

# VICE CHAIRMANS VIEWS

What a relief the season has started and we can almost forget the traumas of the past winter, whether it be the lack of sporting excitement or the antics of some people bent on giving the sport a bad name or it's administrators a hard time. For me that all changed yesterday with the opening meeting at York offering some excellent racing, the company of good friends and relief in knowing that everybody had enjoyed and appreciated the occasion. I understand that Tregaron served up some excellent racing also, which was well received - well done.

You will probably have noticed that recently there has been occasions where people have applied to the BHRC for licences and had them refused, this is not new, if the BHRC feel it is inappropriate to issue them a licence for whatever reason, they will do so, there is no obligation to grant anybody a licence, particularly if it was felt it would not be in the best interest of our sport.

I was recently saddened to hear of the passing of an old friend, Ephie Mather. The first Harness Racing meeting I went to was in 1972 at Droylsden, Manchester when I was introduced to him by Dougie and Dorothy Nichol. He has a horse racing called 'Georgie Best' (presumably named after the most naturally talented footballer I have ever seen), he wasn't a bad horse but didn't possess the abundance of talent that his namesake had. Such fond memories of Ephie, my heart goes out to his family.

I have purposely kept my article brief, pending developments during the forthcoming season.

Enjoy your racing.

*Barry Delaney*