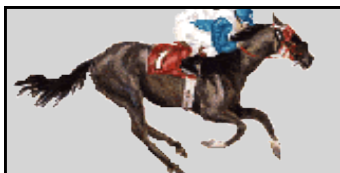


RACECOURSE BADGE SCHEME

Racecourses Boost Of Free Entry To 1,281 Fixtures For Racecourse Badge Scheme Members In 2009

Members of the Racecourse Badge Schemes for Owners, Breeders and Permit Trainers will each be able to gain free entry to over 1,281 race fixtures in 2009. This increase of number of fixtures has come about because the majority of racecourses have raised the number of days included in the scheme and 29 courses offer all fixtures.



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RCA Chairman, David Thorpe said “I am delighted that the badge scheme is going from strength to strength which is only possible because of the generous support of racecourses with the number of free entry days increasing once more. Owners, breeders and permit trainers are vital to our sport and the racecourses’ dedication to this scheme, together with the continuing development of owners and trainers facilities, demonstrates recognition and appreciation of their support”.

Michael Harris, Chief Executive of the ROA said: “The Racecourse Badge Scheme for Owners is a great example of how racing constituents can work together to their mutual advantage. This is particularly important in the current economic climate. Next year the scheme will allow all qualifying owners free access to nearly 1,300 fixtures. This is a record number that includes the new racecourses, Great Leighs and Ffos Las. We hope the benefits for owners will be shared by the participating racecourses, because, when owners go racing, they tend to spend more money in the bars and restaurants than the average racegoer. Also, most owners like to have a bet. I like to think the financial benefit the courses receive from this spend to some extent helps to pay them back for their generosity with this scheme. Our sincere thanks to all of these racecourses and to the RCA for the help and support they have given the ROA with this important and valuable benefit for our members.”

TBA Chief Executive Louise Kemble welcomed the announcement saying: ‘That the scheme has once again been expanded to include additional race days, provides further opportunities for breeders to support horses they have bred on the racecourse. As economic pressures are brought to bear, it is very welcome news that the RCA and its members are responding to this situation for the benefit of those committed to the long term future of this Industry’.

RACE PLANNING

48th Levy Scheme Settlement

The RCA Executive can report that all Racing's proposals to the Bookmakers Committee and Levy Board at a meeting held on 21 November were approved as follows:

- a) Re-instate four Sunday dates in 2009. Eight fixtures with a BDR of £40,000 were auctioned on Tuesday 11 November, with the result as follows:

Sunday 25 January: Hexham and Wolverhampton
 Sunday 15 February: Sedgefield and Great Leighs
 Sunday 1 March: Musselburgh and Lingfield Park
 Sunday 13 December: Hereford and Kempton Park

- b) With regard to the 100 to 104 additional races, the following was proposed and accepted:

w/c 1 June to w/c 10 August

Offer full funding to all racecourses with fixtures on Monday and Tuesday afternoons to add one extra race to their cards (i.e. existing 6 race cards would become 7 race cards, and existing seven race cards would become 8 race cards). If an afternoon fixture is unable or unwilling to stage an additional race, offer to fully fund an additional race at an evening fixture on the same day. Additional races: 45

Note: Sunset times are such that from w/c 17 August it would not be possible to add races to afternoon cards without overlapping with races at evening cards.

w/c 1 September to w/c 19 October (following which the clocks go back)

The gap between the end of the afternoon fixtures and the beginning of the evening fixture would be filled by programming one additional race at all evening fixtures, taking place at around 5:50. This would extend evening cards to 8 races. Additional races: 32

w/c 26 October to w/c 30 November

1. Extend floodlit meetings to 8 races but only when the gap can be entirely closed between the afternoon and evening meetings:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Afternoon</u>	<u>Evening</u>
Friday 6 November	Great Leighs +1 race	Wolverhampton +1 race
Saturday 14 November	Great Leighs +1 race	Wolverhampton +2 races
Saturday 28 November	Great Leighs +1 race	Wolverhampton +2 races
Saturday 5 December	Great Leighs +1 race	Wolverhampton +2 races

Note: There seems little value in adding 1 or 2 races to evening cards on other days during this period as a significant gap would remain between the end of the afternoon cards and the beginning of the evening card.

2. When there is a sufficient gap between afternoon cards and the evening card on a Saturday, create a Twilight Fixture these were auctioned on Wednesday 10 December as follows:

Twilight Fixture

Saturday 31 October:	7 race card (4:00 – 7:00)	Kempton Park (AWT)
Saturday 21 November:	7 race card (4:00 – 7:00)	Great Leighs (AWT)

Additional races: 25

Carla Moore

RACE PLANNING

Betting Patterns Working Party

The RCA is pleased to announce that it has been agreed that the Betting Patterns Working Party be resurrected. Ian Renton, John Smee and Carla Moore will attend future meetings. The BPWP will review the 2009 Fixture List and determine whether there is scope to expand the fixture list, either with extra fixtures or by adding additional races. It is expected that the BHA as well the Bookmaker representatives will provide data in order to substantiate any changes to 2010. A meeting was held on Monday 8 December at the Levy Board. Agenda items included: 2009 Fixture List update, horse population data, winter evening fixtures (Saturdays), Enterprise Fixtures, Replacement fixtures and abandonments and the 2010 Fixture List. A short report will follow in next month's UPDATE.

Carla Moore

Reserves

The BHA Board has concluded that, with effect from 1 January 2009, the cut-off for any races with Reserves (other than novelty events such as the Shergar Cup) should be **at 9.00am on the day before the race**. Racecourse Managers and Clerks of the Course are reminded that currently you have the **option to request** Reserves for Heritage Handicaps and Grade 3 Jump Handicaps (with 48-hour declarations). In addition, the use of Reserves is also included within the race conditions of the Derby, Oaks and some Group 1 sprint races. You should be aware that owners and trainers are appreciative of Reserves and that both the ROA and the Horsemen's Group are urging racecourses to include them for all Heritage Handicaps.

Carla Moore

Enterprise Fixtures

Racecourse Managers will be pleased to learn that the BHA has agreed to the RCA's request to change prize money funding for Enterprise Fixtures. They have agreed that from 1 January 2009 **Total Prize Fund** of £40,000 for Flat and £30,000 for Jump racing should apply. This means that racecourses no longer need to take into account owners' entry fees. A good and sensible result especially in view of the economic climate and the fact that the proposed 50% funding for these fixtures could not be realised for 2009.

Carla Moore

Fixture Policy Group Report (FPG)

The FPG met on 2 December and was attended by: Carla Moore (Chair), David Bradshaw, Stephen Higgins, Sam Morshead, Michael Prosser, Ian Renton, John Smee and Lizzie Lea (notes). An outline of the key points is as follows:

48th Levy Scheme: The Group was pleased with the outcome, i.e. 4 Sundays re-instated and allocation of 100+ additional races from 1 June onwards. The Group was also supportive of the resurrection of the BPWP.

2010 Fixture Policy:

- The Group agreed that REL should be consulted with regard to the fixture policy for 2010.

- AWT Winter Evenings - Saturdays - There was slight concern regarding the horse population and future funding levels, i.e. could all slots that were closed be reinstated in 2010.
- The Group discussed the introduction of fixtures on Good Friday.
- Enterprise Fixture Funding – The Group recommend integrity funding for 2010.
- Additional Enterprise Fixtures – The Group agreed that whilst appetite remained for these the current climate not ideal.

Policy Statement – Enterprise Fixtures: To be finalised

Next meeting: 22 January 2009.

Carla Moore

RACE PLANNING

BHA Racing Committee

The Committee met on 10 December. The agenda included the following items: Examples of the Impact of Recession on Racing; 48th Levy Scheme Settlement; Overview of Races for the Flat season 2008; Principles/Protocols for Race Times; Report from the Jump Racing Sub-Committee; Report from the Flat Racing Sub-Committee, Review of Enterprise Fixtures 2008; Analysis of 2yo 2008; Ffos Las update; Easyfix Hurdles; Racecourse Application for an exception to the Flat Classification; Laposcopic Sterilisation; Review of 2yo Novice races.

Carla Moore

RCA Race Planning Workshop / TRICL I Course

The Workshop took place on Tuesday 25 November at Weatherbys, Wellingborough. 14 delegates attended, representing 29 racecourses. Speakers included: Simon Clare (Coral UK Trading and PR Director), Phil Smith (BHA Head of Handicapping), David Bradshaw (HBLB Racing Director), Stuart Middleton (BHA Racing Manager) and Ed Gretton (Clerk of the Course at Bangor-on-Dee and Chester)

who did a joint presentation with Carla Moore. The discussion panel comprised of the forementioned speakers, as well as Howard Wright (Racing Post) and William Haggas (Trainer). The workshop was free of charge due to the generous offer from Weatherbys to host the event, which included a sit-down lunch. A full report will be produced in due course.

Carla Moore

Jump Race Development Group (JRDG)

The JRDG will next meet on Tuesday 13 January 2009. The following topics are likely to be on the Agenda:

- Horse Welfare Communication Workshop
- Easyfix Hurdles
- Jump Racing Review
- Order of Merit – update on its future
- Jump Race Committee update

A short report of the meeting will be printed in February's UPDATE.

Carla Moore

Report of Jump Racing Sub-Committee (JRC)

The JRC met on 14 November, a short report of which is printed below:

Membership: Paul Nichols has joined the Committee.

Matters Arising: The Committee was updated on the following:

- New arrangements for AQPS horses from France
- Distances and venues of Mares' races for the 2008/09 season
- New 2½ mile Novices' Chase at Aintree
- 2½ mile Open Handicap Steeple Chases
- 48 Hour Declaration races
- New 2 mile Veterans' Steeple Chase (Chepstow)
- BHA Ratings in Racecards
- Changes to Hunters' Steeple Chases in 2009

Grand National Top Weight: Discussion regarding possibly lowering top weight.

Wetherby – Post Charlie Hall Meeting Analysis: It was noted that the Course should be congratulated as no horses had returned with any injuries. With regard to entries, ratings of highest rated runners and average field sizes were the same as, and in some cases better, than in previous years.

Cheltenham Festival 2010: Discussion regarding action in the event that Cheltenham should decide to extend its programme.

Grade 2 Limited Handicaps – A Discussion Document: The Committee discussed whether some Handicaps should be converted to WFA but decided to leave the current programme unchanged.

Conditions Races: Racing Department to investigate whether more such races can be programmed (Class 3 @ £20,000).

Carla Moore

RACE PLANNING

Report of the Flat Racing Sub-Committee (FRC)

The FRC met on 21 November a short report of which is printed below:

Order 103 - Assignment of Weight Penalties: The FRC heard that at its meeting in early October the International Grading and Race Planning Advisory Committee (IRPAC), established a rule for assignment of weight penalties/allowances and interpretation of other race conditions related to winning Group or Listed races for international runners. The rule was established to 'more fairly provide equivalence for horses that have previously competed in countries that do not have races in Part I of the International Cataloguing Standards (ICS) publication'. The revised rule is as follows:

- *For countries whose major races are published in Part I only or in both Part I and Part II of the International Catalogue Standards (ICS) book: races are regarded as Group/Graded races of the Group/Grade indicated or as Listed races if no Group/Grade is mentioned.*
- *For countries whose major races are published in Part II only of the ICS book: races are regarded as Listed races whatever the indicated Group/Grade.*
- *For countries whose major races are published in Part III or not published in the ICS book: a race with Group 1 National status is regarded as a Listed race.*

The rule will be incorporated into the IFHA International Agreement on Breeding, Racing and Wagering and becomes effective on 1 January 2009, with races prior to that date retrospectively evaluated based on the new rule.

It was further agreed that Turkey should be promoted to Part II of the International Cataloguing Standards Book, with the very valuable Bosphorus Cup and Topkapi Trophy included as Group 2 races in Part I.

Provisional Ratings for British Pattern Races: The provisional ratings for all Pattern races that were provided indicated that there were only 11 races whose Pattern Race Rating did not meet the parameter. Most of these were close to the required standard. This means that Britain is still within the 10% figure contained within the EPC's Ground Rules, which would therefore allow Britain scope to upgrade 5 races from Listed to Group 3 standard if it wished to do so. There was still scope for the ratings to change, but the committee considered that the provisional figures painted a healthy picture of the British Pattern.

There were fewer races in 2008 whose Annual Race Rating did not meet the parameter than in both 2007

and 2006, so as these earlier ratings were replaced, it was possible that the position could improve still further.

Provisional Ratings for British Listed Races: The FRC discussed the provisional ratings for all British Listed races in 2008. Very few races failed to meet the required standard, but following the adoption of new Ground Rules in 2007 to deal with consistently under-performing Listed races the Committee discussed the future of 3 races in particular.

Applications from Racecourses for Changes to Black-Type Races 2009: The FRC considered applications from racecourses for changes to their black-type programmes for 2009.

New Older Fillies' Listed Race: The BHA Racing Department will offer an opportunity over either 11 or 12 furlongs in mid/late April to racecourses who race at that time.

All-Weather Track Black-Type Programme: The FRC discussed the performance of the new AWT black-type races that had been programmed in recent years during the winter. On the whole it was pleased with their performance and it considered whether there was any merit in expanding that programme.

Penalties in Black-Type Races: The FRC considered both the size of penalty that horses carried in black-type races below Group 1 level and the length of time for which horses were required to carry the respective penalties. It felt that in principle horses should not be penalised for winning races below the class of race which they were running in. It therefore would no longer look to penalise Conditions race winners in 2yo Listed races in the first part of the season. The FRC was comfortable with the length of time previous wins were penalised for in 2 year old only races. 3yo races varied in the way that winners were treated, but they appeared fine. It was questioned whether the cut-off point during the year was appropriate for all aged races in terms of races won the previous year. The FRC thought that on balance races for older horses tended to penalise wins for slightly longer than was necessary. Penalties tended to be carried for between 9-12 months. The Racing Department was tasked to look at the race programme to work out the detail in terms of what it appeared the winners of certain races should and should not be penalised for and to propose appropriate adjustments.

Raceday Medication: The International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) Executive Council had met the previous week at the Asian Racing Conference and discussed whether black-type races that were run under rules that permitted raceday medication should be stripped of their black-type status.

Chairman: Philip Freedman retired as Chairman of the Committee after 5 years. He will be replaced by Adrian Grazebrook from 2009.

Carla Moore

BRITISH HORSERACING AUTHORITY

Racing joins forces with The Prince's Trust

- * Sport United initiative to inspire youngsters
- * Mick Fitzgerald, Andrew Balding, Hayley Turner and Richard Kingscote to be ambassadors for racing

The British Horseracing Authority has joined forces with The Prince's Trust in a new initiative for the sport to help young people. The project, which has the backing of the racing industry, aims to show the opportunities that exist within the sport.

Racing directly employs over 20,000 people with another 70,000 working in related sectors. The sport wants to use its network to help young people between 14 and 30 who are struggling at school, are in or leaving care, or are long-term unemployed or have been in trouble with the law.

With over one million young people not in work, education or training in the UK, The Prince's Trust helps young people to broaden their horizons and believe in themselves – to get a job or go back to school.

Racing will join football, cricket and rugby in the Sport United leadership group which was launched in June this year. To help publicise the scheme, four Racing Ambassadors have agreed to promote the link between the sport and the Trust - trainer Andrew Balding, recently retired jump jockey Mick Fitzgerald, the most successful current female rider in British racing, Hayley Turner and in the rising star of flat racing Richard Kingscote.

The Authority's chairman, Paul Roy said: 'I am delighted that Racing has teamed up with The Prince's Trust. It is an exciting opportu-

nity for our sport to show how inspiring it can be. We have some extraordinary people working in racing who I am convinced will be able to help The Trust's youngsters.'

Chief Executive Nic Coward added: 'As soon as we began talking with the Trust it was obvious that Racing has so much to offer. We are involved in communities the length and breadth of Britain. No other sport employs so many people across such a variety of jobs and across such a wide area.'

The aim is for Sport United to link the governing bodies of UK sport, sports venues, sponsors, equipment suppliers, retailers and organisations involved with sport hospitality and encourage and enable disadvantaged young people to become more physically, economically and socially active.

Racing has pledged to help the Trust's key 'Team' and 'xl' projects by organising tours of courses, helping with work placements and employment opportunities and giving motivational talks. The first projects will be underway by the end of the year.

The Prince's Trust transforms the lives of over 40,000 young people each year. By joining Sport United and supporting the Trust's fundraising aims, Racing aims to be right at the heart of this vital work.

Kate Burt of The Prince's Trust said: 'We are delighted to have Racing as part of Sport United and believe that sport will make a tremendous contribution to our work.'

Owen Byrne

GoingStick

For any Racecourse Executives and their staff who were unable to attend our recent on-course workshops on the GoingStick, there is a video and presentation available on www.britishhorseracing.com/inside_horseracing/goingstick.

Owen Byrne

BRITISH HORSERACING AUTHORITY

TurfTrax Going Stick

The tables below show the average TurfTrax Going Stick readings across Flat Racecourses following the Flat Turf Season and across Jump Racecourses for the period 31 March 2007 to 30 November 2008.

It must be remembered that these figures are averages across all racecourses and may not relate to the particular readings at individual courses.

Mean Jump GoingStick readings split by official going description (31 March 2007 – 30 November 2008)

Official Going	Frequency	Mean Reading
Heavy	91	5.3
Soft	274	6.2
Good to Soft	487	6.9
Good	825	8.1
Good to Firm	466	9.1
Firm	15	11.0
Hard	-	-

These averages are produced from 2,158 average GoingStick readings produced by racecourses across 812 race meetings

Mean Flat GoingStick readings split by official going description

Official Going	Frequency	Mean Reading
Heavy	95	5.4
Soft	302	6.3
Good to Soft	625	7.1
Good	958	8.0
Good to Firm	1197	9.0
Firm	109	10.6
Hard	-	-

These averages are produced from 3,286 average GoingStick readings produced by racecourses across 1,101 race meetings.

Racecourses will be aware the BHA Board has agreed that the provision of a TurfTrax Going Stick at the Declaration stage and on racedays shall be included in the Instructions for use by all turf racecourses from 1 January 2009. The RCA is currently reviewing a redraft of BHA General Instruction 3.2 to incorporate this and the BHA will provide a copy to all racecourses as soon as it is finalised.

Fraser Garrity, Holly Roberts

Weatherbys Christmas and New Year Holiday Arrangements

The British Horseracing Authority Office in London will be closed on Wednesday, December 24, Thursday, December 25, Friday, December 26 and Thursday, January 1 2009.

Weatherbys' main Switchboard at Wellingborough will be closed on Thursday, December 25 and Friday, December 26, but will be open on Thursday, January 1 2009 between 9.00 a.m. and 1.00 p.m. for calls to the Racing Administration Department only.

The Racing Operations Department at Wellingborough will be closed on Wednesday, December 24 and Thursday, December 25. It will be open from 8.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. on Friday, December 26 and Thursday, January 1 2009.

BRITISH HORSERACING AUTHORITY

Stewards' Seminars

Clerks of the Course are more than welcome to attend the Stewards Seminars to see how those regulating the racing on your course are trained and what procedures are set down for Stewards on the day to follow.

Dates are:

14 January – 151 Shaftesbury Avenue
 22 January – Gosforth Park Hotel, Newcastle
 4 February – The Racecourse, York
 11 February – Redwood Hotel, Bristol
 17 February – 151 Shaftesbury Avenue
 18 February – 151 Shaftesbury Avenue
 4 March – Westfield House Hotel, Leicester
 5 March – 151 Shaftesbury Avenue

If you would like to attend as an observer, please get in touch with Kate Pittam – kpittam@britishhorseracing.com or telephone 0207 189 3830. Unfortunately observers will be limited on the London dates due to lack of space but we will try to accommodate you wherever possible.

Owen Byrne

Starters' Signallers Training Sessions 2009

BHAGI 10.1 para 1 requires all Starters' Signallers to be fully trained and hold a current Certificate of Compliance. All Certificates of Compliance expire in February 2009. Therefore the BHA will be holding training/refresher sessions in February and March 2009. Racecourses will be notified in writing of the training session dates in due course. All Starters' Signallers are required to attend and it is recommended that racecourses have at least two employees trained in this role.

The BHA will not be charging a fee for the training sessions, but racecourses will be expected to pay any expenses incurred by their attendees.

Contact Amanda McNamara on amcnamara@britishhorseracing.com

Owen Byrne

COMMUNICATIONS

talkSPORT Going Reports - Inspections

Now that we are into the winter season there is a likelihood of the occasional inspection. Even if the official inspection is timed to take place after the 6.20-6.40am period when Clerks call our going line, it is much appreciated by myself, John Phillips, Paul Smith and Derek Thompson at talkSPORT to have an insight at that time into what has happened overnight so that prospects can be provisionally flagged up on air. 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.

We automatically receive abandonment messages via Weatherbys but we would appreciate it if you could let us know if your racecourse passes its inspection before 8.30am as Derek Thompson can often go back on air and update listeners.

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

Lizzie Lea

RACETECH

WiFi in Press Rooms

The Racing Post and several other newspapers have notified racecourses that they really do appreciate having a wireless connection available for their staff in the press room on raceday. There are still many racecourses which are not yet able to provide this service. RaceTech is able to install, manage and maintain WiFi for press rooms (and extend to public areas as and when required), ensuring that the racecourse is fully compliant from a technical, legal and commercial standpoint. The RaceTech system is entirely scalable and can be extended to cover public areas as required, whilst the racecourse retains complete control of who is allowed access and when, whether free or chargeable and with the correct audit trail to comply with legislation.

Please contact me for more information. RaceTech Public Access Wifi is a fully managed service, with no headaches or nasty surprises, and we provide you with user guides and a helpline.

Catherine Pullan

Stalls Handler Sponsorship

RaceTech is delighted to announce a new partnership with Turf TV to sponsor the clothing of the stalls handler teams on those racecourses affiliated with Racing UK. Handlers will wear polo shirts, jackets and skull cap covers showing the Turf TV logo as well as logoed signage on the side ends of the stalls. RaceTech staff will continue to wear RaceTech livery clothing for all other racecourses, who will be unaffected by this arrangement. The deal will commence in January and it is the first time that stalls handler teams have been sponsored in this way. The full benefit of this new deal has been passed on in full to participating racecourses.

Catherine Pullan

BetView Awards – get your entries in!

In association with Sky, Betview magazine is delivered free every month to over 10,000 decision makers and influencers in the betting industry. Betview magazine has now launched the Betview Awards, the first industry Awards to recognise best practice across the business.

The Betview Awards will take place on 3 March 2009 at the Dorchester Hotel in London and will be presented by BBC sports presenter Clare Balding. Supported across the industry, including sponsorship from both SIS and Turf TV, the Awards are sure to provide everyone with a night to remember!

Among the 12 Betview Award categories is BEST RACECOURSE OF THE YEAR which will be awarded by the industry to the racecourse which is providing the best experience for the betting and racing public. The winner of this prestigious award will have demonstrated that they have really gone the extra mile to provide an unrivalled experience of racing and stands amongst their peers as ‘the best of the best’.

Why not be first past the winning post and ensure your course has the accolade of The Betview Award’s Racecourse of the Year 2009? Entry for the Betview Awards is open until 31 December 2008 and couldn’t be easier, just go to www.betviewmagazine.com and fill out a short entry form. The Betview Awards team will then contact you to talk you through the simple entry process. Good luck!

Catherine Pullan

SPONSORSHIP

Alcohol Sponsorship

Some of you may have seen a recent article in Britsport Weekly, Michael Thompson, spokesman for the drinks manufacturer's body – The Portman Group said that he felt alcohol sponsorship in Britain was safe from further Government restriction for the foreseeable future.

He went on to say that both the Labour and Conservative parties are more concerned with the availability of harmful types of drink and cut-price promotions than with alcohol industry sports sponsorship.

He criticised a study released last week, which linked alcohol industry sponsorship of sports people and community clubs with harmful levels of drinking. The study prompted calls from Professor Ian Gilmore, president of the Royal College of Physicians, for the UK to consider banning such sponsorships.

The message here is very clear – we must be responsible with promotions linked to alcohol sponsorship – alcohol industry sports sponsorship is an issue that Governments will be under pressure to review periodically.

Mary Ann Sandercock

Best Turned Out Presentations

One or two racecourses are still requesting stable staff to turn horses into the centre of the parade ring for photographs with sponsors. The RCA Parade Ring Safety Guidance Note advises extreme caution on this and I would like to stress this again to racecourses undertaking this practice. Quiet horses can be unpredictable, particularly on a racecourse; having been around racehorses for 25 years I would not stand on the off-side (as sponsors do) of a horse I did not know in the Parade Ring without having a hold of its bridle.

Some stable staff are inexperienced and may not know the horse they are leading up very well as they do not necessarily take the horses that they look after at home racing. The groom may agree to turn the horse in for the photo and the horse may seem quiet but you are putting your sponsors and other people standing in the centre of the parade ring at risk when carrying out this practice.

Mary Ann Sandercock

THE RACEGOERS CLUB

Racecourse of the Year Awards

The votes for these awards are currently being counted and winning racecourses will be notified shortly. A press release detailing all of the winners will be circulated to all Racecourse Managers.

Paul Smith

2009 Voucher Books

The renewal process is now in progress and Racecourse Managers will shortly be receiving a sample copy of the 2009 voucher book. Please ensure that all relevant gate staff are briefed to accept the vouchers on the specified days.

John Phillips

Making Offers To Club Members

If you do wish to provide a special offer/free day for Racegoers Club members, please note the approximate times that we contact members with our quarterly newsletter:

End of January, end of April, end of July, mid October. Please let me know several weeks in advance if you wish to include an offer.

John Phillips

PROMOTIONS

The Daily Mail / Mail on Sunday Ticket Offer

35 racecourses are participating in this offer on 84 racedays in 2008. The offer went in the Daily Mail for the final time this year on Friday 17 October. 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	6 July	Market Rasen	90
10 February	Hereford	48	13 July	Haydock Park	410
17 February	Southwell	56	13 July	Perth	68
24 February	Fontwell	104	3 August	Newbury	172
2 March	Bangor	110	10 August	Leicester	98
2 March	Huntingdon	106	10 August	Windsor	210
9 March	Market Rasen	82	17 August	Bath	200
9 March	Warwick	96	17 August	Pontefract	742*
16 March	Carlisle	32*	24 August	Beverley	248
16 March	Fontwell	80	24 August	Goodwood	450
30 March	Wincanton	96	24 August	Yarmouth	292
6 April	Hexham	60*	7 September	Fontwell	120
6 April	Market Rasen	70	7 September	Thirsk	130
13 April	Kelso	16	7 September	Worcester	238*
27 April	Brighton	200	14 September	Goodwood	222
4 May	Hamilton Park	134	21 September	Hamilton	16
4 May	Newmarket	882	21 September	Plumpton	142
4 May	Salisbury	310	28 September	Ascot	454
11 May	Plumpton	70	28 September	Market Rasen	156
11 May	Worcester	166	5 October	Huntingdon	160
18 May	Market Rasen	170	5 October	Kelso	90
25 May	Fontwell Park	226	5 October	Uttoxeter	180
25 May	Uttoxeter	456	12 October	Bath	86
1 June	Bath	162	12 October	Goodwood	124
8 June	Brighton	114	19 October	Fontwell Park	78
8 June	Worcester	126	19 October	Kempton Park	26
15 June	Doncaster	204	19 October	Southwell	130
15 June	Salisbury	200	26 October	Wincanton	172
29 June	Salisbury	182	2 November	Carlisle	48
29 June	Windsor	260	2 November	Huntingdon	86
6 July	Ayr	32	2 November	Southwell	58
6 July	Brighton	112	9 November	Hereford	162
20 July	Newton Abbot	342	9 November	Kempton Park	56
27 July	Ascot	668	9 November	Market Rasen	138*
27 July	Carlisle	74	16 November	Fontwell Park	128
27 July	Pontefract	342	23 November	Plumpton	134
3 August	Chester	302	30 November	Carlisle	82*
3 August	Market Rasen	134	30 November	Kempton Park	28
22 June	Hereford	134	30 November	Leicester	70
22 June	Hexham	82*	7 December	Kelso	24*
22 June	Pontefract	218	7 December	Warwick	50*
TOTAL SOLD					13,912

*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
October	91	571	£10,608	24	144	738	£15,067	32
November	103	441	£9,193	23	151	627	£16,513	21
TOTAL	2,012	8,766	£199,498		3,449	15,261	£302,639	
	(-41.7%)	(-42.6%)	(-34.1%)					

John Phillips

Racecourse Leaflets

Would all Racecourse Managers please forward to us a supply of leaflets or brochures detailing fixtures, admission information and group discounts for 2009. We are already starting to receive enquiries from customers.

Paul Smith

Group Sales

As at 30 November bookings for the year stood at 241 valued at £126,648.

Paul Smith

TRAINING

Racecourse Groundsmen Courses

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

TECHNICAL

Major Incident Workshops

The RCA successfully held two One Day Major Incident workshops at York Racecourse on Monday 17 November and Windsor Racecourse on Wednesday 19 November.

The two days attracted 60 delegates representing 42 racecourses. The cost was £100 plus VAT per delegate.

The speakers included:

David Roberts & Stella Postins	Arena Leisure	Death Camp to Flood Relief
Dr Mike Murray		Death Camp to Flood Relief
Edward Gillespie	Cheltenham Racecourse	Aintree Bomb Threat
William Derby & Tony Lee	York Racecourse	Cheltenham Winds (Windsor)
Dr Bob Bennett		Grandstand Fire (York)
		Overview of the Green Guide

The remainder of the programme comprised of major incident situations and overview conducted by RCA Medical Advisor Dr Iain McNeil and his team including Dr Vic Calland and Dr Jeremy Mayhew. The day ended with an interactive table top exercise where delegates split into 3 groups to work through a racecourse major incident scenario.

Initial feedback received from the delegates suggests that all understood the importance of thorough planning for their racecourses in the event of a major incident occurring. For the future it would be beneficial to have separate workshops for doctors and managers to ensure both receive the most benefit for their roles.

Lizzie Lea

Neil Wyatt Groundstaff Awards

The RCA has contacted racecourses to invite them to submit nominations for their groundstaff team for the 2008 Neil Wyatt Groundstaff Award. As in previous years there are three awards for Groundstaff at the racecourses judged to be the best Flat, Jump and Dual Purpose tracks.

As in 2006, a standard submission form has been compiled and approved by the RCA Technical Group and has been distributed to all Clerks of the Course. Whilst all racecourses will come under consideration, racecourses are invited to inform the panel of any significant work or training achievements which they believe deserve recognition in the form of an award. The judging is due to take place in January by a panel including representatives of the NTF, Professional Jockey's Association and Racecourse Inspectorate, and the results will be announced following the meeting.

Unfortunately, the Tote has decided not to support the awards for 2008. We are in the process of seeking a new sponsor, and are therefore not able to confirm any prizes at this stage.

Holly Robarts

TECHNICAL

Weather Report

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

October was another wet month with all but two of our regions receiving above average rainfall. It was particularly wet across Wales and north west England. Soil moisture deficits decreased in all our regions. Monthly mean river flows during October were higher than *normal* at the majority of indicator sites across England and Wales and eight sites were *exceptionally high* for the time of year. Groundwater levels decreased at half of the indicator sites during the month, though all but one remained *normal* or higher for the time of year. Reservoir stocks increased in our North West and North East Regions during October but decreased in our Southern Region. At the end of the month, stocks in all reservoirs or reservoir groups were *normal* or higher for the time of year. Overall, reservoir stocks for England and Wales increased by 4% to 94%.

Rainfall: October was the eighth consecutive month across England and Wales with above average rainfall. The first and last complete weeks of the month were very wet, particularly across the higher ground of Wales and north west England. Overall, England and Wales overall received 132% of the October long term average (LTA) rainfall.

Soil Moisture Deficit: Soil moisture deficits (SMD) decreased in all our regions during October. At the end of the month, SMDs were approximately 30 – 50mm in our Anglian, Thames, and Southern Regions and

approximately 10mm or less in all other regions. These deficits were lower than at the same time last year in all our regions except Anglian.

River Flows: Monthly mean flows for October were higher than *normal* for the time of year at the majority of indicator sites. Flows were *exceptionally high* at eight sites across north Wales, north west England and the Cotswolds. Flows at five of these sites were above the October maximum monthly mean on record. Flood warnings were issued for rivers in four of our regions. Flows at all sites in north Wales and north west England were more than 200% of the October LTA; in contrast, flows at five sites in south east England were less than two thirds of the LTA.

Groundwater Levels: Groundwater levels decreased at half of the updated indicator sites during October, most of these being in the chalk of eastern and southern England. There were increases elsewhere, particularly in Wales and northern England. At the end of October, levels all but one of the indicator sites were *normal* or higher for the time of year. Levels at five sites in northern England were *exceptionally high*.

Reservoir Stocks: Reservoir stocks increased in our North West and North East Regions but decreased in our Southern Region. At the end of the month, stocks were lowest in our Southern Region (68%) and Anglian Region (82%). Elsewhere, stocks were approximately 90% or higher. At the end of October, stocks in over two thirds of reservoirs or reservoir groups were higher than *normal*. Overall, reservoir stocks for England and Wales increased by 4% to 94%.

SAFETY

Performing Rights Society Consultation on Charges for Sports Stadia

Racecourses will be aware that discussions are on-going with the PRS with regard to their tariff for Sports Events (Tariff SE) and what racecourses should declare under this tariff.

It has been agreed with the PRS that for the time being racecourses should declare Ground Music and music in boxes under Tariff SE and other areas as previously, and pay the appropriate fee.

So the charges applied to racecourses will be as follows:

1. **Ground music** - as per Tariff SE (this charge will be payable now on account)
2. **Featured build music** - as per Tariff SE, for Order of Merit races and similar only (this charge will not be made now - racecourses will declare this use at the end of their licence year and pay in arrears this year only)
3. **Featured integral music** – It has been agreed that there is no application for this for racecourses
4. **Other featured music around the track** - racecourses will remain liable for the charge defined in Tariff SE but no charge will be made now (the charges agreed will be paid in arrears this year only). We will agree what charges are appropriate in the next few months. If a different charge is agreed it will be applied from August 2008.
5. **Boxes** - as per Tariff SE (this charge will be payable now on account)
6. **Other areas and live music in areas away from the course:** Standard PRS tariffs as currently applied (these charges will be payable now on account)

The RCA has asked the PRS to produce guidance for racecourses on completing the relevant forms, and this will be provided to racecourses as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, discussions are continuing with the PRS regarding a bespoke charge for racecourses to more accurately reflect their music use. If, once agreed, the charges under this tariff are lower than those under Tariff SE, then the bespoke racecourse tariff will be retrospectively applied from August 2008 (the implementation date of Tariff SE).

A further update will be provided to all racecourses when available. In the meantime, please contact me with any queries.

Holly Roberts

BADGES & PASS

Badge Posters

8 copies of the large poster and 4 copies of the A4 sized poster for 2009 have been sent to all racecourses. Extra copies and electronic 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 and 2009 RCA and Press Badges holders are available on request.

Holly Roberts

Missing Badges

RCA:	14, 152, 161, 236, 679, 830, 847, 848, 861, 865, 867, 899, 970, 990, 1026, 1067, 1075, 1079, 1080, 1084, 1107, 1108, 1132, 1133, 1134, 1135, 1136, 1248, 1484, 1505, 1608, 1616, 1783, 1866
Press:	60, 149, 165, 166, 364, 394, 469, 480, 554, 562
Officials:	26, 60, 87, 100, 106, 107, 148
PJA:	10, 16, 21, 22, 64, 76, 79, 93, 113, 138, 155, 215, 224, 247, 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 and December 2008 and January 2009. For further details regarding specific dates please e-mail: events@racingregister.co.uk or contact Lynn Payne at Sportsguide Limited on 01344 774322.

December 2008

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 17 Wednesday | DBS Horses in Training Sales, Flat and NH Horses in Training and Flat Yearlings |
| 26 Friday | King George VI Chase - Kempton Park |

January 2009

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 6 Tuesday | Thoroughbred Breeders Association AGM and Awards Luncheon – Churchill, Portman Square, London |
| 15 Thursday | Dubai International Racing Carnival |
| 21 Wednesday | Goffs Sale, Dundalk National Hunt Breeze Up Sale |
| 22 Thursday | Dubai International Racing Carnival |
| 27 Tuesday—29 Thursday | DBS January Sales (Flat and NH Horses in Training, National Hunt Breeding stock) |

SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Spotlight On

John Thompson
Racecourse Manager—Goodwood



Age	61
Marital Status/ Children/Pets	Married - Wife Janette, 'children' Luke(20), Jessica(18) and Gina(36)
Previous Career(s)	Soldier in RAPC 1964-87. Analyst/Programmer and Service Fund Accountant
Best Bits About Your Job	Racedays are best and meeting a wide spectrum of people and personalities who come to Goodwood
Worst Bit About Your Job	The budgeting process!
Best Racing Experience(s)	Attending my first Derby to see Nijinsky win and seeing King Credo land me a yankee in the Tote Gold Trophy at Newbury.
Worst Racing Experience	Witnessing a horse fatality in front of a Family Day crowd
Racing Hero	Usual suspects, Sir P O'Sullivan, L Piggott, J Francome, Dawn Run and H Cecil
Most Fanciable Racing Personality	Far too many to mention!
Hobbies	Golf
Favourite Film & TV	Die Hard + Mock The Week
Favourite Holiday Destination	Antigua
Current Wheels	Citroen C5 Estate
One Wish To Im- prove The Industry	A Time Machine ride back to 1963 would probably be just in time to do the trick

DIARY DATES

10 December	BHA Racing Committee
15 December	REL Board
15 December	Racing Promotions Group
13 January	Jump Racing Development Group

CONTRIBUTORS' CONTACT LIST

Byrne, Owen	0207 189 3863	obyrne@britishhorseracing.com
Davies, Caroline	01344-873536	caroline.davies@racecourseassociation.co.uk
Garrity, Fraser	0207 189 3852	fgarrity@britishhorseracing.com
Larue, Valerie	01344-625912	valerie.larue@racecourseassociation.co.uk
Lea, Lizzie	01344-626067	lizzie.lea@racecourseassociation.co.uk
Moore, Carla	01344-625723	carla.moore@racecourseassociation.co.uk
Payne, Lynn	01344-774322	lynn@sportsguidelimited.com
Phillips, John	01344-626067	john.phillips@racecourseassociation.co.uk
Pullan, Catherine	0208 947 3333	cpullan@racetech.co.uk
Robarts, Holly	01344-873536	holly.robarts@racecourseassociation.co.uk
Sandercock, Mary-Ann	07786 925803	maryann.sandercock@racecourseassociation.co.uk
Smith, Paul	01344-625912	paul.smith@racecourseassociation.co.uk
Walker, Carol	01344-873536	carol.walker@racecourseassociation.co.uk

EDITOR: Carol Walker
 The Racecourse Association Ltd
 Winkfield Road
 Ascot
 Berkshire
 SL5 7HX

UPDATE is also available on our website:
www.britishracecourses.org