

BETTING

Administration of Gambling on Tracks

Under the Gambling Act 2005 the NJPC, which had previously been responsible for the administration of betting rings, lost the authority which it had previously received from the Horserace Betting Levy Board, and it was identified that alternative arrangements for the administration of existing betting areas would need to be developed.

It was agreed that the NJPC would evolve into a new independent company, Administration of Gambling on Tracks (AGT) to carry out this role, but it was not possible for this company to be established and operational in time for the implementation of the legislation on 1 September 2007. Therefore, contingency arrangements were introduced to allow the administration of these areas to continue whilst the arrangements for AGT were finalised.



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AGT has now been established and became operational from 1 July 2008. In line with the transfer of the NJPC to AGT, the RCA has officially resigned its membership of the NJPC and the RCA representatives on the NJPC Board, Caroline Davies and Adam Waterworth, have also resigned their positions.

The AGT Board has an independent Chairperson and also consists of one independent member, one representative from the Association of Racecourse Bookmakers and two representatives each from the National Association of Bookmakers and the Rails Bookmakers Association.

AGT will operate as an independent service provider, supplying administrative services in existing betting rings. At the request of the RCA, Burges Salmon has prepared a contract between racecourses and AGT, which is in the process of being finalised and will be provided to racecourses for signing shortly.

Caroline Davies

List Position Transfers

Racecourses will be aware that under the contingency arrangements for the administration of existing betting rings introduced on 1 September 2007 it was agreed with the NJPC and FRB that list position transfers would be suspended. This was achieved via the inclusion of a List Position Allocation Policy within the Racecourse Terms and Conditions of Entry for Bookmakers (Special Conditions E) recognising the bookmakers lists as at 31 August 2007.

Contd....

BETTING

List Position Transfers

Contd.....

With the establishment of Administration of Gambling on Tracks (AGT) on 1 July 2008 the contingency administrative arrangements came to an end and transitional arrangements were introduced. However, the List Position Allocation Policy remains part of the Racecourse Terms and Conditions of Entry for Bookmakers, and it is therefore within the remit of individual racecourses whether they choose to amend their terms and conditions of entry to recognise any list position transfers.

The Government has indicated a wish for local discussions to now take place regarding commercial terms under the Gambling Act 2005, and all racecourses are encouraged to hold discussions with their local bookmakers and these talks should include consideration of List Position Transfers.

Caroline Davies

RACE PLANNING

2009 Fixture List

Process

This year's process has proceeded relatively smoothly with most racecourses achieving their aims. It is anticipated that the 2009 Fixture List will be published on 24 July. A total of 1,480 fixtures will be staged, which is a decrease of 24 on 2008. The split is as follows: 1,203 Racecourse Fixtures, 239 BHA Fixtures, 4 Self-Funded and 34 Enterprise Fixtures. This year 136 fixtures were auctioned on-line, compared with 168 the previous year. It looks like the number of Flat fixtures has been reduced from 948 to 913, largely due to the removal of AWT fixtures, from 365 to 323. Jump fixtures, on the other hand, have seen an increase of 11 to 567 and will be the highest in British racing history (1991 saw 565 Jump fixtures, but 30 of those were run on the AWT). The Development Fund for next year will include at least £1.3m from the sale of fixtures, with about a further £500k expected from the Levy Board (interest from HFL sale).

Enterprise Fixtures

Since the previous UPDATE, 4 more Enterprise Fixtures were allocated as follows:

Wincanton	Friday afternoon 6 March
Haydock Park	Thursday evening 11 June
Musselburgh	Friday evening 7 August
Epsom Downs	Thursday evening 20 August

Bank Holiday Fixtures

Also added to the Fixture List were 3 additional Bank Holiday fixtures, which were allocated on the basis that the Strategic Review had recommended that on certain Bank Holidays fixtures should be offered in particular regions where there was a lack of race meetings. The successful candidates were:

Fakenham	Monday 1 January
Beverley	Monday 4 May
Goodwood	Monday 25 May

Slots on Easter Monday, Early May Bank Holiday in the South-West and Summer Bank Holiday in Scotland were not taken up.

Review

At the recent Northern Members' Forum meeting it was suggested that the RCA Fixture Policy Group look into the possibility of introducing Enterprise Fixtures on Saturdays for future years as there are still complaints about the lack of available customer-friendly slots and the fact that it proves very difficult for racecourses to improve their fixture list. As always, the RCA Executive will review this year's process and will produce a report for the RCA Board at its September meeting. As discussed at the recent Members' Forums, the BHA will review the time available for bidding with a view to reducing it from 2 minutes to 1 minute.

Carla Moore

RACE PLANNING

Report from RCA Race Planning Group Meeting

The RCA Race Planning Group met on Wednesday 2 July 2008. The Racecourses were represented by Jim Allen, Bill Farnsworth, Nick Lees, Stephen Higgins, Neil Mackenzie-Ross, James Hutchinson and Michael Prosser, also in attendance were Ian Renton, John Smee, David Bradshaw (HBLB) Carla Moore and Laura Holmes. A summary of the discussion is below:

Ascot Reserves: The Group acknowledged that the reserve system put in place for 3 races at Royal Ascot had worked well although it was aware that there was still some hostility towards reserves from bookmakers. Using the system for early closing races could have a greater impact on betting due to the ante post market. Further data would be needed to establish the impact to betting from which the Group could take a more informed view.

Strategic Review of the Fixture List: The Group noted that as a result of the Strategic Review of the Fixture List that only minor changes had been made to the 2009 Fixture List, i.e. reduce the number of AWT evening fixtures by 13; create 4 blank Sundays and restrict bidding for some BHA fixtures to certain racecourses to balance the geographical spread of fixtures throughout the year. DB advised that bookmakers had been disappointed with the reduction to fixtures.

RCA/NTF Race Planning/Technical Group Meetings: CM informed the Group that she was in contact with the NTF Chairman, Chris Wall, to confirm suitable dates. In the meantime the Group was asked to suggest names of trainers who could be invited to attend.

RCA Race Planning Workshop: The Group appreciated the offer from Weatherbys to host the workshop. CM advised that Simon Clare from Coral had agreed to speak. The workshop would focus especially on Merit Table and BDR calculations.

Fixture List Review: CM reported that the 2009 Fixture List was near completion pending a number of Bank Holiday slots to be taken up by courses. Both the BHA and racecourses had been flexible and reasonable in making sure the process went smoothly. The Group recommended a reduction to the countdown timer for each auction from 2 minutes to 1 for the fixture bidding process. Other topics discussed were restricting a number of BHA fixtures to just Flat turf courses, prize money expenditure at BHA fixtures and the number of fixtures a future new racecourse should be allocated. CM stated that there had been some concern however, with regard

to the trading of fixtures as negotiations had proven unsuccessful in most cases.

DB explained that submissions received for Enterprise Fixture funding had been turned down. He advised that the HBLB would review its position on an annual basis but warned that racecourses should assume that Enterprise Fixtures would continue to be self-funded for the time being. The Group discussed whether Enterprise Fixture slots should be made available for Saturdays but had split views. This would be considered further by the Fixture Policy Group.

Prize Money Distribution: The Group was advised that the HBLB was in the process of calculating racecourse BDRs which would be distributed in mid to late August. Minimum Values for 2009 would then be considered. The Group was updated by DB on how the £62.5m prize money pool would be split.

HBLB Frost Cover Payments: The Group considered criteria for frost cover payments and discussed a number of options. The most favoured suggestion was for a racecourse to receive a payment if covers had been deployed but the fixture was actually abandoned. This would be in addition to the abandonment payment. The reason for this was that if a meeting was saved the racecourse would benefit regardless. However, if the meeting was abandoned then it would lose income as well as having incurred costs of deploying frost covers. CM agreed to produce a list of racecourses who would fit the criteria discussed.

Jump Race Review: The Group reviewed and commented on the Executive Summary of Recommendation from the Jump Race Development Group.

Trophies: The Group reviewed BHA General Instruction 2.12 involving the use of cups and trophies. It was agreed that the RCA should ask each racecourse what its policy was and then suggest amendments accordingly, although it was recommended that optional trophies for lower value races should be discontinued.

Claiming Race Proposal: The Group reviewed the proposal submitted by the NTF with regard to improving claiming races to make them more attractive to racecourses as well as owners and trainers. The RCA had previously responded to the NTF with a number of recommendations and was now awaiting a revised version of the paper. The Group would be kept updated.

Laura Holmes

RACE PLANNING

2008 Merit Table and Betting Data

In mid-May the Levy Board circulated details of the 2009 Flat and Jump Merit Tables that will be used for calculating the 2009 Basic Daily Rates (BDR). The data for the compilation of the tables has been supplied by Weatherbys and the BHA's Racing Department from racecourses' executive and sponsorship contributions to prize money for racecourse fixtures only, averaged over 2005 - 2007. The Levy Board has recently received the betting data from the Bookmakers Committee (supplied by Ladbrokes, Coral and William Hill) and is now in the process of calculating BDRs.

Carla Moore

Race Times – Fourth Quarter

The Race Times Working Party will meet on Tuesday 22 July to confirm the race times for the fourth quarter, which incorporates October through to December. The RCA Executive will shortly circulate the draft times for that particular Quarter to all Racecourse Managers and Clerks of the Course for comments.

Laura Holmes

Analysis of Claims in Claiming/ Selling Races

Attached for Racecourse Managers is an analysis of claims made in claiming/selling races from January to June 2007 and 2008. The number of races has increased from 2007 mainly due to the record number of fixtures in 2008. Overall the number of claims has slightly decreased.

Laura Holmes

Report from the Jump Race Sub-Committee

End of season review of Pattern and Listed races: All Jump Pattern and Listed races have been assessed to check that their parameters were being met, based on the end of season ratings of the 4 highest rated runners in each race. The overall picture was very positive, with only 10 races not reaching their parameter for the 2007/2008 season, and only 2 not meeting the parameter over the 3-year average.

Mares' Black Type Races Review: It was felt that overall the new programme of mares' black-type races had been a resounding success. It was discussed whether changes were needed to the distances of any of the races, and agreed that the BHA Racing Department should investigate this further with the ultimate aim being the same number of races, but with a different split in distances for the 2008/09 season.

48-Hour Declarations for Saturday Jump Races: It was agreed by all that in the core jumping season there should be 1 Jump race every Saturday which had 48-hour declarations. A list of feature handicaps for each weekend of the core 2008/09 season was produced to take forward, with the intended aim being that the relevant Order permitting 48-hour declarations will be rewritten to allow them to proceed.

Handicapping of Once Raced Novice Winners: The proposal was discussed that for a horse to have to have been placed (in the first 4) twice before allotting it a rating. Horses that had won at least 1 of these races would definitely get a mark; handicappers would usually give a mark to horses with 2 placed runs without a win, but the decision to do so would be at their discretion. It was hoped that this rule would be brought in from 1 October following approval by the appropriate parties.

Jump Pattern Upgrades - The following upgrades were approved:

Race	Distance	Racecourse	Month	Upgrade
Intermediate Chase	3m½f	Sandown Park	December	Listed
WFA Hurdle	2m½f	Sandown Park	April	Listed
Handicap Chase	2m6½f	Market Rasen	September	Listed
Novice Hurdle	2m5f	Cheltenham	November	Grade 2
New Years Day Hcap Chase	2m5f	Cheltenham	January	Grade 3
Fred Winter Juv Nov Hdl	2m½f	Cheltenham	March	Grade 3

Carla Moore

RACE PLANNING

Jump Race Review 2004 Update

The Jump Race Development Group (JRDG) is in the process of re-evaluating the recommendations made by the Jump Racing Review in 2004. It will assess what has been achieved, which proposals still can be achieved and which ideas no longer seem feasible. The RCA Executive recently circulated the original recommendations asking Jump racecourses for their views (preferably in writing) by **no later than Friday 18 July**. The JRDG next meets on Monday 21 July.

Carla Moore

Gaps in the Jump Programme – Volume IV

Whilst proofing Programme Book 4, the BHA Racing Department has identified the following gaps in the Jump programme. There is no additional funding available, but if you are looking to add a new race or increase the profile of a particular day, they are confident that there is a race planning requirement for these races. If you are interested please contact Richard Russell (0207 – 152 0054) at your earliest convenience.

Race Required	Time Period
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3m Handicap Hurdle (Open) • 2m 4f Handicap Chase (Open) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2nd half of December November 22 to December 7 inclusive

Carla Moore

Sovereign Series

Plans for British racing's most valuable and ambitious race series were revealed by Racing UK in London on Wednesday 2 July. The Sovereign Series will link 10 Group 1 events including The Derby, Ascot's King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Stakes and the Emirates Airline Champion Stakes at Newmarket, with the aim of crowning the champion British racehorse of the season.

The total prize value of the Series is £10m. The collective prize money for the ten races that comprise the series is currently approximately £5m. The Sovereign Series will add an average of up to £300,000 to each race plus a series prize fund of up to £2m, doubling the existing prize money. The series will be promoted and managed by Racing UK, as will the collective broadcast and multi media rights.

Carla Moore

PROMOTIONS

Special Events

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

Paul Smith

Group Sales

As at 30 June bookings for the year stood at 151 valued at £79,185.

Paul Smith

PROMOTIONS

The Daily Mail / Mail on Sunday Ticket Offer

35 racecourses are participating in this offer on 84 racedays in 2008. The offer has just appeared for a third time in the Daily Mail on Monday 7 July. Total ticket sales for meetings that have occurred are listed below.

Valerie Larue or John Phillips

Date	Racecourse	Tickets Sold	Date	Racecourse	Tickets Sold
3 February	Fontwell	86	11 May	Plumpton	70
10 February	Hereford	48	11 May	Worcester	166
17 February	Southwell	56	18 May	Market Rasen	170
24 February	Fontwell	104	25 May	Fontwell Park	226
2 March	Bangor	110	25 May	Uttoxeter	456
2 March	Huntingdon	106	1 June	Bath	162
9 March	Market Rasen	82	8 June	Brighton	114
9 March	Warwick	96	8 June	Worcester	126
16 March	Carlisle	32	15 June	Doncaster	204
16 March	Fontwell	80	15 June	Salisbury	200
30 March	Wincanton	96	22 June	Hereford	134
6 April	Hexham	Abandoned	22 June	Hexham	Abandoned
6 April	Market Rasen	70	22 June	Pontefract	218
13 April	Kelso	16	29 June	Salisbury	182
27 April	Brighton	200	29 June	Windsor	260
4 May	Hamilton Park	134	6 July	Ayr	32
4 May	Newmarket	882	6 July	Brighton	112
4 May	Salisbury	310	6 July	Market Rasen	90
TOTAL SOLD					5,430

British Horseracing Call Centre

The Racecourse Association has been fulfilling the function of the BHA's call centre since April 2007, taking telephone bookings and processing all web bookings. Below are the ticket sales dealt with since the start of 2008 along with the equivalent sales from last year.

Month	2008				2007			
	Orders	Tickets	Value	Courses	Orders	Tickets	Value	Courses
January	183	718	£21,018	30	214	802	£23,421	26
February	248	1,011	£26,554	32	243	963	£23,050	29
March	277	1,029	£24,767	37	253	1,130	£25,468	36
April	212	1,047	£21,902	42	340	1,454	£31,795	44
May	210	1,131	£22,757	37	369	1,943	£43,958	37
June	257	1,034	£23,623	31	597	2,610	£41,486	35
TOTAL	1,387	5,970	£140,621		2,016	8,902	£189,178	
	(-31.2%)	(-32.9%)	(-25.7%)					

John Phillips

THE RACEGOERS CLUB

Owners Groups

Owners Group 27 received bad news in late June as Maia was revealed to have a stress fracture of the pelvis which means she will be out for several months. However Dandy Nicholls was able to offer us Lucayan Dancer to run for the Club in the mean time, a horse that already had entries later that week. Four days after agreeing to this, Lucayan Dancer won at Chester in Racegoers Club colours! If only every cloud had a silver lining like that!

The lease on Gaye Starlet (Owners Group 26, injured before making her debut and forced to miss the entire season) was extended after she recovered well from injury and Alan King expressed a wish to run her in a summer bumper. She made her belated debut the day after Lucayan Dancer's win, finishing a clear second at Uttoxeter, and would appear to be a very nice prospect for next season for which we hope to retain the lease.

Paul Smith or John Phillips

ATTENDANCE

2008 Attendance Figures

The table below shows average attendance to be down by 8.6%, this can mostly be explained by two major factors – the introduction of the new winter evening AWT fixtures and the abandonment of the Wednesday of the Cheltenham Festival. By disregarding these factors to produce a more representative comparison, average attendance would be down by just 0.5% on 2007. It is encouraging to note that the average attendance figures for both May and June are up.

John Phillips

Month	2008			2007		
	Attendance	Actual Fixtures	Ave. Daily	Attendance	Actual Fixtures	Ave. Daily
January	157,268	97	1,621	151,124	86	1,757
February	169,622	99	1,713	142,828	72	1,984
March	395,317	109	3,627	424,708	89	4,772
April	472,968	127	3,724	509,887	112	4,553
May	697,050	157	4,440	628,888	150	4,193
June*	945,018	137	6,898	880,108	131	6,718
Total	2,837,243	726	3,908	2,737,543	640	4,277
	(+3.6%)	(+13.4%)	(-8.6%)			

* Two attendances outstanding

RACEHORSE OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Levy Board Chief Executive Addresses ROA AGM

Former Ascot Chief Executive Douglas Erskine-Crum injected an early element of controversy to his new job as Levy Board Chief Executive at the ROA annual general meeting, when he questioned whether courses should encourage sponsorship from offshore betting operators, and whether British punters should even bet with companies that did not substantially contribute to racing through the levy.

Erskine-Crum asked his audience to consider two questions: "Is it right for an offshore bookmaker to sponsor races on British racecourses but not pay levy on their offshore profits? And is it right to bet with an offshore bookmaker who doesn't support British racing?"

Attached is the speech in full together with a press article that appeared on a similar subject.

Lizzie Lea

COMMUNICATIONS

Daily Racing Bulletin Launch

The daily racing bulletin was successfully launched on Monday 30 June and has been well received. Many thanks to all those racecourses that have sent their local media contacts. Please keep us informed of any special events, concerts, entertainment or themed racedays that we can include within the bulletin. We also welcome any new local media additions that we can add to your list to receive your bulletin.

Lizzie Lea / John Phillips

Morning Race Bulletin

From **Monday 28 July**, Clerks of the Course need only call one number on the morning of racing to give their latest going reports. Please call this number by 6.40am on the morning of racing.

RCA Going Line Number is 07917 127 302

We will circulate business cards detailing the going line number to all racecourses shortly. These cards are credit card size and plastic for Racecourse Personnel to keep in their wallets etc for easy reference.

Lizzie Lea / John Phillips

Owner's Guide to British Jump Racecourses

All jump racecourses have now been contacted about the 2008/2009 edition of the Owner's Guide to British Jump Racecourses. This is the fourth year that it has been published and once again it will be circulated as an insert in the October issue of Thoroughbred Owner & Breeder to a circulation of over 10,500, which is sent to all members of the Racehorse Owners' Association and Thoroughbred Breeders Association

We hope that those with jumps tracks continue to support this initiative.

Lizzie Lea

SPONSORSHIP

Hands and Heels/Training Series

Representatives from the British Racing School, the Professional Jockeys Association, the British Horse-racing Board and the National Trainers Federation – and myself representing the Racecourse Association and co-ordinator of the Hands and Heels and Training series – met on the 27 May at the British Racing School to review all aspects of the series.

It was a very constructive meeting with many action points arising; the main points being:

- Explore including a couple of chases in both jumps Hands and Heels and Training series
- Explore possibility of increasing jumps training series from 8 to 12 races in line with other Hands and Heels and Flat training series
- Request BHA reword conditions of jumps training series to state that the whip may only be used in the backhand position
- Request BHA reword conditions of all Hands and Heels and Training series to state that riders in earlier races that cannot walk the course with the jockey coach at the allotted time must walk the course prior to their earlier ride
- Explore possible funding for a Hands and Heels/Training series dedicated website
- Request BHA look at the possibility of a dedicated jockey's news notice board in racecourse changing rooms
- Request BHA include the word "training" in the Jumps Training series race title – currently appears as Pertemps People Development Conditional Jockeys *Handicap Hurdle* – (part of the Jumps Training Series)
- Explore possibility of including a couple of higher rated races in both Hands and Heels and Training Series (larger trainers requested this as they'd like to have runners but often don't have lower rated horses to run in the races)

I am currently structuring the 2008/2009 Hands and Heels Jumps Series and the Jumps Training Series.

Having received unanimous support from the all-parties involved in the Hands and Heels and the Training Series, I am structuring an All-Weather Hands and Heels Apprentice series for the 2008/2009 winter flat season and I am speaking to a potential sponsor.

Many thanks to all the racecourses who support these series.

Mary-Ann Sandercock

News from the Horseracing Sponsors Association

Many racecourse executives attended the Flat Racing Sponsorship Showcase Event at Newmarket on the 27 June, which was jointly funded by the HSA and Newmarket Racecourse, with sponsorship of the dinner by Letheby & Christopher and the champagne and wines by Allertons.

The daytime seminar at the Natwest Rowley Mile course was superbly chaired by Nick Luck of Racing UK and speakers included Nic Coward, Chief Executive of the BHA, Mark Jordan of Woodford Reserve, Colin Birchall of Pertemps People Development Group, Jack Murray of TNS Sport, Kevin Roberts of Sport Business Group and Gordon Brock of Natwest. Delegates learnt about sponsorship partnership programmes at various levels, statistical information about flat audiences and about the future of the wider sports sponsorship industry. Delegates also took part in

a workshop which involved producing a proposal and presentation from a sponsor's brief, and the winning team each won a bottle of champagne kindly provided by Lanson.

Delegates moved across to the July Racecourse for the evening racing and a champagne reception, kindly sponsored by Allertons and a buffet dinner kindly sponsored by Letheby & Christopher. The food and refreshments throughout the day were excellent and many delegates commented on the high quality of the catering. We are extremely grateful to both Allertons and Letheby & Christopher for their support of this event.

Anybody that did not attend the event but would like a delegate pack should contact Mary-Ann Sandercock.

Mary-Ann Sandercock

BRITISH HORSERACING AUTHORITY

Going Stick

As racecourses will already be aware, the GoingStick trial has recently been extended, and will now run to 31 December 2008. Thereafter, BHA GI 3.2 will require GoingStick readings to be included alongside official going reports.

At a recent meeting attended by BHA, RCA and NTF representatives, it was agreed that from the declaration stage onwards, Weatherbys will now ask for a specific GoingStick reading whenever a Clerk of the Course rings through an official going report. Clerks will also be asked at what time that latest GoingStick reading was taken, so that this information can also be posted (along with the reading itself) on the Racing Administration website and www.britishhorseracing.com. This will ensure that all interested parties continue to receive the best possible and most accurate information.

It was also agreed that it remains vital for racecourses to send their raw GoingStick data to TurfTrax on an ongoing basis, in order that its analysis can continue to be as accurate as possible. Your help in achieving this is very much appreciated. It has been agreed that where racecourses have concerns regarding the reading they have the right not to sanction publication of this by Weatherbys, however, in all cases the raw data must be sent to TurfTrax.

The BHA is developing a communication strategy to inform trainers, members of the press, owners and others of the GoingStick. Further, the RCA has met with Turftrax to address concerns raised by racecourses.

Tim Newton

Racecourse Manual

This document has recently been updated and the latest edition is available immediately from our website at this link: http://www.britishhorseracing.com/inside_horseracing/media/2.5.5.1.asp. The Racecourse Manual is designed to provide Courses and their architects with the basis of a blueprint of the 'ideal' specification for those facilities necessary for the conduct, integrity and safety of a raceday. They should be used by those designing a new racecourse, or by existing racecourses wanting to carry out modifications or developments to improve their present facilities.

Owen Byrne

Recent Spate of Slip Ups

The last few months have seen a higher than usual incidence of horses slipping up and clearly such incidents can occur for any number of reasons, most of which are outside of racecourses' control. However, in line with continuing good turf management practices, Clerks of the Course and Head Groundsmen are asked to review BHAGI 3.2 Annex A in the context of watering regimes, grass mowing height, fertilizer treatments and course aeration. Contact: relevant Inspectors of Courses.

Owen Byrne

TOTE**New Tote Chair appointed**

Mike Smith has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Tote, Minister for Sport Gerry Sutcliffe has announced.

Mr Smith, 61, has held a number of senior management posts in the betting industry over the last 20 years. A former Rank and Ladbrokes Chief Executive and MD of William Hill, he is currently Chairman of Big Apple Entertainment, a group of family entertainment centres.

He also has significant experience of mergers and acquisitions in a number of industries. Specifically, he led on the purchase of William Hill by Mecca, the purchase and sale of Coral by Ladbrokes, and the purchase of Blue Square by Rank.

Mike Smith will take up the post on 1 July 2008 for a three year term, or until the Tote is sold. He replaces interim Chair, Sir Ian Good CBE.

Gerry Sutcliffe said: "I'm very pleased Mike Smith has agreed to take on the role of Tote Chair. He has significant industry expertise that will prove invaluable during this important period for the Tote, as will his extensive track record in leading gaming businesses through mergers and acquisitions. I am confident he will provide the kind of leadership needed to help grow the Tote's business at the same time as seeing it through any sale process.

I'd also like to place on record my thanks to Sir Ian Good. He has managed the

business successfully while the search for Peter Jones's successor has been taking place."

Mike Smith said: "I am delighted to join the Tote and to work with its established team, some of whom I already know. I will prioritise getting to know all the staff at Tote HQ in Wigan in the coming weeks. We all recognise the need to bring certainty to the Tote's future as quickly as possible."

In March 2008 the Government announced its intention to prepare the state-owned Tote for an open market sale, thus ending its exclusive negotiations with racing.

Goldman Sachs recently submitted an initial report to the Department, detailing the options for the sale of the Tote. Ministers are now considering those options and will take a decision on the next steps in due course.

The sale of the Tote is part of the Government's wider policy of ending its direct involvement in the administration and financing of horseracing.

Press enquiries 020 7211 6276

Public enquiries 020 7211 6200

www.culture.gov.uk

PROFESSIONAL JOCKEYS ASSOCIATION

The PJA announces appointment of three non-executive members to their Board

The Professional Jockeys Association (The PJA), the body that represents Jockeys within horseracing has announced three new non-executive members to their Board.

Mr Rod Street, former Group Managing Director of racecourse group Northern Racing, will become non-executive Chairman of the PJA Board. The organisation's Board currently consists of seven members, AP McCoy MBE (Jumps President), Steve Drowne (Flat President), Dale Gibson, Andrew Thornton, Graham Lee, Martin Dwyer and Chief Executive Josh Apiafi.

Two non-executive Director roles will be filled by Mr Bob Sharp and Mr Robin Leach, who have both assisted Jockeys medically and with defence cases respectively over many years, as well as following a life long involved interest in horseracing.

During a 14 year career in horseracing, Rod Street initially joined Uttoxeter Racecourse in 1994 helping to grow Northern Racing from one to nine racecourses and became Group Managing Director in 2002. Following a successful flotation of the company in 2003 and its subsequent private sale in 2007, he announced his decision to leave the company in December but has remained a non-executive until this month.

Rod Street commented "I feel privileged to have been asked to act as Chairman of The PJA and I look forward to working with their excellent team. My role is to offer support and advice to The PJA and help them achieve their goals and objectives. I hope that my business and horseracing industry experience will add some value".

One of two further appointments onto the Board as a non-executive Director is Bob Sharp, a consultant and orthopaedic surgeon at Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Oxford Clinic Specialist Surgery and Manor Hospital Oxford and he was awarded the Gold Medal in Ortho-

paedics in 2000. He has been a Medical Adviser within horseracing for 10 years working with The PJA.

Robin Leach, the second non-executive Director, is a senior barrister specialising in criminal work for over 12 years and also represents Jockeys with their defence hearings. He has been actively involved with Jockey representation and appeals in numerous high profile cases including The Haydock 21, The Hillside Girl enquiry and various corruption enquiries.

Post the PJA's first Board meeting with its new members on Thursday 26 June 2008, Flat President and flat Jockey Steve Drowne commented "With the varying professional expertise that Rod Street, Bob Sharpe and Robin Leach can bring to our Board table, we now feel as an organisation we are positioned to work effectively with the various horseracing bodies, as well as strengthening our voice and strategy on a commercial, medical and regulatory angle within the sport".

PJA Chief Executive Josh Apiafi added "Following the re-brand to The PJA this February, we are now aiming to develop our commercial and sponsorship strategies. I am delighted to welcome Rod as Chairman of The PJA, who I have worked with previously in our former roles. His standing within the horseracing industry and commercial expertise is second to none and he will be a valuable asset to both The PJA and its members in achieving our goals for 2008 and the future.

Bob Sharp and Robin Leach bring a depth of knowledge to The PJA board, which is vital to ensure our members receive an informed and beneficial service on a medical and regulatory front".

For further information contact Josh Apiafi, Chief Executive, The PJA
T: 01635 44102 M: 07841 899689
E: ja@thepja.co.uk, visit www.thepja.co.uk

RACETECH

RaceTech at Royal Ascot

RaceTech has recently supplied two mobile banks of turnstiles for Royal Ascot, allowing smooth entry to the Silver Ring that was fully integrated with the main ticketing system. This solution was the first time that the containerised turnstiles have been used in the UK and the connection to the main racecourse network was simple, quick and easy. Disconnection at the end of the meeting took just minutes, the sides closed and the containers were fork lifted away. This flexible solution features turnstiles from trusted supplier SkiData, which has installed fixed units at Ascot, Windsor and Doncaster, with others to follow and the mobile solution can integrate to a variety of commonly used ticketing systems.

Catherine Pullan

Royal Ascot Racing Club

RaceTech designed and produced a short DVD on behalf of the Royal Ascot Racing Club, commemorating 10 years of ownership of some of the leading horses of their day, including the great Motivator. This 10 minute film was collated, edited and captioned and was shown during the Royal Meeting at Ascot through the week. RaceTech has full editing capabilities and has made several promotional films for racecourses and sponsors. For more details, please contact Guy Fontaine at RaceTech to discuss your requirements, and remember that we hold the full library of races, going back several years and further in some instances, so there is plenty of material to draw upon.

Catherine Pullan

WiFi Update

RaceTech has installed wireless networks on behalf of many racecourses now and the systems are working well – featuring ease of use with full internet access and secure access policies. For more details and some ideas on costs and options available, please contact Catherine Pullan at RaceTech.

Catherine Pullan

Put your head round the door?

RaceTech has now completed the upgrade programme to install the latest Sony XD Cam equipment into all of our MCR. Without blinding you with science, we'd welcome any racecourse staff who wanted to see the new equipment and have a 5 minute summary of what it is all about – in the grand scheme of things, this is a major technical advance and is the means by which all racing will be stored digitally in the future. This means that racing has a full archive of all races on the UK mainland (whether you are affiliated with SiS or Turf TV). The constant upgrading of technology that RaceTech undertakes is to improve the quality of integrity services, open up new avenues for broadcast material and provide racecourses with more options for both their own CCTV programming and also via 3rd party broadcasters. If you would like a “layman's” tour of the MCR and what it means for your racecourse, please contact Catherine Pullan or just tap on the door of the MCR before racing – the unit managers would be delighted to help!

Catherine Pullan

TECHNICAL

Official Finishing Distances

Racecourses will be aware that following the trial of alterations to the calculation of finishing distances, the BHA have revised the formulae by which finishing distances are calculated, and these changes were formally introduced from Sunday 15 June 2008. The formulae for calculating finishing distances, as shown below, continue to be based on ground conditions and therefore it will be important for the Judge to be aware of the going and any changes that may be made during a race meeting.

The revised formulae for the calculation of finishing distances are:

Jumps

Going	Lengths Per Second
GOOD <u>OR</u> QUICKER	5
GOOD, GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES	
GOOD TO SOFT, GOOD IN PLACES	4.5
GOOD TO SOFT	
GOOD TO SOFT, SOFT IN PLACES	
SOFT, GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES	
SOFT <u>OR</u> SLOWER	4

Flat Turf

Going	Lengths Per Second
GOOD <u>OR</u> QUICKER	6
GOOD, GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES	
GOOD TO SOFT, GOOD IN PLACES	5.5
GOOD TO SOFT	
GOOD TO SOFT, SOFT IN PLACES	
SOFT, GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES	
SOFT <u>OR</u> SLOWER	5

Flat – All Weather Track

	Lengths Per Second
KEMPTON PARK, LINGFIELD PARK, WOLVERHAMPTON	6
GREAT LEIGHS	5.5
SOUTHWELL	5

National Hunt Flat – All Weather Track

	Lengths Per Second
KEMPTON PARK, LINGFIELD PARK	5
SOUTHWELL	4

Where the going description distinguishes between different parts of the course, the scale relating to the going in the straight will be used.

TECHNICAL**RCA Racecourse Groundstaff Seminar 2008**

A seminar for Racecourse Groundstaff will take place at Sandown Park Racecourse on Monday 10 and Tuesday 11 November 2008. These dates have been specifically selected to avoid a clash with those of the previous groundstaff seminar, with the aim that those who were unable to attend previously will be able to attend on this occasion.

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

Raceday Treatments, Devices and Prohibited Substances

The RCA has been made aware of concerns regarding cooling rugs which have been made available at some racecourses which have a menthol scent, and consequently we have raised this issue with the BHA.

The BHA has advised that menthol has many actions including a clear effect on the cardiovascular and respiratory system and consequently is a prohibited substance if found during post race testing. Although the Rules refer to prohibited substances that affect the race, even post race contact could lead to both apparent positives and to sample box contamination.

They have therefore recommended that, whilst innovations and welfare enhancements are encouraged, racecourses, trainers and vets should consider the impact of such treatments or devices to minimise the risk of exposing horses to the risk of a positive sample, however caused.

The BHA has informed us that going forward vets, trainers and racecourses should feel free to contact the Equine Science and Welfare Department regarding any particular treatments or therapies before use or promotion. These can then be considered by the BHA and discussed with the Veterinary Committee, and a consistent message put forward regarding any particular products. Although this could not be constituted as BHA approval or endorsement of any product it will allow all parties to be informed of any issues arising from the use of particular treatments or devices.

In addition, the BHA has indicated that if there are continued concerns regarding the implications of such devices for the fairness or safety of racing, these should be put forward through the appropriate channels to the Veterinary Committee which will then assess if further research is required and the form this should take.

Caroline Davies, Holly Roberts

TECHNICAL

Weather Report

Below is a summary of the May 2008 Weather Report (for England and Wales) from the Environment Agency.

May was a dry month across north Wales and northern England, but elsewhere it was wet with above average rainfall. Our Thames and Southern Regions each received more than twice the long term average (LTA) rainfall. Soil moisture deficits increased in all our regions during the month, with the largest increases across northern and central England and EA Wales. River flows for May were *below normal* or lower at five sites, all but one of these being in EA Wales and northern England. In contrast, the majority of sites in southern England were *above normal* or higher. Groundwater levels decreased at more than three quarters of the updated indicator sites over the month, but there was very little change in the descriptive classes. Reservoir storage decreased in all of our regions except Thames. Four reservoirs or reservoir groups fell to *below normal* for the time of year. Overall storage for England and Wales decreased by 4% to 92%.

Rainfall: There was a marked contrast in rainfall across England and Wales during May. Our North West and North East Regions and EA Wales each received below average rainfall. By contrast, our Anglian and South West Regions received more than 160% of the LTA rainfall, and our Thames and Southern Regions more than 200%. It was the wettest May in Southern Region since 2000. Overall England and Wales received 80mm, 125% of the May LTA rainfall.

Soil Moisture Deficit: Soil moisture deficits (SMD) increased in all our regions during the month. The largest increases of between 45mm and 50mm were in our North West and North East Re-

gions. SMD increased by only 5mm to 10mm in our South West, Southern and Thames Regions. SMDs in these three regions of southern England remain low for the time of year. SMD was approximately 20mm higher than at the same time last year in our North West Region, but between 20mm and 35mm lower in our Thames and Southern Regions.

River Flows: Monthly mean flows decreased at more than three quarters of all the indicator sites in May. Four sites fell to *below normal* and a further site to *notably low*, all but one of these being in Wales and northern England. In contrast, flows at ten sites in southern England increased to *above normal*, three sites to *notably high* and the River Tone in our South West Region to *exceptionally high* for the time of year. Monthly mean flows at all of the regional index sites were higher than those recorded in May 1976[^], with the exception of the index sites in our North West and North East Regions.

Groundwater Levels: Groundwater levels decreased at more than three quarters of the updated indicator sites during May. However, increases were recorded at two of the more responsive sites in chalk and limestone aquifers, and small increases were also recorded at two sites in sandstone aquifers. Overall, there was very little change in the descriptive classes over the month. At the end of the month just two sites were lower than *normal* for the time of year.

Reservoir Storage: Reservoir storage decreased in all our regions except Thames. The largest decrease in storage of 11% was in our North West Region, which also had the lowest overall storage of 81%. Storage was at least 90% in all other regions. Overall reservoir storage for England and Wales decreased by 4% to 92%.

SAFETY

Performing Rights Society Fees Consultation

Racecourses will be aware that the Performing Rights Society (PRS) is in the process of reviewing their fee structure, and the RCA has been involved in consultation with the PRS regarding the changes. This includes involvement from a number of courses to provide feedback on how the revised charges would affect the fees which they pay.

The revised tariffs will be effective from 1 August 2008, and the PRS will distribute the revisions to all their customers to ensure they are aware of the changes. However, the PRS has advised that, as discussions regarding the tariffs are continuing, it may be possible to make further changes to the tariffs following this date.

Caroline Davies, Holly Roberts

SAFETY

The Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds

Racecourses will be aware that the Fifth Edition of the Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds (the Green Guide) was issued on Wednesday 4 June 2008. The RCA will be conducting a review of this in association with the RCA Safety Group, and further details will be provided to racecourses shortly.

Caroline Davies, Holly Roberts

RSPCA Posters

Enclosed for all Racecourse Managers are 4 copies of a poster from the RSPCA reminding owners not to leave dogs in hot cars. The RSPCA has requested that each racecourse places the posters near their entrances to bring them to the attention of racegoers. Additional copies are available from the RCA on request.

Holly Roberts

WELFARE & TRAINING

IOSH Course

Adams-Payne Safety Ltd will be running an Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) Managing Safely Certificate Course at the British Racing School on Tuesday 9 & Wednesday 10 September and Tuesday 16 & Wednesday 17 September 2008.

The four individual course days are spread out to enable the completion of the risk assessment project assignment and also to reduce the burden to employers who would prefer not to lose staff for four consecutive days.

This nationally recognised IOSH accredited **four** day course is intended for all levels of management and supervisory staff. The course concentrated on providing delegates with tried and tested methods of applying Health and Safety principles to all aspects of their work.

The course contains the following modules, requiring approximately 28 hours of directed study and off-site practical work:

- Introducing Managing Safely
- Assessing Risks
- Controlling Risks
- Understanding your responsibilities
- Identifying hazards
- Investigating Accidents and Incidents
- Measuring Performance
- Protecting our Environment

Places on the course are available at a specially discounted rate of £295 + VAT, which includes lunch, refreshments, handouts, workbook and certification. Further details are available from the RCA or from Adams-Payne Safety Ltd on 01353 698767.

Racecourse Groundsmen Courses

Intermediate Course: British Racing School, Newmarket 16-21 November 2008

There are places available on the above course. 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

WELFARE & TRAINING

RMO Training Course 2008

There will be a one day refresher course run by Dr Bennett on Saturday 25 October (venue to be confirmed). To book a place or for further details, please contact Dr Bob Bennett on 07979 506548.

BADGES & PASS

Forged Metal Admittance Badges

Racecourses are asked to be aware that there have been reports of a number of forged metal admittance badges, particularly RCA and PJA badges, in circulation. Therefore racecourses are asked to be vigilant regarding the use of ALL metal admittance badges.

The forged badges appear to be badges from previous years which have been repainted. Whilst the shape and feel of the badges is therefore genuine, the forged badges can be distinguished as the outer colour (purple) is darker than on the legitimate badges.

In order to limit the use of forged badges, racecourses are advised to ensure that all metal badge holders use the Racecourse PASS System in order to access the racecourse. Any person without a PASS Card should only be admitted at the discretion of the racecourse once their identity has been verified.

Where racecourses identify forged metal badges in use, they are asked to confiscate the badge and return it to the RCA, who will then take action as appropriate.

Caroline Davies, Holly Roberts

2008 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

2009 Badge Colour Scheme

The colours for the 2009 metal badges for the RCA, Press, Official, NTF and PJA will be Emerald Green and Orange.

Holly Roberts

RCA and Press Badge Lists

Copies of the lists of 2008 RCA and Press Badges holders are available on request.

Holly Roberts

Missing Badges

RCA:	14, 152, 161, 236, 679, 830, 847, 848, 861, 867, 899, 970, 990, 1026, 1067, 1075, 1079, 1080, 1136, 1248, 1505, 1783, 1866
Press:	60, 149, 394, 480
Officials:	26, 100, 106, 148
PJA:	16, 22, 64, 79, 93, 113, 155, 215, 266, 302
NTF:	5, 6, 34, 120, 121, 130, 172, 173, 202, 203, 409, 453, 454, 477, 478, 638, 639, 672, 705, 706, 782, 783, 854, 856, 857, 905, 906, 953, 1065, 1325, 1342

RACING REGISTER

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

The following are highlights for July, August and September 2008. For further details regarding specific dates please e-mail: events@racingregister.co.uk or contact Lynn Payne at Sportsguide Limited on 01344 774322.

July

- | | | |
|----|--------------------|--|
| 20 | Sunday | Dubai International Arabian Race Day – Newbury Racecourse |
| 28 | Monday | Horsrace Writers and Photographers Association Southern Golf Tournament – Downs Course, Goodwood |
| 29 | Tuesday – 2 August | Glorious Goodwood |
| 30 | Wednesday | Goodwood Media Dinner – Goodwood House |

August

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------|--|
| 5 | Tuesday - 7 Thursday | Doncaster Bloodstock Sales, Flat and NH Horses in Training |
| 7 | Thursday | Dubai Duty Free Shergar Cup Draw – Ascot (provisional) |
| 9 | Saturday | Dubai Duty Free Shergar Cup – Ascot |
| 26 | Tuesday – 28 Thursday | Doncaster Bloodstock Sales, St. Ledger Yearling Sales |

September

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------|---|
| 10 | Wednesday – 13 Saturday | St. Leger Festival, Doncaster |
| 12 | Friday | HWPA representatives meeting with Festival Meeting courses—Doncaster Racecourse |
| 20 | Saturday | Dubai Duty Free press lunch - Newbury |

SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Spotlight On

Katherine Self
Clerk of the Course—Ayr Racecourse



Age	34
Marital Status/ Children/Pets	Single, no pets.
Previous Career(s)	Always been in racing - started as a stable girl in the Scottish Borders! Brief interlude outside the sport doing consultancy and sailing, but soon returned.
Best Bits About Your Job	Walking the course very early on a warm summer morning when the track looks perfect and watching a good finish over fences.
Worst Bit About Your Job	Loss of a horse under any circumstances and Trainers who only hear what they want to hear.
Best Racing Experience(s)	Leading up a winner, especially the first one I trained myself, is always a proud moment.
Worst Racing Experience	Abandonment - in any shape or form. Its such a frustration and disappointment to so many.
Racing Hero	Clive Storey. The hardest working, toughest and most stubborn horseman I know and a great teacher.
Most Fanciable Racing Personality	The Manager at Brighton is lovely - does that count as a personality??
Hobbies	RNLI Crew member, sailing, novice kitesurfing and I ride out for a local trainer.
Favourite Film & TV	Point Break & Have I Got News for You.
Favourite Holiday Destination	Anywhere hot, sunny, windy and near water - the Caribbean's perfect!
Current Wheels	Mazda MX5 - the worlds most inappropriate impractical car for a Clerk of the Course...
One Wish To Improve The Industry	A crystal ball linked directly to the weather & less control by the book-makers.

DIARY DATES

10 July	RCA AGM
21 July	Jump Race Development Group
22 July	Race Times Committee
22 July	BHA Racing Committee
24 July	REL Board
24 July	Racing Promotions Group
29 July	RaceTech Board

ATTACHMENTS

Speech by Douglas Erskine-Crum CEO HBLB to ROA AGM
 Extract from Trainers Magazine "Are Racecourses Selling their Customers?" asks Geir Stabell
 Claiming Analysis Report for July 2008

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UPDATE is also available on our website:

www.britishracecourses.org