

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ARABIAN HORSERACING AUTHORITIES



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Conclusion of the 13th Pattern Race & Handicapper Committee meeting:

Tuesday 9th of August 2011 at Deauville racecourse at 5.30pm

Invitation made by: Jean-Pierre de Gasté, Chairman

Participants:

- Jean-Pierre de Gasté, France, Chairman
- Neil Abrahams, Handicapper, U.A.E.
- Pam Cordrey, Handicapper, Scandinavia
- Harald Siemen, Handicapper, Germany
- Graham Walcroft, Handicapper, Great Britain
- Gérald Sauques, Handicapper, France
- Benoit Legault, Handicapper, France
- Izeta Selimanjin, Administrator of the website, France

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CONVENING FOR THE 13th PATTERN RACE & HANDICAPPER COMMITTEE MEETING:

Tuesday 9th of August 2011 at 5.30pm, Deauville racecourse

A G E N D A

1. Conclusion of last Pattern Race and Handicapper Committee Meeting
2. Checking of Pattern Races published on IFAHR's website by each member country
3. Assessment of the use of the handicapper website
4. Examination of applications for new Pattern races or for upgrading Group PA races
5. Proposition to improve the Pattern Race Calendar 2011-2012
6. Decision to take following the resignation of Geir Stabell from the QREC
7. Any other business
8. Next meeting

Documents to provide for the meeting by each country member in at least 10 copies :

- List of 2011 handicap ratings (first semester)

Minutes of the 13th 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 all the members.

3. Assessment of the use of the handicapper website

Jean-Pierre de Gasté says that a big step forward was made with the creation of the website and that the aim is to constantly improve it.

Harald Siemen thinks that everyone should enter their ratings more regularly. There is a lot to do regarding the final harmonization of ratings before it works well, especially as the level of rating is so different between countries. He suggests that handicappers could agree on the rating of the best horse in the Pattern Race system and then measure the ability of the other horses from here down.

He mentions also that the "Scale Of Weights For Age" should be harmonized, as countries are using it differently.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté explains that the website has been created exactly for this purpose and that this meeting should initiate all the necessary decisions in order to achieve this goal.

He agrees completely on the idea that we should start from defining a horse that could be considered by all handicappers as a top weight and then to adopt it on the website and rate all horses according to this top rating.

Graham Walcroft mentions that it is more difficult for Arabian racing as horses run on such different distances

Harald Siemen suggests that he would use the following "Weight for Age":

For 3yo to 4yo: 4kg

For 4yo to 5yo: 2 kg

Therefore for 3yo to 5yo it would be 6kg

But he doesn't know if this is correct.

Pam Cordrey states that if a country decides to use a Weight for Age scale of, say, 3kg where only 2kg applies in other countries, this 1kg difference should be calculated into the race ratings. But firstly a harmonized scale would have to be agreed upon.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté points out that it would be very important for Arabian racing that all the countries use the same scale. He believes, however, that 3yos should definitively have a different weight than 4yos as well as 4yos from 5yos.

Graham Walcroft has a scale but he works from month to month.

Harald Siemen asks if there is any basic scale published. If not, we should try to create a common scale.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté proposes to work on this matter in order to have it ready for the next meeting. Until then, everyone should exchange their countries scale which is in present use, and evaluate the difference between the countries.

Graham Walcroft asks to whom they should send the scale.

Izeta Selimanjin suggests that the scale should not be sent only to her but to all members of the Supervisory Committee so that everyone could have a global overview of the different scales.

Harald Siemen wonders if there should be a difference for distance.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté considers that it would be too complicated to apply for that. Furthermore, shall they also make a difference for each period of the year as there are races in Middle East.

Neil Abrahams believes that the Committee could request from each IFAHR member country their current scale, in order that everyone can examine them.

Harald Siemen asks if they should continue to rate the horses as before, until the next meeting.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté answers that they should continue as before until we have had the opportunity to define a correct figure for the top rating.

He highlights the fact that this year a lot of horses raced in different countries, which will enable the handicappers to have an overall view as to harmonizing the ratings. For instance, horses from Germany and France have run in Poland; Scandinavian horses also raced in the UK with very good results, and so on.

Graham Walcroft says that the best would be to apply the new Scale of Weight for Age after the “Arc” races.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté insists that, in order to achieve our goal, the website needs to be completed by every handicapper of the Supervisory Committee, with all the ratings. For the next meeting, it is essential that every race is filled in, at least for the first four horses.

Pam Cordrey adds that the “pre” and “post” ratings must also be completed. She noted that in some races the race ratings were filled in, but not the pre and post ratings.

Graham Walcroft says that the host country must fill in their races (pre-rating, post-ratings and ratings) as they know their horse’s best races.

Harald Siemen judges that the main differences will remain the “weight for age” and mentions that every handicapper should go through all races.

Graham Walcroft asks how many 3yos are running against 4 and 5yos.

According to all members, there are very few 3yos running against 4 and 5yos.

Izeta Selimanjin mentions the rating list currently published on the website. This list contains the best “All Time” rating but not the annual rating. She would like to know what kind of list the handicappers need the most. All members agreed to have a best annual rating list as well as an alphabetic list.

Gérald Sauques suggests having also a column of the rating per year and also the country of training.

Izeta Selimanjin will make the request to the webmaster for the column of the rating per year but she thinks that the inclusion of the country of training will be too complicated. Indeed, such data would be very hard to update as no information regarding exportation is circulating through IFAHR.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté also mentions that some horses can change country of training 3 times throughout the year, so it is very difficult to record this.

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

Jean-Pierre de Gasté mentions that there are still some mistakes that could be improved.

Izeta Selimanjin has made an overall view of IFAHR’s website and has found that UAE Pattern races are not published as Group races.

Neil Abrahams will contact Hanneke Brand to ask her how to insert the Group status to the races.

Furthermore, she finds that it is quite confusing to see on the website Group 1 local races (Tunisia, Russia, Turkey, Iraq, Azerbaijan etc).

Neil Abrahams and **Jean-Pierre de Gasté** suggest to have the Pattern Races on a specific page and to make two separate lists on IFAHR’s website: Pattern races and Domestic races without mixing it.

Harald Siemen believes that some non-Pattern Races are sometime producing better ratings than Group PA races.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté strongly advises countries that have a non-Pattern Race with the criteria of a Pattern Race to apply for it. The goal of the Pattern Race & Handicapper Committee is to try to help countries, and the committee wants to allow each member country to be able to apply for Group PA races

Izeta Selimanjin mentions also that IFAHR's website contains a section "Listed races" that shouldn't exist, where currently two Group 3 race in USA are listed. Furthermore, "Listed races" are fully in the Pattern race system.

On the another hand, sometimes the status of a race appears twice in the title of the race, such as Prix Tidjani Group III (Group 3 PA) and Grand Prix de sa Majeste Le Roi Mohammed VI Group III (Group 3 PA)

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

France has sent 1 application

AFAC has sent to the Pattern Race & Handicapper Committee an application for upgrading the status of the four Breeders' Challenge races to Listed PA races.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté explains to the members that since 2008 the QREC was sponsoring those 4 Group 1 PA races during the Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe's weekend. Starting 2011, the QREC does not wish to be involved any longer with the Breeders' Challenge system but is willing to continue sponsoring the 4 Group PA races.

Therefore, AFAC has decided to create 4 new races in Toulouse that will be run end of October, with a prize money of 45.000 € per race. These races will continue to apply the Breeders' Challenge system.

After consulting all the members, the Committee agrees to upgrade the status of these races to Listed PA and according to the rules, after 3 years, AFAC will be able to apply for Group PA status of the criteria each race proves to be.

5. Proposition to improve the Pattern Race Calendar 2011-2012

Jean-Pierre de Gasté would like to publish a Pattern Race Calendar by end of October for all races in Europe.

Graham Walcroft thinks that it will be difficult to obtain a calendar at that time from the racecourses in UK.

Pam Cordrey adds that in Scandinavia the dates are not usually approved until mid-November.

Izeta Selimanjin says that this will only be a provisional calendar which will be updated regularly.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté suggests also that the date of entries should be added to the calendar in order to avoid some situations that happened this year where the dates of entries were published 2 days before the deadline and he believes that this information will be very helpful for the trainers.

All members agree.

Pam Cordrey points out that the distances of the races in the calendar are too similar. There appears to be a lot of 2000m Pattern races at the same time of the season. Perhaps this issue needs addressing.

Harald Siemen also highlights that there are some races with only £5000

Jean-Pierre de Gasté does not feel there is a reason to take it off and reminds that the aim of the Committee is to assist every country, and that sometimes keeping a Group 2 PA status can also help the host country to find sponsors.

6. Decision to take following the resignation of Geir Stabell from the QREC

Jean-Pierre de Gasté informs the members that he received an application from Ryan Skelton to be considered as a member of the Supervisory Committee.

Ryan Skelton thought that Jean-Pierre de Gasté was aware that he was the handicapper in Qatar since November 2010. But the Pattern race Committee was never officially informed of this, neither by Ryan Skelton nor the QREC.

Izeta Selimanjin says that she is surprised that Ryan Skelton has not received the minutes of the last meeting in December in Paris as the minutes were sent to all IFAHR's members.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté points out that the members of the Supervisory Committee are not nominated as per their country, but as per their experience. He asks if all members agree to elect Ryan Skelton in the Supervisory Committee.

All members accepted unanimously.

7. Any other business

Arabian Pattern Race Rules

Izeta Selimanjin thinks that the Pattern Race Rules should be more highlighted on IFAHR's website. It's hard to find them when searched for.

Pre and post-rating in the website

She suggests to the members of the Supervisory Committee to identify among them the person in charge of the pre-rating and post-rating of the Pattern Races which are not run in their country.

It was agreed that Harald Siemen will be in charge of pre-rating and post-rating of the races in Netherlands, Pamela Cordrey of Poland, Benoit Legault of Morocco and Graham Walcroft of Turkey.

Correct names of the horse

Izeta Selimanjin mentions that sometimes in the database of the Pattern Race & Handicapper's website there are 2 names for the same horse (example JAAFER in UK and JAAFER ASF in France), therefore there are two different ratings. It was agreed that names will be used without their suffix, and therefore, the name JAAFER without ASF will be used.

Pamela Cordrey mentions that she has noticed Gharraa(IQ) was also entered as two horses.

Izeta Selimanjin will review all the names currently published in the rating list.

8. Next meeting

September 30th at Saint-Cloud racecourse after the last race

Minutes taken by Izeta Selimanjin