



Bookmakers renew call to end Saturday excess

Bookmakers have called again for decisive action to reduce the congestion of high-profile races on Saturdays.

Ladbrokes declared it was Groundhog Day as the debate over the fixture slot into which Newmarket moved July Cup day in direct competition with John Smith's Cup day at York as well as meetings at Ascot and Chester ran into its fifth year.

More than 100,000 people attended the four meetings, with York attracting 40,000, Chester 28,000, Ascot 20,000 and Newmarket 14,000, but the scheduling remains a logistical headache for racing professionals, and bookmakers complain about the menu of ten televised races within two hours. The issue has been on the BHA's agenda since the completion of the 2015 fixture list with Newmarket willing to consider a move. Amy Starkey, Jockey Club Racecourses' regional director, said: "We have been very public in saying we are open to moving back to a midweek

slot, but that has to be in the right set of commercial circumstances being we are the Jockey Club and operate for the good of the sport. Things like TV coverage and levy generation are integral to maintaining prize-money levels."

The other tracks will await developments. York's head of marketing and sponsorship James Brennan said: "It's straightforward for us in that we have been in the fixture for 56 years and the onus is on anyone else who has come into the slot. Newmarket is more open to it this year and we can see selfishly it would make it easier for us in terms of jockeys and trainers being with us."

Chester's managing director Richard Thomas said: "It's madness. The Newmarket crowd is no bigger than it was on a Wednesday or Thursday for that meeting and compared to York and Chester their crowd is insignificant. It just causes owners, trainers and jockeys a big problem on that day".

Mourning the 'Voice of Racing'

Racing has been saddened by the loss of the world's most famous commentator - Sir Peter O'Sullivan who has died aged 97. Sir Peter's career spanned 50 years of commentary with the BBC but he will also be remembered for raising vast amounts for charity - especially those helping horses.



Sir Peter O'Sullivan

Equal opportunities?



Sophie Doyle - career now flying in USA

Sophie Doyle, sister of top Godolphin rider James, is flying high in America after her move across the Atlantic but has questioned whether British trainers are too quick to take female riders off mounts. Doyle was leading female apprentice in 2010 with 28 victories, but had no winners from only 85 rides in 2012, when her mounts earned just £5,967. Already this year in the States Doyle has had more than 400 mounts and 50 winners for prize-money earnings of \$802,555, including a 25-1 triumph a couple of weekends ago on Fioretti in a

\$75,000 stakes race at Churchill Downs. "I've been picking up a lot of business and a lot more quality rides too," she said. "Now I'm riding a substantial amount of horses and riding in big allowance races and stakes races. "Without asking a trainer specifically why they would not keep a female rider on a horse they've been getting on well with, it's hard to answer (whether gender prejudice exists in Britain)," Doyle added.

"I might not always have been the best jockey in the race or the strongest in the race, but one thing I always knew was my horse and I'd always done my homework.

"Not long ago you had the likes of Cathy Gannon, Hayley Turner, Kirsty Milczarek and myself - all four of us are more than capable of riding alongside the boys.

"Mentally we're as strong as any of them and with the right fitness work we can be as physically strong too. But in England there's often no hesitation in taking you off one you've won on."



Stable visits

Now that Celestial Bay and Delagoa Bay are back in training in Lambourn - how about planning a visit to see our girls working? Sylvester has a great set up at Upper Lambourn (off Junction 14 of the M4) where it's possible to see the horses working close up by driving alongside them as they work... it gives a real impression of the power and the speed they travel! The area is also well catered for by suitable places for an enjoyable pub lunch afterwards. If you would like to be involved please just call 01293 884433 during normal office hours - or email - suggesting dates and we'll make arrangements. But be prepared for a bright and breezy start as the horses start work early - but we can recommend places to stay nearby to make that feasible!

Snapshot

Southern Marsh Orchids thrive in the damp margins around the lake at the Homebred Stud.



Did you know?

Horses are measured in 'hands' - a hand being 4 inches.

WINNING POST

THE REGULAR NEWSLETTER FROM HOMEBRED RACING

AUTUMN 2015



Delagoa Bay on board Sylvester's horse box to return to Lambourn with Celestial Bay

Back to work!

Holidays are over for Celestial Bay and Delagoa Bay who are now back in training with Sylvester Kirk at Lambourn. Both have done really well and enjoyed a couple more weeks than planned due to minor hiccups - like losing a shoe whilst turned out or being slightly lame with gravel in a foot. But they've

completed six miles of roadwork every day for the last few weeks and are already cantering. Sky has definitely grown again - so hope for more improvement - and fingers crossed that Poppy will now be more co-operative at the start! For latest training reports visit www.homebredracing.co.uk.

Racing's spokesman giving the wrong message

Homebred Racing took Richard Wayman to task for his feature in the Owners & Trainers magazine in which he bemoaned 'soulless' all-weather racing. All-weather racing is an important element of racing allowing owners, trainers and jockeys to

maintain activity and employment year-round and now represents nearly 40% of all racing staged in Britain. Richard, as supremo of the Racehorse Owners Association, does racing a great disservice expressing such disparaging views. If racing's own spokesmen continue to portray all-weather racing as a poor relation, what hope is there that the media and wider racing audience will ever embrace it? All-weather racing is continuing to improve all aspects from prize money and quality of racing to facilities on offer making it an increasingly attractive proposition for all. We should all support it.



Richard Wayman

Did you know?

The oldest horse to have recorded wins in Britain is Sonny Somers who won 2 chases in 1980 at the age of 18.



Cirrus Des Aigles

Cirrus seals Ciel's status

We have recently seen some notable performances by broodmares. The French mare Taille De Guepe's 8-year-old son Cirrus Des Aigles added yet another chapter to his heroic saga by taking yet another Group One race,

David Parkes sidelined by injury



David Parkes

Celestial Bay's owners will be dismayed to hear that promising apprentice jockey David Parkes, who was second at Newbury on Sky and won on her at Lingfield, has been sidelined by a serious of riding accident in which he smashed his pelvis. David has undergone surgery and is reported to be making a good recovery despite his serious injuries. We sent David our best wishes and Kerrie Gask, wife of trainer Jeremy Gask who is David's employer, said "He's doing really well and hopes to make a full recovery - you know jockeys - they don't like to be hanging around doing nothing!" David had been going well in the apprentice jockeys race and ridden 36 winners before being sidelined.



Gold plated?

On official ratings, Derby winner Golden Horn, is now the best horse in the world in matching Frankel's mark of 130. Golden Horn was certainly impressive in the Derby winning in a fast time which adds credibility to the rating. However, although he started favourite on his debut he was not backed as though an odds-on certainty. Only time will tell if he can live up to such a lofty status.



Jockey Ryan Moore with his Royal Ascot prize

Moore success

Jockey Ryan Moore further cemented his reputation as the world's best jockey when riding a modern day record number of winners at Royal Ascot. After 17 races on the first day Ryan Moore had won no less than 8 of them, equalling the record set by Pat Eddery and Lester Piggott. Ryan added another win to make his record total of 9 wins at the meeting. It would seem that, at last, the media and wider racing

public are recognising this supreme talent as Ryan's shyness was widely misinterpreted as arrogance. But talking to him on his own he's very chatty and friendly - just a supreme professional when he's working. No less a trainer than Aiden O'Brien was prompted to comment at this year's Royal Ascot "Ryan was superb - he's a marvellous jockey, the greatest I've ever seen". Some compliment!

Cirrus seals Ciel's status cont.

effortlessly brushing aside no less a rival than Treve! His remarkable qualities also speak very highly of his maternal grandsire Septieme Ciel who was a very good racehorse himself, and he turned into a very useful stallion. Sire of the winners of over £13 million, he has arguably not received the credit he deserves. Septieme Ciel was certainly bred to be very good. His sire Seattle Slew ranks as one of the best horses ever to have raced in America. Furthermore, Septieme Ciel's dam Maximova was also top-class Group One-winning juvenile. Seattle Slew, despite being something of a rags-to-riches hero, proved the highest achiever at stud. Like Secretariat, he represented the Bold Ruler sire-line.

Seattle Slew has written his name in Triple Crown history, because California Chrome hails from Seattle Slew's flourishing line. Septieme Ciel was arguably the best racehorse bred by Maximova, but he was not her only Group One winner: his Mr Prospector half-sister Macoumba was France's top two-year-old filly of 1994, when she took the Prix Marcel Boussac. Septieme Ciel was brought to France and joined the Chantilly stable of Criquette Head-Maarek in advance of the 1989 season. He ran five times as a juvenile that year, winning three races, with two of his victories coming in Pattern races. As a three-year-old he did even better, landing a Group One weight-for-age victory in the Prix de la Foret over 1400m at Longchamp, having already taken the Group Three Prix

Newcastle on track for new surface



Newcastle Racecourse's Executive Director, David Williamson

Newcastle's plans to switch flat fixtures to a new all-weather track have been approved by the BHA meaning that it will be able to apply for 2016 fixtures. Work on the track will begin in September and will be in operation in spring 2016. All flat fixtures will then be held on the new Polytrack including the Northumberland Plate for which prizemoney has been boosted to £150,000. Only jump racing will use Newcastle's turf course. Many traditionalists have opposed Newcastle's plan on the grounds that all-weather

racing is unattractive to them and a wider racing public. This out of date view is challenged elsewhere in this issue of Winning Post. The facts are that an artificial surface will allow Newcastle to cater for more meetings than a turf track could sustain - including floodlit racing which will extend the season and provide more opportunities for northern trainers. The course's chief executive, David Williamson, said "We understand that there are some in the sport who will be sad to see a turf track converted to all-weather, but the benefits of an £11 million investment will ensure that Newcastle racecourse makes an even more valuable contribution to British racing over the coming years".

Did you know?

The world's horse population is estimated to be 70 million.

Messidor over 1600m at Maisons-Laffitte by six lengths. In the autumn, Head-Maarek dispatched Septieme Ciel to America to contest the Grade One Hollywood Derby over nine furlongs, in which he finished second, beaten only a head by Itsallgreetome. Septieme Ciel has enjoyed a varied stud career. He started out in America where he threw plenty of nice horses in several seasons, before spending a decade in France at Haras d'Etreham. It was a real coup for Etreham to secure him, and he was successful there too. In 2006, aged 19, he was switched to Dairy House Stud near Warminster in south-west England. It is as a broodmare sire, though, that Septieme Ciel will be best remembered. In North America his daughters have come up with numerous

Did you know?

The 1955 Royal Ascot meeting was postponed until August due to the rail strike.



Martin Dwyer on Delagoa Bay

Dwyer suffers injury in another Wolverhampton fall

Martin Dwyer who won on Delagoa Bay for us at Dunstall Park was taken to hospital after a bad fall when his mount was brought down by Conor Beasley's mount. Beasley was airlifted to hospital with a serious head injury which was later revealed to be a fractured skull. Martin suffered an injury to his arm but was discharged from hospital after scans revealed nothing was broken: "I feel a bit groggy and the arm is very swollen - but thankfully nothing worse - I just hope Conor is okay". Beasley remained conscious, despite his serious injury and after surgery is reported to be making good progress. Two winning Homebred jockeys both injured in such a short space of time puts a spotlight on what we owe them for their skill and courage.



Grand National not quite the test it was!

As a result of the BHA's re-measuring of all racecourses and races it's been discovered that the Grand National is actually a furlong shorter than thought at 4m 2½ furlongs. The process has revealed some other revelations such as Sandown Park's Tingle Creek Chase, long considered the supreme test for 2 mile

chasers, is actually only 1m 7f. This has all come about through a new process for measuring racetracks using a surveyor's wheel which has identified no fewer than 11 racecourses where races are being run over incorrect distances. Those beaten by narrow margins on these tracks may justifiably feel aggrieved!

Setting off - on not such a long test!



Did you know?

A horse's hoof grows up to half an inch per month.

Snapshot

Celestial Bay and Delagoa Bay patiently waiting to be loaded onto Sylvester's box for their return to training in Lambourn.

Miracle man!



Brian Toomey defied all the odds

Jump jockey Brian Toomey has defied the odds to return to race riding after a fall that very nearly cost him his life. In fact, Brian was clinically 'dead' after his 2013 fall at Perth and spent 157 nights in hospital. At the time, doctors advised that he only had a 3% chance of survival. But Toomey has proved all the experts wrong and was granted his licence to ride again after passing his medical and took his comeback ride at Southwell on 12 July. Although his first ride back didn't have a fairy tale ending Brian said "I have a point to prove now and get my career back on track".



Work rider Alex Rhodes with Delagoa Bay

Summer holidays!

Our multiple winners Celestial Bay and Delagoa Bay have been home for a decent break. After a month turned out our work rider Alex Rhodes has been riding them out everyday. Alex says "I can't believe that Sky has grown and strengthened again! I needed to buy a new girth when riding roadwork on her last holiday - but she's even bigger now - and must be going to show improved form this summer!" That's an exciting prospect. And Alex is full of admiration for Delagoa Bay too "She's also done really well and is looking magnificent - it's going to be very interesting to see how she goes after being freshened up by her holiday - especially if she goes over hurdles." Although we'll have to see how Sky and Poppy are going, once back in work, the likelihood is that Celestial Bay will be tackling distances of around 1 mile 3 furlongs - there's a suitable race for her (fillies only) at Ffos Las in September where the stiff finish should suit. Delagoa Bay's programme will depend entirely how she seems to be reacting to being back in training and whether how she schools over hurdles - it may well be a thought to give her a run in a novice hurdle to blow away the cobwebs and then see if she's happy to go into the stalls again on the flat - the form of her last win has worked out well.