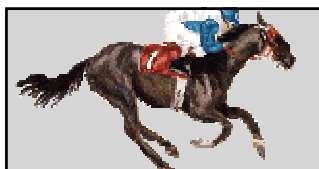


## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

### Government Changes

The Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP, who succeeded Tony Blair as Prime Minister on 27 June 2007, has named his new Cabinet. There are a number of changes of significant interest to the Racing Industry and racecourses, particularly at the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.



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Tessa Jowell has been succeeded as Secretary of State by James Purnell, member for Stalybridge and Hyde. Mr Purnell was previously responsible for Creative Industries, Media and Tourism at the DCMS. Mrs Jowell has been appointed Minister for the Olympics and Minister for London.

Richard Caborn has been succeeded as Minister for Sport by Gerry Sutcliffe, member for Bradford South. Mr Sutcliffe was previously Minister for Prisons and the Probation Service at the Home Office. Mr Caborn becomes Ambassador for the 2018 World Cup.

Mr Sutcliffe responded on behalf of the Government, on 4 July, at the Westminster Debate on on-course bookmakers and the effect of the Gambling Act. (see page 9-10)

The RCA is most grateful to Mr Caborn for his support for and keen interest in horseracing, particularly his key role in the modernisation of the sport. The RCA has granted him lifetime badges in recognition of his contribution.

*Stephen Atkin*

### RCA Centenary Celebration

The RCA celebrated its centenary on Tuesday 3 July with an evening reception at One Whitehall Place, London, which was attended by over 100 guests including representatives from racecourses, government and the industry.

Excellent speeches were given by RCA Chairman David Thorpe, John Sanderson, Sir Tristram Ricketts, Bt and the Rt Hon Richard Caborn.

An enjoyable evening was had by all and we would like to thank everyone that attended and we look forward to the next 100 years of continued RCA success.

*Stephen Atkin & Lizzie Lea*

### Caroline Davies Promoted

The RCA Board is delighted to announce, with effect from 1 July 2007, the promotion of Caroline Davies to the position of Racecourse Services Director. Caroline joined the RCA in February 1991 and was promoted to her current position of Racecourse Services Executive in 1995. The Board and her fellow colleagues wish her every success in her new role.

The composition of the RCA Board remains unchanged.

*Stephen Atkin*

## RACE PLANNING

### 2008 Fixture List

It is anticipated that the 2008 Fixture List will be published on 19 July. A total of 1,504 fixtures will be staged in 2008, which is an increase of 89 on 2007, mainly due to the evening opening of betting shops. The split is as follows: 1203 Racecourse Fixtures, 270 BHB Fixtures, 1 Self-Funded and 30 Enterprise Fixtures. This year 168 fixtures were auc-

tioned on-line with the majority of racecourses taking part; all of the fixtures were sold at the code initially advertised and at a total price of £1,047,900. The amount accrued for the Development Fund accumulated a total of £572,000 plus the funds from 2007 will almost come to £1.5m. *Carla Moore*

### 2008 Merit Table and Betting Turnover Data

On 29 May the Levy Board circulated the details of the 2008 Flat and Jump Merit Tables that will be used for calculating the 2008 Basic Daily Rates (BDR). The data for the compilation of the tables has been supplied by Weatherbys and the BHB's Racing Department from racecourses' executive and sponsorship contributions to prize money for racecourse fixtures only, averaged over 2004 - 2006. *Carla Moore*

### Early Closing Races / Embargoed Information

Racecourse Managers should be aware that the BHB intends to alter the current arrangements for Early Closing races this year. Currently, these close on a Wednesday with the data released the following Thursday. The BHB is planning to use the same closing day of Wednesday, but the data will be put on the BHB Administration Website the next day. On request, the process can be lengthened to 48-hours. For 2008, the closing date will change from a Wednesday to a Tuesday, with data being released the following day. *Carla Moore*

### Race Times – Fourth Quarter

The Race Times Working Party will meet on Tuesday 17 July to confirm the race times for October through to December. The RCA Executive circulated the draft times for that particular Quarter to all Racecourse Managers and Clerks of the Course on 5 July for comments. *Carla Moore*

### New Mares' Races

The Jump Racing Committee (JRC) approved 6 new Mares' Pattern/Listed races. There will now be a total of 11 such races for Mares in the 2007/08 season.

<b>Listed races</b>	Wetherby	3 November 2007	2m	
	Kempton	27 November 2007	2m 5f	
	Sandown	5 January 2008	2m 4f	
<b>Grade 2 races</b>	Ascot	19 January 2008	3m	
	Doncaster	26 January 2008	2m	
	Cheltenham	14 March 2008	2m 4½f	<i>Carla Moore</i>

### Jump Pattern Upgrades

The JRC received 5 applications for upgrade to Grade 1, 3 of which were approved:

•	Victor Chandler Chase	2m 1f	Ascot	mid-January	
•	Festival Trophy Chase	2m 5f	Cheltenham	mid-March	
•	Spa Novices' Hurdle Race	3m	Cheltenham	mid-March	<i>Carla Moore</i>

## RACE PLANNING

### Report from the Jump Race Committee

**Kingmaker Novices' Steeple Chase:** If this race at Warwick is abandoned next year it would be transferred to Wincanton. However, the Class 3 Novices' Steeple Chase on Wincanton's card would also be run in its existing form, so that no horses lost an opportunity to run.

**End of season review of Pattern and Listed races:** Many Pattern and Listed races surpassed the parameters and there are probably some races outside the Pattern which would qualify as black-type contests purely if measured on ratings. It was decided that the current policy of providing a Pattern of opportunities should be adhered to rather than let more races in which would compete against each other for runners.

**The Ascot Steeple Chase:** The distance has lengthened from 2m 3f to 2m 5½f in order to maintain the former attraction to those horses

suitable to beyond 2m 4f rather than catering for those requiring a shorter trip.

**Classification statistics of horses rated 140 and above:** The number of quality British horses had increased significantly over the past 10 years. This is not due to a change in handicapping, but because of the influx of high class French bred horses being bought to run in Britain and a greater commercialisation of Irish breeding.

**Graduation Steeple Chases:** 4yo horses will be allowed to run in Graduation Steeple Chases.

**Irish Handicapping Issues:** There is still some disparity between British and Irish ratings. The BHB has therefore agreed that Jumps Handicappers could, at their discretion, refuse to give a rating to Irish horses which were unsighted in a race. *Carla Moore*

### Selling Races

The RCA Board has agreed that auctions following Selling races should be carried out consistent with the advertised race conditions for that particular race, i.e. if the race conditions state that the winning horse will be sold in sterling then the post-race auction should be conducted in sterling. Alternatively if you would like to conduct the auction in guineas then the race conditions should state that the winning horse will be sold in guineas. *Carla*

### Fixture Review

The RCA welcomes the BHA's Strategic Review of the Fixture List and looks forward to participating in the Review. It has tasked its Fixture Policy Group with co-ordinating the RCA's views. It met on 15 June and agreed that the Review should be as comprehensive as possible within the proposed timescale. The availability of detailed data from the betting industry is vital to the whole Review process. Without such information the conclusions of the Review would be questionable, to say the least.

It is clear that the BHA has set itself a challenging timetable. It is therefore felt important that the BHA prioritises in order that recommendations can be considered for the 2009 fixture list process. The RCA proposed that the Review concentrates initially on the following aspects:

1. Levy generation – understanding the value of each fixture
2. Narrative of the seasons – taking into account the views, amongst others, of the media and press
3. Needs of the horse population – does the current programme work; is there the optimum number of Pattern/Listed races?
4. The consideration of Jump racing as a distinct aspect of the Review
5. Regional balance – the importance of a geographical spread and the avoidance of close proximity fixture clashes certainly of the same code

*Carla Moore*

## RACE PLANNING

### Double Declarations

The BHB Race Planning Committee (RPC) will recommend to the HRA that races which take place on different days, but for which declarations are made on the same day, should be treated in the same way as if they were run on the same day in terms of double declarations and the application of Rule 144 (iii). It is unlikely to result in a significant increase in the number of double declarations and non-runners. Many Jump programmes on Sunday, which would be affected by declarations on the same day as Saturday, do not feature races of high enough class to permit double declarations.

*Carla Moore*

### Enterprise Fixtures

The allocation of Enterprise fixtures was held on 14 June at the Montcalm Hotel, London. There was a good turn-out and selections went off to a flying start and it turned out that the meeting had to go through the list twice! The 10 minute decision time available to racecourses was much appreciated, especially towards the end of the allocation process. All summer slots were selected and only 5 winter/spring dates did not attract any takers. These will be put forward for next year's process.

*Carla Moore*

### AQPS Races

The project to allow horses that have run in AQPS (French) races to run in Bumpers and NH Hurdles has been temporarily put on hold. It has been agreed that in the meantime AQPS races will be treated as Bumpers, so it will be possible that a winner of such a race will be eligible to run in a Flat Maiden race in Britain. The situation will be monitored and, if necessary, reviewed in time if AQPS horses achieve an unacceptable strike rate.

*Carla Moore*

### Basic Weight in Nursery Handicaps

At its June meeting the RPC discussed the basic weights in Nurseries and concluded that it was content with the current weight structure where 2-yos in general do not carry weights above 9st 7lb.

*Carla Moore*

### 48-Hour Declarations

At the end of July, the BHB/BHA will conduct a review of 48-hour declarations. The procedures for Flat racing will then have been in place for a year.

*Carla Moore*

### Division Times

Recently there was an instance where the division of maiden races on a Saturday afternoon had been placed last on a card, resulting in problems for jockeys taking rides at evening meetings on that day. There is currently no General Instruction or Rule governing the position of divisions, but the BHB is keen to establish a mechanism whereby the setting of division times is regulated. However, the RCA feels that Racecourses should act sensi-

bly and take into consideration the needs of trainers and jockeys when deciding on the time of a division. It is fair to say that normally there are not many divisions at this time of year, so it must be an isolated incident. It should also be remembered that from a betting point of view a continuous programme of races is better than one with a gap in the middle.

*Carla Moore*

## RACE PLANNING

### Race Planning Group

The RCA Race Planning Group met on Tuesday 3 July. The Racecourses were represented by Nick Lees, Ian Renton, Michael Prosser, James Hutchinson, Bill Farnsworth, 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 10 July. A summary of the discussion is below:

**Embargoed Information:** The Group was informed that a meeting had been arranged between Stephen Wallis, Andrew Cooper, Richard Wayman, Stuart Middleton and Carla Moore to discuss the entry closing details for the Vodafone Derby, on Tuesday 10 July.

**RCA/NTF Race Planning Meetings:** The Group noted the dates confirmed for the 3 regional meetings:

Cheltenham Racecourse on 17 September  
Newcastle Racecourse on 19 September  
Newmarket Racecourse on 24 September

The RCA would distribute the agenda and joining letter prior to the meetings. Those attending would include RCA Technical and Race Planning Group representatives.

**Race Divisions:** Due to a clash between races from afternoon fixtures and evening meetings there had been some concern from the BHB. The Group after some deliberation concluded that there could be more co-operation and coordination between racecourses but that they should still be able to decide the timing of a divided race.

**Fixture List:** Following a request from MK to increase the minimum bid for BHB Fixtures the Group decided that the minimum bid should remain the same as quite often those bought for £100 were on less attractive slots.

It was suggested that racecourses be allowed to move prize money from one BHB

Fixture to another. The Group felt that it did not make sense to have more prize money on a less attractive day when it could be distributed elsewhere. The RCA was asked to approach the BHB.

**Enterprise Fixtures:** The Group was happy with how the process went and suggested only minor tweaks for next year. It was noted that 9 slots would be available for Enterprise Fixtures in 2009 although the RCA would enquire whether anymore could be opened.

**BHA Fixture Review:** The Group was updated on the work of the Fixture Policy Group and its submission to BHA.

**2008 Minimum Values:** The Group decided that in the event that there was a reduction to the HBLB prize money pool for 2008, minimum values should be reduced across the board.

**48 Hour Declarations:** The Group recommended that an overview of how declarations were distributed abroad should be given at the RCA Clerks of the Course seminar in November.

**Race Off Times:** Due to concerns raised by Andrew Franklin (Channel 4), the Group considered how race off times could be improved. Although it was reluctant to recommend the introduction of a system to coordinate start times because races would become compounded, it was agreed that the RCA should do some research on the system used in Australia.

**HBLB 7<sup>th</sup> Race Fund:** The Group decided that in the event of a reduction to the HBLB prize money pool for 2008 a pro rata reduction should be applied.

**Safety Factor Clarification:** The RCA was asked to clarify whether a Turf racecourse could reduce its safety factors after declarations in the event of bad weather etc.

*Laura Holmes*

## RACE PLANNING

### Jump Race Development Group

The Jump Race Development Group met on Monday 11 June 2007, and Caroline Davies attended on behalf of the RCA. A summary of the discussion is outlined below:

**International Meeting of Jump Racing:**

It was reported that a date had been proposed for a meeting of the International Jump Racing countries.

**Anglo Jump Awards:** The Group passed its congratulations to all those recognised by the Anglo Jump Awards.

**Order of Merit:** It was confirmed that the Order of Merit was viewed to be well established, and that it would be discussed further by the BHA. The Group was also informed that investigations into a new sponsor were proving positive.

**Pony Racing Authority:** The Group was informed that the Pony Racing Authority had been established, and that the popularity of Pony Racing was continuing.

**Summer Jumping:** It was reported that a Summer Jumping Workshop for Clerks of the Course and Trainers had been staged, and was well received by all attendees.

**BHA:** An update on the progress with establishment of the BHA was provided, and that a key priority of the organisation

would be the review of the fixture list.

**Future Voice of Jump Racing:** The Group agreed that it was necessary to consider the future for Jump Racing, but to ensure that there was limited duplication with other groups or organisations.

**Strategic Review of Fixture List:** The JRDG will make a submission to the Review of the Fixture List.

**Mares Races:** A paper regarding Mares Races was tabled and it was agreed that publicity was necessary in order to encourage runners.

**Trend in Chasers Rates 140+:** It was reported that there was an encouraging trend in high quality horses. The figures for hurdlers also displayed a greater consistency with regard to quality.

**Point to Point Review:** The Point to Point Review was tabled, and it was noted that the 2007 season had been highly successful, but that improvements to marketing and the financial status should be investigated.

**Replacement Fixtures:** It was proposed that where a high profile Saturday fixture was lost, it could be moved and that this should be raised for consideration within the fixture review.

*Carla Moore / Laura Holmes*



## RACE PLANNING

### Analysis of Claims in Claiming/Selling Races

Please find below an analysis of claims made in claiming/selling races from January to June of 2006 and 2007. Even though the number of both types of race has dropped from last year (mainly due to the number of abandonments) the activity, i.e. the number of claims has increased.

*Laura Holmes*

	Jan 06	Jan 07	Feb 06	Feb 07	Mar 06	Mar 07	Apr 06	Apr 07	May 06	May 07	Jun 06	Jun 07
Number of Claiming/Selling races in period	56	51	53	42	52	45	51	55	72	63	84	76
Claims received by telephone	140	92	145	83	73	92	142	106	135	154	172	197
Claims from the racecourse	18	6	13	12	7	14	16	7	22	14	22	15
Sole friendly claims - telephone	39	30	53	34	29	33	41	35	52	46	68	49
Sole friendly claims - racecourse	10	2	8	7	5	11	12	4	15	8	15	10
Contested telephone claims	90	50	82	52	38	48	91	61	72	95	86	134
Of which, successful	26	18	26	12	12	13	19	12	24	26	24	27
Hostile telephone claims (where none from racecourse) horses	27	25	30	14	14	21	19	18	33	27	27	34
Hostile telephone claims (where none from racecourse) bids	67	48	67	42	37	40	44	49	65	58	55	84

## BRITISH HORSERACING BOARD

### Strong Recognition for Careersinracing at Prestigious Recruitment Marketing Awards

The British Horseracing Board's recruitment and training brand Careersinracing and its website [careersinracing.com](http://careersinracing.com) has finished runner-up to McDonald's – one of the most familiar brands in the world – in the Employer Brand category at the CIPD Recruitment Marketing Awards, held in partnership with The Guardian.

The Careersinracing brand has gone from strength to strength since its launch in 2006, and has seen website figures double in the last year to around 8000 visitors a month. The online Job Board has been particularly popular amongst employers, with over 400 registered candidates and an average of 20 jobs listed on the site at any one time.

The Job Board is free for all employers wishing to advertise their vacancies, and frequent advertising to both candidates and

employers is used to demonstrate the benefits of the website as a job search and recruitment tool.

Sara Hay-Jahans, Head of Industry Recruitment and Training said: "We are delighted to receive such recognition at these awards, especially against competitors who have established world-wide brands and have seven-figure campaign budgets. We have had great support from within the racing industry for all the work we have been doing with careersinracing.com and our recruitment campaigns, but to receive praise from recruitment specialists from other industries is particularly rewarding."

*For further information, please contact BHB Marketing and PR Executive Lucy Watson on 020 7152 0048.*

## PROMOTIONS

### British Horseracing Call Centre

Since the start of April the RCA Promotions department has assumed the role of call centre for the British Horseracing website. 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
June	597	2,610	£41,485	1,493	5,801	£123,853
<b>Total</b>	1,394	6,482	£129,017	3,035	13,116	275,386
	(-54%)	(-51%)	(-53%)			

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

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

June 2007 saw orders taken on behalf of 36 different courses (38 last June)

*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	13 May	Plumpton	98
11 March	Market Rasen	42	13 May	Worcester	140
11 March	Warwick	20	20 May	Market Rasen	134
18 March	Carlisle	42	27 May	Fontwell Park	134
18 March	Fontwell Park	40	27 May	Uttoxeter	250
25 March	Kempton Park	50	3 June	Brighton	40
25 March	Worcester †	36	10 June	Bath	182
1 April	Hexham	36	10 June	Stratford	204
1 April	Lingfield Park	92	17 June	Salisbury	234
8 April	Musselburgh	12	24 June	Hexham	34
15 April	Kelso	64	24 June	Pontefract	402
15 April	Market Rasen	120	24 June	Warwick	102
15 April	Worcester	102	1 July	Salisbury*	68
22 April	Southwell	110	1 July	Windsor*	286
29 April	Brighton	92	8 July	Ayr	38
6 May	Hamilton	32	8 July	Market Rasen	270
6 May	Newmarket	968	15 July	Haydock Park	500
6 May	Salisbury	118	15 July	Perth	100
TOTAL TICKET SALES					5,284

\* subsequently abandoned

† subsequently transferred

*John Phillips or Valerie Larue*

## PROMOTIONS

### Group Sales

As at 30 June bookings stood at 155 valued at £82,049.

*Paul Smith*

### Special Events Diary

This can be viewed on the RCA website, [www.britishracecourses.org](http://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

### Owners Groups

Nearly 70 members of Owners Group 24 enjoyed a stable visit to Dandy Nicholls' yard in June. Their horse, Maia, then ran at Pontefract later in June, but was unsuited by the soft going and finished unplaced.

Share owners from Owners Group 21 have been invited to renew their interest in Senora Snoopy for the forthcoming National Hunt season in Owners Group 25. A new group, Owners Group 26, will be formed for the 2007/08 National Hunt season. This will be an exciting double group with two horses to be trained by Philip Hobbs and Alan King. Details of this group will be sent to members along with the next Club newsletter at the end of July.

*Paul Smith or John Phillips*

## SPONSORSHIP

### Jump Racing Focus

All jump racecourses will have been contacted about the 2007/2008 edition of Jump Racing Focus. The first edition of Jump Racing Focus for the 2006/2007 Jump Season, designed to promote British Jump Racing to sponsors and commercial investors, was published last Autumn. The booklet received very positive reviews from the national and trade press and generated commercial interest and indeed new sponsorship for Jump Racing.

I am currently in the process of collating various facts and figures for the booklet and have recently contacted courses regarding sponsorship data. Many thanks for your assistance in providing these figures, which will be treated in the strictest of confidence – it is extremely important that potential investors have an overview of the cumulative value of sponsorship in jump racing and the business sectors that this investment comes from.

In order that we can establish the size of the print run, we would like to offer all jump racecourses 10 complimentary copies of the booklet to send to existing and potential sponsors. Should racecourses require more copies would they please let me know – additional copies are available at £10 each.

Jump racecourses were sent a copy of the 2006/2007 booklet, but several racecourse personnel I have spoken to do not recall seeing it – if you would like me to send you a copy of last season's booklet I have some spares and would be happy to do so. Alternatively, a PDF copy of Jump Racing Focus can be downloaded from [www.jump-racing.com](http://www.jump-racing.com).

*Mary-Ann Sandercock*

## RACETECH

### Making Your CCTV Programmes Work Harder For You

RaceTech is a mine of information, experience and expertise that racecourses can dip into when they need help on a variety of technical issues. One area that we are really trying to assist with is racecourse CCTV, and how to maximise the benefits to racegoers of all those TVs dotted around the racecourse.

To help guide racecourse managers, we have produced a very simple checklist of things to consider when deciding where and when to spend money on CCTV programming. We have already helped a number of racecourses to brand their CCTV service more strongly

with their own livery colours/messages to make the whole production look more professional and encourage racegoers to go where you want/do what you want them to do, as well as being an invaluable information tool. If you would like a copy of the checklist, please contact Catherine Pullan at RaceTech ([cpullan@racetech.co.uk](mailto:cpullan@racetech.co.uk)). For more in depth assistance, RaceTech now offer a full programming service, whereby we can design, project manage and deliver the CCTV programme to your outline specifications, to help you to achieve your business objectives on racedays.

*Catherine Pullan*

### Big Screen Update

RaceTech is no longer operating the Big Screens on behalf of the Tote. If you experience issues with the Big Screens, you are advised to approach the operators on the day. RaceTech can provide a programming consultancy service to racecourses who want advice or help on content and the RaceTech MCR will continue to provide a feed of racing action to the Big Screen operators. If you have any questions or issues regarding Big Screens, please do not hesitate to contact us.

*Catherine Pullan 07976 432271*

### Scottish Racing Big Screen

Scottish Racing has purchased Screen 3, the big screen previously owned by Racetech. The screen, which is thirty square metres in size and is mounted on the back of a lorry trailer, has been pressed into service at the Scottish tracks with immediate effect and will service nearly all of Scotland's ninety-nine fixtures in 2008.

The screen will also be available for use at other events throughout the year. If you are interested in receiving a quotation, please contact Jonathan Garratt on 07771 660114 or e-mail, [info@scottishracing.co.uk](mailto:info@scottishracing.co.uk)

*Jonathan Garratt*

## BETTING

### RCA Gambling Legislation Group

There has been a change to membership of the RCA Gambling Legislation Group, John Maxse has been appointed representative for Jockey Club Racecourses.

### Premises Licence Applications

Racecourses are also reminded that in order to ensure they are guaranteed a licence or continuation rights from 1 September, their premises licence application must be submitted to their Licensing Authority by no later than 31 July 2007.

On 11 June 2007 the RCA sent guidance to racecourses regarding their premises licence applications. Any racecourse requiring a further copy of this guidance should contact Holly Robarts immediately.

*Holly Robarts*

## BETTING

### The Gambling Act

Racecourses will be aware that in 2005 the RCA formed a Gambling Legislation Group (GLG) to oversee the implementation of the Gambling Act 2005 on behalf of all racecourses. Part of the GLG's remit was to influence the significant amount of secondary legislation that has been necessary and to achieve as much flexibility for racecourses as possible.

One matter still being discussed by a Working Group including the RCA, and the bookmakers is the administration of bookmakers in existing betting areas from September 2007.

DCMS has confirmed that the administration arrangements will be subject to consultation, and therefore, it is unlikely that they will be in place for 1 September 2007. Contingency arrangements will therefore be necessary. These are currently being discussed by the Working

Group and the GLG and will be confirmed to racecourses in early August.

In line with this, the RCA sent a letter on 14 March 2007 to those involved in these discussions reflecting the GLG view that racecourses would not recognise bookmaker's list positions from 31 August 2012. As a consequence, the bookmakers have commenced a campaign of parliamentary lobbying which led to a debate in Westminster Hall on Wednesday 4 July concerning the Gambling Act 2005 and on-course bookmakers – specifically list positions and transfers

The position taken by the GLG on this matter reflects the 2003 DCMS position paper which specifically contemplated the introduction of proper commercial relations between racecourses and on-course bookmakers as recommended in the

2001 Gambling Review Report. That is why the DCMS has provided for a 5 year transitional period, during which the 5 x rule will continue, to give time to identify what those commercial relations should be.

During the debate, the Minister for Sport stated that the relevant change in legislation has been known about for a long time and that changes to that legislation are not anticipated. He has encouraged the bookmakers and racecourses to have discussions on the subject and recognises that there will be consultation on future administrative arrangements for on-course bookmakers within the next couple of months.

The RCA welcomes this approach and has already offered to speak to bookmakers on behalf of racecourses.

*Caroline Davies*

## TECHNICAL

### Weather Report

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

In contrast to late March and April, May was a very wet and unsettled month. All our regions received well above average rainfall and three of our regions received approximately twice the average. As a result, soil moisture deficits decreased significantly across all our regions during the month. Monthly mean flows increased in response to the wet weather at the majority of indicator sites; three quarters of sites increased by one or more classes. At the end of May, only five sites are *below normal* for the time of year. Groundwater levels decreased at three quarters of the indicator sites during May, though nearly three quarters of sites remain *normal* or higher for the time of year. Reservoir storage increased slightly or remained steady across all our regions with the exception of Southern, which fell by 5%. Overall storage for England

and Wales increased by 1% to 91%. Only three reservoirs or reservoir groups are *below normal* for the time of year in comparison to ten at the end of April.

**Rainfall:** All of our regions received above average rainfall during May.

**Soil Moisture Deficit:** Soil moisture deficit (SMD) decreased significantly across all our regions in response to the wet weather during May.

**River Flows:** In response to the wet weather, monthly mean flows increased at three quarters of all the indicator sites in May.

**Groundwater Levels:** Due to the dry weather in March and April groundwater levels decreased at three quarters of the indicator sites during the month.

**Reservoir Storage:** Reservoir storage fell by 5% in our Southern Region, but increased by 2% or 3% in our Anglian, Thames and North East Regions.

## TECHNICAL

### The Performing Rights Society

On 13 April 2007 the Performing Rights Society issued consultation regarding proposed alterations to their tariffs. Responses to this consultation were invited by 14 May 2007, with any revisions to the tariffs due to be introduced from 1 July 2007.

The RCA has liaised with Burges Salmon to prepare a response to this consultation, and this was submitted in advance of the consultation deadline.

However, following a number of requests, the Performing Rights Society has now extended the consultation period until 30 September 2007, and the date on which the revised charges will be introduced has yet to be determined. For licence renewals from 1 July 2007 onwards an annual invoice will be issued, with the charges to be reviewed on a pro rata basis once the revisions are introduced. In addition, the tariffs will be adjusted for inflation in September 2007 as usual.

The RCA will continue to monitor this process, and will keep racecourses informed of any alterations.

*Caroline Davies or Holly Roberts*

### 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, 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 from the BHA, Cranfield University and TurfTrax as well as a detailed session on the re-

cording, understanding and communicating of raceday data. Tuesday's programme includes presentations from the Tote and BHA Head of Handicapping. There will also be presentations on medical and veterinary issues and an opportunity to view the excellent facilities available at Aintree Racecourse.

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

*Holly Roberts*

## 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
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](mailto:iog@iog.org)

## TRAINING

### An Overview of British Racing

The next BHB Overview of British Racing Seminar will be held at Sandown Park Racecourse on 23 July 2007.

The seminar is designed for anyone who currently works in, or has an interest in, racing and would like to know more. The day begins at 9.00am and will run to 5.00pm at a cost of £90 per person, including refreshments, lunch and VAT. The seminar will include presentation by the BHB, the HRA, the bookmaking industry, a representative from the breeding industry, a racecourse representative and the media.

Places are limited and therefore application will be taken on a first come, first served basis.

For further information please contact Rebecca Baker on 020 7152 0021 or [rbaker@bhb.co.uk](mailto:rbaker@bhb.co.uk)

## BADGES & PASS

### Ticket Touting

A DCMS Select Committee is in the process of undertaking an investigation into Ticket Touting. Consultation on the causes and effects of ticket touting was issued on 1 May 2007, and the RCA has liaised with the RCA Safety Group and submitted a response.

Following the consultation period, an oral evidence session was held on Tuesday 26 June, where further evidence was heard from the RFU, FA, All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, Concert Promoters Association, National Arenas Association, E-Bay and many others. The RCA was represented by Holly Robarts at this session.

Following the consultation and the oral evidence session, a Select Committee will publish a report of their findings. This will be reviewed by the RCA Safety Group when available.

*Holly Robarts*

### 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*

### 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*

### RCA and Press Badge Lists

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

### Missing Badges

RCA: 151, 152, 153, 154, 256, 257, 269, 316, 372, 426, 448, 459, 552, 582, 1030, 1146, 1147  
 Press: 76, 153, 188, 220, 264, 416, 420, 425, 515  
 JAGB: 26, 66, 281, 291, 332, 356, 363, 410, 448, 451, 452, 477, 478, 495, 546, 566, 586, 668  
 NTF: 383, 410, 470, 544, 545, 790, 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 clashes.

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

### August

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1 Wednesday             | - Glorious Goodwood and Media Dinner – Goodwood |
| 2 Thursday – 4 Saturday | - Glorious Goodwood                             |
| 11 Saturday             | - Shergar Cup – Ascot                           |

### September

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| 5 Wednesday – 8 Saturday | - St. Ledger Meeting Doncaster          |
| 22 Saturday              | - Dubai Duty Free press lunch – Newbury |
| 26 Wednesday             | - Southern Sporting Dinner – Epsom      |

### October

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| 9 Tuesday                 | - 10 <sup>th</sup> Annual GamCare Conference – Birdcage Walk , Westminster |
| 11 Thursday – 13 Saturday | - Newmarket Champions Meeting  |
| 22 Monday – 23 Tuesday    | - DBS - Horses in Training Sales   |
| 24 Wednesday – 26 Friday  | - DBS – October Yearling Sales   |

## SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

### Spotlight On .....

Edward Arkell  
Clerk of the Course—Hereford



Age	26
Marital Status/Children/ Pets	Single
Previous Career(s)	Trainee Clerk at Sedgefield, before that Pupil Assistant to John Dunlop for 2 seasons.
Best Bits About Your Job	Walking the course first thing on a raceday morning, especially in the dark.
Worst Bit About Your Job	Seeing horses or jockeys leaving the course injured. Spending all summer hoping for rain and all winter hoping it'll stop raining!!
Best Racing Experience(s)	Seeing Moscow Flyer jumping the last to win his second Champion Chase.
Worst Racing Experience	Being run away with on my first morning at Arundel with Mr Dunlop - and most mornings afterwards too!!
Racing Heroes	John Dunlop and Aidan O'Brien.
Most Fanciable Racing Personality	Frankie Pickard
Hobbies	Hunting in the winter and fishing in the summer.
Favourite Film & TV	Top Gun. Waking the dead, Spooks etc on TV
Favourite Holiday Destination	Usually somewhere in the UK
Current Wheels	Peugot 306 - not that you can tell for the mud!
One Wish To Improve The Industry	Better understanding and co-operation between all parts of the industry.

## DIARY DATES

20 July RCA Technical Group  
 23 July RCA Gambling Legislation Group  
 24 July BHB Race Planning Committee  
 24 July RaceTech Board

16 August Fixture Policy Group

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UPDATE is also available on our website: