



National  
Trainers  
Federation

# South East Region

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT EPSOM RACECOURSE ON THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019

PRESENT: R Ingram (Chairman)  
S Smith (Deputy Chairman)  
J Boyle  
P Crate  
K Latchford (for S Dow)  
T Lawes  
D Wilson (for G Moore)

IN ATTENDANCE: R Arnold (Chief Executive)  
G Noad (Racing Executive)  
P Johnson (BHA Race Planning) Item 2 Only

APPOLOGIES: M Attwater, G Baker, J Best, J Bridger, D Grissell, W Knight, T McCarthey, D Menuisier, L Mongan, P Phelan, L Richards, R Rowe and S Woodman

### ITEM 1 – Minutes of the Previous Meeting

P Crate and D Wilson approved the minutes

**Nasal Strips** - R Arnold informed the Region that Jim Chiapetta would be in Britain to lobby trainers and gather support to take to the BHA to change the rules. J Boyle will also be working on the project highlighting the improved welfare standards.

**Mental Health** - R Arnold informed the Region that a specific service for trainers was available through Racing Welfare and the NTF. Michael Caulfield would be available for referrals.

**Equine Welfare** - R Arnold asked the Region to complete the welfare survey as this will be part of the overall strategy for equine welfare. The Region suggested the questions were quite complicated and did not ask the relevant questions. D Wilson suggested that the increased scrutiny is as a result of the welfare cases in America and Australia and Britain needed to showcase its high welfare standards. R Arnold agreed and highlighted that at the recent World Horse Welfare Conference racing stated that it was too easy to portray the negative as the normal and the positive messages must be communicated.

**Hoods** – The NTF has put a proposal forward following feedback from Tom Lacey where horses can wear a hood down to the start and be removed at the start. The hood would have to be a different colour so racegoers are aware of what is going on.

**Memorandum of Agreement** – R Arnold highlighted the recent changes

**Bloodstock Review** - R Arnold informed the Region that following the Bloodstock Review there will be some form of regulation. P Crate raised a concern from the horses in training sale where a number of horses were being presented while sedated. T Lawes agreed that this practice should be more transparent as the horse's temperament is a key part of the purchase.

ACTION – Take the proposal of notifying when a horse has taken Sedalin at the sales to the NTF Council

UPDATE – The NTF Council approved the proposal and decided it should be taken to the BHA and the Bloodstock Association

**Apprentice Jockeys** – Following consultation with the BHA and PJA a proposal was put forward whereby apprentices would take a greater share of the riding fee and prize money in return for being responsible for all their own expenses. Some members objected to the proposal so the NTF cannot support the proposal. Therefore it will go to the BHA Board for a decision.

## **ITEM2 - Race Planning**

### **Jump Race Classification**

P Johnson presented a proposal whereby all 0-105 races would be reclassified as Class 5. This is in order to promote flexibility and variety at the lower end of the programme. To offset the reclassification of 0-105 all WFA novice, juvenile and maiden hurdle races would be promoted to Class 4. The proposal would work with racecourse finances, to create more opportunities as the horse rated 95 has far more opportunities compared to one rated 103.

S Smith provided an example of one of her horses rated 104 and how this proposal would provide more opportunities. R Arnold conveyed concerns from other Regions over prizemoney levels as 0-105 would be run for a class lower. P Johnson felt this could be easily monitored and suggested the prizemoney levels should not drop too low due to the nature of racecourses competing for runners.

### **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. R Arnold highlighted that the other regions felt that it would be difficult for flat trainers to get the work done at the yard in the morning before getting to the racecourse for a lunchtime start. The Region concluded that if a compromise could be made to reduce the amount of evening fixtures then lunchtime racing would be preferable.

### **3YO Flat Novice Races**

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. 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 to the Region the number of restricted races planned 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. P Johnson showed the region the data for the number of individual winning trainers. This highlighted that the number of winning trainers has fallen by 7% since 2016 as winning horses are able to run again under a penalty. Furthermore the top 20 trainers share of winners has increased by 5% since 2016. D Wilson suggested there needed to be more restricted races to cater for the demand.

From 2016 to 2019 the number of first time out winners has fallen slightly from 2016 to 2019 as have 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. R Arnold informed the Region of a proposal going to the next Racing Group where a horses that wins first time out and is placed in its next novice can get a rating, J Boyle highlighted how this was similar to jump racing and the Region supported the proposal.

#### **Merger of Auction and Median Auction Races**

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 Boyle and P Crate agreed with the principles of the proposal and the Region felt it should be progressed. R Arnold conveyed concerns from some trainers about competing against homebred horses. D Wilson suggested there would not be that many and if the homebred wins it can compete with a penalty.

#### **Any Other Race Planning Items**

S Smith asked the BHA to look into the safety factor for the bumper at Warwick. ACTION P Johnson to discuss with Course Inspectorate.

#### **ITEM 3 - Non Runners**

RA informed the Region of the latest non runner stats:

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

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. The Region felt the onus was coming back onto trainers and asked what was being done about Racecourses and going descriptions. R Arnold highlighted that a new Going Group has been set up to look at all these issues and the NTF would like some trainers on the group. P Crate expressed some concerns over the draw and there seem to be anomalies where some horses always get drawn wide. ACTION P Johnson to investigate the system Weatherbys use to generate the draw.

#### **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              |

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                      |

The Region 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. R Arnold informed the Region that the BHA will be putting on seminars so trainers are aware of the precautions they can take.

**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. However there should still be an option for printing off the newsletter.

**ITEM 7 – Any Other Business and Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be in July 2020 at Epsom Racecourse