



National
Trainers
Federation

East Region

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HELD AT NEWMARKET RACECOURSE
ON TUESDAY 11TH NOVEMBER 2017
AT 1:00 PM**

PRESENT:

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| R Guest (Chairman) | I Gansera-Leveque |
| H Palmer (Deputy Chairman) | J Gosden |
| C Allen | N Hugo |
| J Berry | G Kelleway |
| J Butler | D Lanigan |
| W Butler (for M Prescott) | C McBride |
| J Chapple-Hyam | G Peckham |
| T Clover | J Ryan |
| E Dunlop | J Tate |
| R Eddery | M Tompkins |
| J Feilden | C Wall |
| C Fellows | S Williams |

IN ATTENDANCE:

- R Arnold (Chief Executive)
- G Harris (Chief Executive, British Racing School)
- G Noad (Racing Executive)

APPOLOGIES WERE RECEIVED FROM: C Appleby, M Bell, S bin Suroor, M Botti, M Chapman, P Chapple-Hyam, S Crisford, L Cumani, C Drew, C Dwyer, J Eustace, J Fanshaw, J Given, W Haggas, D Ivory, W Jarvis, M Meade, A Murphy, J Nosedo, M Quinn, G Scott, D Simcock, M Smith, R Spencer, H Spiller, M Stoute, R Varian, N Vaughan and M Wigham

Item 1 – Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as an accurate record

Racing Admin Site – S Williams asked for the jockey availability to show available jockeys not just jockeys with confirmed rides at the meeting. C Wall felt when you are looking for fixtures and races it is more complex on the new site. R Arnold also highlighted that the additional prizemoney is not showing up on the old admin site.

ACTION: GN to pass on all feedback to the BHA

Divided Races – R Arnold informed the Region that at the Racing Group meeting today they would be discussing reducing the divided race fund and the priority for divisions. G Peckham asked if the racing calendar could show when the a division would be placed on the card (before or after)

ACTION

Cleaning of Racecourse Stables – R Arnold highlighted the work being undertaken by Ann Duffield and the Irish Equine Centre into the biosecurity at racecourses stables. The recommendations going forward to the RCA and BHA are to use equine specific disinfectant and modern fogging machines. The Region felt this was a good starting point but further research needed to be done into starting stalls. G Kellaway felt the stables at Kempton needed to be improved as horses were slipping on the manhole covers and there was congestion due to the close proximity of the stables.

ACTION: NTF to follow up on the biosecurity of racecourses tables at the RCA Technical Group and the stabling at Kempton with the BHA Course Inspectors

Apprentices – Following the media attention in the summer the PJA, BHA and NTF met to discuss the apprentice agreement; particularly the payment of expenses. 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 thought this could be a good opportunity to address some of the issues regarding full time employment of 3lb claimers. John Ryan offered to assist the NTF in the review of the apprentice agreement.

Item 2 - Highlights from NTF Council and Committees

Non Runners – R Arnold reported that following the last regional meeting the NTF had persuaded the BHA not to go ahead with penalties in regard to non-runners due to changes in the going.

Balance of Median and Maiden Auction and the auction cap – There was no consensus across all the regions and the BHA required a strong view from the NTF to reverse the change. The Region concluded that the reduction of Median Auction races has gone too far and more should be programmed next year.

ACTION

Item 3 - Programme Book Feedback

- H Palmer and E Dunlop suggested there were a lack of nurseries for horses rated up to 70 in November
- J Ryan and C Fellows felt there was a huge demand for AW races in November resulting in the rule allowing horse 1/2lb outside the handicap to run being ineffective because they were always getting balloted out
- D Lanigan suggested there were a lack of 0-95s in July and August
- C Wall suggested there should be a uniform top weight of 10st in all aged handicaps.

ACTION: Pass on all feedback

UPDATE: The BHA staged an additional AW 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. H Palmer highlighted the NTF opposition was based on the lack of research into the operations that should be declared, policing it and different rules internationally. The policy was driven by the Horseracing Bettor's Forum and the BHA pushed forward with the proposal

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 - 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. The main message from the industry is that the stewarding model needs to maintain a level of independence in the decision making process. J Gosden supported the NTF position because there needs to be a balance between accountability and independence.

Encouraging Horses Down to the Start – the region felt the current interpretation of the rules was unfair on trainers.

ACTION: NTF to raise this with the BHA

Item 5 - Racing Staff

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 is 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. C Wall highlighted that the majority of Newmarket trainers were still operating on the consolidated wage and the lack of staff would prevent any meaningful change. J Gosden felt the consolidated wage worked well as a basis and then individuals can interpret and create a system to suit their business.

S Williams suggested more racecourses should follow Chelmsford's example and provide free meals. R Arnold said the NTF was continuing to push for free meals but NARS was only asking for a reduced cost. Furthermore concerns have been raised regarding HMRC removing the tax free element of the subsistence allowance.

E Dunlop raised the Alex Scott Assistant Trainers Scholarship as only one application was received for 2017. Trainers need to do more to promote the award to their assistants. R Arnold said winners have a good experience but if entries did not improve the award may fold.

Update from the British Racing School - R Guest 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, but G Harris aims for this to reach 200 a year. G Harris reminded trainers the Government pays an employer £1000 for taking on an apprentice; he also described the life skills taught at the BRS and the recent employment of a school nurse.

C Wall asked if any work was being undertaken regarding trainers providing work experience. 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. However despite the aftercare provided there is only a 50% retention rate after five years.

M Tompkins asked why some trainers could not get staff from the BRS. G Harris highlighted that there are 50 trainers on the waiting list for staff and the number is always growing and suggested some local trainers come to the BRS to see the working being carried out.

Item 6 – Review of the NTF 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. M Tompkins felt the solicitors did not understand employment matters and trainers need better cover especially when NARS involves their solicitors. M Tompkins also highlighted to the Region the way NARS is funded. C McBride asked why his case was not covered. R Arnold highlighted that it was a civil case and therefore not covered under the legal expenses insurance.

Item 7 - Any Other Business and Date of Next Meeting

S Williams asked what was being done regarding the speeding up of BHA appeals. R Arnold explained that a number of cases were already being fast tracked but there is a back log of cases and a few large test cases over the coming weeks.

The next meeting will be in July 2018 in Newmarket