



National
Trainers
Federation

Central South Region

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT NEWBURY RACECOURSE ON TUESDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2017

PRESENT: R Becket (Chairman)
T Hill (Deputy Chairman)
E Johnson-Houghton (Deputy Chairman)
JR Auvray
H Charlton for R Charlton
P Henderson
S Kirk
JS Moore
W Muir
J Portman
E Walker
A Watson

IN ATTENDANCE: R Arnold (Chief Executive)
G Noad (Racing Industry Executive)
G Harris (Chief Executive, British Racing School)

APPOLOGIES WERE RECEIVED FROM: G Baker, J Bennett, O Burrows, H Candy, B Case, M Channon, D Coakley, C Cox, A Hales, N Henderson, C Hills, R Hughes, A King, D Kubler, B Meehan, P Murphy, J Osborne, E Owen, B Pauling, O Sherwood and J Snowden

ITEM1 - UPDATE FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Replacement of the Levy - the deadline has passed for bookmakers to launch a legal challenge to the new levy legislation.

Hunter Cases Eligibility - R Arnold informed the Region of the new rules relating to Hunter Chases. From 1 January 2018, once a horse in the care of a licensed trainer has run in a hunters' steeple

chase, it may only run in other hunters' steeple chases for the remainder of the season (i.e. up to the Stratford meeting.)

Handicapping Review - the BHA has released a list of recommendations to the Racing Group and this will be implemented throughout 2018. The review was data driven and there will be regional meetings to explain handicapping policy.

Balance of Median and Maiden Auction Races - R Arnold informed the Region that at the East Region the feeling was that the reduction of Median Auctions had gone too far. R Beckett supported this suggesting there needed to be more median auction races with a cap on the price as these races were designed for owner breeder horses not horses from the breeze up sales. R Beckett informed the meeting that the cap on the price of the horse is based on sales figures and therefore will be reviewed every year.

Equine Disease and Biosecurity - R Arnold highlighted the work being undertaken by Ann Duffield and the Irish Equine Centre into the biosecurity at racecourse stables. The recommendations going forward to the RCA and BHA are to use equine specific disinfectant and modern fogging machines. It has also been highlighted that the stabling at Kempton Racecourse requires improvement.

H. Morrison - In response to the discussions at the last regional meeting the NTF sent a letter to the BHA to support the points raised by H Morrison. However the BHA is waiting for the Phillip Hobbs case to be concluded as this is a test case and will set the precedent. The NTF is supporting Phillip Hobbs in defending the BHA appeal.

Apprentices - R Arnold informed the Region that Richard Fahey and Richard Hughes assisted the NTF in these discussions but no conclusion was reached. Therefore the BHA has asked the NTF to come up with a solution to the problem. R Arnold highlighted that this could be a good opportunity to address some of the issues regarding full time employment of 3lb claimers. J Moore asked the NTF to reiterate in the discussions that trainers have to keep horses in the yard for apprentices to ride. R Beckett informed the Region of the views of Andrew Balding and that he would be opposed to any change as this would prevent him from keeping apprentices in the future.

ITEM2 - HIGHLIGHTS FROM NTF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES

Non Runners - R Beckett outlined the discussions the NTF had with the BHA regarding the new rules on non runners. It was also highlighted that the NTF had persuaded the BHA not to go ahead with the proposed rules on non runners in relation to changes in going.

ITEM3 - RACE PLANNING

National Hunt Mares Programme - R Arnold informed the region that despite the improvements to the programme the number of mares in training had not increased. P Henderson highlighted that the Mares Owner Prize Scheme had seen a change in behaviour from owners but this was not filtering through to point to point races. T Hill suggested that more trainers were having mares to train but the increase in runners may not be materialising because some owners wanted to start the breeding part of the mare's career earlier.

Selling Race Conditions - R Beckett reported that the Racing Group agreed to alter the conditions for selling races but this was blocked by the racecourses. However the RCA has agreed that something has to be done to improve them. J Portman suggested selling handicaps would be more attractive

and lead to improved field sizes. A Watson proposed you should also be allowed to claim the second placed horse.

ACTION: R Beckett to pass on feedback to the Racing Group

Feedback on the Programme Book

- More maiden auction races in November, e.g. Kempton maiden auction could have divided a number of times
- The region felt there was a huge demand for AW races in November resulting in the rule allowing horses 1 or 2lb outside the handicap to run being ineffective because they were always getting balloted out
- 0-100 jump handicap races are very popular during the summer.
- H Charlton felt the balloting process in novices and maidens needs to be reviewed as it is preventing unraced horses from running

ACTION: Pass on all feedback

UPDATE: The BHA staged an additional AW fixture at Wolverhampton on 12/12/17 staging races outside the normal rating bands 46-59

ITEM 4 - REGULATION

Declaration of Wind Operations - R Arnold informed the Region that the NTF Council opposed the new rules making wind operations declarable. The policy was driven by the Horserace Bettor's Forum and the BHA pushed forward with the proposal. R Arnold clarified that wind surgery on an unraced horse does not have to be declared and it only has to be declared on the first race following surgery. This will be displayed in the race card as W/S.

Forthcoming Rule Changes - R Arnold highlighted a number of rule changes taking place on 1st January 2018. These included:

- Non Runner
- Self Certification
- Identity Checks
- Ability to run without hind shoes on Flat Turf
- Ringworm Certification
- Shockwave Therapy
- Manipulative Therapy (The use of massage and ice)
- Theobromine
- Micro Chips
- EHV vaccination in France
- Gurgling Reports
- Pregnant Mares

Stewarding Model - R Arnold informed the Region of the background to the proposed changes in the stewarding model. From the industry wide consultation the BHA has received over 100 replies and one from the NTF. The main message from the industry is that the stewarding model needs to maintain a level of independence in the decision making process.

ITEM 5 – RACING STAFF

R Beckett welcomed G Harris from the British Racing School (BRS) to talk to trainers about developments at the school. G Harris outlined the funding for the BRS resulting in the programme of courses being aimed at 16-18yo on apprenticeships. Currently the BHA requires the school to

provide 142 stable staff to the industry a year, but G Harris aims for this to reach 200 a year. G Harris highlighted the life skills taught at the BRS and the recent employment of a school nurse.

The BHA is developing a tool kit to assist trainers in their provision for work experience. G Harris showed the Region where the recruitment of apprentices came from and how the BRS tries to place graduates within two hours of the family home. S Kirk asked how long the graduates stayed with trainers and if there was any difference with age and gender. G Harris highlighted that despite the aftercare provided there is only a 50% retention rate after five years. From that retention rate boys stay in the industry a lot longer than girls. However G Harris informed the Region that the dropout rate from the courses has significantly reduced due to the introduction of a fee for attending the course (£50 a week)

G Harris showed the region that there are 50 trainers on the waiting list for staff and the number is always growing and suggested trainers come to the BRS to see the work being carried out. He reminded trainers that the Government pays employers £1000 for taking on an apprentice. R Beckett thanked G Harris for coming to the meeting and also highlighted the ongoing work with the Princes Trust.

Defining the working week - R Arnold highlighted the practices being undertaken by a number of trainers to improve the working hours for their staff. As a result the old consolidated wage was no longer reflecting the working practices in the many yards. Therefore is there a way of changing the wording to reflect modern working practices while still maintaining the guarantees for weekend work. J Portman felt the MOA was satisfactory and all trainers understood that it was a minimum rate. The region did not reach a conclusion on how to progress and moderate the MOA. R Arnold thanked T Hill for assisting the NTF in the pay negotiations.

ITEM 6 - REVIEW OF THE NTF MEMBERS LEGAL EXPENSES INSURANCE

R Arnold informed the Region that the NTF Legal expenses insurance is coming up for renewal. Although the scheme has its limitations through the merit based system, it has provided assistance to a number of trainers and the legal helpline for when there is insufficient cover in the NTF office. The Region concluded a legal expenses insurance scheme would still be beneficial for members.

ITEM 7 - ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

P Henderson asked to discuss going reports as there have been a number of occasions when the going description has differed from course to course and has not been validated by times or the going stick. Furthermore the racecourse stewards are not holding the clerks to account. R Arnold informed the Region of a piece of work undertaken by Simon Rowlands that approximately 30% of going descriptions are wrong based on times. R Beckett felt that the BHA will be taking action because they cannot hold trainers accountable for non-runners in relation to going when there is inconsistency from Clerks.

Prize money distribution: although no progress had been made with the proposals, it was agreed that the NTF should push for the same percentage of place prize money as for winners.

The next meeting will be in July 2018 at Oaksey House