



## **BRITISH HORSERACING AUTHORITY**

### **JUMP RACING REVIEW – APRIL 2016 UPDATE**

#### **BACKGROUND**

The 2015 Review of Jump Racing was published in December and an associated work plan was approved by the Executive Committee of British racing in January 2016.

The plan includes all 41 recommendations and the timings for implementation of each recommendation has been classified as 'Year 1', 'Years 1-3' or 'Years 3-5'.

To support the BHA in overseeing the implementation of the recommendations, we have created an Implementation Group which will meet quarterly throughout 2016. The Group comprises:

- Edward Gillespie (chairman)
- Tanya Stephenson
- Jamie Snowdon
- Stephen Smith
- Nigel Payne
- Guy Henderson
- Claire Sheppard
- Harriet Collins
- Richard Wayman
- Stuart Middleton.

#### **COMPLETED AND ONGOING ACTIONS**

Seven recommendations have already been completed:

- Rebalancing of Horserace Betting Levy Board (HBLB) funds between codes to take abandonments into account was introduced in 2016. The overall split in the HBLB contributions to prize money reflect the off-course betting turnover of each code. From this year, a further adjustment has been applied for expected abandonments to ensure that Jump Racing receives its budgeted amount.
- The Mares Owners Prize Scheme (MOPS) was launched on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016 with a commitment to fund the scheme for at least two years.
- The creation of the Challenger Series to support grassroots racing was implemented for the 2015/16 season.
- Development of the Challenger Series with the final held at Haydock.
- The new Jump Jockeys Championships were announced in October 2015, with the champions crowned at Sandown on 23<sup>rd</sup> April.
- The New Jump Jockeys Championships include cash prizes to the top five jockeys, the champion conditional (£5,000), northern jump jockey of the year (awarded to the individual who has ridden the highest number of winners during the Jumps season at racecourses north of and including Market Rasen), and the champion northern conditional (£1,500).
- Identification and appointment of welfare spokesperson to be present at major meetings – Jenny Hall (supported by Jamie Stier) performed this role at Cheltenham and Aintree.

The four recommendations below are work in progress:

- Aspirational mares programme to continue to be developed. Three Listed mares' chases took place this season and further expansion will be considered as part of a review of these races. The mares' Black Type NH Flat race programme currently comprises four races – November,



- December, March and April – and consideration will also be given to expanding this into other months.
- Review of Jump Black type programme including better alignment with Ireland. The Jump Pattern Committee has agreed to focus initially on a review of the Listed Race programme. Initial discussions have taken place with Horse Racing Ireland and any newly created Black Type races will be considered with reference to the British and Irish programmes.
- Improved communication with handicappers and myth busting – Handicapping Explained was launched by the BHA in February. This initiative involves inviting questions about any preconceptions or concerns about handicapping practices in general. After a number of questions have been gathered and the data has been analyzed, the BHA will publish a selection of the best ones, and do so on an ongoing basis.
- Continuation and extension of new design for hurdles. The trial, which currently involves Newton Abbot and Taunton, will be extended to three other tracks in the second half of the year.

At the Racing Group's first meeting in March 2016, four of the recommendations were discussed.

- Horses slightly above a specified rating band for a handicap race could be allowed to run, subject to a 2lb additional limit. The Group agreed that allowing horses to run outside of their allotted weight range through carrying extra weight would increase opportunities and support field sizes, and therefore should be introduced at Class 3 and below (Jump and Flat). This recommendation was subsequently approved by the industry's Executive Committee. Once the computer development has been completed, this will be introduced into the relevant race conditions.
- Creation of new race types - The Group supported the need for greater variety within the race programme. The BHA was asked to compile a list of possible new Handicap races with alternative conditions for the Group to consider at the next meeting (April). In addition, further consideration will be given to reducing the dominance of handicaps within the programme.
- Review of the number of wins required before a conditional jockey loses their claim and the own yard allowance. The Group were informed of the Jockey Training and Development Review which is currently ongoing. It was agreed that these areas would be revisited once the Review was completed towards the end of 2016.
- To review the programme of Amateur Riders' races. As above, this will be considered once the Jockey Training and Development Review is complete.

### **FUTURE WORK PLAN – SHORT TERM (YEAR 1) RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Executive Committee identified a number of work streams to be commenced during 2016

The following two recommendations will be BHA-led projects:

- The introduction of an industry-wide working group to develop recommendations to reinvigorate Northern Jump racing. A group has been formed, with its first meeting to take place in early May. The group comprises Nick Rust, Richard Wayman (BHA), Lord Daresbury, Jonjo Sanderson, Hazel Peplinski, Bill Farnsworth (racecourses), Nick Alexander, Harvey Smith, James Ewart, Tom Tate (trainers), Dale Gibson (jockeys) and Peter Craggs (owners/syndicates).
- Review of flexibility of prize money distribution to placed horses. The Horsemen's Group Board has been asked for its position on this issue before the BHA decides how best to progress this recommendation.

The following three recommendations will be future agenda items (in 2016) at the Racing Group or Jump Pattern Committee:



- Review of the Mares' allowance in chases.
- Review of the number of Listed races.
- To consider whether Flat and Jump programmes could complement each other to a greater degree. Part of this recommendation was for a more central approach to race planning and this work is underway following the Holistic Race Planning project (recommendations approved and implementation plan agreed at the Executive Committee in January).

There are six recommendations that will be addressed via the relevant annual consultation processes (such as fixtures, funding, minimum values).

- To consider a further rebalancing of funding between codes taking account of the different cost base. This will be considered as part of the 2017 funding discussion (start in April).
- For the sport to set out the principles of what would be its optimum Fixture List. It was suggested that this would include two strong and two support Saturday meetings with a minimum 75k handicap each week. This is being considered as part of the discussions relating to the 2017 fixture list, which are focussed on four particular areas and how the fixture list can support the industry growth objectives. A verbal update will be provided.
- To review the strategic objectives of Summer Jumping and consider initiatives including a high profile meeting around the August Bank Holiday weekend. The RCA and the tracks involved are currently undertaking their own Summer Jumping review.
- To review the balance and run of Jump fixtures during the summer months. As above, this will be considered as part of the review process mentioned above.
- For a strategy to be applied to Minimum Values process to increase the appeal of introductory races. To be considered via the Executive Committee and its funding group.
- Targeting additional funds at races which may introduce horses to Jump racing. This is also to be considered via the Executive Committee and its funding group as part of discussions regarding the use of the Race Incentive Fund.

### **Ownership Pillar work within the Strategy for Growth**

Four work streams included the ownership of the Industry Strategy for Growth: Reform of ownership administration; Nationwide promotion of syndicates; Introduction of a code of conduct for syndicates; and the largest-ever insight survey of owners are linked to four recommendations contained in the Jump review.

- Input into the Ownership Pillar to Jump racing are afforded sufficient focus – the ongoing areas of work apply equally to Flat and Jump owners. The survey will be designed to provide insight into the difference between Flat and Jump ownership.
- Provide support to the Ownership Pillar in the development of syndicates – Great British Racing to launch its syndicate promotion in May.
- Guide to owners' costs – As part of its syndicate promotion, Great British Racing will create an online central hub that includes information about becoming a racehorse owners including owners' costs.
- Code of Conduct for agents / syndicates – The BHA is to introduce a code of conduct for syndicates within the Rules of Racing. A draft of the code has been produced and consultation is ongoing.

### **FUTURE WORK PLAN – MEDIUM TERM (YEARS 1-3) RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Executive Committee identified the following nine recommendations as focus areas once further progress has been made on those referred to above. The parties that could be involved in implementation are shown in brackets.



- Modern, tailored system of communication to owners to be developed (BHA/Weatherbys/ROA/NTF/RCA) – this will form part of the ownership administration reform to be implemented in early 2017.
- Improved availability of data showing trainer performance (BHA/GBR/HG)
- Project group to review tiered approach to ownership experience on racecourse (RCA/ROA)
- Racecourses improve CRM systems (RCA). The RCA is to launch a new Pass System later in the year which will improve their CRM capability.
- Racecourses to develop syndicate programmes (RCA) – It is understood that the Jockey Club has plans to launch a Jumps syndicate programme.
- Development of a centralised mares leasing programme (TBA/ROA)
- To develop a future joint strategy with Point to Point racing to strengthen both codes (BHA/PPA)
- Consideration to be given to developing a programme for Jump horses at a younger age (BHA/NTF/TBA)
- Promotion of Jump ownership via a central campaign including a dedicated kiosk at Festival meetings (GBR/ROA)

#### **FUTURE WORK PLAN – LONGER TERM (YEARS 3-5) RECOMMENDATIONS**

The following two recommendations were identified as longer term items and are not expected to be considered in detail during 2017.

- Development of a new high profile event - an 'additional peak' within the Jump Season.
- Investigate a regional breeding programme.