

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ARABIAN HORSERACING AUTHORITIES



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Minutes of the 16th Pattern Race & Handicapper Committee meeting:

Friday 5th of October 2012 at Saint-Cloud, 4pm

Invitation made by: Jean-Pierre de Gasté, Chairman

Participants: Jean-Pierre de Gasté, France, Chairman
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
Graham Walcroft, Handicapper, Great Britain
Kathy Smoke, President of the Arabian Jockey Club, USA
Susan Meyer, Vice President of the Arabian Jockey Club, USA
Paul Daverio, President of DRAV, Germany
Nils Rosenkjaer, VP of the Scandinavian Arabian Racing Association
Nelly Philippot, Chairwoman of AHRCB, Belgium
Hicham Debbagh, Racing Director of SOREC, Morocco
Véronique Briat, Director of AFAC, France
Ali A Aneizi, LAHBS, Lybia
Izeta Selimanjin, Administrator of the website, France

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CONVENING FOR THE 16th PATTERN RACE & HANDICAPPER COMMITTEE MEETING:

Friday 5th of October 2012 at Saint-Cloud, after the races, 4pm

A G E N D A

1. Conclusion of last Pattern Race and Handicapper Committee Meeting
2. International classifications of Purebred Arabians
3. The Pattern Race & Handicapper Committee's website
4. Global communication for the International classifications
5. Respect of Pattern Races Rules
6. Examination of applications for new Pattern races or for upgrading Group PA races or for other requests
7. Integration of the American Arabian Jockey Club system within the Arabian Pattern race system
8. Deadline for the publication of the 2013 Pattern Race calendar
9. Any other business
10. Next meeting

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

- Provisional racing calendar for 2013 in your country

Jean-Pierre de Gasté

Minutes of the 16th IFAHR Pattern Race and Handicapper Committee Meeting

The chairman thanked the representatives of all countries for attending the meeting.

1. Conclusion of last Pattern Race and Handicapper Committee Meeting

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

2. International classifications of Purebred Arabians

The meeting of the Supervisory Committee held in Newbury on September 23rd, 2012 has enabled the handicappers to rate all runners of the Qatar Arabian World Cup. With 24 entered horses, four horses had to be eliminated.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté explains this is the first time that we are able to proceed by ratings for eliminations of horses in a major Arabian race. Previously, we had to proceed by earnings for such eliminations.

Benoit Legault handed the final sheet of the Qatar Arabian World Cup declared runners: AL TAUR has declared forfeit, AZIZI was not declared runner, MKEEFA was supplemented, and therefore the horses DIVAMER, MUNAHIS and BRAHIM are eliminated by ratings.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté emphasizes that this is a major step towards professionalism of Arabian racing.

3. The Pattern Race & Handicapper Committee's website

Jean-Pierre de Gasté reminds members that a public section gathering all information related to Pattern Races has been added in April to the Pattern Race & Handicapper's website.

Izeta Selimanjin informs members that a link to the Pattern Race results published on IFAHR's website was added in this public section. This was possible thanks to the help of Mats Genberg to highlight the Pattern Races on IFAHR's website homepage.

4. Global communication for the International classifications

Jean-Pierre de Gasté asks the representative of every country to dispatch this information about the website to all their members. Indeed, the more persons who know and understand the Arabian Pattern Race system, the more our discipline will have recognition.

It is essential that the International Classification and Pattern Race calendars are forwarded to all trainers, owners and breeders for Arabians.

5. Respect of Pattern Races Rules

Jean-Pierre de Gasté emphasizes how important it is for the long term recognition of the Pattern Race System to respect its rules; in order to avoid a trivialization of our action. If the Committee is very strict with some countries, it is for the good of the whole system. He highlights several major points for which rigor is crucial for the strength of the Pattern Race system :

1) Change of date

An international program has been built up between different countries. The aim of our Supervisory Committee is to try to keep the cohesion of this program and to avoid races colliding between each other within neighbor countries. When a country wishes to change a date there are two steps to be respected:

a) Refer to the Pattern Race Committee

b) The Pattern Race Committee cannot automatically accept every application. The aim is to maintain a harmonized Pattern Race calendar. Nevertheless, there can be some exceptions as was the case for the Newbury meeting this year due to the Olympic Games, but the Committee has expressed in Doha that it was only for 2012. Even though ARO asked if they could renew it, the Committee answered that it will not be accepted unless there is a very strong reason, as this meeting held at the end of September is too close to the four Gr.1 PA races of the Arc's weekend. If it is only a question of changing a date for a week, of course the Committee can consider it.

2) Respect of the weight for age

Several countries have not looked at carefully at the weight for age scale. The Committee had to correct the conditions of some races.

3) Cancellation of a race

There was a case of a race cancellation and the Pattern Race Committee was not informed about it. If some trainers are working on a specific program for a horse, our calendars must be the most accurate possible. It is also important for our credibility to publish correct Pattern Races calendars.

4) Official results

Every federation must send its official results of their Pattern Races directly to Izeta so she can update the handicappers' website as soon as possible, to avoid results of some races not being published on IFAHR's website or that they are not complete.

Pam Cordrey asks Graham Walcroft about the Dubai day meeting.

Graham Walcroft answers that nothing has been decided. He explains that in 2013, it will not be possible to hold it on the same weekend anyway as there will be the Newbury Show. He also highlights that the change of date in 2012 was due not only to the Olympic Games but also because of Ramadan.

Kathy Smoke notes that they have the same problem in USA in Delaware and Colorado.

Sometimes the racecourses have no choice than to change the date of the race.

Mats Genberg says that it is mainly an issue for Gr.1 PA races.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté adds that Arabian racing is still not a strong discipline and therefore any collision of Group PA races, especially Group 1 PA races should be avoided. He remembers the case of the Breeders' Cup Sprint in Longchamp with the Breeders' Cup Classic in 2007 where only three horses ran.

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

FRANCE :

DERBY DES 4 ANS – application for Listed PA status

On June 19th, 2012 in Chantilly racecourse - for 4yos only run, over 2000m, €150 000

Al Shahania Stud has sponsored a race, €150 000 worth, in Chantilly in 2012. Last February, France Galop wanted to apply for a Group 1 PA status for this race but Jean-Pierre de Gasté reminded them that it could not be accepted by the Pattern Races Supervisory Committee according to its Rules.

The Pattern Race Committee has received an application from Al Shahania Stud.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté confirms that the Listed PA status has been created for such cases. It is not the equivalent of the Thoroughbred Listed races; they are not based on rating but on sponsoring and prizemoney.

Neil Abrahams and **Ryan Skelton** wonder if this application should have come from AFAC.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté answers that it was asked by France Galop.

Izeta Selimanjin reminds that France Galop has become a member of IFAHR in October 2011.

The members of the Committee agree unanimously for upgrading the status of the the Derby des 4 ans to Listed PA status.

Prix Carthage-Hannibal – change of date

On June 23rd, 2013 at Toulouse

Jean-Pierre de Gasté informs the members that the Supervisory Committee has discussed this topic during their meeting in Newbury.

The Supervisory Committee understands the need of a change of date when it comes to a major event such as Olympic Games, but in this situation, this race will enter in collision with a Gr.1 PA, The President of the UAE Cup – Coupe d'Europe des Chevaux Arabes, run under exactly the same conditions.

Mats Genberg says that if they want to have another race, it can be a Listed PA race

Neil Abrahams replies that a new race can have directly a Listed PA status.

Graham Walcroft confirms that the minimum prize money for a Listed PA must be €15 000 according to the Arabian Pattern Race rules.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté adds that it would be still subject to approval of the Supervisory Committee

Jean-Pierre de Gasté and **Neil Abrahams** think that a 3yo race would suit perfectly.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté confirms that the best solution would not be to replace the race but to create an additional one.

Nils Rosenkjaer suggests that the organisers of the Global Conference should create a race that would follow the event.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté says that it is not the responsibility of the Pattern Race Committee to ask for it.

Nely Philippot adds that instead of adapting the race to the conference, the conference should adapt itself to the race calendar.

Paul Daverio explains that it is exactly what they have done this year in Berlin. They had 2 races, one Listed PA.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté asks the members if anyone is abstaining from the vote.

No abstention.

All members agree unanimously to refuse to move the Prix Carthage-Hannibal from April 2013 to June 2013

Mats Genberg mentions that upgrading races depends on their final ratings at the end of the year.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté replies that if there are no meetings of the Pattern Race Committee, the Supervisory Committee cannot take the decision itself in December. When there is a wish to upgrade a race, member countries should understand that they should apply a year before.

Graham Walcroft thinks that there is a problem of timing. He mentions that ARO wish to upgrade number of races for next year.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté asks why they didn't send an application and that they should do it before November.

Izeta Selimanjin adds that all members know the timing of the Pattern Race Committee meetings, it's either October or February.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté believes that it is very important that countries such France, Great Britain, UAE and Qatar are showing the right examples to other countries.

Graham Walcroft says that a balance should be found and that the Committee should be sometimes flexible.

Izeta Selimanjin notes that this is the 15th Pattern Race Committee meeting and countries should know by now this procedure.

Nelly Philippot asks if the Committee could give the approval to the Supervisory Committee to examine the application in November during their meeting in Ascot.

Neil Abrahams recommends adopting the final applications in November but for next year the meeting in Saint-Cloud would be the last deadline for future applications.

Ryan Skelton says that the Supervisory Committee needs the approval of the Committee and unless the races don't match the criteria, it will be accepted.

Mats Genberg wonders what if a country has a race in October after Saint-Cloud's meeting.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté replies that it will wait the next year.

He asks the Committee if it agrees to give the approval to the Supervisory Committee for treating any application.

All members of the Committee agree unanimously.

It is decided that the Committee will send an email to all Federation members to inform them that they can apply for upgrading a race before November 15th 2012.

7. Integration of the American Arabian Jockey Club system within the Arabian Pattern race system

Jean-Pierre de Gasté informs members that it will take time to integrate the USA graded stakes to the Pattern Race system, but that the Committee has to start from somewhere. He explains that Izeta Selimanjin has created a database of all USA Graded stakes results and that a speed figure for all horses has been found on Equibase's website.

He reads the Speed figure definition:

"The speed figures tell you how fast a horse has been running in its past races with a single number. Its sophisticated algorithms are based on the horse's actual time in combination with other factors, such as the condition of the track. A horse running in stakes company might earn a 90 speed figure, while a horse running in a claiming race might earn a 60. The Equibase® Speed Figure has been equalized for different tracks, distances and conditions, therefore an 80 at Laurel Race Course is the same as an 80 at Philadelphia Park."

He adds that this figure is not based only on speed and that it is very close to the Beyer's figures based on many other elements. It does not replace the work of handicapper, but it can help them. The aim is to gather the maximum of information.

Regarding the American horses that have ran in USA and in Europe or Middle East, for the moment the horse TM Fred Texas has a speed figure of 120 and has a rating in our Pattern race system of 125.

Kathy Smoke believes that the speed figure is speed. She takes the example of the horse Grilla (USA), its trainer aims top speed, TM Fred Texas will beat Grilla but will have less speed.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté answers that he is not recommending using only the speed figure. The aim is to start the whole process and to push some directions to start from some where, as there is no handicapper in the States who is following the results of all race tracks.

He explains that he is planning to have a meeting together with Kathy Smoke with Equibase in November, to inform them of what we are looking for and to see if they could help us. He doesn't expect that an integration of USA Graded Stakes could be finalized for next year, as the aim is to be the most accurate possible. This integration needs to be worked out and tested.

Mats Genberg sees by the chart that there are 12 races only.

Izeta Selimanjin says that there are 19 Graded stakes in total but to date only 12 graded stakes were run.

Mats Genberg wonders if it would be possible for the handicappers to watch these races on video, would that help them.

Kathy Smoke asks how Thoroughbreds establish their ratings

Jean-Pierre de Gasté replies that they have international handicappers

Neil Abrahams points out that they don't handicap all horses; there is a small Committee that does it

Jean-Pierre de Gasté believes that they would need to form a similar Committee in the States

Neil Abrahams adds that a racing secretary wouldn't be in the Committee

Ryan Skelton says that the USA is represented in the International Thoroughbred rankings

Pam Cordrey suggests giving the contact details of Franck Gabriel to Kathy Smoke

Mats Genberg says that the Thoroughbreds don't have the same harmonization

Jean-Pierre de Gasté answers that they do have an international handicapping system in the States.

Kathy Smoke and **Susan Meyer** agrees that it would be good to find a handicapper in USA

It was agreed that it would be of great help to have the full results of 2011 USA graded stakes as well as the list of exported USA horses in Europe, UAE and Qatar.

Izeta Selimanjin suggests gathering all 2011 Graded Stakes results and making the list of all American horses entered in the Pattern Race & Handicapper Committee website.

8. Deadline for the publication of the 2013 Pattern Race calendar

Mats Genberg mentions that the Thoroughbreds are publishing their calendar in January.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté explains that for publishing the calendar in January, the Committee would need to have all countries calendars by December 15th.

9. Any other business

Mats Genberg expresses that publishing the first World Arabian Ranking is a huge step forward for Arabian racing. He suggests having a more professional press release for this year.

Izeta Selimanjin answers that the first press release was sent to all federation and Arabian magazines. All major racing magazines including some Thoroughbred magazines have published an article about it.

She adds that the first step for improving the communication would be to update all contact information of all federations on IFAHR's website as half of the emails are incorrect. The aim of the Committee is to be efficient and professional, technically wise. The goal of the Pattern Race Committee communication is to inform all trainers, owners and breeders through their federations. Regarding the "people" communication, she considers that this is not her job and she leaves it to whoever wants to do it. Moreover, she thinks that it would be of higher importance to present the work of the handicappers as she believes that most of the racing world doesn't have a clue of what their work consists of. She reminds everyone that all her work is volunteer work and believes that a lot of work has been done in the last two or three years in the Pattern Race & Handicapper Committee.

Mats Genberg answers that he has presented a diploma to HE Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum for No Risk Al Maury, elected best horse of the year, in Dubai last March and that HE Sheikh Hamdan was not even aware that he was the owner of the best arabian horse in the world.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté expresses that he would have wished that the Committee was informed about this before, and not 6 months later.

Mats Genberg points out that it happened very quickly, he knew a day before that he would be in Dubai.

Izeta Selimanjin points out that, if the aim is to increase and improve the communication, then it would be a good idea to create an event for the best elected horse, in which all members of the Supervisory Committee would attend as they are the ones that are working really hard to make all this system possible.

Nelly Philippot adds that the Supervisory Committee should be given more recognition for its work.

10. Next meeting

Supervisory Committee: November 27th and 28th, 2012 in Ascot racecourse

Pattern Race & Handicapper Committee: End of February in Doha

Minutes taken by Izeta Selimanjin
