

Minutes Members Meeting
14th September 2023
Zoom

Attendees: Barry Delaney left at 9.04pm, Carol Jenkins, Charles Inglis, Jason Podmore, Julie Park, Will Evans, Hayley Cassells (Minutes), Gareth Bevan, Garry O'Grady, Helen Langford, Graham Smith, Melanie Langford, Anthony Fettah, Robert Millichap, Alf Swinbank, Chloe Wakefield, Deborah Wakefield

Accuracy of previous minutes From Previous Meeting:

Gareth feels there were inaccuracies in the minutes. He felt it was stated in the last meeting he would receive a stewards licence and he did not receive this.

Matters Arising:

None raised.

Office

Hayley is still working from home at the moment. There were issues with the building that the last lease was and we are looking for a lease elsewhere. Julie and Carol try to support the office when they can.

Julie and Hayley have been back through the cash flow. There have been less licences taken out in 2023 however there have been savings elsewhere which have kept the cash flow balanced. We have made savings by not having an office however Hayley does receive a working from home allowance however we have saved by only having one employed staff member which does rely on the goodwill of directors helping.

Anthony Fettah feels the cash flow was inflated previously so that it could look good when the next one came out. Julie Park said the figures taken for the last cash flow were taken from the previous years accounts, a quote was also obtained to do an external audit which was £5000. Anthony felt we should not spend the money of £5000 which was estimated for a website and instead use this on an external audit.

Anthony Fettah said that the previous secretary told him that it would only take around £3000 to update the old database to the new database.

Gareth Bevan says that it does look as though the figures were inflated because we did not pay a secretary last year, Julie explained the salary figure was taken from the previous year when we had 1 full time member of staff and 1 part time member of staff.

Graham Smith asked how far off we are with the website, one company has come back with a wire frame however it was doing too much therefore costing too much. We have also had a meeting with the person who developed the STAGBI website who we are waiting on a price.

Robert Millichap asked how much we were paying a month for the bounce back loan. The figure is £798. Robert Millichap then asked how much has been spent so far on the constitution. Carol Jenkins clarified that no money has been spent yet on the new constitution as of yet, the solicitor has quoted between £1000 and £1500 to review the constitution. Robert Millichap then asked did the directors not feel that they should have asked the members before they spent any money on the constitution. Carol referred back to previous members meetings where it was

raised with members before it was reviewed and also discussed in members meetings as the current constitution was unwieldy. Robert Millichap does not feel there are any issue with the current constitution, all that it may need was an index. Robert asked if the solicitor had been asked to change the constitution or keep it the same. Julie clarified that by changing the wording of the document you are changing it. Robert then asked if we had asked them to change the one man one vote, Carol said that we have asked the solicitor to see if they can make it easier to follow and simpler to read.

Barry said that the members should take over all of the responsibilities of the directors and get rid of the directors all together.

Anthony asked how much is being paid back to Trot Britain per year for the Parkas fund. Annual repayment is £3780. Anthony said that there needs to be a business person on the board. Barry said that no one has put their name forward to be a director. Anthony feels that everyone gangs up on people who want to become a director. Julie said it would be nice to see lots of new people out their names forward to be directors at the next AGM.

Garry asked if the database was working correctly 100% now as there had been a few re-draws. Hayley explained that the database still did have some issues with the handicapping, there were a few areas that we need to update and look at over the winter but we do not have any down time during the racing season to take the data

Integrity

115 tests 78 full blood 76 at the same time last year. Comparable number of tests. This year we have started out of competition testing. North east was selected first through data driven with high runs to wins ratio. In September there was more out of competition testing.

There is currently one live case where all parties have been informed.

The medication books we have done our 4th round of monthly sampling and these seem to be working well

Fines - we have one outstanding debtor from a case in 2021 which has been passed to a debt collection company. Until they engage with the payment plan we will not recognise their horses or any offspring for racing.

We have all other debtors paid in full apart from two who have both paid at least the cost element of their cases (i.e. the money that) Through intelligence there are a couple of new drugs on the scene and we are working with the lab to ensure these are covered in our routine screening.

Garry O'Grady asked if all group one winners were tested. Julie explained that any records are tested but not all group one winners are tested. There are a few reasons for a test such as unusual performance etc.

Debbie Wakefield asked that in out of competition testing they have been asked to give details of where their horses are stabling away from home, if she was stabling at someone else's property do the BHRC have the right to go to their property and test her horses.

As part of the Y section a trainer's horses should be available at any stage to be tested. Debbie then asked why we are only asking for this information at some places, Julie explained that we are still in a settling in period so we have specifically monitored meetings where people are more likely to stay away from home and have not notified us.

Debbie then asked what legal right the BHRC had to go onto someone else's property to test horses. The BHRC would have to ask permission to go onto the yard, if we were not allowed permission to the yard and the trainer was unwilling to bring the horse to the integrity team for the horse to be able to be tested. If the trainer was to refuse to do this then it would be seen as avoiding a test.

Garry then asked if licence holders were to provide the details of where they were staying such as address and contact details would he be breaching GDPR. Julie clarified that they would not be.

HRBGB

No update as there has not been a meeting since the last members meeting.

Stewarding

Jason explained that towards the end of the season he feels the stewarding has gone downhill. It seems to be in most parts of the country both with licence holders to stewards and vice versa attitude towards one another as well as inconsistency of stewarding. At the beginning of the year the drone was working well and there were enough stewards. Until there can be changes out into the rule book over the winter and stewarding seminars carried out then we will continue to struggle.

Deborah Wakefield asked why there are not as many stewards reports uploaded from Wales as there have been up North. Hayley explained that there are a few reports still to be uploaded from the past few weeks. Debbie also commented that as well as pulling drivers in for incidents or horses performance we should also be pulling trainers in for horse performances etc as some horses will be catch drives.

Chloe clarified that there are no reports from Cilmery or Boughrood. Carol clarified that they have been done but have just not yet been uploaded to the website.

Debbie also feels that a meeting should be held at the beginning of the year with all licence holders, not just A class drivers, to explain the rules and then everyone will know what the rules are and will know where they will be fined.

Anthony Fettah asked who decides which horse is going to be tested. Julie explained that most horses are picked as a team decision. Julie explained that a steward may come to the testing officer and ask about testing a certain horse, the integrity officer may go to the chief steward and say that a certain race is being tested or a piece of intelligence could be received to the integrity team. Carol then explained they may decide before racing that they are testing the winner of race X and the final. Anthony asked why a horse in a qualifier was tested, Julie explained that when we submit our data to the ITA they request information such as the number of qualifiers tested, number of out of competition tests, number of race day tests etc.

Gareth asked if the directors are confident that all people who they have issued stewards licences to are up to date with the current rule book. Carol explained that some are better than others but they always have the rule book to hand for any enquiry. Gareth asked if there was any CPD for the stewards, Julie explained that there had been a plan for stewarding seminars but it got postponed due to the issues with the rule changes which then never went through.

Garry asked if a BHRC steward was allowed to steward at an unaffiliated meeting. The directors explained that they would not be allowed to do both. Garry said there is a person that does

steward in Wales and Borders as well as at BHRC fixtures. Carol said there was an agreement before she joined as a director that the start car was allowed to go between the meetings. Garry also brought up that there is a steward who is starting races in Wales who needs to be reprimanded before a serious accident occurs. Jason is going to write a detailed report regarding the scenario and circulate this around the directors to be dealt with.

WTC

There were 5 people who went to represent Britain - Ryan, Sue, Gwenan from STAGBI and Julie and Hayley from BHRC. Meetings were long days during the week starting at 9 and generally finishing around 6pm. As well as the workshops being useful, the connections with other countries are invaluable. There are always two workshops going on at once so it would be impossible for one delegate to

Gwenan went to the constitution committee - there are no new memberships however in support of Ukraine Russia have been excluded. The World Trotting Conference is changing to a 3 year conference with annual meetings virtually but the World Driving Championship will remain bi annually. A new blood threshold has been put in place for arsenic, DMS is now a prohibited substance.

Breeding Committee - agreed to move to snip chips. Foals from frozen embryo transfer will not be eligible for registration. Discussions were started with horses receiving lifetime bans from racing whether they should receive

Equine Welfare - Whip was a big discussion point, the ITA will continue to take a long term review of the use of the whip. From 1st of January Australia are banning the whip, there was a lot of discussion around when the whip will be banned and if. There was also a focus on the improving of integrity testing including testing qualifiers. Aus proposed that every country test one horse for every horse registered or one horse per race - this would mean for us testing in excess of 400 horses per year which could cost us around £50,000 which is not sustainable. In the end it was agreed that a figure would not be put on it but all countries would work towards improving testing procedures.

Over the week a lot of time was spent talking about social licence. This means taking control of looking after the welfare of the horse from birth to death which could include breeding, racing, conception, after racing welfare.

Racing and Wagering - we were one of the few countries that received no support from the government or betting industry. Over the winter the directors have agreed to have another push to look at what requirements would be required to gain funding from these sources.

Marketing and Business - it was agreed in 2019 that each country would produce data monthly regarding their top 5 horses which the ITA would publish. There was no criteria provided regarding how to pick the top 5 - we could do the top 5 rated horses, would it be a point based system based on wins and places etc. One country has invested heavily in a computer game called stable and another has produced a mechanical horse and sulky which is being built in England to use to give the public a shot of it or to train new drivers or drivers returning from a ban. Some countries including ourselves have been looking at how we can use virtual reality to encourage people into the sport.

World driving championships will remain every two years with some countries being able to host 10 drivers and other countries hosting 12 drivers. 10 places are allocated to 6 UET drivers and one each to Aus, USA, Canada & New Zealand.

It was reassuring to hear that many of the measures that we have implemented or are planning to implement are along the same lines as other countries. All other countries are also facing a dwindling horse and licence holder population.

Manageable and Acceptable Rule Change Process

We need a mechanism for rule changes to be implemented over the winter so that we can get rule changes passed, the rule book printed and training for stewards being done.

Gareth Bevan proposed that the rule changes are put up for discussion - any that have objections are voted on and any without objections are passed. Gareth asked when the last rule changes were put up how many objections were there, Hayley said she thought there were around 20 rules highlighted - Gareth thought the number was around 13.

Julie suggested that the rule committee should meet again - re-look at the suggested changes and then publish the list.

Robert Millichap suggested that if people are putting in objections they should be asked for feedback on what they do not agree with about the rule change.

Garry thinks feedback should be taken seriously if put in by any member, he also thinks that any rule changes should be put in place before people take out their 2024 licence as when they take their licences as they agree to follow the rules. Julie did clarify that the solicitor had said that a rule can be changed at any time however agreed that the majority of rule changes would want to be in place before next year.

Ongoing Issues

One of the ongoing issues is conduct of licence holders and officials towards one another. We are looking at using the existing rules that are in the rule book but having a framework, similar to what is in the Y section, for stewards and officials to be able to follow so that penalties are more consistent across enquiries.

Graham Smith asked about having an independent panel to hear enquiries which he had put later on the agenda as he felt the punishment did not fit the crimes for some offences.

Jason clarified that there are rules in the rule book that could be used in various sections of the rule book. It is just that these are not being utilised at all times which hopefully this new framework can help with.

Graham asked what if there was a split decision where a director has involvement do we have independent people that we can call upon to hold hearings. Julie explained that we did look at this at the beginning of the year similar to the model that integrity uses, however integrity panel members are paid per case so we did look at using people within the sport who previously held senior roles but we are still trying to work out a model.

Supporting Juvenile Racing

Gareth pointed out that the governing body has 9 races across Britain. 8 of these are for 2 and 3 year olds with only one for aged pacers. Julie agreed with Gareth that the focus of the BHRC could be shifted, it could be something that the directors could look at over the next couple of

months and come back with proposals to the members at the next member meeting. Julie mentioned that we have had a look at 2 year old drop off rates and they are not as high as people would initially expect. Will asked if members would be happy to host both juvenile races and races for aged pacers. Gareth said they have a series for 4 & 5 year olds that they are passionate about for keeping horses that did not necessarily have a career at 2 and 3 a series to run in. He would be happy if the 2 & 3 year old races are cost negative that we run these as well as holding series for older horses.

Gareth Stewards Licence

Gareth was told at the last members meeting that he would receive a stewards licence and he has not.

Graham asked why people are not getting replies from the office. Carol explained that we receive a massive volume of emails on a daily basis, Hayley cannot answer questions on behalf of directors as that is not fair, any reply is drafted then circulated around the directors before it is sent back to the original sender.

Gareth had asked if the directors had received a request to have a meeting with Wales and West face to face. Julie confirmed that the directors had received this request however there were a number of issues on the meeting that were linked to Wales and West and wasn't sure a general members meeting was the correct forum for these. Gareth said that Wales and West has 100 members and the 3 on the board are only representing these members and discuss raised issues with the directors. Garry O'Grady asked what the correct forum would be if the members meeting was not the correct forum and we have been unable to set up a zoom meeting. Julie explained that due to Wales & West wanting to meet face to face with all 6 directors it is difficult to meet and this would be much easier via zoom. Gareth explained that they did not want to meet via zoom because of issues previously. Julie explained that there were several requests coming in every day to the office and it was overloading the one member of staff so it was impossible to respond to all emails and still keep general racing going. It came to a point where it was difficult to prioritise the emails which needed responses straight away and which could wait until the office was not as busy. Gareth explained that there were 6 main topics that most emails from Wales and West will cover and he feels numerous emails have been sent due to lack of response on the same topic. Will Evans said it looked as though everyone was in agreement that after the racing season was finished that Wales & West and the BHRC Directors would meet. Jason said we may need to consider that all directors may not be able to attend an in person meeting due to where it is going to be located. Gareth said that all directors should be able to meet given that the BHRC are being asked to pick the locations and dates and if they cannot then maybe they are not fit for purpose as directors.

Robert Millichap suggested that another member's meeting can be called at any time and have a list of accumulated items that is to be discussed at this extra meeting. Instead of being in a random location which has no basis to make the meeting work you could have an additional members meeting as the framework is already in place for this. He also said that if there are issues that cannot be agreed upon by both parties then there is always the option of one man one vote. He feels that these issues could be dealt with quite quickly either by agreeing on a solution or passing the items to one man one vote to be tagged on to the end of the AGM votes. Jason feels that a members meeting is not necessarily the way forward for the Wales & West

issues and that a meeting with the WWHRA committee is best because the majority of licence holders are not interested in the politics and just want to drop the ramp and race their horses. Debbie Wakefield sent a letter to the BHRC in July, she approached the directors with questions for answers with no response. She feels this is not acceptable for any type of business, as a licence holder this makes her feel that she is not being supported. If she had a reply that she had been given by Julie earlier in the meeting it would have answered most of her questions. Debbie received a personal reply from Carol but as this is private and confidential it does not need to be shared with the directors. Carol suggested that perhaps the directors felt that the issue had been dealt with as they knew she had replied to her and for this she apologised. Garry O'Grady asked if the office is coping with the workload with only one person in the office. He is aware that some people have been waiting a while for prize money to be paid out and refunds from cancelled meetings. Carol said that over the last few weeks it has been extremely busy in the office. There have been up to 4 meetings per week to deal with but she feels Hayley would say if she was unable to cope with the workload. Hayley explained that she is aware that there have been issues with the refunds as the card system we use is not processing them correctly and they need to be done through bank transfer which has been taking longer than they would want. Garry said that there are time scales that the BHRC should be following when paying out money and they should stick to these if licence holders are made to stick to time scales. Julie said she is pleased that the office is running better than it has been for a long time and in an ideal world there would be an additional member of staff in the office but we are trying to run a balanced budget so we are trying to cope without. Next year we are hoping a lot more of the processes are automated which will hopefully take some of the pressure off of Hayley and also Julie and Carol who helps out with the office workload. Gareth said this was coming from a member's perspective of concern to ensure that Hayley is getting adequate support as we do not have a great track record with office staff.

Anthony asked if at Wolverhampton the promoter will be paying the prize money out for the meeting but the BHRC will be collecting the entry money. Julie confirmed that this is the normal way all other meetings have been working this year. Hayley clarified it is up to the promoter whether they collect the entry fees themselves or through the BHRC online system.

Will asked if the agenda items put forward for the rest of the agenda by Gareth are best discussed on this forum or at the WWHRA & BHRC Meeting.

Regumate

Gareth had put forward a proposal that Regumate was legalised for use as it is currently a banned substance. Julie said that she was under the impression that we had responded to this saying that Regumate was a banned substance because at the last WTC conference in Sweden it was recommended that all member countries list Regumate as a banned substance as there are findings of an anabolic steroid in the substance. In the WTC in Berlin this year we asked the question of is this still their view and they said their recommendation that the substance be banned because of these findings. Gareth clarified that it was legal in a number of ITA countries. Julie clarified that this is the ITA recommendation and the countries that were there at the conference all confirmed that they were happy to support this ruling that it was a prohibited

substance and she apologises as she thought this had come back to Gareth via email. Gareth said he was not happy with this as it is not a banned substance, only a guideline.

Julie said that she had asked for this guidance to be sent to Gareth. Will said that it is obvious that Gareth has not received this letter and it is only fair that Gareth receives this letter so that he is able to respond to it. Gareth noted that he had sent this email on the 10th of July and not received a response. Julie clarified that she had contacted both Trot Britain and the IHRA as well as various other equine disciplines within the UK, also contacted Jaquie Maguire and Brett Strickland as previous directors who were on the board when Regumate was brought in as a banned substance to find out the background and researched the ITA policy from Sweden in 2019. Also at the WTC this year in Berlin Julie brought up the subject then and it was discussed and then drafted a reply when she returned to be sent to Gareth and thought this was sent to him to tell him her findings and ask how he wanted to proceed. She can only apologise that he has not received this email.

Field and Ground Inspections

Garry O'Grady asked how many field and ground inspections have been carried out on tracks this year. Will Evans confirmed he had done two, Carol Jenkins has done one, Jason has done three inspections ahead of race meetings but always walks the field beforehand on the day of racing. Gareth asked if Jason had filled a form in for these fields, Jason clarified he had not filled a form in but he had sent a report back. Garry said that three out of five of the W&W field had been asked for inspections this year and one of them should have been inspected but was not, which would have been 4 out of 5 meetings in the year that required inspections prior to them running. Julie clarified that tracks are usually inspected because it is a new or changed venue. Garry made the point that fields can change monthly during the year. Garry asked if it was the promoters responsibility or the BHRC's responsibility to find fields for race meetings. Julie clarified that there has always been a rule in the rule book about new venues being inspected. Anthony asked if Wolverhampton would be inspected and Julie said that it had been discussed among the directors.

Gareth said that it seems like the BHRC are picking on Wales and West, withholding their entries until a field inspection is done for Talsarn, they felt they had to give people free entry into the meeting because they did not have adequate time to advertise it. Julie clarified that Talsarn was a brand new field that was being raced on and the inspection was offered to be done much earlier in the week to avoid the entries being released so late. Gareth said it was not possible to do it earlier in the week because the W&W committee all work, Julie noted that the directors all work as well. Garry asked during the Talsarn inspection what qualifications the two directors had to sign off of track and he was not happy with the two directors who did the inspection as he felt there were things missed on the inspection.

BHRC Complaints Procedure

Gareth asked if there was a BHRC complaints procedure. Jason said there isn't an official procedure. Gareth asked what members do if they have a complaint as if a complaint is sent in it could take nine months to resolve.

Gareth said that his understanding of what companies house expects of a limited company must be different to the BHRC's understanding. Carol clarified that it is not a legal requirement to

have a complaints procedure, there are guidelines for the office but that is not a published procedure.

Garry stated that he hoped the issue of documents being doctored is looked at seriously by the board.

Robert Millichap asked if the solicitor is just changing the constitution to make it easier to read and follow would it not be better to get him to just write a guide to the current constitution. Carol said she could check how far through the process the solicitor is. Robert Millichap felt guidance was easier as it would not need to be voted on.

DRAFT