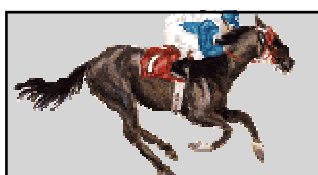


CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

A New Start For Racing



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There are still one or two hurdles to be jumped before the British Horseracing Authority (BHA) is officially launched but it is beginning to feel like a new start for Racing.

The BHA Board has now been selected, Paul Roy (the BHA Chairman designate) has been involved since the start of the new year and, on 22 February, Nic Coward (the BHA Chief Executive designate) joined the full-time staff at 151 Shaftesbury Avenue, in the interim as CEO of both BHB and the HRA. The Chairman and I, and the RCA Executive team, are optimistic about the future and are looking forward to working with Paul, Nic and their team as they put in place a new unified structure for the governing body and regulator.

The Chairman and I have been extensively involved over the past 6-9 months in helping to establish the foundations of BHA. The BHA's Memorandum and Articles of Association are all but agreed. The separation of commerce and governance has been effected in a way which meets the needs of BHA, the racecourses and the Horsemen's Group. Work is now underway on the supporting documentation, which includes an Operating Agreement with Racing Enterprises Ltd (REL), and a revised Administration Agreement with Weatherbys.

The principle outstanding issue is the resolution of the pension deficit in advance of the transfer of the existing BHB and Jockey Club staff to BHA. We have no firm timetable at present although discussions are underway with the Pensions Regulator. Once all the constitutional documentation is agreed and endorsed by the RCA Board, we will organise a general meeting to allow members to consider the proposed changes. Members will be asked to authorise directors to execute the establishment of BHA, on the basis of the documentation circulated to members, once the pension issue is finally settled.

Whilst it is not possible to formally launch BHA at present, it is clear that Paul Roy and Nic Coward wish to operate as fully as possible as though BHA was in place. We fully support this principle and will assist as far as possible.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

A New Start For Racing cont

The occasional problems under the BHB structure were almost entirely due to disagreements surrounding commercial initiatives. Under the new structure these difficulties should be firmly behind us, with the separation of commerce and governance. The structure has been further improved by the withdrawal of the BHA members from direct representation on the Board. This poses a challenge to BHA and its members to put in place alternative mechanisms to ensure a sufficient level of communication to assist in determining the future direction of the Sport. The BHA will establish a Chairman's Committee to maintain effective links. At the Executive level we have already begun to discuss how to strengthen the existing effective links.

A close working relationship between BHA, REL and the Levy Board will be key to ensuring the successful and efficient development of Racing. The RCA has an important role to play, not least as a 50% shareholder in REL, which has now been formally established. The prospects are very promising, not least because of the steady improvement over the past year in relationships between the RCA and the Horsemen's Group.

Racing faces many challenges in the years ahead, particularly in competition with other sports and leisure pursuits for the betting and leisure pounds. The recent changes put more responsibility on the RCA, racecourses and REL as well as those being faced by BHA. I am confident that we are all capable of meeting the challenges ahead as a unified sport.

S Atkin

HRA

New HRA Chief Executive

Nic Coward, Chief Executive-Designate of the British Horseracing Authority, has taken up interim positions in Shaftesbury Avenue as Chief Executive of both the HRA and BHB.

He had previously spent ten years with the FA, having joined in 1994 as its first solicitor from City law firm Freshfields. He became Corporate and Legal Affairs Director, and was also joint Acting CEO for almost two years. He left the FA in 2004 to join public affairs consultancy AS Biss & Co, where he was Deputy Chairman and he advised major national and international sports bodies. He was also an adviser to the board of the FA Premier League, concentrating on regulatory and media rights issues.

He has also been a non-executive director of the Sports Dispute Resolution Panel, Honorary Treasurer of the Central Council for Physical Recreation, and the first chair of the Sports Rights Owners Coalition. His family own and breed a small number of racehorses.

O Byrne

RACE PLANNING

2008 Fixture List

The RCA Race Planning Executive wrote to all Racecourse Managers and Clerks of the Course on 23 February explaining various facets of the 2008 Fixture List process. Here's a short re-cap:

Annual Fixtures Meeting: The RCA has again organised an Annual Fixtures Meeting, which will signal the start of the 2008 Fixture List process. The meeting will be held at the Portman Hotel, Portman Square, London on Tuesday 10 April at 11.00 am.

Fixture Criteria: It is anticipated that the 2008 Fixture Criteria will remain unchanged save for the fact that evening opening hours of LBO's will facilitate evening fixtures from January to April. The RCA has requested 4 such fixtures a week (Wednesday to Saturday evening inclusive).

RACE PLANNING

2008 Fixture List ... cont

Bidding Process: Following a meeting with the BHB and Weatherbys Executives, the following recommendations will be implemented for the 2008 process:

- The bidding process will not commence prior to 10:00 am.
- Only 9 fixtures will be shown 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 will be suspended and affected fixtures and any subsequently sold will be re-offered (autobids would stand, but any live bids would be disregarded).
- There will be a 30-second gap between fixtures with a 2-minute countdown.
- Weatherbys will review the script for their telephone operators. However, Racecourses are 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 is highly recommended and will be available around the clock (3 or 4 days before the bidding starts).

Timetable: An outline timetable of the 2008 Fixture List process is as follows:

Monday 5 March	BHB to confirm its Fixture Policy
Wednesday 21 March	HBLB to determine 2008 Fixture Criteria
End March	Final Fixture Framework to Racecourses
Tuesday 10 April	RCA Annual Fixtures Meeting
Mid-April	Start of "friendly moves" Phase 1
Wednesday 18 April	HBLB to agree 2008 Fixtures Incentive Scheme
Beginning May	1 st FAG meeting
Tuesday 8 May	BHB to consider appeals
Mid-May	"friendly moves" Phase 2
End May	2 nd FAG meeting
Monday 4 June	BHB Board to consider appeals
Mid June (prior to Royal Ascot)	Bidding Process
End of June	Finalise Fixture List
Monday 2 July	BHB Board to approve the 2008 Fixture List

A definite timetable will be confirmed by the BHB following the HBLB Strategy Review on 21 March.

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.

Laura Holmes will administer the site and therefore any requests should be directed to her. An appropriate form was sent to racecourses on 23 February.

Laura's contact details are: Tel – 01344 626 067, laura@rcarcl.co.uk or fax 01344 627 233.

For information, the site has been ready for use since **Monday 26 February, 2007**.

C Moore

RACE PLANNING

2008 Fixture Policy

Following the RCA Board meeting on 1 March, a short summary of where we are is listed below:

- a) Offer up 24 Self-Funded fixtures over a 14-week period between May and August, mainly on Thursday and Friday evenings (based on a field size restriction of 14).
- b) A minimum prize money requirement of £30,000.
- c) Additional Self-Funded Jump fixtures from mid-November through to mid-March.
- d) The order of allocation would follow the Merit Table in descending sequence.
- e) Racecourses should be able to sub-let Leasehold fixtures.
- f) Commercial deals rather than a 'free-for-all' should be encouraged and the Racecourses are aware that both the BHB and HBLB are not prepared to sanction moves that would create criteria gaps.
- g) Support a programme of 4 AWT Floodlit fixtures per week from January to April.
- h) Support racing on Good Friday.
- i) Ask BHB to make it clear in documentation prior to bidding process the number of races for a Leasehold fixture and the timing of such a decision.

C Moore

2008 Fixtures Incentive Scheme

The RCA Race Planning Group is currently preparing a proposal for the 2008 Fixtures Incentive Scheme. The Executive has been given a budget of £6.01m to work with, which signifies a small inflationary increase. It is therefore not anticipated that the structure of the Scheme will change, but that the values will be increased on an across-the-board basis.

C Moore

British European Breeders' Fund

The British European Breeders' Fund has bucked the general trend by increasing its contribution to prize money for the 2007 Flat season by 12.4% to almost £730,000. In all, 305 Maiden races, 25 Fillies/Mares Listed races, 30 Fillies/Mares Handicaps and 20 Fillies' Nurseries, Classified Stakes and other feature races will be supported. Jump racing will receive £120,000 spread over 87 races (Hurdle races, Novice Chases and NHF). For further information, please contact:

*Sam Sheppard on 01638 667 960
or mobile 07850 778 134.*

Notification of Abandonment

When you are forced to abandon your race meeting, as well as contacting Weatherbys, you must also inform RaceTech in accordance with clause 6.2 of your rate card as soon as possible.

C Moore

Races for Lowly Rated Horses (see February UPDATE)

The BHB Racing Department has identified 4 BHB Fixtures in May to which extra Classified Stakes races for lightly-raced, lowly-rated horses can be added. A further small number of opportunities through June and beyond are likely to be added in due course.

C Moore

Speed Sensing/TurfTrax

Speed-sensing chips will no longer be carried in Turf races in Great Britain. TurfTrax has concluded that only AWT racing, for which permanent systems are already in place resulting in lower costs, offers a long-term future for its product in Britain and that overseas markets should be the focus of its attention.

C Moore

RACE PLANNING

Doncaster Bloodstock £300,000 St Leger Yearling Sales Race

Doncaster Bloodstock Sales has permanently transferred the date of its St Leger Yearling Sales to the last 3 days in August. DBS also intends to hold additional St Leger Yearling Sales on evenings during St Leger week and would like horses sold at these sales to be eligible to run in the £300,000 St Leger Yearling Sales Race, which has transferred from Doncaster to York. It is estimated that the inclusion of horses from the second St Leger Yearling Sales will increase the number of horses that are eligible to run in the race to 650 from 525.

C 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:

Annual - February 2006 to January 2007 compared with February 2005 to January 2006

FLAT

- There was a significant increase in the number of Handicaps run (up 19%) and a decrease in Classified/Banded Stakes (down 45%) and Claimers (down 15%).

Quarterly - November 2006 to January 2007 compared with November 2005 to January 2006

FLAT

- 36% more races were run in the quarter to Jan 07 than the previous year (mainly Maidens/Novices, Handicaps and Conditions Stakes).
- Field sizes were down 13.7%.

Monthly - January 2007 compared with January 2006

FLAT

- 18% more races were run in Jan 07 than Jan 06 (significantly more Maidens/Novices, Handicaps and Conditions Stakes). There were significantly fewer Classified/Banded Stakes however.
- Field sizes were down 11%.

JUMP

- 11% fewer races were run in Jan 07 than Jan 06 (there were 5 more jump fixtures abandoned in 07 than in 06 however).

C Moore

Race Planning Group

The RCA Race Planning Group met on Monday 12 February. The Racecourses were represented by Nick Lees, Bill Farnsworth, David Mackinnon, Michael Prosser, James Hutchinson, Jim Allen, Mark Kershaw and Charlie Moore, also in attendance were John Smee, Carla Moore (Chair), David Bradshaw, Laura Holmes and Lizzie Lea. Apologies were received from Ian Renton. The notes of the meeting were circulated to all Managers and Clerks of the Course on 28 February. A summary of the discussions as follows:

2008 Fixture Policy: The Group noted an interim submission from the Fixture Policy Group (FPG) that had been reviewed by the BHB Board at its December '06 meeting. A revised version of the paper would be produced by the RCA in conjunction with the FPG, which would be unlikely to differ significantly from the original. It was pointed out that there was definitely appetite for additional self funded fixtures and as such there should be a number available for courses to take up, preferably 28 during the summer months as suggested by the RCA (BHB suggests 14).

RACE PLANNING

Race Planning Group contd

Race Times: The Group was informed that the Race Times Advisory Panel had met on 16 January to allocate race times for the second quarter of 2007. Following this James Savage of the BHB had circulated those times to each racecourse. The Group agreed that the new format worked well.

Channel 4: The Group was updated on discussions with Highflyer's Andrew Franklin regarding the effect late changes to Channel 4's racing schedule had on racecourses and the HBLB's Late TV Payment Fund.

Stabling Elimination Sequence: The Group noted that the BHB Race Planning Committee had confirmed that the stabling elimination sequence should remain unchanged.

Review of the Race Planning Workshop: It was reported that the workshop held at Weatherbys on 21 November 2006 had received good feedback. The workshop for this year will be held in early October with a dinner the evening before. The Group asked that more emphasis be put on the importance for (more experienced) clerks of the course to attend.

Other Matters Arising:

- It was noted that changes to the fixture bidding process requested previously by the Group had been taken up with Weatherbys and the BHB, who had agreed to accommodate them.
- The Group was advised that BHB had been pursuing the change of wording to the price conditions for claiming races but had been halted due to a discrepancy concerning the word 'seller'.
- The Group was informed that following Sam Sheppard's presentation to the Group on 20 November the EBF had contributed £500 to maiden races previously unsupported but which carried the EBF criteria.

Fixture List 2008: The Group discussed matters surrounding the fixture list framework for 2008 which had been circulated to courses by BHB on 29 January. With regards Good Fri-

day, the Group reluctantly conceded that if LBO's were open racing must provide a product.

Championships and Seasons: The Group agreed that racecourses should investigate whether they could provide a break in the fixture list for Jump jockeys and requested that the RCA produce a paper.

Merit Table Review: The Group was informed that the HBLB had reconvened its review of the Merit Table after it was decided to delay it for a year in 2006 due to the significant drop in levy for 2007. DB confirmed that more emphasis would be placed on the betting element and less on the underpinning side of the calculations. The Group was concerned that betting data would only be provided by one bookmaker. It was suggested that in its paper to the HBLB Board the Merit Table Review Group recommend that there should be more than one source providing betting data. The sale of the HFL was discussed. The Group was adamant that the proceeds should not go into the Development Fund. It was felt the money should be invested in more long-term projects.

48 Hour Declarations: The Group discussed the review of 48 hour declarations.

Selling Races: The Group noted Bill Farnsworth's selling race proposal and agreed that it was up to the individual racecourse to decide its own policy. With regards to whether racecourses would conduct their auctions in sterling or guineas, the Group re-emphasised that it was up to the individual racecourse.

Recent Abandonments: The Group was informed that a northern based trainer had expressed concern about the number of fixtures abandoned in the north and asked if any replacement fixtures would be scheduled. DB stated that the trigger point of 50 had not yet been reached and that it was unfortunate that the pattern of abandonments had been so bad in a short space of time and in the same geographical area.

L Holmes

ATTENDANCE

Below are the full attendance figures for 2006. The number of fixtures held rose to an all-time high of 1,342, but the total attendance could not surpass the figures for 2003, 2004 or 2005. The average attendance of 4,369 was 3.7% down on 2005, and the lowest average since 1997. Figures for June and July were not helped by the football World Cup. *J Phillips*

Month	2006			2005		
	Act. Fixtures	Attendance	Ave. Daily	Act. Fixtures	Attendance	Ave. Daily
January	85	154,098	1,813	84	175,654	2,091
February	79	145,046	1,836	80	156,456	1,956
March	80	391,834	4,898	95	477,257	5,024
April	108	505,534	4,681	121	537,725	4,444
May	147	612,258	4,165	146	638,110	4,371
June	139	879,630	6,328	134	874,690	6,528
July	142	879,479	6,194	134	938,952	7,007
August	140	846,446	6,046	131	731,572	5,585
September	98	450,545	4,597	99	430,739	4,351
October	99	345,650	3,491	102	374,521	3,672
November	115	315,296	2,742	92	282,098	3,066
December	110	337,813	3,071	82	279,379	3,411
Total	1,342	5,863,629	4,369	1,300	5,897,513	4,537
	(+3.23%)	(-0.57%)	(-3.7%)			

Day by Day Comparison

Day	Total Attendance		Actual Fixtures		Average	
	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005
Monday	456,848	593,342	181	189	2,524	3,139
Tuesday	529,169	458,525	181	161	2,924	2,848
Wednesday	644,137	625,938	194	179	3,320	3,497
Thursday	697,207	698,784	193	186	3,612	3,757
Friday	1,058,348	985,313	196	187	5,400	5,269
Saturday	1,874,092	1,912,940	265	272	7,072	7,033
Sunday	603,828	622,671	132	126	4,574	4,942

ATTENDANCE cont

National Hunt and Flat Comparison

	Total Attendance		Actual Fixtures		Average	
	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005
National Hunt	2,192,708	2,192,946	506	496	4,333	4,421
Flat	3,641,506	3,674,160	833	801	4,372	4,587
Mixed	29,415	30,407	3	3	9,805	10,136

Afternoon and Evening Comparison

	Total Attendance		Actual Fixtures		Average	
	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005
Afternoon	4,856,009	4,873,841	1,116	1,081	4,351	4,509
Evening	1,007,620	1,023,672	226	219	4,458	4,674

Flat Turf/AWT Comparison

	Total Attendance		Actual Fixtures		Average	
	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005
Flat Turf	3,308,600	3,466,446	538	585	6,150	5,926
Flat AWT	332,906	207,714	295	216	1,128	962

Bank Holidays

	Total Attendance		Actual Fixtures		Average	
	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005
Bank Holidays	228,344	291,567	36	39	6,343	7,476

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. The offer appeared in the paper in mid-February for the first time with a record 83 meetings offered at 36 courses. Sadly the first eligible date, 4 March at Huntingdon, was abandoned.

J Phillips or V Larue

Radio 5 Live

You will be aware by now that BBC Radio 5 has decided to discontinue its early morning racing bulletins. It has become clear that this decision will not be reversed and consequently talks are underway for a similar service to be carried by Talksport Radio. We will update you further when more definitive information is known.

J Phillips or S Atkin

Group Sales

As at 28 February we have received 16 bookings valued at £10,569. *P Smith*

THE RACEGOERS CLUB

Private Facilities

We will shortly be contacting individual courses with a view to putting together the programme of private facilities for inclusion in our 2007 Social Diary.

J Phillips or P Smith

Owners Groups

The National Hunt Owners Groups horses have been inactive since early January due to the widespread soft conditions (Tocane) and a niggling but not serious injury (Senora Snoopy). We have two forthcoming Flat Owners Groups, a new 3yo filly with Dandy Nicholls (Group 24), and an amalgamation of two of last year's groups (Group 23) compris-

ing Greek Easter and Diamond Tycoon. Diamond Tycoon ran second in a hot Newmarket maiden at the end of last season, beating Godolphin's \$9.7m colt Jalil in the process, and has already been entered in both the French 2,000 Guineas and the French Derby, so fingers crossed he lives up to his reputation!

P Smith

Newsletter

Enclosed for Racecourse Managers is a copy of The Racegoers Club's winter newsletter which was sent to members in early February.

J Phillips

RACETECH

RaceTech and Barrier Access Systems

RaceTech has been working on behalf of a number of racecourses to evaluate and review barrier access systems – turnstile systems that interface with existing ticketing systems and/or customer relationship management suites (CRM). The two biggest drivers for this are the prevention of ticket fraud/unauthorised entry and effective use of CRM for future marketing to ticket holders. In addition, there is a compelling Health and Safety issue and benefit in knowing exactly how many people are on site on raceday (and non raceday events, too).

We are now very close to coming to an agreement with SkiData, who supply approximately 80% of European ski lift turnstiles, as well as solutions for football stadiums, cricket grounds and other sporting venues. Their software interfaces with 65 of the most popular ticketing systems and this is constantly being added to. The SkiData solution is already in use at Ascot and will be installed at Kempton and at all Arena Leisure courses over the next few months.

The RaceTech proposition would be to provide a flexible, mobile solution for racecourses, without the need for capital expenditure on your part. RaceTech would transport, install, commission and operate the turnstiles and connect to your ticketing server to update all walk

up sales etc. so that you have a complete picture of ticket sales. At the end of the day, RaceTech would remove all hardware and servers and would charge racecourses on a per turnstile, per day basis. This would be a fully managed service, requiring only power and a network connection from the racecourse.

To make this viable, we are asking racecourses to lodge their interest as soon as possible. We can advise you on how many turnstiles you would need for a particular meeting, based on expected visitor numbers, how many entrances you use, acceptable time to enter the site etc. We can also assist with the technical side of interfacing with ticketing systems, and the hardware/cabling implications. The aim is to offer a high quality service across many racecourses/groups, that meets your business objectives on a pay as you go basis.

If you'd like to know more, please call or e-mail me and we can arrange a presentation and demonstration of the solution.

Catherine Pullan

RaceTech

cpullan@racetech.co.uk

07976 432271

TECHNICAL

HRA General Instructions and Operating Procedures HRAGI 8.1 Para 6.

Course Executives are reminded of the importance of keeping the above publication in the Stewards Room up-to-date. Stewards and Stipendiary Stewards in particular regularly refer to the folder on a raceday and rely on its completeness when considering potential technical enquiries / penalties / procedures etc. *O Byrne*

Changing Room Electronic Scales

Courses that requested the installation of electronic scales in changing rooms from Avery Weightronix should either now have the equipment on-site ready for installation or can expect a delivery on or around 19 March. Installations will be completed and calibrated by the end of the month. Avery engineers have specifically been asked to make sure cabling is appropriately secured / covered. *O Byrne*

Cranfield Racecourse Irrigation Project

Cranfield remain on schedule to publish their user-friendly best practice document on racecourse watering efficiency and equipment in the next couple of months. *O Byrne*

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*

Summer Jumping Technical Working Group

The Summer Jumping Technical Working Group had its second meeting on Wednesday 14 February 2007. Jon Pullin, Charlie Moore and Holly Roberts attended on behalf of the RCA. A summary of the meeting is below:

Quality of Runner: The Group examined statistics regarding the difference in ratings between Jumping in the summer and in the core period. The differences were found to be consistent.

Tendon Injury Research: The Group was informed that there was clear association between injuries and going and distance, but not with any other factors. It was agreed that further injury research may be required in the future.

Racecourse Questionnaire: The Group reviewed the results of the racecourse questionnaire conducted by the RCA, and identified several areas of best practice. It was agreed that

racecourses should be encouraged to share this best practice and that a best practice document would be drafted in line with the results of the questionnaire.

Trainers Questionnaire: It was identified that it would be necessary for further information to be gathered from trainers regarding report injuries at home, training procedures etc.

The Way Forward: It was agreed that a report and recommendations of the meeting would be produced, and presented to trainers and Clerks of the Course at a meeting at Stratford Racecourse in the later part of April. The morning will provide an opportunity for Clerks of the Course to share views, with the trainers joining for the afternoon. Further details will be sent to all Summer Jumping Racecourses once the arrangements have been confirmed.

C Davies or H Roberts

Summer Jumping Workshop

As agreed at the Summer Jumping Technical Working Group, a workshop has been arranged for Trainers and Clerks of the Course to share views and discuss the recommendations arising from the Group. This will take place at Stratford Racecourse on Friday 20 April 2007 and will start at 10.30am.

The morning will be an opportunity for a discussion amongst racecourses, and trainers will be invited to join from 12.30pm onwards.

All racecourses will be contacted regarding attendance, and any racecourses wishing to send representatives should contact Holly Roberts.

C Davies or H Roberts

TECHNICAL

RCA Technical Group

The RCA Technical Group met on Tuesday 27 February 2007. The racecourses were represented by Seamus Buckley, Bob Davies, Sally Iggulden, Tim Long, Jon Pullin, Anthea Morshead, Chris Stickels and Kirkland Tellwright. The notes of the meeting will be circulated to all Clerks of the Course and Racecourse Managers when available. A summary of the discussion is outlined below:

Review of Racecourse Medical Arrangements: The Group discussed the review of racecourse medical arrangements and was agreed that it would be necessary to gain the support of the HRA and JAGB for the recommendations. It was also agreed that workshops should be organised when appropriate regarding the implementation of the recommendations.

HRA General Instruction 3.2: The Group reviewed the proposed amendments to HRA General Instruction, and agreed where changes should be made. The RCA will communicate these changes to the HRA, and it is anticipated the revised instruction will be issued in advance of the 2007 Flat Turf Season.

Dissemination of Track Related Information: The Group reviewed the RCA Guidance Document regarding the Provision of Going Information to Trainers and proposed alterations to this.

Racing Administration Website: The Group requested that the RCA contact Weatherbys to confirm that updates given before the Racing Operations Department was staffed at 8.30am would be added to the website immediately. The RCA was also asked to investigate arrangements for racecourses to enter their own updates on the website.

[After note: Weatherbys has confirmed to the RCA that the Going Report line is manned 24 hours a day and all calls received are acted on

and updated on the website and to the press immediately]

TurfTrax Going Stick: The Group reviewed the protocol for the TurfTrax Going Stick Trial commencing on 31 March 2007. The protocol will be distributed to all racecourses by the HRA. The Group also requested that the RCA establish costs should the use of the stick become mandatory following the trial.

Frost Protection Covers: The Group was informed that Phase II of the research into frost protection covers had commenced, but that there were concerns that unsuitable weather conditions may have restricted the level of data collected.

Starting Stalls/Stalls Handlers: It was reported that a number of flat racecourses would be reducing field sizes for the 2007 season. The Group asked that racecourses be reminded that the BHB Racing Department must be informed a minimum of one month in advance of any changes.

Pony Racing Authority: The Group noted that the Pony Racing Authority is in the process of being formalised, and is due to be officially launched in May 2007.

Parade Ring Safety: The Group was informed that the RCA was liaising with the HRA regarding the introduction of an informal procedure for identifying horses known to be unruly in the parade ring.

Halt Race Procedures: It was noted that the requirement for Halt Race Procedures was unresolved, and agreed that this matter should be further pursued with the HRA.

HRA General Instruction 7.2: The Group reviewed and agreed the final revisions to HRA General Instruction 7.2 regarding stable hygiene.
C Davies or H Roberts

TRICL IV

The TRICL IV Implementation Group met on Monday 5 February 2007, and Holly Roberts attended on behalf of the RCA. It was reported that development of the TRICL IV systems is progressing well and most systems are due to be completed shortly.

As part of the TRICL IV system connections are being established between the Judges Box and the weighing room, many of which will be wireless. This system will be a stand alone network, which will not interfere with other wireless networks on course. Racecourses should have been, or will shortly be, contacted by Trellisworks to arrange the installation of this network.
H Roberts

TECHNICAL

Agricultural Waste

Racecourses are reminded that they have until 15 May 2007 to comply with the new agricultural waste regulations or to apply for an exemption. Registering for agricultural waste exemptions is free of charge and most exemptions only have to be registered once. For an exemption pack or for further information, please call the agricultural waste help line on 0845 603 3113. *H Roberts*

Weather Report

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

January was another wet month with above average rainfall in all but our South West and Southern Regions. It was the sixth consecutive month with above average rainfall in central and eastern England. Soils remained saturated or close to saturation throughout January. Monthly mean flows increased at the majority of indicator sites. All sites are now *normal* or higher for the time of year and nearly half of sites are either *notably high* or *exceptionally high*. Groundwater levels increased at all but two indicator sites, with the largest increases in the chalk aquifers of the south east. However, nearly one quarter of sites remain *below normal* or lower, and one site in the sandstone of the Midlands remains *exceptionally low* for the time of year. Reservoir storage increased in all but two regions during January. Storage remains lowest at 84% in our South West Region but is 94% or more in all other regions. Overall storage for England and Wales rose again by 3% to 95%.

Rainfall: The unsettled wet weather of October, November and December continued through January, except for the last week of the month which was drier and more settled. It was wettest in Wales and north west England. Overall, England and Wales received 107mm of rainfall, 119% of the January long term average (LTA), and all but our South West and Southern Regions received above average rainfall. January was the sixth consecutive month of above average rainfall in four of our eight regions. England and Wales has had 126% of the LTA during the last four months.

Soil Moisture Deficit: In all our regions, soils remained saturated or close to saturation throughout January, and there was little change in soil moisture deficit (SMD) during

the month. At the end of January, SMD is less than 10mm in all our regions. SMD is 15mm lower in our Anglian and Thames Regions and 10mm lower in our Southern Region compared to the beginning of February 2007.

River Flows: Monthly mean flows increased at the majority of indicator sites. However, monthly mean flows reduced at most sites in our North West and Southern Regions and EA Wales. Flows at all sites in England and Wales are normal or higher for the time of year, and nearly one half of sites have flows which are either notably high or exceptionally high, an increase of six sites since December. Flows at all of the regional index sites are higher than those in January 1976.

Groundwater Levels: Groundwater levels increased at all but two sites during January. The largest increases were in the chalk aquifers of the south east as the recovery in response to the wet autumn and early winter continued. However, nearly one quarter of sites, as in December, remain below normal or lower for the time of year. The majority of these sites are in the sandstone of the Midlands. Crossley Hill remains exceptionally low for the time of year.

Reservoir Storage: Reservoir storage increased by approximately 10% in our Midlands, South West and Southern Regions which had the three lowest storage values at the start of the month. In all other regions storage at the end of December was already 90% or more and consequently any changes in storage were much lower. At the end of January, storage remains lowest in our South West Region at 84% of total capacity. In all other regions storage is 94% or more. Overall storage for England and Wales rose by 3% to 95%. Colliford Reservoir in our South West Region remains notably low, and a further two reservoir groups in northern England are below normal.

H Roberts

RACEHORSE OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Liaison with the ROA

Representatives of the ROA and RCA met on Wednesday 21 February to discuss various matters. Caroline Davies and Holly Robarts represented the RCA and Michael Harris, Sadie Ryan and Joanne Gunn represented the ROA. A summary of the discussions is given below:

ROA Photocards: It was reported that the introduction of ROA photocards was progressing well for Badge Scheme Members, but that as smaller numbers of cards were being issued, it would be necessary for Weatherbys to take on the production of these rather than an outside agency. It was agreed that the RCA, ROA, HRA and Weatherbys should liaise to discuss the introduction of photocards for all owners.

Gold Standard: The ROA reported that a number of courses were still to be assessed for the ROA Gold Standard, and visits to these were being arranged. It was noted that the award had encouraged an open dialogue between race-

courses and the ROA regarding the provision and standard of facilities.

ROA Posters: The ROA has designed promotional posters and has sent copies to all racecourses and requested that they put them up in the Owners and Trainers bars or facilities. They asked that any racecourses requiring further posters or promotional leaflets contact Joanne Gunn at the ROA on 0207 4080903

ROA Survey: The ROA has conducted a survey of their membership, and will be writing to all racecourses regarding relevant points arising from this.

Owners Contacts: The ROA and RCA will be contacting all racecourses shortly to request details of the person responsible for liaison with owners.

Racecard Advert: The ROA has developed a small advertisement which racecourses will be asked to include in the racecard should there be a space available. *C Davies or H Roberts*

MEDICAL

HRA Medical Advisory Committee

Below is a summary of the main points discussed at the HRA Medical Advisory Committee meeting in February. Caroline Davies, Howard Sherriff, Iain McNeil and John Disney represented the RCA.

Changes to Committee: Iain McNeil was welcomed onto the Committee to replace Howard Sherriff who has stood down after 9 years as RCA Medical Consultant.

HRAGI 11: The review of the Instruction has been completed and reissued in advance of the 2007 turf flat season.

Submission of Medical Reports by Racecourses: The Medical Reports completed by RMOs should be returned promptly or a warn-

ing would be given which could lead to a £50 fine if ignored. These forms are to be submitted after each meeting and are reviewed by the HRA on a monthly basis.

RMO Accreditation: There are at present 219 RMOs of which 120 are SRMOs. The HRA need to address the re-accreditation of SRMOs and will take account of the recommendations arising from the RCA Medical Review

RCA Medical Review: Caroline explained the background to the review and Doctor Iain McNeil gave a detailed briefing. There followed a long discussion about future arrangements and it was agreed that good communication to all sectors would be essential.

C Davies

Medical Device Alert

External defibrillator: Welch Allyn, model PIC 50

The manufacturer is recalling PIC 50 defibrillators to correct TWO malfunctions that prevent or delay the delivery of therapy, which can lead to failure to resuscitate a patient. Please see the notice on the MHRA website <http://www.mhra.gov.uk> for further details including the serial numbers affected by the recall.

C Walker

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). A Course is scheduled to be held on 8 & 9 September 2007. To book a place, please contact Dr Bob Bennett on 07979 506548.

TRAINING

BHEST Education Programme

251 education days were organised in 2006 providing racing activities for 9,468 school-children. This has increased participation by over 1,400 from 2005 and increased the number of participating racecourses from 30 to 49. In addition, non-racecourse activity includes events at Darley Stud and Educational Fairs throughout the country. These achievement rates meet the targets set in the five year plan for the Education Programme. Since 2004/05 additional donations from outside sources have supported the expansion of the Education Programme. Although BHEST is actively engaged in sourcing additional funding, this cannot be guaranteed and no inflationary increase in HBLB funding could necessitate a review of its expansion plans in 2007/08.

Allocation of educational events takes into account the density of population in particular regions with an emphasis, where appropriate, on inner city areas where pupils have limited opportunities to experience race day events. Specific mention should be made of increased activity in inner city areas including Newcastle, Liverpool, Leicester and Edinburgh.

The targets for 2007/08 include the following:

- Increase pupil participation to 11,500
- Include a minimum of 35% from inner-city areas
- Facilitate the attendance of 143 Teacher on Development Days
- Increase educational activities to 50
- Promote the take up of adult race day vouchers to 356

- To produce 115 enquiries for careers in racing information
- Facilitate a minimum of 10 non-racecourse industry events
- Increase the number of articles featured in local media to 15
- Increase the number of articles featured in national media to 7
- To establish two racecourse centres of educational excellence
- Monitor the suitability of events and appropriateness of activities through teacher and pupil feedback.

It is established procedure that on each of the days the children are provided with a letter inviting their parents or guardians to claim two complimentary Tattersalls tickets for a subsequent meeting. Following the reduction of the BHB marketing department the RCA will be undertaking the administration of this arrangement for 2007.

We will contact you in advance of your education day to confirm at which subsequent meeting you will be offering the complimentary tickets. Given the nature of the programme the fixture should ideally be on a Sunday, or alternatively another family friendly day such as a Saturday or Bank Holiday.

Bookings will be handled by the RCA and we will pass on customer details a week before the fixture for you to despatch the tickets. If you will be making your own arrangements following the education days please advise us.

C Davies, P Smith

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

The Racecourse Training Manual

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

BADGES & PASS

PASS Review

Representatives of the RCA and the Weatherbys met on Friday 23 February to discuss the progress of the PASS Review. A summary of discussions is given below:

IT Developments: The RCA reported that racecourses were being consulted on the proposed IT developments, and that Weatherbys would be contacted at the end of this consultation regarding whether they could proceed.

Stable Staff System: It was noted that approval to proceed with the development of the stable staff system was awaited.

ROA Photocards: Weatherbys confirmed that they would be in a position to produce the ROA Photocards in house shortly.

PASS Workshop: It was identified that it would not be possible to complete the developments in time for the PASS Workshop on 22 March, and agreed it would be beneficial to prepare some test screens, and seek feedback from the operators at the workshop as to how the developments should be incorporated. *H Roberts*

Administration

The daily PASS Charge for 2007 will remain at £65.00 per fixture. *J Tizzard*

PASS Workshop

A PASS Workshop will be held at Weatherbys on Thursday 22 March 2007. Both experienced and new operators are invited to attend. For further information contact the PASS Helpdesk on 01933 270333.

H Roberts

RCA and Press Badge Lists

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

H Roberts

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 Roberts

Missing Badges

RCA: 151, 152, 153, 154, 256, 257, 1030
 Press: 76, 153, 220, 416, 425, 515
 JAGB: 448, 451, 452, 586
 NTF: 383, 544, 545, 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 April, May and June 2007. For further details regarding specific dates please e-mail: events@racingregister.co.uk or contact Lynn Payne at Sportsguide Limited on 01344 774322.

April

- 3 Tuesday – Newmarket Press and Trainers Dinner - Jockey Club Rooms, Newmarket
- 4 Wednesday – Stable visits to Jeremy Nosedo and Peter Chapple-Hyam yards followed by Press Launch – Newmarket
- 6 Friday – Middleham Open Day
- 6 Friday – Lambourn Open Day
- 12 Thursday – 14 Saturday - John Smith's Grand National Meeting – Aintree
- 21 Saturday – Dubai Duty Free Press Luncheon – Newbury
- 23 Monday – Guineas Festival stable visit to Jim Bolger (departs Sunday 22nd)
- 24 Tuesday – Goodwood Pre-Season Press Launch – Frankie's, London

May

- 5 Saturday – Newmarket Guineas Meeting
- 6 Sunday – Newmarket Guineas Meeting
- 8 Tuesday – Vodafone Derby National Media Launch – Bimbendum, South Kensington, 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

June

- 1 Friday – Vodafone Oaks and Vodafone Coronation Cup – Epsom
- 2 Saturday – Vodafone Derby – Epsom
- 5 Tuesday – Press launch of the July Course redevelopment – Newmarket (prov)
- 19 Tuesday –
- 23 Saturday – Royal Ascot
- 28 Thursday – Racehorse Owners Association AGM - London

SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Spotlight On

*Neil Mackenzie-Ross - Clerk of the Course,
Folkestone & Lingfield Park*



Age	33
Marital Status/Children/Pets	Engaged to Christine. We have a son Alexander (3 months) and Penny the senile cat (18yrs).
Previous Career(s)	I worked at the BHB as Jump Race Executive for two and a half years prior to joining Arena. Have generally always been involved in racing except for stints as a marquee erector and a lifeguard.
Best Bits About Your Job	Walking the track first thing (in the summer) when all is quiet and imagining the noise, colour, horses and atmosphere which is what the sport is all about, that will be present later on.
Worst Bit About Your Job	Overnight rain (or not)!
Best Racing Experience(s)	Meeting Scarlett Johansson and Hugh Jackman in the paddock when they were filming a Woody Allen film.
Worst Racing Experience	My one and only ride in a Point to Point at Tweseldown in 1997. I got unseated at the 13 th and had my face planted in the kickboard! In some ways though this accounts for my best experience as it was an ambition fulfilled.
Racing Hero	Richard Dunwoody – the epitome of determination
Most Fanciable Racing Personality	My fiancée Christine – we met at the BHB
Hobbies	Golf, West Ham United FC and trips to Scotland and Ireland whenever time permits!
Favourite Film & TV	Lord of the Rings, Sky Sports News which is a staple at home and Coronation Street.
Favourite Holiday Destination	The Maldives and The Bushmills Inn in Northern Ireland.
Current Wheels	Mercedes-Benz C 220
One Wish To Improve The Industry	For the future funding of the industry to be secured.

DIARY DATES

22 March	HBLB Board
27 March	Jump Race Development Group BHB Race Planning Group
29 March	Industry Committee
2 April	BHB Board
10 April	RCA Annual Fixtures
13 April	RCA Legal Group
17 April	RCA Board

ATTACHMENTS

Competitive Racing Statistics

Racegoers Club Winter Newsletter

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