

**MINTUES OF A MEETING OF THE CROSS PARTY GROUP ON  
SCOTTISH HORSERACING AND BLOODSTOCK INDUSTRIES  
TUESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019  
ROOM Q1.04 – 5.30PM**

**PRESENT:**

Miles Briggs MSP  
Neil Bibby MSP  
Richard Lyle MSP  
Delly Innes, Scottish Racing  
Eleanor Boden, Scottish Racing  
Morag Gray, Racing Welfare  
Lucy Ryan, Racing Welfare  
John Burns, World Horse Welfare  
Donald Morrison, Association of British Bookmakers  
Willie Black, William Hill  
Lorraine Park, William Hill

**APOLOGIES:**

John Scott MSP  
Rachael Hamilton MSP

**1. UPDATE ON SCOTTISH RACING'S EDUCATION AND TRAINING STRATEGY  
FROM ELEANOR BODEN**

Scotland is currently a large exporter of stable staff to England and abroad, and yet currently in Scotland there is no opportunity for Scottish learners to gain qualifications to work in racing. Scottish learners currently require special permission to study in England because of the way that funding is handed out.

In order for Scottish people wanting to work in the racing industry to train, the only opportunities are to attend the British Racing School in Newmarket, the Northern Racing College in Doncaster or HEROS in Lambourn. Scottish learners would be able to access all of these, provided they were in the first 10 applicants per year and they are happy to move away from home.

Scottish Racing has been granted funding by the Racing Foundation, to carry out a feasibility study for a new education model to train stable staff from Scotland. In the short term, a horseracing specific SQA (Scottish Qualification Authority) approved qualification is being developed, which will be able to access Government funding through the Qualification Funding Council (QFC). There are also plans to include an option of HND (2 years) or HNC (1 year) using an integrated training model, as is seen in Ireland and France.

The model would include 12 weeks of training, followed by practical work experience. This appeals to Racehorse Trainers as it removes liability from the Trainer to the College.

Support is being sought from providers to deliver the SQA horseracing qualification. Discussions have taken place with Borders College, SRUC and Dumfries House. In addition, it is hoped to use ex-racehorses to help train the learners, thereby offering more opportunities for horses in the "RoR" project.

In summary, the Scottish Racing Education Project aims to:

- create a world class education and training centre that has a positive impact on the recruitment, skills, career development/progression and retention of racing staff in Scotland, and also benefits racing staff across the U.K and the industry more broadly, creating a lasting legacy for the racing industry and its participants.
- Be aligned with the industry's Recruitment, Training and Retention (RTR) Strategy and Programme.
- Be a catalyst for the development and delivery of a strategic, ambitious, innovative, joined-up and sustainable model of education and training provision
- Support young people entering the racing industry, existing racing staff and their employers
- Address the gap in education and training provision available in Scotland, which will provide an education and training offer that matches the world-class racecourses and trainers that operate in Scotland and reflects the importance and impact of Scottish racing on the racing industry in the UK and Scottish economy.

John Burns asked how many applications are being received at Doncaster and Newmarket from Scottish applicants. DI replied that the British Racing School and the Northern Racing College do not keep a record of those figures. LR added that she comes across a significant number of existing stable staff who do not carry out career progression courses in Doncaster and Newmarket due to the distance.

Action: The CPG will write to the Minister for Education in support of this project.

## **2. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Richard Lyle thanked Scottish Racing for an excellent visit to Musselburgh Racecourse, he was made very much aware of the commitment of the staff and impressed by the immaculate conditions of the track and the stables.

DM asked if there were any opportunities that the Association of British Bookmakers could support for Racing Together's Give and Gain Day on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

EB replied that the partnership between Scottish Racing, William Hill and Alzheimer Scotland is building on the already established partnership between each of the courses and the William Hill shops. The demographic of the people in the shops, as well as the people that go racing match those who are dementia sufferers. The partnership is about increasing awareness, raising some money, putting out a positive message regarding dementia. Dementia Friendly courses are being held across the Scottish racecourses, and anyone is welcome to join these courses.

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June – Room TG20/21

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November – Room TG20/21