

SUMMARY NOTE OF A HORSERACING BETTORS FORUM MEETING

Monday 26 October 2020, 1.00 pm- 5.00 pm

Held via Zoom Video Conference



Those Present:

Colin Hord - CH - (Chair)
Colin Magee - CM
Sean Trivass - ST
Martin Hughes - MH
Paul Johnson - PJ
Jayne Leggett - JL

In attendance:

Fiona Carlin (BHA secretariat) – FC
Nick Rust, BHA – NR, item 1
Will Lambe, BHA – WL, item 1
Paul Johnson, BHA – PJn, item 1
Chris Hudson - BRBA
Wes Himes - BGC

Apologies:

Charlie Hart - CHt

Item	Action / Discussion
Chair's Update	<p>The Chair provided his update and discussed activity during the previous quarter. This had been a busy few months during which the HBF had achieved a great deal. He thanked JL for arranging the meeting with Conor McGinn MP; HBF representatives had also met with some on-course bookmakers to discuss profitability which may require further work by a sub-group.</p> <p>CH thanked the HBF members for their contribution to the refresh work. He noted that in the next quarter the HBF will need to agree its submission to the Gambling Act Review and give consideration to the messages it wished to advocate. He would also speak to Joe Saumarez Smith about consultation with the HBF on Levy Reform.</p>
BHA Update	<p>NR provided an update on racing behind closed doors (BCD) and discussed the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with Government for the safe return of spectators.• Contraction of the industry and short-term financial assistance from Government.• Levy Board funding to support prize money. <p>The meeting discussed the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Return of racegoers to courses• Levy Reform / Levy Steering Group• In Running Betting - use of illegal streaming via drones• Chief Brody, Exeter 8 October• Photo Finishes• Lifetime Form project• Bookmaker reps at racecourses <p>CH thanked NR for his support of the HBF during his tenure and wished him well for the future.</p>
Wes Himes, Betting & Gaming Council	<p>WH discussed the establishment of the BGC which was formally incorporated in November 2019 and its mission to raise standards in the sector. WH also explained the scope of the Gambling Act Review and the aim of creating a safer gambling environment for all customers.</p> <p>The HBF raised the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Problem Gambling• Update on Single Customer view• HBF Betting Charter

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent GC consultation on VIP Programmes • Betting account restrictions and the lack of transparency • Guidance on Operators use of customer personal details • Resumption of racing and support for on-course bookmakers <p>WH acknowledged the voice that the HBF gives to bettors and proposed that the HBF and BGC should work closely together over next 12-24 months as Gambling Act Review will have a significant impact for betting customers.</p>
Chris Hudson, President, British Racecourse Bookmakers Association	<p>CHd discussed his role at the British Racecourse Bookmakers Association (BRBA) and modernisation of the SP.</p> <p>The HBF raised the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HBF analysis of SP prices since 1st June and the reduced overround. • Online prices which were historically bigger than those for on-course bookmakers. • The roles of the BRBA and Federation of Racecourse Bookmakers. • The role of the SPRC and the industry SP mechanism
HBF Business	<p>The meeting discussed progress on the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HBF Refresh • SPRC / SP Modernisation • Gambling Act Review • Sectional Timing update • In Running update • Ideas for future speakers/guests
AOB	<p>The meeting considered the following issue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 48 hrs. decs / use of Reserves.
Date of Next Meeting	The next meeting will take place on 11 January 2021.