



nass
National Association of Stable Staff

Motions agreed at the NASS AGM as new policy

Motion on Muck Sacks

The NASS Executive Council asks the AGM to support the recommendation that muck sacks should no longer be used by Stable Staff due to the number of accidents and injury caused by the use of muck sacks. Correct provisions are not always made to accommodate the safe usage and weight restrictions of a 20kg maximum is difficult to monitor in practice.

NASS believes that the use of muck sacks is an outdated and disgusting practice requiring the Stable Staff Member to be in unreasonable contact with obnoxious contents. They should now be replaced in all stables with the use of wheelbarrows. By approving and seeking implementation of this motion NASS believes that there will be a reduction in injuries and improvement in staff moral.

Campaign for Best Turned Out Prize

The NASS Executive Council condemns the recently challenged practice of certain race sponsors giving their own goods vouchers as Best Turned-out Horse prize to Stable Staff. Such recent examples of pizza vouchers and internet betting vouchers which can only be used by opening an internet betting account are unacceptable.

The NASS Executive Council calls on all Racecourses to provide a Best Turned-out Horse prize for Stable Staff in every race that they put on. Such prize to be of a minimum of £100 per race and where the sponsor of a race or meeting does not meet this then the Racecourse should do so themselves.

NASS to approach appropriate organisations to support this policy including the Horsemen's Group, the RCA, the ROA and the Sponsors Association.

NASS Retired Members Section

It is known that a number of trade unions have a retired members section. With NASS organising in racing which is different from many industries in that many Stable Staff do not retire either at the traditional retiring age or even at all. This is partly due to the love of the job and partly due to the non-availability of, or a poor, pension.

However, some of Stable Staff including NASS Members do retire either because they have made financial arrangements for themselves or are forced to by their employer.

NASS has been the custodian of a number of retired Stable Staff Racing Passes given by the RCA and inherited from the SLA. This number of retired Stable Staff racing passes have now been issued and there is a waiting list for them.

NASS believe that the racing 'family' needs to provide for its retired colleagues, many of whom have given their whole working life, poorly paid, to racing. It is appreciated that Racing Welfare does a lot to look after retired Stable Staff in their charitable and social welfare work but NASS believes that it has its own role to also play in helping retired NASS Members and other Stable Staff.

This Annual General Meeting therefore agrees to:

1. Support the establishment of a NASS retired Members section
2. Authorises the NASS Executive Council to determine reasonable arrangements for Membership of that section.
3. Enter into discussions with Racing Welfare to avoid any overlap of service provision to retired Stable Staff.
4. Enter into discussions with the RCA to increase the number of Retired Passes to meet the increased demand for them.
5. Organise appropriate activities for the benefit of retired NASS Members and other Stable Staff.

Recruitment of Stud Staff

The Donoghue Report on Stud and Stable Staff is to be the subject of consideration at the recent NASS Mailbox Representatives Training Conference on 5 and 6 May 2011 prior to the NASS AGM to be held on 7 May.

The NASS Executive Council is aware that the Donoghue Report recommended the then Stable Lads Association consider whether it should recruit Stud as well as Stable Staff. There has been no consideration given to this recommendation either by the SLA or NASS to date since the publication of the 2004 Stud and Stable Staff Working Party Report was published.

NASS has begun to recruit a few Stud Staff as fee-paying Members and the Executive Council proposes that the Mailbox Representatives give consideration to the Donoghue recommendation now that NASS is firmly established as a competent representative organisation for Stable Staff. In the event that the Mailbox Representatives Training Conference support the idea of recruiting Stud Staff then this resolution should be tabled at the NASS AGM.

On the above basis, the NASS Executive Council recommends to the NASS AGM that they be mandated to open discussions with the Thoroughbred Breeders Association (TBA) about an amicable commencement of recruitment of Stud Staff into NASS and recognition by the TBA of NASS.