

BHRC Committee Meeting - Saturday 9th February 2013
at BHRC Office, Goole

- Present:** Gordon Garnett (Chairman), Barry Delaney (Vice Chairman), Rob Thompson (Regional Steward), Dawn Forrest (Steward), Les Coward (EVHRA), Stella Havard (Steward), Jackie Maguire (Steward), Fred Hay (Steward), Alan Muirhead (Regional Steward), Jason Podmore (MHRC), Gwenan Thomas (CCB), Anthony Fettah (YHR), Jim McNally (NWSA), Bret Strickland (H&BHRC)
Craig Stevenson (Race Framer)
Kirsty Lee (Secretary/Minutes)
- Apologies:** Jim Kemp (Musselburgh), Eric Witherspoon (Tir Prince), Roland Pugh (Regional Steward), Lee Price (WWHRA), Huw Evans (TTC), Bob Lee (HHA)

Minutes & Matters Arising

The wording 'not viable financially' referring to the racing committee at York was questioned and it was stated that the committee could not raise the funds needed for promotion.

Minutes carried.

NWSA Voting Rights

Members were informed that the information supplied to the AGM was the number of members present at the NWSA meeting not the full association members list. No objections were raised to NWSA retaining voting rights.

Raceframing

The issue of raceframing was debated including whether race framers should be set stronger guidelines, whether splits should be for trainer and driver or just owner, whether time could be included in framing and conditioned racing. Suggestions were made including abolishing heats and finals, better classification of horses and preferred and claiming racing.

Members agreed to discuss race framing at the upcoming Stewards Seminars.

Stewards Seminars

Members informed that the seminars would be Officials Seminars. Issues to be discussed at the seminars were debated including practice and procedure, betting ring inspectors, penalty free, improved performances, communications between officials, Chief Stewards reports and track standards.

Fixtures

10th August – York / Pateley Bridge

Discussions regarding York and Pateley Bridge running on the same date took place and Pateley Bridge agreed to race on Sunday 1st September.

18th August – NESA

Members informed that the fixture would not be at Wolsingham but perhaps at Evenwood but the issue was not resolved.

7th September – Wolsingham/Tir Prince

Members informed that letters had been written between Wolsingham and EVHRA regarding the objection raised by EVHRA.

After consideration by relevant parties, the objection was withdrawn subject to better communication in the future regarding fixtures and clashes.

Members of the Committee gave their thanks to parties involved for resolving the situation.

22nd September – EVHRA

Members informed that EVHRA would stage the fixture at Staindrop.

Harness Racing in Scotland

Members updated that horses were still stabled at the Corbiewood track and amenities still in order and meetings were ongoing between the owners and the racing committee. Racing was due to continue as normal.

Members gave thanks for the update and wished the SHRC luck with their negotiations and meetings.

Integrity Fee

Members informed that after various funding options had been discussed the recommendation of the Council was that the levy be set at £20 per horse as all licence holders would pay the same, and it would aid promoters and organisers.

Proposal was formally put forward and seconded for the levy to be altered to £20 per horse.

Members voted majority in favour.

Members gave thanks to Mrs Thomas for the suggestion.

Rules Changes

Members informed that some rules had been changed and published in the Calendar so would be in the rule book for 2013. Those on the Agenda were left over from the last meeting, they had been flagged up for debate but other than Y16 and Q6 did not have any suggestions on wording, so other than the first two would not make it into the 2013 rules due to the procedure for changing a rule.

Y16

Suggested alteration:

All winnings of such horse in a race in which an offence was detected under any section of this rule shall be forfeited and paid over to the BHRC for re-distribution among the remaining horses in the race entitled to same. The Stewards shall notify the BHRC in writing of the re-distribution of winnings, giving the following information:

[a] The name and registration number of the horse charged with the positive test.

[b] Names of horses and registration numbers of all horses affected by the re-distribution of purse.

[c] The amount of money to be added or subtracted from each horse's earnings.

Alter 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 BHRC and allocated to the Integrity Testing Programme in place at the time. 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.

Members debated various issues including the suggestion that the forfeited prize money be paid over to the Promoter, legal implications, whether the race would be void, testing of the second placed horse and the handicap being retained by the horse that had failed the test.

Members agreed to further debate the rule and suggestions.

Q16

Suggested alteration:

No 'major' two year old race will be permitted before June 30th. 'Major' races are defined as all Track Futurities, the Sire Stakes races and the National Pacing Futurity.

Alter to:

No 'major' two year old race will be permitted before June 1st. 'Major' races are defined as all Track Futurities, the Sire Stakes races and the National Pacing Futurity.

Rule change proposed and seconded.

Majority in favour. Rule changed.

M31

M31:

If a horse is declared to have fallen during a race, it shall not be permitted to run in any rerun or race at that meeting. Such declaration shall be made if the horse's quarters and/or shoulder touch the ground, or the driver has been unseated.

Members informed that the driver line had been added to this rule and it was felt that the issue of the driver should be divorced from section M31 and dealt with under driving rules.

Proposal put forward and seconded that the rule be separated into two.
Members agreed that the wording to be finalised and put to the next meeting.

W4

W4:

In the event of an Owner being the subject of an enquiry by the British Harness Racing Stewards or the Stewards of a meeting, his horses are ineligible for transfer and re-registration pending the result of the enquiry, which must be held within twenty-one days of his receiving notice of the enquiry.

Members discussed whether the rule could be enforced and suggested that STAGBI be written to regarding rules W4 and W5.

Members agreed STAGBI to be contacted and an update to be given at the next meeting.

W33

A 'B' Class Driver may apply for upgrade of licence to 'A' Class upon fulfilling the following conditions:

[a] The applicant shall have held a 'B' Class Licence for at least one full season.

[b] The applicant shall have had a minimum of 25 drivers on a hard track.

[c] The applicant shall have driven 24 wins, of which at least 12 shall have been on a hard track.

[d] The application must have the recommendation of three Stewards [Racetrack, Regional or BHRC] and must be submitted to the Committee of the BHRC for adjudication.

[e] When considering the upgrading of a driver's licence from 'B' to 'A' the Committee will pay due regard to the driver's record, including any penalties incurred. The Stewards will look for evidence of recent experience and take into consideration the variety of horses driven and times achieved.

[f] Licence cards must be forwarded to the BHRC Office with application form and fee.

Members debated whether the qualifications should be reviewed and debated various options.

Members agreed that the rule would be discussed at the upcoming seminars.

X6:

All Sire Stakes Races will be administered by the Sire Stakes Committee, under BHRC rules.

Members informed that the Sire Stakes administration was covered under rule X5.

Members agreed to delete the rule.

X13

Sire Stakes - The closing date for nomination of foals shall be as published by the Sire Stakes Committee in the Calendar.

Suggested that the rule should read 'shall be published by the BHRC in the Calendar.'

Suggestion proposed and seconded

All in favour.

X37

Generally only 'A' Class Drivers are entitled to drive in Classic and Free For All Races, but a 'B' Class driver may apply to the Chief Steward of a Track for permission to drive a horse in a Classic or Free For All Race. Such application must be made in writing giving seven days notice.

Members discussed the issue and agreed to leave the ruling as it is presently written.

Tir Prince Vote Request

Members debated whether the issue should be tabled at an AGM.

The case for Tir Prince was put forward

Motion proposed and seconded that Tir Prince be admitted to the BHRC Committee as a voting member.

Members unanimously in favour.

Members informed that this would be enforced from the date of the next AGM where Tir Prince would be admitted as a voting member.

Sire Stakes

Members debated the information suggested for the new BHRC Sire Stakes Series.

Members agreed that any conditions should read 'UK and Ireland' to allow IHRC stallions.

York proposed that they would stage the series for a minimum of three years for £1,000 per year.

Members discussed various issues regarding the Sire Stakes.

Council and members agreed to tender the Sire Stakes to York for a period of three years at £1,000 plus any sponsorship per year.

Members informed that currently £2,500 was held by the Sire Stakes Committee from 2010 and 2011 and with the permission of stallion owners it would be transferred to the new series.

Any Other Business

Prakas

Members informed that no tender bids had been received for the 2013 series but York had offered a date and that needed to be secured as a venue and date.

Members debated race numbers, tender money and the Prakas agreement.

York agreed to stage the Prakas on 28th September.

Public Trainer Application

Members informed that Mr H Burton intended to apply for a Public Trainer licence and his application was supported by some committee members.

Saddle races

Members updated on the saddle racing issue, Appleby intending to stage a saddle race in their Spring schedule. The Council had discussed the matter and decided that as per the rules all jockeys would have to be licensed, with qualifying races and demonstrations to be arranged for people to gain their licences. Minimum weight would be ten stone with saddle and crop. Races run as Penalty Free with horses starting saddle racing with their sulky handicap but any prize money won only being added to a saddle handicap not their sulky handicap. Jockeys would be encouraged to ride old style and ride long.

Members agreed to conditions suggested.

Wolverhampton

Members brought up to speed on the possible Wolverhampton fixture, the date in mind being Friday 16th August, with Shane Fletcher as the Promoter, but they were currently awaiting replies from the BHA so they couldn't give exact dates or expenses.