

BHRC NATIONAL PACING SERIES

I foresee running the series on exactly the same format as the French Trotters last year (NOTHING WRONG WITH COPYING A SERIES THAT WORKS) – all horses starting with 0 money in the series and sorted according to monies won in the series hence the need for two races in each meeting to allow the lower class horses to run for decent money . First two races would be a simple ballot for position then in subsequent races horses will start according to the monies won within the series. Preference for entry in subsequent races will be given to horses that have run least – should we manage 30 horses entered then each horse should get a minimum of 7 races within the series- where else would they get a shot at £14k prize money over seven races. I think owners will put up the money as they will be able to see a return for their investment– it is no different to entering a stakes race with a 2 or 3yo and gives the older horses which are regarded as being in the wilderness a chance to pay their expenses as they will have the opportunity to be competitive. Think we need to include all horses who want to enter as they will ALL have a chance to pick up money, the highest earners will filter to the top but the lower class horses your 5-9 in the handicap system will have an equal chance to pick up decent money – the only downside is that the money won will affect their National Handicap mark but if the argument is that these horses cannot win on their current mark here is a series of races that will allow them to be competitive finding their own level outside the current handicap system.

The plan is to run 20 races - two in each meeting – probably four meetings in York, four in Tir Prince and one each in Corby Wood and Amman Valley in order to try and spread the money around, utilise different tracks and run the races over differing distances. Would run all races as a preferred handicap in two lines of five – except possibly CW which would be lines of four presumably don't really know how this would fit in with the latest BHRC rules but if it is marketed as a closed series then I think we can work outside the system but monies won would go on the horse's Nat Handicap mark. Have not spoken to Tir Prince or York directly yet but this whole series could act as a COG qualifying series with the final in Tir Prince? Need to discuss the finer details Haven't publicised the series widely yet until I can get the main financial input sorted out but I really see this as a boost to the sport.

This is the way I see the series being funded:-

30 horses entered for series @ £500	£15,000
Race entry £50 (10 horses per race) x 20 races	£10,000
Bookmakers (via a voluntary or compulsory levy)	£ 5,000
Promoters £250 per race	£ 5,000
Sponsor STANDARD BRED SALE COMPANY USA	£ 5,000

ALL FUNDS TO BE HELD WITHIN A SPECIFIC BHRC ACCOUNT AND ENTRIES AND PRIZE MONEY TO BE ADMINISTERED FROM THE OFFICE

Personally I feel the bookmakers need to make a formal investment in the sport the figure above would still only be 20% of the investment made by the owners in such a series. I have contacted some bookmakers and they seem in favour of a harness racing levy to be paid by all bookmakers standing at harness racing meetings. Otherwise would this be a way to approach the LEVY Board for funding part of this series? If neither are forthcoming a second sponsor may be required.

I have secured £15000 in sponsorship from the Standardbred Sale Co. (negotiated with Russell Williams) spread over the next three years with possibly a % of money spent in Harrisburg by British owners coming back in subsequent years to fund the series on an on going basis.

Therefore I see this as a long term project which can evolve, some owners have suggested that including the best FFAllers in the series will frighten of the second tier horses but the lower race running for exactly the same money should also give these horses a chance to pick up decent money.

Feel free to circulate the proposal amongst any interested parties and as soon as I ensure the bookmakers part of the funding I will consult with the interested promoters so that we can advertise the series early and maximise its potential.

I am more than happy to accept comments and make improvements where necessary.