

SUMMARY OF A HORSERACING BETTORS FORUM MEETING

Monday 26 January 2023, 1.00 pm – 5.45 pm

75 High Holborn, London and via Teams



Those Present:

Sean Trivass – ST (Chair)
Simon Rowlands - SR
George Ryley - GR
Neil Bramall – NB
Jayne Leggett - JL
Tanya Stevenson -TS
Ben Fellows – BF (via Teams)

In attendance:

Fiona Carlin (BHA secretariat) - FC

Invited Guest:

Nick Rust, SPRC

Apologies:

Tim Dredge - TD

Item	Action / Discussion
Chair's Update	<p>ST discussed recent activity including engagement with the Racing Post and the Sporting Life and visits undertaken.</p> <p>ST said he was keen to undertake another HBF survey at this time and this should aim to reach out to more respondents.</p>
Nick Rust, Chair Starting Price Regulatory Commission (SPRC)	<p>NR discussed the modernisation of the SPRC / SP and its governance structure.</p> <p>NR also discussed the change to the mechanism for the SP which, since May 2022, includes prices from the online market. He explained how the qualifying markets are decided and how overrounds are produced.</p> <p>HBF members asked questions on the SPRC's audit process and the turnover between on-course and online betting.</p> <p>The HBF welcomed greater transparency and the improved governance of the SPRC and thanked NR for resolving some of the HBF's previous concerns around the SP and market issues.</p>
Tom Byrne, Head of Racing and Betting, BHA	<p>TB explained the fixture list process and the prominence of horseracing as a betting product. TB also discussed the vision and objectives for the core product in order to drive sustained revenue for the benefit of the entire sport.</p> <p>HBF members said they would welcome a reduction in fixtures and discussed their concerns about the congestion of busy summer Saturday fixtures. They also discussed the prospect of more racing on Sundays including Sunday evenings and the betting opportunities this could afford. HBF members would also support any proposal to increase the number of code breaks.</p> <p>TB answered HBF members questions on the two winning posts at Sandown; wind operation declarations, omission of obstacles due to low sun, geographical clashes in the fixture list and real-time accurate going descriptions.</p>

<p> HBF Business </p>	<p> The meeting agreed action on the following areas: </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HBF website – the website will be redesigned and refreshed with new photos and images. HBF Survey – a new survey will be conducted via social media channels and the meeting agreed the focus of questions. HBF Skills Matrix – HBF members discussed their skills and strengths and how these could be best utilised for the HBF. HBF Strategic Planning – the meeting discussed the HBF focus for the next 12 months and agreed areas for progression, including the White Paper/affordability checks; Fixture List overcrowding; increased better representation; engagement with the BHA and improvements to data provision. Guest speakers – the meeting discussed inviting representatives to future meetings from the Gambling Commission, the APPG for Betting & Gaming, and the Chairs / Chief Executives of the RCA and BHA.
<p> AOB </p>	<p> <i>(i) Key Messaging</i> - it was agreed to continue promoting the message that betting on horseracing is very different to casino gambling. </p> <p> <i>(ii) HBF Refresh</i> – the meeting discussed the need for maximum length of terms for HBF members and amendments to the HBF terms of reference. </p>
<p> Date of Next Meeting </p>	<p> The next meeting will take place on Monday 24 April 2023. </p>