

SUMMARY NOTE OF A HORSERACING BETTORS FORUM MEETING

Monday 15 July 2021, 1.00 pm – 5.30 pm

Held via Zoom conference.



Those Present:

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

In attendance:

Julie Harrington, BHA Chief Executive (JH)
Lydia Hislop, journalist, and broadcaster (LH)
Martin Cruddace, Chief Executive, ARC (MC)
Sam Cone, Head of Comms & Public Affairs, ARC (SC)
Fiona Carlin (BHA secretariat) – FC

Apologies:

Paul Johnson, BHA
Will Lambe, BHA

Item	Action / Discussion
Chair's Update	CH discussed HBF activities since the previous meeting. There had been lots of good coverage in the Racing Post on affordability checks, the Gambling Review and the HBF's submission. CH noted that Bill Barber and Peter Scargill are producing a series of articles on the Fixture List.
BHA Update – Julie Harrington	<p>JH joined the meeting to discuss her first seven months in post and the numerous challenges during that time, including affordability, the Gambling Act review, and the longer-term sustainable recovery from Covid-19.</p> <p>Progress on the following issues was also noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Industry Forward Look• Whip Consultation project• Government engagement• Trial of Sunday fixtures• Racing League
Lydia Hislop – Chair of the BHA Flat Pattern Committee	<p>LH joined the meeting to discuss the role of the Flat Pattern Committee. She gave an overview of the origins of the Pattern in Britain in the 1960s, including the preservation of the classics and traditional races. This led to the development of the European Pattern system in 1970 embracing France, Great Britain and Ireland, later joined by Germany and Italy. The European Pattern Committee (EPC) ensures the avoidance of clashes between G1 and G2 races in different countries and sets the criteria for all Pattern races.</p> <p>The following matters were also discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Field sizes in Group races• Racing's Funding structure• Race Scheduling• Congested Saturday Fixtures (Super Saturday)• Sunday racing• Social media• Handicap Review• Whip Consultation• Race Times Review

<p>Martin Cruddace and Sam Cone – Arena Racing Company</p>	<p>MC and SC joined the meeting. They provided views on horseracing as a betting product including areas where the sport could improve. The issue of problem gambling was also discussed, and the meeting considered how racing could work with the betting industry to ensure the product was as safe as possible. MC noted the impact to the sport from any future reduction in gambling advertising.</p> <p>The meeting also discussed the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gambling Act review consultation • Affordability checks • Return of Racegoers • Sustainability of business models • Income (media rights, attendance, betting turnover) • On-course bookmakers • Drones / In-running betting.
<p>HBF Business</p>	<p>The meeting discussed the following matters and agreed actions where appropriate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HBF Annual Survey • Whip Consultation • Bookmakers Terms & Conditions • SPRC / SP Modernisation • On-course Bookmakers – restrictions to numbers • Drones • Gambling Act Review • Going Group Update • HBF Refresh • Ideas for Future speakers/guests
<p>AOB</p>	<p>The following items were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data Analysis for Group Races • Panorama
<p>Date of Next Meeting</p>	<p>The next meeting will take place on 22 November.</p>