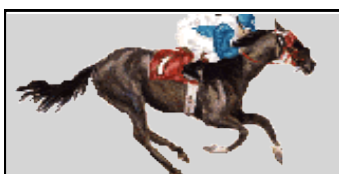


SEMINAR / WORKSHOPS**RCA Racecourse Groundstaff Seminar 2008**

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.

The event is designed to appeal to Racecourse Groundstaff, and other members of racecourse teams would be very welcome to attend. The programme is based on feedback from racecourses; Monday's programme focuses on the use and development of the racing surface, and Tuesday's concentrates on Racehorse Welfare.

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There will be a reception and dinner on the Monday evening at the racecourse, with a guest speaker after dinner. This will be sponsored by Duralock.

The charge for the two day seminar is £200+ VAT, however if delegates would like to attend on only the Monday or the Tuesday this will be at a cost of £100+ VAT.

Booking forms have been sent to all racecourses and should be returned by Monday 27 October 2008. Anyone wishing to attend who has not received a booking form should contact Holly Robarts to obtain one.

Holly Robarts

Major Incident Workshops in November

As you should be aware from May's Update, the RCA will be holding two one day major incident workshops. One in the North and one in the South in November.

York Racecourse

Monday 17 November 2008

Windsor Racecourse

Wednesday 19 November 2008

The programme is aimed at Senior Racecourse Management including Racecourse Managers, Safety Officers and Senior Racecourse Medical Officers who would be involved in command operations should a major incident occur at their racecourse. The cost per delegate will be £100 + VAT. These workshops have

arisen from the Medical Review's recommendations that racecourse staff should be trained to deal with major incidents. The objectives of the workshop are:

- To advise racecourses of their responsibilities in the event of a major incident
- To advise racecourses on the management process both on-course and within the local/national environment should a major incident occur at their course
- To provide information to racecourses to assist them to prepare contingency plans for possible crises
- Highlight "what" a major incident could arise from e.g. fire, flood and tempest.

The booking form and programme has been sent to all Racecourses and should be returned by Monday 20 October 2008.

Caroline Davies or Lizzie Lea

RACE PLANNING

Minimum and Maximum Prize Money Values for 2009

The BHA Board has approved the continuation in 2009 of the minimum and maximum prize money values introduced on 1 July 2008. This is based on the principle included in *The Modernisation of British Racing*, applied in this area since 2004, which states that minimum values should be set at a level where they equate the minimum cost of the race programme with the amount that has to be compulsorily contributed to prize money – i.e. monies in the form of Basic Daily Rates, 7th Race Fund, Enhancement Fund, Development Fund and owners' stakes. *Carla Moore*

The Development Fund

The amount available in the 2009 Development Fund is approximately £2m, which represents a £400k decline from its 2008 level. As a consequence, significant savings were obviously required and, in the light of the creation of the Flat-related Enhancement Fund, the Board has determined that these savings will be made predominantly from Flat races. These are summarised as follows:

- Removal of the additional £2k paid to Listed races run at £4k above minimum;
- Reduce the larger payments for new AWT and Staying Listed races so that instead of £10k per race, they would receive £5k. (This will be altered further in 2010 to reflect the standard payment only for Listed races);
- The single previously supported Fillies' Heritage Handicap will become a standard Fillies' Handicap with the contribution from the Development Fund reduced to £5k;
- Reduced payments to selected Class 2 and 3 Staying and 3yo only Flat Handicaps, Class 2 races now receiving £5k and Class 3 races receiving £3k;
- Removal of £5k payments to Introductory Novice Hurdles;
- The creation of an additional Veterans' Chase but with the contribution for each such race reduced from £12.5k to £10k.

All other payments will remain at their 2008 levels and racecourses are reminded that, other than in exceptional circumstances, Development Fund support is only available for races that have qualified for such support in previous years. It is also worth reiterating that Development Fund support is not provided to any races that are supported by the Levy Board's 7th Race Fund.

Should you wish to discuss any of these matters further, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Richard Wayman.

Carla Moore

Race Times

The Race Times Committee and its Working Party will meet on Tuesday 21 October to discuss race times' principles, broadcasters' arrangements as well as racecourses' applications for 2009 race times. If you therefore have any request, please let me or James Savage (BHA Race Times Executive) know by no later than **Friday 17 October**.

Carla Moore

Fixtures Policy

Following a meeting of the Fixture Policy Group the RCA Executive will draft a proposal for the 2010 fixture list process and will include Enterprise Fixtures (funding and number of fixtures), return of Sunday fixtures and AWT Saturday evenings.

Carla Moore

RACE PLANNING

Jump Pattern and Listed Race Book

Racecourses should all have received a copy of the 2008/09 version. For information, a new section has been added which may be of interest to you. It lists all Pattern and Listed races ranked in order of average rating. This begins on page 109 and will give you an idea of how your races compare to those of other racecourses and may be of particular use when considering races to propose for upgrade at the end of the season. There were fewer hard copies of the book printed this year, but BHA still have a few spares if you would like any (contact Stuart Middleton on 0207 152 0055 or smiddleton@britishhorseracing.com). The book can also be downloaded online for the first time from [britishhorseracing.com](http://www.britishhorseracing.com), following the link below:

http://www.britishhorseracing.com/inside_horseracing/media/2.5.5.1.asp

Carla Moore

Jump Racing Development Group (JRDG)

The JRDG will meet on 9 October prior to the RCA/BHA Horse Welfare Communication Workshop to be held at Newbury Racecourse. Agenda items will include: Wetherbys Steeple Chase course; TV rights update; Jump Review update; Point to Point Authority, Pony Racing update, Jump Racing Knowledge Bank, Communications – Key Stories and Order of Merit. Highlights of the meeting will appear in next month's UPDATE as well as a short report of the Workshop.

Carla Moore

Laura Holmes

The RCA is sad to announce that due to economic pressures and changed working patterns, the role of Race Planning Assistant has become redundant. As a consequence, it is unfortunate that we had to let Laura Holmes go. As you may be aware, Laura is training to become a Clerk of the Course (¾ fulfilled) and is looking to gain a position on a racecourse.

If you have any vacancies (full-time, part-time or otherwise) or queries please get in touch with Laura (lauraholmes@weavelands.orangehome.co.uk) or me and I will make sure to pass on the details.

Carla Moore

Frost Cover Protocol

The Frost Cover Protocol was distributed to Racecourses on 25 September. It has been approved by the Levy Board and has been produced with the assistance of the RCA Race Planning and Technical Groups. The Protocol will be reviewed in May 2009. Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Carla Moore.

Carla Moore

Race Exemptions from Field Size Limits

The RCA would like to remind racecourses that they may apply to the BHA Racing Department for any race with a Total Prize Fund of £30,000 or more to be exempt from the imposition of a Field Size Limit, subject to compliance with the Safety Factor for the race. Such application must be made in writing no later than one month prior to the publication of the race conditions in the Racing Calendar.

Carla Moore

RACE PLANNING

Promotion of Conditions Stakes

Racecourses will be pleased to hear that the ROA has been sending 'Alerts' to its members promoting Flat Conditions Races. The 'Alerts' reads as follows:

“Excellent prize-money in conditions races is up for grabs”

“Owners should be aware that a series of conditions races for excellent prize-money are coming up on the Flat between now and the end of the year. Racing Enterprises Limited (REL), which brings together racecourses and horsemen including the ROA, is very keen to draw the attention of owners to these valuable opportunities which for the right horse will provide a realistic chance of securing a win or place and a significant financial return.

From next week, there are 11 Conditions Stakes, all of them for 3yo+ with the exception of the Leicester race on 14 October which is 3yo only. All are Class 3 races, with the exception of the Nottingham race. Full details are in the Racing Calendar and Programme Book and on the Racing Administration website. The ROA strongly recommends that you and your trainer make the most of these important and higher-profile races, which can often be poorly supported in terms of field sizes.”

In order for Racecourses to make Conditions Races attractive to owners and trainers the following can be considered:

- Look at the prize money distribution to 5th and 6th placed horses
- Reduce the entry fee
- Introduce sponsored number cloths, i.e. £250 for an untelevised race (this would count towards the Merit Table albeit for Racecourse Fixtures only).
- Allocate 48-hour declarations income to these races

It should be remembered that Class 2 and 3 Conditions Races fall within the Levy Board's Appearance Money Scheme, which provides for the inclusion of £250 for each appropriately rated runner in such races.

Carla Moore

RACETECH

PA services from RaceTech

Just a reminder to all racecourses that RaceTech provide more than just a public address service on raceday. As you know, RaceTech has provided PA services to all racecourses in the past, and has also been instrumental in installing, maintaining and operating those systems. All moves and changes are properly documented and recorded, to ensure that this crucial service runs smoothly and reliably. When investment is needed, to repair, replace or add to the system, RaceTech will give you sound advice.

With some of the changes that have occurred over the last few months with media partners, RaceTech no longer provides that service to all racecourses, but we are still available to assist and advise on PA matters, regardless of your media partner, and if you have any concerns, issues or enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact us. There is an enormous information bank that is available to all racecourses here at RaceTech, and we would like to think that we are approachable to discuss any points that you wish to make.

Catherine Pullan

RACETECH

Web Conferencing – cheap rates for racecourses

RaceTech recently assisted the Professional Jockeys Association to run their AGM as a web conference, allowing jockeys at two remote locations (in this case Sandown and Brighton) to dial in, see and hear presentations as they occurred and participate in online voting. This meant that many more members were able to participate in the meeting, beyond just those who were not working that day and could get to the Northern Racing College, where the main meeting took place. In future, the PJA hope to have regular web conferencing meetings that jockeys can easily log in to from home, from a racecourse, or from any remote location.

RaceTech has negotiated some excellent rates for any racecourse who wants to either use this service or offer it as part of a venue package to customers. It is extremely simple to use, does

not require lots of expensive equipment and can be set up in minutes, by non technical users. All you need is a broadband line (or WiFi) and a telephone (landline or mobile). With travel costs ever rising, this may be an option for some of your local conferencing customers to offer to delegates who can't attend the meeting or indeed as a remote site receiving a web conference for several people together.

To find out more, please call me – we have a “menu” of options, and costs (voice only, voice and data, full video conferencing, using web cams, speaker phones, uploading and saving the conference to be viewed over the web at a later date etc). Most requirements can be catered for and the rates that we have negotiated are highly advantageous from both BT and InterCall.

Catherine Pullan

BRITISH HORSERACING AUTHORITY

GoingStick

As part of the BHA's continued commitment to raising awareness of the GoingStick, a series of workshops has been agreed with racecourses ahead of its formal introduction from 1 January 2009. Taking place at venues in the South, Midlands and North, these sessions will give those wishing to learn more about the tool the opportunity to see it in action, as well as to take part in 'question and answer' sessions with expert representatives of TurfTrax, BHA's Racecourse Inspectorate and Clerks of the Course. Informal and free of charge, it is anticipated the workshops will begin about an hour before racing, should last no more than 30 minutes, and will take place at the following racecourses hosting fixtures in November:

- Kempton Park – Wednesday 12th November (meet outside Weighing Room 11:30am)
- Ludlow – Thursday 13th November (meet outside Weighing Room 12 noon)
- Newcastle – Friday 14th November (meet outside Weighing Room 11:30am)

As well as these workshops, a comprehensive mailing programme will take place over the coming weeks, with industry stakeholders receiving a leaflet explaining more about the GoingStick, as well as further details on the events outlined above. With all key areas of the industry (as well as interested members of the public) being targeted, discussion is sure to be both informative and lively, with the groups attending the events likely to be drawn from a wide diversity of racing backgrounds and interests.

All Racecourse Executives, as well as any members of their staff (and in particular groundstaff) are warmly invited to attend a workshop, and to visit www.britishhorseracing.com/inside_horseracing/goingstick for further information over the coming weeks.

Contact: Tim Newton (020 7052 0058 or tnewton@britishhorseracing.com)

BRITISH HORSERACING AUTHORITY

Farriers

Racecourses are asked to remind their Farriers to inform the Starter on any raceday where they will be present at all starts, rather than just the mandatory starts outlined in BHA GI 10.1, and in which vehicle they can be located.

Owen Byrne

Easyfix Hurdles

Following a schooling session after racing at Perth on 25 September, Towcester racecourse will be staging a similar event on 8 October.

The British Horseracing Authority Inspectorate will soon be liaising with its Irish counterparts to review faller and any injury data from the 4 courses that have been using them for racing in Ireland.

Contact: Richard Linley rlinley@britishhorseracing.com

Owen Byrne

BHA Racecourse Facilities Survey

The Racecourse Department is still awaiting around 20 replies to the questionnaire sent out in early August. We would be grateful if you could email your completed form as soon as possible.

Contact: Shelley Wheeler swheeler@britishhorseracing.com

Owen Byrne

COMMUNICATIONS

Daily Racing Bulletin – Media Contacts & Events

This bulletin has been well received by the media and to ensure that its momentum continues we ask that racecourses inform Lizzie Lea and/or John Phillips of any special events/entertainment that is being offered at their track.

We also ask that racecourses keep us up-to-date with their local media contacts to ensure that the bulletin reaches them. This has particular reference for local radio and television stations who also receive the latest going report from their local tracks at 7am on the day of racing.

To add in new media and/or members of your staff please email:

lizzie.lea@racecourseassociation.co.uk or john.phillips@racecourseassociation.co.uk

talkSPORT Going Reports

Now that we are into October there is the likelihood of the occasional inspection. Even if the official inspection is timed to take place after the last bulletin at 6.50am, it is much appreciated by me, John Phillips, Paul Smith and Derek Thompson at talkSPORT to have an insight into what has happened overnight so that prospects can be provisionally flagged up at 6.50am. In addition to talkSPORT we also update the PA (includes Teletext), SIS, Racing Post and numerous other local and national radio stations on going reports and inspections each morning.

Please call **07917 127 302** before 6.40am on the morning of racing (this includes Saturdays & Sundays).

Lizzie Lea

PRESS

Press Arrangements at Festival Meetings

The RCA, HWPA and racecourses met on Friday 12 September to discuss press arrangements at festival meetings. This provided a good opportunity for the press and racecourses to review how their festival meetings have worked for both parties. It was decided that the meeting would be repeated at Doncaster in 2009. We thank Doncaster Racecourse for use of their facilities.

Lizzie Lea

ATTENDANCE

2008 ATTENDANCE FIGURES

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	948,731	139	6,825	880,108	131	6,718
July	855,317	147	5,818	728,404	117	6,226
August	702,164	128	5,486	817,525	134	6,101
Total	4,398,437	1,003	4,385	4,283,472	891	4,807
	(+2.7%)	(+12.6%)	(-8.8%)			

The main reasoning for the fall was explained in last month's issue of Update as being caused by two factors: the new winter evening AWT fixtures (AWT evening fixtures, which did not exist in 2007, added up to the start of evening turf meetings for betting purposes) and the abandonment of the Wednesday of the Cheltenham Festival. Taking August into account, the abandonment of York's Ebor Meeting has had a further negative effect, with between 90,000-100,000 visits lost over 4 days.

John Phillips

PROMOTIONS

The Daily Mail / Mail on Sunday Ticket Offer

35 racecourses are participating in this offer on 84 racedays in 2008. 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	22 June	Hereford	134
10 February	Hereford	48	22 June	Hexham	82*
17 February	Southwell	56	22 June	Pontefract	218
24 February	Fontwell	104	6 July	Market Rasen	90
2 March	Bangor	110	13 July	Haydock Park	410
2 March	Huntingdon	106	13 July	Perth	68
9 March	Market Rasen	82	20 July	Newton Abbot	342
9 March	Warwick	96	27 July	Ascot	668
16 March	Carlisle	32*	27 July	Carlisle	74
16 March	Fontwell	80	27 July	Pontefract	342
30 March	Wincanton	96	3 August	Chester	302
6 April	Hexham	60*	3 August	Market Rasen	134
6 April	Market Rasen	70	3 August	Newbury	172
13 April	Kelso	16	10 August	Leicester	98
27 April	Brighton	200	10 August	Windsor	210
4 May	Hamilton Park	134	17 August	Bath	200
4 May	Newmarket	882	17 August	Pontefract	742*
4 May	Salisbury	310	24 August	Beverley	248
11 May	Plumpton	70	24 August	Goodwood	450
11 May	Worcester	166	24 August	Yarmouth	292
18 May	Market Rasen	170	7 September	Fontwell	120
25 May	Fontwell Park	226	7 September	Thirsk	130
25 May	Uttoxeter	456	7 September	Worcester	238*
1 June	Bath	162	14 September	Goodwood	222
8 June	Brighton	114	21 September	Hamilton	16
8 June	Worcester	126	21 September	Plumpton	142
15 June	Doncaster	204	28 September	Ascot	454
15 June	Salisbury	200	28 September	Market Rasen	156
29 June	Salisbury	182	5 October	Huntingdon	160
29 June	Windsor	260	5 October	Kelso	90
6 July	Ayr	32	5 October	Uttoxeter	180
6 July	Brighton	112	TOTAL SOLD		12,232

*subsequently abandoned

PROMOTIONS

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
July	194	842	£18,519	33	739	3,173	£47,332	37
August	158	655	£15,297	31	253	1,179	£22,128	42
September	79	287	£5,260	25	146	642	£12,421	26
TOTAL	1,818	7,754	£179,697		3,154	13,896	£271,059	
	(-42.4%)	(-44.2%)	(-33.7%)					

John Phillips

SPONSORSHIP

The Weatherbys All-Weather Hands and Heels Series

I am delighted to confirm that Weatherbys will be sponsoring the new All-Weather Hands and Heels Series and many thanks to the racecourses concerned and Mike Waring at the BHA for all their assistance in setting up the series and of course to Weatherbys for their generous sponsorship.

The series will have the same conditions as the Flat Turf season Hands and Heels apprentice series – riders not to have ridden more than 10 winners at the start of the series, and the jockey coaching element will be the same.

The series will consist of 10 races with the final on Winter Derby day – the races are as follows:

Southwell	Tuesday 4 November 2008	Southwell	Monday 19 January 2009
Great Leighs	Thursday 20 November 2008	Great Leighs	Thursday 5 February 2009
Kempton Park	Wednesday 3 December 2008	Kempton Park	Wednesday 25 February 2009
Wolverhampton	Monday 15 December 2008	Wolverhampton	Friday 6 March 2009
Lingfield Park	Friday 3 January 2009	Lingfield Park	FINAL Saturday 21 March 2009

Mary-Ann Sandercock

VAT Working Group

I attended the VAT Working Group meeting on behalf of the RCA on 30 September at Shaftesbury Avenue (the Owner's Vat Registration Scheme). The Group discussed the 2nd Stage of Infringement Proceedings' from EU Commission relating to VAT Rates on horses in Europe, the 2008 Owner's sponsorship statistics to date and sponsorship non-compliance activities over the past 12 months.

Mary-Ann Sandercock

TECHNICAL

RCA Technical Group

The RCA Technical Group met on Wednesday 10 September 2008. The racecourses were represented by Seamus Buckley, Gemma Charrington, Simon Claisse, Sally Iggulden, Charlie Moore, Chris Stickels and Kirkland Tellwright. Rupert Arnold (NTF) and Clare Hazell (PJA) were also in attendance. The notes of the meeting have been circulated to all Racecourse Managers and Clerks of the Course. A summary of the discussion is outlined below:

Weighing Room Security Officers: The Group discussed the role and remit of the Weighing Room Security Officers and requested further clarification regarding their daily duties and to whom any problems should be reported. The RCA agreed to follow this up with the BHA.

Stable Staff Accommodation and Canteens: The Group was informed that the RCA would be meeting with the National Association of Stable Staff to discuss and update the 2005 Stable Staff Accommodation and Canteens Survey. The Group reviewed the questionnaire from the survey and suggested amendments to be made in advance of the update.

Jump Racing Review Revision: The Group was informed that the Jump Racing Review was to be revised, and was asked to propose any comments which should be passed to the BHA Jump Race Development Group, to be taken into account during this process. The Group proposed that a full review of the Order of Merit was necessary, and was supportive of investigations into new water jump designs.

BHA Stewarding Review: The Group agreed that given the pivotal role of the Chairman in any potential abandonment it was essential that the Racecourse Executive had confidence in their experience and knowledge of the ground, and therefore it would be necessary for the BHA and Racecourses to agree both the panel and the Chairman.

Self Certification of Non-Runners: The Group noted that the statistics regarding the self-certification of Non-Runners had been reviewed by the BHA Racing Committee and that these had given no cause for concern, but would continue to be monitored.

Dissemination of Raceday Information: It was reported the computer development was underway to allow Clerks of the Course to update their own going descriptions on the Racing Administration Website.

BHA General Instructions: The Group was informed that the BHA intended to revert to a more formalised procedure for all revisions to BHAGIs, with revisions to be issued twice a year, and changes to be made outside this time frame only if essential. Sally Iggulden stepped down as one of the racecourse representatives on the BHAGI Liaison Group, and will be replaced by Chris Stickels. Bob Davies is to continue on the Group.

Abandonment Procedures: The Group discussed the proposed revisions to abandonment procedures and agreed that a review of BHA Officials Procedure 2.4 would be necessary. The RCA was asked to pursue this with the BHA.

TurfTrax Going Stick: It was reported that in advance of the inclusion of the TurfTrax Going Stick in the BHA General Instruction for use by all turf racecourses from 1 January 2009 the BHA would be implementing an industry education programme.

Frost Protection Covers: The Group reviewed the interim report following the conclusion of the first year of the three year research project (Phase III) examining frost protection covers and agreed that, in light of the findings, it would be essential for the Industry and public to be aware that the protection offered may be minimal once the ground temperature has fallen below a certain level.

Research Partners: The Group was informed that Cranfield University had contacted the RCA regarding a project to review rainwater harvesting, and that whilst the RCA did not have any funding to offer to this project, it would be supportive of funding offered by other Industry organisations.

PJA Safety Officers: The Group reviewed and agreed the job description and reporting form for the PJA Safety Officers.

Caroline Davies, Holly Robarts

TECHNICAL

Weather Report

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

August was a wet month, particularly across Wales, the south west, and northern England. All our regions received above average rainfall, with five regions receiving 150% or more of the monthly average. Soil moisture deficits decreased across all our regions and were unseasonably low at the end of the month. River flows were *normal* or higher for the time of year at all indicator sites and more than two thirds of sites were either *notably high* or *exceptionally high*. Groundwater levels decreased at three quarters of updated indicator sites. However, all but two sites remained *normal* or higher for the time of year and one quarter of sites were *exceptionally high*. Reservoir storage decreased in half of our regions during August, but increased in the other half. At the end of the month, all but four reservoirs or reservoir groups were higher than *normal* for the time of year. Overall reservoir storage for England and Wales increased by 1% to 92%.

Rainfall: All of our regions received above average rainfall during August. Our North East and South West Regions received close to 175% of the monthly average, while EA Wales received 184% and was the wettest August since 1992. July and August combined have been particularly wet with England and Wales receiving 169% of the average rainfall over this period. Our South West and North East Regions and EA Wales have been provisionally the wettest July-August period for over 50 years.

Soil Moisture Deficit: Soil moisture deficits (SMD) decreased in all our regions during August in response to the continuing wet weather; most of the decreases occurred in the first half of the month. At the end of the month, SMDs were between 10mm and 15mm in our South West, North West and North East Regions and EA Wales. SMDs were higher at between 35mm and

80mm in all other regions. These deficits were unseasonably low; being even lower than at the same time last year in all but our Anglian, Thames and Southern Regions.

River Flows: Monthly mean flows for August increased at nearly three quarter of indicator sites, despite the fact that flows were already well above average during July. Flows were more than twice the August LTA at over half of all sites, including five sites in EA Wales and the south west that were either four or five times the August LTA. All sites were *normal* or higher for the time of year and more than two thirds were either *notably high* or *exceptionally high*. Slightly more sites increased by one or more descriptive class since July than decreased by one or more class, with just under half remaining the same. Monthly mean flows at all of the regional index sites were higher than those recorded in August 1976[^] and the highest for August on record at two sites.

Groundwater Levels: Groundwater levels decreased at three quarters of the updated indicator sites, although there were increases in the more responsive limestone aquifers of south Wales, and slight increases also in the sandstone aquifers of the north west. At the end of August, only two sites were *below normal*. All other sites were *normal* or higher, with seven sites in the south west, Wales, and northern England *exceptionally high* for the time of year. Groundwater levels are similar to the same time last year at almost half of the indicator sites

Reservoir Storage: Reservoir storage decreased in our Anglian and Southern Regions. Elsewhere, storage either increased or there was little change. At the end of the month, storage was lowest in our Southern Region (80%) and our Anglian and North West Regions (both 84%). Storage in all other regions was 92% or higher. All but four reservoirs or reservoir groups were higher than *normal* for the time of year. Overall reservoir storage for England and Wales increased by 1% to 92%.

Plastic Hurdle Bracket

Racecourses are asked to be aware that the Plastic Bracket as supplied by Watt Fences has been approved by the BHA for use as an alternative to the metal bracket and/or traditional mortice and tendon joint for the top bar of hurdles.

Holly Roberts

SAFETY

RCA Safety Group

The RCA Safety Group met on Friday 12 September 2008. The racecourses were represented by Darren Cook, Simon Durrant and Steve Tully. Paul Blakeman and Will Lambe were also in attendance. The notes of the meeting have been circulated to all Racecourse Managers, Clerks of the Course and Racecourse Health and Safety Managers. A summary of the discussion is outlined below:

BHA Health and Safety Committee: The Group was informed that at the most recent meeting of the BHA Health and Safety Committee it had been noted that some racecourses had still to provide fully adjustable chairs for officials, particularly for Clerks of the Scales as previously requested and that these racecourses had been asked to provide these chairs as soon as possible.

BHA Field Force Risk Assessments: The Group noted that the BHA Field Force Risk Assessments were being reviewed by the BHA, and would be circulated when finalised.

The Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds: The Group reviewed the changes to the Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds and agreed that details of the changes should be provided to racecourses as an interim measure whilst a full review of the RCA Guide to the Implementation of Safety at Sports Grounds Legislation took place.

Crowd Behaviour: The Group discussed the small number of crowd behaviour incidents at racecourses and were informed that one racecourse had seen a noticeable drop in aggravation among the crowd after changing security providers. It was agreed that the RCA Guidance Document on Alcohol and Crowd Behaviour would be reviewed and updated to take account of the discussions by the Group. In addition, it was agreed that all racecourses would be asked to inform the RCA of details of any incidents relating to crowd behaviour, particularly if arrests are made, to allow the RCA to provide support to the racecourse concerned.

Access for Disabled Customers: It was advised that where possible racecourses should ensure that all disabled customers are aware in advance of the racyday of the facilities they will have access to in order to prevent any issues arising.

Wireless Airspace Management on Racecourses: The Group was informed that the Wireless Airspace Management on Racecourses project coordinated by the BHA had been completed and that the BHA and RCA were liaising to develop a guidance document for racecourses arising from the findings of this project.

Parade Ring Safety: The Group discussed improvements to parade ring safety, and agreed that this was enhanced at racecourses where there were experienced safety stewards in the area, and where their decisions were supported by the Racecourse Executive. It was also noted that Horse Awareness sessions for Safety Stewards have proved useful in helping them to recognise where problems may arise.

Smoking Legislation: The Group agreed that the difficulties with identifying smoking areas for jockeys had been addressed at the majority of racecourses, and that there had been no further problems with stable staff smoking in the stable yard. It was noted that many temporary staff, such as catering staff, may smoke in areas where waste is disposed, thereby causing a fire risk. To address this it was recommended that racecourses ensure there are clearly designated smoking areas for all staff.

RaceTech Risk Assessments: The Group was informed that any racecourse requiring a copy of the RaceTech risk assessments should contact Andy Peverell on 0208 947 3333 or apeverell@racetech.co.uk to obtain these.

Employment of Foreign Workers: The Group was informed that the RCA had prepared guidance for racecourses regarding the employment of migrant workers and that this was included in the RCA Racecourse Guidance Documents Folder when it was reissued in June 2008.

Ticket Touting: The Group was made aware that the RCA had prepared guidance for racecourses regarding ticket touting, and that this had been distributed to all racecourses by E-mail.

Performing Rights Society: The Group was informed that representatives of the RCA and Jockey Club Racecourses would be meeting with the Performing Rights Society to discuss new forms which had been issued and which would be provided to racecourse to assist in assessing their payments and that further advice on completing the forms would be provided following the meeting.

Training of Safety Stewards: The Group discussed training of safety stewards and agreed that it would be beneficial for a bespoke training programme to be developed for racecourse safety stewards and delivered by a consistent provider to allow for consistency across courses and a greater awareness of the safety concerns specific to horseracing. Development of this course and available funding opportunities are to be investigated.

Holly Robarts

SAFETY

Performing Rights Society Consultation on Charges for Sports Stadia

Racecourses will be aware that the Performing Rights Society (PRS) has undertaken consultation regarding the charges for sports stadia, and as a result of this has implemented a new tariff, Tariff SE, which has been effective from 1 August 2008.

In light of the introduction of Tariff SE the PRS has developed new forms which should be completed outlining the use of music in order to help calculate the appropriate fees to be paid. The RCA has reviewed these forms, and has indicated to the PRS that some venues may find these confusing to complete.

As a consequence the RCA and a small number of racecourse representatives will be meeting with the PRS in October 2008 to discuss the forms and how they should be completed correctly. Following this meeting, the RCA will provide advice to all racecourses on this matter.

The PRS has advised that racecourses will not have to complete their assessment forms until after this time, and that this will not affect their fee payments. However, racecourses wishing to complete their forms advance of receiving advice from the RCA are advised to contact the PRS, who will assist them.

Holly Robarts

Racing Welfare

Racecourses are reminded that Weatherbys hold a filler advert for Racing Welfare, detailing the numbers to call, which can be included in racecards where there is unfilled space. In light of the current economic climate and difficult times which people may experience over the coming winter, racecourses may wish to consider including this advert where space allows.

Holly Robarts

MEDICAL

Report from RCA Medical Group Meeting

The RCA Medical Group met on Friday 5 September 2008. A summary of the discussion is below:

BHA GI 11: The Group reviewed the draft General Instruction received from the BHA in conjunction with comments received from racecourses. The finalised comments to be sent to BHA were agreed. The Group decided that CRB checks for medical personnel should not be included within the Instruction as they formed part of the contract of employment between the racecourse and its medical employees. **This has now been issued to all Racecourses via email for implementation on Jump Courses on 17 October and Flat Courses on 1 January 2009. BHA will produce the Instruction in booklet format and these should be despatched shortly.**

NHS Ambulance Provision: The Group examined the capability of NHS ambulance ser-

vices to provide a service to horseracing. They believed that this was not a problem at the current time but would be monitored on an annual basis to ensure that it did not become one.

RCA Provision of a Standard Job Description for RMOs: The Group decided that it would be helpful for racecourses if the RCA produced a standard job description for new RMOs.

Pony Racing: The Group reviewed a draft guidance document on the medical provision for pony racing. This will be circulated to racecourses shortly.

The Green Guide: The Group discussed the Guide and the crowd doctor's qualification for major incident training. The Group would investigate what suitable relevant experience was required and report to racecourses with the findings.

Caroline Davies, Lizzie Lea

TRAINING

RMO One Day Refresher Training Courses 2009

There will be three one day refresher courses run by Dr Bob Bennett on the following dates in 2009:

Saturday 4 April 2009
 Saturday 18 July 2009
 Saturday 10 October 2009

These courses will be held at Uttoxeter Racecourse.

To book a place or for further details, please contact Dr Bob Bennett on 07979 506548.

RMO Training Courses 2009

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 BHAGI 11.1 para 1, RMOs must undertake training every three years (or 4 for ATLS). Courses are scheduled to be held on 28 February—1 March 2009, 9—10 May 2009 and 19—20 September 2009 at Chorley and 4-5 July 2009 at Newmarket. To book a place, please contact Dr Bob Bennett on 07979 506548.

Racecourse Groundsmen Courses

Intermediate Course:	British Racing School, Newmarket	16 - 21 November 2008
Advanced Course:	York Racecourse	15 - 20 February 2009
Foundation Course:	Cheltenham Racecourse	19 - 24 April 2009

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

BADGES & PASS

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

RCA and Press Badge Lists

Copies of the lists of 2008 RCA and Press Badges holders 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

Missing Badges

RCA: 14, 152, 161, 236, 679, 830, 847, 848, 861, 865, 867, 899, 970, 990, 1026, 1067, 1075, 1079, 1080, 1107, 1108, 1136, 1248, 1484, 1505, 1608, 1616, 1783, 1866
 Press: 60, 149, 165, 166, 364, 394, 469, 480, 554, 562
 Officials: 26, 87, 100, 106, 107, 148
 PJA: 10, 16, 22, 64, 79, 93, 113, 138, 155, 215, 224, 266, 282, 290, 302, 350
 NTF: 5, 6, 34, 120, 121, 130, 172, 173, 202, 203, 313, 409, 453, 454, 477, 478, 638, 639, 672, 705, 706, 782, 783, 854, 856, 857, 888, 905, 906, 953, 1026, 1065, 1325, 1342, 1371, 1431

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 the last quarter of 2008. For further details regarding specific dates please e-mail: events@racingregister.co.uk or contact Lynn Payne at Sportsguide Limited on 01344 774322.

October

7 Tuesday - 9 Thursday	Tattersalls Yearling Sale Book 1
13 Monday – 15 Wednesday	Tattersalls Yearling Sale Book 2
16 Thursday	Breeders' Cup World Thoroughbred Champions Press Conference – Epsom Downs
16 Thursday - 17 Friday	Tattersalls Yearling Sale Book 3
18 Saturday	Champions Day – Newmarket
20 Monday	DBS October Yearlings Sales
21 Tuesday – 22 Wednesday	DBS Horses in Training Sales
24 Friday	Breeders' Cup – Santa Anita, California
31 Friday	Tattersalls Yearling Sale Book 4

November

9 Sunday	Professional Jockeys' Association (PJA) Champions Dinner – The Plaisters Hall, London
15 Saturday	ROA Marquee for Members and Guests – Cheltenham's Paddy Power Gold Cup Day
18 Tuesday	Go Racing in Yorkshire Annual Lunch – York Racecourse
20 Thursday	Horseracing Sponsors Assoc Dinner – Carlton Club, London
24 Monday	Tattersalls December Yearling Sale
25 Tuesday	Tattersalls December Foal Sale
27 Thursday - 29 Saturday	The Hennessy Winter Festival – Newbury
29 Saturday	The Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup - Newbury

SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Spotlight On

Adrian Kay
Head Groundsman—York Racecourse



Age	41
Marital Status/ Children/Pets	Separated, partner Nicola, 3 children, Leah 15, Jodie 12 and Lewis 10.
Previous Career(s)	Golf Greenkeeper
Best Bits About Your Job	Walking the course on an early sunny morning
Worst Bit About Your Job	Walking the course when its throwing it down
Best Racing Experience(s)	Just before joining York I watched Mudawin win the 2006 Ebor, I had 5 quid on it! (And as the totesport Ebor's longest price winner at over 100-1, I got to look like I knew what I was doing!)
Worst Racing Experience	Abandonment of 2008 the Ebor Festival
Racing Hero	Red Rum
Most Fanciable Racing Personality	Marietta what's her name, fashion on Channel 4 Racing
Hobbies	Watching Rugby League especially St Helens- just keep that a little quiet since crossing the Pennines
Favourite Film & TV	Gladiator, Saving Private Ryan and all the Clint Eastwood's spaghetti westerns and Blazing Saddles
Favourite Holiday Destination	Goa in India
Current Wheels	Nissan Navara pick-up
One Wish To Improve The Industry	That some people within the industry realise the amount of work that goes into preparing the racing surface, and consequently that they decide to be more balanced and constructive before criticising the ground; we're only human.

DIARY DATES

14 October	REL Board
21 October	RCA Board
21 October	Race Times Committee
23 October	RaceTech Board
23 October	BHA Racing Committee
24 October	Racecourse Committee
28 October	RCA Members Forum—Cheltenham
29 October	RCA Members Forum—York

ATTACHMENTS

Watts Fences—October 2008 Newsletter
 Thoroughbred Racing & Breeding Seminar—Thursday 13 November 2008

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