



THE 19TH PATTERN RACE & HANDICAPPER COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday 25th February 2014 at the Ritz Carlton Hotel, Doha

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 (available on Skype for part of the meeting)
Kathy Smoke, President of the Arabian Jockey Club, USA
Susan Meyer, Vice President of the Arabian Jockey Club, USA
Nils Rosenkjaer, VP of the Scandinavian Arabian Racing Association
Hicham Debbagh, Racing Director of SOREC, Morocco
Genny Haynes, Director of ARO, Great Britain
Krzysztof Wolski, Handicapper, Poland
Paulo Saliba, Racing Director, Brazil
Véronique Briat, AFAC, France
Pr. Nouredine Ben Chehida, President of Societe des Courses Hippiques, Tunisia
Samir Kooli, General Secretary of the Owner & Breeder Association, Tunisia
Urs Aeschbacher, President of SZAP, Switzerland
Dr Ilker Altintas, Turkey
Georgina Tomkins, Administrator of the PRC website, Great Britain

Apologies:

Harald Siemen, Handicapper, Germany.

Agenda

1. Conclusion of last meeting
2. Arabian Pattern Race Rules
3. 2013 International Classifications
4. Three year Annual Race Ratings
5. 2014 Pattern Race Calendar
6. Handicapper & Pattern Race Committee's Website
7. Any other business

8. Date of next meeting

MINUTES OF THE 19TH IFAHR PATTERN RACE & HANDICAPPER COMMITTEE MEETING

Copies of the Agenda, the 18th IFAHR Pattern Race and Handicapper Committee Meeting minutes and the 2013 International Classifications were distributed to all the members before the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Conclusion 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 Paris last October. Genny Haynes requested that the UK couldn't agree to the Rules, as was recorded in the minutes. The relevant minute was amended to read:-

“The Pattern Race and Handicapper Committee rules were adopted unanimously by all countries with the exception of the UK”.

On this basis the minutes were approved by all members and were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

2. Arabian Pattern Race Rules

The Chairman confirmed that following the Paris meeting, the Supervisory Committee met in London in December and addressed any anomalies to the Pattern Race Rules and recommended the following changes, which have since been approved by the IFAHR Executive Committee. The Chairman highlighted the main changes viz:-

1. SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Graham Walcroft was chosen as Chairman and appointed for a term of 4 years, which has been approved by the IFAHR Executive Committee. A Vice-Chairman (Pam Cordrey) has also been appointed and approved.

2. GROUND RULES FOR RACES IN THE ARABIAN PATTERN

Horses must comply with Article 2 “Eligibility to Race” of the IFAHR International Agreement (Blue Book), once it has been agreed, as this isn't currently included.

In response the US asked about the International Agreement. The Chairman explained this document was currently being worked on including the drafting of Article 2.

3. LISTED RACE UPGRADE TO GROUP STATUS

The Rules were amended so that Listed races could move up the system quicker. They could now be upgraded to Group 3 or Group 2 status after just 2 years instead of 3, as long as the ratings achieved satisfied the relevant Group rating requirements for each year.

(This met with the approval of all members present).

4. APPROVAL OF RULE CHANGES

It was confirmed that all changes need to be approved by both the Supervisory Committee and the IFAHR Executive Committee.

3. 2013 International Classifications

The Chairman stated that at the December meeting the Supervisory Committee determined the Classifications for 2013. He mentioned that 64 horses were rated 110 and over, with TABARAK and

MUSHRAE being awarded joint top-rated horse in the 4yo and upwards category. There were also 21 3 year olds rated 105 and above and CHADDAD on 114 was the top-rated 3yo. He confirmed that presentations would be made at this week's race meeting to the relevant owners.

4. Three year Annual Race Ratings

The Chairman explained that the 3 year average ratings had now been completed for the first time. He confirmed that they showed the majority of races were achieving the required standard, although it was clear that 2011 wasn't a true representation, as some horses were under-rated. In view of this fact a further year's figures would be considered in order to achieve a more accurate analysis. However, in the meantime details of the races that were showing concern would be circulated to the relevant connections. The countries whose races were causing most concern included the UAE, Morocco and Sweden. Georgina Tomkins will circulate the relevant 3 year figures to each country, so that positive action can be taken where required.

It was also confirmed that at the end of 2014 a copy of all Pattern races will be circulated to every country, so that each country can see the standard being achieved.

MOROCCO asked to receive clarification on the logic of how the horses are rated. The process was explained by Pam Cordrey, and the Chairman confirmed that the final figure used was based on the horse's best performance of the year.

USA asked if their horses were considered at the moment. It was confirmed that they were not considered as they are not currently part of the Pattern Race Program.

5. 2014 Pattern Race Calendar

The 2014 Calendar is now being compiled by Georgina Tomkins, but contact details and confirmation of this year's Pattern Races need to be obtained from the relevant contacts of each country. A list was circulated at the meeting to obtain these details.

The Chairman asked if all dates for this year's Pattern Races were confirmed, and advised of a two week deadline to confirm these details if at all possible. Genny Haynes explained that the UK's Arabian Derby has yet to be finalised.

Afternote:- Following this meeting Georgina Tomkins will contact the relevant people to obtain this information, with the aim of publishing the Calendar on the PRC website as soon as possible.

6. Handicapper & Pattern Race Committee's Website

The Chairman explained that Georgina Tomkins has replaced Izeta Selimanjin in this role. As requested, Georgina updated the Committee on her progress since taking on the role in November. She explained that due to technical problems she was still in the process of publishing the final 2013 Pattern Race results to the PRC website. In addition, she is now compiling the 2014 Calendar, as explained above. The Executive Committee had also agreed to pay a fee for the website owner's to publish the formatted results on the website.

7. Any other business

1. LATE APPLICATIONS

The Chairman explained that the application from Sweden has been approved.

However, the application from Tunisia for Group 3 status was not approved, as the Supervisory Committee did not feel that it satisfies the criteria at present. The recommendation was that it should be introduced as a Listed Race, as long as it met the criteria for sponsorship and minimum value (minimum of 15,000 Euros).

The Tunisian representatives asked for the reasons why the application was rejected. Benoit Legault explained the reasoning for this, emphasising the links with French racing, which showed a 15 to 20lb discrepancy, thereby making the ratings insufficient. Pam Cordrey also clarified the reasons for the Committee's decision, based on the ratings that had been put forward as part of the application.

Benoit explained that having questioned the judgement and reasoning for the rejection, the Tunisian representatives did not accept the decision of the Committee and therefore chose to withdraw their application for Group status, with a view to applying for Group 3 status next year. It was also confirmed that they did not wish to apply for Listed status, despite the Chairman's assertion that this status was still part of the Pattern.

It was finally agreed that the Supervisory Committee would review the status after this year's race. If sufficient, it could be upgraded to Group status. Tunisia agreed to this.

2. INTEGRATION OF THE AMERICAN ARABIAN JOCKEY CLUB SYSTEM INTO THE PATTERN RACE SYSTEM

The Chairman explained that during yesterday's Supervisory Committee meeting, he discussed with Neil Abrahams the possibility of undertaking some initial exploratory work to consider the potential of integrating the US horses into the Pattern Race system. It was felt that with Neil's experience of American racing he would be the best placed person to take on this work. Neil agreed to take on this role, having discussed this with Kathy Smoke in the past.

Kathy Smoke replied that she would be happy to work on this with Neil. Both agreed that they will jointly compile a draft Pattern Report based on this year's figures, to be presented to the Pattern Race and Handicapper Committee in October. Kathy referred to an excel sheet that has already been compiled with the first four finishers of last year's Pattern Race results. The Chairman stated that finishing distances would be required in order to evaluate them. Neil confirmed that the last 2 years' results would be necessary to make a start to this report.

All agreed this would be a huge step forward.

3. ACCESS TO PRC & IFAHR WEBSITE

Some members expressed an interest in having more access to the PRC website, with a request for the International Ratings list to be published. Links from the IFAHR site to the PRC site were also difficult to find and it was generally agreed that the IFAHR site was not very user friendly and was often out of date.

Genny Haynes confirmed that there is a plan to update the website, although specific details were not yet known. In the meantime, various issues mentioned above will be followed up by Georgina.

4. INTERNATIONAL RATINGS

Having been questioned over access to these figures and the number of horses included, the Chairman explained the intention to produce figures for the lower rated horses, as up to now the cut-off point was horses rated 110 and above. This list may be increased to include horses rated 100 and above in future. It was also confirmed that only the first 4 finishers were currently included on the list, not every horse who ran in a Pattern race. This could also be expanded in time.

8. Date of Next meeting

This was confirmed as October in Paris.

Georgina Tomkins
4th March 2014