



# East Region

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT NEWMARKET RACECOURSE ON MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019

PRESENT:

R Guest	(Chairman)	W Jarvis	
J Butler		J O'Donoghue	(for R Varian)
S Crisford		M Quinn	
J Fanshaw		J Tate	
J Feilden		C Wall	
C Fellows		S Williams	

IN ATTENDANCE:

R Arnold	(Chief Executive)
G Noad	(Racing Executive)
P Johnson	(BHA Race Planning)
M Waring	(BHA Race Planning)

APPOLOGIES WERE RECEIVED FROM: L Allen, C Bailey, J Berry, S Bin Suroor, M Botti, T Clover, R Cowell, E Dunlop, D Elsworth, J Eustace, J Given, J Gosden, W Haggas, S Humphrey, D Ivory, G Kelleway, L Morgan, A Murphy, H Palmer, M Prescott, G Scott, D Simcock, P Sly, M Stoute, R Varian and E Vaughan

### ITEM1 Race Planning

#### 3yo Flat Novices

P Johnson outlined that following the success of the 2yo Novice Programme this was replicated for 3yo. The aims of the changes made to the Novice Programme were to ensure the programme was meritocratic, fair, balanced and created compelling races. In 2019 23% of races programmed were Maidens, however 59% of 3yo+ Novice races featured no previous winner and were effectively Maidens. However the Region suggested that despite this, it was not creating competitive racing and resulting in poor field sizes. P Johnson highlighted that field sizes had increased by 0.25 runner per race since 2016.

P Johnson presented the number of restricted races planned so as to deliver an appropriate spread of wins to horses, relative to their values. This has changed very little from 2016 to 2019 so there is a similar chance of a winning opportunity following the changes. He showed the region the data for the number of individual winning trainers. This number has fallen by 7% since 2016 as winning horses are able to run again under a penalty. The top 20 trainers' share of winners has increased by 5% since 2016.

From 2016 to 2019 the number of first time out winners has fallen slightly from 2016 to 2019 as has the number of horses rated below 75. P Johnson outlined that of the 22 horses rated below 75, 18 have raced again, winning 7 races and beating 70% of rivals overall. S Williams suggested that the majority of the horse population is rated 75 and below, therefore more auction races should be programmed for them. The reason for a reduction in the auction races is due to poor field sizes though this has started to improve.

J Tate suggested the 3yo novice programme has begun to settle and was working well. R Arnold informed the Region of a proposal going to the next Racing Group where a horse that wins first time out and is placed in its next novice can get a rating, similar to jump racing. J Fanshaw and S Crisford agreed with the proposal. S Williams asked if the balance of Novice races to Maidens was satisfactory as novice races should have two or three winners contesting them. P Johnson felt the balance was roughly correct especially as 59% of the Novice Maiden programme were effectively being run as Maidens.

### **2yo Novices**

S Williams highlighted that from now until the end of the year there are 58 races for 2yo novices programmed. Of the 58 races 4 are auctions and 2 of the auction races are for fillies. Therefore by not providing adequate restricted races the programme is compels trainers to campaign horses for the handicap system as quickly as possible. P Johnson suggested the race planning team would look into the 2yo Auction races during the last three months of the year. M Waring highlighted that the number of 2yo Auction races has in fact increased by 60-70 races from 2016.

### **Merge of Auction and Median Auction**

The background to the proposal comes from the restriction the race planning team has on the number of auction races but the demand from trainers. Therefore the proposal is for one restricted novice and maiden race type. For example the lowest value restricted races (Class 6) would be for horses which were sold at auction for no more than £12,820 or, if they were not sold at auction, whose sire has a median price of no more than £10,897 (85% of auction value) or, if they were not sold at auction and their sire does not qualify for a median price, then the sire's nomination fee should be no more than, say, £10,000. These race types would go up in tiers, dictated by auction price and 85% of auction value thereby abandoning the auction cap.

J Tate suggested there needed to be plenty of variety in the restricted programme. P Johnson outlined the tier system within the proposal from Cl6 to Cl4. S Williams asked what cap would be put on the median prices. There would be no cap due to the restriction on the race. The Region supported the proposal providing there was no reduction in restricted races. The Race Planning Team would explore the feasibility of providing an eligibility list for the auction race tiers once the horse has been sold.

### **Lunchtime Racing Trial**

The trial of lunchtime racing has been taking place with 8 fixtures starting at midday in October. However 7 of these fixtures were jump. J Tate felt it does not help horsemen as it restricts the working time in the morning particularly jockeys riding work. P Johnson explained that the trial has come from a proposal by bookmakers to try and maximise levy yield. However, horsemen need to quantify the impact extending the trial will have on their business. M Quinn suggested staff would prefer to go racing earlier rather than later. S Williams agreed and suggested the NTF should agree to the proposal providing evening racing finished by 8pm.

### **Any other Race Planning Items**

- P Johnson reminded the region to use the Race Forum for any race planning issues.
- J Feilden suggested consideration needs to be given to the allocation of fixtures during bonfire night as the fireworks at Kempton presented difficult challenges.
- The meeting requested form figures on the declaration pages
- P Johnson reminded trainers that the programme book will now be split Flat and Jump and the calendar will be altered so the early closing races are positioned at the start of each week. Furthermore races will be flagged with a £ symbol to explain where the race fits into the minimum value structure. The vast majority will have ££ by them but the aim is to try and keep racecourses executive contribution up.
- S Williams asked if the open entries and declarations system was working. The Region felt it was working well and the timings were correct.
- R Arnold reminded the Region of the 2020 Economic Impact survey. The Region felt the survey was too long and the details about the earnings of the business was not necessary.

## ITEM 2 Non Runners

RA informed the Region of the latest non runner stats:

Non-Runners as a Percentage of Declarations			
	2018	2019	18/19 +/-
Flat AWT	6.05%	6.21%	0.16%
Flat Turf	8.03%	9.08%	1.05%
Jump	6.07%	6.26%	0.19%
TOTAL	6.97%	7.60%	0.63%

Due to the increase in non runner rates in 2019 the BHA is proposing to revisit the thresholds at which trainers lose their right to self-certify for twelve months (currently 14% Flat, 12% Jumping) rather than potentially going through another wider review. P Johnson highlighted that the background to this policy had the aim of targeting trainers who are abusing the system.

The region highlighted how non runners were always going to occur due to 48hr declarations and the changing nature of the going. This explains the increase on the flat turf compared to 2018 when the going was far more consistent. R Arnold said that the Region would only accept the lower thresholds if the BHA could guarantee greater scrutiny of the going and going descriptions provided by the racecourses. P Johnson informed the Region that the new Going Group would be the platform to air some of these concerns. C Fellows asked what the cost of a non runner is to the industry. S Williams suggested that it is not as damaging as people think because the majority of non runners are taken out before 9am.

## ITEM 3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- R Arnold outlined the new stewards twitter policy and the region agreed it was much better
- Mental Health – RA informed the Region that a specific service for trainers was available through Racing Welfare and the NTF. Sports Psychologist Michael Caulfield would be available for referrals.

## ITEM 4 Non Racing Agreement

To improve traceability for racehorses after their racing career some changes to the Non Racing Agreement (NRA) have been developed. The NRA will be completed through the admin system by the trainer rather than the owner. Once the NRA is lodged the horse will have a digital NRA placed on it and the owner (from its racing career) will have two weeks to object. Following this the passport will be stamped with the official NRA. The region highlighted that the trainer tends to complete the NRA under the current rules anyway and agreed to the proposal.

## ITEM 5 Equine Anti Doping

RA outlined the new proposals for equine anti doping following a consultation between the BHA and the NTF. Prohibited At All Times

Level of Culpability	Assessment of Culpability	Sanctions	
		Entry Point	Range
Low	No knowledge of administration and reasonable precautions taken. Satisfactory attendance at BHA/NTF seminars is a required precaution	2 years disqualification suspended for 24 months	Additional Financial Penalty (£750 - £10k)
Medium	No knowledge of administration but significant failings at the yard or Panel is satisfied of an acceptable explanation for an administration error	2 years disqualification (disqualification can be suspended for 24 months)	1 – 10 years disqualification (£1k - £10k)

High	Deliberate administration or serious failings in the administration of the yard bordering upon negligence	2 years disqualification	2 – 10 years disqualification
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Prohibited on Raceday

Level of Culpability	Assessment of Culpability	Sanctions	
		Entry Point	Range
Low	No knowledge of administration and reasonable precautions taken or therapeutic dose administered close to withdrawal period. Satisfactory attendance at BHA/NTF seminars is a required precaution	Financial Penalty of £1k	Financial Penalty (Caution - £5k)
Medium	No knowledge of administration but significant failings at the yard or Panel is satisfied of an acceptable explanation for an administration error	3 months disqualification Or Financial Penalty of £2k	1 month - 3 years disqualification Or (£1k - £10k)
High	Deliberate administration for performance enhancing purposes or serious failings in the administration of the yard bordering upon negligence	2 years disqualification	1 – 10 years disqualification

C Fellows asked what the outcome of recent high profile cases would have been under the proposed rules. R Arnold highlighted that they would have been eligible for just a caution or be a medium level of culpability. The Region agreed that was fair but felt it was important for the panel to maintain its independence and discretion over the range of the sanction.

S Crisford raised concerns over the use of Tildren in youngstock at the sales. RA outlined that the penalty is a year ban but the use of Bisphosphonates could still continue in France and Ireland until 2020. The NTF is challenging this alongside the TBA.

#### ITEM 6 NTF News Platform

R Arnold asked the Region if the members would still like the NTF to continue producing the printed newsletter. The region agreed that the saving of production costs and the benefits of a PDF newsletter emailed to members would be beneficial.

#### ITEM 7 Any Other Business and Date of Next Meeting

- City Racing – C Fellows asked what the Region thought of the trial of city racing and its feasibility. The Region felt the risks far outweighed the rewards and the cost involved would be better deployed elsewhere.
- Apprentices – The NTF, BHA and PJA had been discussing a proposal whereby apprentices would be responsible for their own expenses but the trainer's share of the riding fee and prizemoney would be reduced to compensate. However there was limited support by trainers for the proposal as it did not give sufficient recognition to work trainers put in. Therefore the BHA Board would have to make the final decision on how to modify the apprentice system.
- Under 18s staying Overnight at Racecourses – R Arnold informed the Region that Racecourses are pushing for under 18s to stop staying overnight at racecourses on safeguarding grounds.
- MOA – The wage increase has gone up 2%. S Crisford highlighted that some of the allowances have gone up and felt this will significantly affect some trainers.
- Equine Flu vaccination: R Arnold informed the Region that communication would be going out in a few weeks but the policy would be staying the same for 2020. So compliant EI vaccination will be in accordance with the Vaccination Code in the Rules of Racing within NINE calendar months\* (eight months

plus a one-month grace period) of the day of the race. \*Calendar months (e.g. 1 January – 1 October). C  
Wall highlighted that the rules would be out of line with other European Countries.

The next meeting will be in July 2020