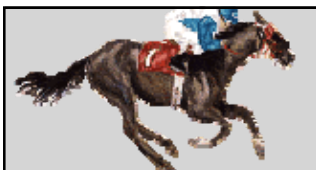


2008 LONDON MARATHON

Injured Jockeys Fund

Lizzie Lea, the RCA Research Assistant, is running in the London Marathon on Sunday 13 April in aid of the Injured Jockeys Fund. Lizzie is sponsored by The Racegoers Club. If you would like to support her and this worthy cause please donate securely online at www.justgiving.com/lizzielea. Any contributions will be greatly appreciated and should be made before the end of June 2008.

Lizzie Lea



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RACE PLANNING

2009 Fixture List

Fixture Criteria

The 2009 Fixture process kicked off following the RCA organised Annual Fixtures Meeting on 7 April. Racecourse Managers should all have received the HBLB fixture criteria, which was circulated on 20 March.

- Maximum of 1,469 funded fixtures, split: 1,203 Racecourse, 156 Leasehold fixtures of which no less than 35 should be Jumping, and 110 Floodlit AWT fixtures. The remainder of the criteria is unchanged, being:
 - 2 afternoon fixtures on Monday and Tuesday.
 - 3 afternoon fixtures from Wednesday to Friday.
 - Maximum of 5 fixtures on any day from Monday to Friday (of which no more than 3 can be afternoon fixtures).
 - No afternoon criteria breaks.
 - During September to May inclusive, reserve criteria status to 3rd afternoon fixtures on Monday and Tuesday and for 4 AWT fixtures during Christmas week.
 - During Turf Flat season there should be at least 1 afternoon Turf Flat fixture each day.
 - During core NH season of January and February there should be 2 NH fixtures per afternoon where possible.
- 4 afternoon fixtures on Saturday, except where agreed between HBLB and BHA to accommodate television requirements.
- Minimum of 4 afternoon fixtures on Bank Holidays and a maximum to be agreed by HBLB and BHA.
- Funding to be provided for a maximum of 2 evening fixtures from Monday to Saturday. No single evenings can be programmed from mid-April until the end of August.
- Minimum of 2 and a maximum of 3 afternoon fixtures on a Sunday.
- Within the total, flexibility may be applied in exceptional circumstances to the number of evenings per week, number of fixtures per evening and the evenings on which fixtures take place, if agreed in advance with the HBLB and BHA.

Contd.....

RACE PLANNING

2009 Fixture List

Timetable

The timetable for the 2009 Fixture List process is as follows:

3 April	-	Final Framework to racecourses
7 April	-	RCA Annual Fixtures Meeting
14 April	-	Start of "friendly moves" Round 1
25 April	-	Deadline "friendly moves" Round 1
2 May	-	1 st Fixture Allocation Committee (FAC) meeting
7 May	-	Start of "friendly moves" Round 2
20 May	-	Deadline "friendly moves" Round 2
28 May	-	2 nd FAC meeting
9 June	-	BIDDING PROCESS for BHA fixtures
12 June	-	Enterprise Fixture Allocation
16 – 20 June	-	Final non-contentious applications accepted
23 June	-	Final FAC meeting
14 July	-	BHA Board to approve the 2009 Fixture List

Evening Fixtures

Racecourse Managers are reminded that criteria evening fixtures will only receive 80% BDR funding. The Turf evening period will run from Friday 17 April to Saturday 29 August 2009. Floodlit AWT racing will start on 2 January to 16 April and 1 September to the end of December on Wednesdays to Saturdays (1 fixture per evening).

Racecourse Fixtures

It will again be possible to use the BHA bidding website to sell or lease Racecourse Fixtures. Racecourse Managers can set their own terms for the sale or lease and although there is no possibility to put in a reserve, you can fix the minimum bid that you are seeking. Racecourses wishing to take this opportunity should contact Richard Wayman at the BHA (0207 152 0059) **as soon as possible**. A separate auction will be set up on an appropriate date.

BHA Fixtures

BHA Fixture slots have been highlighted in the Final Framework of the 2009 Fixture List, i.e. a blank blue (signifies protected slot) or green box (can be used during 'Friendly Moves' phases) will appear at the left-hand side. For 2009, a total of 138 can be bid for when the bidding process starts in June (30 Flat / 12 Jump / 96 Floodlit AWT). 8 fixtures will be allocated to Ffos Las who are due to start in June 2009.

The RCA has made it possible for Racecourses to sublet their BHA fixtures, subject to reasonable objections from racecourses racing on the same day and having secured BHA Inspectorate approval.

Enterprise Fixtures

4 Enterprise fixtures will be offered up in a variety of slots following the bidding process for BHA fixtures. If a racecourse wishes to relinquish its Enterprise Fixture then the slot will become available for selection. However, the fixture as such will not be replaced. Racecourses are reminded that the minimum contribution to prize money is as follows: £40,000 for Flat and £30,000 for Jumping.

An electronic allocation process will be introduced for 2009 with the combined Merit Table determining the order of who goes first.

With regard to funding, the HBLB Chairman and Chief Executive confirmed during a meeting with the RCA Board, that funding for Enterprise Fixtures for 2009 was unlikely, but that they would consider providing prize money for 2010 onwards. On that basis, the RCA has requested that they consider funding integrity payments in 2009.

Contd.....

RACE PLANNING

2009 Fixture List

Annual Fixtures Meeting

The RCA's Annual Fixtures meeting took place on 7 April at the Portman Hotel, London. The meeting was attended by numerous racecourses, the RCA Chairman and Chief Executive, as well as a number of BHA Executives, amongst others Racing Director, Ruth Quinn, Fraser Garrity and Richard Wayman. The HBLB Racing Director, David Bradshaw was also in attendance. Areas that were covered included: fixture criteria, fixtures incentive scheme, BHA Strategic Review of the Fixture List, Enterprise Fixtures and the Optimum Use of the Turf document. Notes from the meeting will be circulated to all courses shortly.

Fixture Allocation Committee (FAC)

The first meeting of the FAC is scheduled for Friday 2 May. For your information, the Group will consist of the following members/observers.

Members

Ruth Quinn/BHA (Chairman)
 Stephen Atkin/RCA
 Carla Moore/RCA
 Michael Harris/ROA
 Toby Balding/NTF
 Adrian Grazebrook/BHA

Observers

Richard Wayman / BHA	Tim Newton / BHA
David Bradshaw/HBLB	Richard Linley/BHA
Tony Goodhew/BHA	Peter Hobbs/BHA (when R Linley is unavailable)

Fixture Market / RCA Website

The RCA has again made 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 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. There are already a few 'offers' on the site, so please go and take a look.

Laura Holmes will administer the site and therefore any requests should be directed to her (laura.holmes@racecourseassociation.co.uk or fax 01344 627 233).

Bidding Process

BHA Fixtures will be allocated on 1, 2 and 3-year leases, thereby ensuring that there will always be BHA Fixtures available for competitive bidding each year. However, winter evening Flat fixtures will be offered on a 1-year basis as well as a small number of BHA fixtures in those periods most liable to movement in the framework (i.e. first week of January, Easter and Christmas).

The list of fixtures available for bidding will be issued during the first of week of June. Racecourses will shortly be provided with a document specifying the full conditions associated with all BHA Fixtures acquired through the Fixture Bidding Process.

Carla Moore

RACE PLANNING

Optimum Use of the Turf

You should all have received the individual data for your course(s) from the BHA Racecourse Department for comment. Please note that the FAC makes ample reference to this extensive and detailed report.

Carla Moore

2009 Fixture Incentive Scheme

The HBLB will confirm the 2009 Fixtures Incentive Scheme at its Strategy Review on 16 April. The RCA Executive has been working with the HBLB to establish the scheme and it is proposed that no changes are made to the actual scheme. However, the RCA has submitted a request for payment to racecourses that use frost covers to protect the entire track.

Carla Moore

Abandonment Payments

For 2008, the HBLB will continue to pay a fee of £10,000 to compensate racecourses for any abandonment it has suffered.

Carla Moore

Levy Board Notice in Racecards

Racecourse Managers are reminded to include a standard notice in all their racecards regarding the Horserace Betting Levy Board's contribution to prize money for 2008.

Carla Moore

Race Exemptions from Field Size Limits

A Racecourse may apply to the BHA Racing Department for any race with a Total Prize Fund in excess of £30,000 to be exempt from the imposition of a Field Size Limit, subject to compliance with the Safety Factor for the race. Such application must be made in writing no later than one month prior to the publication of the race conditions in the Racing Calendar.

Carla Moore

Deadline for Jump Pattern Race Applications

Any changes to races within the Jump Pattern must be agreed by the Jump Racing Sub-Committee and subsequently approved by the BHA Racing Committee. All proposed changes for the forthcoming season must be submitted to the Racing Department by the end of **May**. No applications will be considered after this date, unless otherwise directed by the BHA in exceptional circumstances, i.e. for Summer Jumping.

Carla Moore

Jump Racing Development Group

The next meeting of the Jump Racing Development Group will take place on Thursday 29 May.

Carla Moore

Race Times Committee

The Race Times Committee will meet on 22 April to discuss timings relating to Programme Book Volume III, which covers 1 July to the end of September. It is anticipated that you will receive confirmation of your race times for that period by the end of April/beginning of May.

Carla Moore

48-Hour Decs Appearance Money

In view of the agreement that was reached in November between racecourses and the Horsemen with regard to 48-hour declarations, racecourses linked to RUK will distribute a proportion of their rights income via Appearance Money. This will be advertised clearly in the Racing Calendar under the conditions of the relevant races.

Carla Moore

RACE PLANNING

Claiming Chases

The BHA, with co-operation from racecourses, has introduced a handful of Claiming Steeple Chases this year. The dates are as follows:

Date	Racecourse	Distance
January 7	Taunton	2m 3f
February 3	Musselburgh	2m 4f
April 12	Uttoxeter	2m 6½f
April 18	Ayr	3m 1f
April 25	Chepstow	3m

Carla Moore

Report from RCA Race Planning Group Meeting

The RCA Race Planning Group met on Monday 7 April 2008. The Racecourses were represented by Nick Lees, Ed Gretton, Neil Mackenzie-Ross, Ian Renton, James Hutchinson, Michael Prosser, and Jim Allen. Also in attendance were John Smee, Carla Moore and Laura Holmes. A summary of the discussions is below:

48 Hour Declarations for Jump Racing: The Group was advised that the BHA Racing Committee had approved the introduction of 48 hour declarations for 1 race per Saturday during the Jump season. The Jump Race Sub Committee meeting will further discuss an across the board introduction of 48 hour declaration for Jump racing on Saturdays.

Reserves: The Group considered that it should be left to individual racecourses to decide whether to apply a reserve system to any of its races.

Late TV Payments: The Group was informed that changes to the application process for late TV payments had been progressed and were now in place.

Modernisation of the Programme Book: The Group agreed that it would be helpful for racecourses to receive a report (in email format) of the changes made to all race programmes (following the publication of the Programme Book) from the BHA. The RCA was asked to approach the BHA Racing Department.

2009 Fixture List: CM reported that the HBLB Fixture Criteria would remain unchanged for 2009.

Enterprise Fixtures: CM updated the Group on the HBLB's position with regard to funding for Enterprise Fixtures. The RCA had been advised that funding would not be available in 2009 but that the Levy Board had been more upbeat about funding for 2010 (75% of BDR). CM explained that she had written to the HBLB to ask for integrity funding to be made available for 2009. This request is likely to be discussed at the HBLB Strategic Review meeting on 16 April.

Fixture Incentive Scheme: The Group was informed that the RCA's submission regarding the Fixture Incentive Scheme proposed no change for 2009. The only change had been to introduce frost cover payments (£10k per deployment). The details of how to qualify for any payments would be finalised with the HBLB Executive.

BHA Strategic Review – Recommendations:

- Saturdays - the Group was surprised that as many as 33 fixtures on Saturdays were deemed 'weak'.
- Sundays – the Group expressed concern that the BHA chose to create blank days in the fixture list, i.e. no product in the betting shops equates to no income.
- Horses rated below 40 – slight concern whether the Industry may need these horses at certain times of the year.
- Geographical spread – Group would like to know the logistics of the proposal.
- It was pointed out that the BHA's recommendation of 3 AWT evening fixtures per week from November to March deviated from the bookmakers request for 6. The Group was also concerned that the BHA had not taken into account the number of 7th races which had been programmed on AWT tracks during the core winter period which was the equivalent of 21 fixtures.

Supplementary Entries: The Group considered the current mechanism for supplementary entries and asked the RCA to monitor them with a view to putting forward recommendations for 2009.

RCA/NTF Race Planning Meetings: The Group agreed that meetings between racecourses and the NTF representatives should take place in 2008. The RCA would investigate which month would be best for trainers.

Breeders Prizes: The Group suggested that the RCA should investigate where monies are allocated, especially with a view to supporting Jump racing.

Laura Holmes

B H A

Racing Industry Takes Steps to Protect Wireless Operations on a Raceday

- **Stakeholders come together to review current situation**
- **Overarching project consultancy to be provided by Redstone converged Solutions**

Key organisations within British Horseracing have joined forces to look at ways of best ensuring that the many wireless networks (Wi-Fi) on racecourses allow for the smooth operation of raceday procedures.

Wi-Fi usage has grown considerably in Britain in recent years. Racecourses are unique settings, with a multitude of businesses operating in a relatively confined space even at the largest venues, and an initial assessment of the current situation found that up to 50 different networks could be operating at a racecourse on a single raceday, all potentially competing for the same bandwidth, with obvious complications for the successful functioning of essential raceday services.

A group set up by the Authority and comprising of the Racecourse Association, the Tote, Jockey Club Racecourses, Arena Leisure, Ascot Racecourse and Weatherbys has selected Redstone Converged Solutions, to conduct a review of existing racecourse Wi-Fi installations and service requirements.

At the end of the review, Redstone Converged Solutions will propose to racecourses viable solutions to control the use of WiFi and suppress the likelihood of cross interference and degraded service.

Steven Shaw, IT Manager at the British Horseracing Authority said:
“This is a great example of the industry

working together as one, proactively looking to solve a complex technology problem and to provide a better service to Racing. Technology plays a huge part in the smooth running of the sport and it is paramount that the industry works together in future projects like this not only to assist in protecting the integrity, broadcasting, catering and betting operations on a race day but also go on to improve the racing experience.”

Head of IT for totepool Neil Harmer said:
“This initiative will ensure that there is improved awareness and much tighter control of wireless networks on racecourses, giving improved stability and security for race day operations and maintaining the ability of the tote to provide a flexible betting service for race goers.”

Matt Richards, Business Development Director of Redstone Converged Solutions said:
“Redstone Converged Solutions is delighted to be awarded this strategic consultancy project. Through our previous experience in the racing industry, we fully recognise the critical importance of wireless technology to the running of a race day.

“The use of wireless technology is pervasive across the industry and as such, it needs to be fully understood and planned in order to provide stakeholders with a secure and reliable environment in which they can use their systems and focus on their various businesses on a race day. Redstone is proud to be involved in this important project.”

For further information please contact Steve Shaw on 020 7152 0072.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance figures for the first quarter of 2008 show a considerable drop on the comparable period in 2007, with total attendance down despite over 50 more fixtures taking place. The average attendance is down by nearly 20% on last year, and whilst it must be noted that Cheltenham's abandoned Wednesday contributed to a loss of around 50,000 people, even had it not been abandoned average attendance would still be down by around 13%. *John Phillips*

Month	2008			2007		
	Attendance	Actual Fixtures	Ave. Daily	Attendance	Actual Fixtures	Ave. Daily
January	157,268	97	1,621	151,124	86	1,757
February	169,622	99	1,713	142,828	72	1,984
March*	375,174	101	3,715	424,708	89	4,772
Total	702,064	297	2,364	718,660	247	2,910
	(-2.3%)	(+20.2%)	(-18.8%)			

*Five March attendances yet to be received

PROMOTIONS

The Times Month of Evening Racing

The offer launched in The Times week commencing Monday 17 March and has appeared on three subsequent occasions. Unfortunately it was not possible to support this offer by including a booking form along with the fixture and price information, with customers directed instead to The Times website or to the RCA to obtain a form. This will obviously impact upon ticket sales, but hopefully it will still prove to be a worthwhile exercise. *John Phillips*

The Mail on Sunday Ticket Offer

35 racecourses are participating in this offer on 84 racedays in 2008. The offer was launched over Christmas and appeared for a second time in the Daily Mail on Friday 4 April. 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	9 March	Warwick	96
10 February	Hereford	48	16 March	Carlisle	32
17 February	Southwell	56	16 March	Fontwell	80
24 February	Fontwell	104	30 March	Wincanton	96
2 March	Bangor	110	6 April	Hexham	Abandoned
2 March	Huntingdon	106	6 April	Market Rasen	70
9 March	Market Rasen	82	TOTAL SOLD		966

PROMOTIONS

British Horseracing Call Centre

The Racecourse Association has been fulfilling the function of the BHA's call centre since April 2007, taking telephone bookings and processing all web bookings. Below are the ticket sales dealt with since the start of 2008 along with the equivalent sales from last year.

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
March	277	1,029	£24,767	253	1,130	£25,468
TOTAL	708	2,758	£72,339	710	2,895	£71,939
	(-0.3%)	(-4.7%)	(+0.6%)			

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)
 March 2008 saw orders taken on behalf of 37 different courses (36 last March)

John Phillips

THE RACEGOERS CLUB

Fixture Booklets

The Racegoers Club's complimentary fixture booklets have already been distributed at courses holding winter National Hunt and All-Weather racing. The remaining stock will be distributed at flat-only and summer jumping courses shortly. We will be in touch in advance to make arrangements.

Paul Smith

Owners Groups

Owners Group 26 has begun with Maia, who ran admirably for the Club in 2007, returning for the 2008 Flat season with Dandy Nicholls. She made her seasonal debut in late March at Redcar, running well to be third of 20 despite needing the run, and is entered at Doncaster for Saturday 12 April.

Paul Smith

COMMUNICATIONS

Photographers

The RCA would like to remind all racecourses that details of RCA accredited and Racecourse Commercial Photographer lists are available on request. If you would like to add or amend your official racecourse commercial photographer, please contact Lizzie Lea.

Lizzie Lea

Wi-Fi Access in Press Rooms

The RCA is conducting a survey of wi-fi availability in racecourse press rooms. Racecourses are asked to inform Lizzie Lea of whether they have wi-fi available for use by the press on race-days.

Lizzie Lea

COMMUNICATIONS

HWPA New President

At the Horserace Writers and Photographers Association AGM held on Saturday 5 April Will Hayler was elected President of the Association. Will succeeds Geoff Lester who had held the position since 2004.

Will shall be writing to all courses shortly to introduce himself but has asked that racecourses contact him in the meantime if they have any queries. We wish Will luck in his new role and would like to thank Geoff for his valuable contribution during his time in office and wish him all the best for the future.

Website Alert

It has been brought to our attention that a website named www.goldenmoments.com is offering packages at all racecourses for £164.99 this includes two club/members badges and lunch. This price is standard across all courses and may not reflect the true cost of such a package obtained at a racecourse. Please ensure that you are happy for your racecourse to be listed on such a site as many tracks have been included without their permission.

Lizzie Lea

RACETECH

RaceTech Reminders

A short reminder to all those racecourses getting ready for the summer Flat season that if you would like us to test equipment prior to your opening race meeting, please let us know. It is not always easy to try and do everything at the last minute and any maintenance should be done in advance, which will work out much cheaper than trying to manage last minute fixes and rush jobs. We are delighted to help you to manage your equipment and can advise on future requirements so that you have some ideas for budgeting and investment purposes – no one likes nasty costly surprises but kit (especially outdoor equipment) does wear out and need replacing.

Secondly, a reminder that RaceTech is working closely with various vendors of ticketing and access control solutions, and can offer a variety of flexible solutions for racecourses, including mobile turnstiles. Please call Catherine Pullan for more information.

As the installation of the new Sony XDCam system continues across the fleet and at Raynes Park head office, we are now able to offer a pro-

duction facility to put together promotional DVDs for racecourses or even raceday sponsors. If you would like more details on costs and ideas for promotional materials (that could be shown on your own CCTV etc), please call Guy Fontaine at RaceTech head office.

Lastly, RaceTech is pleased to announce that we are launching a new microsite (adjacent to our main web site) promoting the work that our AV design and installations teams have been doing beyond the racing industry. The new site will go live towards the end of April and will be found at www.RaceTech.TV.

This represents an exciting time for RaceTech as it is a clear indication that our work has multi industry appeal and our unique knowledge and experience of racecourses is a set of transferable skills into other markets. We have also done some update work on the main RaceTech web site, so please have a look and tell us what you think. All of the new information will be up on the web by the last week of April.

Catherine Pullan

SPONSORSHIP

News from the Horseracing Sponsors Association

Flat Racing Sponsorship Showcase Event – Friday 27 June 2008 – Newmarket

Following on from the Jump Racing Sponsorship Showcase Event at Cheltenham last October, which received excellent feedback and requests for a similar event for the flat, we are now organising a Flat Racing Sponsorship Showcase Event at Newmarket, to be jointly funded by the HSA and Newmarket Racecourse. The event will take place on Friday 27 June with a packed seminar during the day at the Rowley Mile Course. This will be followed in the evening with a champagne reception (kindly sponsored by Allerton & Co) and a delegate dinner (kindly sponsored by Letheby & Christopher), at the July Course – and delegates can enjoy the evening racing and after racing music with Jools Holland and his Band.

The event will be free to two representatives of any organisation that is a member of the Horseracing Sponsors Association and to existing sponsors. There will be a delegate fee of £125.00 to everyone else - however, if the delegate's organisation goes on to join the HSA or becomes a horse-racing sponsor within six months of the event then the seminar fee will be refunded.

Full details of the event will be emailed to all racecourse sponsorship personnel – jump courses are invited too! We hope that racecourses will use the opportunity to showcase flat sponsorship to potential sponsors/investors and bring them along to the event.

If you have any questions about the event please do not hesitate to contact me – 01488 73930 or 07786 925803.

Mary Ann Sandercock

TECHNICAL

New Official Distances

Racecourses will be aware that 6 New Official Distances were introduced from 25 February 2008. These are Nose, 2 ¼ lengths, 2 ¾ lengths, 3 ¼ lengths, 3 ¾ lengths and 4 ½ lengths.

In line with this, a trial of an alteration to the way in which distances are calculated is also taking place. All distances are calculated based on the Going as follows:

National Hunt

4 lengths per second when the going is good to soft or softer

5 lengths per second when the going is good or firmer

Flat

5 lengths per second for AW Fibresand and for turf when the going is soft or heavy

6 lengths per second for AW Polytrack and for turf when the going is good to soft or firmer

It is therefore essential that the judge is aware of the Going before the first race and of any changes throughout the day so that the appropriate alterations to calculations can be made. Judges have been advised that they should request this information, but Clerks of the Course are requested to inform them wherever possible.

Caroline Davies or Holly Roberts

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

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. These procedures, and associated changes to the Rules of Racing, are awaiting agreement from the BHA Board, but it is anticipated that they will be introduced for both Flat and Jump racecourses from the official start of the 2008 Jump Season on 27 April 2008.

The Halt Race 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 must now be accompanied by a Fox 40 whistle in order to get the attention of the jockeys.

The RCA has placed a central order of Yellow Flags and Fox 40 whistles for those racecourses who submitted an order, and they should receive these in advance of their first race meeting after 27 April.

Caroline Davies or Holly Roberts

Dissemination of Raceday Information

Racecourses are asked to be aware that in line with alterations to BHA General Instruction 3.2 rail movements can be included alongside the mandatory official going reports together with other information, such as the position of stalls and any watering information. This information will then be distributed to the press and will be included in the Going Reports on the Racing Administration website and the going section on the British Horseracing Authority website. The BHA has confirmed that the computer development budget necessary to allow Racecourses to input their own information onto the site has been approved. The facility should be available later in 2008.

Caroline Davies

TECHNICAL

Weather Report

Below is a summary of the February 2008 Weather Report (for England and Wales) from the Environment Agency.

February was a dry month with below average rainfall across all our regions; our Southern, South West and Thames Regions received only half the monthly average rainfall. Soil moisture deficits remained low with only very slight increases during February. Monthly mean flows decreased at all indicator sites. Flows were *below normal* at just over a fifth of all sites and *normal* elsewhere. Groundwater levels decreased within the faster responding aquifers. At the end of February, more than three quarters of groundwater sites were *normal* or higher for the time of year. Regional reservoir storage was more than 90% in all our regions at the end of February and overall storage for England and Wales remained unchanged at 95%. Only two reservoirs or reservoir groups in our South West and North West Regions were lower than *normal* for the time of year.

Rainfall: February was a relatively dry month, particularly in southern England. There was little or no rainfall in any of our regions during the middle two weeks of the month. All our regions received below average rainfall and all but our North West Region and EA Wales received approximately three-quarters of the February long term average (LTA). Our Southern, South West and Thames Regions each received only half the February LTA rainfall.

Soil Moisture Deficit: Soil moisture deficit (SMD) changed little over the month; deficits were already low across all regions at the end of January. Any increases in SMD during February were less than 5mm. At the end of February, SMD was approximately

5mm or less, very similar to or slightly higher than the same time last year.

River Flows: Monthly mean flows decreased at all indicator sites in February in response to below average rainfall. More than one third of flow sites decreased by three or more descriptive classes. Overall, just over a fifth of sites were classified as below normal for the time of year. All other sites were normal, including the regional index sites. Monthly mean flows were slightly lower than those recorded in February 1975[^] at the index site in EA Wales, but elsewhere they were higher.

Groundwater Levels: Groundwater levels decreased at half of the indicator sites during the month, these being in the more responsive aquifers. Overall, levels at one third of sites decreased by one or more descriptive classes during February, whereas only four sites increased by a descriptive class. At the end of February, four sites were below normal, and Woodleys No. 1 in our South West Region was notably low for the time of year. All other sites were normal or higher for the time of year.

Reservoir Storage: There was little change in reservoir storage during the month. Storage remained at 90% or more at over three quarters of all reservoirs and reservoir groups, and at 95% or more at two thirds. At the end of February, two reservoirs and reservoir groups in the south east were exceptionally high for the time of year. This includes Farmoor reservoir in Thames Region, where storage recovered fully after pumping from the Thames was resumed. In contrast, Stithians Reservoir in our South West Region and Pennines Reservoir Group in our North West Region were below normal. Overall storage for England and Wales remained at 95%.

TECHNICAL

Enhancements to TRICL 1 to allow data transfer via the Internet

An enhancement has been completed to the TRICL 1 system to allow a faster and more efficient method of data transfer between racecourses and Weatherbys using an internet connection. This release will be available late March/early April 2008. The current software and hardware in place for data transfer has been in place since the system was introduced in 1998, and has obviously become progressively more difficult to maintain/support and is now obsolete.

In order to gain the full benefit of the upgrade racecourses will need to have access to a broadband connection. If, however broadband connectivity is not available, then the TRICL 1 machine can be configured to use a 'Dial-Up' connection to the internet. The only difference will be that the data will take longer to transmit.

Installation of the new upgrade will need to be carried out by Weatherbys Technicians, and there are two installation options available:

Option A: Site Visit: A Weatherbys Technician will arrange a site visit to upgrade the TRICL 1 system. The cost of this option will be £364 plus mileage.

Option B: Remote Installation: A Weatherbys Technician will arrange to access the racecourse pc remotely via a web connection. During the hours of 9-5 there will be no charge for this installation, however, please be aware that if the installation is not straightforward there may still be the requirement for a site visit which will incur

the standard TRICL 1 install charge as detailed in Option A above.

If the TRICL 1 machine has an operating system of either Windows ME/98/95 then the operating system will no longer be supported and will not be compatible with the new transfer connectivity. Therefore a pc upgrade will be required and a site visit (Option A above) as a full system installation will be required. Weatherbys, if required can provide quotations for new equipment and appropriate software costs.

As a result of utilising internet connectivity it is recommended that some precautions are taken to protect the computer against internet threats. Ideally a Firewall, Anti-virus and Spy Ware packages should be installed (many providers sell these as a combined package). It is also important that these programs are regularly updated. Weatherbys can either recommend suitable programs or alternatively can provide pricing to supply and install.

The existing transfer software and infrastructure will be decommissioned and cease to be available after the end of June 2008. A member of Weatherbys Customer Support Department will make contact with racecourses over the next two weeks to confirm preferred installation method and to arrange a suitable time slot. Alternatively, they may be contacted at Customer Support on 01933 304749.

Holly Roberts

TECHNICAL

2008 Pony Racing Series Begins

The 2008 Charles Owen Pony Racing Series begins at Lingfield Park Racecourse on Saturday 5 April, the first of 20 races around the country culminating in the prestigious Charles Owen Pony Racing Finals at Aintree Racecourse in October.

Riders and Ponies will be bidding to accumulate points throughout the Series, awarded on a sliding scale for winning and placed rides, with the top 15 qualifying for Aintree.

This is the fifth year of recognised Pony Racing in Britain. Over 80 Point-to-Points are staging Pony Racing in 2008 and Membership of The Pony Racing Authority, the sport's Governing Body, has increased by 200%.

Rebecca Morgan, Chief Executive of The Pony Racing Authority comments, "Pony Racing continues to go from strength to strength, and this year there are already over 300 registered Riders enjoying the sport. Point-to-Point Pony Races have been very competitive and I am sure the 2008 Charles Owen Pony Racing Series will be the best yet.

"We are very grateful to the racecourses and our sponsor, Charles Owen, for their continued support and look forward to this year's Champion going on to greater success after Pony Racing, as many others are now doing."

Rebecca Morgan, Chief Executive – The Pony Racing Authority

WELFARE & TRAINING

Air Ambulance

We would like to remind all racecourses that their risk assessment may require arrangements to be in place for an air ambulance to land at the course. Racecourse staff responsible for guiding in the helicopter should be provided with a florescent panel (which can be purchased as a neat satchel with securing stakes) which can be deployed to indicate the correct landing point.

Caroline Davies/Lizzie Lea

RMO Training Courses 2009

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 BHAGI 11.1 para 1, RMOs must undertake training every three years (or 4 for ATLS). Courses are scheduled to be held on 28 February—1 March 2009, 9—10 May 2009 and 19—20 September 2009 at Chorley and 4-5 July 2009 at Newmarket. To book a place, please contact Dr Bob Bennett on 07979 506548.

WELFARE & TRAINING

British Horseracing Authority Welfare & Training Group Meeting 4 April 2008

The BHA Welfare and Training Group met on 4 April. Below is a summary of the points discussed that are relevant to racecourses:

Membership: It was noted that Sarah Oliver would join the Group to represent the Amateur Jockeys Association.

BHA Commitment to Welfare & Training: At the recent BHA annual conference, both the BHA Chairman and Chief Executive underlined the BHA commitment to welfare and training.

Funding, Budget & Resources: It was agreed that professional advice would be sought with regard to available funding and the feasibility of securing this for racing projects.

Fitness to Work: It was noted that a policy was being developed to assist employers in their management of drugs and alcohol related issues in the workplace.

Computerisation of Jockey Medical Records: It was agreed that this project should be expanded to include jockey physio/Jockey Injury Management (JIM) records. The necessary computer development and implementation budget has been taken on by BHA. The implementation plan will be tabled at the June meeting.

Remounting: The Group noted that in 2007 and so far in 2008 there had been a total of 10 occasions when a horse had been remounted after a fall.

Private Medical Insurance: The PJA, IJF and BHA are investigating the central provision of a tailor made PMI package for jockeys.

Affordable Housing: Racing Welfare is progressing an initiative arising from the Donoghue Report to provide affordable

housing for stable staff. The concept has been supported and the next phase is to identify investors and work up the detail including land availability.

Immigration: New legislation is due to be introduced for non-UK and non-EU staff. It is likely that approximately 30% racing staff will be caught as they would not meet the points based criteria. The NTF and BHA will address options prior to the June 2008 deadline.

Training Needs Analysis: The BHA has produced a draft report showing the results of the recent TNA. The final version will be considered by the BHA Board in May.

Physiotherapy: The BHA has established a Group to assess the provision of physiotherapy and establish how this service can be expanded and funded in future.

Named Support for Jockeys: It was noted that the RCA and PJA had confirmed and implemented revised procedures to ensure that appropriate support and notification arrangements are in place if a jockey is injured and sent to hospital.

JETS: A DVD has been sent to RaceTech and SIS to be shown on racedays in order to promote the Jockeys Employment Training Service.

Racing Welfare Helpline: Racing Welfare is to pilot a national 24/7 helpline to test the need for a dedicated racing service. It is not a counselling helpline. It was agreed that a commercial sponsor would not be appropriate. We have offered to distribute information to racecourses for display in Stable Staff Canteen, changing rooms etc.

Date of Next Meeting: Friday 6 June 2008.

Caroline Davies

WELFARE & TRAINING

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

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 Roberts

BADGES & PASS

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, 899, 990, 1067, 1075, 1136, 1248
 Press: 60, 149, 394, 536
 Officials: 106, 148
 PJA: 22, 64, 79, 93, 302, 318, 1783
 NTF: 5, 6, 34, 120, 121, 202, 203, 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 May and June 2008. For further details regarding specific dates please e-mail: events@racingregister.co.uk or contact Lynn Payne at Sportsguide Limited on 01344 774322.

May

1	Thursday	Tattersalls Guineas Breeze Up Sale (until 2 Fri)
2	Friday	Guineas Meeting – Newmarket (until 4 Sat)
6	Tuesday	Derby Media Launch Party, London
14	Wednesday	2008 May Festival – York (until 16 Friday)
17	Saturday	Juddmonte Lockinge Day – Newbury
19	Monday	DBS Spring Sale (until 23 Fri)
29	Thursday	Derby ‘Breakfast with the Stars’ – Epsom Downs

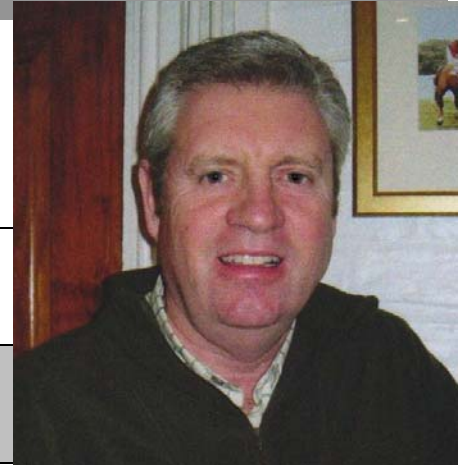
June

6	Friday	Derby Festival – Juddmonte Oaks – Epsom Downs
7	Saturday	Vodafone Derby – Epsom Downs
10	Tuesday	Royal Ascot & Global Sprint Challenge Launch - Newmarket including Dinner at the Jockey Club Rooms
11	Wednesday	Royal Ascot and Global Sprint Challenge - Newmarket including Gallops visits, breakfast and Press Conference
17	Tuesday - 21 Saturday	Royal Ascot
25	Wednesday ROA AGM	Hyatt Regency, London

SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Spotlight On

Maurice Crooks
Head Groundsman - Haydock Park



Age	53
Marital Status/ Children/Pets	Partner Pamela, 2 black labradors - Pippa and Annie
Previous Career(s)	1969 - 1971 farming and stable's headgroundsman. 1971 fence builder, tractor driver. 1995 to present Haydock Park
Best Bits About Your Job	After a day's racing when all jockeys and trainers complement you on the course and the going
Worst Bit About Your Job	Abandoning racing
Best Racing Experience(s)	Red Rum winning his 3rd Grand National
Worst Racing Experience	Losing the horse One Man at Aintree
Racing Hero	Jonjo O'Neill
Most Fanciable Racing Personality	Geraldine Rees when she was 20 !
Hobbies	Flyfishing, vintage tractors
Favourite Film & TV	Crocodile Dundee 1 & 2. Anything by the Marx Brothers
Favourite Holiday Destination	Slieve Blooms Mountains - Republic of Ireland, Estartit Spain
Current Wheels	Mitsubishi Warrior L200
One Wish To Improve The Industry	For everyone in racing to sing off the same hymn sheet

DIARY DATES

14 April	RCA Legal Group
22 April	Racing Committee
22 April	RCA Gambling Advisory Group
23 April	REL Board
24 April	RCA Board
24 April	RaceTech Board
25 April	RCA/HWPA Press Liaison Committee
9 May	RCA Technical Group

ATTACHMENTS

Watt Fences Newsletter No. 3 - April 2008

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UPDATE is also available on our website:

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