chairman), Barry Delaney (Vice Chairman/HHA), Fred Hay (BHRC Steward/Corbiewood), Dawn Forrest (BHRC Steward), Stella Havard (BHRC Steward), Jackie Maguire (BHRC Steward), Roland Pugh (Regional Steward), Robert Thompson (Regional Steward), Alan Muirhead (Regional Steward), Huw Evans (TTC), Jim McNally (Tir Prince), Jason Podmore (MHRC), Anthony Fettah (YHR), Gwenan Thomas (CCB), Jim Kemp (SHRC), Bret Strickland (H&BHRC), Les Coward (Eden Valley), Graham Smith (NESA - Observers), Kirsty Lee (Secretary/Minutes)

Apologies: Lee Price (WWHRA), Craig Stevenson (MFDA)

Minutes & Matters Arising

Meeting informed that STAGBI felt that they could not uphold rule W4 but had made suggestions re updates for the rule.

Minutes carried

Fixtures

The European Pacing Classic to be held at Corbiewood (highest tender).

The National Pacing Futurity to be held at Corbiewood (highest tender).

The National Pacing Derby to be held at Corbiewood (highest tender).

The Roosevelt Trot to be held at Tir Prince on 2nd September 2014.

Dates for the EPC, NPF and NPD at Corbiewood to be confirmed within two weeks.

An update was given re racing at Corbiewood which was positive in that the owners were happy for racing to go ahead.

Tir Prince intended to start racing early on 29th April subject to entries.

Barnard Castle needed inspection before racing there in 2014.

Wolverhampton intended to stage a fixture in 2014, with the possibility of a two day meeting, a Friday night and Saturday. Dates to be confirmed.

Provisional meeting at Staindrop to be moved to 15th June. Fixture to be organised by Evenwood Committee.

Tir Prince to add a provisional fixture date on Tuesday 10th June.

A request from Amman Valley re no other racing on the weekend of 12th July due to possible televised meeting discussed. Hereford & Borders explained that they could not change dates although they would like to help out. Evenwood moved from 13th to 20th July. Discussions re staging the Sire Stakes on the same weekend ensued. York agreed to move the Sire Stakes to 20th September provided that the NPF was not held at Corbiewood within two weeks of that date.

Meeting informed that if there was no TV coverage in 2014 Tir Prince would stage a Crock of Gold style series.

York withdrew fixture for 16th August as they felt it was too close to Tregaron.

New 2013 fixtures at Hawick and Pateley Bridge were discussed. Both were good fixtures, well supported with new faces.

Stanhope on 13th September to be provisional.

IHRC major fixtures at Portmarnock discussed.

Rule Changes

First debate on rule changes. Any taken forward to be viewed again before the Committee, printed in the Calendar and then voted as changes.

Y16:

Alter Y16 to - All winnings of such horse in a race in which an offence was detected under any rule in this section (Y) shall be paid over to the Promoter of the race in question. The horse in question shall retain the handicap penalty assigned from the race. Placings and prize money of all other horses in the race shall remain unaffected.

Further debate

M31:

Alter M31 to - If a horse is declared to have fallen at any period whilst on the track or during a race, it shall not be permitted to run in any rerun or other race at that meeting. Such declaration shall be made if the horse's quarters and/or shoulder touch the ground.

Addition M36 - [a] if any driver/jockey is unseated at any period whilst on the track or during a race, that driver must be passed fit for competition by the official trained medical personnel in attendance before driving/riding in any rerun or other race on that day

[b] Any driver/jockey who has been unseated and is subsequently not passed as fit for competition by the official trained medical personnel in attendance will not be permitted to drive/ride in any race on that day

Further debate - More definition of 'official trained medical personnel'

W4:

Rule to remain unchanged

F9[b]:

Alter F9[b] to - No penalty may be imposed upon a licence holder under section F of the rules without granting a hearing.

Further debate

N5:

Alter N5 to - No horse may be allowed to run in a Qualifying Trial unless it is registered as a Standardbred with a recognised authority and holds a recognised passport, and complies with rule Q1 [a-c], its passport and vaccination record has been checked by the Race Secretary and a microchip number is recorded in the passport.

Alter **Q1[iii][a]** to - be registered as a Standardbred (i.e. the progeny of a fully registered sire and a fully registered dam) with a recognised authority and hold a recognised passport

Alter **Q14** to - Irish Horses must be registered as a Standardbred (i.e. the progeny of a fully registered sire and a fully registered dam) with a recognised authority and hold a recognised passport, and will race under the BHRC Handicap System in place at the time of racing.

Further debate

D8[k]:

D8[k] - undertake such duties as may be contracted to them by STAGBI

Further debate

E1[d]/[c], E22, F16/17/18/19[d]:

E1[d] to come before E1[c].

E22 - to include Deputy Regional Steward

F16 - The Track Stewards have power at any time 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 or any pre-race examination or test of any horse due to run at a meeting, the Stewards deem it necessary or advisable to do so, the Stewards shall withdraw such horse from racing at the meeting. When a horse having been swab-tested has been found to have and/or the person in charge of the horse at the time such swab was taken may be held responsible and may be charged.

F17 - If the Track Stewards in charge of a meeting order a sample for analysis, either of 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 Track Stewards who ordered the sample to be taken.

F19[d] - The result of all analyses of samples so taken must be made available to the Track Stewards who ordered the samples to be taken as well as to the Trainer and/or Owner of the horse concerned.

Further debate

H6:

H6 - All race-cards must:

[a] give the names of the officials acting at such race meeting,

[b] specify the prize money, added money where possible, distance, basic conditions of every race,

[c] give the registered names of horses, breeding, age, sex and colour,

[d] give the names of the Owner, Trainer and Driver of each horse.

[e] specify the racing colours to be worn by each driver

[f] give the results of the horses' last three official races as supplied by the BHRC office which must be published on the race-card, together where possible with some guide to form.

Further debate - possibly to be included as guidance notes for Race Secretaries

H11:

H11 - Immediately on receipt of the Start-sheet from the Race-Framer the Race Secretary shall:

[a] forward a copy to the Secretary of the BHRC by 10 am the day following publication and thereafter no changes shall be permitted to horses entered in any race, the only exception being that a reserve horse may be entered into a race providing such horse was shown as a reserve on the published Start-sheet.

[b] forward a copy of the Start-sheet by post or fax 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.

Further debate - Include email as a form of contact

H18 - Unless subject to Rule **F13**. above, the results of Track Stewards' Enquiries are to be announced to the public at the race meeting and published in the following week's race card. If an appeal is pending, this should be made known at the time.

Delete the wording 'and published in the following week's race card' - To be voted on at next Committee meeting

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 a dope test the prize money shall be with-held until a negative result is returned.

Amend the word 'dope' to 'integrity' - To be voted on at next Committee

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

Save in the case of minor offences, no penalty may be imposed without granting a hearing.

Remove the last line 'Save in the case of minor offences, no penalty may be imposed without granting a hearing'

No other instances of 'minor offences' in the rule book.

To be voted on at the next Committee meeting

Q11 - Application for any change of name made prior to qualifying to race shall be made in writing, to the BHRC or Registrar of STAGBI accompanied by the appropriate fee.

Delete as names can no longer be changed - To be voted on at the next Committee meeting

Q15 - Horses coming to race on Temporary Export Certificates may not be sold or transferred while under a temporary certificate.

Delete as not the jurisdiction of the BHRC - To be voted on at the next Committee meeting

Q17[d] - Failure to comply with any of the provisions of this section constitutes a violation by the Owner, and/or Trainer of the Rules of both the BHRC and STAGBI and may be punishable by a fine and/or suspension.

Delete as not the jurisdiction of the BHRC - To be voted on at the next Committee meeting

W5 - When an Owner is suspended, he/she shall not be entitled to transfer his/her horses as from the date on which the penalty was imposed, and until the suspension is terminated.

Further debate - Possible alteration in line with Q18

W59 - The trainer is responsible to ensure that at each and every grass track meeting, all horses racing, qualifying and/or working out must wear grass nails.

Better definition of 'grass nails', perhaps with a limit included - Farriers to be consulted re this rule

Flu Vacs:

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

To be voted on at the next Committee meeting

Appendix VI to be brought up to date immediately

Appendix V

Further debate - To be re-drafted

M10:

Rule to remain unchanged

Driving:

When a driver is in a racing accident, the driver cannot race for a minimum of two weeks. Also before returning to the track the driver must present a signed doctors letter clearing them fit to compete.

Further debate - Advice to be taken

Driver Integrity Tests:

Proposal that drivers should submit to integrity tests (S25)

Further debate - Advice to be taken

Reins Not Tied Together:

Proposal that reins should not be tied together

Further debate - Rule to read 'Reins may not be knotted together'

Race Entries:

Proposal that all race entries are taken by the BHRC Office

Not to be taken forward under Rule Changes but will be debated further

Integrity:

Upon receipt of a positive test result, the BHRC should place an announcement on the official BHRC website stating that a positive result *has been returned and when the hearings will commence.*

Further debate - practice to be agreed

Handicap Mark re Failed Test:

Further debate - covered in rule Y16

Barrier Draws:

Once start sheets are finalised, horses should be given draw numbers. These should be organised in the official office. If a horse withdraws after the official draw is declared it should be suspended for a period to be decided by the BHRC.

Not to be taken forward, no further debate

Results:

Full race results, i.e. finishing positions for every horse, finishing time of every horse, draw, trail, driver etc etc, should all be provided by every track on every return

Further debate - Include in an Appendix of recommendations for Race Secretaries

Declarations:

K4 - Failure to Declare on Time - A declaration received after the specified time of closing shall not be accepted, except those omitted due to error or negligence by an official or employee of the Track.

Consider that some tracks/promoters do allow horses to run after late declaration but receive outside draw

Possibly add - 'At the Promoters discretion horses declaring after the specified time may be allowed to compete but must be given the outside draw'

Chairman/Vice Chairman:

The Chairman and Vice Chairman should be rotational every 3-4 years and only a BHRC Steward/Regional Steward be able to stand for the position.

Not to be taken forward under Rule Change as a matter covered by the Constitution

Update on Integrity

Members were given an update on integrity from the World Trotting Conference. Members were informed that the integrity levy in 2013 had raised circa £16,000 and there was a slight overspend on that amount from the integrity programme. Members involved in the integrity programme were commended for their work, help and efforts.

Meeting informed that progress had been made on the threshold for drug X.

Members discussed i-STAT machines and costings, out of competition testing, more pro-active and targeted testing, fines and the integrity levy.

A proposal was put forward that any fine monies collected should be paid back into the integrity fund.

Members were informed that proposals could be put forward that the fine money be allocated to other areas, such as Classic Races.

Members discussed other issues such as promotion and the Classic Races and that these issues should not be lost sight of as they were important and should be addressed in the same way as integrity is.

Queries were raised over whether the winner and second horse of a major race could be tested, with the second horse only being analysed if the winner failed. Members agreed to debate further.

Handicapping

The Chairman introduced the proposals for conditioned racing, which stemmed from himself and the Vice Chairman trying to ensure that every horse had a chance to win the race it was in and there being a race for every horse.

Members debated whether two handicap systems could run alongside each other with one being essentially Penalty Free.

A suggested condition system was put forward which would be a model of what was being used at the Meadowlands race track, with a nine class system with conditions for each class where horses would be reclassified after either a win within the system or after five runs.

Members stated that the information re visiting horses from IHRC would have to be up to date and included in the classification. Members were informed that the IHRC are developing a database similar to that of the BHRC so the information would be more readily available and up to date.

Members agreed a system should be developed to run alongside the current grade system and add to the racing on offer. Ideas to be formulated, written and debated further.

Steward/Track Stewards

Members debated the lack of officials and Track Stewards currently registered and available.

Suggestions were made that Promoters should advertise for trainee Track Stewards and see what the response was.

Racecards/Race Management

Members informed that the improved format of racecards as published in the Calendar would be available to Promoters in 2014 at a nominal cost yet to be decided, and that the new format would be used as website racecards/Start sheets whether or not the Promoter had subscribed to use it for their race programme.

Members debated costs, set-up, printing and other issues.

AOB

Driver Class A Application - Rhys Evans

No objections received, A Class Upgrade granted.

Voting Rights

Members were informed of current voting rights: nine members of the Council, two for EVHRA under grandfather rights, one for York, two for Corbiewood as they held more than 16 fixtures, one for SHRC as a members club, one for WWHRA as a members club, one for Tregaron as they were invited to join Committee, one for MFDA under grandfather rights, one for Tir Prince as they would be welcomed as a voting member as the first business of the AGM, one for NWSA as a members club, one for HHA as a members club, one for CCB as a members club, one for MHRC as a members club and one for H&BHRC as a members club.

Sire Stakes

Members discussed supplement payments for yearlings to the Sire Stakes programme.

Members agreed that so long as the stallion was nominated in the year of covering the penalty should be £50 plus the yearling fee of £20, to be paid by 31st December of the yearling year.

Members agreed that the fee would likely be increased in the future.

Rule Changes

Some additional rule changes suggested after the closing date were agreed for consideration.

IHRC

The Chairman read an email from the IHRC over issues they wanted raised and would discuss in the future with the BHRC.

Accounts

It was questioned whether the BHRC Accounts could be published on the website.

Members informed that it was thought that perhaps the accounts had to be adopted before being made public, but advice would be sought on the matter.

Elections

Members questioned whether it was possible to expand the number of Stewards on the Council rather than new people stand to replace exiting members.

Members debated the issue and also whether BHRC Stewards could act as Chief and Track Stewards, and whether the Vice Chairman has to be a BHRC Steward. Rules and the Constitution were discussed.

A proposal was put forward and seconded that all five candidates standing be elected as Council members immediately.

A proposal was put forward and seconded that the elections take place at the AGM.

Members voted in majority for the elections to take place at the AGM.

Next Meeting to follow AGM on Sunday 1st December 2013.

Meeting closed