

## March Directors Update

Firstly we hope you all enjoyed the Easter break.

We are pleased to say that the computer programme to implement the new ratings handicap system has been finalised and a list of ratings for horses that raced from 2017 onwards can now be found on the website. We felt that the new handicap system was a priority for the coming season and currently this is the only aspect of the computer system that has been changed but we are discussing an overhaul of the whole of the computer system. The current database we use is becoming outdated and we feel we need to move to a web based programme that will work more effectively for the office and you the license holders.

You will also have noticed that we have been advertising for admin support for Heulwen our current secretary. We hope to have an additional person in place as soon as possible to ensure continuity of service in the office.

At a recent BHRC committee a number of rules were ratified and will be put in place for the 2021 season. The list of changes will soon be published on the BHRC website. A number of stewards forums will be held prior to the commencement of the season to ensure all stewards are up to date on any rule changes.

Garry O'Grady will now be serving as a Regional Steward. Gary Dowse has also been approved as a deputy regional steward and they will join the team of Andrea Barker and Craig Stevenson.

It was brought to our attention that a number of horses were at race meetings without their passports, not only is it illegal to travel a horse without a passport it is a current rule of the BHRC that all passports must be available for inspection. To ensure that all horse owners follow this rule all passport **MUST** now be shown to the racecourse secretary at the time of declaration. Failure to do so will result in the horse being unable to run on that day.

Another change that has been implemented is that all race entries will now go through the BHRC office via the online entry system. We are also currently working on a standardised schedule for race entries with specific times for close of entries and declaration of drivers. This will hopefully make race entries easier for license holders, the office and promoters.

We are also currently working on updating our current Covid Protocols for the coming season. We hope to have these finalised by the end of next week. Please be aware that it is likely that we will only be able to allow restricted numbers into race meetings, particularly at the start of the season therefore please ensure that you have your licenses up to date. We would also like to reiterate that only license holders and track officials are permitted to enter paddock areas on race days. This is a requirement of our insurance and must be adhered to.

As Covid restrictions are lifted stable inspections will be carried out. We have implemented a new protocol for this to ensure continuity across all trainers.

BHRC is also in the process of seeking government recognition. We are currently only in the early stages of the application process but we feel this could be a major step forward for the sport.

The discussions between BHRC and TrotBritain are at an early stage but remain ongoing. BHRC are working to find resolutions to further progress the continued development of trotting with TrotBritain.