

BHRC CANDIDATES FOR DIRECTOR @ 2021 AGM

CANDIDATE		PROPOSER
Gareth Bevan	<p>My name is Gareth Bevan, I am currently the chairman of Wales & West, and have been a BHRC director since December 2020.</p> <p>With the introduction of one person-one vote, I made the decision to resign as a director and offer myself for re-election at the AGM as I feel it's important that the license holders have the opportunity to vote on the individuals who run their sport.</p>	Darren Owen
Barry Delaney	<p>I have been involved in Harness Racing since 1972, I have held many Official posts since 1985 to date including the Vice-chair for nine years. I am still prepared serve the sport I love so long as people want me to.</p>	John Towe
Will Evans	<p>I have now been a director of the BHRC for twelve months, having first been elected at the 2020 BHRC AGM. The 2021 season has seen the implementation of the "one man one vote" system, meaning that all license holders now have the opportunity to elect the BHRC council. With that being the case, I feel it's important for me to offer myself for re-election so that all license holders can now decide if they would like me to be a BHRC director. My aims as a director remain the same as they did twelve months ago - To ensure fair play, further improve anti doping integrity processes and improve our operating procedures. The last twelve months have however seen a major change in how we move forward. From 1st January 2022 the BHRC becomes the Governing Body of Pacing with TROTBritain becoming the governing body of Trotting. The general consensus is that this is a win for Trotting. If elected I wish to ensure that the BHRC takes up its role within Harness Racing Great Britain (HRGB) so that Pacing also benefits from the new arrangement. Moving forward as a 'Pacing only' organisation offers the BHRC the prime opportunity to streamline it's business, focussing solely on the promotion of Pacing and giving it's license holders a better service no matter what level they are competing at. A happy medium needs to be found so that amateur, semi professionals and professionals can all have an enjoyable experience racing Pacers under the rules of the BHRC. The breeders have done their part in improving the Pacing stock now racing in GB so it is time for the BHRC to do the same for it's license holders.</p>	Ryan O'Neil
Carol Jenkins	<p>I have now been a Director with the BHRC for one year, and during that time have worked with my colleagues on various projects, including rule changes like use of the whip,</p>	John Towe

	<p>streamlining of our outdated computer systems, changes to our accountants and helping with the administration in the office. As well as these tasks I have continued as a Track Steward in Wales and West and Amman Valley, something I have been doing for over 30 years. That knowledge has been really useful in my role as a Director. I am the single owner of a race mare, something new for me, and she is trained by a professional rather than by me, another first! The duties mentioned above still need to be finished, working alongside my valued Director colleagues, and I would like the opportunity to complete them. Those who know me well acknowledge that I am straight, say what I think and don't have favourites or suffer fools. I want to continue ensuring that our sport is suitable for families, hobbyists and professionals alike.</p>	
Julie Park	<p>I offer myself up for re-election not because my term of office is up, but to allow you, the members, the option of choice and to have your voice heard.</p> <p>I joined as a Director because of my energy and passion for the sport and to try to put something back into a sport I have been involved in since I was a child. I have enjoyed promoting and sharing the sport through both the BHRC and Northern Harness Racing, regularly trying out different ways to reach different audiences. In a very short space of time NHR has a world-wide audience and nearly 3,000 members. I must say that this is very much due to my young assistant Tamzin who can regularly be seen filming at the races. We all know that the future of our sport is at risk and from many angles, but without harnessing the younger generation there will be no future. They don't all want to be drivers, or grooms, but there are so many different areas they could and should be involved in.</p> <p>During my short year I have tried to focus on those things that licence holders had previously told me were issues. One of these was not being able to have direct contact with the BHRC Directors. I have always made myself available and if any licence holder has approached me with a problem, I have tried to listen and work with them to reach a solution.</p> <p>We have as a Board, despite criticism, have been transparent and tried to create a level playing field for all competitors and horses. I have spent a fair bit of my time this year supporting our office which has experienced a number of challenges including coping with the outdated computer system. I have worked with others in the team to co-ordinate the work of our stewards and stewarding group and the fixtures panel.</p>	Ryan O'Neil

	<p>Alongside this I have helped support the work of our integrity team as they strive to ensure we have a clean sport.</p> <p>I am frustrated as I had hoped to achieve more in the year, however, there have been unforeseen challenges within the BHRC which have all taken time to resolve. As they say, Rome was not built in a day, but I do believe that as an organisation the BHRC is starting to change. I'm not going to lie and say it has been an easy year, or that it is all resolved. I have taken abuse but have tried to remain professional throughout, knowing myself that there is no truth in it. I hope that the licence holders who actually know me, value the effort I have put in this year. For those licence holders who do not know me, I ask you to take a minute or two to talk to those who do, my fellow Directors or your local club to seek their opinion.</p> <p>I hope to be working for you again next year</p>	
Jason Podmore	<p>I have served on the BHRC board as a Director for a number of years now, so most of you will know me.</p> <p>It's a very difficult and challenging position to hold and fill, but it can also be rewarding and worthwhile.</p> <p>During my time as a Director, I have seen and supported many topics including recently the start of overhauling the rule book and the forth coming data base and computer system , but the best project I have advocated and supported is the Kids Pony Series and young drivers series. If members vote for me to stay for another term, this is one issue which i will be passionate about rekindling. I firmly believe that the sport needs to be guided back to grassroots. We need to encourage the next generation and new blood into the sport. Whilst global recognition and off-track/online betting would be an amazing achievement and peak for the sport, I would prefer to concentrate on back to basics, rebuild the sport after the last few years and covid. When ideas and projects are undertaken, they need focus to ensure they are fulfilled and concluded. We need to put in place a firm 5 to 8 year business plan. Review fees for members to ensure licence holders get value for money and implement a solid program detailing how club funds will be used to improve and benefit the sport, and in turn the members.</p> <p>I am willing to put myself forward and continue to work with and for the licence holders and the sport of harness racing if the members want me to.</p>	Trudy Launchbury
John Towe	<p>I have put myself forward for re-election as a director of the BHRC to allow the members of the BHRC to decide if they would like me to carry on the work I have begun during my directorship in the last year. This feels the only fair way for me to move forward. During the past 11 months, I have helped</p>	Barry Delaney

	<p>on the stewarding panel as one of five members looking at issues within stewarding. As a team, we have been trying to iron out any inconsistencies and have upheld a constant drive to improve the stewarding model for the whole sport. I have also been part of a three-person panel handling the integrity side of racing. I feel these efforts have improved the racing; however, this is not only down to our director's efforts but also to the team of regional stewards around the country who without, our new regimes could not have moved forward...</p> <p>If I'm elected back to the directors, I would like to continue the work we started. I do also feel along with others on the board who are standing we need to continually focus on the entire sport from the one-horse owner / trainer to the professionals, they all need the boards support, as do the young. Whatever area of the sport a young person wishes to be part of they should be encouraged and made to feel welcome and a valued member of the sport, they after all are the future and without them there is no future</p>	
Hayley Cassells	<p>I have been involved in harness racing my whole life as I have grown up in a harness racing family. In the last couple of years I have taken a much more active role now having completed two seasons as a trainer and one season as the SHRC club Secretary.</p> <p>I feel my experience as SHRC secretary gives me a great insight into what it takes to fund, organise and run a race meeting. Running the racing over the last season has by no means been an easy task however I feel that we have been able to make some improvements to the way racing is being run at Corbiewood. I have also represented the SHRC at committee meetings since taking on my role as secretary so have some experience at this level. Within my current secretary position I receive a lot of feedback from license holders about what they both like and dislike with the current system so I feel that I am in a good position to help support the interests of the members from within the council. I try to be fair, honest and transparent at all times which I feel is an asset within a role such as this and I hope to put my best foot forward to support the club.</p>	Ryan O'Neil
Anthony Fettah	<p>I have decided to stand as a BHRC director as I do think I have something to offer our sport.</p> <p>My family have been involved in the sport for decades and I since childhood and the way the sport is at the present moment just disappoints me.</p> <p>Most people in the sport know me through my time managing the York track and the race fixtures I organize at Musselburgh, Pike hall and Wolverhampton . I think someone needs to take a fresh business approach within the sport and</p>	Joseph Ripley

	<p>company. There needs to be revenue that doesn't solely rely on the license holders pockets. I have ideas how this could be achieved.</p> <p>The rules I think need strengthening to make sure people don't abuse them. This I believe is underway and I'd certainly want to make sure it happens fast.</p> <p>I would definitely back any change to the constitution and rule book again this to happen as quickly as possible.</p> <p>I also believe in the One person/one vote and am fully supportive of the committees and clubs who promote and fund racing on a weekly basis through sponsorship and fund raising.</p> <p>I think the clubs and race committees have good people amongst them but somehow the good ideas and help gets swallowed up in negativity, that's what I'd like to help to change.</p> <p>The sport needs positive action and a positive spin, the only way to achieve that is by having a positive attitude and approach, and of course hard work.</p>	
Frank Huschka	<p>I would like to put myself forward for the position of Director for The British Harness Racing Club having been proposed by Raymond Huschka.</p> <p>Having invested over 40 years in the sport, as an owner and supporter, alongside successfully running a multi-million pound company, I feel my wealth of knowledge, financially and practically, would be a huge asset to the club.</p> <p>I would contribute to the board with a businessperson like approach, helping to drive the club forward to success financially, whilst re-establishing its member's confidence within the club.</p>	Raymond Huschka
Charles Inglis Jnr	<p>I'm writing to express my interest of being considered for the role of BHRC DIRECTOR</p> <p>I have been going racing for as long as I can remember and have loved it ever since. I'm very passionate about racing.</p> <p>I have previously been involved in racing as an owner trainer and driver.</p> <p>Within the last few years. I have previously held a role on the SHRC committee.</p> <p>I have acted as a track steward in Scotland for the last few years and have been stewarding at Tir Prince this season.</p> <p>The reason why I think I would be successful as a director are that I'm a genuine and approachable person who is young and would have fresh outlook and ideas to make our sport more successful and enjoyable. I have a good knowledge of the rule book and willing to help anyone or any tracks in any way that I can.</p> <p>If anyone has anything they would like to discuss or ask please feel free to contact me</p>	Eric Witherspoon

Mackayla Morris	<p>I have worked alongside horses since I was 10 years old both in Thoroughbred and Harness Racing, from work rider, groom and travelling head girl in the UK and the USA to a trainer with the BHRC.</p> <p>In 2010 I married into the Morris family and learning from my husband and father in law, I took out my own trainers licence 4 years ago, training multiple winners, both pacers and trotters. In 2019 I was Wales and West 3rd leading trainer and in 2021 season I became joint leading trainer with only a small barn of horses.</p> <p>I'm very passionate about racing, as a hobby and also a lifestyle for not only myself but for my children. I want to see it move forward as a family friendly sport that can be enjoyed as a hobby or professionally.</p> <p>I would like to encourage people of all ages to become part of the growing sport and to promote a true family feel.</p> <p>I have insight as a trainer, owner, groom and a mum and I feel I could use this to my advantage as a Director to see things from all perspectives and to help support the sport. I'm strong minded and determined and feel I could bring a lot of positivity to the BHRC.</p>	Carol Jenkins
Matty Quinn	<p>I would like to offer myself to be a director of bhrc .</p> <p>I am a successful buisness man in the north east and have owned, trained and driven on the harness racing circuit.</p> <p>I think I could improve relations between the licence holders and the governing body .</p> <p>The sport is at its lowest at the moment and maybe some new blood might give it the boost it badly needs .</p>	William Laidler
Tamsin Towe	<p>I have been involved in Harness Racing for about 17 years and even in my short time, I have seen many changes in the sport.</p> <p>I would like to see the sport become more inclusive and level the playing fields for everyone. We have so many wonderful racehorses in the UK that stop racing as they are no longer competitive, but yet these horses still have the ability to make great racing. I don't believe it is just the "sub two-minute horses" that make this sport great, it's exciting racing, the close finishes, and the ability to have a bit of a gamble on your favourite combo!!</p> <p>If I was voted on the board of directors I would propose that we looked at ways to promote our currently "less than competitive" horses and make the sport more inclusive for all our members. We need to give everyone a chance of winning, the professionals, the amateurs and the one-horse/hobby horse owners. I would like to see more horses given a chance to</p>	Darren Owen

	<p>race and still be competitive for longer. Therefore, increasing the number of people and horses within the sport, members staying with the sport, and encouraging in new blood who can still race seasoned racehorses safely and competitively.</p> <p>More horses = better, fairer racing = increased revenue and longevity for this wonderful sport we all love.</p>	
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