



National
Trainers
Federation

West Midlands and Wales Region

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT WARWICK RACECOURSE ON WEDNESDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2019

PRESENT: C Longsdon (Chairman)
H Daly (Vice Chairman)
R Dicken
G McPherson
R Phillips

IN ATTENDANCE: R Arnold (Chief Executive)
G Noad (Racing Executive)

ITEM 1 – Apologies for Absence and Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Apologies were received from: K Bailey, F Bishop, SJ Davies, D Dennis, T George, D Jeffreys, K Lee, B Lewellyn, J Mackie, K Price, A Ralph, M Scudamore, M Sheppard, D Skelton, T Symonds, I Williams and V Williams

The minutes of the meeting were approved as an accurate record

ITEM 2 - Matters Arising

2.1 Racehorse Day

Following the last Regional Meeting the proposal of a National Racehorse Day suggested by R Phillips has progressed and Martin Fewell (BHA Director of Communications and Corporate Affairs) will be meeting R Phillips in the new year. The BHA are looking to trainers to lead the way to make it a success. H Daly suggested members of racecourses should be the starting point as they already have an interest and a good footfall will showcase the event. R Phillips suggested that all trainers needed to get involved. This could be through a showcase event at a racecourse rather than opening up the yard.

R Arnold asked the Region how the NTF can drive the proposal forward. H Daly suggested a trainer nominated from each Region should be selected for a sub committee of the NTF Council. G McPherson felt consideration should be given to how this can link in with open days.

2.2 Bloodstock Review

R Arnold informed the Region that the bloodstock review would be published in 2020 and a new industry Forum would be created. One of the main areas of focus has been agents, trainers often act as agents therefore members need to be aware of potential new regulation.

Goffs Ire had prevented trainers from selling horses to pay debts left by a major ownership syndicate.

2.3 Stewarding

The Region noted the improvements to the stewards' twitter feed and the full details being available on the BHA website.

2.4 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.

2.5 BHA Vets

The Region raised concerns over the potential conflict of interests with vets on the racecourse. R Arnold reported that this was being discussed at the Veterinary Committee.

ITEM 3 - Race Planning

3.1 Jump Race Reclassification

R Arnold 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. The Region concluded that if prizemoney could be maintained the proposal should be approved to assist race planning.

3.2 Lunchtime Racing Trial

C Longsdon highlighted that despite jumps trainers having to deal with lunchtime racing in the winter it is a hinderance because trainers can only see first lot before going racing. The Region concluded that before any decision is made horsemen must see the benefit to the industry.

ITEM 4 - 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. C Longsdon asked if open entries and declarations had made a difference. As the spike was only on flat turf it is fair to assume it is due to the varying ground this summer. 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.

ITEM 5 - Equine Anti Doping

RA outlined the new proposals for equine anti doping following 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

G McPherson felt it was correct that trainers who are not culpable can escape a penalty. The Region asked where some of the recent high profile cases would have fitted into this new structure. The example provided would have resulted in the case falling into low culpability because there was no knowledge of administration and reasonable precautions taken. Therefore a financial penalty and a suspended disqualification would have been the sanction. G McPherson suggested even suspended disqualification was a harsh penalty when the prohibited substance could have been administered

maliciously. The Region agreed that the proposal was fair providing the penalties were appropriate and the independent panel maintained their independence and discretion.

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 felt a PDF newsletter emailed to members would be beneficial and there was no longer a requirement for a printed newsletter

ITEM 7 – Any Other Business

R Phillips asked what racecourse access retired trainers have. R Arnold outlined that retired trainers only get RCA Badges and access to Owners and Trainers facilities was at the discretion of the racecourse. The Region also highlighted the need for bigger Owner and Trainers areas to accommodate syndicates suggesting Bangor should set the example for other racecourses

R Dicken suggested improvements need to be made to Jockey Coaches and the way they communicate with trainers and walk the track with conditional jockeys.