

A mechanism to give licence holders more proportionate representation within the BHRC, Q & A

A one-licence-holder, one-vote system

Is such a system possible? Yes, by the current members of the BHRC voting to allow licence holders to become members. There are currently around 600 BHRC licence holders.

So who are the present members of BHRC? The BHRC committee of 22, made up as follows:

<u>Licence holder associations:</u>	Voting rights
Scottish HOA	1
Eden Valley HRA	(promote more than 16 mtgs) 2
North Wales HOA	1
Midlands HRA	1
Wales & West HRA	1
Hereford & Borders HRA	1

BHRC Council Members

Darren Owen (Chair)	1
Roy Sheedy (Vice chair)	1
Barry Delaney	1
Fred Hay	1
Bob Lee	1
Jackie Maguire	1
Jim McNally	1
Jason Podmore	1
Bret Strickland	1

Regional Stewards

England, Andrea Barker	1
Wales, Roland Pugh	1
Scotland, vacant	1

Promoters

Corbiewood	(promote more than 16 mtgs) 2
York	1
Tir Prince	1
Musselburgh Fair Day Association	1
Tregaron Trotting Club	1
Amman Valley TC (meet criteria for membership)	(1)

What would change if the licence holders were given membership rights?

The BHRC quarterly committee meetings would cease to exist and be replaced by quarterly members' meetings open to all licence holders. Geographical location would need to be considered.

Licence holders would vote directly on:

the appointment of the board of directors ('the Council');

the Chairman and Vice Chairman;

and on issues then put to them by the Council.

The horse owners' associations and the promoters currently on the committee would have very little say in how BHRC was run (their votes each becoming 1 in 600). Instead the licence holders as members would vote directly.

However voting could only be undertaken in person as the constitution stands. To admit postal and electronic voting a further change would be necessary.

Electronic voting carries 2 costs, a cost in designing a computer system and a continual cost in keeping it updated as the membership changes. Would members accept this additional cost?

A low tech alternative might be for members to post or email back voting slips using their BHRC licence numbers to verify authenticity.

Are there other options? Yes, at least 2:

- 1) Licence holders could be admitted as a new class of member with voting rights limited to specific areas. The Committee and Council structure would remain relatively unchanged.
- 2) The one licence holder – one vote system could be put in place but the Council could be appointed using a 'constituency' system. Similar systems are used by organisations as diverse as STAGBI and Standardbred Canada.

Licence holders would be given the opportunity to nominate one existing or new association which they are a member of, for voting purposes, each association would appoint one Council member. (These don't need to be geographical, a trainers' association for instance).

This would result in licence holders who had joined an association having a direct representative on the Council to whom they could address their enquiries.

One or two Council seats might also be made available to representatives from the promoters.