

How to get a new Point to Point on the Fixture List

Aim.

1. The purpose of this short paper is to explain how to get a new fixture approved, and on the fixture list. It is **not** to explain how to run a fixture and what needs to be done for which there is other documentation.

Background.

2. Traditionally point to points were run by Hunts or the military, and have been handed down as going concerns. In the past 30 years there have been an increasing number of Club fixtures, but these were normally set up by those already involved often either as Area or course fixtures, or indeed continuations once a Hunt had closed. In recent years the only exception to this has been the Yorkshire Jockeys Club, but several of those jockeys were already engaged with other fixtures as well as race-riding. It can therefore be very difficult for someone new to work out what needs to be done even to get one on the fixture list.

3. The fixture list is co-ordinated nationally. The Point to Point Secretaries Association (PPSA) represents the fixtures and is broken up in to 11 Areas. Each Area co-ordinates its own fixture list, which is then fed into the national list. The latter is then circulated with comments on where there are clashes and/or holes, along with proposals to solve the said problems, before the first of several Zoom meetings to discuss the issues involved and find ways forward.

4. It is to be noted that fixtures have preference for their traditional dates, which are based on week in season, specific weekend in month or specified days such as Easter Monday. Anyone trying to move into a date has to accept that grandfather rights take precedence providing said fixture has either run or intended to run in previous seasons (ie paid its fixture fee and had plausible reason why it could not run).

5. **Conclusion.** The above principles have worked well in creating a fixture list which for the most part provides geographic and date coverage with limited clashes and/or holes. However, it does mean that any new fixture has to accept that it will be slotted in where it is acceptable/preferably useful for both the Area and National programme.

What to do

6. **Step 1 – Confirm in general terms you want to run a fixture.** At this stage you don't need any detail but just get a feeling for workload involved (best advisers will be Area Secretaries, fixture secretaries and PPA) and who might work with you (friends or group?). The following are likely to be key issues:

- a. Likely workload for central committee
- b. Initial financial commitment
- c. Manpower: setting up and on the day

7. **Step 2 – Identify a Course.** If you are satisfied that you are keen to move forward, you need to identify a course. You cannot apply unless you have a course already planned. If you have agreement to add a fixture to an extant course, which can take another one, that will be easy. However, if it's a new course, it will need a BHA inspection and advice will be given on whether the ground is suitable and what will be needed. It is essential that this process is started before you reach the point where the Area needs to put your proposed meeting forward.

8. **Step 3 – Agree with your Area a date for the fixture to go ahead.** This can then be put forward to the national level. The following is the timetable for the annual co-ordination of fixtures. It is therefore Important for a would-be fixture to have spoken to the Area secretary in which it will be operating beforehand to ascertain what dates are likely to be available and indeed would be useful for the Area/region, which in turn would mean that it might be successful.

Date	Activity
Early April	PPA sends out to AS a spreadsheet showing the fixtures from previous year by Area with any amendments caused by Easter or on occasion week slip back.
Mid April	AS return their proposed lists with any comments
Week later	PPA send out amended spreadsheet which shows everyone's preferred dates, whilst listing the holes and clashes and possible solutions
End April	First Zoom meeting between PPSA and PPA to iron out the problems
	Zoom meetings then continue every 10 days/2 weeks to find solutions
Late May	PPA sends out information and forms to Fixture secretaries (FS) so that they can apply for meeting
The following is for interest only and is not relevant to this paper	
Late June	PPSA confirm Fixture List at AGM
30 June	Applications must be in including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Agreed date ● Fixture fee ● Host hunt permission ● Insurance (fixture cannot run without its provision).
Early July	PPA Board ratify fixture list
31 July	Race planning complete
Early Aug	Proposed Fixture list published along with pre Xmas fixtures race programmes
Early Sep	BHA confirms fixture list

Notes.

1. **Areas.** Whilst some Areas boundaries are obvious, others are not. In such cases call an Area Secretary or PPA who will put you on to the correct Area Secretary.
2. **Area Secretary.** Area Secretary contact details are in the Planner. Otherwise call PPA office.

Conclusion

9. Once all of the above has been completed, the hard work in putting together and running a meeting starts. Yes, it is hard work but its also terrific fun and very satisfying. I created one from scratch, albeit at an established course, and I am delighted to see it still running very successfully albeit in a different guise.

P H D WRIGHT

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