

NMRC AGM AGENDA & MINUTES MONDAY 16TH JANUARY 2023

Phil Evans (PE) opened the meeting and also thanked Andy White (AW) for setting up the practice online meeting and all other committee members for their input over the last 12 months. Apologies received from Richard, Angela & Charles.

We then went on to run through the main agenda as follows:

Membership Report

Helen Goodwill (HG) advised that the 'paper based' numbers were 47 (at 53 in 2022 down from 73 in 2019). The number of printed magazines were reduced last year with 'friends' of the club moved to online versions whilst past/present committee members now pay £6pa to receive a printed copy.

The bulk of the membership is now 'free online' with the current list showing 407 subscribers at present (from 368 in 2022, 330 in 2021 & 175 in 2019). All get advised when the new magazine is produced (via Mailchimp) although opening rate of the e mails is usually only 60%. Around 12 names were removed from the mailing list during the year where either their e mails 'bounced' or they 'unsubscribed'.

Our Facebook followers currently stand at 456 (was 404 in 2022, 367 in 2021 & 275 in 2020) although some of these are fully registered members (about a third) albeit unclear why some join Facebook but then do not register as free members

If committee members using Facebook can visit the club page as often as they can and leave comments etc (not just likes) I am sure this will help stimulate growth of this membership platform.

The club also has plenty of Twitter followers albeit most seem interested only in the UAE Racing scene and this forum generates little activity regards the UK operations of the club.

Magazine Report

Ken Unsworth (KU) estimated the 2022 production costs as £611 albeit if some of the 'extra copies' can be deleted or moved to the online version maybe some savings can be made.

Based on the info supplied by Ken ahead of the AGM the total costs were £479pa with current subs collected being £460pa so we have a small shortfall. We shall need to send Ken funds owing (£42) plus £240 to cover the next 6 months. PE will do the necessary bank transfer asap.

As long as KU is happy to continue with the paper magazine distribution etc there are no plans to curtail this option at present.

All old-style stamps should be used up when the Jan/Feb magazine goes out.

Treasurers Report

Richard Mattinson (RM) produced accounts for the last 12m to 30/11/22. These have been shared ahead of the meeting with Richard unable to join us tonight.

With Covid-19 again causing cancellation of our Cheltenham Preview in 2022 only limited income was seen from membership subs and the Aintree preview.

The accounts are reflective of 'cash accounting' with stamps and printing costs normally paid to Ken in advance.

So we really need to look at two years figures aggregated which show a loss of just over £200 (or £100pa).

One big saving has been to downgrade the paid website service to the free version. This has largely had a limited effect, other than a problem uploading a 25-page issue of the magazine (needed to split into two parts due to the file exceeding the 'free' upload limit). More often than not we manage ok with an 18-page issue.

The club still had £6021 in its bank accounts (excludes competition entries where fees are ring fenced) albeit this will shrink by over £300 before the next subs are received to cover the ongoing printed magazine costs.

Membership Fees

These comments apply to the 'paper' list only.

Due to the loss of other income streams in recent years (e.g. Cheltenham Previews) it was decided in 2022 that the annual subs would need to increase to £12pa w.e.f March 1st 2022.

In addition past/present committee members who had enjoyed a free magazine were asked to cover the £6pa postage costs going forwards.

When we increased subs to £12pa there was an issue with some members not increasing their bankers orders to the new sum – Helen advised that five renewals were still underpaid so we shall put reminders in the next magazine to change for next payment on 1.3.23

Stable Visits

We managed three visits in the spring (Sam England/Sarah Hollinshead/Oliver Greenall) although all were barely viable and a visit to Jack Berry House in the summer was cancelled due to poor numbers.

In autumn arranging visits is more difficult given the 'September open days' so we just arranged one to Mel Rowley in October. Regrettably the trainer had to attend a funeral on the day we were due to visit and this has now been re-scheduled for Thurs Mar 23rd.

Both Cartmel & Carlisle are keen to have joint visits with us and hopefully we can firm up details for visits in April & May.

Dave decided that he would prefer to revert to collecting the £5 'donations' on the day of the visit.

Competition News

PE advised there were 62 entrants for the NH Satnaps+ challenge this year (down 8 on last year).

Mark Banks (MB) confirmed that there were 61 entries for the Alex Bird (+3 on previous year) and he would score the Alex Bird competition in 2023 again with Mike Wheater (MW) assisting with the

other admin. Some tweaks in the rules to be confirmed asap so we can update details for the magazine.

The usual Cheltenham, Aintree & Ascot rounds will be held. The final round will be Doncaster in September.

HG advised that she will also run the Heritage Handicaps comp in 2023. The entries in 2022 totalled 35 (down 10 from 45 in 2021).

PE also advised that he will run the Grand National sweepstake again in 2023 after the bumper entries in recent years.

Trophies – can we decide what to do about these going forwards?

Cheltenham Preview Events 2023

All being well Covid-19 will not scupper an event this March.

We shall need to get back to basics as Star Sports have withdrawn their support whilst Haydock do not seem interested (no replies to e mails received).

I have tried to gauge interest via surveys etc with limited responses received.

I think we should try an event at say the Tetley club (Wednesday 8th March now the likely date) The room can take 140 people albeit initially we shall assume a lower turnout and add to the initial three- person panel as sales increase.

I would suggest we charge £8 for advance bookings and £10 on the night. As viability may be tight can all committee members attending pay 50% of the normal entry fee?

Andy Gibson has volunteered again and Gordon will be available (plus one other initially).

Aintree Preview Event 2023

Let's see what interest there is for Cheltenham before we decide about this potential event.

As a backstop there is a group of members on our FB page who do online previews.

The GN sweepstake will be drawn online.

Other Events in 2023

All ideas welcome plus volunteers to arrange events. No new ideas/events proposed at this time.

Deputising Cover for Key Roles

AW can now access the website builder & Judith Bradley (JB) is now acting as Facebook supervisor.

Any Other Business

KU kindly advised that he will be able to donate 'bottle' prizes for a raffle for the next event we hold.

Election of 2023 Committee

All exiting committee members were re-elected 'en bloc'. No new volunteers have been forthcoming in 2022/23.

Phil Evans 17/1/22