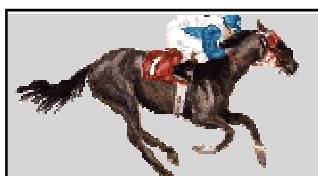


BRITISH HORSERACING AUTHORITY

British Horseracing Launches Review of the Fixture List

An all-encompassing review of the fixture list has been launched by the British Horseracing Authority (BHA). This is its first major project. It commences with a request for comments on the areas it is proposed will form part of the review, as well as inviting suggestions for other issues worth including.



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The principal objectives of the review, which is published on www.britishhorseracing.com, will be to identify the sport's optimal fixture list.

The review starts from the view that British Horseracing means different things to different people, and will approach the fixture list from three key perspectives:

- British Horseracing as a sport - assessing the current demands of the horse population for opportunities, considering the impact at all levels of the recent expansion in the fixture list and whether opportunities should be provided for horses of all abilities, and, with the assistance of the media, determining how the fixture list could better support the sport's promotion.
- British Horseracing as a centrepiece for racecourse and other leisure activity looking at how the fixture list can best support the commercial aspirations of racecourses by providing opportunities at times that will encourage attendance growth and greater corporate participation in the sport.
- British Horseracing as a betting product - attempting to identify how the fixture list can maximise the attractiveness of the sport to the betting markets, both domestic and international, by establishing the value of existing fixtures as well as evaluating the potential worth of alternative opportunities.

Initial comments are requested by Friday 29th June 2007, leading to a full report being prepared by the end of July, with respondents then having two months to put forward their detailed views. It is envisaged that a final document will be presented to the BHA Board in November, with the final outcomes forming a major part of planning processes for the 2009 fixture list.

The last substantive fixture list review process was carried out as part of the Racing Review, published in 2003. Responses then illustrated a clear demand for expansion of the fixture list, including from owners, spectators, punters and the betting industry. A key task of the current review will be to determine whether these priorities have changed.

BHA Chief Executive-designate Nic Coward said: "The British Horseracing Authority will be formally up and running very soon, but the review of the fixture list is something that cannot wait.

"The Board wanted to take a different approach. Everyone has the opportunity to have their say."

For further information, please contact BHB Communications Manager Will Lambe on 020 7152 0028.

RACE PLANNING

Fixture List Review

On 23 May the BHB circulated a document entitled 'Strategic Review of the Fixture List'. This paper signals the start a root-and-branch review of the fixture list and should identify the optimal list for British racing. The time table for the review is as follows:

- 23 May – issue paper to all interested parties
- 15 June – Fixture Policy Group meeting
- 29 June – deadline responses to issue paper
- End July – full report issued to interested parties
- End September – deadline submissions of interested parties
- November – BHA Board presented with draft review document
- December '07/January '08 – consultation on proposal emanating from draft review
- Early 2008 – final report to BHA Board
- March 2008 – fixture policy for 2009 decided

The RCA will use its Fixture Policy Group to respond to the issue paper, the full report and the proposals emanating from the review. Of course, this does not prevent racecourses from making their own individual submissions.

Carla Moore

European Pattern Committee (EPC) Ground Rules

At its annual meeting in January the EPC agreed that the Ground Rules should be further reviewed in order to reintroduce some stricter protocols regarding the upgrading of races. Possible ways of doing this would be to limit each country to 1 upgrade per year or to limit

the percentage of upgrades from 10% to 5%. Britain and Ireland would continue to liaise over this matter and the Flat Racing Committee would revisit this topic at its next meeting, with the intention of putting something forward to the EPC for approval.

Carla Moore

Fillies' Allowances

The Flat Racing Committee (FRC) discussed the of level of fillies' allowances in black-type races open to all sexes. The statistics compared the success rate of fillies in black-type races with the number of fillies that ran. The conclusion was that with the number of fillies' only races provided in Britain, the current allowances of 3lb in Pattern races and 5lb in Listed contests were suitable. Attempts would continue to be made to seek to standardise the allowances across Europe, as presently Germany and Scandinavia used a 4lb allowance.

Carla Moore

New AWT Listed Races in November and December

A small number of new Listed AWT races in November and December have been approved, commencing in the Autumn of 2007. Venues will be confirmed shortly. The full list of proposed races is:

- 6f late November/early December
- 8f mid-late November
- 7f/8f mid –December onwards
- 10f late December
- 12f December

Carla Moore

RACE PLANNING

2008 Fixture List

The Fixtures Allocation Group (FAG) met for the second time on 31 May and went through the final round of “friendly” applications before the Bidding Process commences on 11 June. The timetable for the remainder of the process is as follows:

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
<u>12 July</u>	-	<u>2007 Fixture List Published</u>

Bidding Process: On 1 June all racecourses received the details of the bidding sessions for bid-dable fixtures for the 2008 Fixture List. In addition to the code, date and session of each fixture, the list confirms the following details:

- The duration of the lease
- The 2008 BDR
- The threshold figure (used to calculate any payments due to the development fund)
- The actual number of races (excluding divisions)
- The maximum number of non-handicap races
- The maximum number of Class 7 races (Flat only)

For the avoidance of any doubt, the actual number of races (excluding divisions) will not deviate from the advertised level.

The bidding process will run from 9:00 a.m. to approximately 5:00 p.m., with a 1-hour break at around 1:00 p.m. The exact timings of the break and the close of the day’s proceedings will be communicated via the messaging service on the website. Bidders are strongly encouraged to use the auto bid facility, thereby resulting in the bidding for fixtures opening at sensible levels and saving time. The process will start off with BHB Flat Fixtures to be staged during the Flat season, followed by BHB Jump Fixtures and closing with BHB Flat Fixtures outside the Flat season. Fixtures will be offered chronologically.

Racecourses should also have received the ‘Conditions associated with BHB Fixtures to be auctioned in 2007’. You must read these as any racecourse participating in the bidding process will be deemed to accept these conditions and will be bound by them in the event that their bids are successful. Also, please ensure that your HRA Inspector is aware of, and is happy with your bidding plans. You do need their approval.

Carla Moore

Increasing the Basic Weights in Handicaps

It has been that, from 1 June, 25% of all handicaps which do not require a weight-for-age allowance (excluding nursery handicaps) should have a minimum weight of 8st 4lb, as opposed to 8st 2lb. Thus, the top weight for these races will increase from 9st 7lb to 9st 9lb. *Carla Moore*

Integrity Fee Grants 2007

The HBLB Board has approved payment of integrity grants of £3,460 per fixture towards the cost of provision of Camera Patrol Services for the period from 1 May to 31 December 2007. *Carla Moore*

RACE PLANNING

RCA/NTF Regional Meetings

Following an absence of two years, the RCA has decided to revive the race planning/technical meetings it used to have with NTF representatives. To that end, we have organised 3 meetings:

- Cheltenham Racecourse on Monday 17 September 2007
- Newcastle Racecourse on Wednesday 19 September 2007
- Newmarket Racecourse on Monday 24 September 2007

The purpose of these meetings is to discuss various race planning/technical issues and to improve relations between the RCA and NTF. The RCA believes it would be a good opportunity for trainers to provide feedback on such topics and for NTF members to have more insight into the race and fixture list planning processes.

Carla Moore

Jump Race Development Group

The Group next meets on 8 June. The following topics are on the Agenda: 48-hour declarations – race planning & commercial review, Pony Racing Association, feedback from Summer Jumping Workshop, Dominance of Irish Trained horses in major races, BHA Timing for establishment, Future voice for Jump Racing, Strategic Review of the

Fixture list, Jump Race Committee sharing of Agendas, Mares Races/new Festival Race, Trend in Chasers Rated 170+, Point-to-Point Review, Replacement Fixtures, All Party Racing Group Dinner.

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

Carla Moore

Embargoed Information

Following the meeting held on 3 May, a potential solution regarding early closing races is as follows:

- Races to close at noon on Tuesdays
- Information to be embargoed until noon on Wednesdays

Discussions are still ongoing with Epsom Downs relating to the Vodafone Derby and with Cheltenham regarding the Festival meeting March. In the meantime the BHB would like to publish early closing entries on the racing administration website as soon as possible, i.e. races closing on the Wednesday with details available on-line at noon the next day (Thursday). This topic will have been discussed at the Members Forums on 4 & 5 June. An update will appear in next month's issue.

Carla Moore

RACE PLANNING

RCA Race Planning Group

The RCA Race Planning Group met on Monday 14 May. The Racecourses were represented by Nick Lees, Ian Renton, Michael Prosser, James Hutchinson, Charlie Moore and Mark Kershaw, also in attendance was John Smee. The notes of the meeting were circulated to all Managers and Clerks of the Course on 18 May. A summary of the discussion is below:

Merit Table Review: The Group was informed that the Merit Table Review Group's recommendations had been accepted by the HBLB to alter the existing arrangements and introduce a new formula for the calculations of 2008 Basic Daily Rates.

48 Hour Declarations: The Group felt that racecourses should continue to support 48 hour declarations unless the system led to a severe downturn in levy and pointed out that less negative feedback had been received from trainers of late.

Selling Races: After some deliberation and debate on whether racecourses should advertise the selling price in the same currency as that of the post-race auction, in the race conditions, a vote was held, with the result in favour of simplifying the costing structure. It was acknowledged, however, that it would still be up to each racecourse to decide whether auctions should be conducted in guineas or pounds. The Group's recommendation would be passed onto the Members Forums and the RCA Board.

2008 Fixture List: The Group noted that the BHB did not support racing to take place on Good Friday and that the Fixture Incentive Scheme for 2008 would receive a 3% across the board increase. The RCA reminded the Group of the Fixture's Market page on the RCA's website and reported that the facility had been used by a number of courses.

Carla Moore outlined the proposed changes to Enterprise Fixtures put forward by the Fixture Policy Group with regard to the number of fixtures within specific periods and the minimum prize money guarantee for all Jump fixtures (FPG proposed £30k). The Group noted that the date for the allocation of Enterprise Fixtures meeting would be 14 June 2007 and was advised that racecourses should discuss any use of the turf issues with their HRA Inspector prior to the meeting.

Break in the Jump Season: The Group reviewed a draft paper produced by the RCA Executive with regard to creating a bigger break for jump jockeys in September. Unfortunately the only solution, for Stratford-on-Avon to move its Sunday fixture to a Saturday was rejected by the BHB. The paper would be distributed to the BHB and interested parties i.e. JAGB following approval from the RCA Board.

Embargoed Information: Following concerns from the BHB and Weatherbys, the RCA, racecourse representatives and BHB are working on a proposal to modernise the current practice. The Group noted that discussions would continue. See Page 4.

Development Fund: The Group recommended that any additional money to the Development Fund should be allocated to Listed races. Carla Moore was asked to put this to the RCA Board and BHB.

RCA/NTF Race Planning Meetings: The RCA has decided to revive its race planning meetings with NTF representatives and the dates have been confirmed as shown on Page 4.

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 current £120,000 being spent annually on the call centre. Jenna Strachan is working for the Racecourse Association part-time to administrate the call centre. Bookings processed so far are as follows:

Month	2007			2006		
	Orders	Tickets	Value	Orders	Tickets	Value
April	428	1,929	£43,573	682	3,363	£69,387
May	369	1,943	£43,959	860	3,952	£82,146
Total	797	3,872	£87,532	1,542	7,315	£151,533
	(-48%)	(-47%)	(-42%)			

April 2007 saw orders taken on behalf of 44 different courses (49 in April 06)

May 2007 saw orders taken on behalf of 37 different courses (49 in May 06)

John Phillips or Jenna Strachan

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	15 April	Worcester	102
11 March	Market Rasen	42	22 April	Southwell	110
11 March	Warwick	20	29 April	Brighton	92
18 March	Carlisle	42	6 May	Hamilton	32
18 March	Fontwell Park	40	6 May	Newmarket	968
25 March	Kempton Park	50	6 May	Salisbury	118
25 March	Worcester †	36	13 May	Plumpton	98
1 April	Hexham	36	13 May	Worcester	140
1 April	Lingfield Park	92	20 May	Market Rasen	134
8 April	Musselburgh	12	27 May	Fontwell Park	134
15 April	Kelso	64	27 May	Uttoxeter	250
15 April	Market Rasen	120	3 June	Brighton	40
TOTAL SOLD					2,864

* subsequently abandoned

† subsequently transferred

John Phillips or Val Larue

PROMOTIONS

Group Sales

As at 31 May bookings stood at 103 valued at £49,352.

Paul Smith

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 spring newsletter was sent out to members in early May. Enclosed for Racecourse Managers is a copy of the newsletter.

John Phillips

Social Diary

The Club's social diary, containing offers to experience private facilities laid on at a number of courses around the country, was also sent to members along with the newsletter and bookings have been coming in for those events. In general the racecourses participating provide a facility that would probably be standing empty on the day at no cost and The Racegoers Club uses this to attract members to the course on the day. A copy of the Social Diary is enclosed for Racecourse Managers.

Paul Smith

Owners Groups

Maia, representing Owners Group 24, delighted her share owners when winning really well at Catterick on 26 May to confirm the promise she had shown on her debut at Thirsk. Her syndicate will be enjoying a stable visit to Dandy Nicholls' yard later this month and we hope for further success with Maia.

Paul Smith or John Phillips

SPONSORSHIP

Best Seat in the House

Sports Marketing Surveys has produced a comprehensive evaluation of Sports coverage on UK television in 2006, including horseracing. The RCA has a copy of the report and if anyone would like to find out more about it please contact *Mary-Ann Sandercock*.

BHB VAT Group

The BHB VAT Group (SFRO - Owners sponsorship), met on Tuesday 22 May. Group Chairman, Jeff Ennis MP, updated the group on various topical agenda items, including the SFRO sponsorship income to date; 2007 seems on target to match or better 2006's total of £5.8m. Currently 78% of horses in training are sponsored - this figure has remained pretty static over the past two years. It was also reported that the number of SFRO compliance warnings to trainers had reduced over the past few months.

Mary-Ann Sandercock

SPONSORSHIP

Hands and Heels and Training Series

The two apprentice development series, The Pertemps People Development Apprentice Series and The Betfair Apprentice Training Series are now well underway. The new mandatory course walk with the Jockey Coach rule is working well – participating rider's agents, trainers or the apprentices themselves are contacted the day before to remind them of the new rule and it now seems to be recognised and well supported by riders and their trainers.

The Racing Post has confirmed it will again sponsor the Racing Post Hands and Heels Jumps Series for the 2007/08 season and a new Conditional Training Se-

ries is being constructed for next season. This will consist of 8 races for conditional jockeys that have ridden 20 or less winners at the start of the season. As with the Hands and Heels series, a British Racing School Jockey Coach will walk the course with riders and carry out a review of the race in the Stewards room immediately following the trophy presentation (both these elements are mandatory). In the Conditional Training Series riders will be permitted to use their whips. Further details of new Conditional Training Series will be announced shortly.

Mary-Ann Sandercock

Marketing Week

“Corporate Hospitality and Party Book 08” Advertising

A few years ago Marketing Week offered RCA member racecourses advertising discounts for their Corporate Hospitality and Party Book publication and many racecourses took up the offer. For the 2008 edition they have again offered discounted rates for RCA members and if racecourses are interested in advertising in the publication would they please contact Caroline Crosbie as detailed below:

- Are you looking to target the Corporate Market? Want to reach decision makers and senior managers with your marketing communications? Then why not consider **Marketing Week's “Corporate Hospitality and Party Book ‘08”**?
- The book will be published in March '08 so as to fall on the same week as the RSVP show, the biggest show in the special events and party industry. **6,000** copies will be distributed to carefully selected sectors of our circulation, all of whom we can guarantee have budget responsibility of at least **£250,000**.
- To learn about the discount for Racecourse Association members please call Caroline Crosbie on 0207 970 6302.

Mary-Ann Sandercock

HRA

Turftrax GoingStick

The Turftrax team will be producing an interim user and going comparison report at the beginning of June, and have also put together the attached best practice reminder.

Clerks of the Course are asked to continue to provide feedback on their GoingStick usage/readings to the HRA Racecourse Department. This information will be included in the formal six month review of the validation project, which will take place in the autumn.

In the meantime Turftrax would ask all courses to immediately (including weekends if applicable) contact their technical support number (01234 821750) if a Stick

appears to have sustained any hardware or software damage/malfunction, or if you have any download Software difficulties. They can also be emailed at: going.reports@turftrax.co.uk.

Furthermore, and whilst beyond the scope of the HRA's March Q and A circular, Flat and Sunday NH Clerks of the Course are asked to provide a "day before racing" GoingStick reading if possible. This would be included alongside the official update and ensures that a GoingStick reading will appear in the Racing Post card on the day of racing.

Fraser Garrity

Stableyard Disinfection Certificates of Compliance (HRAGI 7.2 Para 7)

Stable Managers and Clerks of the Course are reminded of the need to keep a written record of stables and Sampling Unit boxes disinfection from meeting to meeting. Veterinary Officers will review these records in the months ahead.

Fraser Garrity

Dolling of Courses/Movement of Rail During a 2+ day Meeting (HRAGI 3.2)

Following a couple of recent cases where a journalist has queried the official race distance on the basis of his analysis of finishing times, Clerks of the Course should look to include any relevant rail movement details alongside their going report information that is sent to Weatherbys (see new HRAGI 3.2 Para 29 dated April 2007).

These details (as well as e.g. watering plans) are particularly beneficial to connections (and the betting public) if sent out in a pre - fixture press release in the run up to staging a two or more day meeting.

Fraser Garrity

Raceday Briefing on Starts/Start Positions (HRAGI 10.1 Para 3)

In light of an incident last month when a Flat race was almost run from a slip - railed position which was not an official start, Clerks of the Course are asked to review HRAGI 10.1 Para 3 and ensure that Stalls Team Leaders attend a pre-racing briefing to confirm they are aware of the location of the day's starts, the positioning of the stalls and the route to each start.

Fraser Garrity

HORSERACE BETTING LEVY BOARD

New Research to Improve Racehorse Welfare

Investigation of joint disease, strangles and sarcoids, together with continuing support for infectious disease surveillance, are among key initiatives to be funded from the Levy Board's £1.78m veterinary budget for 2007/08. The commitment, made by the Board on the advice of its Veterinary Advisory Committee (VAC), is designed to improve the health and welfare of the racing and breeding Thoroughbred.

Over £1M will support new research projects, covering a wide range of issues of interest, including a jointly funded Levy Board and TBA project to test the efficacy of a potential new vaccine for strangles. Other projects will work towards improved understand-

ing of the factors leading to palmar osteochondral disease, improved diagnosis of septic shock in foals, a route to the effective treatment of sarcoids and clarification as to why some horses become long term carriers of strangles after infection.

£352,000 will support post-graduate equine veterinary education through 2 new Research Scholarships and 2 new Clinical Scholarships. Support of infectious disease surveillance at the Animal Health Trust will continue, along with funding for the equine influenza programme.

In every breeding season, avoiding venereal disease is of paramount concern, in 2007, the Levy Board will again publish the Codes of

Practice, which are updated annually to ensure that the most up-to-date advice on disease prevention and control is available to Thoroughbred breeders.

Levy Board Chairman, Robert Hughes, said, "The Board's commitment to improving the welfare of racing and breeding Thoroughbreds is again demonstrated through its continued support for veterinary research, education and disease surveillance. Its contribution is designed to have a significant impact on the management of Thoroughbred health problems".

For further information, contact Libby Archer, Scientific Liaison Executive, The Horseracing Betting Levy Board on: 020 7333 0043.

RACETECH

RaceTech – Consultancy services – CCTV/PA and cabling

With many racecourse managers having to juggle a whole plethora of concerns and considerations, it is sometimes easy to overlook managing and maintaining existing equipment. As part of RaceTech's commitment to the racecourses, we can advise you on average life span of indoor and outdoor PA equipment, as well as assist you to manage your AV assets and CCTVs. No-one likes nasty surprises or unexpected bills, so please talk to us about your PA and AV and we can set your expectations for likely future expenditure and when you need to allocate budgets for new kit. Nothing lasts forever and you need to ensure that your equipment is fit for purpose and operational to ensure that you can comply with the necessary Health and Safety regulations and also make sure that your racegoers have the best day out that we can give them – able to see and hear the action.

As and when you require new LCDs/PA equipment etc., don't forget that RaceTech has negotiated bulk buying terms for most types and makes of TV and public address systems. We can pass on those benefits to you, and if required, can install the equipment at competitive rates.

For bigger capital projects – new grandstands, moves and changes, RaceTech can offer you a comprehensive service – from conception, design and consultancy services to delivery of the project, installation, cabling and set up. Broadcast, CCTV and PA on racecourses throw up unique challenges to contend with, combining inside acoustics with outdoor requirements. RaceTech have more experience than anyone, bar none, of this environment, and can advise you from every angle.

Catherine Pullan 07976 432271

BETTING

The Gambling Act 2005

Racecourses will be aware that in advance of the introduction of the Gambling Act 2005 on 1 September 2007 they will need to make an application for a premises licence under the new legislation.

The RCA has previously advised all racecourses to delay submitting their application until a number of issues raised at the RCA Gambling Act Workshops in April have been clarified. These issues include the requirement for plans to accompany the premises licence application, Occasional Use Notices and arrangements for point to points, Arab racing and other sporting events held on racecourse property.

The RCA Gambling Legislation Group has investigated these issues, and liaised with DCMS, the Gambling Commission, LACORS, the NJPC and Bookmaker Associations in order to develop guidance for racecourses which has been finalised and will be distributed to racecourses by no later than 13 June 2007. This should allow racecourses sufficient time to submit their applications in advance of the deadline of 31 July 2007. If applications are submitted after this date continuation rights from 1 September cannot be guaranteed.

The RCA is also in the process of compiling a Frequently Asked Questions document for distribution to all racecourses in order to address a number of common concerns which racecourses may have. This will be reviewed by the RCA Gambling Legislation Group at their next meeting on 3 July 2007 and distributed to racecourses shortly afterwards.

In addition, the RCA Gambling Legislation Group is continuing to liaise with relevant organisations regarding arrangements for the future administration of on-course bookmaking, and bookmaker numbers. Further information on these issues will be distributed to racecourses when available.

Caroline Davies or Holly Roberts

TECHNICAL

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.

The event is designed to appeal to Clerks of the Course and other members of racecourse management teams such as Racecourse Managers, Marketing and Operational Managers, and Racecourse Directors, who would be very welcome to attend for all or some of the programme.

Monday's programme will feature presentations on the Fixture Review, the BHA and TRICL IV as well as presentations from the Tote and Cranfield University. Tuesday's programme concentrates on medical and veterinary issues, and will provide an opportunity to view the excellent facilities available at Aintree Racecourse.

As is traditional, there will be a reception and dinner which will be sponsored by Fornells and supported by Letherby & Christopher on the Monday evening, with a guest speaker after dinner.

Holly Roberts

TECHNICAL

Anti-Microbials

Racecourses are asked to make available to the valets a supply of Virkon, for the cleaning of girths and such.

Holly Robarts

Weather Report

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

April was a very dry month, with all of our regions receiving well below average rainfall. Overall, rainfall across England and Wales as a whole was the lowest monthly total since the end of 2002. Soil moisture deficits increased markedly in all of our regions following the dry and warm weather and are significantly higher than the same period last year. Monthly mean flows decreased at all indicator sites and all but two sites dropped by at least one class, with over one third falling three or more classes. Five sites are *exceptionally low* for the time of year, while less than one quarter are *normal* or higher. Groundwater levels decreased at approximately two thirds of all sites, though levels increased slightly in the slower responding aquifers. Five sites are lower than *normal*, all but one of which is in our Midlands Region where two sites remain *exceptionally low*. Reservoir storage decreased in all but our Anglian Region where it remained un-

changed. Ten reservoirs or reservoir groups are *below normal*. Overall storage for England and Wales decreased by 6% to 90%. Storage in our Thames and Southern Regions has dropped below that recorded in April 1996.

Rainfall: Dominant high pressure led to dry and warm conditions for much of the month, with all of our regions receiving well below average rainfall.

Soil Moisture Deficit: Soil moisture deficit (SMD) increased by between 30mm and 60mm since the end of March.

River Flows: Monthly mean flows decreased at all indicator sites since March. All but one of the regional index sites are lower than normal, and four are lower than April 1976.

Groundwater Levels: Groundwater levels decreased at two thirds of all indicator sites during April, with the largest decreases in the more responsive chalk aquifers in southern England.

Reservoir Storage: Reservoir storage remained unchanged in our Anglian Region but fell by between 4% and 10% elsewhere.

SAFETY

Temporary Demountable Structures

Form 14 May 2007 the new third edition of Temporary demountable structures: guidance on procurement, design and use compiled by IStrutE is available. The press release issued by IStrutE had been forwarded to all Racecourse Managers and Racecourse Health and Safety Contacts for information.

Should you wish to obtain a copy of the document, you can do so by visiting <http://www.istructe.org/publications/pubdetails.asp?pid=138> or by calling 0207 235 4535. Further information, and sample pages from the document can also be viewed on the website. The cost of the publication is £40.00.

Holly Robarts

SAFETY

Sustainable Events Management

The British Standards Institution (BSI) has prepared for consultation, the world's first national standard in sustainable event management. This is designed to provide good practice requirements for planning and managing sustainable events and will encompass the complete range of events and assist in demonstrating a commitment to sustainability.

The draft document has been reviewed by the RCA, and whilst it is not anticipated that a re-

sponse to the consultation will be necessary, racecourses may wish to consider adopting the standard as part of their social responsibility policy.

The specification of this standard with guidance for use is now available as a Draft for Public Comment (DPC) prior to its publication in the autumn.

To download a copy of the draft visit www.bsi-global.com/bs8901.

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). Courses are 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
Advanced Course:	York Racecourse	10-15 February 2008
Foundation Course:	Cheltenham Racecourse	20-25 April 2008
Intermediate Course:	British Racing School, Newmarket	16-21 November 2008

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 Robarts

BADGES & PASS

Officials Badges

In line with the RCA Badge Review, all HRA and BHB badges have now been replaced, with either RCA badges, or where appropriate Officials badges.

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.

Officials employed on a casual basis have received an "O" car park label, but will continue to use the pass issued by the HRA, and will not have metal badges.

In light of the changes racecourses are asked to no longer recognise the HRA and BHB badges for racecourse admittance, but are asked to continue to recognise the pass used by casuals.

Holly Roberts

Lost badges

The RCA has been informed by the NTF that a number of their members have had their badges stolen from their binoculars or handbags by the cords being cut. Racecourses are asked to be vigilant with regard to the use of **all** badges, and to challenge any person using a badge without a cord.

Should a badge without a cord, or any badge which has been reported missing, be presented it should be confiscated and returned to the RCA or NTF. In the event that the badge has not been stolen, and the cord has legitimately broken, a replacement badge will then be issued.

Holly Roberts

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 Roberts

RCA and Press Badge Lists

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

Holly Roberts

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 Roberts

Missing Badges

RCA: 151, 152, 153, 154, 256, 257, 269, 316, 372, 426, 448, 459, 552, 1030, 1146, 1147

Press: 76, 153, 220, 264, 416, 420, 425, 515

JAGB: 26, 66, 281, 291, 332, 356, 363, 410, 448, 451, 452, 495, 546, 566, 586

NTF: 383, 470, 544, 545, 793, 851, 1318, 1319, 1405, 1559, 1583

Officials: No British Horseracing Officials Badges have been reported missing

RACING REGISTER

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

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

July

- 8 Saturday - Ladies Day – Sandown
- 10 Monday - Dubai International Arabian Raceday Press Conference, Jumeirah Carlton Tower Hotel, London
- 11 Tuesday - 14 Saturday - Tattersalls July Sale -Park Paddocks - Newmarket
- 17 Monday - Jockey Club Press Briefing – London TBC
- 19 Wednesday - Goodwood Media Event
- 23 Sunday - Dubai International Arabian Raceday – Newbury
- 23 Sunday - Epsom Open Day – Epsom
- 25 Tuesday - ROA Council Meeting
- 29 Saturday - De Beers Diamond Day – Ascot
- 30 Sunday - Hong Kong Day - Ascot

August

- 1 Tuesday - Glorious Goodwood Media Dinner – Goodwood House
- 1 Tuesday - 5 Saturday - Glorious Goodwood
- 6 Sunday - 7 Monday - National Broodmare & Mixed Bloodstock Sale
- 8 Tuesday - 10 Thursday - Doncaster Bloodstock Sales
- 10 Thursday - Dubai Duty Free Shergar Cup Draw - Ascot
- 12 Saturday - Dubai Duty Free Shergar Cup – Ascot
- 29 Tuesday - 31 Thursday - St. Leger Yearlings Sale – Doncaster Bloodstock Sales

September

- 15 Friday - Haynes Hanson and Clark drinks party - Newbury
- 16 Saturday - Dubai Duty Free Media Luncheon – Newbury
- 26 Tuesday - ROA Council Meeting

SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Spotlight On

Amy Starkey
Racecourse Manager—Huntingdon



Age	26 (Just)
Marital Status/ Children/Pets	Living with Mark
Previous Career(s)	Not applicable - always wanted to be in Racing
Best Bits About Your Job	Everything!
Worst Bit About Your Job	Industry issues
Best Racing Experience(s)	Everytime I go Racing! I also met Mark whilst working at Newcastle!
Worst Racing Experience	When I don't win money!
Racing Hero	Sir Stanley Clarke - For his unfaltering drive and attention to detail
Most Fanciable Racing Personality	Have not met him yet!!!!!!
Hobbies	Racing, Eating and drinking too much red wine!?!)
Favourite Film & TV	FAV Film - Bridget Jones (Especially the Skiing bit!!), FAV TV - Racing UK!!
Favourite Holiday Destination	Dubai for the World Cup or Cyprus for a relaxing break
Current Wheels	BMW 1 Series
One Wish To Improve the Industry	For us all to work together. We all do our jobs because we love Racing and should never lose sight of that!!

DIARY DATES

26 June	BHB Race Planning Committee
27 June	RaceTech Board
2 July	RCA Race Planning Group
3 July	RCA AGM
3 July	RCA Centenary Reception
19 July	RCA Legal Group

ATTACHMENTS

The Racegoers Club - Spring Newsletter
The Racegoers Club - Social Diary
TurfTrax GoingStick – Best Practice Reminder

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