

STRUCTURE OF THE HORSERACING INDUSTRY

Workbook



INTRODUCTION

This workbook provides the information you will need to gain a working knowledge of the horseracing industry. It comprises six sections:

1. Development and Present Day Role of the Thoroughbred in the Racing and Breeding Industries
2. Major Organisations within the Racing Industry
3. Organisation, Governance and Regulation of the Horseracing Industry
4. Understand the Outline Structure of the Fixture List in British Horseracing
5. Role of Racecourses and Racing Centres in the Horseracing Industry
6. Outline Structure of the Betting Industry.

LEVEL 2 QUALIFICATION

You may be interested in taking a qualification about the structure of the horseracing industry. This qualification forms part of a suite of qualifications that provides knowledge and understanding of how the horseracing industry is structured, including information about its governance and administration, key organisations, the operation of racecourses and the betting industry, and the history and role of the Thoroughbred.

Level 2 recognises the application of knowledge and underpinning comprehension

in a number of areas across a range of contexts. Learning at this level is about knowledge of the structure of the racing and breeding industries and how their component parts work together.

This qualification is appropriate for someone who has some experience of the industry and wishes to broaden their knowledge of the sector as a whole to help them in their work.

ASSESSMENT

Each unit can be assessed independently and is assessed by a multiple-choice or short-answer test.





DEVELOPMENT AND PRESENT DAY ROLE OF THE THOROUGHBRED IN THE RACING AND BREEDING INDUSTRIES



HISTORY OF HORSERACING

The roots of modern horseracing lie in the 12th century, when English knights returned from the Crusades on fast Arab horses. The earliest recorded horserace in England took place at Netherby in Yorkshire around 200 AD.

Horseracing is often referred to as the 'Sport of Kings'. In the early days, the royals and the wealthy were the most influential people on horseracing. Racing became a fashionable pastime for the landed gentry during the reign of King Richard I, although it was not until Tudor times, during the reign of King Henry VIII, that the first racecourse was officially established at Chester in 1540.

KING JAMES I

Horseracing really took off during the reign of James I when he had a royal palace built near Newmarket. In 1616, James I bought the Markham Arabian for £154 to use with his mares, and this small bay stallion became one of the first ancestors of the modern Thoroughbred.

Races were generally run for gold and silver bells and, later, cups. Races were over long distances, up to eight miles, with horses carrying weights of 8–17 stones, and often involved heats, with a final run on the same day.

KING CHARLES I AND KING CHARLES II

Charles I was a keen supporter of racing horses, and established regular race meetings in Newmarket. The first Newmarket Gold Cup was run in 1634. However, it was his son Charles II who was responsible for the development of racing as we recognise it today. He competed in races himself, and started a series of races known as the Royal Plates. His connection to Newmarket remains today because the Rowley Mile racecourse at Newmarket is derived from his nickname Old Rowley, which was also the name of his favourite hack.

Charles II was responsible for the emergence of the Thoroughbred. He was a direct supporter of breeders in Britain in order to keep his racing stable supplied with suitable horses. This royal patronage encouraged breeders to seek to improve their stock, and they looked to the Middle East and countries on the southern shores of the Mediterranean to acquire horses to improve the bloodlines already in Britain. They set about acquiring and importing as many stallions of the right type and quality as they could afford. By comparison, few mares were imported. By the middle of the 18th century, this importation process was complete.

Between 1660 and 1685, Charles II was holding races between two horses, which were known as match races, on private courses or on open fields.

QUEEN ANNE

Queen Anne was also very influential in the development of horseracing. In the early 18th century, she owned and raced a large string of horses and was actively involved in the development of Ascot racecourse in 1711. The opening race at Royal Ascot, the Queen Anne Stakes, is named after her.

It was during Queen Anne's reign that match races gave way to races involving several horses. This encouraged more spectators and greater opportunity to place a bet on the outcome of the race. Horseracing began to take place all over the country, offering increasingly large purses (prize money) to attract the best horses. The breeding and owning of horses for racing became increasingly profitable. In 1740, Parliament introduced an Act 'to restrain and to prevent the excessive increase in horseracing', though this had little effect on its development.

THE JOCKEY CLUB

History generally records that the Jockey Club was founded in 1751 in London's Pall Mall. However, recent digitalisation of newspapers from the 17th and 18th centuries by the British Library has prompted a rethink. There are several earlier references to the Jockey Club, and there is evidence that the club was active even before the first public announcement of a meeting in August 1729. Nevertheless, 1752 is a convenient date to record since it was the year the Jockey Club leased a plot of land in Newmarket where a coffee house was constructed in the High Street as a meeting place for its members. Soon, the Jockey Club purchased the freehold, which became known as the Jockey Club Rooms, as it is today. Its main role at that time was to provide leadership and authority for the sport by regulating racing. It wrote a comprehensive set of rules for horseracing and sanctions for the conduct of race meetings under those rules, which were eventually taken up throughout the country and copied worldwide. With the emergence of the Thoroughbred as a breed, steps were also taken to regulate the breeding of racehorses.

WEATHERBYS

The emergence of the Thoroughbred as a breed was recorded in full for the first time by James Weatherby, secretary to members of the Jockey Club when, in 1791, he published *An Introduction to the General Stud Book*, which recorded the pedigree of every Thoroughbred foal born in England. The Weatherby family remain the proprietors of the General Stud Book, and the 49th volume was published in 2022, containing the breeding results of mares foaling in Great Britain and Ireland between 2017 and 2020.

TECHNOLOGY

After World War Two, racecourses benefited from the introduction of several technical advancements, such as the photo-finish, introduced in 1947, and the starting stalls for flat races, first used at Newmarket on 8 July 1965.

With the arrival of the mass media from the 1960s, racing became a regularly televised sport. Today, horseracing is the second most widely televised sport after football.



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HISTORY OF THE THOROUGHBRED

The Thoroughbred as recognised today was first developed in the 17th and 18th centuries, when native mares were bred with imported Arabian stallions. All modern Thoroughbreds can trace their pedigrees to three stallions (see below) originally imported into England during this period and to 74 foundation mares of English and oriental (Arabian, Turkoman or Barb) blood. During the 18th and 19th centuries, the Thoroughbred breed spread throughout the world; they were imported into North America during 1730 and into Australia, Europe, Japan and South America during the 19th century.

THE FOUNDING SIRES

The Godolphin Arabian

- Foaled 1724.
- Probably exported from Yemen via Syria to the stud of the Bey of Tunis.
- Initially given to Louis XV of France in 1730, he was then imported to Britain.
- Sired the best racehorse of the day, called Lath.
- The Godolphin Arabian's line has not won the Derby since Santa Claus in 1964, and since the turn of the 20th century has been overshadowed by the Darley Arabian's descendants.

The Byerley Turk

- Foaled 1680.
- His line includes Herod, foaled in 1758, who was leading sire eight times.
- Descendant Highflyer and his sons were champion stallions 23 times in 25 years.
- The Byerley Turk's line is now much less evident than that of the Darley Arabian.

The Darley Arabian

- Foaled 1700.
- Amongst others, he sired Bartlett's Childers, whose great grandson was the unbeaten 18th century champion Eclipse.
- More than 90% of modern racehorses can trace their male-line descent to Eclipse, including the outstanding Canadian-bred stallion Northern Dancer, whose impact on the modern Thoroughbred can be traced worldwide.

Eclipse, the most notable descendant of the Darley Arabian, was foaled in 1764, the year of the great eclipse of the sun. Eclipse won 18 races, never appearing under too much pressure. Owners were reluctant to put their horses up against him and so eight of his races were declared walkovers. Eclipse retired to stud in 1771 and sired three Derby winners. His ability to sire offspring that were well adapted to the new shorter races for two- and three-year-olds ensured him a place in the history books.

After his death, Eclipse was dissected to try to work out the secret of his success. It was decided that his huge heart pumped blood around the body more effectively, he had very powerful lungs, and his back legs gave plenty of leverage. His skeleton is still owned by the Royal Veterinary College and can be seen at the National Horseracing Museum in Newmarket.

Originally bred to cope with endurance tests as mature horses, the nature of the Thoroughbred has changed along with the demands of racing. They have become much larger, faster over shorter distances and mature earlier.

The Thoroughbred is now present in over 70 countries, and about 93,000 Thoroughbred foals were born in 2014, the last year for which comprehensive figures are available. Of these, 4,328 were born in Britain and 8,000 in Ireland. The USA is the single largest producer of Thoroughbreds, with 20,300 born there in 2014.



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THOROUGHBRED IDENTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION

To enable a Thoroughbred to be registered and therefore become eligible to race, strict procedures are in place. Each registered Thoroughbred has the following details entered on its official passport in order to identify it correctly:

A written and graphic description including:

- date of birth
- gender
- colour
- markings
- hair whorls
- microchip number.

KEY INDUSTRY ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED IN PRODUCING AND SUPPORTING THE THOROUGHBRED BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER RACING

THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION (TBA)

The TBA, founded in May 1917, is the trade association and registered charity representing Thoroughbred breeders in Britain. All breeders of Thoroughbreds and any other members of the public who are interested in the development of the Thoroughbred are eligible for membership. The TBA has always been actively involved in the issues affecting its members, which have a critical impact on the health and wealth of British Thoroughbred breeding. It provides a voice for British breeders on national and international breeding issues through representation on many of racing's boards and committees.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STUDS

Studs provide a full range of services to the British Thoroughbred breeding industry, including stallion services, seasonal and permanent boarding, foaling, sales preparation and quarantine for export.

WEATHERBYS

Weatherbys, a privately owned business, was established in 1770. It runs the General Stud Book, in which all British- and Irish-bred Thoroughbreds have to be registered in order to race under rules.

It provides administration services to BHA under contract.

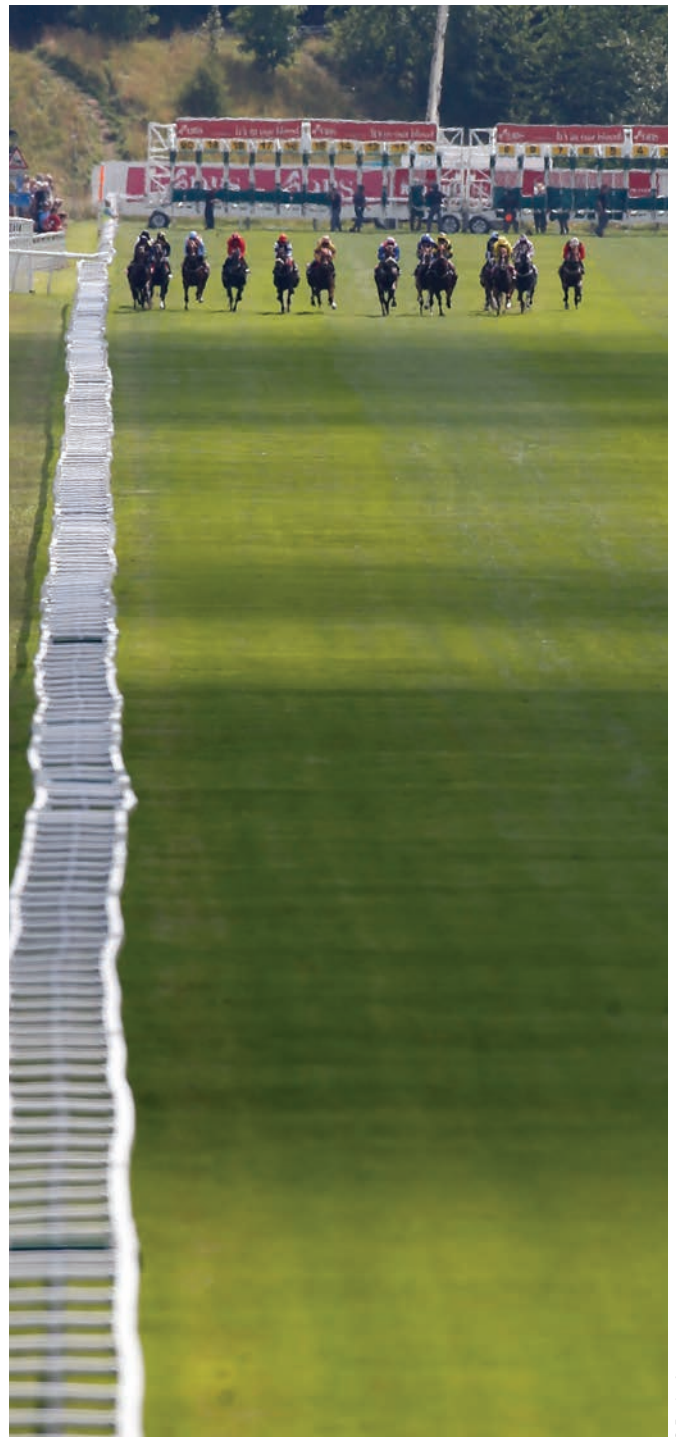
SALES COMPANIES

Britain is the home of two of the world's most internationally renowned bloodstock sales companies: Tattersalls, which is based in Newmarket, and Goffs UK who are based in Howick and sell from Doncaster sales complex. In October 2015, Tattersalls purchased the auctioneering business of Brightwells, which organised specialist jump racing sales.

The quality, value and choice these companies offer is renowned, and Thoroughbreds from these auctions regularly

excel on the world stage. Also, a number of auction races in Britain are open only to Thoroughbreds sold by these auction houses.

Types of sales include those for yearlings, race-ready two-year-olds, horses in training, foals, broodmares and fillies.



RETRAINING OF RACEHORSES (ROR)

Launched by the British Horseracing Board (now the British Horseracing Authority) in April 2000, RoR is British horseracing's official charity for the welfare of horses that have retired from racing. The aims of RoR are to:

- raise funds from within the racing industry to help support the charitable retraining and rehoming of former racehorses
- help provide facilities for the care, retraining and rehoming of former racehorses
- promote the adaptability of racehorses to other equestrian activities
- run a well-established programme of competition, sponsorship and clinics to educate and improve riders handling former racehorses.

The ultimate goal is to achieve a balance between the number of horses leaving racing and the number of enthusiastic, and suitable, new homes. Racehorses have gone on to many successful careers both in competition and as leisure horses.

THE EARLY LIFE OF A THOROUGHBRED HORSE FROM CONCEPTION TO RACING AGE

STUDS

The majority of Thoroughbred racehorses are bred on a stud, which can be commercial or private operations.

MARES

When selecting or purchasing mares for breeding, the following points should be considered:

- whether to breed for flat or jump (National Hunt) racing
- the track record of the mare (one that has won races or bred winners – the higher the rating of the race, the better)
- good conformation is essential
- try to select a mare whose sire (father) is a proven broodmare sire.

STALLIONS

The selection of a suitable stallion to put to a broodmare is a skilled process, with those involved having extensive experience and knowledge of bloodstock performance and pedigrees. Key points they will consider are:

- whether to breed flat or jump (National Hunt) stock
- racing and breeding performance
- pedigree
- conformation and temperament of the stallion.

PEDIGREE ANALYSIS

When analysing the suitability of a stallion for a particular mare, his performance as a racehorse and pedigree are particularly important. (Pedigrees are the family history of a horse.) Breeders and pedigree analysts spend many hours researching pedigrees, although this has not always proved reliable – for example, Red Rum was bred to be a sprinter and yet he won the Grand National three times.

FROM FOAL TO RACEHORSE

Foals

Artificial insemination (AI) is not permitted for the breeding of registered Thoroughbreds therefore the mares are covered (mated) naturally by the stallion. The gestation period (pregnancy) for a mare is 11 months. The breeding season for racehorses is very structured, with most Flat breeders aiming to foal their broodmares between January and March. Potential jump (National Hunt) horses can be foaled a little later as they do not race at such an early age under the Rules of Racing. Regardless of the date they are born, all horses foaled in the northern hemisphere share the same birthday, 1 January. Therefore, a foal born in April becomes a yearling (one year old) the following 1 January.

The foal should be registered with the appropriate Stud Book authority as without this registration it will not be able to race.

Yearlings

Unless yearlings are to be kept by the breeder for racing, many will be prepared for sales. There are several yearling auction sales where trainers, owners and bloodstock agents compete to buy the best-bred and best-looking horses. The international auction circuit begins in the USA in July, then moves to France, Ireland and finally Britain to the Doncaster Bloodstock and Tattersalls' sales.

Two-year-olds (also known as juveniles)

No horse is allowed to race before it is two. Valuable races for two-year-olds take place from Royal Ascot in June through to the late autumn.

Three-year-olds

The most important year for a flat horse is the 'Classic' season, as a three-year-old. The five British Classic races – the 1,000 and 2,000 Guineas, Derby, Oaks and St. Leger – are restricted to three-year-olds. Most jump racing-bred youngsters start their racing careers as three- or four-year-olds. Some start in National Hunt flat races, while others begin their careers over hurdles.

Four-year-olds and over

The most successful three-year-old colts are often retired at the end of that season to maximise their stud value. However, there are many valuable races in which older horses can compete, and some that did not shine as three-year-olds mature into top-class performers at four or five. Flat horses tend to have peaked by five although some continue until they are a lot older. Jump (National Hunt) horses will generally continue their racing career over hurdles and/or fences much longer than flat-only horses.

Life after racing

Many racehorses can be retrained to fulfil a long and successful career outside racing when they retire. Disciplines encouraged by RoR in which they succeed include hunting, eventing, showjumping, dressage, hacking, showing, polo, riding club or Pony Club activities.

MAJOR ORGANISATIONS WITHIN THE RACING INDUSTRY

INDUSTRY ORGANISATIONS

There are many groups and organisations that work together to ensure the efficient and fair running of the horseracing industry. The following are some of the main organisations with a brief description of their roles.

AMATEUR JOCKEYS' ASSOCIATION (AJA)

In 1995, the Lady Jockeys Association and the Amateur Riders Association amalgamated to form the AJA, which has over 500 full riding Members, many life associate members and several honorary members. Its intention is 'to protect and promote the interests of all members, male and female, in an increasingly professional world'. The AJA aims to:

- improve the standard and safety of all amateur riders
- encourage amateur races under both codes
- find sponsors for and sponsor such events
- act on behalf of its members by providing recommendations to the various regulatory and administrative racing bodies
- select and fund amateur jockeys to ride abroad
- play an important part in the formation of the policy of the British racing industry.

BRITISH HORSERACING AUTHORITY (BHA)

The governing and regulatory body of racing in Britain is the BHA, which succeeded the British Horseracing Board (BHB) in July 2007. It is the BHA's role to ensure the continued health and successful development of the sport. It is the BHA's responsibility to:

- provide the most compelling and attractive racing in the world
- be seen as the world leader in raceday regulation
- ensure the highest standards for the sport and participants, on and away from the racecourse
- promote the best for the racehorse
- represent and promote the sport and the industry.

BRITISH RACING SCHOOL (BRS)

The BRS, originally founded in 1969 and housed in purpose-built facilities on Jockey Club-owned land in Newmarket since 1983, is a centre of excellence for the racing industry. It provides high-quality training and courses leading to government-recognised qualifications for people who are or wish to be employed in the sector, including stable staff, jockeys and trainers.

HORSERACE BETTING LEVY BOARD (HBLB)

The HBLB is a statutory body established by the Betting Levy Act 1961 and now operates in accordance with the provisions of the Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Act 1963 (as amended). Its role is to assess and collect monetary contributions from bookmakers and the Tote via a levy. The HBLB provides a significant proportion of funding within the industry for a range of initiatives including:

- the improvement of horseracing
- the improvement of breeds of horses
- the advancement of veterinary science
- the improvement of racecourses by way of loans from its Capital Fund
- horseracing's integrity services
- training, qualifications and education for industry personnel.

On 3 March 2016, government announced new funding arrangements for British racing which will create a level playing field for British based and offshore gambling operators, and ensure a fair return from all gambling operators to racing. Racing will be responsible for making decisions on spending the new fund which is intended to be in place by April 2017.



HORSEMEN'S GROUP

The Horsemen's Group was formed in 2005 by the Racehorse Owners Association and National Trainers Federation to discuss and negotiate with the BHB (now BHA) and racecourses. Under a reconstitution in 2012, its constituent bodies were extended to include the Racehorse Owners Association, National Trainers Federation, Professional Jockeys Association, National Association of Stable Staff and Thoroughbred Breeders Association.

The aims of the Horsemen's Group include to:

- provide a structure for the co-operation of owners, breeders, trainers, jockeys and stable staff
- promote and protect the interests of horsemen
- join with racecourses and other relevant bodies in maximising revenue streams for British racing
- negotiate, on behalf of horsemen, with racecourses an equitable share of total revenue, principally but not exclusively in the form of a prize money contract
- provide a single voice for horsemen in areas of common interest.

INJURED JOCKEYS FUND (IJF)

Founded in 1964 by public subscriptions following career-ending falls suffered by jockeys Tim Brookshaw and Paddy Farrell, the IJF has since raised and disbursed funds to jockeys who have been injured and need help and support. A key fund-raiser remains the annual sale of Christmas cards and calendars. It provides support through:

- immediate and effective help to newly injured jockeys
- continuing support for existing beneficiaries.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STABLE STAFF (NASS)

NASS, which changed its name from the Stable Lads Association (SLA) in October 2007, is the independent certificated trade union for stable staff. It is largely funded from a percentage of prize money. It was set up to give advice, guidance and representation to all stable staff. It achieves this through:

- representing stable staff on racing industry committees
- negotiating the rates of pay and conditions of service of stable staff.



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NATIONAL STUD (NS)

The NS, founded in Ireland in 1916, was relocated to England in 1943 and moved to purpose-built facilities on Jockey Club-owned land in Newmarket in 1963, when it was put under the control of the Levy Board. It has been owned by the Jockey Club since 2008, and comprises over 500 acres of prime pastureland. It is a showcase for British Thoroughbred breeding, and facilities include accommodation for eight stallions and up to 200 mares in nine separate yards.

It promotes high-class stallion services and training for people employed in the stud industry through:

- providing a comprehensive range of services to the UK Thoroughbred breeding industry including stallion services, seasonal and permanent boarding, foaling, sales preparation and quarantine for export
- providing a first-rate residential education and training facility for young people entering the industry or seeking higher qualifications within it
- providing an effective and accessible 'shop window' into the Thoroughbred breeding industry for the public, raising interest, awareness and knowledge.

NATIONAL TRAINERS FEDERATION (NTF)

The licensed trainers' representative group is the NTF, which was founded in the early 1970s on the amalgamation of separate organisations for flat and jump racing trainers.

Its aims are to represent and protect trainers' interests and to be a reliable and respected source of information, advice and support, by:

- liaising and negotiating with other industry bodies and relevant national agencies and organisations
- providing up to date information, newsletters, guidelines and advice sheets to members about any matters affecting their training and business
- offering access to a wide range of professional advisers
- providing a legal executive to give advice on employment law, accountancy, insurance, veterinary matters etc..

NATIONAL RACING COLLEGE (NRC)

The NRC, a charitable trust, situated near Doncaster, was opened in 1984 to provide stable-staff training for school-leavers in South Yorkshire. It has developed as the centre of excellence for the racing industry in the North, operating on similar lines to the BRS by providing and promoting high-quality training for people employed in the sector, including stable staff, jockeys and trainers.

PROFESSIONAL JOCKEYS ASSOCIATION (PJA)

The PJA, which was founded as the Jockeys Association of Great Britain in June 1969, before being rebranded in February 2008, is the jockeys' representative body. Its mission statement is to promote, protect and represent the interests of professional jockeys both on and off the racecourse, working with regulatory, industry and commercial bodies to improve the jockeys' standing, and continually to work in the best interests of British horseracing.

RACECOURSE ASSOCIATION (RCA)

The trade association for racecourses is the RCA, formed in May 1907. At the start of 2016, there were 60 British racecourses, of which all but Towcester belong to the RCA. The RCA's aims are to:

- work with racecourses to increase and develop new income streams
- promote the highest professional standards in racecourse management, health and safety, and medical and veterinary practice
- promote racecourse interests within the racing industry
- provide information, training and support for racecourses
- assist racecourses in complying with regulations
- manage the Racegoers Club, British Horseracing's official supporters club offering events, stable tours and ownership groups.

RACEHORSE OWNERS ASSOCIATION (ROA)

Racehorse owners are represented by the ROA, founded in 1945. The ROA promotes the interests of racehorse owners in Britain. It is represented on many of racing's boards and committees, notably the BHA Members' Committee and Horsemen's Group.

The aims of the ROA include to:

- work with other members of the Horsemen's Group to bring about a dramatic improvement to the financial structure of British racing, thereby enhancing the quality of the sport and allowing British-trained horses to compete more effectively on the international stage
- obtain a much-improved return to owners from prize money by seeking additional contributions from racecourses and increased returns via the levy
- reduce the percentage of prize money that originates from entry fees
- ensure that the views of owners are represented within the various bodies involved in the running and funding of the industry
- support recruitment and retention of owners, encouraging all owners to become ROA members
- help owners to obtain sponsorship
- improve the raceday experience for owners at all racecourses.

RACING ENTERPRISES LIMITED (REL)

REL, which was founded in April 2008, is responsible for maximising commercial income for the industry as a whole. It has direct responsibility for selling the lists of runners and riders to customers including bookmakers and the media.

REL also led the Racing for Change project, since restyled Great British Racing (GBR), which is the sport's official marketing and promotional body, working with all of racing's stakeholders.

RACING FOUNDATION

The Racing Foundation was established in January 2012 by its founding members, comprising the British Horseracing Authority, The Horsemen's Group and the Racecourse Association.

The Racing Foundation received an endowment of £78 million from the net proceeds of the UK government's sale of the Horserace Totalisator Board ('Tote'). This funding represents a unique opportunity to establish a lasting legacy for the horseracing and Thoroughbred breeding industry.

The Foundation's aim is to support charitable purposes associated with the horseracing and Thoroughbred breeding industry. It does this by investing funds to generate investment income and using the income to make grants to appropriate charities.

RACING WELFARE

Racing Welfare is racing's umbrella charitable organisation, founded in 2000, which provides help and support for all people who work or have worked in the racing industry. It achieves this through:

- helping people who work or have worked in the horseracing industry who are in need
- delivering nationwide support through a network of welfare officers and a 24-hour helpline
- providing financial aid to those who suffer injury, illness or other disadvantage
- providing high-quality affordable housing for retired or for young people who have just entered the industry.

RETRAINING OF RACEHORSES (ROR)

Launched by the British Horseracing Board (now the BHA) in April 2000, RoR is British horseracing's official charity for the welfare of horses that have retired from racing. The aims of RoR are to:

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- run a well-established programme of competition, sponsorship and clinics to educate and improve riders handling former racehorses.

THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION (TBA)

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It provides a voice for British breeders on national and international breeding issues through representation on many of racing's boards and committees, including:

- Horsemen's Group
- REL
- BHA Members' Committee
- European Federation of Thoroughbred Breeders' Association (EFTBA) and the International Breeders' Meetings (IBM).

WEATHERBYS

Weatherbys, a privately owned business, was established in 1770. It is the main organisation supporting the administration of racing. It also runs the General Stud Book, in which all British- and Irish-bred Thoroughbreds have to be registered in order to race under rules.

Its responsibilities include:

- registering ownership
- registering racing colours
- registering horses' names
- registering horses in training
- recording all race entries and declarations
- allocating weights to be carried in all races
- holding the central file of handicap ratings
- recording all jockey bookings
- final race declaration
- conducting the stalls draw
- conducting race divisions and any necessary eliminations
- issuing the final, official lists of runners and riders
- managing an interactive Internet site through which owners, trainers and other authorised personnel may conduct their racing business and access up-to-the-minute information
- publishing the weekly Racing Calendar and quarterly programme books, advertising conditions for all races held in Britain
- collecting and distributing prize money for all British races and administering the VAT Scheme for Racing, and registering all sponsorship arrangements.

CAREERS, TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Since the 1990s, the racing industry has developed a comprehensive structure of education, training and qualifications that support its workforce. Key organisations involved in the delivery are:

- BRS
- NS
- NRC
- Haddon Training
- 1st4sport Qualifications.

There are a number of career opportunities in the racing and breeding industries including:

- stable staff
- stud staff
- trainers
- work riders
- gallops men
- racing secretaries
- travelling head lads
- jockeys
- racecourse officials
- groundsmen
- journalists
- valets
- administrative workers
- raceday staff
- racecourse hospitality.

Information on careers in the racing industry can be obtained from the Industry Recruitment and Training department of the BHA: www.careersinracing.com

A suite of racing-specific qualifications are available through 1st4sport Qualifications. Both work-based competency qualifications and knowledge-based qualifications are available, which can be achieved to support career development.

For a full list of qualifications on offer, visit www.1st4sportqualifications.com



ORGANISATION, GOVERNANCE AND REGULATION OF THE HORSERACING INDUSTRY



FINANCE OF BRITISH HORSERACING

The HBLB raises money by collecting a statutory levy from off-course betting on British horseracing, the Tote and on-course bookmakers. Off-course betting includes bets placed at licensed betting offices and by spread-betting firms and bet-broking operations, including betting exchanges. The levy on off-course bets represents the greatest proportion of the HBLB's income. Levy is collected from bookmakers as a percentage of their gross profits on British horserace betting business. The majority of levy income is expended in direct support of horseracing.

Each year, the Bookmakers' Committee formulates proposals for the next Levy Scheme in accordance with the Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Act 1963 (as amended). They recommend the categories, rates, conditions and definitions of the scheme and then forward them to the HBLB for consideration. The HBLB takes into account the funding needs of racing and the bookmakers' capacity to pay levy before any agreement is made. The Bookmakers' Committee prepares a forecast of the amount of on-course and off-course horseracing gross profit, both cash and credit, which is likely to be achieved in the levy year concerned. A scheme is then prepared for the forthcoming levy period commencing 1 April.

In the event that agreement of the scheme cannot be reached by 31 October, the scheme is automatically referred to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport for determination, and their decision is imposed.

On 3 March 2016, government announced new funding arrangements for British racing which will create a level playing field for British based and offshore gambling operators, and ensure a fair return from all gambling operators to racing. Racing will be responsible for making decisions on spending the new fund which is intended to be in place by April 2017.

GOVERNANCE

As the governing and regulatory body for horseracing, a key responsibility of the BHA is the licensing of all participants.

The licensing team administers the process for professional trainers, permit holders, full jockeys, apprentices, conditionals and amateur riders.

It also licenses jockeys' valets and jockeys' agents, as well as registering stable staff and issuing racecourse stable passes.

The decision of whether or not to grant a licence (or registration as an owner) rests with BHA who will ensure that all applications are considered fairly and thoroughly, and meet strict criteria designed to further protect the integrity of the sport.

REGULATION

One of the key responsibilities for the BHA from a regulation perspective is to protect the integrity of the sport on and off the racecourse. Almost £5 billion was bet on British racing in the UK alone in 2014–2015, and for the sport to flourish and for racegoers and punters to be attracted to the sport, racing has to be, and be seen to be, clean and fair.

The BHA's integrity services and licensing department was formed at the end of 2007 when the security and licensing departments merged. The aim and role of the department is to promote the highest standards for the sport and its participants on and away from the racecourse through a combined strategy of fairness, education, prevention and deterrence.

The roles of the integrity services team within the BHA are wide-ranging and include:

- identifying and deterring rule breaches and malpractice in horseracing
- conducting investigations into rule breaches
- gathering information on any malpractice within the sport
- inspecting trainers' facilities
- monitoring betting markets for suspicious activities
- protecting the integrity of racecourse stables and the weighing room on racedays
- working with the equine science and welfare department to maintain the high standards of veterinary care.

The BHA has a fully resourced intelligence unit managed by a Head of Intelligence, and is reinforced by sophisticated intelligence and analytical databases. This unit is akin to a police intelligence unit.

The BHA employs betting investigators who monitor betting markets for suspicious betting activity. They are in regular contact with established bookmakers and betting exchanges, sharing information as and when necessary.

The BHA employs a Raceday Integrity Co-ordinator, who works closely with the betting investigators, acting as a key link between raceday stipendiary stewards and the handicappers, reviewing live racing and carrying out post-race analysis and, where necessary, following up any concerns.

The department works closely with the equine science and welfare department and has adopted an intelligence-led approach to the in-training, pre-race and post-race testing of horses.

HORSE HEALTH AND WELFARE

Everyone in the sport – racecourses, trainers, owners, breeders, stable staff, jockeys, administrators, officials and veterinary professionals – is committed to, and has a role in, ensuring and enhancing horse welfare.

The BHA is the governing body of the sport and, through the Rules of Racing and its licensing and inspection of participants, education, training and monitoring, ensures horse welfare, including compliance with UK animal welfare legislation.

Some risk to horses is inherent in the sport, as it is to differing degrees in the life of a horse in any environment, but racing has a responsibility to care for its horses and reduce unnecessary risks. Horseracing has close and constructive relationships with animal welfare organisations, such as the RSPCA, SSPCA, World Horse Welfare and RoR, and the BHA works with these and other groups to understand and reduce risk.

Horseracing's welfare initiatives focus on the following:

CARE

Those involved in horseracing have every incentive for horses to race to the best of their ability, so wish to see them well cared for from before they enter racing, throughout their careers in the sport and beyond. Breeders and the sales industry also have every interest in the welfare of horses.

In training, and on racecourses, the horses are in the care of experienced horsemen and women, whether licensed trainers, stable staff or jockeys. Expert veterinary care is always available. Horses are reviewed before racing by one of the BHA's veterinary surgeons, and medication controls ensure they do not race under the effect of drugs.

When a horse retires from racing, there are many avenues open to it, and the industry supports and monitors the work of trainers and owners, and organisations such as RoR, to assist with finding new homes and careers for horses.

WELFARE AND CARE OF RACEHORSES

Leading organisations in British Horseracing have got together to increase awareness of the high standards of equine welfare in the sport through an initiative called 'The Horse Comes First'. This initiative aims to improve understanding of the care given to racehorses throughout and after their careers in racing.

The campaign is supported by the British Horseracing Authority, the Racecourse Association, Racehorse Owners Association, the Professional Jockeys Association, the National Trainers Federation, The Jockey Club, the National Association of Stable Staff and Arena Racing Company.

British Racing is among the world's best regulated animal activities. The 14,000 horses registered in training at any one time enjoy a quality of life virtually unsurpassed by any other domesticated animal. British Racing employs over 6,000 people to provide constant care and attention for these horses.

An increasing number of racehorses go on to successful second careers after retiring from the track. There are currently over 11,500 horses registered with Retraining of Racehorses (British Horseracing's official charity for the welfare of former racehorses) as active in other equine disciplines outside of racing, including Polo, Showing, Dressage and Eventing, as well as those horses happily engaged in hacking and exercising.

SURFACE

All racecourses are licensed annually by the BHA and work with its trained and experienced inspectors of courses and independent agronomists to provide the best and safest racing surfaces, to minimise the risk of injury, and to encourage owners and trainers to run their horses.

Racecourses are limited in the use of their turf, and racing on ground officially described as 'hard' is not permitted in jump racing. Trainers must provide safe training grounds, and all recognise their duty of care to their horses.

The BHA provides specific annual reports and statistics on ground conditions and casualties at every racecourse, inspects trainers' facilities, and provides advice to enable trainers to meet licensing criteria.

OBSTACLES

Racecourse hurdles and steeple chase fences are designed in line with the specifications of the BHA's General Instructions, agreed in liaison with the BHA's inspectors of courses, and both types are regularly renewed and reviewed.

The BHA collates statistics of fallers and casualties from each race meeting, including point-to-points, and reports to racecourses to assist them in identifying and improving any individual obstacles that may pose a problem. Racecourses invest substantially to improve horse safety.

To underpin these and other industry horse welfare initiatives and the BHA's regulation, horseracing provides assistance and support for numerous research projects designed to improve racehorse welfare.

These include commercially funded projects, e.g. hurdle safety or design and the HBLB's veterinary programme, which invests several million pounds every year in research projects to enhance horse health and welfare.

The BHA ensures that personal confidentiality and commercial competitiveness are respected, to encourage reporting from participants. It shares appropriate data with participants, other racing authorities and research groups.

COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA

Horseracing as a national pastime has been reported on from the early 19th century. Several specialist newspapers have closed, and the *Racing Post* remains as the only dedicated sports daily. The *Racing Post* is published in full colour every day, seven days a week, and is the only sport-specific daily national newspaper in Britain. As well as editorial stories it includes information on form of horses in race meetings across the country, the going of the courses, age of horses, handicap ratings and other information relevant to the race in question.

The BHA has a communications department, which includes a press officer who is the first point of contact for any media enquiries.

COVERAGE OF THE SPORT

In addition to a dedicated daily newspaper and two dedicated horseracing channels, further coverage is provided in other newspapers and terrestrial TV coverage.

The dedicated horseracing channels are:

- Racing UK – a dedicated horseracing subscription channel covering 34 racecourses, including those owned by Jockey Club Racecourses, as well as Ascot, Goodwood, Newbury and York
- At The Races – a dedicated horseracing channel, part of the Sky Sports package, covering 25 racecourses, including those owned by Arena Racing Company (ARC) and several small independents.



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UNDERSTAND THE OUTLINE STRUCTURE OF THE FIXTURE LIST IN BRITISH HORSERACING

THE FIXTURE LIST

The fixture list is the 'events diary' for racing, being the full list of race meetings contained within a 12-month calendar period.

PREPARING THE FIXTURE LIST

The BHA has responsibility for production of the fixture list following an annual process completed in consultation with stakeholders.

The process normally starts in the early part of the year before the fixture list in question. So for example, the process for agreeing the 2017 fixture list normally starts in early 2016.

The total number of race meetings contained within the annual fixture list is a policy decision made by Racing's Executive Committee, comprising representatives of the BHA, RCA and Horsemen's Group. It is dependent on demand from racecourses to stage race meetings, the supply of horses to service that demand and available central funding from the Levy Board.

FUNDING RACE MEETINGS

Racecourses receive central funding from the Levy Board, which allocates part of the money raised through levy to support the cost of providing officials and other essential services such as on-course cameras and photo-finish equipment. It is also used to provide prize money to the winners and placed horses of each race.

DISTRIBUTION OF RACE MEETINGS

The distribution of race meetings takes account of both the commercial objectives of racecourses to stage successful race meetings and the need to provide a consistent betting product for bookmakers for betting purposes.

Bookmakers' representatives and the Levy Board decide what the best spread and pattern of fixtures is for betting purposes. These are called the fixture criteria. For example, bookmakers state that running three afternoon fixtures with even intervals between races generates most betting and therefore the most profit for them, which in turn provides the most levy (and income) for racing.

However, for racecourses, the most popular and profitable fixtures are Saturday, Sunday and evening meetings, outside the midweek festivals, which are traditionally the very best race meetings, held over two or more days. Racegoers are more likely to attend these meetings than on a Monday afternoon in winter.

Therefore, there is a need to balance the different interests and demands involved, together with the available funding in finalising the fixture list..

CATEGORIES

Fixtures are categorised, sometimes referred to as the 'code', according to the type of racing and surface used.

Flat

Flat races are run without any obstacles over distances from five furlongs (one furlong = about 200 metres), the minimum allowed, to two miles and six furlongs. Flat races are run on either turf or an artificial surface for what is known as all-weather racing. Flat races tend to be split into the following categories:

- sprint
- mile
- middle-distance
- long-distance.

Jump (National Hunt)

- Hurdle racing is where horses run over hurdles (smaller and less substantial than a steeple chase fence). Hurdles are just over three and a half feet high, and races are run over a distance of between two miles, the minimum allowed, and three and a half miles.
- Steeple chases are races with larger obstacles, normally about four foot, six inches; fences include plain, open ditches and water jumps.
- Hunter chases, also run over steeple chase fences, are open to amateur-trained and -ridden horses.
- National Hunt flat races (often referred to as bumpers) are flat races for jump-bred horses to gain racing experience, prior to commencing a career hurdling or steeple chasing.

Point-to-point

- Point-to-pointing is jump racing restricted to amateur riders. Meetings organised by local hunts are run over steeple chase-type fences, normally on country tracks but occasionally on the inside of a licensed racecourse.

MAJOR RACES AND RACE MEETINGS

MAJOR JUMP (NATIONAL HUNT) RACES

Grand National

Held at Aintree, this is probably the most famous jump race in the world. It is run at the beginning of April over a distance of approximately four miles and two and a half furlongs, with 30 fences. It is the most valuable jump racing handicap event in Great Britain, and in 2016 had a total prize fund of £1,000,000. The race is popular among many people who do not normally watch or bet on horseracing at other times of the year. One of the most famous horses associated with the Grand National is Red Rum, who won it three times and was second twice.

Cheltenham Gold Cup

The most prestigious race in the jump racing calendar, this is a steeple chase for horses aged five years or older. It is run over a distance of three miles and about two and a half furlongs, over 22 fences. The race takes place each year during the Cheltenham Festival in March. Sometimes referred to as the Blue Riband of jump racing, its winners have included such outstanding horses as Arkle, Golden Miller, Mill House and Kauto Star. The Gold Cup is one of the most valuable non-handicap chases in Britain.

Champion Hurdle

A Grade 1 hurdle race open to horses aged four years or older, it is run over two miles and about 110 yards. The race takes place each year at the Cheltenham Festival in March. As its title suggests, the Champion Hurdle is the most prestigious hurdling event in the jump racing calendar.

Triumph Hurdle

A Grade 1 hurdle race open to novice hurdlers aged four years, it is run at the Cheltenham Festival in March over a distance of two miles and about one furlong. It is the leading event in the jump calendar to be exclusively contested by juveniles.

King George VI Chase

A Grade 1 steeple chase open to horses aged four years or older, it is run at Kempton Park over a distance of about three miles, over 18 fences. The race is scheduled to take place on Boxing Day. Desert Orchid won the race an impressive four times, but Kauto Star is the only horse to have won it five times.

Queen Mother Champion Chase

A Grade 1 steeple chase open to horses aged five years or older, it is run at the Cheltenham Festival in March over a distance of about two miles, over 12 fences. It is the leading minimum-distance steeple chase in the jump racing calendar, and is the feature race on the second day of the festival.

MAJOR FLAT RACES**Gold Cup**

The most prestigious event for stayers aged four years or older, run over a distance of two miles and four furlongs, it is the flagship event of Royal Ascot, staged on day three of the five-day festival. Numerous horses have won the event multiple times including Sagaro, Ardross and Le Moss, but Yeats has the record for most wins, four in a row from 2006–2009.

King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes

Another major international event staged at Ascot, in late July, this race is open to horses aged three years or older, and run over a distance of one mile, four furlongs. It is Britain's most prestigious open-age Flat race and has a roll of honour that features some of the most highly acclaimed horses of the sport's recent history. For many years, it was Britain's second richest horserace, with a purse exceeded only by that of the Derby.

International Stakes

A comparatively new race, staged for the first time in 1972, it is the feature event at the York Ebor Festival in mid-August. Open to horses of three years old and upwards, it is run over one mile, two furlongs and 88 yards. The race has occasionally provided huge upsets – Brigadier Gerard had his unbeaten run ended by Roberto in the first running, and the Derby and Eclipse Stakes winner Golden Horn was beaten by 50/1 Arabian Queen in 2015. However, its quality was illustrated by being named the world's top race on average ratings from 2012–2014.

Champion Stakes

The most prestigious end-of-season race in Britain for horses of three years old and older, and run over one mile, two furlongs, it was moved from its traditional home at Newmarket to Ascot in 2011 to become part of British Champions Day in mid-October. The great Frankel added his name to the race's roll of honour in 2012.

Dewhurst Stakes

Open only to two-year-old colts and fillies, the Dewhurst generally attracts the season's best juveniles. It is run on the Rowley Mile at Newmarket over a straight seven furlongs and is staged on Future Champions Day in mid-October. The Dewhurst has a rich tradition of producing leading contenders for the following season's Classics.

THE CLASSICS

Between 1776 and 1814, the Jockey Club established five important flat races restricted to three-year-old horses which collectively have become known as Classics, and have been imitated the world over.

2,000 Guineas

First run in 1809, the 2,000 Guineas is held in May at Newmarket for colts and fillies. It is run over a distance of one mile.

1,000 Guineas

First run in 1814, the 1,000 Guineas is also held in May at Newmarket. It is for fillies only and is over a distance of one mile.

The Oaks

First run in 1779, the Oaks is held in June at Epsom. It is for fillies only and is run over a distance of one mile, four furlongs.

The Derby

First run in 1780, this race is held in June at Epsom. It is open to colts and fillies, and is run over a distance of one mile, four furlongs.

The St. Leger

First run in 1776, and therefore the oldest Classic in the world, the St. Leger is held at Doncaster in September. It is open to colts and fillies, and is run over a distance of one mile, six furlongs and about 132 yards.

The Triple Crown, which actually carries no trophy or reward, is achieved by winning all three Classics open to colts – the 2,000 Guineas, Derby and St. Leger. The last horse to achieve the feat was Nijinsky in 1970.

RACING FESTIVALS

A number of major race meetings throughout the year are often referred to as festivals. They can be flat or jump meetings, staged between one day (British Champions Day) and five (Royal Ascot and Glorious Goodwood). The principal festival meetings are:

- Cheltenham Festival
- Aintree Grand National
- Newmarket Guineas meeting
- Epsom Derby meeting
- Royal Ascot
- York Ebor
- Glorious Goodwood
- Doncaster St. Leger meeting
- British Champions Day.



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ROLE OF RACECOURSES AND RACING CENTRES IN THE HORSERACING INDUSTRY

RACECOURSES

A racecourse is an enclosed venue where horseracing takes place. British racecourses are laid out in a variety of shapes – oval or circular, figure of eight, flat or undulating, from seven furlongs to two miles round – and race either right- or left-handed. The majority race on turf, but since 1989, six have introduced synthetic surfaces for flat racing. Start points for different race distances are positioned around the course, with a finishing point in front of the main grandstand.

Although all-weather flat racecourses will stage up to 84 meetings each in 2016, the majority have 15–25 race meetings per year. However, to remain economically viable, they need their facilities to be used on as many days as possible and therefore diversify for a year-round income. This involves hiring out the racecourse facilities for events such as weddings and conferences, and operating golf courses and hotels on site.

TYPES OF RACECOURSES

Racecourses are divided into the following categories:

- flat – where races are run from five furlongs to two miles, six furlongs on turf
- National Hunt or jump – horses are raced on turf over obstacles (hurdles or steeple chase fences) or National Hunt flat races (bumpers)
- dual – where both flat and jump racing take place at the same venue

- all-weather – there are six all-weather tracks where flat racing is held on an artificial surface
- point-to-point – some are held on racecourses over specially built fences, but the majority are non-permanent racecourses, often used for pasture for much of the year; portable steeple chase fences are normally erected to run races during the early months of the year.

The variety of horseracing in Britain is unparalleled anywhere in the world. In 2016, there are 60 BHA-licensed racecourses, each with its own particular character and atmosphere.

Britain's racecourses have broad appeal, offering an enjoyable day out for people of all ages – from children through to those who have retired, plus being excellent for business entertaining. All courses offer free admission for accompanied children aged under 16–18, while there are often concessions for students and pensioners. Facilities for corporate entertaining are good, and race sponsorship is ideal for generating publicity.

BRITISH RACECOURSES

Racecourses in Britain are spread throughout England, Scotland and Wales. Some are located near areas of high population, such as Leicester, Kempton and Newcastle, whereas others are more rural, such as Cartmel, Kelso and Taunton.

RACECOURSE LOCATIONS



STATUS/OWNERSHIP OF BRITISH RACECOURSES

There are two categories of racecourse ownership – groups and independent.

Groups

- Jockey Club Racecourses (JCR), originally called Racecourse Holdings Trust, was formed in 1964 with the objective of securing the future of threatened racecourses. Cheltenham was the first course acquired by the group to join the Jockey Club's original venue at Newmarket. The Jockey Club's trustee ownership, which now extends to 14 courses, ensures that profits are re-invested in racing and not distributed as dividends to shareholders.
- Arena Racing Company (ARC) was formed in August 2012 on the acquisition of Arena Leisure plc by Aldersgate Investments Ltd (part of the Reuben Brothers group of companies), which already owned Northern Racing Ltd and merged their racecourse assets.

Independents

Racecourses outside the two major groups are known as independents. They may be owned privately or by a company, council or trust.

The table shows the British racecourses licensed in 2024, together with their type and ownership status.

Racecourse	Type	Ownership/ Management Status
Scotland		
Perth	Jump	Independent
Hamilton Park	Flat	Independent
Ayr	Dual	Independent
Musselburgh	Dual	Independent
Kelso	Jump	Independent
North		
Newcastle	Jump/all-weather flat	ARC
Hexham	Jump	Independent
Carlisle	Dual	JCR
Cartmel	Jump	Independent
Sedgefield	Jump	ARC
Catterick	Dual	Independent
Redcar	Flat	Independent
Thirsk	Flat	Independent
Ripon	Flat	Independent
Beverley	Flat	Independent
York	Flat	Independent
Wetherby	Dual	Independent
Haydock	Dual	JCR
Aintree	Jump	JCR
Pontefract	Flat	Independent
Midlands		
Doncaster	Dual	ARC
Market Rasen	Jump	JCR
Chester	Flat	Independent
Bangor-on-Dee	Jump	Independent
Uttoxeter	Jump	ARC
Southwell	Jump/all-weather flat	ARC
Nottingham	Flat	JCR
Leicester	Dual	Independent
Fakenham	Jump	Independent
Wolverhampton	All-weather flat	ARC
Ludlow	Jump	Independent
Worcester	Jump	ARC
Stratford-on-Avon	Jump	Independent
Warwick	Jump	JCR

Racecourse	Type	Ownership/ Management Status
Huntingdon	Jump	JCR
Great Yarmouth	Flat	ARC
Newmarket	Flat	JCR

South		
Ffos Las	Dual	ARC
Chepstow	Dual	ARC
Chelmsford City	All-weather flat	Independent
Newton Abbot	Jump	Independent
Exeter	Jump	JCR
Taunton	Jump	Independent
Wincanton	Jump	JCR
Bath	Flat	ARC
Cheltenham	Jump	JCR
Salisbury	Flat	Independent
Newbury	Dual	Independent
Goodwood	Flat	Independent
Windsor	Dual	ARC
Ascot	Dual	Independent
Fontwell Park	Jump	ARC
Sandown Park	Dual	JCR
Kempton Park	Jump/all-weather flat	JCR
Epsom Downs	Flat	JCR
Lingfield Park	Jump/turf flat/ all-weather flat	ARC
Plumpton	Jump	Independent
Brighton	Flat	ARC
Hereford	Jump	ARC

REGULATION AND LICENSING OF BRITISH RACECOURSES

All racecourses are highly regulated to ensure they offer a fair and safe environment for racing.

Racecourses are licensed by the BHA. The licence is issued annually to the racecourse managing executive, which must comply with the requirements of the BHA during all its racing operations.

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF KEY RACECOURSE PERSONNEL

The racecourse team is responsible for the day-to-day running of the racecourse and preparation for racedays. The raceday team consists of BHA officials and racecourse staff brought together by the racecourse team.

Key members employed by the racecourse:

- clerk of the course – the official in charge of all aspects of running the actual raceday
- racecourse manager – manager in charge of the racecourse operation
- racecourse medical officer (RMO) – dedicated raceday doctor
- racecourse veterinary surgeon (RVS) – dedicated raceday veterinarian, accompanied by a vet assistant.
- other personnel involved with sales and marketing, public relations, events and catering, race sponsorship
- advanced flag operator – responsible for making sure horses and riders stop racing in the event of a false start.

Key members employed by the BHA:

- clerk of the scales – the person responsible for weighing the jockeys before and after the race to check the horse has carried the correct weight allocated
- handicapper – assesses horses and their performance and gives them a rating in order that in handicaps each has a theoretically equal chance of winning
- judge – responsible for declaring and announcing the finishing order of a race and the distances between the placed horses
- starter – in charge of the horses and riders before the race, and starts the race
- stewards – secretaries responsible for ensuring the race adheres to the Rules of Racing and support the local stewards
- stipendiary steward – a professional raceday official who ensures all races are run smoothly and within the Rules of Racing
- security officials – ensure the highest level of security, controlling access and reporting infringements of rules
- veterinary officer – the official vet who implements all veterinary aspects of the Rules of Racing.

MAJOR RACING CENTRES

Epsom

Epsom in Surrey has a long history of racing and training horses. The first recorded race meeting to be held on the Downs was in 1661. In recent times, there have been up to 14 trainers based in Epsom, making the most of the recent attempts to rejuvenate the centre. Facilities include three all-weather gallops and miles of turf gallops, managed by the Training Grounds Management Board. The Jockey Club became responsible for day-to-day management, employing a dedicated team of downskeepers, from January 2014.

Lambourn

Lambourn in Berkshire also has a long horseracing history. The racing connection began in the 18th century, when the Earl of Craven held racing meetings on Weathercock Hill. In the 1840s, some owners moved their racehorses to be trained in Lambourn, which grew in importance with the introduction of the railway in 1898. Over 1,500 horses are now stabled in and around Lambourn – second in size only to Newmarket. Many turf and all-weather gallops are situated in and around the village, and significant improvements have been made since the Jockey Club acquired the training grounds in January 2006.

Malton

Situated in North Yorkshire, the thriving market town of Malton, 18 miles from York, has a long-established connection with horseracing. Its rolling hills provide ideal sites for training gallops, and being close to major road networks, it is well placed for trainers to take advantage of the comparative proximity of the many northern racecourses.

Malton and Norton had a racecourse on Langton Wold, with racing held in 1692, although the course eventually closed in 1862. In 1867, a National Hunt course was constructed on Orchard Fields, Malton, but racing only lasted for three years there. Another course was constructed in 1882 at Highfield, just off Beverley Road, Norton, adjacent to the site of the existing gallops.

It is not difficult to see why the area became a popular location for training. An important factor for local trainers today is the availability of training gallops, which tend to have their origins in the now-closed historic racecourses that could be found in the area. The high quality turf and well-drained soil provide local trainers with an ideal environment to produce winners. All-grass gallops have been supplemented with all-weather surfaces in some locations – notably on Langton Wold, adding to the competitiveness of Ryedale as a training base.

Middleham

Racehorses have been trained in this area for over 200 years, but the Cistercian monks of nearby Jervaulx Abbey were breeding horses long before then. The first documented reference to racehorses in Middleham was the establishment of Isaac Cape as a jockey in 1733, and he eventually became the first specialist racehorse trainer here. Racing was established on the High Moor as early as 1739, and meetings were held regularly during the 18th century. The last race to be held on the moor was in June 1873 after disputes between trainers and local gait owners (landowners with grazing rights on the moorland). From then onwards, the High Moor has been used only for training. By then though, racing was an important part of

Middleham's life and so began the history of famous trainers settling there and sending out winners at all the leading meetings in the country.

One of the most famous trainers was Captain Neville Crump, who sent out three Grand National winners from Warwick House Stables – Sheila's Cottage (1948), Teal (1952) and Merryman II (1960). He also trained five Scottish and two Welsh National winners. Today, Middleham's most successful trainer is Mark Johnston, who in 2015 trained more than 200 winners in Britain for the sixth time in seven years.

With good modern facilities, Middleham continues to prosper as a training centre. There was a time in the late '70s and '80s when the area suffered a downturn in fortunes, and there were some empty yards during that period. However, the training facilities were improved, and Middleham is now a major and important racing centre.

Newmarket

Newmarket in Suffolk is the largest major training centre in Britain and is steeped in history. It is widely reported that the first recorded race took place in 1662. It has special horse walks so the horses can reach the gallops safely from the many training establishments, most based in and around the centre of the town.

More than 2,500 racehorses are trained in the Newmarket area. Over 70 licensed trainers and around 60 stud farms operate in and around the area. Newmarket has three main sections of heath, all of which are used to train racehorses. Racecourse Side is located next to the Rowley Mile racecourse and is a predominately flat area. Warren Hill overlooks the town and consists of three all-weather canters and a multitude of grass canters. Bury Side is the name given to the area located near Bury Road and the railway line. These areas and the surrounding heath are chalk downland.

The town has two racecourses situated on Newmarket Heath. These are the Rowley Mile and the July Course. The two courses are separated by the Devil's Dyke

OUTLINE STRUCTURE OF THE BETTING INDUSTRY

BETTING

Betting is defined by the Gambling Act 2005 as the making or accepting of a bet on the outcome of an event of uncertain outcome, the likelihood of anything occurring or not occurring, or whether anything is or is not true. The typical outcome of the horseracing bet is evident within a short period.

BRIEF HISTORY OF BETTING

Betting on horseracing is almost as old as the sport itself. James Weatherby was the first known stakeholder for horserace betting when he held the money waged for participants in races on Newmarket Heath. James Weatherby went on to become the Jockey Club secretary in 1770.

Links between horseracing and betting are very strong. Licensed betting offices (LBOs) are common sights in most towns, tending to be sited wherever a significant number of people with disposable cash can be expected. The first LBO opened in England in 1961. The number of LBOs gradually increased to an estimated peak of 16,500 in the mid-1960s. Live television pictures of British horseracing were first allowed in betting shops on 5 May 1987.

Initially, horseracing, together with greyhound racing, comprised the majority of the events on which bookmakers offered bets. Bookmakers now offer customers the opportunity to bet on a vastly expanded list of events. These include the outcome of other sporting events, political contests and TV talent shows. In addition, LBOs now make gaming machines available for customers.

The British betting industry is one of the most diverse in the world, with a mix of fixed odds, pools, spread betting and betting exchanges. The competitive nature of the British betting industry results in the second highest return to stakes bet by horseracing punters of any major betting country – 89.7% in 2014, behind Ireland (97.4%), and compared with 73.7% in France.

Since 2000, the UK has seen massive growth in Internet gambling. Punters place bets online, where technology gives them access to a greater wealth of information and knowledge. More recently, apps on tablets and mobile phones have provided another increasingly popular method by which customers can place bets.

OVERVIEW OF BETTING AND HORSERACING

Horseracing bets can be placed in retail betting shops, on course at a racecourse, over the phone, online or using mobile apps. A variety of bets can be placed, including win, where the punter picks a horse to come first in the race, and each way, where the punter picks a horse to win or be placed in the race. Place terms depend on the number of horses in the race and the type of race. These bets are placed at fixed odds stated by bookmakers at the time of taking the bets, or at starting price, which is declared shortly after the start of a race.

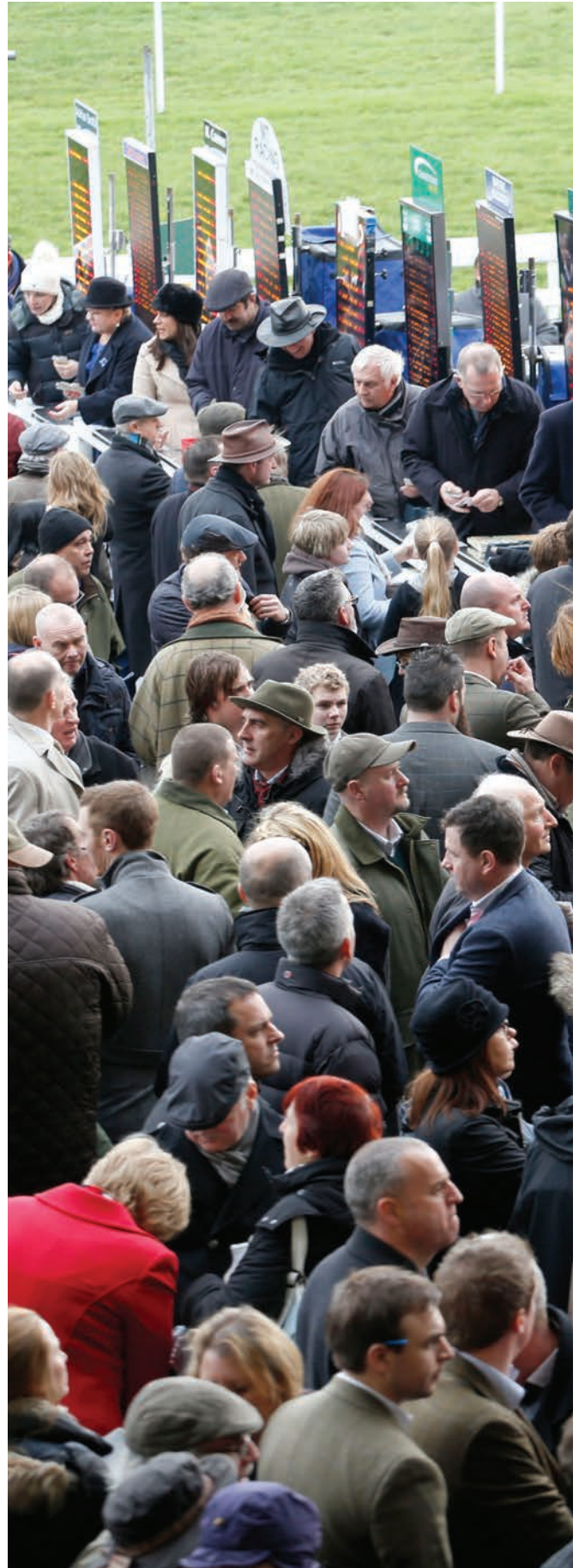
The Tote, which originally operated under government authority but was sold on a seven-year licence to the bookmaker Betfred in July 2011, offers a pool-betting option, where winning punters are paid a dividend dependent on the number and amount of winning bets on individual races.

Betting exchanges allow consumers to both back and lay horses at odds of their choice. Similar in some ways to a stock exchange, a bettor may want to back a horse, hoping it will win, or lay a horse, anticipating it will lose, effectively acting as bookmaker.

These forms of betting are regulated by the Gambling Commission. The BHA works closely with the betting industry to monitor the activities of those seeking to corrupt horseracing.

The horseracing industry generates a large amount of its direct revenue from betting via the statutory levy, currently set at 10.75%, on British betting operators' gross profits from British racing. The majority of levy is allocated to fund either prize money or integrity services. The levy contribution has fallen over recent years primarily due to the decreasing interest from punters in British horseracing, the rising interest in betting on other sports such as football, and the movement offshore, where no levy is payable, by some elements of bookmakers' businesses.

In January 2016, British Racing introduced Authorised Betting Partners (ABPs) to develop mutually beneficial funding relationships.



KEY ORGANISATIONS

The Horserace Betting Levy Board

The Horserace Betting Levy Board (HBLB) is a UK statutory body that was established by the Betting Levy Act 1961. It operates in accordance with the provisions of the Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Act 1963 (as amended). It is a non-departmental public body, and its sponsoring government department is the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

The original intention of establishing the levy, and therefore the HBLB, was to provide a means of compensating racing for the loss of attendance that was anticipated when off-course betting shops were legalised in 1961. Today, the HBLB applies levy funds to a wide range of schemes in direct support of horseracing.

The HBLB raises money by collecting a statutory levy from all onshore bookmakers on bets on British horseracing. This includes LBOs, pool betting, on-course, telephone, Internet and mobile. Off-course betting includes bets placed with LBOs, spread-betting firms and bet-broking

operations. The levy on off-course betting represents the greatest proportion of the HBLB's income. It is collected from bookmakers as a percentage of the gross profit on their British horserace betting business. The majority of levy income is expended in direct support of horseracing. The HBLB is among the most important contributors to horseracing's finances.

The HBLB's statutory objectives are to collect the levy from bookmakers and to apply the funds so raised to improve horseracing, improve breeds of horses, and help the advancement and encouragement of veterinary science or veterinary education.

On 3 March 2016, government announced new funding arrangements for British racing which will create a level playing field for British based and offshore gambling operators, and ensure a fair return from all gambling operators to racing. Racing will be responsible for making decisions on spending the new fund which is intended to be in place by April 2017.



The Gambling Commission

The Gambling Commission was set up in 2004 under the Gambling Act 2005 to succeed the Gambling Board, and has overseen betting and gaming in Britain since September 2007. It took over the responsibilities of the National Lottery Commission in October 2013.

The Gambling Commission expects that maintaining the integrity of the sport is primarily an issue for sports regulators. The Gambling Act states that the Commission may provide information gathered in day-to-day activity to the regulators listed in the Act. This is used towards the fight against corruption in horseracing. The BHA has no power to investigate criminal offences but will refer matters to the Commission or the police when appropriate.

THE BETTING BUSINESS

On-course bookmaker

The principal betting area at most racecourses, known as the ring, is in Tattersalls' enclosure, named after the famous company that in 1866 drew up the first rules on betting transactions.

Bookmakers on course are allocated individual stands from which to operate, known as pitches, where they display their boards with prices, and take and settle bets.

Licensed betting offices

The first betting shops were opened on 1 May 1961. Before then, betting on horses could legally take place only on a racecourse or through a credit account.

The Tote

The Tote was established by Act of Parliament in 1928. Its original purpose was to offer on-course pool betting on horseracing as an alternative to starting-price betting with bookmakers, and to distribute its profits for 'purposes conducive to the improvement of breeds of horses or the sport of horseracing'.

The Betting Levy Act 1961 forced significant changes on the racing and bookmaking industries. A horserace betting levy on bookmakers meant that the Tote was no longer the only source of betting revenue for racing. Most importantly, bookmakers, but not the Tote, were permitted to open betting shops. These restrictions on the Tote were lifted in 1972, and from then on, it operated as a bookmaker as well as offering pool betting on horses. The government was first minded to divest itself of the Tote in 1997. When a sale was finally effected to the bookmaker Betfred for £265 million in July 2011, the Tote had 517 retail shops offering cash betting on horseracing and a wide range of sporting and non-sporting events, as well as its racecourse operation and an Internet business.

Betting exchanges

Betting exchanges, which first appeared in 2000, enable person-to-person betting. They are a platform for people to swap or 'exchange' bets. A person may wish to bet on a specific horse at 2/1 (that is decimal odds of 3.0), and someone else may want to offer or 'lay' that same horse at 2/1. At a betting exchange, that transaction can take place.

Betting exchanges make their money by charging a commission to the winner of the bet (not to the loser). The usual starting level for betting exchange commission is circa 5%. However, this commission rate varies depending on the number of data requests made to the exchange.

REVISION TEST

1. Describe the influence and involvement of one of the following sovereigns in relation to horse racing:

- (a) King James I
- (b) King Charles I
- (c) King Charles II
- (d) Queen Anne

2. Outline the role of the two following organisations in horseracing:

- (a) The Jockey Club
- (b) Weatherbys

3. Give the name and background information of three founding sires of the Thoroughbred.

4. Write a short summary of the role and responsibility of the Thoroughbred Breeders Association.

5. Discuss and compare two of the organisations responsible for providing training in the racing industry.

6. List six initiatives that are funded by the Horserace Betting Levy Board.

7. What is the role of the National Association of Stable Staff?

8. Match the following organisations with one of its main responsibilities:

- | | | |
|----------------|---|--------------------------|
| (a) BHA | (i) Raises money from a statutory levy from off-course betting | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (b) HBLB | (ii) Represents the interests of professional jockeys | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (c) PJA | (iii) Runs the General Stud Book | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (d) Weatherbys | (iv) Is the governing authority of horseracing in Great Britain | <input type="checkbox"/> |

9. Discuss five ways in which the welfare of racehorses is promoted.

10. Outline the process for preparing the fixture list in British Horseracing.

11. Describe three racing festivals, giving details of where and when they take place and name one or more of their feature races.

12. Compare three British racecourses in Great Britain – one flat, one jump and one dual purpose. State where they are located, who the Clerk of Course is and how many days racing they hold per year. Find out one interesting fact for each racecourse.

13. Describe the three different areas that horseracing’s welfare initiatives focus on.

14. Put each of the racecourses next to the correct description:

- Queen Mother Champion Chase
- Grand National
- Triumph Hurdle
- Cheltenham Gold Cup

Held at Aintree in April and is one of the most famous jump races in the world

A Grade 1 hurdle race open to novice hurdlers aged four years and run at Cheltenham

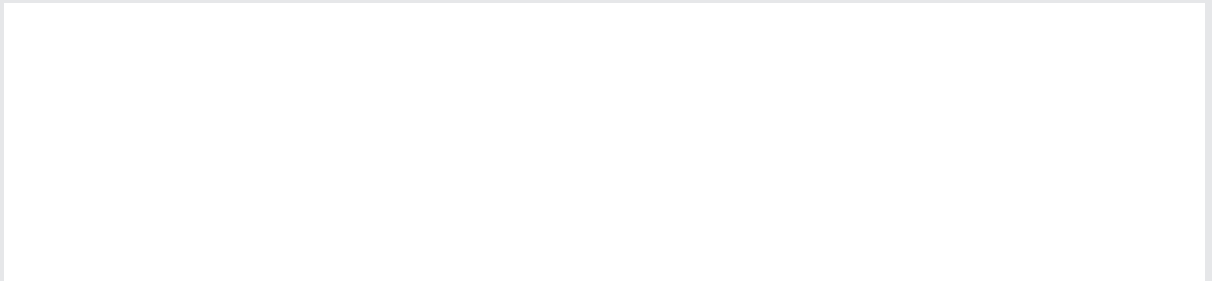
A steeple chase for horses five years plus and takes place during the Cheltenham festival

The leading maximum distance steeple chase in the jump racing calendar (two miles and over 12 fences)

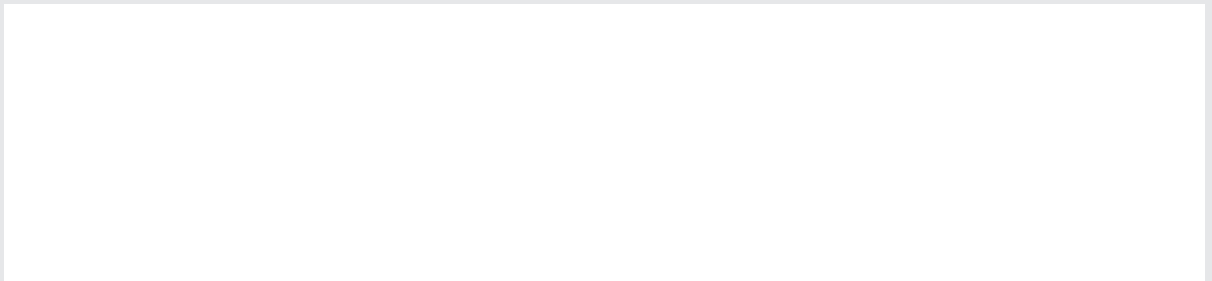
15. Explain the difference between a Clerk of the Course and a Clerk of the Scales.



16. Which person would be responsible for weighing the jockeys before and after the race? Explain their role.



17. Explain the difference between a Steward and a Stipendiary Steward.



Make Your Passion

A close-up photograph of a woman wearing a dark riding helmet with goggles and a dark jacket, smiling warmly at the head of a dark horse. The horse is wearing a leather bridle with a bit. The background is a wooden wall, likely inside a stable or barn.

Your Work

For information on careers, jobs and training in horseracing

**Job profiles • Career case studies • Live job board
Education/curriculum resources • Taster days**

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