

# VICE CHAIRMANS VIEWS

I've just got back from a wonderful weekend in Ireland, it was my first visit to Portmarnock, a truly fantastic experience. The racing was of the highest quality, with the finest horses from Ireland competing for prize money of approximately €50,000 over the two days of racing. With large crowds on both days, everyone in party mood, the atmosphere was electric, I never saw any bad behaviour. Everything was well organised by the Management Committee with a big help from the Vincent Delaney family and Oakwood Stud.

Our filly competed in the 3YO Derby and finished a respectable third, considering that she had injured herself just before the Breeders Crown and spent 10 days in her box, we should be satisfied with her performance, however, I do believe Rhyds Rainbow is a truly outstanding filly and is probably unbeatable at the moment, but we will be back at Portmarnock in September for some more excitement.

A complete change of subject now and it's a moan. On three separate occasions recently I have been approached by people who have been attending Harness Racing for the first time, they each asked me if there was a form guide in the programmes and unfortunately I had to acknowledge that there wasn't. This was very disappointing to have to apologise to them as I thought

the BHRC had received the support of promoters when we requested that they included a form guide in their programmes, if only a horse's last five races, unfortunately some promoters have chosen not to co-operate, that I feel is a big mistake, these people may never return to a Harness racetrack.

Another moan, we are still unable to get a conditions/claiming handicapping system in place, I strongly believe that we have to and will continue banging the drum for its acceptance. If at first you don't succeed try try again, and we will.

All the best and enjoy the remainder of the season.

*Barry Delaney*