



THE 20TH PATTERN RACE & HANDICAPPER COMMITTEE MEETING

Saturday 4th October 2014 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Paris

Attendees:

Graham Walcroft, Chairman & member of the Supervisory Committee, Great Britain
Pam Cordrey, vice-Chairman & member of the Supervisory Committee & handicapper, Scandinavia
Ryan Skelton, member of the Supervisory Committee & handicapper, Qatar
Benoit Legault, member of the Supervisory Committee & handicapper, France
Neil Abrahams, member of the Supervisory Committee & handicapper, UAE
Harald Siemen, member of the Supervisory Committee & handicapper, Germany
Kathy Smoke, President of the Arabian Jockey Club, USA
Nils Rosenkjaer, VP of the Scandinavian Arabian Racing Association
Hicham Debbagh, Racing Director of SOREC, Morocco
Amanda Smith, Racing Manager of ARO, Great Britain
Véronique Briat, AFAC, France
Nelly Philippot, IFAHR Member, Belgium
William De Waeschalck, Observer, Belgium
Almir Ribevio, Observer, Brazil
Dr Paul-Jean Daverio, President of DRAV, Germany
Pr. Nouredine Ben Chehida, President of Societe des Courses Hippiques, Tunisia
Samir Kooli, General Secretary of the Owner & Breeder Association, Tunisia
Urs & Franciska Aeschbacher, President of SZAP, Switzerland
Shery Amia Aslani, Observer, Iran
Georgina Tomkins, Administrator of the PRC website, Great Britain

Agenda

1. Minutes of last meeting
2. Matters Arising
3. Arabian Pattern Race Rules
4. 2015 Pattern Race Calendar
5. Three year Annual Race Ratings & International Classifications
6. American Ratings
7. Pattern Race & Handicapper Committee's Website
8. Application for Changes to the Pattern
9. Any other business
10. Date of next meeting

MINUTES OF THE 20TH IFAHR PATTERN RACE & HANDICAPPER COMMITTEE MEETING

Copies of the Agenda, the 19th IFAHR Pattern Race and Handicapper Committee Meeting minutes were distributed to members as required before the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Minutes of last Pattern Race and Handicapper Committee meeting

The Chairman invited comments on the minutes of the last Pattern Race & Handicapper Committee meeting, held in Doha in February.

The minutes were approved by all members and were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

2. Matters Arising

i. Annual 3 year ratings

The Chairman confirmed that these had been circulated to each country after the last meeting. He asked for comments on these and with the exception of Nils Rosenkjaer, who did not seem to have received a copy, there was no comment. Georgina Tomkins agreed to email Nils another copy of the ratings for his country.

The Chairman confirmed that no formal action had been taken in 2014 against any races that didn't comply with the standard set out in the Rules, due to the fact that, in some cases the 2011 figures may not be that reliable. A more formal approach will be adopted in future.

3. Arabian Pattern Race Rules

The Chairman confirmed that a number of possible changes to the Rules had been discussed, however, the decision was taken not to make any changes at this stage, so none were put forward to the Executive Committee.

4. 2015 Pattern Race Calendar

The Chairman explained that currently the structure of the Pattern is wrong, as it is currently too top heavy with Group 1s. Ideally there should be more Group 3s than the combined total of Group 1 and 2 races, which is clearly not the case. In view of this situation, it was explained countries should consider this when applying for Group race status, as Group 3 applications would be looked on more favourably. Downgrading races may help achieve a better balance.

Kathy Smoke asked how much emphasis was put on prize money when considering Group status; was this a high priority, or were other criteria more important. The Chairman explained that the rating was of greater importance and that prize money was not necessarily a factor, although the minimum set for a Listed race was 15,000. Currently the only parameter set for upgrading or downgrading a race was based on the average rating over 3 years. Harald Siemen questioned whether there should be a minimum prize money requirement for Group races, as in Thoroughbred racing. It was suggested that the current prize money levels of Group races should be considered, which was agreed. This will be discussed at the November Supervisory Committee meeting. This led to a discussion about the current 15,000 minimum prize money set for Listed races, which some countries felt was already quite high. The Chairman asked if any countries run Group 3 races for this amount, which was confirmed by the UK and Sweden. It was then proposed that the level for Listed races be decreased to 10,000, with 15,000 for a Group 3, or preferably 15,000 for either a Group 3 or Listed race, rather than dropping the Listed race prize money. Neil Abrahams proposed to leave levels as they are, however, new Group races must comply with the

higher amount. The Chairman stated that it could be unwise to lower the Listed race prize money, however, this matter would be considered at the November meeting. He assured members that this wouldn't be amended if it was likely to prove too controversial.

The Chairman thanked everyone for helping with the Calendar for the current year especially as it was a period of transition. The 2014-2015 UAE & Qatar Calendar is now being compiled by Georgina Tomkins, with details to be published on the website in due course.

Each country will be contacted shortly in order for the 2015 Pattern Race Calendar to be compiled. This information will need to be completed and returned by late January if possible, so the calendar can be published on the website prior to the February meeting in Doha.

5. Three year Annual Race Ratings & International Classifications

The Chairman explained that the 2011 ratings were not necessarily reliable due to a distortion in the ratings in some cases. After the November meeting, which will give more solid information going forward, countries not complying with the rating criteria for races will be written to and some races may be subject to downgrading. All countries will be notified of the ratings once the 2014 figures have been confirmed. Pam Cordrey stated that it should become obvious to each country what status their races should be and should downgrade them if necessary.

6. American Ratings

The Chairman reported that he and PC had taken a look at the 2013 races. He stated that 22 horses may be rated 100 **or over**, with 5 horses 110 or over, who may have been eligible to be included in the Classification list. However, he felt it would not be possible to follow the 2lb per length guideline. The Chairman stated that if they were part of the Pattern, some American Graded races would not be equivalent to Group races in Europe.

Amanda Smith questioned the fact that they currently apply the Group penalty for Graded wins to US horses that race in the UK. However, it was felt that these penalties should continue to apply.

Kathy Smoke stated that the Americans would not accept their races being part of the IFAHR system, although she would like to get one race added as an initial goal. The Chairman stated that he thought the original intention had been to get the American races incorporated into the Pattern. It was decided that it would be advisable to aim to get one race into the IFAHR Pattern. GW and PC will look at this year's races and will send the current work to Kathy Smoke. The subject remained an ongoing project.

7. Pattern Race & Handicapper Committee Website

Georgina Tomkins confirmed that this year's races have been published and are up to date. The UAE & Qatar Pattern Races will be added to the website shortly; currently awaiting UAE Pattern races.

GT requested feedback from committee members, in case there had been any problems. The only concerns raised were related to the public IFAHR website, which was difficult to access, with some information out of date. This feedback has been passed to the relevant IFAHR members.

8. Applications for Changes to the Pattern

The Chairman explained that any applications to upgrade races would need to be deferred until after the November meeting, when this year's ratings will be finalised. The relevant countries will then be written to inform them whether their application was successful.

The Chairman confirmed the following applications were approved:

- i. AFAC application to change the Doha Cup conditions from 4 & 5 to 4 & up;
- ii. Morocco application to change the date of the meeting from May till November 2015;
- iii. UK applications to change the date of the Arabian Derby and Dubai Day meeting to July;
- iv. Tunisia's application to upgrade the Grand Prix de Carthage to a Group 3 was approved. However, this will be assessed next year and will need to conform to the Rules. The Tunisian representatives confirmed they do have a handicapper, who will attend in future.

The UK application to change the date of the Hawthorn Hill Group 1 to May will be deferred for the time being.

9. Any other business

Amanda Smith asked if there was a way of standardising win penalties. The Chairman confirmed this had been considered as a Rule change, however, it was decided against this move at present as the subject seemed too problematical.

10. Date of Next meeting

This was confirmed as February in Doha.

Georgina Tomkins
8th October 2014