

## **SUMMARY NOTE OF A HORSERACING BETTORS FORUM MEETING**

Monday 27 July 2022, 1.00 pm – 5.30 pm

75 High Holborn, London and via Zoom



### **Those Present:**

Colin Hord - CH (Chair)  
Sean Trivass - ST  
Tim Dredge - TD

### **In attendance:**

Richard Wayman (Chief Operating Officer, BHA) - RW  
Tom Byrne (Head of Racing & Betting, BHA) - TB  
Fiona Carlin (BHA secretariat) - FC

### **Via Zoom:**

Tanya Stevenson - TS  
Simon Rowlands - SR  
Neil Bramall - NB  
George Ryley - GR

### **Invited Guests:**

Michael Prosser, Clerk of Course, Newmarket - MP  
Seb Butterworth, Flutter - SB

### **Apologies:**

Paul Johnson  
Ben Fellows  
Jayne Leggett

Item	Action / Discussion
Chair's Update	<p>The Chair provided his update. He noted the ongoing issues of small field sizes and restrictions on bettors and, more positively, the Sunday series and Racing League initiatives. CH also thanked SR and TS for their input to the Going Review.</p> <p>ST noted that this is CH's last meeting as Chair, although he will attend the October meeting. ST is working on a handover with CH.</p>
Michael Prosser, Clerk of the Course, Newmarket	<p>MP provided an introduction to his role at Newmarket, including the delivery and build up to a raceday. He discussed the going, irrigation strategy and weather forecasts and how to achieve safe ground for championship racing. He also explained some of environmental and meteorological factors that might lead to unsafe ground and the abandonments which had occurred recently at other tracks.</p> <p>HBF members raised the following matters of importance to bettors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Going stick readings</li><li>• The Going Review</li><li>• Watering on racedays</li><li>• Rail movements</li><li>• Standardisation of going updates</li><li>• The use of Turftrax</li></ul>
Seb Butterworth, Flutter	<p>SB gave an update on Flutter's work with the racing industry to attract new fans and develop more engagement with existing fans. He discussed future strategy, and the need to grow customer/fan bases.</p> <p>HBF members raised the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Flutter's response to the proposal to reduce the Fixture List</li><li>• Improving the racegoers betting experience</li><li>• The Sunday Series and ITV engagement with audiences</li><li>• Modernisation of the raceday experience</li><li>• Race volumes and small fields</li><li>• Market value and customer account restrictions</li><li>• Operators contributions to the industry and media rights</li><li>• Information in racecards and leveraging commercial values</li></ul>

BHA Update	<p>Richard Wayman and Tom Byrne joined the meeting.</p> <p>The following matters were raised by HBF members of importance to bettors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Going changes monitoring</li> <li>• Stewards Enquiries</li> <li>• Small Field Sizes</li> <li>• Whip review</li> <li>• Prize money</li> </ul>
HBF Business	<p>The meeting discussed the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gambling Act Review</li> <li>• BHA General Instructions – Going Review</li> <li>• HBF Website</li> <li>• Sectional Timing</li> <li>• HBF Survey</li> <li>• Ideas for Future speakers</li> <li>• Chair Handover</li> <li>• HBF Refresh</li> </ul>
Date of Next Meeting	The next meeting will take place on 14 October at Haydock Park