



UPDATE

FOR RACECOURSES

ISSUE 3

MARCH 2009

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

2009 STUD & STABLE STAFF AWARDS

Peter Maughan Celebrated As Employee Of The Year

Peter Maughan, Travelling Head Lad for David Elsworth's yard in Newmarket, was named as Employee of the Year at the fifth annual Stud and Stable Staff Awards.

Grand National and Gold Cup winning Jockey Mick Fitzgerald, guest of honour and enjoying his second career as a broadcaster since his recent retirement from the saddle, presented Maughan with a cheque for £25,000 - £12,500 for Peter himself and £12,500 for his colleagues at Egerton House Stables to share between themselves.

A specially invited audience of around 200 gathered to pay tribute to the leading stud and stable employees in the country, as nominated by their employers and peers. The Awards – the richest of their kind in the world, with £75,000 in prize money – are generously sponsored by Godolphin, and run by the British Horseracing Authority in association with the Racing Post.



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Maughan, who has worked in racing for a staggering 56 years, was also the winner in the Senior Staff category. In his time he has travelled some of the greats, including two of the most popular horses in recent memory – Desert Orchid and Persian Punch – as well as the likes of In The Groove and Barnbrook Again.

Each individual category winner collected £3,000, with their colleagues at their respective stable or stud sharing £3,000 between them. The two runners-up in each category also received £2,000.

The other winners were:

David Nicholson Newcomer: Lee Oswin – Trainee Stable Lad with Gary Moore

Stud Staff: Paul Baker – Stud Groom/Manager at Usk Valley Stud

Rider/Groom: Claire Knight – Rider/Groom with Jeremy Nosedá

Special Merit/Hero: Andy Gibson – Yardman with Stuart Williams

The Awards were judged by a panel comprising celebrated author and journalist Brough Scott (Chairman); former Champion Jockey and PJA Industry Liaison Director Kevin Darley; BHA Director Morag Gray, Miles Littlewort, former Chief Executive of the National Stud; and Dinah Nicholson, wife of the late David Nicholson.

British Horseracing Authority Chief Executive Nic Coward said: "These inspiring Awards are an important date in the racing calendar as they provide a moment for the sport to celebrate those hard working, dedicated, talented people, without whom the show wouldn't get on the road.

A huge thank you to Godolphin for continuing with their generous sponsorship. Congratulations to all of those nominated this year. The very high standard of entries never ceases to amaze the judges and this year was no exception."

For more information please contact Paul Struthers, BHA Media Relations Manager – 0207 189 3866.

RACE PLANNING

2010 Fixture List

Annual Fixtures Meeting: The RCA has again organised an Annual Fixtures Meeting, which will signal the start of the 2010 Fixture List process. The meeting will be held at 151 Shaftesbury Avenue, London on **Monday 6 April** at 2 pm.

Fixture Criteria: Notwithstanding the discussions that are currently going on with regard to the next levy scheme, it is anticipated that the 2010 Fixture Criteria will remain unchanged compared to 2009.

Timetable: The timetable for the 2010 Fixture List process is as follows:

9 March	-	Final Framework to racecourses
6 April	-	RCA Annual Fixtures Meeting
13 April	-	Start of “friendly moves” Round 1
24 April	-	Deadline “friendly moves” Round 1
6 May	-	1 st FAC meeting
11 May	-	Start of “friendly moves” Round 2
20 May	-	Deadline “friendly moves” Round 2
26 May	-	2 nd FAC meeting
8 June	-	BIDDING PROCESS for BHA fixtures
10 – 17 June	-	Final non-contentious applications accepted
22 June	-	Final FAC meeting
13 July	-	BHA Board to approve the 2010 Fixture List
23 July	-	Published in Racing Calendar

Fixture Market: The RCA will again make available a page on its website called ‘Fixtures Market’. This is basically a Clearing House where Racecourses can advertise their wishes to swap/move, sell, lease or even buy (acquire) fixtures. The RCA website address is www.britishracecourses.org and you can find the dedicated page under ‘Racecourse Services’ – Fixture Market. If you wish to enquire about a fixture you can click on the racecourse, which will provide you with the contact details.

Carla Moore will administer the site and therefore any requests should be directed to her in writing – carla.moore@racecourseassociation.co.uk. An appropriate form will be circulated to racecourses via the Thursday email shortly.

Carla Moore

RCA 2010 Fixture Policy

At its meeting on 5 February, the RCA Board decided to review its fixture policy in light of the current economic climate and the discussions currently taking place. Although no policy will be submitted at this point, the RCA will make a request in respect of integrity funding for Enterprise Fixture to the Levy Board.

Carla Moore

2010 Fixtures Incentive Scheme

The RCA Board and Race Planning Group are currently preparing a proposal for the 2010 Fixtures Incentive Scheme. The Executive has not yet been given a budget, but a request will be made for a slight increase in winter payments (January and December) to both Jump and AWT courses.

Carla Moore

RACE PLANNING

Notification of Abandonment

When you are forced to abandon your race meeting, as well as contacting Weatherbys, you must also inform RaceTech in accordance with the relevant clause in your rate card as soon as possible.

Carla Moore

RCA Race Planning Group

The RCA Race Planning Group met on Tuesday 12 February. The Racecourses were represented by Jim Allen, Bill Farnsworth, Ed Gretton, James Hutchinson, Nick Lees, Neil Mackenzie-Ross and Michael Prosser. Also in attendance were Ian Renton, John Smeed, Carla Moore, David Bradshaw and Lizzie Lea. A summary of the discussion is below:

Meetings with Trainers/NTF: In future, Racecourses will be able to attend part of the NTF Regional meetings, which will assist in understanding trainers' programming needs and will give racecourses the opportunity to update them on any improvements at their course. Dates of these meetings will be circulated via the Thursday email as soon as they are available.

2010 Fixture List:

- BHA Executive is making progress with solving compacted week.
- Concern regarding blank Sundays as these could help those racecourses affected by compacted week.
- RCA Board has put fixture policy on hold.
- RCA will therefore not progress any proposals for Good Friday.
- Group recommended that no additional Enterprise Fixtures should be added in 2010.
- RCA will request Levy Board funding for integrity costs for Enterprise Fixtures for 2010.
- Agreed date for Annual Fixtures meeting: **Monday 6 April at 2.00 pm** (venue 151 Shaftesbury Avenue).
- RCA will again be administering online Fixture Market.

2010 Fixtures Incentive Scheme: Budget not yet confirmed but likely to remain unchanged. Recommended that winter (January and December) payments should be slightly enhanced for both Jump and AWT.

Abandonments/Re-Scheduling process:

Racecourses should contact BHA Racing Department if Group/Grade 1 or 2 race was doubtful to take place. This would allow the BHA to put in place contingency plans as a precaution.

Betting Patterns Working Party: Looking at creating additional races rather than fixtures. May have to adjust safety figures. Some interest in supporting use of frost covers. Meeting on 21 April should determine the cost benefit of its usage.

Parades/Ponying to the Start: RCA has sent a paper to the BHA requesting that Parades should be at the option of the racecourse.

Effects of the Recession: The Group estimated that loss of sponsorship and corporate hospitality would amount to almost £5 million and would have an impact on race programmes. The recent spate of abandonments has put further pressure on racecourses budgets. The Group is aware that Minimum Values are calculated on the basis of BDRs and Owners Entry Stakes, but it argued that with the likelihood of fewer horses in training the latter element could come under pressure. Most racecourses will attempt to retain competitive prize money with the higher class events, especially the Pattern races. The RCA Board will discuss this topic in more details at its next meeting on 7 April. A review of Minimum Values may be necessary.

Replacement Fixtures: The Group requested that the method of allocating Replacement Fixtures be more transparent, as is currently the case with the Annual Fixture process. It therefore recommended that, in future, the BHA includes a small paragraph explaining the reasons for allocation to that particular racecourse. This would help those courses that were unsuccessful in their application understand the reasons for this.

Carla Moore

RACE PLANNING

Jump Racing Development Group (JR DG)

The Group met on 13 January, points of note were as follows:

Matters Arising: Amy Sherman the new BHA Promotions Manager joined the meeting.

- 48-hour decs – It was felt that the relevant race on Saturdays was not always obvious as sometimes geographical spread was used.
- Wetherby Chase Course – very positive feedback.
- University Project – Amy to progress. The Group suggested that children should count towards attendances and numbers could be checked if all children were given a badge upon entering the racecourse.
- P2P – trainers wish to be able to run their horses in Maiden points - paper to be produced by NTF/TBA.
- TV Rights – terrestrial TV important to racing. Link to petition circulated.
- GoingStick – commenced from 1 January 2009.
- BHA Conference – all JR DG were invited

Sales update: NH sale held up in 2008, but sale at Fairyhouse 43% down. All 44 GB stallions covered 1500 mares, of which Kayf Tara covered 300.

Free lease scheme: The Scheme for ROA members was explained. NH horses will be included following May sales. More details on ROA and TBA websites.

Defra: Racing/horse industry forms very small part of its responsibilities. They are engaged with BHA over exotic diseases. A meeting was scheduled the following week with all equine organisations.

P2P: The season started 1 November 2008. Only a few meetings had taken place so far. Sponsorship down. Weatherbys Chase deal completed. 40 less horses with hunts certificate compared to last season. BHA has an injury analysis for P2P.

Pony Racing: Funding needed. BHA Promotions Manager to contact Rebecca Morgan.

Order of Merit: Funding squeezed this season and uncertainty re next season. Suggestion to including C4 in revamping format.

Welfare: BHA will establish the facts, monitor horse movement and offer clear sources of advice (promote National Equine Welfare protocol).

Jump Racing Review: Final document was released at end of February.

Hurdle Review Group: The BHA has received some stats from the Irish re Easyfix trial, but more details needed. Easyfix hurdles have been approved in Ireland. Proper process to be followed and approved if NTF/PJA are happy and injury/fatality stats are ok. There is no guarantee on longevity/durability from the BHA and it could withdraw support.

Racing Knowledge Bank: The PJA offered to bring along a Jump jockey at next summer meeting of the Group.

Communications Strategy: Articles re AWT surfaces and Order of Merit were circulated.

AOB: Hands & Heels Series – informed that Mary Ann Sandercock no longer contracted to RCA. Administration of series under review. Field Size Limits/Stabling – stats circulated. Daily Bulletin – BHA to check that it is correctly updated during holidays/weekends.

Next meeting: Tuesday 24 March at 2.00 pm.

Carla Moore

RACE PLANNING

Handling Charges for Selling and Claiming Races

Weatherbys has reviewed its charging structure for handling Selling and Claiming races and has come up with a format that better reflects the costs of administering the races at different times of the day or week. So instead of a flat fee regardless of whether the race takes place on a weekday afternoon or outside normal office hours, Weatherbys will use a sliding scale where daytime, midweek races attract a lower fee and those dealt with out of hours a fee which reflects the additional cost of staffing it. Therefore, the charge will change from its current level of £73 per race to:

- £53 for the majority of races
- £97 for those run outside normal office hours
- £145 for the very few races run on Bank Holidays

This new charging structure will be with effect from 1 April 2009.

Carla Moore

Betting Patterns Working Party (BPWP)

The BPWP met on 26 February and the following items were discussed:

Horse population: The BHA Executive produced data relating to field sizes and the possible scope of the horse population to support extra races in 2010, without impacting on current levels of competitiveness. It was asked to analyse the Horse Population.

Twilight Fixtures: More attractive from a betting shop point of view than racecourses, especially Fridays and Saturdays. Could have extra races if field size figures were reduced to 12.

2010 Fixtures: Discussed the blank Sundays issue and Bookmakers have been asked to provide data on any two-fixtures Sundays

staged so far in 2009. Attractiveness of winter evenings compared with the overall average.

Distribution of Annual Levy Funds: Discussions chaired by the Chairman of BPWP continue and further progress is expected over the next two months.

Enterprise Fixtures: BPWP reviewed statistics (for internal use only), which showed that Enterprise Fixtures only generated a limited amount of additional levy and usually had a negative impact on the turnover levels of other racecourses racing on that day.

Good Friday: Busy day in LBOs, but no English or Irish racing just French and German.

Carla Moore

Jump Racing Review

On 18 February, Jump Racecourses should have received a document for consultation titled 'Jump Racing Review'. This is an update of the 2004 BHB Jump Racing Review which has been a very valuable strategic document, helping to develop and strengthen the sport over the past five years. The JRDG believes it is important to refresh the Review every five years. The draft has been compiled with input from all the organisations that are represented around that table. The Group is keen to publish this Review before the end of March so please provide any comments by **16 March** to Claire Simmonds at the BHA: csimmonds@britishhorseracing.com - British Horseracing Authority, 151 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2H 8AL, Direct: 020 7152 0015 Fax: 020 7152 0002.

Carla Moore

ATTENDANCE

As you would expect with the extreme weather conditions faced in early 2009, the large number of abandonments has affected the number of fixtures staged, and therefore the total attendance.

However, the very encouraging figure is that average attendance has risen by 4.6% over the first two months despite the credit crunch and the dropping attendance figures at the end of last year.

John Phillips

Month	2009			2008		
	Attendance	Actual Fixtures	Ave. Daily	Attendance	Actual Fixtures	Ave. Daily
January	154,591*	80	1,932	157,268	97	1,621
February	136,577*	87	1,570	169,622	99	1,713
Total	291,168	167	1,744	326,890	196	1,668
	(-10.9%)	(-14.8%)	(+4.6%)			

*5 January attendances outstanding

*2 February attendances outstanding

PROMOTIONS

The Mail on Sunday/Daily Mail Ticket Offer

39 racecourses are participating in this offer on over 90 racedays in 2009. The offer launched in the Daily Mail on 2 January and we are hoping it will be published again later this month.

Valerie Larue or John Phillips

Date	Racecourse	Tickets Sold	Date	Racecourse	Tickets Sold
1 February	Fontwell	42	22 February	Fontwell	56
1 February	Musselburgh	8	1 March	Lingfield	2
8 February	Exeter	84*	8 March	Market Rasen	56
8 February	Hereford	70*	8 March	Warwick	96
15 February	Sedgefield	12*	TOTAL SOLD		426

*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 2009 along with the equivalent sales from last year.

Month	2009				2008			
	Orders	Tickets	Value	Courses	Orders	Tickets	Value	Courses
January	190	636	£14,290	25	183	718	£21,018	30
February	202	762	£21,061	36	248	1,011	£26,554	32
TOTAL	392	1,398	£35,351		431	1,729	£47,572	
	(-9%)	(-19.1%)	(-25.7%)					

The BHA has recently launched a promotion with Continental with 50% off various race meetings available to customers spending £50 or more. Another promotion, with Walkers, is due to be launched in May involving collecting vouchers from packets which can be converted into points online and are then redeemable against tickets for selected race meetings. All sales generated via these promotions will be driven through the British Horseracing website, and will therefore be processed and communicated to you as normal by the RCA Promotions Department.

John Phillips

THE RACEGOERS CLUB

Owners Groups

The Racegoers Club will have two new Flat racehorse syndicates in 2009, Owners Group 31 with Mark Johnston and Owners Group 32 with Mick Channon. The Mark Johnston group has already been marketed to members and all 250 shares sold out within a month. Details on the Mick Channon group will be sent to members later in March.

The three National Hunt syndicates continue to be disappointing, with both Gaye Starlet (Group 29) and Floraline (Group 30) running in February but failing to make the frame.

Paul Smith

RACETECH

RaceTech Reminders

Don't forget to send us copies of your phone bills for analysis if you'd like us to see if we can make substantial savings for you on landline, mobile and internet services. We have negotiated some excellent offers with several telephony providers and can show you how to make savings of 15-20% on line rentals and up to 25-30% on call charges. All you need to do is send us some sample bills and we do the rest. We can guarantee to save you money – something we are all focussed on these days.

To maximise your conferencing facilities, don't forget that RaceTech can provide a full service for all of your audio visual needs – whether it is just a simple microphone set up or full event management, we can help. You will find that our rates are highly competitive and we can offer advice and a design service if required as well.

Lastly, if you are grappling with IT requirements, besieged by pushy sales people trying to sell you complicated technology that you aren't sure if you really need or could use effectively even if you did, then feel free to lean on us as an advisory service. RaceTech has a long heritage in technology and has a sound understanding of the technical needs of a racecourse's business – from cabling to telephony, ticketing to wireless technologies, the resources are here and at your disposal.

Catherine Pullan

COMMUNICATIONS

talkSPORT Going Reports Reminder

Just a reminder for Clerks of the Course to call the Going Line number **07917 127 302** by 6.40am on the day of racing (including weekends and if an inspection is scheduled to be held later).

In addition to talkSPORT radio 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. Many of the media like to receive the going update as early as possible.

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.

Lizzie Lea

TECHNICAL

RCA Racecourse Managers Seminar 2009

A seminar for Racecourse Managers will take place at Chester Racecourse on Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 November 2009. These dates have been specifically selected to avoid a clash with those of the previous Managers seminar, with the aim that those who were unable to attend previously will be able to attend on this occasion.

If there are any topics that you would particularly like to see covered in this seminar please contact me and we will endeavour to include them in the seminar programme.

Holly Roberts

BHA General Instructions

All BHA General Instructions are now issued to racecourses in an electronic format only. The following Instructions have been reissued in 2009

BHA General Instruction 2.2	Reissued 23 January 2009 for immediate implementation
BHA General Instruction 3.7	Reissued 28 January 2009 for implementation on 1 February 2009
BHA General Instruction 4.1	Reissued 28 January 2009 for implementation on 1 February 2009
BHA General Instruction 4.3	Reissued 28 January 2009 for implementation on 1 February 2009
BHA General Instruction 12.2	Reissued 28 January 2009 for implementation on 1 February 2009
BHA General Instruction 12.3	Reissued 28 January 2009 for implementation on 1 February 2009

Racecourses are asked to check their BHA GI Folders and ensure that they have the most up to date copies of these Instructions. If you require further copies of any of these, please contact the BHA or RCA.

Holly Roberts

TECHNICAL

Weather Report

Below is a summary of the January 2009 Weather Report (for England and Wales) from the Environment Agency.

January's rainfall was close to average across most of England and Wales and soil moisture deficits remained low across all our regions. Monthly mean river flows for January were *normal* at the majority of indicator sites across England and Wales. Groundwater levels increased at the majority of updated indicator sites, as recharge continued over the winter period. At the end of the month, levels at all but one site were *normal* or higher for the time of year. Reservoir stocks increased in all our regions except Thames. At the end of January, stocks were *normal* or higher for the time of year at all but three reservoirs or reservoir groups. Overall stocks for England and Wales increased by 3% to 95%.

Rainfall: The first week of January was dry but it became increasingly wet as the month progressed. Rainfall totals for the month were close to average across most of England and Wales, although west Wales, Cumbria and parts of south east England received more than 130% of the long term average (LTA) rainfall. Overall, England and Wales received 103% of the LTA.

Soil Moisture Deficit: Soil moisture deficits (SMDs) were already low and decreased still further during the month. At the end of January, SMDs were less than 5mm across all regions.

River Flows: Monthly mean flows for January were *normal* for the time of year at three quarters of the indicator sites. Flows at two sites in Cumbria, one in west Wales and one in Kent were *above normal*; in contrast, five sites were *below normal*.

Groundwater Levels: Groundwater levels increased at the majority of the updated indicator sites during January. Levels at a third of all sites were *above normal* or higher for the time of year, including three sites in the sandstone of north west England which remained *exceptionally high*. Only one site, located in the limestone of south Wales, was *below normal* at the end of January.

Reservoir Stocks: During January, reservoir stocks increased in all our regions except Thames. At the end of the month, stocks remained lowest in our Southern Region (89%). Stocks were *below normal* in the Pennines group in our North West Region and the Teesdale group in our North East Region (individual reservoirs within the Teesdale group were drawn down to provide flood storage during December 2008). Stocks were *notably low* for the time of year at Farmoor Reservoir in our Thames Region after abstractions from the River Thames were temporarily stopped due to high turbidity. Elsewhere, stocks were *normal* or higher for the time of year. At the end of the month, stocks in all but six reservoirs or reservoir groups were 90% or higher.

TRAINING

Racecourse Groundsmen Courses

Foundation Course:	Cheltenham Racecourse	19 - 24 April 2009
Intermediate Course:	British Racing School, Newmarket	22 - 27 November 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

TRAINING

RMO One Day Refresher Training Courses 2009

There will be two one day refresher courses (Saturday 4 April 2009 is CANCELLED) run by Dr Bob Bennett on the following dates in 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.

SAFETY

BHA Health and Safety Committee Meeting

The BHA Health and Safety Committee met on Thursday 5 March 2009, and Holly Robarts attended on behalf of the RCA. A full update will be provided to the RCA Safety Group at their next meeting. An outline of the discussions is given below:

Power Outlets and Cables: It was previously noted that due to the increase in electrical equipment being used by the Clerks of the Scales there was a difficulty with an available number of power sockets and with cables causing a trip hazard. It was requested that the RCA be informed of any racecourses where this continued to be a problem.

Chairs for Officials: It was noted that some racecourses had still to provide fully adjustable chairs for officials, particularly for Clerks of the Scales who are in them for several hours, as previously requested, and that at racecourses where these had previously been provided they had now been removed. It was requested that these racecourses provide adjustable chairs as soon as possible.

Risk Assessments: The Committee was made aware that the review of the BHA Field Force Risk Assessments had been completed. A number of the control measures outlined in these require action to be taken by racecourses, and it was therefore identified that it would be necessary to contact the racecourses to confirm whether these actions were undertaken.

First Aid Provision: Racecourses are asked to make details of their qualified first aider and how they can be contacted available to the BHA Officials, in case they should require first aid assistance before the medical staff arrive.

On-Course Issues: It has been requested that BHA Officials approach racecourses directly should they experience any difficulties on-course. These matters will only be referred to the BHA Health and Safety Committee for further action if they cannot be resolved at a local level.

Holly Robarts

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 Robarts

RCA and Press Badge Lists

Copies of the lists of 2009 RCA and Press Badges holders are available on request.
Holly Robarts

Missing Badges

RCA: 15, 208, 252, 863, 983, 984, 1011, 1910
 Press: 460
 Officials: 63, 145, 162
 PJA: 18, 19, 105, 106, 191, 192, 218, 225, 268, 313
 NTF: 3, 54, 55, 439, 440, 503, 504, 818, 819, 860, 865, 866, 910, 911, 950, 951, 1402, 1403, 1444, 1551

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 March and April 2009.

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

March

14 Saturday John Smith's Midlands Grand National, Uttoxeter
 18 Wednesday Press Lunch, Pontefract
 28 Saturday Dubai World Cup, Nad Al Sheba, UAE
 William Hill Lincoln Meeting - Doncaster
 29 Sunday William Hill Lincoln Meeting - Doncaster

April

1 Wednesday DBS Lincoln Handicap sales. Horses in and out of training
 2 Thursday John Smith's Grand National Meeting – Aintree
 3 Friday John Smith's Grand National Meeting – Aintree
 4 Saturday Horserace Writers & Photographers Association AGM – Aintree
 The John Smith's Grand National – Aintree
 7 Tuesday DBS Breeze Up Sales –
 8 Wednesday Goodwood Pre-Season Press Launch – East Everleigh stables, Marlborough
 10 Friday Lambourn Trainers Assoc Open Day
 14 Tuesday Tattersalls Craven Breeze Up Sale
 17 Friday Chester Media and Stakeholders Pre Season Press Launch
 30 Thursday Tattersalls Guineas Breeze Up Sale. Two yr olds in training

SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Spotlight On

Claire Sheppard
Chief Executive—Plumpton Racecourse



Age	36
Marital Status/ Children/Pets	Married to Rob. Rescue dog called Holly
Previous Career's	Worked for tote direct, Flutter.com and Musselburgh Racecourse, plus a few months as a Scuba Diving Instructor in Thailand
Best Bits About Your Job	The people you meet who share your love of the sport, and the sense of achievement when you introduce new people to racing who have an unforgettable day.
Worst Bit About Your Job	I love the sport with a passion, but it can be a rollercoaster ride and it's emotionally devastating when there is a serious injury.
Best Racing Experience's	Tony McCoy riding his 3000th winner at Plumpton
Worst Racing Experience	As a closet control freak, I do get frustrated with the unpredictability of the UK's weather. So much hard work and effort from everyone can be undone by mother nature. I also wish Betfair wouldn't bet on it so we don't have to take calls from very rude people talking through their pockets and questioning our judgement!
Racing Hero	Anthea Morshead - the first lady jockey to win around the National fences, and a real pleasure to work with, and my Dad, who took me racing when I was younger even though he would rather having been playing golf or watching cricket.
Most Fanciable Racing Personality	I believe George Clooney has been seen at the races.
Hobbies	Walking, Ski-ing, Scuba-diving, Racing
Favourite Film & TV	Either something educational or that makes me laugh - Life of Brian, Groundhog Day, 4 Weddings & a Funeral, The Sopranos, Scrubs & Alan Partridge
Favourite Holiday Destination	Walking in the Scottish Highlands on a crisp and clear winter's day, or scuba diving with manta rays and turtles in the Indian Ocean
Current Wheels	Audi A6
One Wish To Improve The Industry	For all parties to work together on innovative ideas to engage more people with the sport and build a loyal base of racegoers for the future.

DIARY DATES

24 March	Jump Race Development Group
24 March	REL Board
25 March	RaceTech Board
27 March	Racecourse Committee
31 March	Racing Promotions Group
6 April	Race Planning Group
6 April	Physio Sub Committee
6 April	Annual Fixtures
7 April	RCA Board
21 April	RCA Technical Group
21 April	BHA Racing Committee
21 April	Frost Covers
27 April	Industry Committee
28 April	BHEST
29 April	REL Board
29 April	RaceTech Board

ATTACHMENTS

For Racecourse Managers, Clerks of the Course and Head Groundsman Only

Watt Fences—March 2009 News Flyer

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UPDATE is also available on our website:

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