



## **THE 21<sup>ST</sup> PATTERN RACE & HANDICAPPER COMMITTEE MEETING**

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2015 at the Regis 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  
Harald Siemen, member of the Supervisory Committee & handicapper, Germany  
Neil Abrahams, member of the Supervisory Committee & handicapper, UAE  
Kathy Smoke, President of the Arabian Jockey Club, USA  
Nelly Philippot, IFAHR Member, Belgium  
William De Waeschalck, Observer, Belgium  
Nils Rosenkjaer, VP of the Scandinavian Arabian Racing Association  
Amanda Smith, Racing Manager of ARO, Great Britain  
Genny Haynes, Director of ARO, Great Britain  
Krzysztof Wolski, Handicapper, Poland  
Almir Ribevio, Observer, Brazil  
Véronique Briat, AFAC, France  
Urs Aeschbacher, President of SZAP, Switzerland  
Georgina Tomkins, Administrator of the PRC website, Great Britain

### **Agenda**

1. Minutes of the last meeting
2. Matters Arising
3. 2014 International Classifications
4. 3 year Annual Race Ratings
5. Letters of Warning
6. 2015 Pattern Race Calendar
7. Proposed Rule Changes
8. Late Applications
9. Any other business
10. Date of next meeting

## MINUTES OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> IFAHR PATTERN RACE & HANDICAPPER COMMITTEE MEETING

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 1. Minutes of the last meeting

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

There were no comments so the minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

### 2. Matters Arising

#### i. Listed Races

The Chairman briefed the Committee on potential changes to the Rules with regard to these races. The Supervisory Committee felt a minimum standard for Listed races should apply after 3 years. The Rules could be amended to incorporate the following :

- 100 for 4yo+
- 95 for 4yo+ fillies;
- 95 for 3yo
- 90 for 3yo fillies.

Harald Siemen explained this was really to have some sort of quality control over these races.

The Chairman confirmed the current Rules would still apply for the introduction of any Listed race to the Pattern. The Committee felt this proposed change was a positive move.

### 3. 2014 International Classifications

The Chairman explained that at the November meeting the Supervisory Committee assessed all 72 Pattern races to determine the Classifications for 2014. He confirmed that 66 horses were rated 110 and over, with DJAINKA DES FORGES and AL TAIR being assessed as joint top-rated horses on 124 in the 4 year old and upwards category. AL MOUWAFFAK was the top-rated 3 year old, rated 116. For the first time they had also identified the race where the top performance had been achieved.

It was confirmed that presentations would be made at this week's race meeting to the relevant owners.

### 4 & 5. 3 year Annual Race Ratings / Letters of Warning

The Chairman confirmed the figures were now a reliable reflection of the ratings achieved across all 72 races in the Pattern. These had been broken down by country and were distributed to each country representative present by Georgina Tomkins. A copy of the complete list of 3 year Average Race Ratings will be circulated to each country in the Pattern following the meeting.

The Chairman explained that currently 7 races are giving cause for concern. The relevant country will be written to regarding this matter. Two courses of action would be available to each country; either downgrade the race voluntarily or do something to try and improve the race in 2015. Otherwise if there is no improvement, they will be automatically downgraded by the Supervisory Committee for 2016. The races causing concern were identified as follows:

UAE

23/02/2014 Arabian Triple Crown R2 Gr 3

2/03/2014 Liwa Oasis Gr 1

16/03/2014 Emirates Championship Gr 1

Neil Abrahams confirmed they are aware of the problem and explained the reasons, stating that they would recommend downgrading where necessary in future. He mentioned that the Emirates Championship may be satisfactory this year. He admitted there was nothing wrong with downgrading races as it is important for the integrity of the sport and the Pattern. The criteria needs to be respected and followed.

The Chairman confirmed this is the right approach. The standard of race has to be maintained or it will be bring the integrity of the Pattern into disrepute.

France

19/07/2014 Prix Tidjani Gr 3 (3yo)

Veronique Briat confirmed AFAC is aware of the problem. It will be necessary to see how the race performed this year.

Morocco (no representative present)

2/02/2014 Prince Heritier Moulay Gr 3

Turkey (no representative present)

29/06/2014 International Ali Riza Bey Gr 2

7/09/2014 Malazgirt Trophy Gr 1

The Chairman stated that 7 was a refreshingly low number and was indicative of the fact that the Pattern in terms of Group ranking for each race was generally sound.

Genny Haynes (UK) asked when would be the right time to downgrade a race. The Chairman explained that the races would not be downgraded this year; however, each race will be put on notice for 2016.

**(Afternote: All letters of warning have been sent by the Chairman and a complete list of all the 3 year Average Race Ratings to each country in the Pattern with a letter has also been sent).**

## **6. 2014 Pattern Race Calendar**

Georgina Tomkins has compiled the 2015 Calendar, with the exception of a few races.

Amanda Smith stated that the Goodwood Group 1 has now been confirmed for 1<sup>st</sup> August, and the Qatar Arabian Derby will take place on 12<sup>th</sup> September at Doncaster. There is just one UK race outstanding at this point.

Despite being compiled in better time this year, however, it is increasingly evident that this information needs to be provided even earlier in future. There was a general discussion to consider how this situation could be improved for 2016 and beyond. It was proposed that Georgina Tomkins will send out the request for confirmation of races immediately following the 2015 season. The aim will be to compile the Calendar as soon as races are confirmed, publishing this on the website for people to view in date order. It is hoped this will help countries to have a better idea of when to schedule their races.

## **7. Proposed Rule Changes**

The Chairman explained that the Supervisory Committee is under increasing pressure to make awkward decisions on potential clashes, which may not be within their jurisdiction. Amanda Smith queried this as it affects the Pattern, however, this view was not supported by the Chairman, as the Committee is only concerned with clashes between neighbouring countries regarding Group 1 races as stated in the Rules. The Committee can only act within the jurisdiction of its Rules.

The Supervisory Committee felt the Rules should be amended regarding the date for late applications by removing the word “strictly” and change “must” to “should” regarding the October 15<sup>th</sup> date. The fillies allowance should also be changed from 5lb to 4lb. These changes together with those proposed for the Listed races need to be forwarded to the next Executive Committee of IFAHR for ratification.

## **8. Late Applications**

A new French Listed race to be run at Toulouse at 2<sup>nd</sup> July had been approved by the Supervisory Committee the previous day. The Chairman also confirmed that 4 new Listed races in Germany were awaiting approval depending upon sponsorship details.

The Chairman also stated that late applications were becoming more frequent and, as such, they should be accompanied by a satisfactory reason for the lateness as this was delaying publication of the Calendar.

## **9. Any other business**

Nelly Philippot (BEL) asked how the pyramid was looking. The Chairman confirmed there were more Listed races this year and that some Group 2s had been downgraded to Group 3, so it was slightly improved. Pam Cordrey reminded members that it was up to the countries to apply to upgrade their races. Genny Haynes asked if Group 3s can be downgraded to Listed, then back up to Group 3 when up to standard. This was confirmed by the Chairman.

The Chairman asked the US representative Kathy Smoke if any progress had been made with regard to the American situation. She replied that there were currently software constraints and that this continues to be a work in progress.

## **8. Date of Next meeting**

This was confirmed as October in Paris.

13.04.15