

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ARABIAN HORSERACING AUTHORITIES



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Conclusion of the 12th Pattern Race & Handicapper Committee meeting:

Saturday 11th of December 2010 at France Galop at 11am

Invitation made by: Comte Jean-Pierre de Gasté c/o AFAC France

Participants: Comte Jean-Pierre de Gasté, France, Chairman

Neil Abrahams, Handicapper, U.A.E.

Kathy Smoke, President of the Arabian Jockey Club, USA

Tony Newman, ARO Racing Manager, Great Britain

Genny Haynes, ARO Board of Director, Great Britain

Paul Daverio, President of DRAV, Germany

Mustafa Akay, Jockey Club of Turkey

Omar Skalli, General Director of SOREC, Morocco

Krzysztof Wolski, Handicapper, Poland

Benoit Legault, Handicapper, France

Izeta Selimanjin, Director of AFAC, France

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CONVENING FOR THE 12th PATTERN RACE & HANDICAPPER COMMITTEE MEETING:

Saturday 11th of December 2010 at France Galop at 11am

A G E N D A

1. Conclusion of last Pattern Race and Handicapper Committee Meeting
2. Checking of publication of the Pattern Races on IFAHR's website by each member country
3. Finalisation of an establishment of a chart for alignment of handicap ratings between country members
4. Finalisation of the handicapper's website
5. Examination of applications for new Group PA races or for upgrading Group PA races
6. Review of Group PA races for the season 2009-2010 only for the countries not present in the previous meeting
7. Evaluation of Group PA races per country in 2009-2010 only for the countries not present in the previous meeting
8. Production of a Pattern Race Calendar for the season 2010-2011 and year 2011
9. Review of the list of Group PA races sent for publishing in the Yearbook 2010
10. Decision to take following the resignation of Geir Stabell from the QREC
11. Any other business
12. Next meeting

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

- List of 2010 handicap ratings
- Evaluation of the level of rating of all Group races in your country

Minutes of the 12th IFAHR Pattern Race and Handicapper Committee Meeting

1. Conclusion of last Pattern Race and Handicapper Committee Meeting

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

2. Checking of publication of the Pattern Races on IFAHR's website by each member country

Jean-Pierre de Gasté emphasizes the need for all member countries to check the accuracy of results of their races on IFAHR's website as the Pattern Race and Handicapper Committee wishes to have the most accurate database.

Neil Abrahams doesn't always see the use of having all kinds of content in the race results. He thinks that the results of all races are published and that the Pattern Races are not highlighted enough.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté agrees that these races should definitively be treated separately on IFAHR website.

Izeta Selimanjin explains that a list of Pattern races can be obtained with the utility search.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté says that the Committee has also created Listed races with a minimum of 15000€ in order to help countries to find sponsors and finances their races. The fact of being introduced to the Pattern Race system attracts sponsors. Once the first edition of the Listed race is ran, the Committee goes back to the rules → 3 consecutive years, same distance, same racecourse and according to the ratings the race can be upgraded to a Gr.3 PA.

It is important that the members, who have not read the rules, read it.

All participants of the meeting agreed that the Pattern Race Committee asks the Executive Board to have an own section for Pattern Races only in IFAHR's website.

3. Finalisation of an establishment of a chart for alignment of handicap ratings between country members

Jean-Pierre de Gasté explains the history of the issue for the alignment of the handicap ratings between countries. Since the beginning of IFAHR, there have been long discussions, nearly over 10 years, essentially around the question of finding a formula for alignment of handicap ratings for all horses allowing a correspondence between countries. However, every country has its own system which didn't allow to achieve that.

For the last 2 years, since the handicapper section has been added in the remit in the Committee, a new approach has been worked out to try to solve the problem of aligning ratings. Instead of trying to accommodate a system between every country, it has been thought to entrust to the handicappers, as it is for Thoroughbred horses, to do it on the ground, directly after every race. The handicappers will not only rate horses that have ran in their country but they will also be able to rate horses from other countries.

This new approach can be fulfilled with two requirements:

At first, a website: We could have asked Weatherbys to use their system but it would have been far too expensive. So decision has been taken to create our own website.

Second point: It would not be possible to ask all handicappers to interfere in other country's races. So a Supervisory Committee has been set up with the purpose of coordinating the ratings for every country. Members of the Supervisory Committee are the only ones who can access to the website.

The Supervisory Committee includes seven members: Six handicappers plus the chairman. Their appointment is not for their country but for themselves, in accordance with their international experience.

Tony Newman asks if handicappers from other countries which are not in the Supervisory Committee will be able to rate their own races.

Izeta Selimanjin answers that only the Supervisory Committee members will have access to the website. The other handicappers can always send their ratings to the Supervisory Committee members. A team work between handicappers is essential.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté insists that any new idea is more than welcome. It is only by sharing experience and ideas that the Pattern Race and Handicapper Committee will improve from years to years.

He also believes that 2 countries should be more involved: Turkey and USA.

Turkey has several Group PA races and Arabian racing is very strongly developed.

The Pattern Race and Handicapper Committee should also study how to integrate the USA in the system. In Thoroughbreds, Grade races and Group PA races are connected between Europe and USA. The Committee needs to think how to coordinate both Group Systems in Arabian.

Kathy Smoke highlights that every state and every racecourse in USA have their own handicappers.

Neil Abrahams adds that there are only 16 Grade races to consider for next year. Horses like Theoretically gives an idea of the quality of the horses in USA.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté says that the aim is that any horse coming from a country should be well valued in the race that he will be entered. For instance a Group 3 PA winner in Scandinavia should be able to win a Group 3 PA in France.

Toni Newman mentions that horses are moving from one country to another. She asks if the website will be open to public.

Jean-Pierre de Gaste answers that a list of ratings can be publish every 3 months. The Pattern Race and Handicapper Committee is trying to copy the Thoroughbred system which is working perfectly and the aim is to benefit from their experience.

Neil Abrahams points out that if the website is open to public, every trainer and owner will call the handicappers.

He asks if the Committee has to decide for Geir STABELL's replacement during this meeting or if this question can be discussed in the next meeting in Doha as Ryan Skelton came back to Qatar recently.

Jean Pierre de Gaste believes that it would certainly be better to postpone this item especially as Pamela Cordrey, Harald Siemen and Graham Walcroft are absent. His replacement will be proceeded accordingly to the rules.

4. Finalisation of the handicapper's website

Izeta Selimanjin shows to the participants a video demonstration of the website including every step that the handicappers will use to rate horses as well as horse profile.

She also has distributed the list of all horses that have ran in Group PA or Listed PA races with the different values received from the handicappers.

She explains that the website will need an administrator.

Neil Abrahams answers that he thinks that she is already holding this function as she worked on the creation of the website and is managing it from the very beginning.

Izeta Selimanjin says that the decision should be taken by all members of the Supervisory Committee and that this matter can be postponed to the next meeting. She will send a query to the members of the Supervisory Committee for integrating their usernames and passwords to the website so they can have a personalized and full access to it.

5. Examination of applications for new Group PA races or for upgrading Group PA races

Morocco- Application for a Group 3 PA race for 4yo + : Grand Prix de SAR Le Prince Héritier Moulay El Hassan

Omar Skalli gives an overview of the race: the prizemoney was 45000 €, the race is run the same day as the other Group 3 PA race. This year it will be on May 6th, 2011, the prizemoney will be 55000 €, the distance is 1800m, the weight is 57 kg.

The ratings of the 3 previous editions of this race were presented and are as follow:

2010 : 100.25

2009 : 100.75

2008 : 101.25

Jean-Pierre de Gaste says that according to the rules, the standard of the race in Morocco is matching the status of Group 3 PA only if it would be run for the fillies and mares. But, on his personal view he believes that the Committee needs to be fair. In the previous meetings, the Committee has decided to allow some countries a certain margin to adapt and to give them one extra year to reach a higher level.

Considering the fact that the race will have a higher prizemoney, he would be logic to expect that it would reach a level of 105 in 2011, although he wouldn't want to keep this line of conduct for longer than one year. So this race will have to reach the standard of 105 in 2011 in order to keep such Group 3 PA status.

He is therefore asking the other participants to express their opinion regarding this application though he is precising that the Committee has already been quite open

Neil Abrahams says that UAE is supporting it.

Krzysztof Wolski mentions that Morocco has a lot of Arabian horses and races. He thinks that this race is really good and that Morocco should have more Group PA races then today. From this point of view, Poland is favorable to their query. He also asks that the results should be published on their website as in 2010 they only have received the results by fax or telephone.

Paul Daverio approves completely the application and he thinks that it will give them stimulation to have another Group 3 PA race.

Benoit Legault is accepting the Group 3 PA status as the ratings are not yet harmonized.

Toni Newman mentions also that she is an observer but in the view of the facts (prizemoney and the quality of horses), she is personally in favour for it.

The Pattern race & Handicapper Committee approves unanimously the status of Group 3 PA for Le Grand Prix de SAR Le Prince Héritier Moulay El Hassan

6. Review of Group PA races for the season 2009-2010 only for the countries not present in the previous meeting and 7. Evaluation of Group PA races per country in 2009-2010 only for the countries not present in the previous meeting

Krzysztof Wolski distributes the documents for the race Nagroda Europa. They have 2 horses rated above 100.

He informs the participants that they are 223 Arabian races throughout the year on 4 different racetracks. More statistics can be found on their website : www.pkwk.pl

8. Production of a Pattern Race Calendar for the season 2010-2011 and year 2011. Review of the list of Group PA races sent for publishing in the Yearbook 2010

Paul Daverio says that they would like The President Cup race to be held in Munich and asks the Committee if this is possible according the rules.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté answers that he has no problem with that as long the race has the same conditions, same distance, same sex and same surface. It is indeed in a different racecourse, but the goal of the Committee is to help and professionalize Arabian racing and not to block it. He points out however that the race needs to keep its rating up to the rules, and idea to change the distance of the race has been brought up with Harald Siemens in the previous meeting, in order to help the race to maintain its level of rating.

11. Any other business

Jean Pierre de Gaste points out the idea of publishing an Arabian Pattern Race Book. All participants agree with that idea.

Izeta Selimanjin will gather information about the dates and the creation of a Pattern Race Book.

Toni Newman suggests to make also a pdf file and to publish it on IFAHR's website.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté asks the participants to not hesitate to come up with news ideas in order to improve constantly the work of the Pattern Race & Handicapper Committee.

Kathy Smoke thanks the Committee for the invitation to this meeting. She informs the participants that the Graded Stakes Committee in USA will have a meeting this month. They will review all the races and produce a calendar by the end of January.

Neil Abrahams is proposing to include a dinner or a lunch after each meeting of the Committee instead of just seeing each other briefly. The aim is to make it more formal.

Izeta Selimanjin suggests that the Committee could do that, for instance, in Newbury and **Toni Newman** answered that it shouldn't be a problem to organize that.

12. Next meeting

February 2010 in Doha during the international week

Minutes taken by Izeta Selimanjin