

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ARABIAN HORSERACING AUTHORITIES



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Minutes of the 15th Pattern Race & Handicapper Committee meeting:

Tuesday 28th of February 2012 at Doha, 10 a.m.

Invitation made by: Jean-Pierre de Gasté, Chairman

Participants: Jean-Pierre de Gasté, France, Chairman
Wieger de Ruiten, Chairman of DARC, Netherlands
Mats Genberg, President of the Scandinavian Arabian Racing Association, Sweden
Neil Abrahams, Handicapper, U.A.E.
Pam Cordrey, Handicapper, Scandinavia
Harald Siemen, Handicapper, Germany
Ryan Skelton, Handicapper, Qatar
Benoit Legault, Handicapper, France
Paul Daverio, President of DRAV, Germany
Igor Botchkarev, Chairman of NOAL, Russia
Krzysztof Wolski, Handicapper, Poland
Nelly Philippot, Chairwoman of AHRCB, Belgium
Hicham Debbagh, Racing Director of SOREC, Morocco
Mohammed Al Hashmi, Head of International Horse Organizations, Oman
Justin Blackburne, Racing Secretary, Oman
Genny Haynes, Director of ARO, UK
Tony Newman, Racing Manager of ARO, UK
Adem Kutay YUSUFOGLU, International Affairs Officer, Turkey
Izeta Selimanjin, Administrator of the website, France

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CONVENING FOR THE 15th PATTERN RACE & HANDICAPPER COMMITTEE MEETING:

Tuesday 28th of February 2012 at Doha, 10am

A G E N D A

1. Conclusion of last Pattern Race and Handicapper Committee Meeting
2. International classifications of Purebred Arabians published in December 2011
3. Progress on the creation of a Pattern Races section on IFAHR's website
4. Analysis of the standard of each Pattern race, based on last year's ratings
5. Setting up of new race conditions: eliminations from the lowest rated horses upwards
6. Examination of applications for new Pattern races or for upgrading Group PA races
7. Modifications of the Pattern Race Rules including WFA scale and sex allowance
8. Indigenous conditions for Pattern Races
9. Any other business
10. Next meeting

Documents to provide for the meeting by each country member in at least 15 copies :

- Racing calendar for 2012 in your country

Jean-Pierre de Gasté

Minutes of the 15th IFAHR Pattern Race and Handicapper Committee Meeting

The chairman thanks the representatives of all countries who came to attend the meeting. He also thanks the members of the Supervisory Committee for all the work they have done for the Pattern Race System which enabled the Committee to publish the first ever Arabian international rankings. He highlights that this was the priority goal of the Committee and that a well organized system for Arabian Races is the only way to be integrated into major Thoroughbred cards. Having that in mind, it is essential for all countries to follow carefully the rules of the Pattern Races and to be strict on their enforcement.

He adds that the main target for the Pattern Race System is to have now more visibility on IFAHR's website, so that people can have a direct access to the rules, to the results of the Pattern races in a whole, as well as to the Pattern race calendar (and we are working on it with Mats Genberg).

Jean Pierre de Gasté reminds then the participants of which countries have the right to vote during the meeting of the Pattern Race & Handicapper Committee, as per the rules : The founder members (AFAC, ARO, Emirates Equestrian Federation, QREC, DARC, Turkish Jockey Club, SARA, DRAV and AHRCB) and the countries that have Group PA or Listed PA races.

1. Conclusion of last Pattern Race and Handicapper Committee Meeting

The minutes of the last Pattern Race & Handicapper Committee are approved by all members.

2. International classifications of Purebred Arabians published in December 2011

The Arabian international rankings and the international weight for age scale resulted from 2 days of intensive work of the Supervisory Committee in Ascot in November 2011.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté explains that the Supervisory Committee ranked in November only horses rated 110 and above for 4yos and upwards and 100 and above for 3yos. This year, they will try to extend the list to lower rated horses

Izeta Selimanjin mentions that a lot of articles covering this information have been published in the major Arabian magazines such as Finish Line (USA), Les Cahiers du Cheval Arabe (FR), Arabian Horse World, the Arabian Magazine (UK), Jour de Galop (FR) and Paris-Turf (FR) and Swedish medias.

Mats Genberg says that a picture of No Risk Al Maury should have been added to the press release.

Izeta Selimanjin wished that this advice would have been brought to her in December and adds that any ideas or advises that can improve the work are more than welcome.

Tony Newman asks if the publication of international rankings will always be in November.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté answers that the Supervisory Committee plans to publish the ranking twice a year : a provisional ranking in August and the final one in November.

Furthermore, **Jean-Pierre de Gasté** announces that, during the meeting in Ascot in November, it has also been decided that, **from this year, in all Pattern races, eliminations, in case of more horses declared to run than the limited number allowed by a race course, will be carried through the ratings, from the lowest rated upwards.**

He mentions also that, regarding the weight for age scale, the handicappers have stated a difference of weight between 3yos and 4yos and between 4yos and 5yos and upwards. But, through the year, the same weight cannot

apply from the beginning to the end of a racing season, as difference of weight also varies along with the season. **And Members' countries must follow the scale of weight established by the Supervisory Committee for their Pattern races at least.** This is the only way to allow handicappers to establish the rankings between horses of various countries at the end of the year. (The scale for Arabian horses is not following the Thoroughbred scale, because Arabian horses are not maturing exactly one year later than Thoroughbred).

Furthermore, he reminds that, during the last Pattern races and Handicapper's Committee meeting in October in Saint Cloud, it was also decided that **the allowance for fillies will be standardized for all countries, at 2kg or 5lbs.** This change will be included in the Arabian Pattern races rules.

Jean Pierre de Gasté stresses all countries upon the respect of those rules and reminds that only races that are respecting all criteria can be eligible to the Pattern race system. The Committee doesn't require countries to have a Pattern Race, but when a country wants to be included in the Pattern Race system, then it must respect the rules.

3. Progress on the creation of a Pattern Races section on IFAHR's website

In the last meeting, Mats Genberg mentioned that he already started to work on the website. For the time being, there is not yet a direct access to the ranking, neither to the rules, nor to the weight for age scale and several members' countries have mentioned that they don't know how to have access to it.

Mats Genberg explains the future section of the Pattern Race & Handicapper Committee on IFAHR's website, rules, news, tags on pattern Races with a special news section. He mentions that IFAHR's webmaster is already working on it though it is hard to say when it will be online.

In order to find a quick solution, **Izeta Selimanjin** has asked the webmaster of the Pattern Race & Handicapper Committee's website, which currently can be accessed only by the members of the Supervisory Committee, to work on a project of a Public information section on the homepage of the Handicapper's website.

She presents their proposal allowing the publication of all the information related to the Pattern Race & Handicapper Committee on the Handicapper's website and informs the members that this work can be done within less than a week for only 200 euros.

She then projects on a screen the functioning of the current Pattern Race & Handicapper Committee website with the latest modifications regarding the ratings lists asked by the handicappers. She highlights the team work with the handicappers to enter all ratings from which results the whole database of the website.

4. Analysis of the standard of each Pattern race, based on last year's ratings & 5. Setting up of new race conditions: eliminations from the lowest rated horses upwards & 7. Modifications of the Pattern Race Rules including WFA scale and sex allowance

A Pattern Race Rating is the average of the Annual Ratings achieved by a race over a three-year period. The Annual Rating is the average of the official ratings, as agreed by the Committee, of the first four horses to finish in any given year. (Page 2 of the Rules)

In order to check the respect of all Pattern races, the Committee has proceeded with an analysis of the standard of each race.

Mats Genberg advises to add a column in the table with the date of creation of the race.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté reads the paragraph "Downgrading or Deleting Pattern Races" of the Rules. He states that the Supervisory Committee decided not to downgrade yet some Group PA races not matching the criteria, as this is the first year that an international ranking is established, and the second year only that several of the

new Group 3 PA races have been created. But after three years of running some races, the Supervisory Committee will have to follow the rules, in order not to lose credibility of the whole system.

He then asks the members to proceed to the vote on the elimination in races based on ratings.

All the members' countries are favourable, except Poland who votes against the change.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté asks **Krzysztof Wolski** to comment its opinion.

Krzysztof Wolski notes that according to the rules in Poland, there are 2 possibilities if there are too many runners :

- 1) To split the race
- 2) To eliminate horses by earnings

For international races, if there are more than 20 runners, the number of foreign horses will not exceed 5, and the local horses will be eliminate by earnings.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté says that it looks very fair to foreign runners, but the rules for Pattern Races must be applied the same way to all countries. The Pattern Races Rules concerns only one Group 3 PA in Poland.

Mats Genberg explains that there is an elimination system by points for Arabian races in Sweden but they have separate rules for Pattern Races.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté confirms that it is necessary that Poland apply the Pattern Race Rules for its Group 3 PA race.

Krzysztof Wolski adds that all rules for Polish races must be signed by the Ministry of Agriculture and it takes at least half a year to be adopted. He will submit this query to its President.

Though the Polish rules are now 10 years old, so far they never had to proceed with eliminations.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté mentions that they also had to change in France the rules for Arabian races regarding the weight for age scale and the allowance for fillies, rules that have been established for more than forty years, and that they will have also to change the rules for elimination. These changes must be approved by France Galop as well as by the Ministry of Agriculture.

6. Examination of applications for new Pattern races or for upgrading Group PA races

FRANCE :

The Committee has received 2 applications from France

DERBY DES 4 ANS application for Listed PA status

On June 10th, 2012 in Toulouse racecourse - for 4yo only, over 2000 m

Pam Cordrey asks how many races and Pattern Races France has.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté answers that there are approximately 80 Arabian races in France among which 24 Pattern races.

Harald Siemen notes that more than 25% of French races are Pattern Races which represent a very high percentage.

Ryan Skelton agrees that this figure is very high.

Mats Genberg asks if the race is sponsored by someone.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté replies that most of the program in France is financed by racing authorities.

Justin Blackburne, who comes from the Thoroughbred world, considers that a status is given to a race for its quality but understands that in the case of Arabian Listed Races, it is more a marketing tool.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté reminds that the Listed PA status was created especially for countries who didn't have Pattern races and therefore to help them finding a sponsor in order to attract a high quality field.

He explains that they are not looking at it with a thoroughbred view. When they have created the Listed PA status, it was not following the Thoroughbred rules. The aim was to help the program to be built in including other than dominant countries. Some sponsors are requesting some visibility and therefore are keener to sponsor a race with a Pattern Race status.

Nelly Philippot thinks that the Committee needs also to make sure that any sponsorship will be carried for several years.

All members agree with it.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté suggests adding also a minimum rating for Listed PA with a bottom limit.

He proposes that the Committee improves the definition of Listed PA races in order to avoid any misunderstanding and that the Supervisory Committee will work on it.

PRIX DORMANE – application for Group 3 PA status

On July 19th, 2012 in La Teste racecourse - for 4yos only run, over 1900m.

This race is respecting completely the average rating for its 3 last editions.

The members of the Committee agree unanimously for upgrading the status of the Prix Dormane to Gr.3 PA status but disagree unanimously for upgrading "Derby des 4 ans" to a Listed PA race.

UNITED KINGDOM

DUBAI DAY MEETING – change of date

On September 23rd, 2012 at Newbury

ARO asks to move the meeting end of September due to the Olympic Games.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté reads the Rules – page 4 :

"Any change to the date of a Group 1 PA race must be approved by the majority of the Committee, as well as unanimously by the neighbor member countries if such a change would involve a clash liable to have adverse effects on an existing Group 1 PA race. "

He notes that there is indeed a clash with France with both races Qatar Arabian World Cup and the Qatar Arabian Mares' Trophy for 4yo fillies. France understands completely the position of UK if this change is for one year only. He adds that we are not here to create difficulties between each other but to help each other. France is favorable to the change of date, but if it is for 2012 only.

Toni Newman hopes it will be only for one year as it depends on HH Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum's schedule.

Mats Genberg asks if there will be a possibility to have a 100% Arabian racing day in 2013.

Neil Abrahams says that there were few horses from UK who ran last year in these races.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté confirms that France will accept this change only for 2012, not only as a neighbor country but also as a matter of logic. The Committee could not accept to concentrate both the best Group 1 PA races for 4yos

and for 4yos and upwards at the end of the year within two weeks from each other. It would harm a lot the organization of the Pattern race System.

Toni Newman understands that very well and suggests considering the application only for 2012.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté expresses the importance to inform already HH Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum of the problem for 2013.

All members agree unanimously for moving the Dubai Day meeting, end of September for 2012

ABU DHABI HARWOOD INTERNATIONAL STAKES - application for Group 1 PA status

on July 13th, 2012 in Newmarket Racecourse - for 4yos and up over 1600m

Jean Pierre de Gasté notes that the average of the last 3 editions allows the race to apply for Group 1 PA status. Also, the average rating for the 2011 and 2010 editions are above 115 although the 2009 edition is below.

Mats Genberg notices that in this case the average rating is progressive.

The members of the Committee agree unanimously for upgrading the status of the Abu Dhabi Harwood International Stakes to Gr.1 PA status.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UAE CUP - application for Listed PA status

on May 27th, 2012 at Curragh racecourse for 4yo and upwards, over 1600m

The members of the Committee agree to upgrade the status of the President of the UAE Cup to Listed PA status

HOLLAND

HH SHEIKH ZAYED BIN SULTAN AL NAHYAN LISTED CUP - application for Group 3 PA status

on July 15th, 2012 at Duindigt racecourse - for 4yos and up, over 1900m

Jean Pierre de Gasté notes that the average of the last 3 editions allows the race to apply for Group 3 PA status. Also the average rating for 2011 and 2010 are above 105, although the 2009 edition was below.

The members of the Committee agree unanimously for upgrading the status of the HH Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan Cup to Group 3 PA status

GERMANY

PREIS VON EUROPA - re-introduction of the Gr.3 PA status of the race

on July 22nd, 2012 at Cologne or Hamburg – for 4yos and up, over 2400m

The race was not run in 2011 due to the lost of the sponsors

Jean Pierre de Gasté notes that the race has not been run only for its last edition, but that the ratings of its last 3 editions (2008, 2009 and 2010) are matching the Group 3 PA criteria. So, according to the rules (page 3) the race is eligible for re-introduction.

The members of the Committee agree unanimously for re-introducing the status of Group 3 PA to PREIS VON EUROPA

SHEIKHA FATIMA BINT MUBARAK IFAHR LADYS CUP

on June 10th, 2012 at Berlin Hoppergarten racecourse – for 3yos, over 1600m

Jean-Pierre de Gasté reminds that in all Pattern races, there shouldn't be any indigenous conditions.

Paul Daverio replies that the matter was discussed with Lara Sawaya, and that the race would be only for amateur ladies

Mats Genberg asks if there are similar Pattern races in Thoroughbreds.

Pattern Races have no indigenous conditions, therefore races reserved for gentleman riders or lady riders cannot be Pattern Races.

Paul Daverio prefers then to pull out this application.

QATAR

The Committee has received 3 applications for Group PA status.

Ryan Skelton informs the members that races according to their ratings could apply for Group 1 PA status.

Members are asking if applications shouldn't begin by a Gr.3 PA status.

Izeta Selimanjin replies that in the last meeting, the Committee has decided to give directly a Group 2 PA status according to the level of ratings.

QATAR NATIONAL DAY TROPHY – application for Gr.1 PA status

December, for 3yos and up, over 2000m

The average ratings of the last 2 editions was 116.25

The members of the Committee agree unanimously for upgrading the status of the Qatar National Day Trophy to Group 2 PA status only.

H.H. THE HEIR APPARENT TROPHY – application for Gr.1 PA status

End of January, for 4yos and up, over 2000m

The average ratings of the last 2 editions was 117

The members of the Committee agree unanimously for upgrading the status of the H.H. The Heir Apparent Trophy to Group 2 PA status only.

SHEIKH ABDULLAH BIN KHALIFA AL THANI CUP – application for Gr.1 PA status

Beginning of January, for 4yos and up, over 1850 m

Ryan Skelton decided to withdraw this application as the average ratings are not matching the criteria.

8. Indigenous conditions for Pattern Races

Jean-Pierre de Gasté expresses his concern about the fact that there are still some Pattern Races that have indigenous conditions. The conditions have to be within the Pattern Race system:

We can have a penalty for a Gr.1 PA horses in a Gr.2 PA or Gr. 3 PA race, for a Gr.2 PA horses in a Gr.3 PA race, or for horses that have won several Gr.PA races. But Group 1 PA races cannot have any restrictions, except than allowance for sex or for age. Furthermore, there shouldn't be any conditions that come from outside the system, as for instance: money earned, horses trained abroad, or local bred.

He insists also that the members' countries should send the entry dates of their Pattern Races along with the date of the race. The conditions must also be attached to the race date.

Nelly Philippot wonders if the penalties are applied at the entry date or the race date.

Neil Abrahams answers that it's the date of entries.

Pam Cordrey also agrees.

Ryan Skelton asks if a rating condition can be applied to Group PA races, the idea being to have quality horses.

Nelly Philippot replies that the elimination by rating was created for this reason.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté answers that Pattern races cannot have rating condition, as well as they cannot exclude maiden horses. The best example concerns Nureyev.

Ryan Skelton takes the example of the Emir's Sword. Horses rated 40 and 50 can be entered?

Jean-Pierre de Gasté thinks that the selection can be made by the entry fees.

Ryan Skelton answers, that, in case of Qatar, this would not have a big impact !

Neil Abrahams mentions the Thoroughbred Breeders' Cup

Jean-Pierre de Gasté reminds also the example of the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. The problem is that the Pattern Race system cannot accept the introduction of indigenous conditions that suit each country.

Ryan Skelton says that the geldings are not accepted in Thoroughbred races.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté replies that this is not an indigenous condition as Pattern races can be open to fillies only.

9. Any other business

Pattern Race Calendar 2012 & website

Jean-Pierre de Gasté informs the members that the Pattern Race Calendar cannot yet be published as some dates are missing. It was also essential to wait for this meeting in order to analyze applications for this season and publish also the upgraded races.

Some members express the wish to have on the main page of IFAHR's website the results of Pattern Races which look essential to them, and to have on a side page only the results of Domestic races.

Presentation of Arabian Racing in Russia

Igor Botchkarev makes a brief presentation of the Arabian Racing in Russia.

The Arabian races in Russia are progressing from year to year. There are 160 horses in training and 3 racetracks.

The racing season lasts from May until end of September.

There are no international races yet but they have received several sponsorships. This year they will present an application.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté states that for becoming a member of the Pattern race Committee, they must apply for a Group PA or Listed PA races and that there are no international races, it's either a Pattern Race (Group PA & Listed PA) or not.

Igor Botchkarev adds that there are 70-80 races per year among which 10 local Gr.1 races.

He hopes that there will be runners from Poland and Germany in order to have rating in Russia

Ryan Skelton and **Neil Abrahams** say that they had a couple of horses from Russia.

Neil Abrahams points out that the Russian handicapper will help. The President of the UAE Cup which will be run in August, will be an open race.

Presentation of Arabian Racing in Oman

Justin Blackburne reports that twelve meetings run from 20th October to 5th April. There will be approximately 85 races for Arabians and 25 for Thoroughbreds. So far this season, after 10 meetings, 243 different horses (PA) have run, compared to 210 which ran for 2010-11 season. Average stake is OR5700.

All racing now are conducted at Al Felajj race track (Dirt surface), approx. 1500m, has straight 1200m and a 1600m shute start. New Steriline starting gates (16 horses).

All place getters blood tested and also urine testing of winners.

Delayed video coverage from 6 cameras is available after racing.

Photo finish system now in operation producing race results with margins and individual times.

Rating system has been introduced this season for first time. All horses which raced 2010-11 were given a rating at start of 2011 season. This reviewed after each start. New horses are rated after three races or first win.

Currently Ratings in band 85-20

Now keeping 3YO's running against own age group.

Two races restricted to Local bred's programmed each day. (L/B's approx. 45% of PA population) Most races are programmed for specific rating bands.

Most Local bred horses in lowest band although the best local bred compete well against imported horses within their respective rating band. Weight spread is from 60-52kg although in practise only small number of jockeys can ride at less than 54kg.

Feature races run this season include (both OR7700):

- National Day Cup (L/B) 1600m SW- Age allowance
- Oman Derby (Open) 4&5YO 1600m SW-Age allowance

Plans have been prepared for construction of two new race tracks of an international standard. For 2012-13 season, major project will be upgrade of data base and operating system enabling creation of website for race results and public information.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté believes that it will be interesting to have open races for horses from abroad, to start to have a Listed PA in order to be able to obtain a Group PA status.

Neil Abrahams says that UAE and Qatar will come to support.

Justin Blackburne informs the members that the first UAE horse came last week to run in Oman.

10. Next meeting

Pattern Race & Handicapper Committee: October 5th at Saint-Cloud racecourse

Supervisory Committee: August 7th, 2012 in Deauville Race Course

Minutes taken by Izeta Selimanjin