

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ARABIAN HORSERACING AUTHORITIES



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Conclusion of the 14th Pattern Race & Handicapper Committee meeting:

Friday 30th of September 2011 at Saint-Cloud racecourse, after the races

Invitation made by: Jean-Pierre de Gasté, Chairman

Participants: Jean-Pierre de Gasté, France, Chairman
Wieger de Ruiter, Chairman of DARC, Netherlands
Mats Genberg, President of the Scandinavian Arabian Racing Association, Sweden
Neil Abrahams, Handicapper, U.A.E.
Pam Cordrey, Handicapper, Scandinavia
Harald Siemen, Handicapper, Germany
Graham Walcroft, Handicapper, Great Britain
Ryan Skelton, Handicapper, Qatar
Benoit Legault, Handicapper, France
Paul Daverio, President of DRAV, Germany
Kathy Smoke, President of the Arabian Jockey Club, USA
Susan Meyer, Vice President of the Arabian Jockey Club, USA
Krzysztof Wolski, Handicapper, Poland
Nelly Philippot, Chairwoman of AHRCB, Belgium
Véronique Briat, AFAC Director, France
Nils Rosenkjaer, Member of the Race Conditions Committee, Sweden
Izeta Selimanjin, Administrator of the website, France

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CONVENING FOR THE 14th PATTERN RACE & HANDICAPPER COMMITTEE MEETING:

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A G E N D A

1. Conclusion of last Pattern Race and Handicapper Committee Meeting
2. Proposal for publishing Pattern Races on IFAHR's website
3. Analysis of 2011 ratings established by every member of the Supervisory Committee
4. Harmonization of scale of weight for age
5. Publication of 2011 ratings
6. Examination of applications for new Pattern races or for upgrading Group PA races
7. Any other business
8. Next meeting

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

- List of 2011 handicap ratings
- Scale of weight for age in your country

Minutes of the 14th IFAHR Pattern Race and Handicapper Committee Meeting

Jean-Pierre de Gasté thanks Weiger de Ruiters and Mats Genberg, respectively Treasurer and Secretary of IFAHR for attending this meeting as well as Izeta Selimanjin for all the work she has done for the Committee. He also thanks the representatives of all countries who came to attend the meeting.

1. Conclusion of last Pattern Race and Handicapper Committee Meeting

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

2. Proposal for publishing Pattern Races on IFAHR's website

A proposal for publishing a Pattern Races data file on IFAHR's website was submitted to all members. Mats Genberg says that he has no objection on these modifications. He highlights the fact that they are having serious issues with the webmaster when it comes to modify the website but they work on it. Nevertheless, he confirms that he is completely on line with the proposal.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté explains that he had a small argument with Izeta Selimanjin regarding these modifications. Indeed, he wished to suggest to create a new category on the homepage but Izeta Selimanjin, who was aware about the problems with the webmaster, thought that it might need to change the whole website for doing so, and therefore she was willing to propose an easier modification.

Mats Genberg answers that the changes on the homepage can be applied and that he will see that with the webmaster.

Jean Pierre de Gasté thanks Mats Genberg for his help in the project.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté gives the members a plan of work for the Pattern Race & Handicapper Committee for the coming year:

- To publish an International classification beginning of November
- To have on IFAHR's website a dedicated place for this Committee and its publications in order that all members can understand the Pattern Race and Handicapper's system, follow the conclusions of its meeting and have a straight access to the Pattern Race calendar and the Pattern Races results.
- To link with U.S.A. and include their races in the Pattern Race system in order to harmonize the Grade Stakes conditions with the Group PA. He suggested to Kathy Smoke to use the Listed PA race system as sponsors want advertisement and they are keener to sponsor a Pattern Race. Listed races allow them to be included in the Pattern Race system.

Mats Genberg asks how the Thoroughbred Pattern Race system is working with USA.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté answers that the Thoroughbred Pattern Race system is different between Europe and USA. Stakes races in U.S.A., less competitive than a Listed Race, are not among the Pattern Race system in U.S.A., while Listed races are in the Pattern Race system in Europe.

Besides that, the major differences are with handicaps, for which conditions are different between U.S.A. and Europe: In U.S.A., it is a matter of negotiation between each racecourse and trainers in order to attract the best horses in a race without cancelling others in order to have the best fields. But the goal is not, as in Europe, to give the same chance to all horses. And handicaps can be Graded stakes, Grade 1 also.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté noticed that Pam Cordrey reacted to the agenda of publication of the international ratings.

Pam Cordrey says that it will be very hard to finalize it for November as there are too many differences and that each race has to be analyzed. They need to discuss why a handicapper has 111 and others 115 for the same horse. They have to take all races from the beginning.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté says that we have to define the races to be analyzed and discuss between the members of the Supervisory Committee. He thinks that it is a matter of a couple of days and therefore the members of the Supervisory Committee need to find 2 days and work intensively on the matter. He mentions that the last Pattern Races will be held in October 25th in Toulouse and that they can plan a 2 day's meeting in November.

Harald Siemen thinks that they need to start with the "weight for age" scale as what they do currently is rating horses domestically. For Pattern races they need to have permission from the Racing Authorities to work on a scale of weight for age exclusively on the Group and Listed PA races.

Pam Cordrey says that there is a lot of work for each race/horse and that the Supervisory Committee should be listing all the horses that need to talk about.

Graham Walcroft has made a two separate list (one for 3yos and the other for 4yo and up) gathering all horses that finished in the first 4 position in each Pattern Race since December 2010 and inserted all ratings that were entered in the website for each horse + their highest rating.

Harald Siemen mentions that the best way is to take the top horses from such lists, to discuss and to finalize a rating for this top horse and then starting from there to rate every horses of every pattern races.

Ryan Sketon confirms that the aim is not to discuss about all horses.

Graham Walcroft adds that for the purpose of his exercise he has only included the first 4 horses but other horses may need to be considered.

Harald Siemen takes the example of the Qatar Arabian World Cup. If they only take the top 4 of each Pattern race, then the horse that arrives 6th in the Qatar Arabian World Cup wouldn't be in the list and this same horse may have more value than a horse that finishes 4th in a Listed PA race.

Pam Cordrey mentions that depending on the status and according to the average rating of each Pattern race they could eventually do a little further.

Harald Siemen adds that they need to make a separate list for 3yos and treat them separately.

Krzysztof Wolski points out that there are only races for 2yos in Russia where there are no Pattern Races and that the Committee should treat 3yo Arabians as 2yo Thoroughbred.

Pam Cordrey states that they won't need horses that finished 5th or 6th for calculating the race rating but they would need to publish those horses in the list.

Harald Siemen suggests making a list of horses above 90.

Pam Cordrey thinks that maybe 85 would be better.

4. Harmonization of scale of weight for age (WFA)

Jean-Pierre de Gasté informs the members that the handicappers have sent their domestic scales. The Pattern race & Handicapper Committee will try to impose a harmonized scale to the racing committees of all IFAHR members' countries. He insists that the Committee will need to have the support of IFAHR. The handicappers will work and come up with an international scale of weight for age and it will be very important that this scale is adopted by all Arabian racing authorities.

Mats Genberg explains that Scandinavia has copied the Turkish scale of weight for age because they had problems when they were following the Thoroughbred scale. He adds that naturally as an organisation IFAHR will give their full support to the project. Nevertheless, IFAHR's authority is limited; they can only express what IFAHR would like them to apply.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté mentions that AFAC, for instance, is directing the weight for age scale for French Arabian races, and there wouldn't be any problem for them to apply for it. The Pattern Race & Handicapper Committee needs to act step by step in harmonizing the rules. It is the only way to progress.

A Pattern Race is a race where all horses, no matter where they come from, have the same weight. The only differences come from weight for age (WFA), sex allowance and penalties within the Pattern race system: For instance, a Listed race can include weight penalties for a Group PA winner. **However there are still races that don't respect these rules.**

Izeta Selimanjin takes the example of the President of the UAE Cup in Baden Baden in which a penalty of 2kg for a winner of a race with a total prize money of 30.000 € or 1kg for 20.000 € is applied.

Neil Abrahams says that it will be corrected.

Mats Genberg remembers that is included in the Arabian Pattern Race rules the possibility of a 2kg penalty for every category win above within the pattern race system, but the weight for age scale is different from country to country. He also suggests including that there is no apprentice allowance in the Pattern Race rules.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté asks all members if they agree with that suggestion.

All members unanimously agree.

Benoit Legault distributes a draft that he created and which contains a comparison of all different scales.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté highlight that it is a very important work as it shows how different scales are.

Pam Cordrey says that Scandinavia tried to use UAE's scale but they rejected it.

Ryan Skelton asks who advises each country in Arabian Racing?

Neil Abrahams explains that 18-19 years ago, there was an accommodation with different countries as they needed to have something reasonable, and had monitored years after years. He considered that for the winter base is fine.

Ryan Skelton mentions that the Arabian scale for Middle East is working perfectly but instead of evolving every 2 weeks, they can do it monthly.

Harald Siemen adds that the WFA is too much complicated when it is divided by half months.

Ryan Skelton answers that this is the reason why he prefers to do it monthly.

Harald Siemen considers that the Scandinavian and the Turkish scale are looking very good, it is very simple but he has reservation whether if it is right.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté asks them to decide whether they will or they won't have different WFA scale for distances.

Ryan Skelton don't think it will be possible.

Harald Siemen suggests that maybe they will not have it for every category.

Pam Cordrey proposes that in December horses get 3,5kg and in January only 2kg. But they can also have in January 56 -56,5kd and put up slowly, that way it will look more correct.

Harald Siemen questions whether they need to take a decision about this during this meeting.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté replies no. Nevertheless they can discuss about it.

Harald Siemen suggests to take the Scandinavian/Turkish scale as a basis and to work from that.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté asks the handicappers if they want to change it every month or every second week.

Neil Abrahams answers that they don't handicap that way.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté suggests to progress item by item :

FURLONG MARK

He asks if they want to keep the furlong mark.

All agree unanimously.

FREQUENCY

Then he asks which frequency they prefer.

Pam Cordrey wonders if the scale would be applied only to Pattern Races but not to domestic races.

It was agreed that it should be applied to Pattern races and recommended for domestic races.

All agree unanimously to do it on a monthly basis.

COLTS & FILLIES

Which allowance to the handicappers wish, differentiate from 3yo and 4yo or the same?

All agree unanimously to apply the same allowance.

What allowance do they wish for sex?

Kathy Smoke says that the allowance for fillies in USA is 5lb.

All agree unanimously for 2kg or 5lb.

5. Publication of 2011 ratings

Jean-Pierre de Gasté suggest to the members of the Supervisory Committee to check when they could meet few days for establishing the International classification.

Mats Genberg informs the members that Mr Sami Al Boenain has invited the Committee to the Festival in Qatar in February.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté thanks him very much for the invitation. He also thinks that publishing the International Classification in February would be too late. Indeed, he points out that worldwide Arabian Racing having small recognition, it could be wise to publish the Arabian International Rating before the Thoroughbred's one, therefore, sometime in November.

Harald Siemen informs that the Thoroughbred classification is defined from the 5th to the 15th of December.

Graham Walcroft thinks that November would be ideally the time to do it.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté asks how many days they would need to finalize it and where to meet.

They all agree for the meeting to be held in London.

Then, looking for a date, it seems possible for all the members of the Supervisory Committee on November 18 and 19th.

Neil Abrahams says they he will get in touch with Ascot Race Course and arrange a meeting room.

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

Sweden

Mats Genberg presents an application for a Listed PA for July 2012. This Listed PA race will be within the Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan Cup series over one mile and the prize money will be 25.000 euros.

The Committee agrees to grant the status of Listed PA to this race.

France

The Committee has received an application from France for upgrading the Prix Nevadour to Gr.2 PA status which has an average rating of more 105 for the last 3 years.

Pam Cordrey mentions that the Committee has not yet decide of this year ratings.

Harald Siemen adds that the average ratings is still above 105.

The members of the Committee agree to upgrade the status of the Prix Nevadour only to Gr.3 PA status.

7. Any other business

Jean-Pierre de Gasté expresses his wish working with U.S.A. in order to integrate the USA Graded races into the Pattern Race system.

Kathy Smoke sent the Arabian Pattern Race Rules to the US Jockey Club. She gave particular attention on the Listed PA status which she will present to their Committee but not before March 2012.

She explains that they had to create new rules in 2011 because of the sponsors and they were not aware of the potential of Listed PA status to resolve the dilemma.

Rule approved addition March 5, 2011 by the AJC, Houston, TX

Because of the international nature of Arabian racing and the need to promote and receive sponsorship of events such as the UAE Presidents Cup and The Global Festival Races of HH Sheikh Mansoor bin Zayed Al Nahyan as well as newly proposed events of significance, the Graded Stakes Committee may award graded stakes status to such races at its discretion on a case by case basis.

Jean-Pierre de Gasté informs her that he will be in Kentucky in the second week of November and that he is willing to help the AJC, if they want him to meet delegates of the US Jockey Club.

The wish of the entire Pattern Race Committee is to include as far as possible USA in the Pattern Race system as well as to enable the finalization of an international rating including the USA end of 2012. Then, the standardization of the Arabian racing could be accomplished worldwide.

8. Next meeting

Supervisory Committee: November 18th -19th, 2011 in Great Britain in Ascot Race Course
Pattern Race & Handicapper Committee: February in Qatar

Minutes taken by Izeta Selimanjin