

CHAIRMAN'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE

As we face a new year and new challenges, here are the actions that the RCA must focus on in 2008 with the help of racecourses. There is al-



CONTENTS

Chairman's Message	1-2
Communications	3-6
Race Planning	7-10
BHA	10
RaceTech	11
Promotions	12
Racegoers Club	12-13
Sponsorship	13
Graduate	13
Technical	14-15
Medical	15
Training	16
Badges & Pass	16
Racing Register	17
Social Intercourse	18
Miscellaneous	19-20
Diary Dates	21
Contributors	
Contact List	21

ways much talk of the state of British Racing. Indeed some, including journalists, make a career out of spreading gloom and doom.

My wish for 2008 is that we adopt a more positive outlook and take ownership of the way forward and commit to action with urgency. Only in that way can we improve. There is much to be positive about but I don't deny there are some worrying trends that must be reversed. Attendances overall are flat or declining but there is encouragement showing in

Scotland and Jump racing over the recent holiday season. Horse race betting is being squeezed by other products and the public's changing appetite to gambling; Government understands the importance of our industry but is failing to take decisions to provide certainty and stability.

The Levy

We will press hard for the determination of the Levy to provide for a significant increase. With the BHA we have made a strong factually based

submission. A roll over would be a desperately disappointing and unfair result and we don't need any more inquiries! But the Levy needs to be modernised – we all agreed that back in 2005. We worked on it with Lord Donoughue, the Bookmakers' Committee and the Levy Board – nothing has happened. It just isn't good enough, especially when we have delivered on our own commitments to modernise Racing.

Our position is clear, we will press for a substantial increase, and work hard to achieve the modernisation of the Levy that is so urgently needed. The bookmakers' current position of asking Government to abolish the Levy without any proper thought through alternatives is patently irresponsible and reckless. We will also continue to work with Government and the rest of the Industry on alternatives which are robust and legally enforceable.

Promoting Racing

Near the top of the list is the need to better promote racing to our existing and new customers. We all know we face increasing competition from other sports and leisure pursuits. The RCA has put a high priority on improving the racing experience and promoting the sport to a wider audience. We have joined with other parties in the industry to achieve a step change in the popularity and exposure of racing, by demystifying racing, developing a brand for racing's narrative, looking at ways to change the general demographics of racing's key audience, convincing sports editors to give racing the coverage it deserves, making more of the "celebrity" and "royal" involvement in racing, building, as some racecourses have already done, on tourist opportunities and many, many more practical activities.

CHAIRMAN'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE

Regulation

Last year we finally achieved the creation of the BHA by the merger of the Jockey Club/HRA and the BHB. It took a long time and was fraught with difficulties. It was called "modernisation" but was only the inaugural step – the real dividend will be the result of the changes that the BHA leadership and its independent Board will make. 2008 is the year to tackle the modernisation of regulation and investment in technology to maintain our position as the best at sports regulation by updating and modernising our practices. We will support the BHA in its endeavours, which include urgently tackling the crippling cost of regulation and achieving value for money.

Fixtures

The BHA Fixture Review will conclude early this year. The current Fixture List is an amalgamation of racecourse fixtures and leasehold fixtures predominantly established for the betting industry and to improve the Levy, and in 2008 the start of a small number of commercially based Enterprise fixtures. The RCA will protect the rights of racecourses in respect of racecourse fixtures. We will continue to seek robust data on the financial performance of leasehold fixtures and for Enterprise fixtures to be established, where the market will support them. We don't have too much racing! Do we have too much football or cricket? It is simplistic to argue that it's about quantity versus quality. We will focus on the presentation, the branding and narrative of fixtures and the absolute economics of "betting fixtures".

Racing and Betting

The relationship between racing and betting is that of an arranged marriage that has many tensions. We need each other. There are some in the Bookmaker community that have only themselves to blame for TurfTV and our justifiable Levy submission. For years they sought to bully and rule the **partnership** – poking racing in the eye at every turn. A new equilibrium will emerge and this must lead to a new partnership based on the product, pro-

motion and mutual benefit. The RCA will play its part in this. Racing must, however, learn the lesson that continued dependency on betting is dangerous.

The Tote

We will continue to press Government to make a decision about the Tote. Ten years of wandering around a commitment must end. On two occasions racing has submitted proposals driven by tight Government imposed deadlines and on both occasions we have waited months for a response – and we are still waiting! We have incurred considerable resources and costs. The Government need to bring closure to this affair. It is unfair on the Tote staff and management and racing is missing an opportunity to develop the Tote on-course. We are all being impacted by Government indecision. If the Government decide to sell the Tote in an open market, we must ensure that their latest promise that 50% of the proceeds will go to racing is honoured and the RCA will protect racecourses' interests in respect of the exclusive licence, access rights and the returns from the Tote pool on-course.

Race Going Conditions

Continued pressures are falling on Clerks of the Course to continue to improve the communication of going conditions at the same time as the country's weather patterns appear to be increasingly volatile and localised. The RCA is co-ordinating a comprehensive analysis of all the information available and will ensure that this is communicated to all of racing's audiences, effectively.

At the same time we must not forget the important actions in promotion and ticket sales and racecourses services including continuing to support medial and veterinary services.

I wish everyone a happy and very successful 2008!

David Thorpe

COMMUNICATIONS

The RCA made two public statements on Thursday 3 January 2008, which are detailed as follows:

RCA Optimistic About The Future Of On-Course Betting

The RCA looks forward to discussions with the Federation of Racecourse Bookmakers (FRB) under independent Chairman Sholto Douglas-Home, proposed by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) regarding future arrangements, from 1 September 2012, for on-course bookmakers in existing betting areas.

Stephen Atkin, RCA Chief Executive, explaining the delay in getting the talks off the ground, said, "We had hoped to start these discussions some months ago, which have to date been thwarted by the FRB's single-minded pursuit of a legislative solution to a commercial issue. The FRB campaign has entirely misrepresented the position regarding tenure of list positions and the background to the introduction of the trading of positions between bookmakers in 1998. We have today written to all MPs to make them aware of the facts surrounding the issue."

The Gambling Act 2005 has created significant opportunities for racecourses to develop the on-course betting market and to better meet customer expectations in the competitive leisure and betting sectors. Racecourses have already taken the tentative first steps to opening up new betting areas at commercial rates. We want existing on-course bookmakers to be an important part of the offering to punters.

The antiquated five times rule will remain in place for existing betting areas for approxi-

mately five more years, to 31 August 2012. At that point racecourses will be entitled to enter into fully commercial arrangements from 1 September 2012. This will inevitably, as predicted by the DCMS in 2003, significantly erode the value of list positions as the licence fees paid by bookmakers to racecourse may vary in proportion to the benefit derived by bookmakers.

Stephen Atkin went on to say, "The RCA has been more than reasonable. We have recommended that our members, whilst not required to do so, follow existing list positions for the next five years to enable bookmakers, if they have not already done so, to recoup the value of their investment. Further than that, we have suggested that racecourses offer a first right of refusal to existing position holders for the new commercial licences from 1 September 2012.

It is frankly ludicrous for the FRB to claim, as it has done, that bookmakers' livelihoods will be threatened by the RCA's proposals, to which the FRB has not had the courtesy to respond.

We nevertheless remain optimistic about the prospect for mutually beneficial commercial arrangements between on-course bookmakers and racecourses."

Stephen Atkin, Caroline Davies

COMMUNICATIONS

RCA Sees No Alternative To Levy In The Foreseeable Future

The RCA has, in partnership with Racing's other key stakeholders and under the leadership of the BHA, submitted a compelling case for a substantially increased betting levy in 2008/09 (the 47th Scheme). The Levy determination naturally creates a period of uncertainty that makes it inevitable that there will be exploratory discussions on the future funding of racing.

There has been recent press speculation that racecourses are negotiating a new commercial replacement. As far as the RCA's members are concerned that is not the current way forward.

However, the RCA remains, as does BHA and its stakeholders, fully committed to continue a search for a robust, long-term legislative alternative to the Levy. The Future Funding of Racing Review Group, chaired by Lord Donoughue, concluded last year that there were significant potential, in particular legal, obstacles to a commercial replacement for the Levy such that it would not be safe to end the Levy at this stage. The Government accepted that view, and less than one year later nothing has changed to invalidate it..

The RCA, and BHA and its other stakeholders, are committed to working with Government to consider what legislative changes are necessary to enable Racing to receive a fair and reasonable return from betting on the sport. We would welcome the active involvement and co-operation of the betting industry with Racing and Government to achieve this objective.

Until all with an interest in the continuing health and improvement of Racing have considered all the options and cleared all the challenges, it is irresponsible to talk about the Levy ending.

RCA Chairman, David Thorpe, said "Our position is clear, we will press for a substantial increase, and work hard to achieve the modernisation of the Levy that is so urgently needed. The bookmakers' current position of asking Government to abolish the Levy without any proper thought through alternatives is patently irresponsible and reckless. We will also continue to work with Government and the rest of the Industry on alternatives which are robust and legally enforceable."

David Thorpe, Stephen Atkin

COMMUNICATIONS

The RCA - Who We Are

As it's the beginning of the year we thought it would be useful to include the "Who we are/What we do" details. The following is a full list of the team at the Ascot office:

David Thorpe (Chairman)	01344 873538	david.thorpe@racecourseassociation.co.uk
Stephen Atkin (Chief Executive)	01344 873538	stephen.atkin@racecourseassociation.co.uk
Caroline Davies (Racecourse Services Director)	01344 873536	caroline.davies@racecourseassociation.co.uk
Lance Havell (Financial Consultant – part-time)	01344 873537	lance.havell@racecourseassociation.co.uk
Laura Holmes (Race Planning Assistant)	01344 626067	laura.holmes@racecourseassociation.co.uk
Valerie Larue (Promotions Administration Co-ordinator)	01344 625912	valerie.larue@racecourseassociation.co.uk
Lizzie Lea (Research Assistant)	01344 626067	lizzie.lea@racecourseassociation.co.uk
Gloria Lewis (PA to Chairman and Chief Executive)	01344 873538	gloria.lewis@racecourseassociation.co.uk
Carla Moore (Race Planning Executive)	01344 625723	carla.moore@racecourseassociation.co.uk
John Phillips (Promotions Executive)	01344 625912	john.phillips@racecourseassociation.co.uk
Holly Robarts (Racecourse Services Co-ordinator)	01344 873536	holly.robarts@racecourseassociation.co.uk
John Rowley (Office Supervisor)	01344 625912	
Mary-Ann Sandercock (Sponsorship Executive)	07786 925803	maryann.sandercock@racecourseassociation.co.uk
Paul Smith (Promotions Assistant)	01344 625912	paul.smith@racecourseassociation.co.uk
Jackie Tizzard (Finance Administration – Part-time)	01344 873537	jackie.tizzard@racecourseassociation.co.uk
Carol Walker (Administration Assistant)	01344 873536	carol.walker@racecourseassociation.co.uk

Data & Literature Available From The RCA

The RCA provides relevant information to racecourses. The following is a list of the range of information available:

- UPDATE – an RCA produced monthly newsletter which details any developments in the areas affecting racecourses (posted on to www.britishracecourses.org)
- ALERTS – an email notice to racecourses, vital/urgent information
- RACECOURSE NEWS – a four-sided colour newsletter, containing editorial on current industry issues/activities from a racecourse/RCA viewpoint, racecourse developments/stories, posted to a wide distribution list, including racecourses, industry contacts, MPs, leading owners/trainers/relevant jockeys and international racing organisations
- Attendance Data for every fixture
- Badges/Concessions – including lists of RCA, Press, NTF and JAGB metal badge holders and the list of Racecourse Badge Scheme dates
- Compendium of Racecourse Guidance Documents (Purple Folder) – on subjects relevant to Racecourse Administration, Media and Communications, Veterinary, Medical, Track, Employment and Personnel issues
- Contacts – contact details for all racecourses and other racing industry bodies
- Market Research – racecourse and racing industry data
- Racecourse Information – details of badge allocations, admission prices, stabling etc
- RCA Suppliers Directory – directory of suppliers to courses with contact details
- Television Coverage Schedules

COMMUNICATIONS

What We Do

The RCA is the trade association for 59 British racecourses, who are our customers and our number one priority. Our objectives are:

- to work with racecourses to increase and develop new income streams
- to promote the highest professional standard in racecourse management, Health and Safety, medical and veterinary best practice
- To promote racecourse interests within the Racing Industry
- to provide information, training and support for racecourses
- Management of Racegoers Club
- Compliance with regulations and BHA GI

The RCA aims to provide advice and assistance on all matters concerning racecourses. The following indicates the most relevant contact(s) in each main area:

- Admin/Finance/Insurance/VAT
(contact: Lance Havell / Jackie Tizzard)
- Attendance Data
(contact: John Phillips)
- Badges/PASS
(contact: Holly Robarts / Carol Walker)
- Betting/Bookmaking/Tote
(contact: Stephen Atkin / Caroline Davies)
- BHA/Levy Board Policy
(contact: Stephen Atkin)
- Commentators
(contact: Caroline Davies)
- Press Liaison
(contact: Lizzie Lea)
- Contact Database Maintenance
(contact: Carol Walker)
- Fixtures
(contact: Stephen Atkin / Carla Moore)
- Group Sales
(contact: Valerie Larue / Paul Smith)

- BHA GIs
(contact: Caroline Davies / Holly Robarts)
- Media Rights/Contracts/RaceTech
(contact: Stephen Atkin)
- Medical
(contact: Lizzie Lea)
- Safety/Security
(contact: Caroline Davies/Holly Robarts)
- Merit Table/Fixtures Incentives/HBLB 7th Race Scheme/Development Fund/Late TV payments (Carla Moore/Laura Holmes)
- Postage/Stationery/Office Maintenance
(contact: John Rowley)
- Technical/Veterinary (contact: Caroline Davies / Holly Robarts)
- PA support to Chairman and Chief Executive
(contact: Gloria Lewis)
- Promotions
(contact: John Phillips)
- Racecourse News
(contact: Lizzie Lea)
- Racegoers Club
(contact: Valerie Larue, John Phillips or Paul Smith)
- Race Planning/Race Times/Prize Money/Abandonments
(contact: Carla Moore / Laura Holmes)
- Research Projects
(contact: Lizzie Lea)
- Sponsorship
(contact: Mary-Ann Sandercock)
- Training
(contact: Caroline Davies or Holly Robarts)
- UPDATE
(contact: Carol Walker)
- Website – www.britishracecourses.org
(contact: Lizzie Lea or Carol Walker)

RACE PLANNING

2007 Prize Money Figures

Total prize money in 2007 came to around £98.5m, some £4.5m less than in 2006. The Levy Board contributed about £53.5m, while Racecourse Executive & Sponsorship contribution came to almost £30m, which is £2.7m more than in 2006. Hats off to the racecourses following a difficult year for some (see abandonments). The Owners contributed almost £13m. A full breakdown will be included in next month's UPDATE.

Carla Moore

2007 Abandonments

In 2007 a total of 84 abandonments occurred, compared to 51 the previous year and 50 in 2005. It is fair to say that the majority of the abandonments were due to the significant rainfall in the summer which led to 56 fixtures having to be cancelled because of water logging and 6 due to flooding. In addition 16 meetings were lost to frost and 2 to snow during the winter months. High winds caused 3 cancellations and 1 meeting was called off due to unsafe ground. Relevant tables are attached.

Carla Moore

Abandonment Payments 2008

For the year commencing 1 January 2008 the Levy Board will provide in the case of each abandonment for the reimbursement of expenditure at the level of £10,000 per fixture.

Carla Moore

Notification of Abandonments

When you are forced to abandon your meeting, Racecourse Managers are asked to provide Weatherbys with the exact time and date of the cancellation as soon as possible.

Carla Moore

2008 Fixture Fee Grants

The HBLB Board approved revised fixture and regulatory fees for 2008 as its contribution to costs of the BHA Field Force and headquarters, and of BHA Handicappers. The Fixture Fee grant for 2008 has therefore been confirmed as £7,356 per fixture (was £8,249). The grants for both the Regulatory Fee and HFL Laboratory Services will be £2,950 and £3,004 respectively (was £2,950 and £2,849).

Carla Moore

2009 Fixture List Framework

The 2009 Fixture Framework document is currently being reviewed and should be released to Racecourses at the end of January. Issues that need to be considered are New Year's Day, Easter and Bank Holidays.

Carla Moore

Early Closing Races

From 1 January 2008 onwards early closing races in Great Britain will close on a **Tuesday** rather than a Wednesday. A few Sales races will still close on the Wednesday in 2008 due to the fact that this information had already been published in relevant Sales Catalogues.

Carla Moore

Strategic Review of the Fixture List

The BHA is finalising its analysis of its Fixture Review and it intends to start its consultative phase in January. To that end the Fixture Policy Group will meet with Ruth Quinn and Richard Wayman on 21 January to discuss the way forward. Items to focus on will include:

- Size of the Fixture List
- Evening/afternoon comparison
- Saturday programme
- Catering for the horse population
- Fixture Incentive Scheme

Carla Moore

RACE PLANNING

Membership of various Racing Groups

For your information, please find below the membership of various Groups and Committees:

RCA Race Planning Group (RPG)

Carla Moore	(Chairperson)
Jim Allen	(Northern racing)
Bill Farnsworth	(Small Independents)
James Hutchinson	(Small Independents)
Mark Kershaw	(Large Independents)
Nick Lees	(Small Independents)
Neil Mackenzie-Ross	(Arena Leisure)
Michael Prosser	(JC racecourses)
John Smee	(JC Racecourses co-opted)
Ian Renton	(Group Observer)
Laura Holmes	(Secretary)

Flat Racing Sub-Committee (FRC)

Philip Freedman – Chairman	<u>Expires</u> 31 July 2008
Ruth Quinn	ex officio
Adrian Grazebrook	ex officio (RC Chair)
Nick Cheyne	04 November 2008
Howard Wright	04 November 2008
Lydia Hislop	04 November 2009
David Oldrey	04 November 2009
John Dunlop	04 November 2009
John Sanderson	04 November 2010
Ian Balding	04 November 2010
Lord Grimthorpe	04 November 2010

Jump Racing Sub-Committee (JRC)

Adrian Grazebrook – Chairman	<u>Expires</u> 04 November 2010
Ruth Quinn	ex officio
Graham Dench	04 November 2008
Philip Hobbs	04 November 2008
David Minton	04 November 2009
John Smee	04 November 2009
Keith Reveley	04 November 2009
Peter Deal	04 November 2010
Ian Renton	04 November 2010

Jump Race Development Group (JRDG)

Edward Gillespie (Chairman)	Ruth Quinn or Stuart Middleton
Marcus Armytage	Sally Rowley-Williams
Toby Balding	Richard Russell
Anthony Bromley	Phil Smith
Charles Egerton	Anthony Stirk
Tony Goodhew	Charles Wilson
Carla Moore	Claire Simmonds (Secretary)
Sam Morshead	

Carla Moore

RACE PLANNING

Jump Race Development Group

The Group met on 11 December 2007 and discussed the following topics:

International Federation of Jump Racing: Slow to get on the Agenda of the IFHA. Edward Gillespie talked about his trip to Japan and will write a short report, which will be circulated with the minutes.

48-hour decs: The Group agreed to be proactive and supported a concept where each Saturday at least 1 Jump meeting would have 48-hour decs in order to promote in media. BHA strongly opposed to Reserves as this would destroy the ante-post market, which forms a big part of UK betting.

Order of Merit: Run by REL with BHA support.

Channel 4: Similar coverage expected albeit with a lower budget. Not certain whether there will be changes to the programme. Sponsors should be more involved as this would plug sponsorship.

Jump Race Committee Report: See December UPDATE. BHA to review whether to open up some Open Novice Chases for 4yo after 1 May.

Strategic Review of the Fixture List: BHA Board discussed this the previous day. Jump racing proves to be in excellent health. Need to protect the 60/40 prize money split. Summer Jumping courses could stage more fixtures. Winter Jump programme had enough fixtures.

Jump Race Sponsorship Seminar: Praise to Mary-Ann Sandercock who organised the

event. It is hoped that this will become a regular feature, maybe alternating between Flat and Jump each year.

Knowledge Bank: Need to identify expertise in different areas and involve new Director of Communications & Promotion. Group was informed that Kevin Darley had joined the Stable & Stud Staff Group and that Morag Gray would chair a new Group that dealt with Welfare & Training.

Communications Strategy: Interviews for new post are taking place. Key role is liaising with broadcasters and bookmakers.

- ◆ Racing Promotions Group has met once, but without a Chairman. First meeting was all about remit.
- ◆ Promotion and Packaging of Jump fixtures – Order of Merit, 48-hour decs and fixture review will all play a part.
- ◆ Welfare message – Tim Morris (BHA Director of Equine Science and Welfare). Discussed Animal Aid and its website. He said that communications should improve.

Bringing New Owners Into the Sport: Sally Rowley-Williams and Anthony Bromley will meet with Andy Stewart in January.

Membership of JRDG: Invite Josh Apiafi (JAGB). Invite another media representative.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 26 February at 11am at 151 Shaftesbury Avenue.

Carla Moore

Late TV Payments

Depending on the terms of your picture contract, the Levy Board will continue to fund Late TV Payments (£4,000 per race) for races with terrestrial TV coverage which have not previously been advertised in the Racing Calendar. To make a claim please fill out a Late TV Payment form and fax it to the RCA no later than 1 month after the fixture took place. For any queries or a copy of a claim form please contact Laura Holmes.

Carla Moore

Race Times Working Party

The Race Times Working Party will next meet on Thursday 24 January to discuss the race times for April, May and June 2008. As a reminder, I have re-circulated the draft times for that period. Any comments on the draft and/or recommendations should be received by no later than **Wednesday 23 January**.

Carla Moore

RACE PLANNING

Divided Race Fund

As of 1 January 2008 the BHA has authorised that the following conditions will apply to those races staged that are permitted to divide:

For all races value **£2,750** or above, the advertised prize money in both divisions will be reduced by **£750** each and for those races value below **£2,750**, the advertised prize money in both divisions will be reduced to **£2,000** each.

In the event that the Managing Executive has received permission from the Directors to divide a race which would not otherwise have divided, the advertised prize money in both divisions will not be reduced.

Carla Moore

Appearance Money Scheme

For the 2008 calendar year, the total value of the Scheme is **£1.5m**, 100% of which is contributed by the HBLB. Appearance Money payments range from **£120** per runner to **£300** per runner and are paid out on the following race categories/days:

- | | |
|---|------|
| - Flat Conditions Stakes | £300 |
| - WFA Novice Steeple Chases (Class 1-3) | £300 |
| - Sunday Racing | £120 |

Carla Moore

Race Planning Glossary

An updated version of the RCA Race Planning Glossary is available on the RCA website (www.britishracecourses.org) under the header of Race Planning. You can also find details of the current Flat and Jump Classifications as well as the criteria for the Levy Board's 7th Race Schemes (Flat and Jump).

Carla Moore

BRITISH HORSERACING AUTHORITY

Black and White Chequered Flags – BHAGI 3.7 para 1

Racecourses are reminded that Chequered Flags are used for “possible hazard ahead” warnings only, not to specifically indicate that a race must be stopped. The current industry position is that there is no across-the-board stop race protocol in place in British racing and Clerks of the Course are not empowered to carry out such a procedure. However, discussions between ourselves, racecourses and jockeys are planned to assess the possibility of a “halt race” protocol trial at one track.

Owen Byrne

Inspection and Abandonment Protocol - BHAGI 3.2 para 24

Racecourses are reminded of the following in relation to inspections: “When the inspecting Steward decides that a meeting is likely to go ahead as scheduled, even though the course is unraceable at the time of the inspection, the Clerk of the Course must ensure, when informing any person or body or answering queries into the likelihood of racing, that the situation is made absolutely clear. In these circumstances a further inspection must be held in order to be satisfied that the course is raceable. In addition, the Clerk of the Course must also mention the possibility of holding a further inspection in the event of a forecast deterioration in the weather.”

Owen Byrne

RACETECH

RaceTech – Turf TV and CCTV implications

With Turf TV now covering 31 racecourses from 1 January 2008 and the subsequent loss of SiS to those courses, new arrangements for the distribution of pictures via the on-course CCTV systems will need to be strictly adhered to. The guidelines are as follows:

Racing UK Racecourses: Racing UK can be shown on racecourse CCTV. At The Races can only be shown, in whole or in part, if the racecourse holds a BSkyB commercial licence. A domestic licence or viewing card is not acceptable.

SiS, in whole or part, can only be shown by RaceTech if the racecourse has a licence from SiS to carry its pictures.

Some racecourses may continue to show SiS pictures on designated Tote monitors or in their on-course betting shops/areas. This is allowable as these pictures are subject to a separate agreement between SiS, the Tote and the on-course bookmaker(s) and are fed from an SiS distribution amp. RaceTech cannot carry a feed of these pictures on the main CCTV service unless the racecourse holds a standalone SiS licence.

Turf TV can be shown, subject to the supply of equipment (please see more below).

C4 and BBC coverage is still OK to carry.

For non Racing UK Racecourses: Racing UK feed, in whole or in part, cannot be shown unless the racecourse holds a Racing UK commercial licence.

Turf TV, in whole or part, cannot be shown unless the racecourse holds a Turf TV commercial licence.

Pictures from SiS can be carried in the CCTV service.

C4 and BBC coverage is still OK to carry.

Please note that at the time of writing, the RaceTech scanners are unable to receive Turf TV. This is because we are waiting for Turf TV to supply a satellite dish, decoder and card. This was first raised with Turf TV in October; racecourse managers should speak directly to Turf TV if they have a complaint about the lack of Turf TV pictures. As Turf TV is on a different satellite to the BSkyB channels, the RaceTech scanners require a second dish in order to receive the channel.

Lastly, all Racecourse Managers (or their representatives) will be asked to sign an indemnity form before any content from a competitive channel is supplied by RaceTech to the CCTV system. We will not be able to show any pictures from other channels unless and until the indemnity is signed. We are sure that you will appreciate the reasons for this and will be able to provide necessary signatures promptly on race-day.

If you have any queries about these arrangements, please contact Brad Higgins, Mick Both, or Catherine Pullan at RaceTech HQ. The Unit Managers will follow the guidelines above so please do not ask them to operate outside of these parameters. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Catherine Pullan

PROMOTIONS

New National Newspaper Ticket Offer

We have arranged a new '2-for-1' ticket offer to be carried in the national press in March and April. To correspond with the significant increase in evening meetings in 2008 (58% more evening meetings) the RCA has arranged for The Times to promote a 'Month of Evening Racing' ticket offer for evening meetings in May. The offer will be similar to

the Mail On Sunday offer, being '2-for-1' tickets and administered by the RCA. Hopefully we will be able to promote racing as an evening leisure pursuit to a new audience. Racecourse Managers with evening fixtures in May will be sent an acceptance form later this month.

John Phillips

The Mail On Sunday Ticket Offer

The Mail On Sunday and the Daily Mail will once again be carrying the '2-for-1' ticket offer for Sunday fixtures throughout 2008. The offer appeared over Christmas for the first time, and will hopefully be repeated next in February. If you have a Sunday racemeeting in 2008 and wish to participate but have yet to return the form emailed to you in December, please let us know so your meeting can be included when the offer is next published. The final total of tickets sold for the 2007 offer was 15,164.

John Phillips or Valerie Larue

Racecourse Literature

We still await fixture and admission information for 2008 from many courses. If you have not already done so could you please send us a supply of literature so that we are in a position to deal with enquiries.

Paul Smith

Group Sales

As at 31 December 2007 bookings stood at 251 valued at £136,616.

Paul Smith

THE RACEGOERS CLUB

Annual General Meeting

The Racegoers Club's 40th AGM took place at Cheltenham Racecourse in November. The current Committee was re-elected.

John Phillips

2008 Voucher Books

Racecourse Managers should have received in December a copy of the 2008 Racegoers Club voucher book for their records. If you did not receive this please let me know.

John Phillips

Tote Credit

In mid-December The Racegoers Club was able to include a copy of its 2008 leaflet in a mailing to Tote Credit customers, reaching 30,000 potential members. Our thanks to the Tote for their help with this.

John Phillips

THE RACEGOERS CLUB

Owners Groups

Senora Snoopy (Owners Group 25) made a solid start to her season with a 4th place at Newbury (winner has won again since), and then suffered an agonizing defeat at Sedgefield on Boxing Day, beaten into second having been 6 lengths clear at the last. Compensation hopefully awaits! Tartan Article and Gaye Starlet (Owners Group 26), the two unraced bumper horses with Philip Hobbs and Alan King, are both pleasing at home and should be out before the end of February.

Paul Smith

SPONSORSHIP

BHA VAT Group

The BHA VAT Group met on the 4 December. Chairman Jeff Ennis and James Oldring from the BHA updated the Group on the year's owner sponsorship figures (which will be published shortly).

Mary Ann Sandercock

Dedicated Racecourse Sponsorship and Hospitality Pages on RCA Website

All racecourses were forwarded a copy of their existing dedicated website page before Christmas and many have requested amendments and sent new pictures – if you have not done so yet please let me have details of any changes you would like to be made and email new images. If you did not receive a copy of your website page please let me know and I will forward it again.

Mary Ann Sandercock

Sponsorship Statistical Reports

Although it was reported in an earlier edition of Update, just to remind racecourses - RCA member racecourses will not need to subscribe to the Sponsorship Statistical Reports in 2008 – they will be emailed free of charge. Reports on 2007 sponsorship statistics will only be available to those courses that subscribed.

Mary Ann Sandercock

GRADUATE

Farewell - Goodbye

After an 8-week BHA Graduate Scheme placement, and a 3-month temporary position at the RCA it is now time for me to step out in to the big world of racing. My time at the RCA has been spent developing the RCA website; researching Australian Race off times for the Race Planning Department; assisting Racecourse Services Department with minuting meetings; updating Guidance Documents, updating the RCA Training Manual and Clerk of the Course Exam, organising seminars, coordinating consultation responses, researching Wi-Fi, assisting in the medical review and researching for the Gambling Act as well as other small projects.

I would like to thank everyone that has helped me in my projects and wish you all a Happy New Year.

Laura Parsons

laurap_02@hotmail.com / 07843 242481

TECHNICAL

RCA Racecourse Groundstaff Seminar 2008

A seminar for Racecourse Groundstaff will take place at Sandown Park Racecourse on Monday 10 and Tuesday 11 November 2008. These dates have been specifically selected to avoid a clash with those of the previous Groundstaff Seminar, with the aim that those who were unable to attend previously will be able to attend on this occasion.

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

Holly Roberts

Neil Wyatt Groundstaff Awards

The RCA has contacted racecourses to invite them to submit nominations for their Groundstaff team for the 2007 Tote Sponsored Neil Wyatt Groundstaff Award. As in previous years there are three awards for Groundstaff at the racecourses judged to be the best Flat, Jump and Dual Purpose tracks.

The judging is due to take place in January by a panel including representatives of the NTF, Jockey's Association and Racecourse Inspectorate.

The winners will be announced by the end of January 2008.

Holly Roberts

Alterations to BHA General Instruction 4.2

Racecourses are asked to be aware that BHA General Instruction 4.2 will be amended to require racecourses to provide a means to allow the official result from the photo finish equipment to be returned to Weatherbys electronically via the wireless network connection available in the photo finish area (provided in line with BHA GI 8.1).

Racecourses should contact the BHA Racecourse Department for details of the format, schema and structure that should be used to return the photo finish official results data.

An electronic feed of pre-photo finish data is

available from Weatherbys. The format and method of this electronic feed can also be obtained from the BHA Racecourse Department.

Currently the British Horseracing Authority is developing the interface with Swiss Timing and Racetech. This currently covers all racecourses, however if any racecourse chooses to move away from Swiss Timing they will have to fund the development of their new software for the pre and post photo finish input/output process.

Holly Roberts

Approval of Cushion Track AWT Material

Racecourses are asked to be aware that under Rule 1(xvii) of the Rules of Racing and in line with the BHA's AWT Approval Protocol the BHA has approved an application for Cushion Track, produced by Equestrian Surfaces International Ltd, to be used as an All Weather Track racing surface on racecourses in Great Britain.

Holly Roberts

TECHNICAL

Weather Report

Below is a summary of the November 2007 Weather Report (for England and Wales) from the Environment Agency.

November was another generally dry month with below average rainfall across all regions except Thames. Overall, it was the fourth consecutive month of below average rainfall across England and Wales. Soil moisture deficits fell in all our regions during the month. Despite monthly mean river flows having increased at more than three quarters of indicator sites, flows remained *below normal* or lower at nearly half of all sites. All but one flow site in EA Wales was *exceptionally low* for the time of year. Groundwater levels decreased at just over half of the indicator sites. However, all but four sites remained *normal* or higher for the time of year. Overall reservoir storage for England and Wales remained unchanged at 80%. Storage at

all but three reservoirs or reservoir groups remained *normal* or higher for the time of year.

Rainfall: November was another relatively dry month, with below average rainfall for the fourth consecutive month across all regions except Thames.

Soil Moisture Deficit: Soil moisture deficits (SMDs) fell in all of our regions during the month.

River Flows: Despite an increase in flow at more than three quarters of all indicator sites since October, about half of the reported sites reported less than half of the November LTA.

Groundwater Levels: Groundwater levels decreased at just over half of the indicator sites during November.

Reservoir Storage: Reservoir storage decreased by 5% and 6% in our South West and North East Regions respectively.

MEDICAL

Medical Review

Following the presentation by Dr Iain McNeil, RCA Medical Advisor of his Medical Review findings at the Clerk of the Course Seminar held on 26, 27 November 2007 we circulated the following to racecourses:

Finalised Recommendations and BHAGI 11 future alterations

Medical Guidance Documents

Medical Questionnaire Summary Report - (for a copy of the full report contact the RCA)

We would be grateful if you could provide feedback concerning the above information.

Lizzie Lea

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 16-17 February and 13-14 September 2008. To book a place, please contact Dr Bob Bennett on 07979 506548.

Basics Education Courses for 2008

Pre Hospital Emergency Care Course	4-6 February	Madingley Hall, Cambridge
Pre Hospital Emergency Care Course	31 March – 2 April	Madingley Hall, Cambridge
Immediate Care Course	31 March – 4 April	Madingley Hall, Cambridge
Advanced Phec	3-4 April	Madingley Hall, Cambridge
Pre Hospital Emergency Care Course	7-9 May	Madingley Hall, Cambridge
Pre Hospital Emergency Care Course	7-9 July (to be confirmed)	BMA House, London
Pre Hospital Emergency Care Course	27-29 October	Madingley Hall, Cambridge
Immediate Care Course	27-31 October	Madingley Hall, Cambridge
Advanced Phec	30-31 October	Madingley Hall, Cambridge
Pre Hospital Emergency Care Course	24-26 November	Madingley Hall, Cambridge

For further details please contact Tracy at BASICS HQ directly on 01473 218 407 or by email educ@basics.org.uk

TRAINING

Racecourse Groundsmen Courses 2008

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

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

BADGES & PASS

Jockey Club Members Badges

In line with the recommendations of the RCA Badge Review, all Jockey Club Members and their spouses were issued with RCA Metal Badges to replace their Jockey Club Members Badges. However, a number of Jockey Club Members continued to use their Jockey Club Members Badges for racecourse admittance.

To avoid confusion and to ensure consistency it has been agreed with the Jockey Club that Jockey Club Members will use RCA Metal Badges to gain admittance to racecourses. Therefore, all Jockey Club Members and their spouses have been issued with an RCA Metal Badge which should be used for admittance.

Racecourses may wish to continue to recognise the Jockey Club Members Badge for movement between enclosures and other purposes and this will be at their own discretion.

Holly Robarts

Local Stewards and Casual Officials

The RCA has entered into initial discussions with the BHA to replace the current passes issued to local stewards and casual officials with PASS Cards. The proposed implementation date for the introduction of these cards is 1 March 2008.

To prevent the passes being updated for 2008 only to be replaced, racecourses are asked to continue to recognise the existing 2007 passes for local stewards and casual officials until 1 March 2008.

Holly Robarts

RCA and Press Badge Lists

Copies of the lists of 2008 RCA and Press Badges holders are available on request.

Holly Robarts

2008 Badges & 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:	161, 830, 1136
Press:	394
Officials:	106

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 January, February and March 2008. For further details regarding specific dates please e-mail: lynn@sportsguidelimited.com or contact Lynn Payne at Sportsguide Limited on 01344 774322.

January

- 15 Tuesday British Horseracing Authority (BHA) International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) World Thoroughbred Racehorse Ranking Press Conference – Shaftsbury Avenue, London
- 16 Wednesday Goffs four and five year old NH Breeze Up Sale – Dundalk
- 17 Thursday Fifth Dubai International Racing Carnival - Dubai
(until Sat 29th March)
- 28 Monday Doncaster 2008 Sales

February

- 4 Monday Fasig Tipton Sale – Mid Atlantic
- 5 Tuesday John Smith's Grand National Weights Lunch – Sheraton, Park Lane, London
- 7 Thursday Tattersalls February Sale, Breeding Stock, Fillies/Horses in Training & Yearlings - Newmarket
- 9 Saturday ToteSport Trophy Hurdle – Newbury
- 11 Monday Chris Poole and George Ennor Celebration Novice Steeple Chase – Plumpton
- 19 Tuesday British Horseracing Authority (BHA) Stud and Stable Staff of the Year Awards – Central London
- 28 Thursday Annual Press Luncheon – Pontefract

March

- 4 Tuesday Association of Bookmakers Annual Meeting – Waldorf Hilton, London
- 11 Tuesday Cheltenham Festival (until Friday 14th)
- 15 Saturday John Smith's Midlands Grand National – Uttoxeter
- 20 Thursday 'Lesters', Jockeys Association Annual Awards Ceremony – Hilton Metropole, Birmingham
- 26 Wednesday DBS Sale. (until Thurs 27th)
- 27 Thursday John Smith's Grand National Northern Media Lunch – Aintree
- 28 Friday DBS Lincoln Handicap Sales, horses in and out of training
- 29 Saturday Dubai World Cup – Nad Al Sheba, Dubai

SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Spotlight On

Nick Patton
Clerk of the Course
Market Rasen / Nottingham



Age	28
Marital Status/Children/Pets	Marital Status - Married to Victoria Children - First One due in February. Pets Murphy Terrier, Meg Back Lab and Chelsea Bridge - ex Racehorse
Previous Career(s)	Pupil assistant Andrew Balding
Best Bits About Your Job	Working to improve conditions at both courses
Worst Bit About Your Job	Horses getting injuries
Best Racing Experience(s)	Watching any Irish winners Cheltenham
Worst Racing Experience	The sad death of Tom Halliday on 3 July 2005 at Market Rasen
Racing Hero	My late Grandfather Bobby Patton
Most Fanciable Racing Personality	Does Kiera Knightly own horses?
Hobbies	Point to Pointing, Shooting, Skiing and Good Food
Favourite Film & TV	8 Seconds ,Friends, Spooks
Favourite Holiday Destination	Anywhere in the Alps
Current Wheels	Audi A4
One Wish To Improve The Industry	Better prize money

MISCELLANEOUS

Goodwood is a traditional country estate of 11,500 acres that is managed in a completely modern way. Home to Horseracing's famous 'Glorious Goodwood', the Goodwood brand is justifiably known for its values of excellence and quality

SPONSORSHIP SALES EXECUTIVE

C£28-30,000 per annum (depending upon experience) + excellent benefits
40 hours per week - Ref. 01/08

Reporting to the Group Sponsorship Manager and working closely with the Racecourse Director, you will be responsible for securing sponsorship revenue from new and existing clients for Goodwood Racecourse. As part of a dynamic, proactive Group Sponsorship team, this position will support fulfillment of relationship management and to produce increased sponsorship sales.

The successful candidate will have relevant Customer Relationship Management experience with a proven track record for driving sales. You will need to demonstrate excellent communication and relationship management skills with a proven ability in liaising at all levels. You will be confident, personable, presentable and adept in dealing with a variety of situations. Strong planning and organisational skills are also imperative.

Due to the rural location of the Goodwood Estate, own or reliable transport is essential.

To request an application pack for this position, please either visit www.goodwood.co.uk/info, email careers@goodwood.co.uk or contact the Human Resources Department on (01243) 755000. Please note CV's will not be accepted.

If you have not received a response to your application within 4 weeks of the closing date, please infer that on this occasion you have not been successful.

The closing date for the receipt of applications is Friday 25 January 2008

MISCELLANEOUS**ROYAL WINDSOR RACECOURSE
REQUIRE****2 x FULL TIME GROUNDSMAN****Responsibilities include:**

- Reporting to the Estates Manager, as a member of the Groundstaff, you will help maintain the racing surface and all other racing associated areas to a high specification.
- Duties will include track irrigation, mowing, strimming, treading and soiling, operating tractors with rotary mowers and other associated estate work to prepare the grounds for racing and all year round events.

Essential Requirements for Both Roles :

- You must be committed and hardworking with high standards and be self motivated to work as an individual and as part of a wider team.
- Full time hours as required to meet the needs of the business
- A flexible approach to working within the leisure industry
- Be committed to help with other duties on the Racecourse as required
- The ability to work independently and manage multiple tasks at the same time
- Previous racecourse experience would be an advantage.
- A team player with good communication skills
- Ability to demonstrate initiative
- Trained to at least NVQ Level 2 in Turf Maintenance or equivalent.

Please send your CV and current salary to Mr Tom Stobbart
Windsor Racecourse, Maidenhead Road,
Windsor, SL4 5JJ
Closing Date : 20th January 2008

Royal Windsor Racecourse
A subsidiary of Arena Leisure Plc.

DIARY DATES

28 January	Members Forum –Cheltenham
29 January	RCA Board
31 January	Members Forum—York
7 February	RCA Technical Group
19 February	RCA Race Planning Group
26 February	Jump Race Development Group

ATTACHMENTS

Abandonments 1993-2007

CONTRIBUTORS' CONTACT LIST

Byrne, Owen	0207 189 3863	obyrne@britishhorseracing.com
Davies, Caroline	01344-873536	caroline.davies@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
Payne, Lynn	01344-774322	lynn@sportsguidelimited.com
Phillips, John	01344-626067	john.phillips@racecourseassociation.co.uk
Pullan, Catherine	0208 947 3333	cpullan@racetech.co.uk
Robarts, Holly	01344-873536	holly.robarts@racecourseassociation.co.uk
Sandercock, Mary-Ann	07786 925803	maryann.sandercock@racecourseassociation.co.uk
Smith, Paul	01344-625912	paul.smith@racecourseassociation.co.uk
Walker, Carol	01344-873536	carol.walker@racecourseassociation.co.uk

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

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