

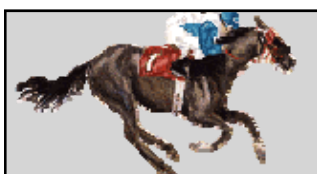
RCA BOARD APPOINTS VICE-CHAIRMAN

The Vice-Chairman's post, which has been vacant since Simon Clarke resigned from the RCA Board last April, has now been filled with the appointment of James Sanderson to the role. James represents the independent racecourses on the Board and has been a director of the RCA since February 2005.

BRIEFING FOR RACECOURSES

Existing Betting Areas – Racecourse Briefing

The RCA is holding a briefing for racecourses regarding the arrangements to be applied in existing betting areas post 2012. The DCMS set up a working party under the independent chairmanship of Sholto Douglas-Home, comprising representatives of the RCA and Federation of



Bookmakers to discuss these arrangements. The discussions have now made sufficient progress and reached the stage where we will share the concepts with racecourses and gather feedback. A briefing will be held on Monday 17 March 2008 at the Montcalm Hotel, London W1 starting at 2.00 p.m.

Caroline Davies

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RACE PLANNING

RCA 2009 Fixture Policy

Following the RCA Board meeting on 6 March, a short summary of their thoughts are listed below:

- a) No change to the current fixture criteria
- b) Offer up 9 additional Enterprise Fixtures (4 during the summer and 5 earlier in the year)
- c) Review prize money requirements for Enterprise Fixtures
- d) Allocation of Enterprise Fixtures to be held via an on-line process
- e) Racecourses to be able to relinquish Enterprise Fixtures for 2009 by no later than 1 June 2008
- f) Levy Board to guarantee funding for all fixtures shown in LBOs

Carla Moore

2009 Fixtures Incentive Scheme

The RCA Board and Race Planning Group are currently preparing a proposal for the 2009 Fixtures Incentive Scheme. The Executive has not yet been given a budget, but it is hoped that this will remain unchanged. It is therefore not anticipated that the structure of the Scheme will change. However the RCA will put forward a request to compensate Racecourses for the use of Frost Covers.

Carla Moore

RACE PLANNING

2009 Fixture List

Annual Fixtures Meeting: The RCA has again organised an Annual Fixtures Meeting, which will signal the start of the 2009 Fixture List process. The meeting will be held at the Portman Hotel, Portman Square, London on **Monday 7 April** at 2 pm.

Fixture Criteria: Notwithstanding the recommendations from the BHA's Strategic Review of the Fixture List, it is anticipated that the 2009 Fixture Criteria will remain unchanged.

Timetable: An outline timetable of the 2009 Fixture List process is as follows:

Monday 10 March	BHA to confirm its Fixture Policy
Wednesday 19 March	HBLB to determine 2009 Fixture Criteria
End March	BHA to confirm fixture policy and timetable
Monday 7 April	RCA Annual Fixtures Meeting
Mid-April	Start of "friendly moves" Phase 1
Wednesday 16 April	HBLB to agree 2008 Fixtures Incentive Scheme
Beginning May	1 st FAG meeting
Mid-May	"friendly moves" Phase 2
End May	2 nd FAG meeting
Mid June (prior to Royal Ascot)	Bidding Process + allocation of Enterprise Fixtures
End of June	Finalise Fixture List
Monday 14 July	BHA Board to approve the 2009 Fixture List

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

Laura Holmes will administer the site and therefore any requests should be directed to her. An appropriate form will be sent to racecourses in due course. Laura's contact details are: Tel – 01344 626 067, laura.holmes@racecourseassociation.co.uk or fax 01344 627 233.

Carla Moore, Laura Holmes

Notification of Abandonment

When you are forced to abandon your race meeting, as well as contacting Weatherbys, you must also inform RaceTech in accordance with clause 6.2 of your rate card as soon as possible.

Carla Moore

48-Hour Declarations for Jump Racing

At its meeting on 4 March, the BHA Racing Committee agreed that there should be at least 1 Jump race each Saturday during the winter months with 48-hour decs with a view to promoting the sport.

Carla Moore

Day of Race Reserves

Following a request from the Horsemen's Group (HG), the BHA Racing Committee, after a lengthy debate, agreed to allow a trial to be run where Reserve horses would come into a race at 8.30 am on the day. The HG has been in contact with Ascot to see whether such a trial could be held during Royal Ascot.

Carla Moore

RACE PLANNING

RCA Race Planning Group

The RCA Race Planning Group met on Tuesday 19 February. The Racecourses were represented by David Hunter, Ed Gretton, Neil Mackenzie-Ross, Ian Renton, James Hutchinson, Michael Prosser. Also in attendance were John Smee, Carla Moore, David Bradshaw and Laura Holmes. A summary of the discussions is below:

Race Times: RCA Executive to stress to Managers/Clerks of the Course that adhering to requests from broadcasters on race days should be their decision, not the Stewards.

Modernisation of the Programme Book: Weatherbys has commenced the implementation of converting the TRICL programme into an on-line facility, rather than the antiquated dial-up system, which is currently in place. This will provide opportunities for race programming to become more transparent.

Late TV Payments: For 2008 compensation will be paid to those racecourses that are requested by broadcasters to swap a televised race with less than 8 runners for one with more runners. A payment of £500 per horse below 8 will apply. The RCA Executive will amend the application form accordingly.

Strategic Review of the Fixture List: Group discussed notes from Fixture Policy Group meeting and tasked the RCA Executive to confirm with the BHA the requests that were made, which were:

- i) Examine the performance of Sunday fixtures in the summer compared to the winter.
- ii) Take account of turnover, betting, attendance and runners etc when comparing Sunday fixtures.
- iii) Omit Saturday figures from the analysis of afternoon fixtures.
- iv) Include a split between Jump and Flat fixtures in its afternoon fixture analysis.
- v) Circulate the report from Mediatique to the FPG.

The Group was divided on the proposal to introduce a minimum rating for Flat horses and asked that the BHA provided data on how many times a horses rated less than 40 had improved.

Racecourses should take a pro-active approach regards weak Saturdays and geographical spread.

2009 Fixture List:

- RCA Executive has drafted a policy paper.
- David Bradshaw believed that there would not be any material changes to the 2009 fixture criteria.
- In drafting the framework the BHA should not split up 2-day meetings.
- If possible, more BHA fixtures should be made available for Jumping in December.

2009 Fixtures Incentive Scheme: The RCA has drafted a proposal similar to the 2008 scheme. It was recommended that any decrease should be applied across the board. The Group also recommended that the use of Frost Covers should be financially rewarded. The RCA and HBLB would consult further on such payments.

Enterprise Fixtures: The Group noted that the allocation process would be online and that the cut off date for handing back Enterprise Fixtures would be 1 June. CM reported that funding from the HBLB would be raised at the RCA Board's March meeting when Rob Hughes and Douglas Erskine-Crum would be in attendance.

48-hour Declarations for Jump Racing: The Group supported a proposal to introduce 48-hour declarations for at least 1 race every Saturday during the core winter period.

Reserves: The Group supported, in principle, a letter from Michael Harris, representing the Horsemen's Group, regarding Reserves for Flat racing. However, they advised that the cut off time should be earlier than 10.30 am, i.e. between 8.30 and 9.00 am.

Stable Based Eliminations: RCA Executive has advised racecourses regarding stable based eliminations.

Self-Certification: The Group was disappointed that the RCA had not been involved in the decision making process of trainers being able to self-certify vet certificates from the start of the Turf Flat season. The RCA has asked the BHA to monitor the new arrangements.

Hunter Chases: The Group expressed concern regarding the current trend of professional trainers' making Hunter Chases uncompetitive. The RCA Executive has written to the BHA to ask for guidance with amending race conditions.

Carla Moore

RACE PLANNING

Jump Racing Development Group (JRDG)

The Group met on 26 February, points of note are as follows:

Hunter Chases: The Point-to-Point Board did not recommend banning professional trainers from competing their horses in Hunter Chases. They would also not support a rating restriction, but instead focus on the prize money requirements and penalty structures. The BHA will provide guidance to racecourses in due courses.

48-hour Declarations for Jump Races: The ROA would like to see financial reward for introducing this. It was pointed out that most racecourses could implement 48-hour decs for its Grade 1 or 3 non-Novice races without having to ask permission from the BHA.

Summer Jumping: Anthony Stirk has sent all data regarding fatalities and long-term injuries to relevant racecourses and reported that some of them have been pro-active. Information will be included in the Optimum Use of the Turf and will be provided to the Fixtures Allocation Group.

Racing Promotions Group: Edward Gillespie reported that he had joined the Group. Jon Ryan, the new BHA Director of Communication will also attend. It was reported that REL would fund any projects or research that the Group required or felt necessary.

Jump Racing Committee: This Committee was supposed to meet on 21 February, but due to low attendance it was cancelled at the 11th hour. So no report, which is disappointing. Interesting statistics

regarding horses taking advantage of a lower mark, i.e. Chasers going back Hurdling have a strike rate of only 15.7%, whilst Hurdlers using their mark to go Chasing have a 16.8%.

Strategic Review of the Fixture List: BHA Board meets on 10 March to decide recommendations. ROA had asked to cut the number of fixtures in order to stop the dilution of prize money per fixture. PJA had discussed the possibility of blank Sundays throughout the year.

Knowledge Bank: Encourage racing to use (retired) jockeys, trainers to promote the sport. It was reported that BHEST and the Racing Schools use (ex-) jockeys to help them with their projects.

Communication: Welfare message - ½ hour before racing at the Festival the jockeys will be briefed on welfare. Tim Morris is working on a draft message on welfare for the industry.

Bringing new Owners into the sport: Sally Rowley-Williams had met with Andy Stewart and his sons. A few conclusions were: Racing is expensive / one uniform admission / People must come racing before they will become an owner / Need to involve younger people / Involve universities / Engage Piers Pottinger / Use star owners to attract owners. Sally will meet with Nigel Burton next. A Report has been passed to the Racing Promotions Group.

Membership: Jon Ryan will be invited to join. Phil Smith will be asked whether a Handicapper can be available for JRDG meetings.

Carla Moore

Race Handles for Jump Pattern Races

The BHA Racing Committee recommended that all Jump Pattern races should have the option to use 'Registered As' in order to make race name changes and attracting sponsors easier. BHA Executive tried to stipulate that a changed handle could not be altered for at least 10 years, but this was not approved and would be reviewed. The Committee confirmed that there are no such plans for Flat racing due to international regulations.

Carla Moore

RCA Race Planning Work Shop/TRICL I Course

The RCA Race Planning Workshop/TRICL I Course will be held on **Tuesday 25 November** this year. The event is geared towards Racecourse personnel who deal with race programmes and is now compulsory for the accreditation of new Clerks of the Course. It will be held in the vicinity of Wellingborough, as Weatherbys Ltd has kindly offered to host the event. The race planning session, which will be held in the morning, will cover topics such as Race Programming, Handicapping, Betting Data, as well as a Forum that will discuss current race planning topics. The afternoon will be reserved for TRICL I, where Weatherbys' Kathryn Proudlove will explain to delegates the intricacies of that particular computer programme. A programme and booking form will be sent to Racecourses nearer the time.

Carla Moore

RACE PLANNING

Novice Chases in April

As it was felt that horses who had won a chase were not being properly catered for in the final month of the season, the BHA have created further opportunities for them by introducing the following structure:

- Class 1 As previously (open to multiple winners)
- Class 2 As previously (open to multiple winners)
- Class 3 For novices which have not won more than **three** Steeple Chases
(Previously two Steeple Chases. Penalty structure unaltered)
- Class 4 For novices which have not won more than **two** Steeple Chases
Penalties, for each steeple chase won.....7lb

This system will only operate during April, with the new Class 4 Novices' Steeple Chases taking the place of Beginners' Steeple Chases. This will increase the total number of weight-for-age novices' opportunities for a horse which has won a race, from 12 in 2007 to 24 in 2008 (excluding rating-related races) from the start of April until the last day of the season.

Carla Moore

Review of Narrow Band Handicaps

Following a request by the NTF, the BHA Racing Department has reviewed Narrow Band Handicaps. It focussed on the 3yo programme with rating bands between 86 and 105. The conclusion of this analysis was that the lack of opportunities for certain horses could not be directly apportioned to a system of Narrow Band Handicaps and that it was

ultimately unsolvable without a substantial Development Fund at the disposal of the BHA Racing Department, which would enable the programming of unfashionable races likely to attract small fields at times of the year when the Fixture List and racecourse budgets dictated that opportunities would be sparse.

Carla Moore

THE RACEGOERS CLUB

Racegoers Club To Sponsor

Flat Jockey of the Year Award at the Lesters

The Racegoers Club recently announced sponsorship of the 2007 Flat Jockey of the Year award to be presented at the Lesters Award ceremony on Thursday 20 March. The sponsorship will run for three years, to also include the 2008 and 2009 Awards. The Racegoers Club is the largest race going club in Britain, is supported by all British racecourses, and offers discounts of £3 up to £6 at nearly 90 % of British race meetings.

Stephen Atkin, Chairman of the Racegoers Club, said "We are very pleased to link up with the Professional Jockeys Association as a new corporate partner. The profile of the Flat Jockey's Award has never been higher following the gripping battle between Seb Sanders and Jamie Spencer for the title. The Club were keen to give something back to racing and jockeys are of course, alongside the equine stars, the key attraction for racegoers. The Club has grown substantially over the past few years under the stewardship of the RCA and with the generous support of racecourses."

Chief Executive of the Professional Jockeys Association, Josh Apiafi said "The Racegoers Club has been a huge success since its inception and its backing of one of our most prestigious awards at the Lesters is tribute to that success. The Executive Team and Presidents of the Professional Jockeys Association would like to thank Stephen Atkin and his team for their support and we look forward to welcoming their guests in Birmingham on 20 March".

Stephen Atkin or John Phillips

THE RACEGOERS CLUB

Owners Groups

The Club's Owners Group 26 has been extremely unlucky this season. Gaye Starlet (Alan King) was ruled out for the season in January, just two days before she was due to make her debut, and had to have an operation to remove a chip from her fetlock. Tartan Article (Philip Hobbs) was even more unfortunate, breaking a leg on the gallops in February and having to be put down. In Owners Group 25, Senora Snoopy, after being runner up on four of her last five starts, was denied winning opportunities twice in February for which she would have started favourite for each – one being an abandonment at Wetherby, the other being balloted out at Newcastle. *Paul Smith*

PROMOTIONS

The Times Month of Evening Racing

30 of the 39 racecourses eligible have chosen to participate in this 2-for-1 promotion in the national press. The offer's intended launch date in The Times is the week commencing Monday 17 March. *John Phillips*

The Mail on Sunday Ticket Offer

35 racecourses are participating in this offer on 84 racedays in 2008. Unfortunately we have been unable to gain a second slot in either the Mail or Mail on Sunday having launched over the Christmas period, but are hoping it will be published again shortly. Total ticket sales for meetings that have occurred are listed below. *Valerie Larue or John Phillips*

Date	Racecourse	Tickets Sold	Date	Racecourse	Tickets Sold
3 February	Fontwell	86	2 March	Bangor	110
10 February	Hereford	48	2 March	Huntingdon	106
17 February	Southwell	56	9 March	Market Rasen	82
24 February	Fontwell	104	9 March	Warwick	96
TOTAL SOLD					688

British Horseracing Call Centre

Month	2008			2007		
	Orders	Tickets	Value	Orders	Tickets	Value
January	183	718	£21,018	214	802	£23,421
February	248	1,011	£26,554	243	963	£23,050
TOTAL	431	1,729	£47,572	457	1,765	£46,471
	(-6%)	(-2%)	(+2%)			

January 2008 saw orders taken on behalf of 30 different courses (26 last January)
February 2008 saw orders taken on behalf of 32 different courses (29 last February)

John Phillips

ATTENDANCE

Below are the full attendance figures for 2007. Average attendance at British racecourses in 2007 fell slightly (by 0.1%).

Saturday attendances rose by nearly 250 per fixture, and whilst average Flat attendances dropped for both Turf and All-Weather meetings, National Hunt meetings saw averages rise by 126 per meeting.

Attendance at afternoon meetings was up by 180 people per fixture, but attendance at evening fixtures was well down on 2006.

Month	2007			2006		
	Attendance	Actual Fixtures	Ave. Daily	Attendance	Actual Fixtures	Ave. Daily
January	151,124	86	1,757	154,098	85	1,813
February	142,828	72	1,984	145,046	79	1,836
March	424,708	89	4,772	391,834	80	4,898
April	509,887	112	4,553	505,534	108	4,681
May	625,845	150	4,172	612,258	147	4,165
June	876,791	131	6,693	879,630	139	6,328
July	726,599	117	6,210	879,479	142	6,194
August	812,083	134	6,060	846,446	140	6,046
September	503,511	112	4,496	450,545	98	4,597
October	361,625	116	3,117	345,650	99	3,491
November	321,320	110	2,921	315,296	115	2,742
December	346,377	101	3,429	337,813	110	3,071
Total	5,802,698	1,330	4,363	5,863,629	1,342	4,369
	(-1%)	(-0.9%)	(-0.1%)			

Day by Day Comparison

Day	Total Attendance		Actual Fixtures		Average	
	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006
Monday	461,931	456,848	181	181	2,552	2,524
Tuesday	401,218	529,169	160	181	2,508	2,924
Wednesday	692,002	644,137	200	194	3,460	3,320
Thursday	710,624	697,207	195	193	3,644	3,612
Friday	1,053,232	1,058,348	201	196	5,240	5,400
Saturday	1,888,570	1,874,092	258	265	7,320	7,072
Sunday	595,121	603,828	135	132	4,408	4,574

ATTENDANCE

National Hunt and Flat Comparison

	Total Attendance		Actual Fixtures		Average	
	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006
National Hunt	2,149,442	2,192,708	482	506	4,459	4,333
Flat	3,626,436	3,641,506	845	833	4,292	4,372
Mixed	26,820	29,415	3	3	8,940	9,805

Afternoon and Evening Comparison

	Total Attendance		Actual Fixtures		Average	
	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006
Afternoon	4,816,427	4,856,009	1,063	1,116	4,531	4,351
Evening	986,271	1,007,620	267	226	3,694	4,458

Flat Turf/AWT Comparison

	Total Attendance		Actual Fixtures		Average	
	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006
Flat Turf	3,294,782	3,306,685	539	537	6,113	6,158
Flat AWT	331,654	334,821	306	296	1,084	1,131

Bank Holidays

	Total Attendance		Actual Fixtures		Average	
	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006
Bank Holidays	238,300	228,344	35	36	6,809	6,343

PRESS

Sports Bodies Meet to Discuss Photographer Accreditation

The RCA have continued their investigation into the accreditation of racecourse photographers and held a meeting on Tuesday 4 March between sports bodies to discuss methods of best practice. The sports bodies that attended include, cricket, football, motor racing, rugby and tennis.

The meeting was a success and many ideas were exchanged. It was decided to make this an annual event.

The racecourse guidance document and re-drafted BHAGI 5.2 will be finalised and circulated to all racecourses and accredited photographers later this month.

Lizzie Lea

COMMUNICATIONS

Members Area at www.britishracecourses.org

The Members Area is now live on the RCA website, www.britishracecourses.org. Details were sent to all racecourses on Friday 7 March containing individual usernames and passwords. As requested please change your passwords immediately to ensure security to the area.

The Members Forum is also live and we hope that members will find this a useful tool for sharing information.

We hope that you find the new area informative and helpful and if you have any suggestions for the Members Area then please contact Lizzie Lea on 01344 626067 or lizzie.lea@racecourseassociation.co.uk.
Lizzie Lea

RACETECH

RaceTech reminders.....

Licencing arrangements for showing away day racing continues to be a grey area. Sky have informed us that 40 racecourses do not have the necessary licences in place to show ATR on their CCTV or in any public or office space. This means that Sky will seek to rectify this situation over the coming months, so now is an ideal time to comply, in the most cost effective way possible, to suit your own particular requirements. Licencing can be done in a variety of ways – by counting the total number of televisions on the course (including office TVs etc, whether you show ATR on all of them or not) and this allows one Sky channel at a time to be shown, or a full licence, which incurs a monthly flat fee and allows users to vary Sky channels on televisions around the course, regardless of the number of screens. RaceTech may be able to assist racecourses to negotiate licences to suit your requirements, although please be aware that Sky do not take into account that you may only use the service 20-30 days a year. This is going to become an issue for all those racecourses who wish to show ATR races, so please take the time to consider what is best for your needs. RaceTech are happy to assist where possible.

WiFi usage around racecourses is another area where a few moments of thought now may save trouble later. Racecourses should be aware of all and any wireless networks operating on course, whether they “own” them or not. The majority of wireless networks are operating in the so called “licence free” band

at 2.4GHz – you do not have the legal right to disable any wireless network working on your premises unless it is using your internet connection illegally. This means that, to ensure that The Tote and TRICL users are not conflicting with other networks, or being compromised in any way, it would be helpful if racecourses were aware of anyone else operating on site. Again, RaceTech can assist you in this process if you suspect that you may have other networks running. Racecourses cannot take a vigilante view of WiFi users/operators as they are usually working within the licence free frequency bands, but you do need to be aware of what is going on. (see also page 15)

Lastly, with the Turf Flat Season only just around the corner, a reminder to those Flat courses that now is a good time to get **AV and PA equipment serviced**, maintained and tested and make any changes or improvements before the season gets into full swing.

PS. RaceTech's new Sony XDCam system for ingesting, archiving, reviewing and editing race footage from every horse race is currently being installed at our offices in Raynes Park. If any of your staff would like to see the system in action and how we may be able to use it to assist you in producing promotional films, including voice overs and graphics, we would be delighted to welcome you to the new editing suites.

Catherine Pullan

SPONSORSHIP

Looking Back at 2007

In 2007 sponsorship remained buoyant with 75% of all races sponsored (3% increase on number of races sponsored in 2006). However, the total prize value of races sponsored was £81,205,885 – a decrease in value of £1,169,345 from 2006, which indicates that some of the higher value races were not sponsored – most notably the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes.

The percentage of All-Weather and Turf Flat races sponsored increased on 2006 and Jump races sponsored remained the same.

The Betting and Gaming sector remained the leading sponsorship sector – however, there was a significant decrease in the percentage of races sponsored and the total prize value of races sponsored in this sector: 30% in 2007 – 37% in 2006, and prize value of £28,328,575 in 2007 – £31,714,270. This can be attributed to Bet Direct not renewing their blanket sponsorship of winter all-weather racing in the 2006/2007 season, although the anticipated down-turn in sponsorship from the Turf TV issue was not really a significant factor. Indeed, the only significant differences from 2006 to 2007 were Betfred decreasing the number of races sponsored (161 races in 2006 – 54 in 2007) and William Hill increasing their

sponsorship (48 races in 2006 – 117 in 2007). Ladbrokes sponsored the same number of races and Coral, Stan James and VC Bet increased slightly.

The Tote remains Britain's biggest sponsor – 402 races with a total prize value of £7,761,000. John Smith's were the biggest non-betting or Racing Industry related sponsor – 128 races with a total prize value of £3,521,600.

Horseracing remains the most broadcast sport on Channel 4 in terms of airtime, but has slipped to 4th for all terrestrial channels and 8th on BBC. Viewing figures overall have reduced significantly over the past three years – but this is not unique to horseracing, with the increased viewing platforms and most importantly for horseracing, two dedicated digital horseracing channels (one of which is part of the basic Sky package), viewing habits have changed. That said terrestrial coverage continued to be a prime requirement for horseracing sponsors in 2007 with 94% of terrestrial races sponsored (the same percentage as 2006).

Notable new sponsors in 2007 included Samsung, Seasons Holidays, UAE Hydra Properties and Urban-i.

Mary Ann Sandercock

Looking Forward to 2008

Race sponsorship in 2008 looks to be more of a challenge with some of the highest profile races requiring sponsors (Vodafone only stepping in short term for the Derby; the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes and the Gold Cup at Sandown Park). The Turf TV issue will have an impact as Betfred did not renew the Gold Cup meeting sponsorship and it remains to be seen whether there will be other casualties and the sale of the Tote leaves us to wonder what will happen to their top sponsorship slot. Fortunately Coral has renewed the sponsorship of the Eclipse – a major race in the flat racing calendar.

Other factors that may cast a shadow over sponsorship (for the whole sports industry – not just horseracing), are the speculated downturn in the economy (finance was the 4th largest sector in 2007 and if this sector is not investing it will have

an impact), and the increasing focus by sponsors on the 2012 Olympics.

Obviously these factors relate more to higher profile race sponsorship. We must hope that this does not have a knock on effect to regional race sponsorship which has gone from strength to strength over the past five years. Whilst there are currently no figures to support it, British horseracing is possibly the leading sport in terms of hospitality income and dovetailing sponsorship to hospitality together with raising awareness in the local community is key to local organisations.

As an Industry we must address all challenges and work together to ensure that the horseracing is viewed as an exciting and attractive sport that investors believe can promote their brands and wish to be associated with.

Mary Ann Sandercock

TECHNICAL

Halt Race Procedures

There are 2 new changes to procedures which all racecourses will need to be aware of. The first is a mandatory halt race procedure and the second is a modification to the existing hazard ahead procedure.

Following discussions with the BHA, a standard Halt Race Procedure will be introduced for all racecourses. This procedure will be included within the BHA General Instructions and all racecourses must have the ability to implement it if necessary in line with their own risk assessments.

The procedure will be as follows:

- A Yellow Flag (similar to that currently used by the AFO) will become a halt race flag, with flags to be deployed upon instruction from the Clerk of the Course by designated persons appointed by the racecourse as they deem necessary.
- The flag should be accompanied by an FA standard whistle to get the attention of the jockeys.
- Racecourses should agree implementation of the procedure in line with their own risk assessments and following discussions with their BHA course inspector.

In addition, there is to be an alteration to the Hazard Ahead procedure. The Black and White chequered flag will continue to be used as a Hazard Ahead flag, but should now also be accompanied by a Fox 40 whistle in order to get the attention of the jockeys.

Whilst it was anticipated that these procedures would be implemented from the start of the 2008 Flat Turf season the BHA Board has delayed approval of the procedure until its April meeting in order to accommodate changes to Rule 80 to recognise that the Racecourse Managing Executive is the appropriate body to take a halt race decision, and that it would be unlikely that there would be sufficient time to communicate this decision to the stewards before implementation. The Rule changes will also reflect industry wide recognition of the following:

1. Halt race decisions will almost without exception be taken under tight time constraints.
2. Each Managing Executive in taking a decision to invoke halt race procedures will do so in good faith
3. When considering whether to invoke halt race procedures a Managing Executive will have as its primary concern the safety of horses and riders which mirrors the primary concern given to this issue in the Rules
4. The industry accepts that in fulfilling its obligations under the halt race procedures there will be occasions where, on a retrospective review, some races could have continued where halt race procedures have been deployed by a Managing Executive.
5. The industry accepts that in those circumstances the Managing Executive will not be in breach of Rule 80 which imposes strict liability

The RCA has also requested that these principles to be reflected the conditions of race entry as they appear in the Racing Calendar to deal with the spectre of owners unhappy with a decision to invoke halt race procedures making a claim against the racecourse involved.

Caroline Davies or Holly Roberts

TECHNICAL

Weather Report

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

January was an exceptionally wet month with above average rainfall across all our regions and was particularly wet across Wales and northern England. It was the wettest January in over thirty years in four of our regions. Monthly mean flows increased at all but two indicator sites. Flows at all sites were *normal* or higher for the time of year, and two thirds of sites, mostly in Wales, the Midlands and northern England were either *notably* or *exceptionally* high. Groundwater levels increased at nearly all sites. At the end of January, all but two sites were *normal* or higher for the time of year. During January, reservoir storage increased across all our regions. Overall storage for England and Wales increased by 5% to 95%. Only two reservoirs in our South West and Thames Regions were lower than *normal* for the time of year.

Rainfall: January was a wet month with above average rainfall across all our regions. All but our Southern and South West Regions received more than 150% of the January long term average (LTA) rainfall. England and Wales overall received 145mm, 160% of the January LTA. It was the wettest January for over thirty years in four of our regions and North West Region recorded the wettest January since 1928. January marked the end of five consecutive months of below average rainfall in our Southern, South West and Anglian Regions.

Soil Moisture Deficit: Soil moisture deficit (SMD) was already low across all regions at the start of January, and there was little significant change during the month. At the end of January, SMD was 5mm or less in all our regions, very similar to or slightly lower than the same time last year.

River Flows: Monthly mean flows increased at all but one indicator site in January, in response to the above average rainfall during the month. Two thirds of sites were *notably* or *exceptionally* high for the time of year; the majority of these being in Wales and northern England. Monthly mean flows were higher than those recorded in January 1975[^] at all index sites and monthly mean January flows at the indicator sites in North West and North East were the highest on record.

Groundwater Levels: Groundwater levels increased at all but one of the recently updated indicator sites during the month. Levels at more than one third of sites increased by one or more descriptive classes, including eight sites in the chalk aquifers of south east and north east England. Overall, half of all indicator sites were *above normal* or higher for the time of year. Only two sites were lower than *normal*, these being Watch Hill in our Midlands Region (*notably low*) and Woodleys No. 1 in our South West Region (*exceptionally low*).

Reservoir Storage: Reservoir storage increased in all our regions during January. The largest increases of between 9% and 14% were in our North East, North West and Southern Regions. Storage was greater than 90% at just over three quarters of all reservoirs and reservoir groups. More than half of all reservoirs or reservoir groups were close to or at full capacity. Ten reservoirs or reservoir groups were *above normal* for the time of year, and a further three were *notably high*. However, Stithians Reservoir in our South West Region and Farmoor Reservoir in our Thames Region were respectively *below normal* and *notably low* for the time of year. Overall storage for England and Wales increased by 5% to 95%.

TECHNICAL

BHA General Instruction Liaison Group

The BHA General Instruction Liaison Group met on 22 February 2008. Bob Davies and Holly Robarts attended on behalf of the RCA. Below is an outline of discussions:

BHAGI 3.2: BHAGI 3.2 will be amended at Paragraph 6 to reflect discussions between the BHA and racecourses in the event of the racecourse staging a fixture in a slot which could be deemed to be unsuitable. In addition, the requirements for the annual reports from All Weather Tracks were updated to ensure they were more comprehensive. Annexes A and B of this Instruction will also be updated to include current telephone numbers and revised timings.

BHAGI 3.5: Some alterations will be made to Paragraph 14 to incorporate the findings of the Summer Jumping Review regarding the maintenance of take offs and landings.

BHAGI 3.7: BHAGI 3.7 is to be amended to include the Halt Race Procedure as agreed by the RCA, BHA and PJA.

BHAGI 3.9: This instruction will be amended with regard to lighting levels for floodlit race meetings where the distance between the photofinish and the judge's box exceeds 85 metres.

BHAGI 7.1, 7.2, 7.3 and 7.4: These General Instructions have been updated to include up to date terminology and references.

BHAGI 8.3: The requirement for those manning the entrances to the Weighing Room and Jockeys Changing room to be capable of removing those who should not be there is to be removed, as they will not be appropriately licensed by the SIA. It was noted that the dimensions given for number cloths at paragraphs 9 and 10 are inconsistent, and will therefore be updated accordingly.

BHAGI 12.1, 12.2, 12.3 and 12.4: These General Instructions have been updated to include up to date terminology and references.

Distribution: These amended Instructions will be reissued in March 2008, along with BHAGIs 3.3, 3.6, 4.2 and 5.2 which were agreed through other forums. It was agreed that this would be the final occasion on which paper copies of updates to the BHA General Instructions are issued, and any further updates will be electronic. It was proposed that racecourses should be able to download electronic updates from the BHA website

Holly Robarts

Dissemination of Raceday Information

During the RCA Clerk of the Course Seminar held on 26 and 27 November 2007 the need to improve dissemination of raceday information to the public was highlighted by professional punter Dave Nevison and Racing Post Chief Correspondent, James Willoughby.

The RCA held a meeting Thursday 28 February to discuss this matter. The meeting was attended by Caroline Davies (RCA), Will Lambe (BHA), John Phillips (RCA/Racegoers Club), Kathryn Proudlove (Weatherbys), Chris Stickels (Ascot Racecourse) and James Willoughby (Racing Post).

It was agreed that Weatherbys would make available the ability for Clerks of the Course to enter their own going reports to the administration site. The meeting requested that Clerks be encouraged to provide details of rail movement and/or changes to the tracks configuration. These reports feed automatically to the BHA public website, www.britishhorseracing.com which also features up-to-date non runner information.

The meeting agreed that it was important to provide punters with raceday information in one place. The BHA agreed to provide the entries and declarations on the site shortly. It was decided that a joint launch with the BHA, racecourses and the Racing Post of this raceday information availability should commence after the John Smiths Grand National Meeting.

Further details to follow shortly.

Caroline Davies, Lizzie Lea

TECHNICAL

BHA Veterinary Committee

The BHA Veterinary Committee met on Wednesday 23 January 2008. The RCA was represented at the meeting by Simon Knapp, RCA Veterinary Advisor. A summary of the discussions is outlined below:

Microchips: From 1 January 2008 all race entries, including those for Hunter Chases, are only accepted if a microchip number is notified to Weatherbys. This is not the case for foreign entries.

Tongue Ties: Following a review of the Instruction BHA Veterinary Officers are not obliged to replace any loose tongue tie.

Welfare Code of Practice: This is to be drafted and will be provided to the Veterinary Committee for comment when available

Counter Analysis: The need for speedy analysis of any 'B' samples has been identified, and the issue of paying for this analysis is being discussed by the BHA and NTF.

Blood Sampling: Blood sampling is now used for all Point-to-Point and some racecourse testing rather than urine. It was recognised that further consultation and improvements to the sampling kits would be required before a complete move to blood sampling could take place.

Research Priorities: The Group agreed that they should identify research priorities in order to advise the HBLB and in case of approaches from other sources of funding. This may include reviews of existing research and literature and the development of a research library.

VO/RVS Roles: It has been agreed that the proposal to combine of the roles of the BHA Veterinary Officer and the Racecourse Veterinary Surgeon will not be pursued any further.

Discretionary Post Mortems: It was proposed that the number of post mortems could

be increased for research purposes, but noted that this would not be possible due to limited funding and other practical difficulties and that the research benefits were not clear.

Casualty Management Seminars: It was proposed that the casualty management seminars for racecourse vets could be altered to include a wide range of possible scenarios. In addition it was suggested that Clerks of the Course could be invited to attend.

Injury and Fatality Announcements at Racecourses: The Committee was aware of the sensitive nature of this issue, and supportive of the tasteful balance being struck by racecourses.

Sampling Units: The BHA has indicated that they will approach the RCA regarding the installation of 'misting' equipment to disinfect sampling boxes. It was noted that some sampling boxes were in need of modernisation, and the BHA will gather specific details of these and liaise further with the RCA and relevant racecourses as appropriate.

Summer Jumping: The Committee was informed that the Summer Jumping accident and fatality information is being investigated as part of a wider study being conducted by Tim Parkin.

Training and Welfare Website: This system is on trial with 4 trainers, and the Committee was informed that it worked well for smaller training yards but may require additional development for larger yards.

BHA Ethics Committee: It was reported that the BHA would establish an Ethics Committee to deal with medical and veterinary issues in line with the requirements of animal experimentation legislation.

Caroline Davies or Holly Robarts

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 Robarts

Running Rail

The RCA has been contacted by Mr Alan Jack with an enquiry regarding the provision of second hand running rail for a racecourse in Sweden. Any racecourses with any available second hand running rail are asked to contact Mr Jack on alan@jack.net

Wireless Airspace Management on Racecourses

The British Horseracing Industry IT Network, which is organised by the BHA, has formed a sub-group to investigate Wireless Airspace Management on Racecourses. The sub-group includes representatives from the BHA, RCA, Racecourses, Weatherbys and the Tote.

The sub-group plan to conduct an investigation into the different users of wireless airspace on racecourses and their individual requirements and use this information to develop advice for racecourses on the different users, and steps they may wish to take to manage their wireless airspace.

This project is to be carried out by a third party organisation, and tenders from 4 organi-

sations were presented to the Group on 3 March 2008.

As part of the project the selected organisation will need to attend race meetings in order to conduct a level of research to discover what wireless networks are being used, and by which organisations. The RCA has asked the BHA to ensure that all relevant racecourses are contacted in advance to be made aware of who will be attending and what information they will be gathering, and that the permission of the racecourse be obtained before any research is carried out.

The BHA will issue a Press Release regarding this project shortly.

Holly Robarts

SAFETY

RaceTech Risk Assessments

At its previous meeting, the RCA Safety Group requested that the RCA contact RaceTech in order to obtain copies of their risk assessments for all roles carried out on-course. Further to discussions with RaceTech, any racecourses requiring copies of these risk assessments are asked to contact Andy Peverell at RaceTech to request them. Andy can be contacted on 0208 947 3333 or apeverell@racetech.co.uk

Holly Robarts

TRAINING

Clerk of the Course Training—RaceTech Visit—Cancelled

We advise that the Clerk of the Course Training visit to RaceTech scheduled for 27 March has been cancelled. Hopefully a further date in September will be organised shortly.

Barbara Leahy

Racecourse Groundsmen Courses

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

BADGES & PASS

Local Stewards and Casual Officials

Following continued discussions with the BHA regarding the provision of PASS Cards to local stewards and casual officials it has been decided that this will not be progressed any further.

Whilst discussions were taking place, racecourses were asked to continue to recognise the existing 2007 passes for local stewards and casual officials. These passes will now be reissued for 2008, and racecourses are asked to continue to recognise them until 31 March 2008, following which the 2007 passes should no longer be recognised.

Holly Roberts

PASS Cards

Racecourses are asked to remind all metal badge holders that their badge should be accompanied by a PASS Card. Those who do not have a PASS Card should contact the RCA or the PASS Helpdesk in order to get a PASS Card application form.

Holly Roberts

RCA and Press Badge Lists

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

Holly Roberts

2008 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: 161, 679, 830, 847, 848, 861, 1075, 1136
 Press: 60, 394, 536
 Officials: 106, 148
 PJA: 22, 79, 93, 302, 1783
 NTF: 5, 6, 34, 392, 393, 453, 454, 477, 478, 638, 639,
 672, 782, 783, 854, 855, 856, 857, 905, 906, 953, 1342

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 April and May 2008. For further details regarding specific dates please e-mail: events@racingregister.co.uk or contact Lynn Payne at Sportsguide Limited on 01344 774322.

April

- | | | |
|----|----------|---|
| 3 | Thursday | John Smith's Grand National Meeting – Aintree (until 5 Sat) |
| 4 | Friday | Great Leigh's host first Meeting |
| 5 | Saturday | John Smith's Grand National Day - Aintree |
| 14 | Monday | Goodwood Pre-Season Press Launch |
| 15 | Tuesday | Tattersalls Craven Breeze Up sale - Newmarket (until 17 Thurs)

Horseracing Sponsors Association Social/Networking Evening – The Turf Club |
| 19 | Saturday | Dubai Duty Free Press lunch - Newbury |

May

- | | | |
|----|-----------|---|
| 1 | Thursday | Tattersalls Guineas Breeze Up Sale (until 2 Fri) |
| 3 | Friday | Guineas Meeting – Newmarket (until 4 Sat) |
| 14 | Wednesday | 2008 May Festival – York (until 16 Friday) |
| 17 | Saturday | Juddmonte Lockinge Day – Newbury |
| 19 | Monday | DBS Spring Sale (until 23 Fri) |

SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Spotlight On

Tony Kelly

Group Managing Director—Northern Racing



Age	41
Marital Status/ Children/Pets	Married to Sam, two girls Lauren 13 and Hannah 11. Two Black labs, Freddie 2 and Bliss 1.
Previous Career(s)	Joined NR in 2004 as FD, prior to that FD for UK Hotel PLC, then various finance roles in Nike Group and Copthorne Hotels.
Best Bits About Your Job	Being out on the courses when the sun shines, the turnstiles are ticking over, hospitality is full and everyone, including the staff, are enjoying themselves.
Worst Bit About Your Job	Horse fatalities. It dampens the whole day and the connections tend to get forgotten.
Best Racing Experience(s)	Picking 5 out of 6 winners at the last meeting at Ascot prior to closure. I was new in the industry and everyone thought I had some magic formula. (Thank you Katie Stephens!)
Worst Racing Experience	Picking 1 loser after 5 winners at Ascots last meeting prior to closure.....
Racing Hero	My Great Grandmother - nothing to do with racing, but she loved the sport, it was always on the telly. She never bet, only in her head but she got cross whether she fictionally won or lost. She'd love to be around today to experience what I'm fortunate enough to do.
Most Fanciable Racing Personality	Difficult to say, but an invite to the Northern Racing Xmas party is a pretty hot ticket.
Hobbies	Previously regular footballer and cricketer. Now occasional golf. Also enjoying doing a few charity fundraising events. Enjoy good food and wine as well.
Favourite Film & TV	I love the Commitments - story of rags to riches and back to rags again. Great music, black humour - just don't let your children watch it - the language is fruity. TV - Spooks/Silent Witness/Waking the dead.
Favourite Holiday Destination	Caribbean with Sam, Portugal with the kids.
Current Wheels	BMW X5
One Wish To Improve The Industry	World 'Racing' Peace! Seriously - prize money could be doubled if it wasn't blown on lawyers fees. There are too many factional interests in racing. Until they come together, no easy task, then this sport will never extract its full value.

DIARY DATES

17 March	Racecourse Briefing
20 March	REL Board Meeting
26 March	RaceTech Board Meeting
7 April	Race Planning Group
7 April	Annual Fixtures Meeting
10 April	RCA Audit Committee Meeting
14 April	RCA Legal Group
22 April	Racing Committee

ATTACHMENTS

Brandwagon Newsletter

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