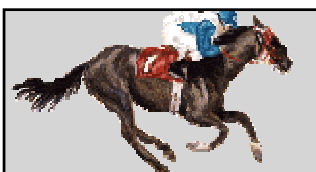


## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

### Why Prize Money Tables Are of Limited Value

The Racing Post started, with effect from 2<sup>nd</sup> January, to publish on a weekly basis prize money tables for Jump and Flat racing. Similarly, Thoroughbred Owner and Breeder, the official publication of the ROA and the TBA, has published this information for a number of years.

The racecourses and the RCA are very comfortable with the principle of prize money being reported, although we would question the value of this being produced on a weekly basis. Racecourses plan their prize money contributions well in advance for their entire annual race programme.



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Racecourses compete actively with each other to put on attractive races. Indeed the prize money outcome for 2006 will be positive. The figures are in the process of being consolidated but there are clear indications of a significant increase in racecourse combined Executive and Sponsorship prize money contributions over 2005. In addition to this, racecourses have made substantial contributions to the BHB Development Fund, via the bidding mechanism for leasehold fixtures.

The problem with the prize money tables used by the Racing Post and Owner and Breeder is that, whilst they are accurate, they portray a very simplistic picture and are consequently of little value to the reader. We outline some of the reasons below:

1. Firstly, the prize money figures for each racecourse have limited comparable value. This is because the race programmes for each fixture (and racecourse) will be composed of different combinations of race classes (from Group 1 races down to Class 7). BHB oversees meritocracy bands which have both maximum and minimum values, which are set after consultation with the RCA and racecourses.

2. It is consequently, far more valuable, for owners and trainers to compare the prize money offered by different racecourses for the various classes of race. This involves far more detail, but this information

is already available to owners and trainers in the BHB's Racing Calendar and in the quarterly Programme Book.

3. It is, of course, open to racecourses to upgrade their race programmes and many aspire to do so. However, it is not necessarily in the interests of racing generally that this happens on a widespread basis as it may cause the race programme to move out of balance with the available horse population. Whilst prize money is of key importance to owners, trainers, jockeys and stable staff it is equally important that owners are provided with opportunities to race their horses.

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

### Why Prize Money Tables Are Of Limited Value, contd...

4. Additionally, much publicity has been given to the many occasions on which valuable races, both in absolute and relative terms, attract small fields. This is, to a large extent, inevitable given that the population of racehorses to fill such races is fairly small but it does act as a disincentive to racecourses.

5. The prize money tables are regularly distorted by the incidence of abandonment. This is particularly relevant where a racecourse loses one of its flagship fixtures. In most cases the race sponsorship which underpins such fixtures is lost for that year. Additionally, the effect of such loss on the racecourse's other income is bound to impact on its capacity to make Executive prize money contributions.

6. The prize money tables also ignore the fact that the timing of the fixtures of each racecourse are widely different. Attractive slots, from the perspective of attendances, sponsorship and hospitality are not distributed proportionately. For example, a racecourse with a high proportion of week day afternoon fixtures (other than key festivals) will not be able to commit as much Executive and Sponsorship prize money contributions. These fixtures are nevertheless vital to the generation of Levy which underpins the Levy Board's prize money contribution which is the single largest element of prize money.

7. Finally, prize money is not the only important factor in attracting owners to the racecourse. The condition of the turf, and its maintenance, is critical. Similarly there has been a substantial improvement, across the board, in facilities provided on-course to owners, trainers, stable staff and for racehorses. This is an area which the ROA, through its Gold Standard, pays particular attention.

Having said all of the above, the RCA and racecourses are committed to working with the Horsemen's Group to encourage the growth of prize money. The joint initiative, last year, to introduce prize money commitment has already played an important part in the growth in 2006. Moving forward this will also be a key area for Racing's new commercial vehicle, Racing Enterprises Limited, which is jointly owned by the RCA (on behalf of racecourses) and the Horsemen's Group.

*S Atkin*

## THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS ASSOC. AGM

### Roy Announces British Horseracing Authority Offers "Fresh Start"

The British Horseracing Authority's Chairman Paul Roy, making his first public speech since taking up the role, declared his hope that the new body could offer a fresh start for racing.

Addressing the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association Annual General Meeting in London, where he was a guest speaker, Roy declared: "I want to make absolutely clear to you today that the BHA is not just a name change and yet another new acronym in racing. It is a genuine

fresh start; a ground-breaking new concept in sports administration. It is the most independent governing and regulatory body in British sport. It will be performance-driven, dynamic and responsive, and its decisions will be taken for the greater good, free from sectional interest."

Roy admitted that factionalism within racing politics had previously put him off getting more involved.

## THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS ASSOC. AGM

### Roy Announces British Horseracing Authority Offers "Fresh Start", contd....

He said: "Although a lifelong follower of racing, and an owner and breeder, I'd long been put off and disillusioned by the in-fighting, the politics and the factions. However, I viewed the formation of the BHA, in what is a radical restructuring of governance and regulation, as a tremendous opportunity for the industry to come together as one".

He said: "On the positive side, the number of races requiring investigation appears to be reducing all the time. This, together with the industry's more transparent, less self-denying response to any negative issues that make headlines in 2007, will build public confidence in our sport".

"The work of the regulator has been made in-

creasingly transparent to both the industry itself and the wider public, through the opening of appeals to the press, to the production of detailed reasons for decisions. The BHA will continue this trend towards enhanced disclosure transparency".

"However, integrity will always begin with individual responsibility. Integrity needs to exist across the whole industry, not just on the Racecourse".

Roy also highlighted the potential to bring more owners and investors into racing as well as announcing that the Stable and Stud Staff Steering Group was set to continue under the BHA.

## RACE PLANNING

### 2006 Prize Money Figures

Total prize money in 2006 reached a record of almost £103m. The Levy Board contributed over £62m, while Racecourse Executive & Sponsorship contribution came to about £27.3m which was £2.1m more than in 2005. The Owners contribution came to about £12m, whilst the Divided Race Fund reached £920k. The Development Fund, which holds the funds paid by racecourses buying fixtures, totalled £712k. Unfortunately, due to the downturn in Levy income, it is not expected that this record will be bettered in 2007. *Carla Moore*

### 2006 Abandonments

In 2006 a total of 51 abandonments occurred, compared to 50 the previous year and 53 in 2004. Cold weather caused 25 cancellations, while wet weather was also responsible for 25 of them (23 in 2005). One meeting was abandoned due to fog. Attached for Racecourse Managers are tables/graphs depicting the number of abandonments per month in 2006 and the total number of abandonments from 1993 onwards. *Carla Moore*

### Abandonment Payments 2007

For the year commencing 1 January 2007 the Levy Board will provide in the case of each abandonment for the reimbursement of expenditure at the level of £10,000 per fixture.

### Notification of Abandonments

When you are forced to abandon your meeting, Racecourses are asked to provide Weatherbys with the exact time and date of the cancellation as soon as possible. *Carla Moore*

## RACE PLANNING

### 2007 Fixture Fee Grants

The HBLB Board approved revised fixture and regulatory fees for 2007, totalling £15.85m, as its contribution to costs of the HRA Field Force and headquarters, and of BHB Handicappers. The Fixture Fee grant for 2007 has therefore been confirmed as £8,249 per fixture (was £7,409).

### 2008 Fixture List

Framework – The 2008 Fixture Framework document is currently being reviewed and should be released to Racecourses at the end of January. Issues that need to be considered are New Year's Day, Easter and Bank Holidays.

RCA Fixture Policy – The Board reviewed and endorsed, subject to minor changes, an interim submission to the BHB Board by the Fixture Policy Group. A copy was circulated to Racecourses last month. The submission was reviewed by the BHB Board in early December 2006. The submission is very similar in content to the outline presented at the Members' Forums in October and in more detail at the Management Seminar at Windsor, on 24 October 2006. There is still scope for the proposal to be fine-tuned following discussion with the BHB and Levy Board. If members have any concerns or points they wish to be considered, please contact either Stephen Atkin or Carla Moore.

On-line Bidding Process – On 5 December 2006 the RCA Executive met with BHB and Weatherbys' representatives to discuss the performance of the fixture bidding website. The main concern expressed by the RCA related to the speed of the refresh function. The following suggestions were therefore made:

- The bidding process should not commence prior to 10:00 am.
- Show details of only 9 fixtures at a time on

the screen (rather than all). All other fixtures to be included on a separate page.

- In the event of problems with the internet or the website (excluding local problems affecting a single user) the auction would be suspended and affected fixtures and any subsequently sold would be re-offered (autobids would stand, but any live bids would be disregarded).
- A 2-minute countdown with a 30-second gap between fixtures was preferred by the RCA.
- Weatherbys will review the script for their telephone operators. However, Racecourses will be advised that they must quote their user code and be able to identify themselves before Weatherbys will be able to assist them. Therefore don't leave the call too late.
- The use of the autobid should be promoted and should be available around the clock (3 or 4 days before the bidding starts).
- Weatherbys to investigate that use of the 'refresh' or 'back to' function on the browser were causing users to be logged out.
- RCA wish to revert to offering fixtures in order of commercial attractiveness rather than chronologically.

*Carla Moore*

### Membership of the Jump Racing Committee (JRC)

The BHB has approved the re-appointments of John Smee, Graham Dench and Tom Tate as members of the JRC, as well as Adrian Grazebrook as Chairman, until 30 June 2007 or (if earlier) the date when the BHB ceases to operate as the governing body for British Racing. *Carla Moore*

### Reserves in totesport.com Ayr Gold Cup

The NTF has requested that when declaring for the Ayr Gold Cup, trainers would like the option to either choose to be a reserve in the main race, or to run in the consolation race. Having an irregular, additional option is likely to cause administrative difficulties, so the BHB Racing Department will discuss the logistics with Weatherbys. *Carla Moore*

## RACE PLANNING

### Jump Race Development Group

The Group met on 13 December 2006 and discussed the following topics:

**Levy Board Funding:** David Bradshaw attended and informed the meeting that the Levy Board was committed to Jump Racing. Funding was currently split 60/40 Flat/Jump. He perceived a problem going forward with the increase of AWT to accommodate evening opening of LBOs. 2008 would be first full year. He explained that winter AWT fixtures were dealt with separately with regard to prize money. It is hoped that the current prize money pool could be sustained.

With regard to the fixture criteria the Levy Board would like to maintain 2 Jump fixtures and 1 AWT fixture during the afternoon in winter.

On the subject of 48-hour declarations he suggested that a working party should be set up to examine the facts. The Group felt that if there was a reduction in Levy due to 48-hours this should not effect jumping, as it has 24 hour declarations. Chris John would write to the Levy Board on this point.

Bookmakers are to present at the Levy Strategy Board Review on betting shop punters habits.

Merit Table Review - Changes were put on hold due to reduced prize money pool, but the Group will reconvene in 2007 and report to the Levy Board in March. The proposal concerns a hybrid of turnover and gross profits. 100% hypothecation was not on the Levy Board's agenda as it is not in best interests of the improvement of horseracing.

**Seasons & Championships:** The BHB is aware that communication with courses will be key with regard to making changes to fixtures.

**Order of Merit:** The meeting welcomed the news that RUK are sponsoring for one year only.

**IFHA (International Federation of Horse-racing Authorities):** Inclusion of Jump Racing to be approved at 2007 meeting.

**APRG Dinner:** Sally Rowley-Williams and Toby Balding attended the All Party Racing Group dinner. The Group noted that the APRG is second largest All Party Group with approximately 200 members.

**Minimum Ratings in Grade 1 Races:** Stuart Middleton reported positively.

**Mares black type programme:** Stuart Middleton to speak to Charles Wilson and Cheltenham Racecourse and conclude the discussions by April in time for 2008 Festival introduction.

**Programme of Racecourses based in the North:** The Group noted that programmes were being down graded to the extent that trainers were now buying lower grade horses due to a lack of opportunities for higher grade horses.

**TBA & Point to Point Review:** Not available yet.

**Pony Racing:** BHB helping to raise profile. Tony Goodhew said HRA Officials are more likely to help when Rules and Structure in place.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday 20 March at 11am at 151 Shaftesbury Avenue. *Carla Moore*

### Race Times Working Party

The Race Times Working Party will next meet on Tuesday 16 January to discuss the race times for April, May and June 2007. As a reminder, I re-circulated the draft times for that period. Also attached were recommendations for the meeting. Any comments on the draft and/or recommendations should be received by no later than **Monday 15 January 2007**. *Carla Moore*

### Late TV Payment

The Levy Board has confirmed that it will continue to fund Late TV Payments (£4,000 per race) for races with terrestrial TV coverage which has not previously been advertised in the Racing Calendar. To make a claim please fill out a Late TV Payment form and fax it to the RCA no later than 1 month after the fixture took place. For any queries or a copy of the form please contact me.

*Laura Holmes*

## RACE PLANNING

### Competitive Racing Statistics

BHB produced statistics, which it does on a monthly basis. A copy is attached for Racecourse Manager's information. Points of note, where the increase/decrease between the two study periods are marked, are as follows:

- a) **October 2006 compared with October 2005**  
FLAT - The starting price of the favourite is down markedly in all categories of race except Sellers.  
JUMP - The starting price of the favourite is down overall by nearly 13%.
- b) **August to October 2006 compared with August to October 2005**  
FLAT - There are over 10% more Handicaps and Conditions Stakes in this quarter of 06 than in 05. There are over 20% fewer Claimers.  
JUMP - The number of WFA Hurdles and NHF races have increased significantly. The starting price of the favourite is down by nearly 15% overall.
- c) **November 2005 to October 2006 compared with November 2004 to October 2005**  
FLAT - There are nearly 12% more Handicaps in the year to Oct 06 than in the previous year, and nearly 11% less Claimers. *Carla Moore*

### Race Planning Glossary

The RCA Race Planning Glossary is now available on the RCA website ([www.britishracecourses.org](http://www.britishracecourses.org)) under the header of Race Planning. You can also find details of the current Flat and Jump Classifications as well as the criteria for the Levy Board's 7<sup>th</sup> Race Schemes (Flat and Jump). *Carla Moore*

## HORSERACING REGULATORY AUTHORITY

### Starters Signallers

HRAGI 10.1 para 1 requires all Starters' Signallers to be fully trained and hold a current Certificate of Compliance. All Certificates of Compliance expire in February 2007. Therefore the HRA will be holding training/refresher sessions in February/March/April 2007. Racecourses will be notified in writing of the training session within their region in due course. All Starters' Signallers are required to attend and it is recommended that racecourses have at least two employees trained in this role.

The HRA will not be charging a fee for the training sessions, but racecourses will be expected to pay any expenses incurred by their attendees. *O Byrne*

## PROMOTIONS

### Racecourse Literature

We still await fixture and admission information for 2007 from many courses. If you have not already done so could you please send us a supply of literature so that we are in a position to deal with enquiries. *P Smith*

### Group Sales

As at 31 December 2006 bookings stood at 275 valued at £146,463. *P Smith*

## THE RACEGOERS CLUB

### Annual General Meeting

The Racegoers Club's 39<sup>th</sup> AGM took place at Cheltenham Racecourse in November. The current Committee was re-elected. *J Phillips*

### Tote Credit

In late December The Racegoers Club was able to include a copy of its 2007 leaflet in a mailing to Tote Credit customers, reaching 32,000 potential members. Our thanks to the Tote for their help with this.

*J Phillips*

### 2007 Voucher Books

Racecourse Managers should have received in December a copy of the 2007 Racegoers Club voucher book for their records. If you did not receive this please let me know. *J Phillips*

### Owners Groups

Senora Snoopy, after running down the field on her seasonal debut at Wetherby, has run two highly creditable seconds at Sedgefield in December and Haydock in January. Tocane did not run well on her debut at Ayr in November, but did not appreciate the soft ground and will be out again when conditions are more suitable. *P Smith*

## SPONSORSHIP

### Dedicated Racecourse Pages on RCA Website

There are still quite a few courses that haven't sent amended details for their dedicated pages on the RCA website – [www.britishracecourses.org](http://www.britishracecourses.org). If you have not done so please visit the sponsorship section/course details and check if you would like to update any information. Many courses include hospitality package costs which will almost certainly need updating. Please forward any amendments to me – [maryann@rcarcl.co.uk](mailto:maryann@rcarcl.co.uk).

### BHB VAT Group

In his 2006 budget Gordon Brown confirmed that the VAT Scheme for Racehorse Owners would be continued. This was a great relief to the Racing Industry as an economic review carried out by KPMG on behalf of the BHB VAT Working Group and presented to H M Revenue and Customs in October 2005, demonstrated its withdrawal would have a huge negative impact on the Industry.

The Group met on 5 December. Whilst the Treasury have not set any review date for the VAT scheme, the Group agreed that all efforts must be maintained to ensure that the scheme is being monitored and promoted effectively. Representatives of the Group (particularly Paul Dixon representing the ROA) expressed their

appreciation of racecourses including owners/yard sponsors details in racecards, and the Group in turn thanked Mike Butts representing Weatherbys for their assistance in providing this service free of charge.

Currently there are 15 courses that Weatherbys provide racecard services to that do not include owners/yard sponsors details. Some of these courses have expressed reasons why they do not wish to include them but if any of the other courses would like to add these details please ask Weatherbys to do so. If courses would like examples of racecards with owners/yard sponsorship details please do not hesitate to contact me. *MaryAnn Sandercock*

### Sponsorship Statistical Reports

You will have received the new format October and November 2006 reports (the only generic sponsorship analysis currently undertaken in the Industry), if you would like to continue to receive these reports in 2007 (and have the inclusive capacity to request ad hoc analysis of the sponsorship database), please email me your subscription request. Subscriptions cost £150 per annum for individual racecourses and discounts are available for Groups subscribing on behalf of all their racecourses.

*MaryAnn Sandercock*

## RACETECH

### RaceTech Launches New Website for 2007!

We are delighted to inform you that RaceTech will launch a new web site for 2007. We wanted to present the Company in a positive and appealing way, focussing on our core competencies and using the web as a window for our wares, for both the racing industry and the wider general public.

We have presented the business department by department – covering the starting stalls, outside broadcast work, photofinish activities, public address systems and AV, DVD and video sales and all of the services that we provide on racedays. In addition, we will be launching a private “Members Area” for all racecourses where you will find our up-to-date rate card of service charges, our annual accounts, recent press releases and some of the most frequently asked questions that we encounter. This will cover everything from raceday power requirements to consultancy services that we offer. From 12 January 2007 you will be able to log on to this Members Area, please call for details.

We would like to ask you to provide a link from your web site to RaceTech – we are keen to get as much exposure as possible and via our video/DVD sales, we can contribute to racegoers customer satisfaction – there can be few better ways to remember a good day out than by watching that day’s racing again. In return, we have put in a link to the RCA, listing all racecourse’s contact details and racing dates.

Please take a few minutes to surf the new site and any feedback would be welcomed. From mid-January 2007, we will start to use the Members Area as yet another way to communicate with our customers, so I would urge you to take a look and feel free to make suggestions on how we could make this even better and easier to use.

Log on to [www.RaceTech.co.uk](http://www.RaceTech.co.uk) and tell me what you think.

*C Pullan*

## BETTING

### Report from the December meeting of the National Joint Pitch Council

Below is a summary of the main points discussed at the December meeting of the NJPC which are relevant to racecourses.

**Auction Update:** The next auction is scheduled to be held on 27 February at Cheltenham, following which the List Position Valuations will be updated.

**Standard joints:** It was confirmed that joints must be smartly presented and H&S compliant and that the Betting Ring Managers would oversee a review of them.

**Website:** It was reported that there had been 4602 unique visitors in October.

**Bookmaker Committee:** The Bookmakers Committee has sent a paper to the DCMS re-

garding the future regulation and administration of betting on racecourses. The DCMS intends to hold preliminary discussions between interested parties and the RCA has confirmed that it would be happy to attend.

**Social Responsibility:** The NJPC has drafted a Social Responsibility Policy for bookmakers which will be issued after consultation with the bookmaker association members.

**Breaches:** Ten warning letters have been issued to bookmakers for non-attendance.

**SP Margins:** Show an increase to 1.72% from 1.52% in November.

**Date of Next Meetings:** 31 January 2007.

*C. Davies, A. Waterworth*

## COMMUNICATIONS

### The RCA - Who We Are

As its the beginning of the year and there have been some personnel changes at racecourses since this was last printed (as well as an additional member of staff and some responsibility changes at the RCA), I thought it would be useful to include the “Who we are/What we do” details. The following is a full list of the team at the Ascot office:

David Thorpe (Chairman)	01344 873538	david@rcarcl.co.uk
Stephen Atkin (Chief Executive)	01344 873538	stephen@rcarcl.co.uk
Caroline Davies (Racecourse Services Executive)	01344 873536	caroline@rcarcl.co.uk
Lance Havell (Financial Consultant – part-time)	01344 873537	lance@rcarcl.co.uk
Laura Holmes (Race Planning Assistant)	01344 626067	laura@rcarcl.co.uk
Valerie Larue (Promotions Administration Co-ordinator)	01344 625912	valerie@rcarcl.co.uk
Lizzie Lea (Research Assistant)	01344 626067	lizzie@rcarcl.co.uk
Gloria Lewis (PA to Chairman and Chief Executive)	01344 873538	gloria@rcarcl.co.uk
Carla Moore (Race Planning Executive)	01344 625723	carla@rcarcl.co.uk
John Phillips (Promotions Executive)	01344 626067	john@rcarcl.co.uk
Holly Robarts (Racecourse Services Co-ordinator)	01344 873536	holly@rcarcl.co.uk
John Rowley (Office Supervisor)	01344 625912	
Mary-Ann Sandercock (Sponsorship Executive)	07786 925803	maryann@rcarcl.co.uk
Paul Smith (Promotions Assistant)	01344 625912	paul@rcarcl.co.uk
Jackie Tizzard (Finance Administration – Part-time)	01344 873537	jackie@rcarcl.co.uk
Carol Walker (Administration Assistant)	01344 873536	carol@rcarcl.co.uk

### Data & Literature Available From The RCA

A main objective of the RCA is to provide relevant information to racecourses. The following is a list of the range of information available:

- UPDATE – an RCA produced monthly newsletter which details any developments in the areas affecting racecourses (posted on to [www.britishracecourses.org](http://www.britishracecourses.org))
- ALERTS – an email notice to racecourses, vital/urgent information
- RACECOURSE NEWS – a quarterly, four-sided colour newsletter, containing editorial on current industry issues/activities from a racecourse/RCA viewpoint, racecourse developments/stories, posted to a wide distribution list, including racecourses, industry contacts, MPs, leading owners/trainers/relevant jockeys and international racing organisations
- Attendance Data for every fixture
- Badges/Concessions – including lists of RCA, Press, NTF and JAGB metal badge holders and the list of Owners and Breeders Badge Scheme Members dates
- Compendium of Racecourse Guidance Documents (Purple Folder) – on subjects relevant to Racecourse Administration, Media and Communications, Veterinary, Medical, Track, Employment and Personnel issues
- Contacts – contact details for all racecourses and other racing industry bodies
- Market Research – racecourse and racing industry data
- Racecourse Information – details of badge allocations, admission prices, stabling etc
- RCA Suppliers Directory – directory of suppliers to courses with contact details
- Television Coverage Schedules, including BBC, Channel 4 and The Winning Post

## COMMUNICATIONS

### What We Do

The RCA is the trade association for 59 British racecourses, who are our customers and our number one priority. Our objectives are:

- to help reduce costs and increase income for racecourses
- to promote racecourse interests within the racing industry
- to provide information, training and support for racecourses

The RCA aims to provide advice and assistance on all matters concerning racecourses.

The following indicates the most relevant contact(s) in each main area:

- Admin/Finance/Insurance/VAT  
(contact: Lance Havell / Jackie Tizzard)
- Attendance Data  
(contact: John Phillips)
- Badges/PASS  
(contact: Holly Robarts / Carol Walker)
- Betting/Bookmaking/Tote  
(contact: Stephen Atkin / Caroline Davies)
- BHB/Levy Board Policy  
(contact: Stephen Atkin)
- Commentators  
(contact: Caroline Davies)
- Press Liaison  
(Lizzie Lea)
- Contact Database Maintenance  
(contact: Carol Walker)
- Fixtures  
(contact: Stephen Atkin / Carla Moore)
- Group Sales  
(contact: Valerie Larue / Paul Smith)
- JCGIs  
(contact: Caroline Davies / Holly Robarts)

### New Recruit

In accordance with the Board approval, the RCA has recruited Elizabeth (Lizzie) Lea, a graduate, for the position of Research Assistant. Lizzie joins the RCA on Monday 15 January 2007 and will undertake the roles outlined above. *C. Davies*

- Media Rights/Contracts/RaceTech  
(contact: Stephen Atkin)
- Medical/Safety/Security  
(contact: Caroline Davies/Holly Robarts)
- Minute Taking - RCA Board, RCA Race Planning Group, Media Rights Strategy Group  
(contact: Laura Holmes)
- Postage/Stationary/Office Maintenance  
(contact: John Rowley)
- Technical/Veterinary (contact: Caroline Davies / Holly Robarts)
- PA support to Chairman and Chief Executive  
(contact: Gloria Lewis)
- Promotions  
(contact: John Phillips)
- Racecourse News  
(contact: Lizzie Lea)
- Racegoers Club  
(contact: Valerie Larue, John Phillips or Paul Smith)
- Race Planning/Race Times/Prize Money/Abandonments  
(contact: Carla Moore / Laura Holmes)
- Research Projects  
(contact: Lizzie Lea)
- Sponsorship  
(contact: Mary-Ann Sandercock)
- Training  
(contact: Caroline Davies or Holly Robarts)
- UPDATE  
(contact: Carol Walker)
- Website – [www.britishracecourses.org](http://www.britishracecourses.org)  
(contact: Lizzie Lea or Carol Walker)

### Ceefax

The telephone and fax numbers for Ceefax are as follows:

Telephone: 0113 391 5128  
Fax: 0113 391 5140

## TECHNICAL

### 2006 Tote Sponsored Neil Wyatt Groundstaff Awards

The judging of the 2006 Tote Sponsored Neil Wyatt Racecourse Groundstaff Awards is due to take place shortly by a panel including representatives of the NTF, Jockey's Association, Tote and Racecourse Inspectorate. As in pre-

vious years there are three awards for Groundstaff at the racecourses judged to be the best Flat, Jump and Dual Purpose tracks. The winners of the awards will be announced by the end of January 2007. *H. Robarts*

### Frost Protection Covers

The Frost Covers Working Group met on 7 December 2006 at Cheltenham Racecourse to discuss the practicalities of Phase II of the Betfair funded research into the short and long term effects of frost protection covers on the ground and on racehorse welfare.

At this meeting, it was agreed that control trials would take place at Cranfield University, on ground which appropriately reflected a racing surface. In addition, trials would take place on racecourses, both on non racedays, and on racedays where covers were deployed.

An information pack regarding the progress with frost protection covers is being produced by the RCA and will be distributed to all racecourses shortly. *C. Davies or H. Robarts*

### Weather Report

Below is a summary of the November Weather Report (for England and Wales) from the Environment Agency.

November was another wet month throughout England and Wales, continuing the general trend of wet and mild weather experienced this autumn. All our regions received above average rainfall, and our Thames Region received 155% of the November long term average. Soil moisture deficits decreased in all our regions over the month and are more than 20mm lower than the same time last year in Thames and Anglian regions. River flows increased at all but four of the indicator sites, and all but one of the sites are *normal* or higher for the time of year. Groundwater levels increased at two thirds of indicator sites; however, five sites are *notably low* and both Stonor Park in our Thames Region and Crossley Hill in our Midlands Region are *exceptionally low* for the time of year. Reservoir storage increased in all our regions during November. Overall storage for England and Wales rose by 7% to 87%. Storage remains lowest in our South West Region with Colliford reservoir *notably low* for the time of year.

**Rainfall:** Following a wet October, November was another wet month throughout England and Wales and the fourth consecutive above average month across five of our regions. Overall, England and Wales received 108mm of rainfall, 118% of the November long term average (LTA). Individually, all our regions received above average rainfall and our Thames Region received 155% of the LTA. The last four months in Thames Region have been the 3rd wettest August to November period since 1974. Rainfall for the last two months across England and Wales was 126% of the LTA.

**Soil Moisture Deficit:** Soil moisture deficit (SMD) decreased in all our regions during November. Deficits in five of our regions decreased by between 20mm and 25mm but elsewhere decreases were smaller. SMD is between 20mm and 30mm lower in our Anglian and Thames Regions compared to the end of November last year. Elsewhere there is little difference to this time last year.

## TECHNICAL

### Weather Report, contd....

**River Flows:** Monthly mean flows increased at all but four of the indicator sites. Flows at all but one site in England and Wales are normal or higher for the time of year. Flows at all of the regional index sites are higher than those recorded in November 1975 except for the Great Stour in our Southern Region where the flows have fallen since last month.

**Groundwater Levels:** Groundwater levels increased at approximately two thirds of indicator sites during November. However, levels at just under half of the updated sites remain below normal or lower for the time of year. Levels at four sites in the sandstone aquifers of the Midlands and southwest and one site in the chalk aquifer of the southeast are notably low. Stonor Park in the chalk aquifer of the

Chilterns and Crossley Hill in the Sherwood sandstone are exceptionally low.

**Reservoir Storage:** Reservoir storage has increased in all our regions during November. Storage in our North West and South West Regions and EA Wales increased by 10% or more, whereas our Anglian, Southern and Thames Regions increased by 3% or less. Overall storage for England and Wales rose by 7% to 87%; the highest monthly increase for 12 months. Storage remains lowest in our South West Region at 62% of total capacity. Following an 8% increase in storage, Colliford reservoir in South West Region is now notably low, having previously been exceptionally low during October.

*H. Robarts*

## MEDICAL

### RMO Training

The Racing and Equestrian Medical Officers course run by Dr Bennett has received full approval from the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

In order to comply with the requirements of HRAGI 11.1 para 1, RMOs must undertake training every three years (or 4 for ATLS). Courses are scheduled to be held on 10 & 11 February 2007 and 8 & 9 September 2007. To book a place, please contact Dr Bob Bennett on 07979 506548.

## TRAINING

### Racecourse Groundsmen Courses

Advanced Course:	York Racecourse	11-16 February 2007
Foundation Course:	Cheltenham Racecourse	22-27 April 2007
Intermediate Course:	British Racing School, Newmarket	18-23 November 2007

There are places available on the above courses. For information please contact Chris Costello at the Institute of Groundsmanship, 28 Stratford Office Village, Walker Avenue, Wolverton Mill, Milton Keynes, MK12 5TW, Telephone: 01908 312511, e-mail: [iog@iog.org](mailto:iog@iog.org)

### Racecourse Training Manual

An updated copy of the Racecourse Training Manual has been produced. Copies are available upon request. *H Robarts*

## TRAINING

### Levy Board Reviews Support of Stud Staff Recruitment and Training

The Levy Board has approved financial support for programmes at the National Stud and the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association (TBA) in 2007 totalling £240,000.

Enjoying Board funding for a fifth successive year, the National Stud has been granted £210,000 for the central education and training programme for the Thoroughbred breeding industry. Together with Government and other income, this will underpin the renowned National Stud Diploma course, the Foundation Modern Apprenticeship, short term work experience programmes, the successful new Stud Secretaries' Course and innovations in stud staff recruitment and training provision planned by the Stud for 2007.

The TBA Stud Staff Project, launched in 2005, is implementing the recommendations

of the BHB Stable and Stud Staff Commission as they concern Thoroughbred breeders. The coming year will see further development of the Stud Registration Scheme, enhanced provision of employment and health and safety advice to registered members, and the completion of a survey that will point to future employment and training needs in the industry. The Board's support of £30,000 will be top-sliced from its 2007 Breeders' Prizes scheme allocation, supplementing funds from the substantial 2005 top-slice and the 2006 direct grant that remain available for expenditure in the coming year.

Contact: Libby Archer, Scientific Liaison Executive, Horserace Betting Levy Board on 020 7333 0043.

## BADGES & PASS

### Metal Badges

As previously reported, the RCA has undertaken a review of all badges, and the number of metal admittance badges in circulation has been reduced to 6 with those removed being included on the RCA badge list as appropriate.

Racecourses are asked to note that the BHB and HRA badges will continue until early in 2007 when they will be replaced by a British Racing Official Badge, the RCA will inform all racecourses when these badges are issued.

Once the British Racing Official Badges are issued, and the review is complete, only the following metal admittance badges will be valid:

RCA Badge  
RCA Special Badge  
Press Badge  
JAGB Badge  
NTF Badge  
British Racing Official Badge

*C. Davies or H. Robarts*

## BADGES & PASS

### PASS Workshop

A PASS Workshop will be held at Weatherbys on Thursday 22 March 2007. Full details will be sent to all racecourses shortly. For further information contact the PASS Helpdesk on 01933 270333.

### 2007 Badges and Badge Posters

8 copies of the large poster, and 4 copies of the A4 sized poster have been sent to all racecourses. Extra copies are available on request.  
*H Robarts*

### RCA and Press Badge Lists

Copies of the lists of 2007 RCA and Press Badges holders are available on request.  
*H Robarts*

### Missing Badges

No Metal Badges have been reported missing to date.

## SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

### Racing Register

Free to use, Racing Register is an events diary maintained by Sportsguide Limited on behalf of the racing industry. Any organisation planning a press day, product launch or open day etc., involving racing professionals and the media can contact Racing Register to register their event and be advised of any potential date clashes.

The following are highlights for February, March and April 2007. For further details regarding specific dates please e-mail: [events@racingregister.co.uk](mailto:events@racingregister.co.uk) or contact Lynn Payne at Sportsguide Limited on 01344 774322.

#### February

- 12 Monday - Chris Poole and George Ennor Celebration Novices Steeple Chase – Plumpton
- 12 Monday - 16 Friday – Goffs Mixed Sale
- 13 Tuesday - John Smith's Grand National Weights Luncheon – Savoy Hotel, London
- 15 Thursday - Dubai International Racing Carnival
- 20 Tuesday - British Horseracing Board Stud and Stable Staff of the Year Awards - Café Royal, London
- 22 Thursday - 23 Friday - Dubai International Racing Carnival
- 28 Wednesday - Cheltenham Racecourse Festival Press Lunch

#### March

- 1 Thursday - Annual Press Luncheon - Pontefract.
- 13 Tuesday - 16 Friday - Cheltenham Festival
- 17 Saturday - John Smith's Midlands Grand National - Uttoxeter
- 21 Wednesday - Lincoln Handicap Sales – Doncaster Bloodstock
- 31 Saturday - Dubai World Cup – Nad al Sheeba Racecourse

#### April

- 3 Friday - Press Dinner - Newmarket
- 4 Wednesday - Stable Visit and Press Conference - Newmarket
- 5 Thursday - 7 Saturday - John Smith's Grand National Meeting – Aintree
- 7 Saturday - John Smith's Grand National – Aintree
- 14 Saturday - Dubai Duty Free Press luncheon - Newbury

## SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

### Spotlight On .....

John Baker, Managing Director  
at Carlisle Racecourse



Age	38
Marital Status/Children/ Pets	Married to Louise with two children, Jessica who is 9 and Joe 7. 2 rabbits (one appropriately named Mad Max) and 2 guinea pigs!
Previous Career	Worked in the racing industry since going to Weatherbys from University
Best Bits About Your Job	The team that I am lucky to work with
Worst Bit About Your Job	Abandonments
Best Racing Experience(s)	Red Rum winning the 1973 Grand National, the race that got me hooked at the age of 5!
Worst Racing Experience	The void Grand National
Racing Hero	My Grandad. Though he wasn't involved in racing directly, without him I wouldn't have had the opportunities I have had to enjoy my working life so much
Most Fanciable Racing Personality	As they have performed at Aintree, does Kimberly from Girls Aloud count?
Hobbies	Time with the kids, Football, Socialising, Reading and, until the last Ashes Tour, cricket
Favourite Film & TV	Film: Any Harrison Ford/Clint Eastwood/Steve McQueen, TV Life on Mars, Extras, Dragons Den any John Thaw/David Jason
Favourite Holiday Destination	Vilamoura on the Algarve
Current Wheels	Skoda Octavia 1.9 (and proud of it!)
One Wish To Improve The Industry	A national TV campaign to promote horse racing that brings together all the various factions in the industry and makes stars of the heroes of our sport

## DIARY DATES

15	January	BHA Board BHB Board
23	January	BHB Race Planning Committee
5	February	BHB Board
12	February	BHA Board RCA Race Planning Committee
19	February	Members Forum (Cheltenham)
20	February	Members Forum (Newcastle)

## ATTACHMENTS

2006 Total Abandonments By Month and Code
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Competitive Racing Statistics
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