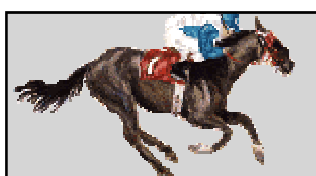


## RACE PLANNING

### 2008 Fixture List



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#### Fixture Criteria

The 2008 Fixture process commenced after the RCA-organised Fixture Meeting on 10 April. Racecourse Managers should all have received the HBLB fixture criteria, which reads as follows:

- Maximum of 1,473 funded fixtures, split: 1,203 Racecourse, 156 Leasehold fixtures of which no less than 35 should be NH, and 114 Floodlit AWT fixtures. In order to compare, the figures for 2007 are as follows: 1,414 funded fixtures split - 1,203 Racecourse, 211 Leasehold and 1 Self-funded fixture, which makes a total of 1,415 fixtures.

The rest of the criteria is unchanged, being:

- 2 afternoon fixtures on Monday and Tuesday.
- 3 afternoon fixtures from Wednesday to Friday.
- Maximum of 5 fixtures on any day from Monday to Friday (of which no more than 3 to be afternoon fixtures).
- No afternoon criteria breaks.
- During September to May inclusive, reserve criteria status to 3<sup>rd</sup> afternoon fixtures on Monday and Tuesday and for 4 AWT fixtures during Christmas week.
- During Turf Flat season there should be at least 1 afternoon Flat fixture each day.
- During core NH season of January and February there should be 2 NH fixtures per afternoon where possible.
- 4 afternoon fixtures on Saturday, except where agreed between HBLB and BHB to accommodate television requirements.
- Minimum of 4 afternoon fixtures on Bank Holidays and a maximum to be agreed by HBLB and BHB.
- Funding to be provided for a maximum of 2 evening fixtures from Monday to Saturday. No single evenings can be programmed from mid-April until the end of August.
- Minimum of 2 and a maximum of 3 afternoon fixtures on a Sunday.
- Within the total, flexibility may be applied in exceptional circumstances to the number of evenings per week, number of fixtures per evening and the evenings on which fixtures take place, if agreed in advance with the HBLB and BHB/BHA.

## RACE PLANNING

### 2008 Fixture List ....contd

#### Timetable

The timetable for the 2008 Fixture List process is as follows:

|                 |   |   |
|-----------------|---|---|
| 2 April         | - | Draft 1 to racecourses                      |
| 10 April        | - | RCA Annual Fixtures Meeting                 |
| 16 April        | - | Start of "friendly moves" Round 1           |
| <b>27 April</b> | - | <b>Deadline "friendly moves" Round 1</b>    |
| 4 May           | - | 1 <sup>st</sup> FAG meeting                 |
| 8 May*          | - | BHB Board meets to consider any appeals     |
| 14 May          | - | Start of "friendly moves" Round 2           |
| <b>25 May</b>   | - | <b>Deadline "friendly moves" Round 2</b>    |
| 31 May          | - | 2 <sup>nd</sup> FAG meeting                 |
| 4 June*         | - | BHB Board meets to consider appeals         |
| 11 – 12 June    | - | <b>BIDDING PROCESS for BHB fixtures</b>     |
| 14 June         | - | Enterprise Fixture Meeting                  |
| 18 – 22 June    | - | Final non-contentious applications accepted |
| 25 June         | - | Final FAG meeting                           |
| 2 July*         | - | BHB Board to approve the 2008 Fixture List  |

\*The dates of BHB Board meetings are provisional and dependent upon the launch date of the BHA.

#### Evening Fixtures

Racecourse Managers are reminded that criteria evening fixtures will only receive 80% BDR funding. The Turf evening period will run from Friday 18 April to Saturday 30 August. Floodlit AWT racing will start on 2 January to 17 April and 1 September to the end of December on Wednesdays to Saturdays (1 fixture per evening).

#### Racecourse Fixtures

This year it will be possible to use the BHB bidding website to sell or lease Racecourse Fixtures. Racecourse Managers can set their own terms for the sale or lease and although there is no possibility to put in a reserve, you can fix the minimum bid that you are seeking. Racecourses wishing to take this opportunity should get in touch with Richard Wayman at the BHB (0207 152 0059) **as soon as possible**. A separate auction will be set up for you and should either be held before FAG meets on 4 May or its second meeting on 31 May.

#### BHB Fixtures

BHB Fixture slots have been highlighted in Draft I of the 2008 Fixture List, i.e. a blank blue (signifies protected slot) or green box (can be used during 'Friendly Moves' phases) will appear at the left-hand side. For 2008 a total of 168 can be bid for when the bidding process starts in June (40 Flat / 18 Jump / 110 Floodlit AWT).

The RCA has made it possible for Racecourses to sublet their BHB fixtures, subject to reasonable objections from racecourses racing on the same day and having secured HRA Inspectorate approval.

#### Enterprise Fixtures

Although the concept of Enterprise Fixtures was supported by both the BHB and Levy Board, the finer details still need to be confirmed and will be discussed at the RCA Board meeting on 17 April. For the time-being, the paragraph referring to Enterprise Fixtures in Ruth Quinn's memo dated 2 April should therefore be disregarded.

## RACE PLANNING

### 2008 Fixture List ..... contd

#### Fixture Allocation Group (FAG)

The first meeting of the FAG is scheduled for Friday 4 May. For your information, the Group will consist of the following members/observers.

#### Members

Ruth Quinn/BHB (Chairman)  
 Stephen Atkin/RCA  
 Carla Moore/RCA  
 Michael Harris/ROA  
 Toby Balding/NTF  
 Adrian Grazebrook/BHB

#### Observers

Richard Wayman / BHB  
 David Bradshaw/HBLB  
 Tony Goodhew/Jockey Club  
 Tim Newton / BHB  
 Richard Linley/Jockey Club

#### Sundays and Jump Replacement Fixtures

At least 2 fixtures will be programmed on every Sunday during 2008. A single fixture slot will be left available on Sundays for 5 weeks from the end of February for the possible accommodation of Jump Replacement Fixtures, in the event that a significant number (50) of Jump fixtures are abandoned.

#### Fixture Market / RCA Website

Further to last year's initiative the RCA has again made 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](http://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. There are already a few 'offers' on the site, so please go and take a look.

Laura Holmes will administer the site and therefore any requests should be directed to her ([laura@rcarcl.co.uk](mailto:laura@rcarcl.co.uk) or fax 01344 627 233).

#### Bidding Process

As outlined in previous UPDATES, a small number of performance-enhancing changes have been made to the website, but the key principles adopted last year will remain in place. The system will operate with a 2-minute 'soft-close', but with an added 30 second interval built in between each offered fixture.

Following a survey, it can be confirmed that fixtures will be offered up in chronological order, starting with the Flat followed by Jump fixtures and finishing with AWT winter fixtures.

BHB Fixtures will be allocated on 1, 2 and 3-year leases, thereby ensuring that there will always be BHB Fixtures available for competitive bidding each year. However, winter evening Flat fixtures will be offered on a 1-year basis as well as a small number of BHB fixtures in those periods most liable to movement in the framework (i.e. first week of January, Easter and Christmas).

The list of fixtures available for bidding will be issued during the first of week of June. Racecourses will shortly be provided with a document specifying the full conditions associated with all BHB Fixtures acquired through the Fixture Bidding Process. *Carla Moore*

## RACE PLANNING

### Optimum Use of the Turf

You should all have had discussions with your Course Inspectorate regarding the Optimum Use of the Turf. If not, please get in touch with the HRA **as soon as possible**. It is anticipated that the final documentation will be circulated to Racecourses in the next fortnight. Please note that FAG makes ample reference to this extensive and detailed report.

*Carla Moore*

#### 2008 Fixture Incentive Scheme

The HBLB will confirm the 2008 Fixtures Incentive Scheme at its meeting on 18 April. The RCA Executive has been working with the HBLB to establish the scheme and it is proposed that a 3% across-the-board increase is adopted.

*Carla Moore*

#### Abandonment Payments

For 2007, the HBLB will continue to pay a fee of £10,000 to compensate racecourses for any abandonment it has suffered.

*Carla Moore*

#### Levy Board Notice in Racecards

Racecourse Managers are reminded to include a standard notice in all their racecards regarding the Horserace Betting Levy Board's contribution to prize money for 2007.

*Carla Moore*

### Merit Table Review

At its Strategy Review, the Levy Board accepted the recommendations from the Merit Table Review Group to alter the existing arrangements and introduce a new formula for the calculations of 2008 Basic Daily Rates:

25% of the prize money pool will be top-sliced for the betting element

The remainder of the pool will be divided

75% Merit award

and

25% Underpinning

The 2007 formula was = 7.5% betting – 60% Merit and 40% Underpinning. The 25% betting element is a hybrid calculation of 50% Gross Win (3-year average) and 50% Betting Turnover (2-year average).

*Carla Moore*

#### RCA Race Planning meetings with NTF/ROA members

The RCA Executive intends to revive the meetings it used to organise with its Race Planning Group (RPG) and the NTF Triumvirate, but would like to include ROA members as well. The format, venues and dates of the meetings will be discussed at the RPG's next meeting on 14 May.

*Carla Moore*

#### Race Exemptions from Field Size Limits

A Racecourse may apply to the BHB Racing Department for any race with a Total Prize Fund in excess of £30,000 to be exempt from the imposition of a Field Size Limit, subject to compliance with the Safety Factor for the race. Such application must be made in writing no later than one month prior to the publication of the race conditions in the Racing Calendar.

*Carla Moore*

### Deadline for Jump Pattern Race Applications

Any changes to races within the Jump Pattern must be agreed by the Jump Racing Committee and subsequently approved by the BHB Race Planning Committee and, where appropriate, the European Pattern Committee. All proposed changes for the forthcoming season must be submitted to the Racing Department by the end of **May**. No applications will be considered after this date, unless otherwise directed by the BHB in exceptional circumstances.

*Carla Moore*

## RACE PLANNING

### Jump Weight-for-Age Scale

Weight allowances for 4yo and 5yo chasers have been reduced following a review by the BHB. WFA allowances are designed to compensate younger horses for their immaturity when taking on their elders. In theory, the allowances should enable younger horses to compete equally. They decrease over time, assuming a fairly regular level of improvement in such horses. The scale is constantly monitored, and was last amended with effect from October 1999, when allowances for young chasers were also significantly reduced after a period in which they had a disproportionately high success rate.

On average in the 2005/06 season, a horse had around an 11%, or 1 in 9, chance of winning a steeple chase. The strike rate of 5yo chasers

overall last season was at an acceptable level above this, at just under 15%, but 5yo do not receive an allowance for the whole year. The strike rate of 4yo chasers has increased in recent seasons, particularly in the months of November and December, and in the last quarter of 2006 stood at almost double the strike rate of older horses. However, it is notable that the overall number of 4yo chasers has also shown a marked increase in recent seasons. The allowances – over 2m, 2½m and 3m – begin in May for 4yo and will now reduce by 1lb every 2 weeks from 1 July onwards, effectively decreasing at twice the rate of the existing scale. The WFA Scale in Hurdle races has been left untouched. Attached for Racecourse Managers is the amended WFA scale.

*Carla Moore*

### Jockeys' Riding Restrictions

The trial limiting Flat jockeys to participate at no more than 9 meetings in Britain during any 7-day period, beginning on Saturday and ending on Friday, will commence on Saturday 21 April. Once the trial begins, the BHB Racing Administration Website will provide details, for the relevant 7-day period, of the total number of meetings at which each Flat jockey has already ridden or is booked to ride at meetings at which the time fixed for declarations to run has expired. Furthermore, if necessary, as the deadline for the declaration of jockeys approaches, Weatherbys will attempt to contact the agent of any jockey who is engaged at 10 or more meetings to advise them that, at 1:00 p.m., it will expunge the declarations to ride at the meeting(s) at which the jockey's first ride is the later. The results of the trial will be closely monitored throughout, with a full review to be conducted at the end of the main period of evening racing.

*Carla Moore*

### Cumulative Penalties

The RPC reconsidered the introduction of a system of cumulative penalties. By adding a penalty for each win, it was suggested that whilst not attempting to prevent all multiple winners from enjoying further success, it would reduce the existing marked differential in success rates between such horses and their rivals, thereby ensuring that the majority of connections are not disadvantaged by running in a handicap against a horse who has demonstrated that it is considerably better than its current rating. It also recommended that the introduction of cumulative penalties be extended to classified stakes. In effect the strike rate of such an animal was 43% compared to the usual 9%, which was unacceptable. It will be brought in as soon as possible. *Carla Moore*

## RACE PLANNING

### Jump Racing Development Group Report

The Group met on 27 March and the following topics were discussed:

**48-Hour Decs/NH Funding:** An update was given on the current situation.

**BHA/REL:** An update was given and Nic Coward would be invited to the next meeting.

**Order of Merit:** Good for the sport; gives focus and narrative to the season. Now working on attracting a sponsor. Review in April. Clarification needed on who would manage in future.

**International Federation of Jump Racing:** No update.

**APRG dinner:** 2006 event had been useful and this initiative should continue.

**Dominance of Irish-trained horses in Mares races:** A report may be available in 6 weeks.

**Cheltenham Festival 2007:** Group congratulated Edward Gillespie on a successful Festival.

New races had become integrated. Looking to introduce a Mares race in 2008.

**Haydock Park Fences:** Tony Goodhew explained background and supported racecourse's stance. Group surprised re dropping of 2 Jump fixtures. It was hoped that they would remain in the north.

**JRC Agenda:** WFA scale/AQPS/Mares Pattern races/Graduation Chases.

**Point-to-Point Review :** HRA Board discussed on 27 March.

**Cost vs Reward Disparity UK vs France:** Noted.

**Pony Racing:** BHB had been liaising with Horse & Hound regarding a feature. Sport is growing.

**AWT Bumpers:** An old paper produced by S Mullins was discussed.

**RCA Regional Race Planning meetings with NTF:** RCA intends to revive these and also invite ROA members.

**Summer Jumping Work Shop:** To be held at Stratford-on-Avon Racecourse on 20 April.

**Great Leighs:** Targeted to open in June 2007.

**Beginners' Chases:** After a review the number was increased.

**Presentation by Newbury Racecourse:** Sir David Sieff and Mark Kershaw reinforced Newbury's commitment to Jump racing. Cost of staging Jump racing increasing. Valuable days should be able to be re-staged. Threat of AWT. Newbury likes to be innovative and would like to stage different/new types of race.

**Anglo-Irish Jump Awards:** 14 May at Café Royal.

**Next meeting :** Friday 8 June at 10.30 am.

*Carla Moore*

### Competitive Racing Statistics

Attached for Racecourse Managers are the latest competitive racing statistics which the BHB Racing Department produces on a monthly basis. Points of note, where the increase/decrease between the two study periods are marked, are as follows:

#### **Annual - March 2006 to February 2007 compared with March 2005 to February 2006**

##### FLAT

- There were over 18% more handicaps in the year to Feb 07, but Classified/Banded Stakes dropped by 48% and Claimers by 16%.

##### JUMP

- NHF races increased by nearly 13%.

#### **Quarterly - December 2006 to February 2007 compared with December 2005 to February 2006**

##### FLAT

- There were over 18% more races in the quarter to Feb 07 than in the same quarter the previous year, however field sizes were down 11%.

##### JUMP

- There was a 14% increase in the number of NHF races.

#### **Monthly - February 2007 compared with February 2006**

##### FLAT

- Number of races down 11% (Mainly Classified/Banded Stakes and Claimers)

##### JUMP

- The large number of jump abandonments in February (16) has led to there being a 14% decrease in hurdles and 10% decrease in chases.

- NHF races were up 47% compared with Feb 2006.

*Carla Moore*

## RACE PLANNING

### RPC/Jump Racing Committee

**4yo French bred:** It was noted that the number of 4yo steeple chasers, as well as the number of races in which they were able to run, continued to increase.

**EBF Maiden Hurdle Races:** The Committee was pleased that the Chief Executive of the EBF had been persuaded to allow the programming of some EBF Maiden Hurdle races.

**Downgrading of the Northern programme:** The Committee heard that a lack of suitable races for horses rated 120 and above in the area was a problem, with more 0-130/135 races required. With BAGS deals beyond 2007 all incorporating penalties for fewer than 8 runners, it was felt that little more could be done if racecourses were simply not receptive to these needs. Whilst Northern trainers would keep lobbying for suitable opportunities, it was noted that the return of Doncaster following redevelopment would have a strong and positive impact on the situation.

#### Mid-season Pattern and Listed race review:

- It was felt that the **Juvenile Hurdle** category had performed well for the past 2 seasons. Although the Finale had not reached its parameter, the winner was one of the better juveniles. It discussed the consistent failure of juvenile hurdlers to progress, due in part, it was felt, to the fact that they had no more improvement and they had been precocious. The BHB therefore agreed to look at adding 3 races confined to 4 and 5yo horses (possibly to be supported by the Development Fund) to the overall programme.
- None of the 2 mile **Novices' Hurdle races** were cause for concern, and the 2½ mile category had performed consistently. Following subsequent performances of runners in both 3 mile hurdle races, it was felt that average ratings would increase by a few pounds.
- **Hurdle races** remained healthy, with 4 or 5 British horses now rated 160+. The 2½ mile and 3 mile categories both per-

formed consistently, in line with other recent years.

- The Championship **NHF race** had performed below its parameter in its first year. It was agreed that meaningful Bumper ratings were difficult to achieve.
- 2 mile **Steeple Chases** had performed well.

**Graduation Steeple Chases:** Whilst being widely welcomed as a strong addition to the programme, the BHB still felt these races had scope for further improvement. It agreed that the races would be given at least another year, with 1 or 2 further opportunities to be programmed during the Spring.

**Novice and non-novice handicap bands:** The Committee was happy for novice and non-novice handicaps to no longer be distinguished between in the Classification.

**Penalties for winning Conditional Jockeys' Races:** It was understood that the proposal to introduce penalties in these races would make them increasingly competitive. On balance, however, it was felt more important to encourage Conditional Jockeys participation in the sport. Therefore, it was agreed that the rule should be left unchanged for the time being.

**AQPS Races:** The National Hunt Pattern Committee had previously discussed and rejected the possibility of allowing AQPS horses which had run in Flat races confined to AQPS horses to run in British National Hunt Novices' Hurdle races and National Hunt Flat races. However, it was felt that since the original discussion Jump racing had moved on. It was agreed that the BHB would liaise with Weatherbys to look at the possibility of developing a system that would identify the animals involved at the entry stage, as currently this is not possible and would therefore require manual cross-checks to be conducted on every entry. The matter would be progressed.

*Carla Moore*

## RACE PLANNING

### Enhancing the Pattern for Jumping Mares

BHB proposes to:

- a) Increase the number of British mares' black type races to 11, from the current number of 5, bringing the volume in line with Ireland and France;
- b) Seek to establish support from the Development Fund in order to ensure that such races are run with appropriate levels of prize money, in the hope that they will succeed in having an immediate impact;
- c) Adopt the same approach to the assessment of mares in Pattern and Listed races as that recently agreed on the Flat. Mares' races therefore to have a 7lb lower parameter than Open race equivalents and all mares used in the assessment of Open Graded races to have 7lb added to their ratings (for the purpose of assessment);
- d) New weight-for-age contests to be added to the programme as Grade 2 or Listed events, with a 3 year period of grace in which to achieve the parameter. If after 3 years a race is not meeting the required parameter but there is sufficient evidence to suggest that the race is going in the right direction, the Committee to reconsider whether to allow a race to continue at Grade 2 or Listed for an appropriate period of time.

*Carla Moore*

### Race Times Committee

The Race Times Committee will meet on 16 April to discuss timings relating to Programme Book Volume III, which covers 1 July to the end of September. It is anticipated that you will receive confirmation of your race times for that period by the end of April/beginning of May. *Carla Moore*

### Horses in Training

For your information, the latest Horses in Training figures for Flat and Dual Purpose (March) are as follows:

#### FLAT/DUAL PURPOSE HORSES-IN-TRAINING

|              | <u>2007</u>  | <u>2006</u>  | <u>+/-</u> |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Flat         | 9003         | 8757         | +3%        |
| Dual Purpose | 2210         | 1870         | +18%       |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>11213</b> | <b>10627</b> | <b>+6%</b> |

*Carla Moore*

## SPONSORSHIP

### Horseracing Sponsors Association

The HSA are delighted to announce that their next Members and Guests Dinner will be held at Newbury Racecourse on Tuesday 22nd May. Details are being sent to Members and anyone requiring further information should contact Sheila Rowe on [sheila.rowe@bonusprint.com](mailto:sheila.rowe@bonusprint.com).

### Sponsorship Statistical Reports

Many racecourses have now subscribed to the reports which are already providing some interesting insights into race sponsorship this year.

Racecourses or indeed industry bodies interested in further details about the reports should please contact Mary-Ann Sandercock (01448 73930 or 07786 925803). *Mary-Ann Sandercock*

## SPONSORSHIP

### Hands and Heels/Training Series

The Racing Post Hands and Heels Jumps Series concluded on the 23 March at Newbury. The series went extremely well this year with no races being lost to the weather and many thanks to all the courses for staging the races once again – particularly Ludlow who rescheduled the race to 1 March when it was lost on the 28 January due to the gales. Richard Killoran won the series and will now be sponsored by the Racing Post for 12 months. He will attend media training with JETS on the 20 April and will hopefully make the most

of his publicity in the Racing Post monthly diary column.

A press release will be sent out next week (19 April), announcing a new sponsor of the Hands and Heels Apprentice Series and again many thanks to the relevant racecourses for staging the races.

Betfair will again be sponsoring the Apprentice Training Series which is excellent news and a Jumps Training Series will be structured shortly.

*Mary-Ann Sandercock*

## PROMOTIONS

### Mail On Sunday '2-for-1' Offer

The 2-for-1 ticket offer appeared on the promotions pages of the Daily Mail on Wednesday 4 April having initially been launched in the Mail on Sunday on 18 February.

Ticket sales for completed meetings so far are as follows:

| Date     | Racecourse    | Tickets Sold | Date         | Racecourse     | Tickets Sold |
|----------|---------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| 4 March  | Huntingdon *  | 92           | 1 April      | Hexham         | 36           |
| 11 March | Market Rasen  | 42           | 1 April      | Lingfield Park | 92           |
| 11 March | Warwick       | 20           | 8 April      | Musselburgh    | 12           |
| 18 March | Carlisle      | 42           | 15 April     | Kelso          | 64           |
| 18 March | Fontwell Park | 40           | 15 April     | Market Rasen   | 120          |
| 25 March | Kempton Park  | 50           | 15 April     | Worcester      | 102          |
| 25 March | Worcester †   | 36           | <b>TOTAL</b> |                | <b>748</b>   |

\* subsequently abandoned

† subsequently transferred

*John Phillips or Val Larue*

### Group Sales

As at 31 March bookings for the year stood at 34 valued at £21,284.

*Paul Smith*

## THE RACEGOERS CLUB

### Fixture Booklets

A second batch of our complimentary fixture booklets, already available at many courses, are currently in production and will be distributed to Flat only and summer jumping courses in late April/early May. We will contact the courses concerned in advance of this. *John Phillips or Paul Smith*

## THE RACEGOERS CLUB

### Owners Groups

Enclosed for Racecourse Managers is a copy of the Owners Group 24 leaflet sent to members on Thursday 5 April. The horse concerned, Maia, is ready to run – so much so that we have already had to stop Dandy Nicholls getting it out on the track before the group is finalised! Both horses in Owners Group 23, Diamond Tycoon and Greek Easter, should also make their seasonal debuts before the end of April and we hope that Senora Snoopy and Tocane, Owners Groups 21 and 22 respectively, will also run again before the end of the National Hunt season. *Paul Smith*

### Private Facilities

We are currently finalising our programme of private facilities to appear in the first edition of the Club's 2007 Social Diary. Generally the facilities available are unlikely to be sold for corporate use and provide us with an opportunity to fill them for the racecourse. *John Phillips or Paul Smith*

## RACETECH

### RaceTech and Radio Licencing – Changes to be aware of

As part of the Government's ongoing re-allocation of radio frequencies and available spectrum, the rules have recently changed. Now, every racecourse must individually licence the portion of the spectrum allocated for walkie talkies and radios, instead of one licence for ROCS and VEMCOM covering the whole country. RaceTech has undertaken this (vast) administrative task on your behalf and now every racecourse is up to date and legal and copies of the relevant paperwork and licences are held at RaceTech's head office in Raynes Park.

This has involved applying for the individual licences to the Radio Communications Agency (now called OFCOM) and then re-allocating and re-programming every handset – no mean feat!

The good news is that all of the work has now been completed and all racecourses are fully compliant. It may be worthwhile checking with any other third party suppliers that may be operating on the racecourse on raceday that they have made the necessary adjustments to their equipment, as you may be liable for any fines or interference caused.

RaceTech has ensured that there should be no interruption in continuity for raceday services and the walkie talkies that we use and supply for your use are fully updated and legal. If you have any queries or questions, please call Robin Dibble at RaceTech for more information.

*Catherine Pullan*

### RaceTech Web Site – log on and log in!

A reminder for those racecourses who have not logged on yet to the RaceTech Members Area on the web site. If you have mislaid the log in details, please contact me on 07976 432271. We hope to use the web site increasingly for communication, so please take a few minutes to look around and feedback your comments and suggestions. The Frequently Asked Questions section is aimed specifically at helping courses to understand what we do, what power we need, and how we can help you, so log on and see! And feel free to provide a link from your own site to ours – it is a great way to encourage race goers to purchase DVDs or photo finish prints of a great day out.

*Catherine Pullan*

## BETTING

### Gambling Act Workshops

The Gambling Act Workshops will take place on Tuesday 24 April 2007 at York Racecourse and Monday 30 April 2007 at the Montcalm Hotel, London. Any racecourse representative wishing to attend who has not already submitted a booking form, should contact the RCA immediately to confirm attendance.

It is strongly recommended that at least 1 representative from each racecourse attends one of the workshops. The confirmed programme for the workshop, along with directions and a list of attendance will be sent to all attendees shortly.

*Holly Roberts*

### National Joint Pitch Council

Below is a summary of the main points relevant to racecourses discussed at the March meeting of the National Joint Pitch Council:

**Auction Update:** 35% of lots were sold at auction on 27 February. The average per lot was £2,389. There were a significant number of no bids but there has been activity in private sales following the auction.

**List Position Valuations:** These are currently being updated.

**Appeals Hearings:** 3 Appeal hearings had been heard against designated numbers and ring layouts which were all successful.

**Meeting with HBLB:** Clarification of the status of payments made by the Levy Board to the NJPC has been sought. Tom Clarke advised that he was due to attend a meeting of the Levy Board shortly and would request a response.

**Standard Joints:** The Betting Ring Managers will be asked to undertake checks on all joints to ensure compliance to standards.

**Website Traffic:** It was reported that approximately 4,500 hits were made each month.

**Gambling Commission/DCMS:** It was noted that talks had commenced between bookmakers, racecourses and the NJPC to confirm further administration arrangements for on-course book-

makers. The Group was expected to report back to DCMS by the end of April.

**Operators Licence Application:** It was noted that posters had been produced for display on racecourses to remind bookmakers of the 27 April deadline for applications to give continuation rights. Tim Moore advised that those bookmakers that apply between April and August will be processed hopefully in advance of 1 September.

**OFT Investigation into Designated Numbers:** In response to a request for action from the RCA, it was agreed that Tim Moore would write to the Betting Ring Managers to instruct that any designated number decisions must be made by LJPCs without bookmakers input.

**Bookmaker Lists:** It was agreed that the NJPC would conduct a review of bookmaker lists for review at the meeting on 14 May.

**Breaches:** It was noted that 5 warning letters had been issued.

**Bookmaker Authorisations:** These compare favourably with previous years.

**SP Margins:** The figure for February is 1.62 per runner which is same as had been for January. Detailed figures have been emailed to all courses.

*Caroline Davies, Adam 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.

*Holly Roberts*

### Summer Jumping

The Summer Jumping Workshop will take place on Friday 20 April 2007 at Stratford Racecourse. Any Clerks of the Course wishing to attend who have not already submitted a booking form, should contact the RCA immediately to confirm attendance.

The confirmed programme for the workshop, along with directions and a list of attendance will be sent to all attendees shortly.

*Holly Roberts*

## TECHNICAL

### Jockeys' Nutrition

The RCA has been advised by the jockeys' nutrition service "From the Horses Mouth" that they have been highly encouraged by the changes made by racecourses to the food available in the weighing room.

In addition, they have offered to meet with any racecourse who wishes to make further changes in this area to provide nutritionally balanced and appealing food for jockeys. Any racecourse wishing to take up this offer are asked to contact Julia Scott Douglas on 013984 420200.

*Caroline Davies*

### Racecourse Committee

Below is a summary of the main points discussed at the HRA Racecourse Committee Meeting held at Cheltenham on the 23 March 2007. Bob Davies, Caroline Davies and Kirkland Tellwright attended on behalf of racecourses:

**Going Stick:** The Committee noted that the pre-declarations report would not be published for the first month of the trial and the information would be monitored closely. The Committee agreed the need to have confidence if the report is to be published. It was agreed that the message that readings will vary between courses needs to be publicised by the HRA and any racecourse should refer enquiries to Fraser Garrity for response. The Committee suggested that the Clerk of Course should liaise with the media on the day to explain the ground and associated readings. It was re-confirmed that this was a trial and all feedback would be welcomed.

**Racecourse Stables:** The Committee was advised that Harlow Brothers are in the process of treating problem boxes.

**Box for Every Runner:** HRA confirmed that they were monitoring the stable elimination figures. In January and February 12 horses were eliminated and there were no Hunter Chase eliminations.

**Haydock Mobile Fences:** Kirkland Tellwright reported that the trial of the mobile fences had gone well which was supported by the faller statistics.

**Artificial Aprons and Fence Stiffness Measuring Device:** It was noted that Richard Linley was researching the options.

**AWT (Synthetic) Landings for Obstacles:** The feasibility of utilising AWT surfaces as landings is being investigated.

**Halt Race Procedures:** In response to a request from the RCA, the HRA is to confirm its position regarding halt race procedures which will be circulated to racecourses who can then consider if the introduction of such a procedure is appropriate for their course.

**Cranfield Irrigation Project:** Colin Mumford, Alex Vickers, Iain James attended on behalf of Cranfield University and gave a presentation on the findings of the irrigation project which will be further reviewed prior to distribution to Racecourses. The project will be reported to the Clerks of the Course at the Seminar in November.

**Racecourse Crossings:** Richard Linley will update the RCA Guidance Note on crossing surfaces.

**Racecourse Survey:** The HRA confirmed that it intend to conduct a racecourse survey to update its information. This exercise was last done about 10 years ago.

**Stalls Tests:** The HRA confirmed that up to 5 stalls tests should be allowed on any race day. Please can racecourses advise the RCA if they make a charge to cover the additional costs of tests and if so, how much.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Friday 12 October 10.30 at Cheltenham. *Caroline Davies*

## TECHNICAL

### Weather Report

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

February was another very wet month with rainfall well above average in all of our regions. It was the seventh consecutive month with above average rainfall in central and eastern England. Soils remained saturated throughout February. Monthly mean flows decreased at more than three quarters of indicator sites; however, all but one site in the north west remains *normal* or higher for the time of year. Groundwater levels increased at more than three quarters of all the indicator sites updated during February. Despite signs of recovery in the groundwater levels in the sandstone aquifers of the Midlands, the majority of sites in this region remain *notably* or *exceptionally low* for the time of year. Reservoir storage increased by 5% to 89% in our South West Region but there was little change elsewhere; storage remains at 94% or more in all other regions. Overall storage for England and Wales remains unchanged at 95%.

**Rainfall:** After a settled start to the month, the rest of February was very wet with low pressure systems predominating. The most rain fell in south west England, Wales, upland areas in the north west and along parts of the south coast. All our regions received above long term average rainfall (LTA), with our Southern and Thames Regions receiving just over twice the February LTA. England and Wales overall received 100mm, 155% of the monthly LTA. February was the seventh consecutive month with rainfall above LTA in four of our regions.

**Soil Moisture Deficit:** In all our regions, soils remained saturated throughout February. At the end of February, soil moisture deficit (SMD) is 3mm or less in all our regions. SMD is 15mm lower in our Anglian

and Thames Regions compared to the beginning of March 2006.

**River Flows:** Monthly mean flows decreased at more than three quarters of indicator sites. The largest reductions were in northern England and Wales, where flows were generally notably high or exceptionally high during the exceptionally wet conditions in January. However, monthly mean flows remain normal or higher at all but one indicator site. Flows at all of the regional index sites are higher than those in February 1976.

**Groundwater Levels:** Groundwater levels increased at more than three quarters of all indicator sites during February. Levels at Woodley's No 1 in the sandstone of South West Region increased two classes to be normal by the end of the month, elsewhere there were single class increases across a range of chalk aquifers in southern, eastern and north east England. Levels at Heathlanes and Four Crosses are showing signs of recovery in our Midlands Region sandstone. Despite this, the majority of sites in the sandstone of the Midlands remain notably or exceptionally low.

**Reservoir Storage:** Reservoir storage increased in our South West Region by 5% to 89% during February. In all other regions changes were small and storage remains close to or above 95%. Nearly half of all reservoirs or reservoir groups are at full capacity. There were significant increases in storage at three reservoirs in our South West Region including Colliford Reservoir, which changed class from notably low to below normal. All but one of the other reservoirs or reservoir groups are normal or higher for the time of year. The Pennines Group in our North West Region remains slightly below normal for the time of year due to being managed to provide flood storage.

## TECHNICAL

### Smoking Legislation

You will be aware that the new law on smoking came into effect on 2 April 2007 in Wales and will come into effect on 1 July 2007 in England. As a consequence of this, jockeys will no longer be able to smoke in the Weighing Room, Changing Rooms or rest areas. The JAGB has proposed that racecourses arrange for suitable receptacles to be placed near a rear exit for jockeys who wish to continue smoking to use, so that they do not need to use public areas. Racecourses are asked to support this proposal wherever possible.

*John Blake*

## MEDICAL

### Review of Racecourse Medical Arrangements

A joint meeting of the RCA Medical and Technical Groups was held on 23 February to discuss implementation of the review. From this meeting the 69 recommendations were split into four topic groups to be further discussed by work groups which include representatives of the RCA Medical and Technical Groups. The topics are:

- Regulatory Framework and Future Planning:
- Governance
- Competencies and Training
- Operational Activity and Equipment

The groups will now investigate solutions to the recommendations and report their findings at a further joint meeting on Friday 29 June.

In September the joint committee will present its proposals to the RCA Board. It is intended that the recommendations will be completed within one year and by February 2008 any alterations that need to be made to the HRAGIs will have been finalised.

*Caroline Davies, Lizzie Lea*

### Basics Education Courses for 2007

**Five Day Immediate Care Course:** Madingley Hall Cambridge – covering all aspects of immediate care with the emphasis on practical skills as well as formal lectures and training scenarios: 17 – 21 September 2007.

**Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Course:** Madingley Hall Cambridge – A 3 day fully residential course on all aspects of emergency care in the pre-hospital setting including medical, trauma and paediatric emergencies: 2 – 4 May 2007, 9 -11 July BMA, London, 17-19 September, 31 October – 2 November.

**Advanced Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Course:** Madingley Hall, Cambridge – A two

day fully residential course for previous participants on the Pre-hospital Emergency Care courses: 20 & 21 September 2007.

**Refresher Course:** A two day course directed at previous participants on the Pre-hospital Emergency Care courses and the Immediate Care Courses: 17 & 18 May, 26 & 27 November.

For bookings and information please contact Tracy at BASICS Education on 0870 1654 999 or email [educ@basics.org.uk](mailto:educ@basics.org.uk)

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

### Injuries in Amateur Horse Racing (Point to Point)

Attached for SRMOs is an article relating to injuries in amateur horse racing (point to point racing) in Great Britain and Ireland during 1993 – 2006. The article has been published on the website [www.bjsportmed.com](http://www.bjsportmed.com) which can be accessed for further information.

## 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](mailto:iog@iog.org)

### The Racecourse Training Manual

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

*Holly Roberts*

## BHEST

Below is a summary of the main points discussed by the February meeting of the BHEST Board:

**BHEST Future:** The Chairman, Rhydian Morgan-Jones would meet with Paul Roy, Chairman of BHA, to discuss the future of BHEST under HRA.

**HBLB Submission:** The Board noted that BHEST had made its annual submission for funding to the HBLB.

**Nutrition Programme:** It was noted that funding for the nutrition programme had been approved.

**Johnno Spence Consulting:** The Council approved the appointment of JSC to manage pr for the education programme for one year.

**Risk Rating Review:** The BHEST Risk Register has been reviewed and confirmed and will be circulated with the Minutes.

*Caroline Davies*

## TRAINING

### Levy Board Renews £692,000 Grant For Education and Training

The Levy Board has renewed its support for racing industry training and education programmes for 2007/08 with a £692,000 grant to the British Horseracing Education and Standards Trust.

A sum of £362,500 will go towards training of racing stable staff, supporting NVQ 2 learners at the British Racing School and the Northern Racing College, £28,500 will provide over 60 places on the very successful scheme to prepare equine college students for employment in racing yards, £49,000 will support jockey training through the Hands 'n' Heels series and continuation courses for apprentice and conditional jockeys, £32,000 will be applied to stable staff recruitment and £1,800 to industry health and safety updates.

£218,000 will support the schools Education Programme as it enters the third year of the plan to boost participation from 8,000 school pupils a year to 20,000 by 2010. 11,500 pupils are expected to participate in 2007.

Levy Board Chairman, Robert Hughes said, "The Board remains totally committed to this vital investment in the future of racing. Our industry enjoys comprehensive training opportunities, backed by nationally recognised qualifications, which are essential to its development and success. We fully support the continuing growth of the Education Programme, which simultaneously benefits the industry and the education of school children nationally".

*For further information, contact Libby Archer, Scientific Liaison Executive, on 020 7333 0043*

## RECRUITMENT

### The Institute of Groundsmanship

The Institute of Groundsmanship are delighted to announce that their recruitment partner, Groundsearch Consultancy Limited, is now offering its' expertise within the commercial sector of the sports turf industry.

Groundsearch can now offer search and selection, and headhunting services for recruitment. For further details please contact Helen Whiting – Tel: 01638 578816 or email – [info:gscl.co.uk](mailto:info:gscl.co.uk) and visit the website [www.iog.org](http://www.iog.org)

**[www.careersinracing.com](http://www.careersinracing.com)**

The Industry Recruitment and Training Department at the BHB have recently written to all the racecourses with an update on the website [www.careersinracing.com](http://www.careersinracing.com) and encouraging the use of the **free job board** for any of their vacancies. The website now receives over 8000 visits a month with the job board carrying vacancies at yards, studs and racing organisations. Many of these visits are people looking for jobs in the administration side of racing and the BHB are keen to advertise to these candidates as well. The job board will shortly be publicised in regional newspapers, regional equestrian press and Horse and Hound.

For more detailed information please contact – Zoe Taylor, Project Manager, Industry Recruitment and Training Department – Tel: 020 7152 0000  
Email: [info@careersinracing.com](mailto:info@careersinracing.com).

## **BADGES & PASS**

### **Badge Review – Introduction of Officials Badges**

It is intended that the replacement of the existing HRA and BHB badges by RCA and where appropriate Officials badges, will be in place by 1 June 2007. Please can you ensure that your entrance staff are aware of their introduction.

Racecourses should be aware that the Officials badge will be accompanied by a car park label. This will be a square red label, with a darker red “O” in the centre. If you wish to have an example of the label, please contact me, and I will send this to you.

In light of the changes, from 1 June 2007, racecourses are asked to no longer recognise the HRA and BHB badges for racecourse admittance. *HollyRobarts*

### **PASS Workshop**

A Pass Workshop was held at Weatherbys on Thursday 22 March 2007. There were 33 attendees, representing 19 racecourses. Feedback from the workshop has shown that the programme was well received.

The proposed upgrades to the PASS system were discussed with operators, and their feedback is being reviewed and incorporated into the alterations where appropriate. *Holly Robarts*

### **Royal Windsor Racecourse**

Royal Windsor Racecourse would like RCA Metal Badge Holders to be advised that a new ticketing system providing full access control will be up and running when the racecourse opens for its new 2007 season on the 16 April.

All RCA badge holders will need to present their metal badge at the ticket desk at the main entrance where they will be issued with a bar coded ticket. This ticket will need to be presented at the turnstile to give access into the enclosure. As previously, please display your metal badge to ensure access into other areas (e.g. the Owners/Trainers Enclosure). If you leave the racecourse and intend to return later in the day you will need to have your bar

coded ticket scanned at the exit point.

The new system will provide quicker and easier access into the course lessening queues at the enclosure entrances. It is also important from a health and safety perspective for Royal Windsor to know how many people are in the enclosures at any one time. In addition the full access control will minimise the opportunity for fraudulent activities. The new system will prove beneficial to all concerned and your assistance in adopting these new procedures is much appreciated and Royal Windsor look forward to welcoming all their most valued patrons back for another highly enjoyable and successful season. *Kate Hills*

### **RCA and Press Badge Lists**

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

### **2007 Badges & 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.

*Holly Robarts*

### **2008 Badges**

The RCA has confirmed that the badges for 2008 will be dark and light purple.

*Holly Robarts*

### **Missing Badges**

RCA: 151, 152, 153, 154, 256, 257, 426, 1030, 1146, 1147

Press: 76, 153, 220, 264, 416, 425, 515

JAGB: 66, 291, 448, 451, 452, 586

NTF: 383, 470, 544, 545, 790, 793, 851, 1075, 1318, 1319, 1559, 1583

## 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 clashes.

The following are highlights for May, June and July 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.

#### May

- 5 Saturday - Newmarket Guineas Meeting
- 6 Sunday - Newmarket Guineas Meeting
- 8 Tuesday - Vodafone Derby National Media Launch – Bibendum, South Kensington, London
- 8 Tuesday - York Press Lunch
- 14 Monday - BHB Anglo Irish Jump Racing Awards Luncheon and Press Conference – Café Royal, London
- 21 Monday - Doncaster Bloodstock Sales
- 22 Tuesday - Horseracing Sponsors Association Dinner - Newbury
- 24 Thursday - Breakfast with the Stars – Epsom Downs

#### June

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

#### July

- 10 Tuesday - Tattersalls July sale
- 15 Sunday - Trainers Yard open Day – Epsom
- 21 Saturday - Weatherbys Super Sprint - Newbury
- 22 Sunday - Dubai International Arabian Raceday – Newbury
- 28 Saturday - Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes - Ascot
- 31 Tuesday - Glorious Goodwood Media Dinner – Goodwood House

## SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

### Spotlight On .....

Anthea Morshead  
Clerk of the Course at Kelso, Musselburgh and Perth



|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Age                               | 44  |
| Marital Status/Children/<br>Pets  | Married to Sam, and one son Henry aged 9.<br>Menagerie of animals - 1 horse, 2 ponies, 2 dogs,<br>2 cats and 10 hens!   |
| Previous Career(s)                | Assistant Trainer to my father, Peter Beaumont and spent some time with Jonathan Pease and Michael Dickinson. Rode as amateur and had own Point to Point livery yard. |
| Best Bits About Your Job          | Working with different teams of people who are all very different but all very professional and make racing a great experience for all.                               |
| Worst Bit About Your Job          | Any time a horse or rider is injured, and abandoning a meeting.   |
| Best Racing Experience(s)         | Winning the John Hughes Memorial (now Topham Trophy again) at Aintree on JJ Henry in 1991.  |
| Worst Racing Experience           | Abandoning the Perth Festival on what should have been my first 3 days Clerking.  |
| Racing Hero                       | My father, Peter Beaumont and Lorna Vincent who was the first woman rider to really break through in National Hunt Racing.  |
| Most Fanciable Racing Personality | I'm trying to find a racing connection for Johnny Wilkinson!  |
| Hobbies                           | Hunting, skiing, fishing. Taking Henry to Pony Club and Rugby etc.  |
| Favourite Film & TV               | Ryan's Daughter, Brokeback Mountain and The Vicar of Dibley.  |
| Favourite Holiday Destination     | Skiing in the 3 Valleys. Brittany for fabulous beaches and food!  |
| Current Wheels                    | Audi A3.  |
| One Wish To Improve The Industry  | More co-operation, communication and tolerance from all sectors of the industry - we are all in the game because we love it and want it to flourish.                  |

## DIARY DATES

|          |                                     |
|----------|-------------------------------------|
| 20 April | Summer Jumping Workshop (Stratford) |
| 24 April | Gambling Workshop (York)            |
| 30 April | Gambling Workshop (London)          |
| 8 May    | BHB Board                           |
| 14 May   | RCA Race Planning Group             |
| 22 May   | BHB Race Planning Committee         |

## ATTACHMENTS

|  |
|--|
| Competitive Racing Statistics                            |
| Scale of Weight for Age for Steeplechases & Hurdle Races |
| Owners Group 24  |

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UPDATE is also available on our website:  
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