

**Executive Summary**  
**HRNZ National Forum Meeting**  
**Date:** 29 May 2025 | **Format:** Zoom Meeting

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**Meeting Overview:**

- Chaired by John Hartnell, attended by National Forum members.
  - Focused on Governance, Consultation, Constitutional Compliance, financial markers, operational communication & marketing, and sector engagement.
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**Key Discussion Points:**

- Member concerns relating to consultation, potential constitutional breaches, and meeting protocols.
  - Recognition of the forums as strategic partners.
  - Financial stability and the “look north” programme.
  - Marketing and a conversion strategy – race meeting attendees to horse owners – contestable funds, marketing workshops, and external support.
  - Club viability and Venue closing risks – setting the guidelines and ensuring compliance across core risk pillars.
  - Volunteer sustainability and governance renewal – succession planning and assistance.
  - Integrity & RIB accountability – enforcement, mental health, integrity framework, and consistent delivery.
  - Slot racing – is this elite racing at the detriment of the less rated horses, what other options and how to broaden the opportunity.
  - Horse utilisation – overuse, field size, race distance, welfare.
  - HRNZ Board is refreshing the strategic plan by May 2025, prioritising financial sustainability, operational improvements, and leadership in animal welfare outcomes.
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**Agreed Actions:**

- Regular meetings between the HRNZ Chair & NF Chair.
- Greater involvement and support of the HRNZ Board and new policy etc.
- National Forum planned meetings to align with HRNZ Board meetings to improve strategic input.



- Schedule an in-person National Forum meeting with the HRNZ Board for introductions and strategic feedback (June 2025)
  - Start work on a national governance plan to support clubs with recruitment and succession.
  - Seek greater involvement and co-operation between HRNZ Management and Forums to sense check decision making.
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**Summary:**

The Forum had in depth discussions on all the above points which make up critical parts of our industry. The concerns raised by our members are communicated to the HRNZ Board.

The forum stressed their frustration at the lack of engagement by HRNZ, it emphasised the value and strengths that sit at the NF table and the need to utilise this knowledge basis. Strategic delivery will be faster and have greater value in a partnership approach to change.

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**Reference:** [HRNZ Website](#)