

BHRC LICENCE FEE INCREASES

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

Dear Members

As most of you are aware following the AGM in December ten new directors have been elected to join the BHRC Board of Directors. Along with the existing directors the new team are working on a strategy to improve the integrity, image and viability of harness racing in Great Britain.

We are under no illusion that the task ahead will be an uphill struggle, nonetheless we remain determined to do whatever possible to take this sport forward. It was decided at a Directors meeting that a finance sub-committee be formed to review the funding required to operate the BHRC to a standard the licence holders expect and deserve.

Licence holders can be rest assured that on the current financial model the BHRC will get by but is that what we really want from our governing body? For years licence holders and others have been saying "the BHRC needs to be run like a business", as everyone knows the fundamentals of any business is the income and expenditure.

As far as expenditure goes the board feel there is absolute minimum room to make further savings (although we are looking where any savings however small can be made, this has included giving notice on the office at Goole). On the income side the BHRC are very limited for their income source. Unlike many similar organisations we receive no income from horse registrations or transfers. We receive no sponsorships, have no benefactors and have been unable to attain any grants or government aid.

Hopefully we can change this situation but as things stand the BHRC is entirely funded by its licence holders.

With this in mind the finance committee looked at various options to increase revenue and after much discussion have proposed the new pricing structure released at the end of December.

This decision has not been taken lightly and probably does not sit easily with everyone involved but on balance the Board of Directors feel the increases are fairly spread, justified and necessary if we are to make the BHRC a more transparent, accountable and better functioning governing body going forward.

The new licence charges will help towards increased insurance costs and to fulfill its' responsibilities to all licence holders and in time direct a large amount of these gains back in to the sport.

Hopefully all licence holders will understand the necessity of these increases at this time and respect the fact that it is for the good of the sport now and in the future.

Yours faithfully

Heulwen Bullman

For and on behalf of the BHRC Board of Directors