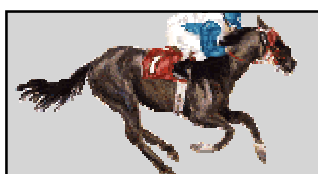


RACE PLANNING

2008 Fixture List



CONTENTS

Race Planning	1-5
Promotions	6
Racegoers Club	6-7
HRA	7
RaceTech	8
Technical	9-10
Medical	11
Training	11
Betting	11
Badges & Pass	11-12
Press	12
Administration	12
Racing Register	13
Social Intercourse	14
Diary Dates	15
Attachments	15
Contributors	
Contact List	15

The first meeting of the Fixture Allocation Group took place on Tuesday 8 May. The recommendations of FAG have already been communicated to Racecourses. The remaining timetable for the compilation process is as follows:

8 May	-	2 nd draft to Racecourses
14 May	-	Round 2 of Friendly Moves begins
15 May	-	Auction of Racecourse Fixtures
25 May	-	Deadline for applications Round 2 Friendly Moves
31 May	-	Second FAG meeting
4 June	-	BHB Board meets and will consider any appeals
5 June	-	3 rd draft to Racecourses
11 + 12 June	-	Bidding Process for BHB Fixtures
14 June	-	Allocation of Enterprise Fixtures
18 – 22 June	-	Market/Final Moves period
25 June	-	Third and Final FAG meeting
2 July	-	BHB/BHA Board meeting to approve the Fixture List
12 July	-	2008 Fixture List Published

Bidding Process - Racecourse Fixtures

The BHB has organised an auction for any Racecourse that wishes to sell or lease its Racecourse Fixtures on Tuesday 15 May at 2 pm. BHB would need the following information by **3pm Thursday 10 May**:

- The date of any fixture(s) to be offered.
- Confirmation for each fixture of whether it is to be permanently sold or leased for a specified period.
- The minimum bid (or reserve price) that will be accepted for each fixture.
- The conditions associated with the sale or lease of each fixture. All potential bidders should be aware that the vendor will be solely responsible for setting these conditions and, accordingly, they are likely to vary from vendor to vendor.

BHB will issue details of any such fixtures to be offered by racecourses on Thursday 10th May. As with the bidding process for BHB Fixtures, fixtures will be offered in chronological order. Bidders should also be aware that each auction will open at the minimum bid, as determined by the vendor, and, if no bid is received, the website will subsequently display that the vendor has 'won the fixture'. For further information, please contact Tim Newton (0207 152 0058) or Richard Wayman (0207 152 0059).

RACE PLANNING

2008 Fixture List contd

Training

If Racecourse Managers wish to have a training session prior to the bidding process, please contact Richard Wayman at BHB (0207 152 0059).

Enterprise Fixtures

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

The BHB has offered up 35 Enterprise fixture slots, which will require a minimum annual prize money contribution of £40,000 for Flat fixtures and £30,000 for Jump fixtures in the winter period and will be subject to HRA Inspectorate approval.

- 1 Jump fixture every 2 weeks from 1 January to 20 April (excluding Easter Monday) up to a maximum of 8 fixtures
- 1 Flat fixture weekly from w/c 21 April to w/c 19 May (maximum of 5 fixtures) on Thursday and Friday evenings as well as a total of 2 Jump fixtures in this period.
- 1 fixture weekly from w/c 26 May to w/c 25 August + 2nd fixture in an alternative session in no more than 6 weeks during the same period (maximum of 20 fixtures – no more than 3 Jump).

Applications will be decided via a pick system with the order being determined by a racecourse's position in the combined 2007 Flat and Jump Merit Table figures. A meeting with all interested racecourses will be held on 14 June in London where they can select their Enterprise fixture(s). Racecourses are reminded that any prize money will not count towards the Merit Table until the fixture receives 100% BDR from the Levy Board. Racecourse Managers should also be aware that future funding for these fixtures is subject to available levy funding.

Self-Funded Non-Criteria Fixtures

Racecourses will be permitted to apply to FAG to stage Self-Funded fixtures outside the Fixture Criteria. Approval will depend on whether the fixture is at a time of year when the horse population requires additional opportunities. However, Racecourse Managers should note that self-funding means self-funding, i.e. no BDR, no Fixture Incentive, no Integrity Fee, etc.

Carla Moore

2008 Fixture Incentive Scheme

Following detailed consultation with the RCA and BHB, the Levy Board approved the 2008 Fixtures Incentive Scheme at its April meeting, within an allocation of £6.026m (£5.85m in 2007). The only significant change to the 2008 Scheme, compared to 2007, is that the Flat and NH payment levels have been increased by approximately 3% across the board. The Levy Board circulated the information by email on 20 April. If you have not seen a copy, please do not hesitate to contact Carla Moore (01344 625723) or David Bradshaw (0207 333 0043).

Carla Moore

RACE PLANNING

Selling Races

The BHB is keen to simplify the pricing structure for Selling races in order that owners/trainers as well as buyers/sellers would be able to easily calculate the costs involved in buying/selling a horse. They do not mind which form of the pound is used; sterling or guineas, as long as it is clear. The RCA Executive will prepare a paper for the RCA Board, who will be advised by its Race Planning Group, which meets on 14 May.

Carla Moore

Changes to Race Conditions (from the Programme Book)

It would be helpful to let the BHB and NTF know in advance if you are intending to change races (especially Class and/or distance related) that are programmed in the Programme Book. This way, the BHB can look to replace the race you were originally scheduled to run and can inform the NTF of the change.

Carla Moore

Programme Book IV – Plea re Novice/Beginner/Graduation Chases

The BHB would like to put in an early plea to racecourses asking them to be supportive in the programming of Beginners' Steeple Chases and Class 3 Novices' opportunities, whilst politely reminding owners and trainers that the races in turn must be supported.

Also, following the recent review of the Graduation Steeple Chases introduced this season, trainers were unswerving in their praise and support for the new race type and requested that the further programming of races be planned for the 2007/08 season. The racecourses involved have pledged their support in staging the races again, but courses have warned that they must see an increase in field sizes if trainers wish to see the races programmed beyond the 07/08 season. The BHB plans to write to all trainers closer to the time informing them of any eligible horses in their yard, as well as pointing out the subsequent reaction of the handicapper and subsequent performances of graduates of the races. The argument most trainers put forward for not participating in the races, was fear of the handicapper's reaction, but the evidence demonstrates that the ratings of the majority of runners in Graduation Steeple Chases remained unaltered or actually dropped, even in the case of some of the winners. An interview in Owner Breeder Magazine will also be arranged closer to the time in order to make owners aware of the prize money that racecourses are offering for these small field events with relatively little threat of ruining handicap marks.

Carla Moore

Fixture Review

A consultation paper is being finalised for publication by the end of May. All sectors of racing and the public will be invited to make submissions. It is intended that agreed recommendations will be in place in time to be taken into account in the compilation of the 2009 Fixture List.

Carla Moore

Jump Pattern and Listed Races

If you wish one of your Jump races to be upgraded to Listed status or promoted within the Pattern, you should submit an application to the BHB Racing Department by **21 May** for consideration by the Jump Racing Committee at its meeting on 30 May. The BHB has written to all Racecourse Managers and Clerks of the Course to this effect and more information can be obtained from Stuart Middleton at the BHB (0207 152 0055).

Carla Moore

Flat Handicap Review

BHB intends to carry out a detailed review of the Flat Handicap system. Among other things they will: compare the programme of available races; look at the number of races for horses rated 45; check the 70-90 category; establish a profile of eliminated horses and investigate prize money differentials.

Carla Moore

RACE PLANNING

Competitive Racing Statistics

Attached for Racecourse Managers are the latest competitive racing statistics which the BHB Racing Department produces on a monthly basis. Points of note, where the increase/decrease between the two study periods are marked, are as follows:

Annual

April 2006 to March 2007 compared with April 2005 to March 2006

FLAT

- There has been a marked increase in Handicaps and a decrease in Classified/Banded Stakes and Claimers, although total races run have increased only slightly.

JUMP

- 17% more NHF races have been run in the past year than in the previous 12 months.

Quarterly

January 2007 to March 2007 compared with January 2006 to March 2006

FLAT

- Total number of races run is similar, but there have been marked increases in Maidens/Novice races, Handicaps and Conditions Stakes and decreases in Classified/Banded Stakes and Claimers.
- Average field sizes of Claimers have also decreased by nearly 20%.

JUMP

- Chase average field sizes have decreased by over 10%.

Monthly

March 2007 compared with March 2006

FLAT

- Total number of races run is similar, but there have been significant increases in Handicaps and Conditions Stakes, and decreases in Classified/Banded Stakes and Claimers.

JUMP

- Chase average field sizes have decreased by over 10%.
- NB – The marked increase in the number of jump races run in March '07 compared to March '06 is due mainly to there being fewer abandonments (8) in March '07 than March '06 (17).

Carla Moore

Minimum Prize Money for Divided Races

From 26 April 2007, the following revised wording will appear in the Standard Conditions:

For all races **valued £3,000 or above**, the advertised prize money in both divisions will be reduced by £1,000 each **and for those races value below £3,000, the advertised prize money in both divisions will be reduced to £2,000 each.**

Carla Moore

Embargoed Information

The RCA Executive, Nick Smith (Ascot), Nigel Payne (Aintree) and Andrew Cooper (Epsom Downs/Sandown Park) attended a meeting at the BHB on 3 May to discuss early closing dates and the release of the information emanating from that to the media, owners and trainers. Potential measures to address the current situation were discussed and the RCA Executive will have further dialogue with Racecourses involved.

Carla Moore

RACE PLANNING

RCA Annual Fixtures Meeting

Representatives from 27 racecourses, BHB, the HBLB and HRA attended the RCA's Annual Fixtures meeting on Tuesday 10 April 2007 to discuss the 2008 Fixture List process. Notes of the meeting were distributed to courses on 18 April. Below is a summary of the main points discussed:

Fixtures Criteria: The meeting was informed of the main changes to the HBLB Fixture Criteria 2008. The number of funded fixtures would increase from 1414 in 2007 to 1473 in 2008. Members also noted the expanded winter evening programme which would include the provision for 1 fixture per evening during the period January to mid April on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturdays only.

Fixture Incentive Scheme: The RCA had proposed a 3% across the board increase for the 2008 Fixtures Incentive Scheme.

Timetable: The 2008 Fixture List process would start on Monday 16 April. Members noted that Enterprise Fixtures would be allocated after the BHB fixture bidding process.

Friendly Moves: The meeting went through the Fixture List week by week for course representatives to put forward offers and requests for fixtures. A number of requests were made which the RCA agreed to add to the Fixtures Market page on its website. The RCA would also urge those racecourses not present to visit the RCA website.

BHB Fixtures:

Order of Bidding: Following a survey conducted by the RCA the majority of racecourses had opted for bidding to be in chronological order. This will now remain as such for the foreseeable future.

Race Programmes/ Number of Races: It was agreed that the BHB would confirm the number of races for a BHB Fixture from the outset. Racecourses would be consulted with regard the race programme in line with the Programme Book schedule.

Development Fund: The BHB informed members that the same formulae for calculating racecourse payments to the Development Fund would be used for 2008. Some money would be

added to the Development Fund from the HBLB. A discussion followed with regard regional distribution of the Development Fund.

Enterprise Fixture Process: The RCA Board had initially requested 24 additional fixtures for the core summer period but would compromise with 20. It was only later that the BHB had offered up 35 fixtures, of which 10 would be additional Jump fixtures to be staged from January to mid May and 5 Flat fixtures from mid April to mid May. The BHB also proposed allowing racecourses to specify which day they would want to stage them. CM added that the RCA had asked for additional Jump fixtures but had not stipulated when. It was decided that the RCA Board should revisit the issue. Members were reminded that funding of Enterprise Fixtures would be dependent on the fixture achieving LBO coverage and there being sufficient funding available for these fixtures, i.e. a down turn in levy income could mean no or less funding for Enterprise Fixtures. Following further discussion it was acknowledged that courses would also need to consider where Enterprise Fixtures may fall in the chain if there was a reduction to the Fixture List.

Bidding Process for Racecourse Fixtures:

Members noted that racecourses would be able to auction racecourse fixtures for permanent sale or year leases using the Weatherbys bidding site. Racecourses should set their own terms and conditions for each biddable racecourse fixture.

Championships and Seasons: It was pointed out that there had been notices with details of when the seasons and championships would start in the Racing Calendar.

Break in the Jump Season: The meeting was informed that the RCA was trying to create a longer break to the existing 6 day gap in September. A paper had been drafted which would be discussed at the RCA Race Planning Group meeting on 14 May and presented to the NTF, ROA and JAGB which highlighted the complexities involved in trying to relocate fixtures.

Training: The BHB informed members that training would be provided to those who requested it.

Laura Holmes

PROMOTIONS

British Horseracing Call Centre

On Monday 2 April the RCA Promotions department assumed the role of call centre for the British Horseracing website. This involves taking bookings over the phone and processing all bookings made by customers through the website with a view to saving the industry a large proportion of the £120,000 that was being spent annually on the call centre.

For April 347 orders were processed, yielding 1,530 tickets totalling £33,353 in value. *John Phillips*

Group Sales

As at 30 April bookings stood at 59 valued at £31,693.

Paul Smith

The Mail On Sunday Ticket Offer

Ticket sales for completed meetings so far are as follows:

Date	Racecourse	Tickets Sold	Date	Racecourse	Tickets Sold
4 March	Huntingdon *	92	8 April	Musselburgh	12
11 March	Market Rasen	42	15 April	Kelso	64
11 March	Warwick	20	15 April	Market Rasen	120
18 March	Carlisle	42	15 April	Worcester	102
18 March	Fontwell Park	40	22 April	Southwell	110
25 March	Kempton Park	50	29 April	Brighton	92
25 March	Worcester †	36	6 May	Hamilton	32
1 April	Hexham	36	6 May	Newmarket	968
1 April	Lingfield Park	92	6 May	Salisbury	118
TOTAL SOLD					2,068

* subsequently abandoned

† subsequently transferred

John Phillips or Valerie Larue

Special Events Diary

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

Paul Smith

THE RACEGOERS CLUB

Spring Newsletter

The Club's spring mailing went out to members week commencing Monday 7 May. A copy of the newsletter will be enclosed with next month's UPDATE.

John Phillips

Owners Groups

All three Racegoers Club Flat horses have run since the middle of April. Diamond Tycoon (Owners Group 23) ran away with a strong Newbury maiden (three other winners have come out of the race since) by 6 lengths and went on to run in the Stan James 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket where he was 4th favourite. He finished a creditable ninth, ahead of the favourite Adagio and both of the other horses in the race to have only had two runs. However, he incurred an injury which means he is unlikely to run again this

season. The other horse in Owners Group 23, Greek Easter, made her seasonal reappearance at Haydock Park, making the running before blowing up with a couple of furlongs to go, eventually finishing last. Maia (Owners Group 24 with Dandy Nicholls) made her debut at Thirsk, running on well to be third beaten a diminishing ½ a length by two horses with plenty of experience. Both Greek Easter and Maia have entries for Friday 11 May.

Paul Smith or John Phillips

THE RACEGOERS CLUB

Social Diary

A number of courses provide the Club with access to private facilities. As a rule these are days on which the facility is likely to be empty and through a special offer we can increase the attendance on that day. A copy of the programme is being sent to members along with the spring newsletter, and will be enclosed with June's UPDATE for Racecourse Managers. A second issue will be sent to members with the next mailing (summer) in order to maximise bookings.

Paul Smith

HRA

Turftrax Goingstick Trial 31/03/07 – 31/03/08

Mike Maher of Turftrax is currently finalising his first month's statistical analysis of the Goingstick trial across all turf racecourses.

Feedback to the Racecourse Department (and/or via the Inspectorate) on how the trial is progressing is very welcome at any time and will be beneficial to the 6 month interim user and statistical review to be carried out this Autumn.

Some trainers still appear to be looking to equate the figures back to the precise going band scale (which was shelved some time ago with NTF's full support).

Consequently, Rupert Arnold is updating the

NTF membership through the Newsletter and email, whilst the HRA Racecourse Department is happy to explain the nature of the readings (and the likelihood that they will often be course specific) to any trainer who Clerks feel would benefit from such a briefing.

In the meantime, it is vital that all Clerks continue to generate, and send on, a GoingStick reading for Declarations and Raceday in line with the agreed Protocol in section 4 of the "Q and A" letter sent out from HRA on 12th March.

*For further information contact:
Fraser Garrity 020 7189 3852*

National Hunt Meetings May – October

In recent years it has become the HRA practice to remind courses with jump fixtures in the summer months of the Going criteria within HRAGI 3.2 paragraph 2.

As you will be aware, the aim must be to produce decent jumping ground (i.e. Good Ground), and whilst accepting that courses may have difficulty in achieving this under certain weather conditions, the Going should be no worse than Good to Firm.

You will also be aware that under the current arrangements if 10% or more of declared runners withdrawn from a meeting on account of the ground (and rainfall wasn't a factor), it acts as a trigger for an investigation by the Racecourse Department. The results of these investigations, and whether the Inspectorate believe it to be appropriate for a course to stage certain NH Meetings within this time of year, are fed into the Fixture Allocation Group.

At the same time though I would once again like

to re-emphasise that where a racecourse has been watered to ensure good ground and then ultimately finds that unforecast amounts of rain produces much softer ground, the racecourse will always receive HRA support.

Finally, if you do have any concerns about your ground in the lead up to a meeting please notify your Inspector of Courses. The RCA has given racecourses a great deal of guidance on dealing with possible drought orders and as you know last year we lodged appropriate letters with DEFRA/ Secretary of State explaining the vital role course watering plays in providing a safe surface. Please do get in touch in the months ahead if you feel a more localised submission from us (HRA) – highlighting the welfare and indeed commercial implications of having restricted irrigation usage – would be useful.

Tony Goodhew, Director of Racecourse Licensing and Standards

RACETECH

New Invoicing Format

To coincide with the Levy Board funding year, please be aware that new invoicing procedures are now in place for racecourse television services (integrity services and racecourse broadcast). RaceTech's invoices will now reflect the total amount for all broadcast services, with any relevant deductions clearly marked – this will show any contributions collected directly from 3rd parties and the RaceTech subsidy passed on to each racecourse every raceday. If you have any queries about the new format, please contact Julie Grigg or Kevin Avery at RaceTech on 0208 947 3333 (jgrigg@racetech.co.uk or kavery@racetech.co.uk). This new style invoicing should make it easier for racecourses to see exactly what they pay for and who pays for what. *Catherine Pullan*

Gold Service and Gold Plus

RaceTech provide several levels of "racecourse TV" on raceday. The basic "Silver Service" takes live coverage of on-course racing, adds in simple Teletext style betting information and provides that feed to on-course televisions, as required.

The Gold Service provides a dedicated graphics operator on site, on the day, so that live betting and Tote dividends can be shown in real time. It is an altogether more responsive service, able to broadcast racecourse messages as required, as well as insert sponsors advertising/messages, cut to last year's event/relevant information as necessary. The quality of the graphics output is broadcast level (as opposed to Teletext style).

The cost of the Gold service for 2007 is £340 + VAT per day.

For a one off cost of £800 + VAT each racecourse can have its own graphics colours (rather than the generic RaceTech colours) to establish identity. across all race meetings.

In addition, what may be of interest for bigger meetings/heavily sponsored meetings, we offer is a the Gold Plus service, which features the dedicated graphics engineer operator pro-

vided by the Gold service, along with some pre-done work, such as branding all graphics in corporate colours (to guaranteed pantone match), inserting additional information about a trainer/horse/jockey + pantone matched silks diagrams - a very sophisticated graphics offering. We cost this on an ad hoc basis, but for budgetary purposes, a full package is approx £400 + VAT per day extra.

The Platinum service provides all of the graphics capabilities mentioned above as well as an additional cameraman, a commentator and a pundit, and material is then mixed by RaceTech to produce a full racecourse TV programme. We are in the process of making some show reels of how this works and how racecourses can really benefit by having full editorial control over their TV output around the course - it really works for any well attended meeting. Costs for the Platinum service are bespoke, depending on what is required by each particular course.

Using this as a start point, perhaps jot down what you'd like to see, what level of control/input you need and I will get some costs for you. It needn't be a fortune! For more information, please contact me. *Catherine Pullan*

Power Plea!

Please remember that it is the racecourse's responsibility to maintain power to the BT cabinets on all RUK courses. Power to these boxes must be maintained even on non race days in order to protect the electronic equipment installed in them which provide the service to RUK. Reliability of the service will suffer if power is switched off for extended periods, particularly during damp or wet weather. *Catherine Pullan, Tel 07976 432271 Email cpullan@racetech.co.uk*

TECHNICAL

British Pony Racing Formalised

The Pony Racing Authority (PRA) launched on Wednesday 2 May 2007 formalising British Pony Racing. The newly formed Governing Body has been established to represent and oversee the running of all Pony Races and to ensure the sport's integrity and safety with Chairman, Robert Waley-Cohen, Secretary & Director – Rebecca Morgan, Directors, Charles Barnett, Caroline Davies from the Racecourse Association (RCA) and Mike Felton from the Master of Foxhounds Association (MFHA).

With immediate effect all recognised Pony Races will be held under the regulation of the PRA and the allocation, cancellation and alteration of Pony Racing fixtures is authorised at the discretion of the Horseracing Regulatory Authority and PRA. The Pony Racing Authority will administer Pony Racing under its Regulations and will exercise control over Riders and ponies taking part.

Rebecca Morgan, PRA Secretary, says: "Pony Racing has become one of the fastest growing

equestrian sports in Britain, aimed at encouraging 11-15 year olds to become jockeys, or consider a career in racing. The PRA will ensure the sport's continued growth and success bringing a formality and regulation to Pony Races."

"Since the first Pony Races in 2004 we have been bowled over the enthusiasm and professionalism of those participating and look forward to continuing to develop Pony Racing with the PRA and our sponsor, Charles Owen. Our aim continues to be to encourage as many 11-15 year olds as possible to compete – regardless of their background, ability or experience. We welcome everybody into Pony Racing and will continue to work to broaden its appeal."

For further information please contact Rebecca Morgan, Secretary of the Pony Racing Authority, on 01242 537 654, 07767 612 931 or email rebecca.morgan@jockeyclubracecourses.com

RCA Clerks of the Course Seminar

A seminar for Clerks of the Course will take place at Aintree Racecourse on Monday 26 and Tuesday 27 November 2007. 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 Robarts

Summer Jumping

The Summer Jumping Workshop was held at Stratford Racecourse on Friday 20 April 2007, and was well attended by racecourse representatives, trainers and the HRA. Initial feedback indicates that the workshop was well received by all those who attended.

The RCA is in the process of producing a report from the workshop, which will be distributed to all Clerks of the Course at Summer Jumping courses, along with a copy of the presentations, when complete. This information will form part of the final report to be produced by the HRA Summer Jumping Technical Working Group.

Holly Robarts

TECHNICAL

Weather Report

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

Despite a very wet first week, March was drier than average across all our regions. March was the first month with below average rainfall over England and Wales since September 2006. Soil moisture deficits have increased in response to the dry weather. Monthly mean river flows decreased at just over half of the indicator sites. However, all but one site in northern England remain *normal* or higher for the time of year, and fourteen sites in southern England and Wales are now *notably high* or *exceptionally high*. Groundwater levels increased at more than half of all sites as the recovery over the winter period continued. All sites in the chalk aquifers are now *normal* or higher. However, groundwater sites in our Midlands Region remain lower than *normal* for the time of year, with two sites remaining *exceptionally low*. Reservoir storage increased by 3% to 92% in our South West Region but there was little change elsewhere. Storage remains close to or above 95% in all other regions. Overall storage for England and Wales increased by 1% to 96%.

Rainfall: The first week of March was very wet, but the rest of the month was dry and settled. Most rain fell in the south west, Wales and upland areas of the north west. It was much drier in eastern England. All our regions received less than the March long term average rainfall (LTA) for the month as a whole. England and Wales overall received 62mm, 85% of the March LTA rainfall.

Soil Moisture Deficit: At the start of March, soils were saturated with a soil moisture deficit (SMD) of 3mm or less in all our regions. Deficits have increased through the month in response to the dry weather, and are now ap-

proximately 10mm in our North West and North East Regions and EA Wales and between 15mm and 20mm in all other regions. SMD is approximately 10mm higher in our Midlands, Southern and South West Regions compared to the end of March 2006; elsewhere, the difference is less.

River Flows: Monthly mean flows decreased at just over half of the indicator sites, but remain normal or higher at all but one site in northern England. In southern England, all but one of the sites are above normal for the time of year. In total twelve sites have increased to notably high. Both the River Coln in our Thames Region and the River Avon in our South West Region have increased to exceptionally high. Flows at all of the regional index sites are higher than those in March 1976.

Groundwater Levels: Groundwater levels increased at more than half of all indicator sites during March, but fell at sites in the more responsive aquifers. All sites in the chalk aquifers are now normal or higher for the time of year. Of these, two thirds are above normal or higher. Levels at two sites in our Midlands Region sandstone aquifers have continued their slow recovery and are below normal, but two further sites in Midlands Region remain exceptionally low. In our South West Region, one site fell by one class and is the only other site that is below normal.

Reservoir Storage: Reservoir storage increased in our South West Region by 3% to 92% during March. Here, both Colliford and Roadford reservoirs increased by 5% or more. In all other regions changes were small with storage remaining close to or above 95%. The Pennines Reservoir Group in our North West Region remains slightly below normal for the time of year due to being drawn down for maintenance works. Kielder Reservoir in our North East Region has fallen slightly and is now also below normal. All other reservoirs or reservoir groups are normal or higher.

MEDICAL

RMO Training

The Racing and Equestrian Medical Officers course run by Dr Bennett has received full approval from the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

In order to comply with the requirements of HRAGI 11.1 para 1, RMOs must undertake training every three years (or 4 for ATLS). A course is scheduled to be held on 8 & 9 September 2007. To book a place, please contact Dr Bob Bennett on 07979 506548.

TRAINING

Racecourse Groundsmen Courses

Intermediate Course: British Racing School, Newmarket 18-23 November 2007

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

The Racecourse Training Manual

An updated copy of the Racecourse Training Manual has been produced. Copies are available upon request. *Holly Roberts*

BETTING

Gambling Act Workshops

The RCA organised 2 workshops for racecourses regarding the Gambling Act, which were held at York Racecourse on 24 April 2007 and the Montcalm Hotel on 30 April 2007. Both workshops were well attended, with the large majority of racecourses being represented.

Following the workshops, a copy of the presentations has been E-mailed to all racecourse managers, and all other racecourse personnel who attended one of the workshops.

The RCA Gambling Legislation Group is continuing to investigate a number of items raised at the workshops, and further advice to racecourses will be distributed as appropriate.

Caroline Davies or Holly Roberts

BADGES & PASS

Badge Review

The replacement of the existing HRA and BHB badges by RCA and where appropriate Officials badges, has been actioned and the new Officials badge will be introduced on 1 June 2007.

Racecourses should be aware that the Officials badge will be accompanied by a car park label. This will be a square red label, with a

darker red "O" in the centre. If you wish to have an example of the label, please contact me, and I will send this to you.

In light of the changes, from 1 June 2007, racecourses are asked to no longer recognise the HRA and BHB badges for racecourse admittance.

Holly Roberts

BADGES & PASS

2008 Badge Colour Scheme

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

RCA and Press Badge Lists

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

2007 Badges and Badge Posters

8 copies of the large poster, and 4 copies of the A4 sized poster have been sent to all racecourses. Extra copies are available on request.

Holly Robarts

Missing Badges

RCA: 151, 152, 153, 154, 256, 257, 269, 426, 552, 1030, 1146, 1147

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

JAGB: 26, 66, 281, 291, 332, 356, 410, 448, 451, 452, 495, 546, 586

NTF: 383, 470, 544, 545, 793, 851, 1318, 1319, 1559, 1583

PRESS

RCA/HWPA Press Liaison Committee

The Committee met on 18 April to review new applications for 2007 Press Accreditation and discuss other issues relevant to the press. A summary of these discussions is outlined below:

HWPA Press and Photographers Racecourse Representatives: The Committee welcomed David Carr as the new representative for the East Midlands area.

Press Arrangements at Festival Meetings: The Committee discussed Aintree and Cheltenham's recent festival press arrangements

and considered future arrangements. They praised Aintree's system for 2007 John Smith's Grand National meeting.

Press Room Facilities: The Committee discussed press room facilities at racecourses and identified any particular high or low standards which required further action.

Photographers: The Committee discussed the problem of photographers who did not adhere to the HRAGIs. They decided that a yellow and red card system would be adopted. Details to follow.

Lizzie Lea

ADMINISTRATION

RCA Email Change

The RCA has updated all staff email addresses with racecourseassociation.co.uk replacing the outdated rcarcl.co.uk.

The old address will continue to work for the next few months but please amend your records for the future. For the new addresses, please see the Contributors' Contact List on the back page. *Lizzie Lea*

Diary Date - RCA Centenary Celebration

This year marks the first 100 years of the RCA and to commemorate this there will be an evening reception held at One Whitehall Place, London on Tuesday 3 July. Invitations have been sent out. This coincides with the date of the RCA AGM. *Lizzie Lea*

RACING REGISTER

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

The following are highlights for June, July and August 2007. For further details regarding specific dates please e-mail: events@racingregister.co.uk or contact Lynn Payne at Sportsguide Limited on 01344 774322.

June

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1 Friday | - Vodafone Oaks and Vodafone Coronation Cup – Epsom Downs |
| 2 Saturday | - Vodafone Derby – Epsom Downs |
| 5 Tuesday | - Press launch of the July Course redevelopment – Newmarket (TBC) |
| 11 Monday | - 15 Friday - Goffs NH sale – Co Kildare, Ireland |
| 19 Tuesday – 23 Saturday | - Royal Ascot |
| 28 Thursday | - Racehorse Owners Association AGM – London |
| 28 Thursday | - Tattersalls Derby sale – Fairy House, Ireland |

July

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 10 Tuesday | - Tattersalls July sale - Newmarket |
| 10 Tuesday | - Goodwood Lifetime Achievement Award Ceremony – Central London |
| 15 Sunday | - Trainers Yard Open Day – Epsom |
| 21 Saturday | - Weatherbys Super Sprint - Newbury |
| 22 Sunday | - Dubai International Arabian Raceday – Newbury |
| 28 Saturday | - Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes - Ascot |
| 31 Tuesday | - Glorious Goodwood |

August

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1 Wednesday | - Glorious Goodwood and Media Dinner – Goodwood |
| 2 Thursday - 4 Saturday | - Glorious Goodwood |
| 9 Thursday | - Dubai Duty Free Shergar Cup Press Conference – Ascot |
| 11 Saturday | - Shergar Cup – Ascot |

SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Spotlight On

Geoffrey Billson
Racecourse Manager—Exeter



Age	60
Marital Status/ Children/Pets	Married to Rosie with two grown up offspring Henry and Lucinda, plus the usual collection of horses (Forest, Snafu and Rhubarb) dogs (Cromarty and Humbug) and cats (Shipmate and Sailor)
Previous Career(s)	I have only applied for 2 jobs in my life, the first providing 33 years of fun, challenge and excitement in the Royal Navy (ending up as a Commodore) and the second for the last 8 years as Managing Director of Exeter
Best Bits About Your Job	A wide cross section of people one meets throughout racing
Worst Bit About Your Job	Abandoning a race meeting with the resulting disappointment and waste of a huge amount of hard work
Best Racing Experience(s)	Best Mate's 3 wins at Exeter
Worst Racing Experience	Best Mate's final race at Exeter
Racing Hero	Jim Lewis - the perfect owner
Most Fanciable Racing Personality	A well known jockey's girlfriend at Exeter a month or two ago, but then all the other Officials in the Stewards Box seemed to have the same opinion
Hobbies	Sketching and painting and DIY in house, stables and fields
Favourite Film & TV	Pretty Woman and Yes Minister
Favourite Holiday Destination	Riding Safari in Kenya
Current Wheels	Audi A3
One Wish To Improve The Industry	Its often been said before, but harmony throughout all sides of this wonderful industry

DIARY DATES

14 May	RCA Race Planning Group
22 May	BHB Race Planning Committee
29 May	BHB Board
4 June	Members Forum (York)
5 June	Members Forum (Cheltenham)
6 June	RCA Legal Group
15 June	RCA Board

ATTACHMENTS

Competitive Racing Statistics
Brandwagon Newsletter

CONTRIBUTORS' CONTACT LIST

Davies, Caroline	01344-873536	caroline.davies@racecourseassociation.co.uk
Garrity, Fraser	0207 189 3852	fgarrity@thehra.org
Goodhew, Tony	0207 189 3813	tgoodhew@thehra.org
Holmes, Laura	01344-626067	laura.holmes@racecourseassociation.co.uk
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
Morgan, Rebecca	01242 537 654	rebecca.morgan@jockeyclubracecourses.com
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
Smith, Paul	01344-625912	paul.smith@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