



Irish Harness Racing Association CLG, Unit
18, Brewery Business Park, Ardee Road,
Dundalk, Louth



01 5310 365



info@irishharnessracing.com



www.irishharnessracing.com

IHRA Members Update 17th July 2020

1. Fixtures List 2020

By now, some of you may have seen that the 2020 fixture list has been published on the Portmarnock raceway website and on all social media platforms. This year, for the first time, all three regions will host some form of major event, beginning in August 15th & 16th with the Red John Memorial in Lyre for the Cork region. The 2020 Ladies day will take place in Portmarnock on the 27th of September. The juvenile stakes finals will take place in Portmarnock on 11th October and a week later will see Annaghmore Raceway host the 2020 finals of the 3YO Trotters Championship. A week later, the M50 Skip Hire & Recycling weekend will take place in Portmarnock over the October Bank Holiday weekend.

2. IHRA Website

The IHRA website is edging closer to completion and plans to launch the new website are on course for two week's time.

3. Juvenile Series

The first of four eliminators in Ireland, will begin this coming weekend in Portmarnock on this Sunday, while the BHRC eliminators have been moved to July 29th in Tir Prince & September 5th in York Raceway. In order to keep fairness to all nominations and in light of both Covid 19 restrictions & the BHRC's commitment to Raslab, the IHRA racecourse committee have decided to award all nominated horses, their best three performances to the league table for deciding final points. Finnish equine company, the Black Horses has come on board to sponsor the part of the series and we would like to thank them immensely for their contributions.

4. IHRA Commentary Vacancy:

The IHRA are seeking to find additional commentators for the 2020 season. Should any member know of any suitable candidates, please inform any committee member of the IHRA (see below for names).

5. IHRA Protocols Regarding Covid 19:

The IHRA have eased their protocols, again on the advice of the DAFM, HSE & HSA. The main changes to the latest form of the protocols, sees the admittance of children under the age of 12 to attend races (under parental control). In addition, temperature checks will no longer be taken but a full attendee list be recorded for each meeting.

With regards to members traveling to compete at BHRC events, members whilst advised not to travel, may do so but upon returning will need to produce written confirmation from their GP, stating they do not need to self-isolate for 14 days and are free to attend any future fixture without posing a risk the other competitors and IHRA members in attendance.

6. IHRA Committee's

The IHRA board of directors would like to thank all members of the three committees for their tireless work in attending a weekly committee meeting during the lockdown to discuss and agree upon many issues ahead of the racing season. These updates have been sent previously to the membership.

The Stakeholders Committee, which is made up of owners, trainers & drivers from all over the island of Ireland are responsible for all related issues to owners, trainers and drivers and should any individual member have any issues they would like to bring to the committee, please don not hesitate to make contact with them. The current members of this committee are James Levis, Finbar Quill, Donal Murphy, Patrick Hill, William Flanagan, Billy Roche, Patrick Kane, Sean Kane, Simon Duggan, Noel Cowden, Jonathan Nixon.

On a similar matter, **the racecourse committee** is responsible for fixtures, race distances, races series, and any other matter under the racing remit. Their members are Mark Flanagan, Kevin Corey, David Sheehy, Jeremiah O Mahony, Connie O Sullivan, Micheal Duggan, Ivan Swindle, Sean Duggan & Jonathan Nixon.

The **third IHRA committee is that of breeding** and discussing all issues to do with this sector. The committee members include James O Sullivan, Clive Richardson, Mark Flanagan, James Levis, Connie O Sullivan, TJ Farrell, David Sheehy, Micheal Duggan.

Should any member wish to join any of the above committees, please contact the IHRA office to signal your interest.

7. IHRA Streaming Service

As most members are aware, the IHRA have started a streaming service. Minor technical issues have occurred since beginning this service but in collaboration with the broadcasting team, it is envisaged that we will have a product which we are satisfied with within the next few weeks. The plan is stream live at 25 meetings throughout all three regions, with the remainder of meetings available to watch within 24hrs after the meeting was held.

All fixtures regardless of live streamed or delayed broadcast are available to watch in the replay archive. Any member who has not yet availed of this wonderful service are encouraged to do so, as the annual subscription is only €100 for the month of July. Any annual subscriptions from 1st August will cost €150. You may also wish to pay as you go, the cost per meeting is €10.

A full schedule of live and delayed streaming of fixtures will be available in the coming week.