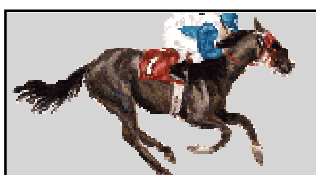


CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Racing Consortium Submits Bid for the Tote



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The Racing Consortium submitted to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), on 26 January 2007, its bid to acquire the Horse-race Totalisator Board (the Tote). The Consortium comprises the RCA, acting on behalf of its member racecourses, the Racehorse Owners Association (ROA) and the Tote employees. The bid is being funded by Lloyds Bank. The Consortium is being advised in this transaction by Rothschilds.

The Consortium is confident that the bid meets the Government's manifesto commitments, has been submitted within Government's timetable and should therefore be welcomed by them. At the time of writing the Consortium awaits the Government's response. Once their response has been received, and provided it is positive, the RCA will convene a general meeting to detail the structure of the deal, the equity interest and investment opportunities for racecourses. It is expected that this will take place sometime after Cheltenham. We will let you know the date as soon as possible.

S Atkin

Establishment of the British Horseracing Authority (BHA)

Members will be aware that the line-up of the first BHA Board is now complete with the 8 directors including current RCA director Ian Renton (who will step down from the RCA Board on taking up this appointment) and former RCA director Morag Gray MBE. We wish Paul Roy (BHA Chairman), Nic Coward (BHA Chief Executive) and their colleagues every success in establishing BHA and look forward to working with them in the years ahead.

The Legal Sub-Committee, chaired by Sir Tristram Ricketts Bt and on which I represent the RCA, has made good progress, particularly over the past 2 months. The Memorandum and Articles of Association are now virtually agreed. I am particularly indebted to the RCA Legal Group and Alan Barr (Burgess Salmon) for their help. The Sub-Committee has now started work on the remaining subsidiary agreements, including the Operating Agreement between BHA and Racing Enterprises Ltd (REL), which deals with the detail of the separation of governance and commerce.

The RCA Board will call a general meeting to consider the proposed BHA constitution once the underlying documents have been completed. The most significant outstanding item is the pension issues relating to the proposed transfer of staff to BHA from BHB and the Jockey Club, which necessarily involves consultation with the Pensions Regulator, which is underway.

S Atkin

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Racing Enterprises Ltd (REL)

The Board of REL met for the first time on 5 February 2007, for what was a most positive discussion. The REL Board comprises:

Stephen Crown	(Horsemen's Group)
Paul Dixon	(Horsemen's Group)
Sarah Hordern	(RCA)
Rod Street	(RCA)
David Thorpe	(RCA)
Robert Waley-Cohen	(Horsemen's Group)

I have been appointed Company Secretary and the registered office is at Winkfield Road, Ascot. Michael Harris (ROA Chief Executive) and Rupert Arnold (NTF Chief Executive) also attend Board meetings.

The company is jointly owned by the RCA and the Horsemen's Group. The members have agreed the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the registration process is underway.

The next meeting will be held on 11 April.

S Atkin

2006 TOTE SPONSORED NEIL WYATT GROUNDSTAFF AWARDS

The judging of the Tote Sponsored Neil Wyatt Groundstaff Awards for 2006 took place on Tuesday 23 January 2007. The winners and runners up were:

Flat	Winner	Redcar
	Runner Up	Goodwood and Salisbury
Dual Purpose	Winner	Kempton Park
	Runner Up	Newcastle
Jump	Winner	Newton Abbot
	Runner Up	Aintree and Hereford

The winning courses each receive £2,200 with £1,200 of that to be spent on machinery and the rest to be split between the Groundstaff Team.

All racecourses have been contacted with the results and the reasons given by the judges for their decisions.

In addition to the winners and runners-up, Haydock Park were singled out for praise in their use of portable fences, while Newbury was commended for their pioneering use of ground covers to beat the frost.

Rupert Arnold of the National Trainers Federation, who sits on the judging panel stated that: "Since I have been involved in the awards, this year's submissions were the most difficult to judge because of the number of racecourses that had gone to exceptional lengths to improve turf management."

H Roberts

THE ASIAN RACING CONFERENCE DUBAI 21 – 25 JANUARY 2007

I was privileged to attend this prestigious event, which should have been named the World Racing Conference as every racing nation in the world was represented by speakers or delegates.

The conference covered a wide range of subjects including operational, legal, financial and commercial. The buzz-word of this conference however was “co-mingling” – an array of leading figures from racing, betting and broadcasting organisations spoke about global appetite for increased product and co-mingling to increase betting pools for punters. We must maintain 48 hour declarations if we are to have a slice of this action.

The conference also gave me a great perspective on where Britain sits in the international racing

picture. We almost certainly have the most complicated structure and politics and are lagging on the prize money stakes, but we are leading the way in many other areas such as racecourse safety, our “drug free” racing and our capacity to explore income streams from various avenues.

There were far too many presentations to go into detail in UPDATE, I have circulated a more detailed report to racecourse managers – but if you would like to know more please visit www.arcdubai2007.com, where you can listen to most of the presentations – or if you would like to contact me please call me on 01488 73930.

M-A Sandercock

RACE PLANNING

2008 Fixture List

Framework: All Racecourses should have received the initial Framework for the 2008 Fixture List, which the BHB circulated to Racecourses on 29 January. Fortunately, this year there are no contentious issues such as missing weeks and leap years that need to be resolved. If you do have problems with your fixtures, please contact Tim Newton or Richard Wayman in the BHB Racing Department.

Bidding Process: As reported in the December issue of UPDATE, the fixture bidding process will be slightly updated and improved from last year’s version.

Number of available fixtures: The Framework currently contains 211 Leasehold fixtures. 108 can be bid for again, 52 of which will be Floodlit AWT. From January to mid-April another batch of Floodlit AWT fixtures will be added.

Fixture Market: Further to last year’s initiative, the RCA will again make available a page on its website called ‘Fixtures Market’. This is basically a Clearing House where Racecourse can advertise their wishes to swap/move, sell, lease or even buy (acquire) fixtures. The RCA website address is www.britishracecourses.org and you can find the dedicated page under ‘Racecourse Services’ – Fixture Market.

If you wish to enquire about a fixture you can

click on the racecourse, which will provide you with the contact details. The RCA would like to point out that BHB fixtures cannot be acquired. They can only be bid for during the bidding process, which commences in June. You are therefore advised not to announce your intention to bid for a BHB fixture on the dedicated website.

Laura Holmes will administer the site and therefore any requests should be directed to her on laura@rcarcl.co.uk or contact her on 01344 626 067.

Annual Fixtures Meeting: The RCA organised an annual fixtures meeting in April 2006 and intends to hold one again this year around the same time. A date will be confirmed as soon as possible.

Fixture Policy: The RCA will submit its Fixture Policy paper to the BHB Board, which meets on 5 March, as well as to the HBLB Strategy Review on 21 March. The RCA Board has asked that the Fixture Policy Group meets (by conference call if necessary) to confirm its stance as well as concentrate on some of the points of details with regard to the allocation of self-funded fixtures.

Carla Moore

RACE PLANNING

Race Planning Group

The Group will meet on 12 February. David Bradshaw, the Levy Board's Racing Executive, has been invited to join the meeting to talk about 2008 fixture criteria, merit table and fixtures incentive scheme. The RPG will concentrate on the following topics:

- 2008 Fixture List
- Fixtures Incentive Scheme
- Merit Table Review
- 48-Hour Declarations
- Selling Races

Carla Moore

48-Hour Declarations

On 30 January a meeting took place to discuss the future of 48-hour declarations. Present were representatives from the Levy Board, BHB, RCA, Horsemen's Group and the Bookmakers' Committee. They received presentations from the ABB and ATR/RUK (jointly). A report will be prepared for the BHB Board meeting scheduled for 5 March.

Carla Moore

Merit Table Review

The HBLB has reconvened its review of the Merit Table after it was cancelled last year due to the significant drop in levy for 2007. The Merit Table Review Group met on 1 February and decided that it was now a matter of principle rather than concentrating on actual figures and therefore it intends to re-submit its original recommendations to the HBLB Strategy Review on 21 March. This means that more emphasis will be placed on the betting element (at least 25%) and less on the underpinning (not more than 25%) side of the calculations. The current formula = 7.5% betting – 60% Merit and 40% Underpinning. Also, the betting element will no longer be solely based on turnover, but will be a hybrid formula comprising 50% turnover and 50% gross profit (based on 3-year average).

Carla Moore

Programme Book Volume 3

The programmes for race meetings taking place between 1 July and 30 September, 2007, should be available for collection from the Weatherbys database from Wednesday, 7 February. Mike Waring (Flat Programmer) and Richard Russell (Jump Programmer) will be contacting you directly regarding any suggested alterations. Racecourse Managers/Clerks of the Course should make any amendments on-screen, using the TRICL software, and then submit the programmes to the BHB Racing Department no later than **Friday, 9 March**. Compared to last year you have 2 more weeks to work on your programmes. Programme Book 3 is due to be published on 10 May.

Carla Moore

Divided Race Fund & Appearance Money Scheme

The level of funding for both schemes in 2007, based on the calendar year, is:

- Appearance Money £1,500,000
(£140 Sunday Runners, £250 Flat Conditions Stakes, £300 WFA Novice Chases)
- Divided Race Fund £ 950,000
(£1,000 is deducted from the TPF for each division)

Carla Moore

RACE PLANNING

European Pattern Committee (EPC) Report

The Annual Meeting of the European Pattern Committee was held in Rome on Thursday 11 January.

Britain - Britain secured 2 race promotions at the meeting.

One race was upgraded from Group 3 to Group 2

14 July	Summer Mile	Ascot	4yo+	8 furlongs
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One race was upgraded from Listed to Group 3:

6 October	Oh So Sharp	Newmarket	2yo+	7 furlongs
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The **Zetland** (3 November, 2yo, 10 furlongs, Newmarket) will be downgraded to a WFA conditions race in 2007 and the **Merrion** (16 May, 3yo, 7 furlongs, York) will be downgraded from a Listed handicap to a Class 2 handicap. Following appeals by the respective racecourses, it was agreed that both the Doonside Cup (22 September, 3yo+, 10 furlongs, Ayr) and Flower of Scotland (23 September, 3yo+, 5 furlongs, Hamilton Park) will both retain their Listed status in 2007, but if they do not meet the required Listed parameters in 2007 they will be downgraded.

Ireland - Ireland secured the upgrade of 5 Listed races to Group 3.

13 May	Amethyst Stakes	Leopardstown	3yo+	8 furlongs
28 July	Tyros Stakes	Leopardstown	2yo	7 furlongs
6 August	Give Thanks Stakes	Cork	3yo+ f	12 furlongs
19 August	Ballyroan Stakes	Leopardstown	3yo+	12 furlongs
16 September	Solonoway Stakes	Curragh	3yo+	8 furlongs

The **Ridgewood Pearl** (4yo+ f, 8 furlongs, 26 May, Curragh) was downgraded from Group 2 to 3.

Germany - The following 2 German races were both downgraded from Group 2 to Group 3 :

16 September	Merrill Lynch Euro Cup	Frankfurt	3yo+	2,000m
31 August	Maurice Lacroix Trophy	Baden-Baden	2yo	1,400m

Italy - Italy secured one race promotion from Listed to Group 3 status:

22 April	Ambrosiano	Milan	4yo+	2,000m
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The following Italian Races were downgraded:

Downgraded from Group 1 to Group 2

17 June	Oaks d'Italia	Milan	3yo f	2,200m
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Downgraded from Group 2 to Group 3

13 May	Regina Elena	Rome	3yo f	1,600m
22 April	Premio Parioli	Rome	3yo c	1,600m

Other topics which the Committee considered were:

- Fillies' Allowances Used When Assessing Pattern Race Ratings – the EPC would like to standardise this in Europe and possibly worldwide.
- Enhanced Fillies' Race Programme – was deemed a success and only 1 race (Ridgewood Pearl) did not work.
- Decline In The Level Of The International Classifications & World Thoroughbred Racehorse Rankings – this was of concern and will be tackled by the IFHA.
- Structure Of The European Pattern – Ground Rules will be reviewed.
- Sprint Races – there is concern as none of the races reach their parameters. This will be investigated.
- Breeders Cup – EPC was unaware of the US's plans.

RACE PLANNING

Arabian Racing Organisation

The Arabian Racing Organisation welcomed the RPC's decision to relax the restrictions on thoroughbred horses participating in Open Arab races. It hopes that the changes to the qualification requirements will enable more people to take part in the sport which, despite the relaxation, will remain focused on Purebred Arabian Racing as its core activity. In summary:

- Flat horses rated 40 and below are eligible
- Jump horses rated 75 and below are eligible
- Penalty value increased to £3,500 (Class 6)
- A horse can participate 1 month after coming from a professional yard (was 3 months).

Carla Moore

Competitive Racing Statistics

A copy of the latest statistics is attached for Racecourse Managers. Points of note, where the increase/decrease between the two study periods are marked, are as follows:

2006 compared with 2005:

- **FLAT:** There has been a large increase in the number of handicaps (+19%), and a large drop in Classified/Banded Stakes (-43%) and Claimers (-15%). Overall, field sizes are down 6% on last year.

October to December 2006 compared with October to December 2005:

- **FLAT:** There have been significantly more Maidens/Novice races (+33%) and Handicaps (+46%), and significantly less Classified/Banded Stakes (-31%) and Claimers (-24%). Field sizes are down 12% overall compared to 2005.
- **JUMP:** There has been a 12% increase in the number of races.

December 2006 compared with December 2005:

- **FLAT:** There have been 51% more races overall, especially Maidens/Novice races and Handicaps. Field sizes are down 17% overall compared to Dec 2005.
- **JUMP:** There have been 15% more races overall.

The one big question emanating from this is why is there such a sharp reduction in Claiming Races? Sensible answers are very much welcomed.

Carla Moore

Change to the Qualification Rules for Nurseries

The RPC was asked to consider a revision to Order 94 to allow 2-y-o's to run in handicaps from 1 July onwards, if they have run 3 times, regardless of whether they have been placed in the first 4 or not. The Committee was supportive and full details and the final decision by the BHB Board will appear in next month's UPDATE.

Carla Moore

Races for Lowly Rated Horses

BHB wishes to programme a few Classified Stakes where the elimination sequence would favour those horses that had not run more than 6 times. This would help those horses that have been denied a run and would mean that they would have an opportunity to better themselves. The RPC suggested a limited trial and BHB were asked to see whether these could be staged sooner rather than later as additional (7th) races.

Carla Moore

Stabling / Field Size Limits

RPC reiterated its support for the current procedure regarding the Stabling issue connected to Field Size Limits, in that divisions should be included in the elimination process. It deemed that divisions are a necessary and welcome part of the overall programme and should not be lost to the programme by the imposition of the '1 runner per box' ruling.

Carla Moore

PROMOTIONS

Mail on Sunday '2-for-1' Offer

The popular Mail on Sunday '2-for-1' ticket offer will once again be run by the RCA Promotions department in 2007. All Sunday racemeetings from March to December are eligible to be included in the offer, and Racecourse Managers who possess such fixtures were faxed with details and an acceptance form on 29 January. If you are yet to respond, please do so by Wednesday 14 February.

J Phillips

Fixture and Admission Information Please

We have had numerous enquiries throughout the year requesting information leaflets on specific courses. We are still awaiting leaflets from a number of courses, so if you are yet to send a supply on to us (or wish to double-check that you already have) please contact us.

P Smith

Punters' Packages

In 2006 the RCA co-ordinated a series of "Punters' Packages"; individual promotional offers carried by the Racing Post on behalf of courses. The results of these promotions were at best variable. If you wish to produce a Punters' Package offer in 2007, please contact Lucy Faith directly at the Racing Post, on 0207 293 2169 or email lucy.faith@racingpost.co.uk.

J Phillips

THE RACEGOERS CLUB

Membership Renewal

A higher proportion of Club members than ever before have renewed for 2007, with the churn rate (non-renewers) down to just under 20% with one final reminder still to be sent. The final non-renewal rate last year was just over 26%.

J Phillips

Recruitment

Recruitment in the period 20 November 2006 to 18 January 2007 was 524 new members, compared to 157 in the same period a year ago.

V Larue

Channel 4 Interview

The Racegoers Club featured on Channel 4's racing broadcast from Cheltenham on Saturday 27 January, where the Chairman, Stephen Atkin, presented the 2006 Racecourse of the Year Award and was interviewed by Mike Cattermole. This coverage resulted in good interest amongst viewers, producing nearly 100 new members.

J Phillips

Fixture Booklets

Our complimentary fixture booklets in eye-catching red dispensers have been distributed at 28 racecourses which stage jump racing. Only a few courses remain outstanding. A second run of fixture booklets will be printed for Flat and Summer Jumping courses in early April.

P Smith

THE RACEGOERS CLUB

Website

The new Racegoers Club website was launched in late November, and provides a number of new services - www.racegoersclub.co.uk. Prospective new members can search our database of concessions by date or course and join online, whilst there is a members section requiring login, where current members can renew, find out the latest news on owners groups they belong to, and interact via a forum.

J Phillips

Cheltenham Guest Speakers

In 2007, for the first time we have secured guest speakers for each day of the Cheltenham Festival in our private marquee. On Tuesday Paul Nicholls' assistant trainer Dan Skelton will run through Paul's Festival squad, on Wednesday Ferdy Murphy will talk about his team, on Thursday Jim Lewis, owner of the late Best Mate, will discuss his great Cheltenham memories and on Friday Channel 4's Tanya Stevenson will detail all the market movers on totesport Gold Cup Day.

J Phillips

HRA

HRA Flat Trainer Starting Initiatives – Additional Stalls Tests

Racecourses will be aware that a number of targeted initiatives have been introduced in the past 18 months to encourage trainers' schooling of flat horses in Starting Stalls. The aim has principally been to promote safer starts and ensure that trainers with very well prepared Flat runners are not disadvantaged by those with poorly behaved horses that can upset their competitors and delay starts.

One of these initiatives took effect from 15 January and affects any trainer who during 2006 had a rate of 15%+ badly behaved horses (as identified by the HRA Starters team) as a percentage of his individual Flat runners.

The most pertinent consequence of this as far as racecourses are concerned is that, for the remainder of 2007, this small percentage of affected trainers will have to present any pre-

viously unraced debutant for a standard Stalls Test before it can run in a Flat race in Great Britain.

Clearly, this will result in additional Stalls Tests (estimated to be around 125 over the whole year) on a raceday on licensed racecourses. Discussions took place with the RCA and NTF prior to the implementation of this additional Stalls Test criterion and consequently to avoid the (unlikely) occurrence of a course receiving a glut of Stalls Tests requests ahead of any given fixture, it has been agreed that courses should stage a maximum of five stalls tests on any raceday.

Please contact: Fraser Garrity on 0207 189 3852 for further information.

Paul Struthers

RACETECH

DVDs, Videos and Blank Media

Lots to report from RaceTech – our new web site is up and running – your comments and feedback would be welcomed. Thank you to all those racecourses who have already provided links from their sites to ours and a request to all those who haven't to do so – it is much appreciated. We are monitoring traffic to the new site and urge you to log onto the members area – call RaceTech for details if you haven't done so already. We will be using this secure area for posting a variety of communiqués and information, so log on regularly to stay up to date.

Many racecourses are now requesting DVDs for winning owners/connections instead of videos. Please let us know in advance which you would prefer and please be aware that DVDs take approximately 15 minutes from the finish of a race to produce. RaceTech ask that racecourses provide us with blank disks on raceday (or video tapes if that is your preference). DVDs need to

be DVD-R type – if you wish to purchase them in bulk from RaceTech in advance, please contact our Video Department on 0208 947 3333 and press option 1. We have been able to negotiate some excellent rates for bulk purchases and can advise on which disks you need.

Regarding DVD and video sales to racegoers and interested parties, we would like to ask all racecourses if we could advertise in the race card. Please contact me at RaceTech for artwork – we will add a promotional code so that we can track where enquiries come from. Sales of DVDs, videos and photo finish prints are a necessary source of revenue and also provide an excellent lasting memory for your racegoers of a great day out. We can offer good rates for syndicates and groups as well as one offs and special bespoke disks made to order.

Catherine Pullan

BETTING

Report from the National Joint Pitch Council

Below is a summary of the main points discussed at the January meeting of the National Joint Pitch Council that are relevant to racecourses.

List Position Valuations and Churn: Comprehensive details were provided for 2006 with comparisons to previous years. This information is available to racecourses on request to Peter Smith at the NJPC.

Bookmakers Attendances: Bookmakers attendance data for 2006 shows a 6% decrease on 2005.

Standard Joints: The 'MOT' of bookmakers joints and anchorage points project is due to commence shortly and will be coordinated by the Betting Ring Managers.

Appeals: The NJPC is scheduled to hear 2 appeals on designated numbers and ring layout on 5 March.

Social Responsibility Policy: The NJPC has drafted a Social Responsibility Policy for bookmakers which has been sent to the Gambling Commission for their approval. When approved it will be posted on NJPC website. Bookmakers

will be required to have and operate such a policy under the terms of their operating licence.

Management Accounts: The Management Accounts for 2006 were noted.

Annual Accounts: It will be necessary to resolve what future arrangements will apply before the Annual Accounts can be signed off.

Breaches: 28 Warning letters for non-attendance have been sent to bookmakers.

Bookmaker Authorisations 2007: Numbers are in line with 2006.

Open Meetings: There was a low turnout at the Open meetings except where there were key issues for discussion.

SP Margins: The Margin for December was 1.79% compared to 1.48% in 2005.

Racecourse Membership: Please can racecourses advise the RCA if they are happy to sell annual members badges to on-course bookmakers.

Date of Next Meeting: 6 March 2007 10.00am.

C Davies, A Waterworth

TECHNICAL

RCA Clerks of the Course Seminar

A seminar for Clerks of the Course will take place at Aintree Racecourse on Monday 26 and Tuesday 27 November 2007. If there are any topics that you would particularly like to see covered in this seminar please contact me and we will endeavour to include them in the seminar programme.

H Roberts

Weather Report

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

December was another wet month throughout England and Wales and the fifth consecutive month with above average rainfall in five of our regions. All regions received average rainfall or above ranging from 100% in our South West Region to 180% in our North West Region. Soil moisture deficits decreased in all our regions over the month and are no higher than 12mm in any of our regions. Monthly mean river flows increased at all indicator sites relative to November, and all but one site is now *normal* or higher for the time of year. Groundwater levels increased at all but four indicator sites located in the sandstone; however, levels at one quarter of sites are *below normal* or lower. Three sites are *notably low* and two sites in the sandstone of our Midlands Region are *exceptionally low* for the time of year. Reservoir storage increased in all but two regions during December, in some places the increases were particularly large. Overall storage for England and Wales rose by 4% to 92%. Storage remains lowest in our South West Region at 74%. Only two reservoirs or reservoir groups have storage lower than normal for the time of year.

Rainfall: Following a wet autumn, December was another wet month throughout England and Wales and the fifth consecutive month with above average rainfall in five of our regions. Overall, England and Wales received 126mm of rainfall, 128% of the December long term average (LTA). Rainfall as a percentage of the LTA ranged from 100% in our South West Region to 180% in our North West Region. England and Wales overall has had 128% of the LTA during the last three months of 2006.

Soil Moisture Deficit: Soil moisture deficit (SMD) decreased in all our regions during De-

ember. Soils are now saturated or very close to saturation in all regions. SMD is 15mm lower in our Anglian Region and approximately 10mm lower in our Thames and Southern Regions compared to the beginning of January 2006.

River Flows: Monthly mean flows increased at all indicator sites. Flows at all but one site in England and Wales are normal or higher for the time of year and more than one third of sites have flows which are either notably high or exceptionally high. The number of sites that are above normal or higher almost trebled in comparison to November. Flows at all of the regional index sites are higher than those recorded in December 1975.

Groundwater Levels: Groundwater levels increased at all but four sites located within the sandstone aquifers of the Midlands and North West England. Groundwater levels continue to recover within the chalk with half of the sites increasing by at least a class since November. Levels at approximately one quarter of sites, predominately in the sandstone are below normal or lower for the time of year. Crossley Hill and Watch Hill in the sandstone of the Midlands are exceptionally low.

Reservoir Storage: Reservoir storage is higher at the end of December than it was at the end of November in all our regions, with the exception of Midlands and Thames. Here storage has fallen as a result of flood mitigation measures, infrastructure maintenance and licensed conditions. Storage in our Southern Region increased by over 20% and by just over 10% in our Anglian and South West Regions. Overall storage for England and Wales rose by 4% to 92%. Storage remains lowest in our South West Region at 74% of total capacity. The number of reservoirs or reservoir groups that have storage above normal has more than doubled since the end of November.

H Roberts

TECHNICAL

Energy Ratings

Racecourses should be aware that there are to be alterations in the way energy efficiency ratings are assessed for all non residential buildings when constructed, sold or rented. All such buildings will be required to have an energy certificate, which will indicate its energy performance. All heating and ventilation systems will be judged against a naturally ventilated benchmark and graded accordingly.

The legislation is due to be launched next month with detailed guidance to follow later this year. Further information can be found at www.building.co.uk

C Davies or H Roberts

SAFETY

RCA Safety Group

The RCA Safety Group met on Tuesday 30 January 2007. The racecourses were represented by Jim Allen, Ilona Barnett, Nick Russell, Steve Tully and Ronnie Wilkie. The notes of the meeting will be circulated to all racecourse managers and racecourse Health and Safety Managers when they have been approved by the Group. A summary of the discussion is outlined below:

The Green Guide: The Group was informed that the RCA had responded to consultation from the FLA regarding a review of the Green Guide, and that the outcome of this consultation exercise was expected shortly.

Bomb Threats at Racecourses: The Group discussed the incidents of bomb threats at racecourses and the immediate action list sent to all racecourses by the RCA following liaison with the HRA and Metropolitan Police. It was agreed that the RCA should develop best practice advice on this matter for distribution to all racecourses.

Private Security Industry Act 2001: It was agreed that further to the Full Regulatory Impact Assessment issued by the Home Office, the RCA guidance document should be reviewed.

Alcohol and Crowd Behaviour: The Group reviewed the RCA guidance document on this matter, and agreed a small number of changes.

Water: The RCA was asked to investigate the legal requirements regarding the provision of water for racegoers.

Alcohol Sponsorship: Concerns were raised regarding the effect of European legislation on sponsorship by alcohol companies, and the Group was informed that the proposals had not been adopted by British Government.

Social Responsibility: It was agreed that the RCA Social Responsibility guidance document would be constantly reviewed to include current issues. In addition, the RCA was asked to clarify the legal requirements for the provision of a corporate social responsibility policy.

Smoking Legislation: The Group discussed the implementation of the smoking legislation in England and Wales, and noted the requirement for the provision of suitable signage at entrances. The Group agreed that all required signage should be available locally and that there would be no requirement for the RCA to provide standardised signs to racecourses.

Tree Safety: It was agreed that guidance should be issued to racecourses regarding the need to regularly check and pollard trees to avoid accidents. It was proposed that the RCA would discuss this further with the Institute of Groundsmanship.

C Davies or H Roberts

SAFETY

Provision of Drinking Water

Further to a query from the RCA Safety Group the RCA has contacted the HSE to confirm the requirements for the provision of drinking water to racegoers.

They have confirmed that there is a legal requirement for a workplace to make drinking water available to their employees, but that there is no requirement to make drinking water available to customers, but that there is a

duty of care. Therefore, the provision of drinking water for racegoers is at the discretion of individual racecourses.

They also advised that racecourses could discuss this further with their Local Environmental Health Officer if they wanted to further investigate provision of water for racegoers and suitable methods of doing this.

C Davies or H Robarts

MEDICAL

Review of Racecourse Medical Arrangements

At its June 2006 meeting, the Board authorised the RCA Executive to engage Dr Iain McNeil to undertake a review of racecourse medical arrangements to examine whether there were areas where the provision of medical services could be improved in a professional cost effective and sustainable way.

The project took account of the following:

- an assessment of the current HRAGIs and green and purple guides medical requirements
- an assessment of requirements at both flat and jump race meetings
- consultation with members of the RCA Medical Group and other selected senior racecourse medical officers
- liaison with the HRA and Jockeys Association regarding their realistic requirements/expectations

Dr McNeil presented his report and recommendations to the Board at their January

meeting. The report provides a comprehensive overview and highlights 70 recommendations. As instructed by the Board, the RCA Executive forwarded to racecourses those recommendations that have an immediate priority. The report notes that there is much to commend in the provision of medical cover for horseracing and highlights many areas of good practice. It is hoped that all courses will see the importance of considering the recommendations with a mind to improving upon the status quo in a practical and cost effective manner.

A joint meeting of the RCA Medical and Technical Groups is scheduled to be held on 23 February following which task groups will be convened to assess and manage the recommendations. An initial review of the recommendations will be given at the Members Forum meetings later this month and all racecourses will be kept advised of progress.

C Davies, L Lea

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 8 & 9 September 2007. To book a place, please contact Dr Bob Bennett on 07979 506548.

TRAINING

Racecourse Groundsmen Courses

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

Groundstaff Training Group

The Groundstaff Training Group met on Monday 29 January to discuss future administration of the Groundsman Courses and to review the results from the 2006 Foundation and Intermediate Groundsman Courses and the programme for the 2007 Advanced Groundsman Course. A summary of the meeting is below:

2006 Foundation Course: The Group was informed that the course had been very successful, although it was identified that the catering arrangements would need to be examined further.

2006 Intermediate Course: The Group was made aware that this course had also been a success, with no problems arising. It was proposed that the format of the Health and Safety content of this course could be reassessed, and this will be investigated further.

Advanced Course Programme: It was agreed that following the 2007 advanced course the programme would be re-evaluated in advance of 2008.

Course Dates for 2008: Dates and venues for the 2008 Racecourse Groundstaff Courses were discussed, and will be confirmed when available.

Bespoke Courses: The Group was informed that the IOG was able to provide bespoke courses at the request of racecourses when it was practical to do so.

Disruptive Candidates: The Group was informed that details of the disciplinary procedures for disruptive candidates would be outlined in the correspondence sent to candidates in advance of the courses.

Funding: The Group discussed the possibilities of gaining funding for the groundstaff courses, but concluded that no funding was currently available. *C Davies or H Robarts*

The Racecourse Training Manual

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

H Robarts

BADGES & PASS

PASS Workshop

A PASS Workshop will be held at Weatherbys on Thursday 22 March 2007. For further information contact the PASS Helpdesk on 01933 270333. *H Robarts*

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

BADGES & PASS

RCA and Press Badge Lists

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

H Robarts

Missing Badges

RCA: 256, 257

Press: 153, 220, 416, 425

JAGB: 448

NTF: 383, 793, 851, 1318, 1319

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 March, April and May 2007. For further details regarding specific dates please e-mail: events@racingregister.co.uk or contact Lynn Payne at Sportsguide Limited on 01344 774322.

March

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 1 Thursday | - Annual Press Luncheon - Pontefract. |
| 6 Tuesday | - Preview Evening - Cheltenham |
| 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 |

April

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 3 Friday | - Press and Trainers Dinner - Newmarket |
| 4 Wednesday | - Annual Press Launch and Stable Visit - Newmarket |
| 12 Thursday – 14 Saturday | - John Smith's Grand National Meeting – Aintree |
| 21 Saturday | - Dubai Duty Free Press Luncheon – Newbury |
| 24 Tuesday | - Goodwood Pre-Season Press Launch – London |


May

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 5 Saturday | - Newmarket Guineas Meeting |
| 6 Sunday | - Newmarket Guineas Meeting |
| 8 Tuesday | - Vodafone Derby National Press Launch – London |
| 8 Tuesday | - York Press Lunch for racing press |
| 14 Monday | - BHB Anglo Irish Jump Racing Awards Luncheon and Press Conference, Café Royal, London |
| 21 Monday | - Doncaster Bloodstock Sales |
| 24 Thursday | - Breakfast with the Stars – Epsom Downs |

SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Spotlight On

Hazel Peplinski - Clerk of the Course - Hamilton Park

Age	Morag, Anthea and I are exactly the same age - I couldn't let them down and give details, could I? 44!	
Marital Status/Children/Pets	Married to George, Xandi is 6, Henrik is 4. I just lost my 13yr old faithful Jack Russell in an accident which is really sad.	
Previous Career(s)	Always in sports promotion/management but swapped tennis and golf for racing in the early 90s.	
Best Bits About Your Job	When a first-time visitor to Hamilton Park says how pleasantly surprised they are to find good facilities and a fun atmosphere.	
Worst Bit About Your Job	When the child-minder doesn't turn up as planned on raceday mornings. I realise 5.30am is quite a demanding request!	
Best Racing Experience(s)	Does sitting on Muhammad Ali's knee having a wee chat whilst sampling mint juleps at the 1981 Kentucky Derby count?	
Worst Racing Experience	As an amateur on the flat I once borrowed a professional's saddle and realised at the stalls that I couldn't drop the leathers any further - I had to ride the whole race like Lester Piggott and finished like a blob of blamangue - my horse finished second and if it had received any assistance from the saddle at all we would have won.	
Racing Hero	Kieren Fallon	
Most Fanciable Racing Personality	My Mum once said Mark Zetland had sexy hands and she was right; Mark Dwyer has twinkly Irish eyes and Gerard Butler is just plain cute!	
Hobbies	Golf, tai chi, running, baking with the children (apart from the tidying up bit!), bridge	
Favourite Film & TV	Shawshank Redemption, Billy Elliot (musical especially) and top class golf, tennis and racing events	
Favourite Holiday Destination	Anywhere my husband is not contactable on his mobile by his work. Skye worked a treat last year.	
Current Wheels	A 10 year old Subaru Legacy - keen to change it for a non-estate model	
One Wish To Improve The Industry	We used to have a race programme for the benefit of the thoroughbred as a breed. Now we stage so much moderate racing the sport is in danger of imploding. Less is more.	

DIARY DATES

19	February	Members Forum (Cheltenham)
20	February	Members Forum (Newcastle)
27	February	RCA Technical Group BHB Race Planning Committee
1	March	RCA Board
5	March	BHA Board BHB Board BHB Race Planning Committee

ATTACHMENTS

Competitive Racing Statistics

CONTRIBUTORS' CONTACT LIST

Atkin, Stephen	01344-873538	stephen@rcarcl.co.uk
Davies, Caroline	01344-873536	caroline@rcarcl.co.uk
Larue, Val	01344-625912	val@rcarcl.co.uk
Lea, Lizzie	01344-626067	lizzie@rcarcl.co.uk
Moore, Carla	01344-625723	carla@rcarcl.co.uk
Payne, Lynn	01344-774322	lynn@sportsguidelimited.com
Phillips, John	01344-626067	john@rcarcl.co.uk
Pullan, Catherine	0208 947 3333	cpullan@racetech.co.uk
Robarts, Holly	01344-873536	holly@rcarcl.co.uk
Sandercock, MaryAnn	07786 925803	maryann@rcarcl.co.uk
Smith, Paul	01344-625912	paul@rcarcl.co.uk
Struthers, Paul	0207 189 3862	pstruthers@thehra.org
Walker, Carol	01344-873536	carol@rcarcl.co.uk
Waterworth, Adam	01302-304200	adam.waterworth@arenaleisureplc.com

EDITOR: Carol Walker
The Racecourse Association Ltd
Winkfield Road
Ascot
Berkshire
SL5 7HX

UPDATE is also available on our website:
www.britishracecourses.org