



- **The new governing body started on 31 July 2007**
- **britishhorseracing.com's content boosted, with online Orders and Rules launched**



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The British Horseracing Authority launched on 31 July as the single, unified governing body for British Horseracing. Its role is to regulate, promote and represent the sport.

A major step in the modernisation of British Horseracing, the Authority takes on the roles of the British Horseracing Board and the Horseracing Regulatory Authority, with both of those organisations ceasing to exist.

The Authority sits at the head of a sport second only to football in Britain in terms of its revenues and attendances, and an industry responsible, directly or indirectly, for almost 90,000 full-time jobs. Its inaugural Chairman is Paul Roy, with Nic Coward its first Chief Executive.

Alongside the Chairman and Chief Executive, the remainder of the eight-strong Board, which has a strong emphasis on independence and decision-making in the best interests of British Horseracing as a whole, is as follows:

- Toby Balding - Member Nominee Director
- John Bridgeman - Independent Regulatory Director
- Morag Gray - Independent Director
- Ben Gunn - Independent Regulatory Director
- Jim McGrath - Independent Director
- Ian Renton - Member Nominee Director

For the first time, the regulations under which the sport is run, regulated and administered are accessible on a fully searchable and easy to navigate website [www.britishhorseracing.com](http://www.britishhorseracing.com).

Other new additions to [www.britishhorseracing.com](http://www.britishhorseracing.com) include downloadable Official Ratings – which are updated on a weekly basis by the Authority's team of handicappers – detailed live non-runner and going reports and information covering the full range of the Authority's activities.

British Horseracing Authority Chief Executive Nic Coward said: "The British Horseracing Authority is a fresh start, with the backing of all sectors of the industry. We are here to listen, and to take a lead, looking to achieve the best for British Horseracing in all that we do.

"We have an enthusiastic team in place and are building a clear picture of the opportunities and challenges ahead."

**Member Organisations:** The British Horseracing Authority's member organisations are the Racecourse Association, the Racehorse Owners Association, the Thoroughbred Breeders Association and a group representing Licensed Personnel.

*Owen Byrne*

# BRITISH HORSERACING AUTHORITY

## Racecourse Websites

With the creation of the British Horseracing Authority as the new regulatory and governing body for British horseracing, please check your websites to ensure that any links to the HRA and BHB are deleted. A new link should point to [www.britishhorseracing.com](http://www.britishhorseracing.com). A logo is available from [obyne@britishhorseracing.com](mailto:obyne@britishhorseracing.com) if needed.

Owen Byrne

## RACE PLANNING

### 2008 Fixture List - Overview

The 2008 Fixture List was published on 26 July. The list contains 1,504 fixtures, compared to 1,415 this year. Racing will take place on 52 Sundays (from 51) and Saturday evenings will again take place on all of the available 20 days during the summer evening period (mid-April till end of August). Evening racing during the week in this period will again take place on 89 days and, in 2008, Floodlit AWT evening racing accounts for 95 midweek fixtures and 32 Saturday evenings (50 and 20 in 2007 respectively). The Fixtures List will now house 599 betting sessions compared with 543 in 2007.

**Sunday Fixtures:** Since the opening up of all Sundays (including Easter Sunday) as potential fixture slots in 2004, Sunday racing has continued to grow. This policy was maintained for 2008, with a new high of 147 fixtures covering all 52 Sundays.

**Evenings:** Due to a change in betting legislation, there will be a year-round programme of evening racing in 2008, resulting in a record number of evening fixtures (372 compared to 287 in 2007).

**Enterprise Fixtures:** Following a lengthy review of fixture policy, the RCA was successful in introducing the concept of Enterprise fixtures for the 2008 Fixture List. These fixtures will receive no central funding in their first year, but could be integrated into the Fixture List and become Racecourse fixtures over a period of 3 years provided that they receive sufficient coverage in betting shops. Depending on the Levy Board prize money budget, funding for Enterprise fixtures would be on the basis of 0% in year 1, 50% BDR in year 2, 75% in year 3 and full funding in year 4. Any racecourse losing LBO coverage would continue to receive funding in 2008, but not thereafter and may wish to move to a criteria gap or remain in its historic slots without central funding.

The BHB offered up a total of 35 Enterprise fix-

ture slots, 30 of which were selected. Enterprise Fixtures will require a minimum annual prize money contribution of £40,000 for Flat fixtures and £30,000 for Jump fixtures.

Applications were decided via a pick system with the order being determined by a racecourse's position in the combined 2007 Flat and Jump Merit Table figures. A meeting with all interested racecourses was held on 14 June in London.

Racecourses are reminded that any prize money will not count towards the Merit Table until the fixture receives 100% BDR from the Levy Board. Racecourse Managers should also be aware that future funding for these fixtures is subject to available levy funding.

**Jump to Flat Fixtures Ratio:** Following the NH Review of 1998 it was agreed that, in order to sustain and encourage Jump racing, the number of Jump fixtures should not fall below the 1998 total of 525 for at least 3 years. This policy was introduced in 2000 and has been maintained since then. The 2008 Fixture List sees a total of 556 Jump fixtures (an increase of 12 from the 544 programmed in 2007).

**BHB (Leasehold) Fixtures:** As was the case last year, a competitive bidding process took place for 168 BHB Leasehold Fixtures (16 were allocated to Great Leighs by the BHB Board). BDRs for such fixtures ranged from £20,000 to £50,000. An updated on-line system ensured a transparent bidding system and overall the site worked well and proved easy to use. Leases for fixtures ranged from 1 to 3 years.

**BHB Development Fund:** The 2008 Fixture Bidding Process realised a total of £1,499,575 (£1,391,600 in 2007) for the Development Fund. Even better news is that the Levy Board intends to allocate a portion of the interest from the HFL sale to the Development Fund, which could bring the total Fund up to £2m. *Carla Moore*

## RACE PLANNING

### Fixture Process Review

The RCA Race Planning Group (RPG) is in the process of conducting a review of the 2008 Fixture Process. The aim is to improve the procedure for the 2009 Fixture List and which can be supported by all racecourses, if not a majority. The RCA Board will meet on 18 September to review the various facets of the process and in order that this review is as transparent as possible and that all views are taken into consideration, racecourses have been invited to make submissions to the RPG on any fixture issues and how you see the process operating for the 2009 Fixture List. The Members Forum meetings planned for October will give Racecourse Executives the opportunity to discuss the RCA Board and RPG's initial recommendations. This Review is separate to the root and branch review of the Fixture List which is being undertaken by BHA and to which the RCA will contribute. *Carla Moore*

### 2008 Race Times

The draft Race Times document for 2008 will shortly be circulated to racecourses. Racecourses will be required to respond with any requests for amendments probably by the end of September. This year the Race Times Committee will have a pre-meeting in August to discuss how race times will be determined in future and if arrangements that were introduced for this year's race times can be improved on. *Carla Moore*

### Levy Board moves to contain prize money reduction in 2008

The Horserace Betting Levy Board's contribution to the main Prize Money Fund will be cut from £55m in 2007 to £49.5m in 2008. The reduction is the regrettable, but necessary result of a continuing decline in Levy income from a peak of £102m in 2003/04 to £90m in 2006/07. The Prize Money cut is based on a current Levy income estimate of £85.5m in 2007/08, which, in the current uncertain climate, will be the subject of continuing review.

Also cut are the contributions to the Breeders' Prizes Scheme, which will fall from a core level of £1.8m in 2007 (£2.010m including the carry over of a 2006 underspend) to £1.62m in 2008, and to the Divided Races Fund, down from £950k in 2007 to £855k next year. The Board's contribution to Appearance Money, which is integral to the VAT Scheme for

Racehorse Owners, will not be reduced but will be frozen in 2008 at its current level of £1.5m.

For the first time, the Board is making a contribution to the BHB's Development Fund, which supports races primarily designed for race planning purposes and not necessarily commercial. The allocation, which will be made from the net interest on the HFL Sale Proceeds, will total £550k in 2008. The announcement of these allocations is accompanied by a 'health warning' from the Board that further cuts would be inevitable if income forecasts are not achieved. Equally, if yields prove higher than forecast, additional investment can be considered.

*Carla Moore*

### 2008 Minimum Values

Due to the fact that the HBLB had to reduce the prize money pool for 2008 from £55m to £49.5m the BHA Board will consider Minimum Values at its meeting in September. With the deadline for Volume I of the 2008 Programme Book Volume already approaching, the BHA would like to develop a proposal that can be supported by the RCA, ROA and NTF. The RCA Race Planning Group discussed the subject at its meeting in July and recommended an across-the-board reduction of 10% in Minimum Values. *Carla Moore*

## RACE PLANNING

### 2008 Basic Daily Rates (BDRs)

It is anticipated that the HBLB will reveal the 2008 BDRs in the week commencing 20 August. It will come as no surprise that this is unlikely to be happy reading. It should be borne in mind that the HBLB will be implementing the new formula for Merit Table calculations, which are as follows:

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.

*Carla Moore*

### AQPS Horses

Contrary and in addition to what was printed previously in UPDATE regarding AQPS horses, there are no changes to the way in which AQPS races are treated until all of the changes are in place with France Galop. This includes the way in which the races are treated for Flat Maiden qualification. In the future, once the changes have been effected,

AQPS races run since 1 January 2007 will be treated as Bumpers, while those which were run prior to the current year will continue to be treated as Flat races. Until the necessary Computer Development has been carried out by France Galop, horses which win an AQPS Flat race will continue to be ineligible for Flat Maidens.

*Carla Moore*

### Early Closing Races

During recent months the BHB has been reviewing the existing deadlines associated with early closing races and the subsequent release of information into the public domain. This review was initiated as a result of concerns that, under the current arrangements, there is in most cases a period of 1 week between such races closing at noon on Wednesday and the list of entries being published on the following Wednesday.

BHB has held meetings involving the RCA and racecourse representatives, the NTF, the HRA Security Department and Weatherbys, at which all parties accepted the need to minimise the period between such races closing and entries being released. With the closing dates for most early closing races remaining in 2007 already published, it is not feasible to alter their deadlines for closing. However, from 1 January 2008, it has been agreed by all parties that, other than in exceptional circumstances to be agreed with the Racing Department, the following arrangements will be applied:

1. Early closing races will close at noon on Tuesday.
2. Weatherbys will provide the list of entries to the racecourse and, if required, its sponsor as soon as possible on the same (Tuesday) afternoon.
3. The list of entries will also be released to the Racing Post and Racing Pages at this time, embargoed until noon on the following day (Wednesday). This, however, would be on the understanding that they are for internal use only and that those connected with the horses should not be contacted until after the embargo has passed.
4. The list of entries will be published on the Racing Administration website at noon on Wednesday (24 hours after entries have closed).

## RACE PLANNING

### Early Closing Races ..... Contd

These alternative arrangements will clearly minimise the period between entries closing and the information being released, thereby facilitating the suspension of the betting markets and exchanges between these two stages. The general procedures relating to forfeit stages will remain unchanged, with the deadline continuing to fall on Tuesday and the details of the forfeit acceptors confirmed on the Racing Administration website at noon on Wednesday.

As referred to above, it would not be sensible to alter closing dates at this late stage for early closing races during the remainder of 2007. However, the need to ensure that all relevant information is put into the public domain at the earliest opportunity remains and, accordingly, with effect from races closing on 1 August 2007, other than in exceptional circumstances, the list of entered horses in early closing races will be published on the Racing Administration website 24 hours after the entries have closed (i.e. at noon on Thursday).

Any racecourses wishing to apply for exceptional treatment for any particular early closing race should contact the Racing Department with the relevant details. However, any such treatment must continue to ensure that the period during which information is withheld from the public is kept to a minimum.

*Carla Moore*

## SPONSORSHIP

### European Parliament Vote on Restrictions on Alcohol Sponsorship

On 16 July 2007 the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food safety voted on proposals for a European Union strategy to support Member States in reducing alcohol-related harm. A number of tabled amendments sought directly to limit commercial partnerships between sports organisations and the alcohol industry.

The CCPR (Central Council of Physical Recreation), were asked to respond to the Committee and approached the RCA and HSA (amongst many other sporting bodies) for comments.

The RCA responded as follows: "Horseracing is as much a social event as a sport and its core audience is male aged 35 – 50. Therefore, our alcohol industry sponsors are targeting this audience, not young people.

Racecourses have social responsibility policies in place which state:

- The safety of all who visit racecourses is a top priority for our members.
- Anybody arriving at the racecourse

worse the wear for drink will not be admitted.

- Racecourse security will remove anybody who drinks too much and is causing a disturbance on racecourse premises.
- Promotional activities on racecourse premises involving alcohol sampling are not encouraged.
- Racecourses encourage all sponsors to who wish to promote their products to do so in a socially responsible manner.

Racecourse caterers, in line with the racecourse social responsibility policy, instruct their bartenders not to serve alcohol to anybody who appears to have drunk too much."

The HSA in turn responded as follows:

"In endorsing the views of the Racecourse Association the Horseracing Sponsors Association would wish to add the following:

Sponsorship of Horseracing by organisations whose primary business is the manufacture and/or sale of alcohol is significant.

## SPONSORSHIP

### European Parliament Vote on Restrictions on Alcohol Sponsorship .....Contd

A prime example would be John Smith's who support the Grand National along with many other major races. Socially responsible promotion and support of all events sponsored by John Smith's, and indeed other alcohol related sponsors, is paramount. They take extreme care to vehemently discourage under age drinking and indeed excessive drinking. A very strong code of conduct exists which complements the efforts of the racecourses.

Any restrictions introduced would seriously impact on the well being of the sport and additional proposals that sales of alcohol at sporting events should be banned, would be a shameful and retrograde step. Just as applies at a restaurant or concert, the control of alcohol sales at race meetings is the responsibility of management. Furthermore a large percentage of the alcohol consumed is in private hospitality facilities where responsible organisations invite groups of private guests.

We urge the CCPR to strongly put forward our case and fight to resist this attempted poten-

tially damaging restriction to our sport."

The CCPR subsequently submitted their response to the Committee; the response reflected and supported both the RCA and HSA's comments – in fact horseracing was used as an example in the response.

The ENVI Committee duly voted on the strategy, where several new proposals regarding alcohol advertising were voted for, but they did not vote for a ban on alcohol sponsorship in sport.

"The omission has not been achieved. It can be expected that the topic 'sport sponsoring and the alcohol industry' will continue to be an item during the debates on an EU alcohol strategy."

Should anyone wish to be emailed copy of the results on the Committee's voting on alcohol strategy please let me know.

This subject is obviously an ongoing one and we shall continue to monitor and lobby as necessary.  
*Mary-Ann Sandercock*

## PROMOTIONS

### British Horseracing Call Centre

Since the start of April the RCA Promotions department has assumed the role of call centre for the British Horseracing website. Bookings processed so far are as follows:

Month	2007			2006		
	Orders	Tickets	Value	Orders	Tickets	Value
April	428	1,929	£43,573	682	3,363	£69,387
May	369	1,943	£43,959	860	3,952	£82,146
June	597	2,610	£41,485	1,493	5,801	£123,853
July	739	3,173	£47,332	1,104	4,422	£62,330
<b>Total</b>	2,133	9,655	£176,349	4,139	17,538	£337,716
	(-48%)	(-45%)	(-48%)			

April 2007 saw orders taken on behalf of 44 different courses (49 last April)

May 2007 saw orders taken on behalf of 37 different courses (49 last May)

June 2007 saw orders taken on behalf of 36 different courses (38 last June)

July 2007 saw orders taken on behalf of 40 different courses (42 last July)

*John Phillips or Jenna Strachan*

## PROMOTIONS

### The Mail On Sunday Ticket Offer

Ticket sales for completed meetings so far are as follows:

Date	Racecourse	Tickets Sold	Date	Racecourse	Tickets Sold
4 March	Huntingdon*	92	27 May	Fontwell Park	134
11 March	Market Rasen	42	27 May	Uttoxeter	250
11 March	Warwick	20	3 June	Brighton	40
18 March	Carlisle	42	10 June	Bath	182
18 March	Fontwell Park	40	10 June	Stratford	204
25 March	Kempton Park	50	17 June	Salisbury	234
25 March	Worcester †	36	24 June	Hexham	34
1 April	Hexham	36	24 June	Pontefract	402
1 April	Lingfield Park	92	24 June	Warwick	102
8 April	Musselburgh	12	1 July	Salisbury*	68
15 April	Kelso	64	1 July	Windsor*	286
15 April	Market Rasen	120	8 July	Ayr	38
15 April	Worcester	102	8 July	Market Rasen	270
22 April	Southwell	110	15 July	Haydock Park	500
29 April	Brighton	92	15 July	Perth	100
6 May	Hamilton	32	22 July	Newton Abbot	538
6 May	Newmarket	968	29 July	Ascot	770
6 May	Salisbury	118	29 July	Carlisle	80
13 May	Plumpton	98	29 July	Pontefract	392
13 May	Worcester	140	5 August	Market Rasen	196
20 May	Market Rasen	134	5 August	Newbury	278
TOTAL TICKET SALES					7,538

\* subsequently abandoned

† subsequently transferred

*John Phillips or Valerie Larue*

### Group Sales

As at 31 July bookings stood at 183 valued at £92,731.

*Paul Smith*

### Special Events Diary

This can be viewed on the RCA website, [www.britishracecourses.org](http://www.britishracecourses.org). Please e-mail or fax me details of newsworthy meetings you wish to appear in the diary.

*Paul Smith*

## THE RACEGOERS CLUB

### 2008 Concession Scheme

We will shortly be contacting all racecourses regarding the concession scheme for 2008. The more fixtures we can include under the scheme the bigger the selling point for the Club, and also the more likely members are to attend additional fixtures. Please offer as many dates as you can. Thank you.

*John Phillips*

### 'Offer Corner'

In the last two newsletters The Racegoers Club has introduced an 'Offer Corner' carrying news of free racedays at both Kempton Park and Sandown Park, plus discounted tickets for Royal Ascot and Glorious Goodwood. The next newsletter is due to go out at the end of October and if you wish to provide members with a free day at your racecourse, or provide a substantial advance booked discount for a certain day, please let me know.

*John Phillips*

## RACETECH

### RaceTech – A Safe Pair of Hands for Business Critical Projects

After an exceptional British summer so far, and race meetings being lost to waterlogging and torrential rain, everyone is having to watch their budgets carefully and resourcing is tight. RaceTech can help to project manage a wide variety of projects on your behalf, on a pay as you go basis, from rolling out new technologies to upgrading your technical facilities. In fact, any capital project that requires technical input, we can assist the racecourse to manage time and resources, ensuring that you hit your deadlines and meet your business objectives.

From inception and project design/specification right through to roll out and staff training, RaceTech can manage this process on your behalf, freeing up your own staff to get on with their day to day business of running a racecourse and leisure attraction/corporate venue. Projects such as updating/monitoring

your AV and CCTV requirements, cabling and WiFi, telephony requirements, ticketing, CRM and customer experience projects can all be managed and progressed in a measured and quantifiable fashion by RaceTech to make sure that the right things happen at the right times to make the project a success.

We can supply technical staff and/or project managers to drive projects forward, from start to finish or simply to add in resource as needed – so that you can get on with the business of the day.

For more information, please contact me to discuss any particular projects – we are here to help you and have an enormous amount of experience and resource at your disposal.

*Catherine Pullan*

### WiFi – Get on With Wireless

We are now offering a standard WiFi package for racecourses that allows you to determine who/where/when access is allowed and whether you allow free access or access requires a purchase of some sort. We will come and do a free site survey for you and present a range of options, for a set price, that you can adapt to your particular needs. Call me for more details as we are trying to co-ordinate site surveys regionally if we can.

*Catherine Pullan*

## RACEHORSE OWNERS ASSOCIATION

### ROA Gold Standard Award

The RCA Chairman and Executive would like to express their congratulations on the recent achievements of Goodwood, Epsom Downs, Pontefract and Market Rasen Racecourses in achieving the ROA Gold standard Award for racehorse owners at their tracks.

The RCA congratulates all ROA Gold Standard Award achievers and recognises that the standards to gain this award are very high and we are pleased that racecourse's achievements have been recognised. The award demonstrates racecourse's continued commitment to owners.

*Lizzie Lea*

### Club ROA

**Club ROA** is an initiative aimed at young people aged between 18-32 which is being launched at Doncaster's re-opening meeting on 17 August.

The club will lease three horses for members to follow. The ROA will also plan stable tours and events at selected race meetings to create a social environment for young racegoers.

*Sadie Ryan*

## PRESS

### Commercial Photographers

Further to our survey of racecourse commercial photographers, we have a list available for racecourses. The list contains details of racecourse commercial photographers, and is designed to provide racecourses with the facility to check that commercial photographers are familiar with working on racecourses and hold appropriate public liability insurance.

We are still awaiting some responses, and therefore the list is not fully comprehensive and may not contain details of all experienced commercial photographers.

The list is available to racecourses, and in order to receive a copy please contact Lizzie Lea.

*Lizzie Lea*

## BETTING

### The Gambling Act 2005

#### Proposed Arrangements from 1 September 2007 – existing betting areas

As racecourses will be aware, the Gambling Act 2005 comes into force on 1 September 2007. From this date, the NJPC and the National Pitch Rules will cease to have authority.

The RCA has been involved in discussions with the bookmakers since February this year regarding the arrangements to be put in place for the continued administration of existing betting areas from 1 September 2007. It has been agreed, in principle, that the bookmakers will establish a suitable organisation, which is currently being referred to as NewCo, to provide on-course administrative services to racecourses.

Due to unforeseen delays, and the need to consult on proposals, NewCo will not be established and operating in time for 1 September 2007. Therefore, it has been necessary to devise and agree contingency arrangements to be put in place from 1 September 2007 until such time as NewCo is able to take responsibility for the administration of existing betting areas.

## BETTING

### The Gambling Act 2005

#### Proposed Arrangements from 1 September 2007 – existing betting areas .....Contd

During this contingency period, the NJPC will continue to exist, and will be contracted by the RCA to provide betting ring managers to fulfil functions necessary for racecourses to comply with the terms of your premises licence. The provision of a betting ring manager will be funded via a charge to bookmakers collected at the racecourse badge box.

An outline of the contingency arrangements was provided to all racecourses on 3 August 2007. Further detailed information will be provided to all racecourses in the week commencing 20 August 2007.

*Caroline Davies*

### Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee Investigation

On 26 July 2007 the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee announced a new inquiry into on-course horserace betting to investigate the likely effects of allocating on-course betting pitches on a commercial basis; what indications on security of tenure, if any, were given to those buying positions on bookmakers' lists in recent years and what the role of

the Government should be in the process for agreeing on a future framework for allocation of on-course pitches for bookmakers.

The RCA intends to co-ordinate the submission behalf of racecourses.

*Caroline Davies*

### The Gambling Act 2005 - Signage

Racecourses are reminded that in line with the conditions of their premises licence conditions, they will be required to display certain signage, including the Tattersalls Rules and a sign stating that betting is not allowed by persons under 18 years of age.

The RCA is currently preparing guidance for racecourses on signage, which will be distributed when available. In addition, we are preparing standard signage for all racecourses to display at their public entrances. We are seeking approval of this signage from LACORS, and will then distribute copies to all racecourses.

*Caroline Davies or Holly Robarts*

### National Joint Pitch Council

Below is a summary of the main points discussed at the National Joint Pitch Council Meetings on 28 June 2007 and 31 July 2007 that are relevant to racecourses.

**Auctions and Private Sales:** There are no planned auctions prior to September 2007. Private sales are continuing, but the activity is

very limited.

**NJPC Membership:** It was confirmed that John Stevenson would be formally registered at Companies House.

**Future Funding of the NJPC:** It was reported that discussions had taken place with the HBLB and the FRB regarding future funding of the NJPC.

## BETTING

### National Joint Pitch Council ..... Contd

**Chord Office Lease:** Mediation regarding the lease has been undertaken and a confidential agreement reached.

**DCMS Sub-Group:** It was reported that the proposals of the DCMS sub-group were being developed, and would be reported to DCMS. Following this there would be a consultation period of 6-8 weeks on the proposals. Contingency arrangements have been discussed and agreed, and the RCA has gained confirmation from the NJPC that they will supply a Betting Ring Manager at all race meetings during this period.

**BRM Training:** The RCA was asked to draft a check list of racecourse requirements for BRMs to complete on each raceday, and they would then be briefed as to their revised roles.

**Financial Reports:** The Management Accounts were noted, and it was recognised that there was a drop in income due to the decrease in pick sales.

**Bookmaker Contributions:** It was confirmed that bookmaker contributions to the NJPC were calculated at 98.75%.

**NJPC Archives:** It was reported that a quote for electronic storage of the NJPC archives was being obtained, and that copies of these could then be made available to member organisations.

**Breaches:** It was reported that in the event of bookmakers breaching the Racecourse Terms and Conditions racecourses would support ejection of such persons from the racecourse.

**Pitch Administration Fee Collection:** Racecourses were asked to pass all Pitch Administration Fees to the NJPC promptly.

**SP Margins:** The Margin for May was 1.77% per runner.

**Rails Joints:** It was recognised that there was a need to establish future ownership of these joints and of the rail.

*Caroline Davies*

## TECHNICAL

### Jockeys Sleeping Areas

Further to recent discussions between the RCA and BHA, it has been identified that there is anecdotal evidence that the sleeping/lying down areas provided for jockeys are rarely used. With this in mind, racecourses are asked to monitor the use of sleeping areas provided for jockeys, and inform the RCA of the level of use. This will allow an informed view to be taken with regard to the on-going provision of these areas.

*Holly Roberts*

### 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.

The event is designed to appeal to Clerks of the Course and other members of racecourse management teams such as Racecourse Managers, Operational Managers, and Racecourse Directors, who would be very welcome to attend for all or some of the programme.

Monday's programme will feature presentations from the BHA, Cranfield University and TurfTrax as well as a detailed session on the

recording, understanding and communicating of raceday data. Tuesday's programme includes presentations from the Tote and BHA Head of Handicapping. There will also be presentations on medical and veterinary issues and an opportunity to view the excellent facilities available at Aintree Racecourse.

As is traditional, on the Monday evening, there will be a reception supported by Letheby and Christopher, followed by a dinner sponsored by Fornells with a guest speaker after dinner.

*Holly Roberts*

## TECHNICAL

### RCA Technical Group

The RCA Technical Group met on Friday 20 July 2007. The racecourses were represented by Simon Claisse, Bob Davies, Anthea Morshead and Chris Stickels. Representatives from the NTF and JAGB were also in attendance. 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 Starting Procedures:** The HRA is to undertake a review of starting procedures, with a particular focus on the procedures for the Grand National Meeting.

**Warned Off Persons:** The Group identified the difficulties that racecourse gatestaff, as well as other members of the industry have in recognising warned off persons. The RCA will pursue this matter further with the BHA Security Department to establish whether information can be provided to assist in identifying these people.

**Access Arrangements:** The Group discussed the access arrangements for stable staff, local stewards, and casual officials, and agreed that it would be beneficial for more formal identification and passes to be issued. The RCA will pursue this with the relevant organisations.

**Horsebox Drivers:** It was agreed that it would be beneficial to clarify the policies in place at each racecourse with regard to horsebox drivers, and that a questionnaire should be sent to each racecourse to confirm this.

**Named Access:** The Group was informed that it had been identified as necessary to agree a procedure for informing a jockey's Next of Kin when they had suffered an injury at the racecourse. It was agreed that the RCA would draft a procedure for discussion with the JAGB.

**Parade Ring Safety:** The Group was asked to review the RCA Parade Ring Safety Guidance Document and Risk Assessment, and identify any necessary changes. The Group agreed that no changes were necessary, but that the access arrangements for under 16s should be further investigated.

**Horsewalks:** The Group was asked to review BHA General Instruction 8.4, with particular regard to the requirements for horsewalks, and identify if any alterations were required. The Group agreed that the General Instruction did not require amendment, and that individual racecourses should assess whether additional safety measures were required to separate horses from members of the public.

**Provision of Going Information:** The Group agreed that Clerks of the Course could often not be reached by telephone as they were involved in phone calls with

other trainers, and that they would return any messages as soon as they were able. The NTF was asked to inform their members of this.

**TurfTrax Going Stick Trial:** The Group reviewed monitoring reports which had been produced by TurfTrax for the first three months of the trial. It was reported that the historical information produced by the stick showing the changes in the racing surface was very valuable, and it was proposed that this should be available to trainers via the Racing Administration Website. The RCA was asked to pursue this proposal.

**Halt Race Procedures:** The Group was informed that the HRA was investigating Halt Race Procedures and that they would produce a position paper for review by the Group.

**Charity Races:** The Group discussed whether procedures should be implemented to address instances where riders in charity races were abusive or caused other problems and agreed that a national procedure was not required and individual racecourses should take action as they felt appropriate.

**48 Hour Declarations:** The Group was informed that the BHA was to undertake a review of 48 hour declarations, and that the RCA Board would co-ordinate a submission on behalf of the RCA.

**Stable and Stud Staff Steering Group:** The Group was informed that the Stable and Stud Staff Steering Group was in the process of producing its third year report, and that the RCA would contribute to this.

**Racecourse Stables:** The Group was informed that at some race meetings trainers would provide their own padlock for the racecourse stables, and that the relevant BHA General Instruction would be amended to require a spare key for these padlocks to be provided to the stable manager, so they could gain access in the event of an emergency.

**Leading Horses:** The Group discussed whether a board could be erected in the racecourse stables showing the horses for which trainers required an extra member of stable staff to lead up. It was agreed that if racecourses wished to do this it would need to be established who was responsible for the member of staff, for legal and insurance reasons.

**Loading Ramps:** The Group was informed that many trainers had purchased rear loading horse boxes, but that at some racecourses the loading ramps did not cater for these. It was agreed that the specifications for new loading ramps be revised to take this into account.

**Industry Lifestyle:** Sara Hay-Jahans from the BHB attended the meeting to discuss the recommendations arising from the review of industry lifestyle and welfare, with particular regard to the provisions for physiotherapy at racecourses. The Group was supportive of the proposals.

*Caroline Davies or Holly Roberts*

## TECHNICAL

### Frost Covers

The Frost Covers Working Group met on 20 July 2007 at Cheltenham Racecourse to discuss the results of Phase II of the research into the short and long term effects of frost protection covers on the ground, and on racehorse welfare.

Phase II of the research was conducted in two ways. There were control trials at Cranfield University, on ground which appropriately reflected a racing surface. In addition, trials took place on racecourses where covers were deployed.

The Group reviewed the results of the research, and

were agreed that due to the mild weather conditions over the 2006/2007 winter, it had not been possible to obtain appropriate levels of data in order to reach any conclusions. The Group agreed that it would be beneficial to continue the research via the on-course trials. These would be conducted in line with a protocol developed by Cranfield University, and the data collected would be returned to Cranfield for collation and analysis.

Cranfield University are in the process of developing a proposal for the research for review by the Group.

*Caroline Davies or Holly Robarts*

### Weather Report

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

This month has been the wettest June in England and Wales since records began in 1914. It was also the wettest June on record in our North East, North West and Midlands Regions. Our North East Region received 325% of the long term average. Soil moisture deficits decreased across all but our Thames Region. Monthly mean flows increased at most indicator sites in northern, central and eastern England. All sites are now *normal* or above, and more than half of the indicator sites are either *notably high* or *exceptionally high* for the time of year. The River Don in our North East Region had a monthly mean flow close to 650% of the June LTA and recorded the highest peak flow on record. Groundwater levels decreased at approximately three quarters of the indicator sites during June, although over two thirds are *normal* or higher for the time of year. Reservoir storage increased in three of our regions but remained unchanged or decreased elsewhere.

Overall storage for England and Wales remained at 91%.

Click the link below to access the latest report.

**Rainfall:** All of our regions received well above average rainfall during June, ranging from 167% of the June long term average (LTA) in our Thames Region to 325% in our North East Region.

**Soil Moisture Deficit:** Soil moisture deficit (SMD) decreased across all our regions except Thames in response to the exceptionally wet weather.

**River Flows:** Monthly mean flows increased at just over half of all indicator sites in June, including all sites in our Anglian, North East and Midlands Regions.

**Groundwater Levels:** Despite the above average rainfall during May and June, groundwater levels decreased at approximately three quarters of the indicator sites during the month.

**Reservoir Storage:** Regional reservoir storage increased by between 1% and 7% in three of our regions but remained unchanged or decreased elsewhere.

### Lead Supplies

Racecourses are reminded that in line with BHA General Instruction 8.2 Paragraph 2, they must ensure that a supply of lead is available in the Jockeys' Changing Room (particularly if a ladies race is scheduled).

The BHA has reported that Clerks of Scales have identified that there is an insufficient supply of adequate or serviceable lead available at some racecourses. Particular problems identified include a lack of half pound weights and torn weights with sharp edges which tears at weight cloths.

Racecourses are asked to review their supply of weights and provide additional if required. Additional lead can be obtained from J A Gadsby, 37 Main Street, Kilby, Wigston, Leicester, LE18 3TD, Tel: 0116 2402255.

### Richmark Services Ltd - Racecourse Supplier New Website

Richmark Services, the supplier of Birch, Hurdles, Spares and Chase Fences, are pleased to announce the launch of their new website. The aim of the site, at this time, is to give an overview of their products and services, more information including technical detail and pricing is available on request. The address for the website is [www.richmarkservices.co.uk](http://www.richmarkservices.co.uk)

Sarah Richardson, Richmark Ltd, Couslon Park, Great Edstone, York YO62 6NY

Tel: 01751 430860

Mob: 07879 660607

## SAFETY

### Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds (The Green Guide)

The draft fifth edition of the Green Guide has been issued for consultation. The RCA is reviewing this document in liaison with the RCA Safety Group and specialist advisors, and will submit a response to the consultation on behalf of racecourses.

*Caroline Davies or Holly Roberts*

## 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.

### Basics Education Courses for 2007/2008 At Madingley Hall, Cambridge

Pre Hospital Emergency Care Course	17 – 19 September 2007
Immediate Care Course	17 – 21 September 2007
Advanced Phoc	20 – 21 September 2007
Pre Hospital Emergency Care Course	31 October – 2 November 2007
Refresher Course	26 – 27 November 2007
Pre Hospital Emergency Care Course	4 – 6 February 2008
Pre Hospital Emergency Care Course	31 March – 2 April 2008
Immediate Care Course	31 March – 4 April 2008
Advanced Phoc	3 – 4 April 2008

For further details please contact Tracy at BASICS HQ directly on 0870 1654 999 or by email [educ@basics.org.uk](mailto:educ@basics.org.uk)

## TRAINING

### Racecourse Groundsmen Courses

Intermediate Course:	British Racing School, Newmarket	18-23 November 2007
Advanced Course:	York Racecourse	10-15 February 2008
Foundation Course:	Cheltenham Racecourse	20-25 April 2008
Intermediate Course:	British Racing School, Newmarket	16-21 November 2008

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)

## BADGES & PASS

### Forged Metal Badges

Racecourses are asked to be aware that some NTF metal badges have been forged. The forgeries can be identified from the genuine badges as they do not have a number on the back. In addition, the genuine NTF badges have a pin on the back as well as the cord. Any forged badges should be confiscated and returned to the NTF or RCA.

*Holly Roberts*

### Access and Ticketing Workshop

As racecourses will be aware, the upgrades are currently being made to the PASS System. In addition to this, RaceTech and a number of racecourses are investigating barrier access and ticketing systems.

The RCA, Weatherbys and RaceTech have begun discussions about how these systems may work together in the future, and plan to hold an Access and Ticketing Workshop at Weatherbys on Wednesday 10 October 2007 to discuss these proposals further with racecourses. The workshop will also include presentations regarding ticket touting, and how to deal with forged tickets and WiFi.

Further information and booking forms will be distributed shortly.

*Caroline Davies or Holly Roberts*

### 2008 Badge Colour Scheme

The colours for the 2008 metal badges for the RCA, Press, Official, NTF and JAGB will be Light and Dark Purple.

*Holly 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.

*Holly Roberts*

### RCA and Press Badge Lists

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

### Missing Badges

RCA: 151, 152, 153, 154, 256, 257, 269, 316, 372, 380, 426, 448, 459, 552, 582, 1030, 1146, 1147

Press: 76, 153, 188, 220, 264, 416, 420, 425, 515

JAGB: 26, 66, 281, 291, 332, 356, 363, 410, 412, 448, 451, 452, 477, 478, 495, 546, 566, 586, 668

NTF: 383, 410, 470, 481, 526, 544, 545, 790, 793, 851, 1257, 1318, 1319, 1405, 1559, 1583

Officials: No British Horseracing Officials Badges have been reported missing

## ADMINISTRATION

Arena Leisure Head Office moved to the following address on Monday 13 August, this is due to the Hay Hill building being put back into apartments, and with the increase in staff mainly due to the new Arena Catering Dept a bit more space is needed!

Arena Leisure Plc  
408 Strand  
London  
WC2R 0NE

Telephone: 0207 632 2080 Fax: 0207 240 8032

## 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 September, October and November 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.

### September

12 Wednesday – 15 Saturday - St. Leger Meeting Doncaster  
 22 Saturday - Dubai Duty Free press lunch – Newbury  
 26 Wednesday - Southern Sporting Dinner – Epsom

### October

9 Tuesday – 10 Wednesday - Annual GamCare Conference – Birdcage Walk, Westminster  
 11 Thursday – 13 Saturday - Newmarket Champions Meeting  
 22 Monday – 23 Tuesday - DBS - Horses in Training Sales  
 24 Wednesday – 26 Friday - DBS – October Yearling Sales  
 26 Friday – 27 Saturday - Breeders' Cup – Monmouth Park

### November

15 Thursday - Cheltenham Thoroughbred Racing and Breeding Seminar  
 16 Friday – 18 Sunday - The Open at Cheltenham  
 21 Wednesday - 22 Thursday - DBS Flat and NH in Training, Flat Yearlings

## SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

### Spotlight On .....

Gemma Charrington  
Clerk of the Course—Windsor



Age	25
Marital Status/ Children/Pets	Currently in relationship but usually single!
Previous Career	Assistant Trainer/ Secretary to Richard Guest
Best Bits About Your Job	The buzz you get during a raceday when everything is going smoothly.
Worst Bit About Your Job	Getting up and walking the course with an extremely bad hangover.
Best Racing Experience	When Our Armageddon won the Cathcart in 2005. Walking into the Cheltenham winners enclosure at the Festival was unbelievable. All the months of hard work and organising had finally paid off. I ended up being a right wimp and crying!
Worst Racing Experience	On my first day clerking Tom Thompson falling and been kicked in the head. We had to delay racing while he was taken to hospital by ambulance. He was in a coma for two weeks. This is followed by my first meeting at Hereford when we had to abandon racing due to frost an hour before the 1st race.
Racing Hero	Richard Guest - he can be very difficult but he really is a fantastic horseman. Working with him taught me so much about life and racing.
Most Fanciable Racing Personality	Kieran Fallon
Hobbies	Riding out, ski-ing, point to pointing, weekends away and lots of socialising!
Favourite Film & TV	Saving Private Ryan, Spooks, Eastenders.
Favourite Holiday Destination	Portugal and Courcheval 1850
Current Wheels	VW Golf
One Wish To Improve The Industry	For everyone to stop expecting racecourses to provide everything for free!

## DIARY DATES

16 August	Fixture Policy Group
28 August	BHA Race Planning Committee
5 September	RCA Technical Group
6 September	RCA Race Planning Group
6 September	Fixture Policy Group
11 September	RCA Legal Group
18 September	RCA Board
20 September	RaceTech Board

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UPDATE is also available on our website:  
[www.britishracecourses.org](http://www.britishracecourses.org)