

SUMMARY NOTE OF A HORSERACING BETTORS FORUM MEETING

Monday 11 January 2021, 1.00 pm – 5.00 pm

Held via Zoom conference



Those Present:

Colin Hord - CH - (Chair)
Colin Magee - CM
Sean Trivass - ST
Martin Hughes - MH
Jayne Leggett - JL
George Ryley - GR
Simon Rowlands - SR
Ben Fellows - BF

In attendance:

Fiona Carlin (BHA secretariat) – FC
Julie Harrington, BHA – JH, item 4
Paul Johnson, BHA – PJhn, item 4
Tom Byrne – HBLB, item 3

Apologies:

Paul Johnson
Will Lambe

Item	Action / Discussion
Chair's Update	<p>The Chair provided his update and discussed HBF activities since the previous meeting. He welcomed the HBF feature in the Racing Post. There had also been requests for comment by the press on other matters. He thanked HBF members for their feedback on Affordability and hoped to conclude this work in the next week or so, in order to focus on the submission for the Gambling Act Review.</p> <p>The meeting discussed the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Competitiveness of National Hunt Racing• GC Consultation on Affordability
Tom Byrne - HBLB	<p>TB gave a presentation on the history and role of the HBLB and the process to distribute Levy funding. He discussed HBLB expenditure during the Covid pandemic.</p> <p>The meeting discussed the current focus on affordability and the review of the Gambling Act.</p> <p>TB explained the role of the Levy Board's Betting Liaison Group and noted the deficit on HBLB income which had been impacted by the closure of betting shops during lockdown.</p> <p>The meeting discussed the following specific points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Televised Sunday Racing• Sectional timing
BHA Update	<p>Paul Johnson joined the meeting to provide an update on the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Race Distance alterations• The recent case of a missing Weight Cloth• Place terms• In Running Betting - use of illegal streaming:• Drones
Julie Harrington – BHA CEO	<p>JH discussed her appointment to the BHA. JH is keen to ensure that horseracing bettors receive sufficient appreciation for their contribution to racing and was looking forward to working with the HBF to understand their views. CH explained the remit of the HBF, and its influencing and lobbying role.</p> <p>JH discussed her focus and priorities in the next few months including work around the Gambling Review, Levy Reform and the Affordability issues.</p>

	<p>The meeting discussed HBF input into race planning and the fixture list. CH said that the HBF would welcome a thorough review of National Hunt race programme. PJhn agreed to ensure that HBF views are fed into the Racing Group and the Jump Pattern Committee.</p>
HBF Business	<p>The meeting discussed the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gambling Act Review • SPRC (SP Modernisation) • In Running / Streaming update • HBF Annual Survey • Ideas for future speakers / guests
AOB	<p>The following matters were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HBF awareness • Use of the Whip (international rules) • TV coverage (the finish for the entire field) • HBF Engagement – social media policy • The Tote (liquidity) • Wider Reach of HBF
Date of Next Meeting	<p>The next meeting will take place on 29 March.</p>