



What's the official margin?

Official finishing distances:

Official finishing distances from Sep 2011:

- Dead-Heat • 1/2 length
- Nose • 3/4 length
- Short-Head • 1 length
- Head • Multiples of full lengths
- Neck • Up to 99+ lengths

A distance is greater than any of the official margins and really only applies to jump racing.

A length is 9 feet.



Thumbs up for padded hurdles

Racehorse safety is a subject close to every owner's heart, so it is good to hear that one development in this area - padded hurdles - looks to be yielding positive results. The first racecourse to trial this 'one-fit' design was Newton Abbot in 2013. In the three years since then, the 3,306 runners over padded hurdles has shown a faller rate of 1.6%. In the current year to July 25, the faller rate at that track is 1.4%. This compares with a ten-year national average faller rate over traditional hurdles of 2.1%. If a 0.5% reduction is maintained, it represents, nationwide, over 90 fewer fallers per annum. Taunton became the second course to use the new hurdles in October 2014. Padded hurdles were also introduced at Bangor in July and at Kelso in September, with part-funding from the BHA to increase awareness of the enhanced hurdles. Uttoxeter introduced padded hurdles at their September fixture, fully funded within ARC. Charlie Moore, Clerk of the Course, reported: "The new padded hurdles are a significant improvement on

the traditional birch hurdles, as has been shown during the trials, with injury rates reducing, which helps owners keep their horses 'on the road' and racing, with the added benefit of a reduction in the number of fallers too, which is encouraging. The hurdles are all totally consistent, with the added bonus for the hard-working groundstaff in that they are easier to maintain. I am delighted for Uttoxeter and Arena Racing that we are one of the first to embrace this BHA initiative; I'm sure they'll grow rapidly in popularity." Uttoxeter's previous hurdles have been transferred to Hereford, where they will be in action again on October 6, when Hereford reopens having previously closed its doors in December 2012.

Did you know?

Southwell is the UK's least popular course with an average of fewer than 800 racegoers per meeting.

Newbury redevelopment on track for owners...

The redevelopment of the owners' experience at Newbury racecourse is well under way, with that section of the racecourse's £20 million 'heartspace' rebuild starting in August. The new owners' and trainers' facility is due to be completed in early autumn 2017 and looks set to totally transform the raceday experience. Situated adjacent to the owners' and trainers' car park, the facility will contain a VIP entrance for badge collection, a large private bar and a 200-seat restaurant for the use of owners and trainers. There will also be a lawn next to the pre-parade ring, and a first-floor private viewing platform offering an outstanding view of the pre-parade ring, saddling boxes, parade ring and winners' enclosure. The redevelopment will also include a completely new pre-parade ring and closed saddling boxes, an

enlarged parade ring with enhanced viewing, as well as a new winners' enclosure and unsaddling and wash-down area for unplaced horses. Owing to the redevelopment works, the current raceday arrangements are subject to some alterations. As has been the case for the past year. Owners can park in Car Parks 2 (the traditional O&T car park) and 4 (closer to the new bridge), with the former experiencing a slightly reduced capacity over the next few months. A temporary owners' and trainers' badge collection marquee is situated next to The Lodge in Car Park 2, and a temporary owners' and trainers' bar is located on the raised level and terrace of the Premier Lawn Bar adjacent to the Crafty Filly. There will also be a temporary pre-parade ring during the next few months in the early stages of construction.



Newbury's planned new facelift

Did you know?

Ascot is the most attended racecourse with an average crowd of 25,380 for each fixture.

Who says nice guys never win?



Jim Crowley - just champion!

Whatever happens in the 2016 jockey's championship, Jim Crowley wins for being one of the good guys in racing. Jim started as an amateur jockey turning pro to ride as a jump jockey for Sue Smith and riding over 300 winners before switching to flat racing. It was a move first made successful by Mark Perrett (rider of Homebred Racing's first winner Backpacker - at 100/1!) and it's no co-incidence that Jim is married to Amanda Perrett's sister, Lucy. Having switched to the flat, Jim's initial role was as stable jockey for the Perrett's Coombelands stables where he partnered our own Divine White. Since, Jim has enjoyed Group 1 winners and is one of the most sought after jockey's by trainers up and down the country, enabling him to challenge for this year's championship. Modest and extremely personable, Jim is racing's gentleman and we know him as an exceptionally nice guy. Go Jimbo!

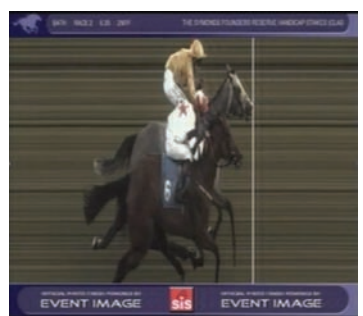
Delagoa Bay in an epic battle with Rainbow Pride



Keeping the hot-shot at bay!

We travelled to Bath, where Delagoa Bay faced a step up in class, in hope rather than expectation - the hope being that the fast ground and stiff uphill finish would suit. However, the pundits all pointed out that she had never reached the frame on turf. We certainly weren't expecting the amazingly gutsy performance to overturn Sir Mark Prescott's odds on favourite! Jockey Mitch Godwin was again in the saddle as Poppy trailed

the field until rounding the final bend and then swooping from last to first to make a sustained challenge over the last 2 furlongs despite being forced wide across the track by the favourite. It was desperately close and the photo-finish revealed just a short head in it. But before the runners had pulled up the klaxon sounded for a stewards' enquiry. After a seemingly endless 20 minute delay (no doubt there was concern involving the odds on



favourite and a massive holiday crowd) Poppy was sardesly announced the winner after the best run of her career.

Following in the footsteps...

Delagoa Bay follows in the footsteps - or should it be hoof prints - of another bay mare of the same name. Foaled in 1906, she was a daughter of Bay Ronald who is a stallion that's had a huge impact on the breed and still appears in the pedigrees of many horses competing today. Sadly there is no record of Delagoa Bay's races.

Delagoa Bay is actually a real place - an inlet of the Indian Ocean on the coast of Mozambique, now called Maputo Bay. Our own Delagoa Bay appeared in the Racing Post's feature 'Googling a runner' which recounts her predecessor and also the African connection.



Mozambique's Delagoa Bay

Where's the smart money?

Although the racing media has been full of stories about 'another winner for Frankel', the official stats show a slightly different story. In terms of number of winners Frankel is somewhat off the pace to become 2016's top first season sire. At the time of writing he's ninth in the table with 14 winners - some way behind current leader Sir Prancealot with 26 winners. Frankel's stud fee was £125,000 this year - and only likely to increase thanks to the hype. Sir Prancealot stands at a rather more modest fee of £4,000. You do the maths!



Sir Prancealot - this year's leading new sire



Speedy calculations

The importance of race times is illustrated by the distance per second calculated for different races on different surfaces. It also explains why 'slow' races can produce unpredictable results. It's particularly relevant in long distance races where slow times result in falsely run races. Delagoa Bay has been particularly affected by this because her strength is her stamina - so a slowly run race counts against her and suits

speedier types. At Kempton Park one of her races was 15 seconds slower than average which equates to 90 lengths - equivalent to 270 yards (or well over a furlong!)

Here are the official stats for lengths per second

	FLAT	JUMPS
Good or quicker	6	5
Good to soft	5.5	4.5
Soft or slower	5	4
AW Polytrack	6	5 NHF
AW Fibresand	5	4 NHF

Did you know?

The biggest racehorse is Holy Roller who stood a massive 18.1 hands. Despite his enormous size, he was no slouch and won no less than 12 of 28 races.

BHA applying some self-discipline



After far too long, racing's ruling body is contemplating changes to the disciplinary system. Having professional stewards and former jockeys and trainers recruited to the ranks of disciplinary panels is long overdue.

The BHA has frequently been a laughing stock when enquiries into alleged misdemeanours have collapsed. Having people who have no practical experience of race riding or training adjudicating over the rules of racing often leads to farcical decisions and needless enquiries.

Wolverhampton's stewards are a case in point where stewards' enquiries are frequently called regarding betting issues - whilst racing incidents go uninvestigated. Wolverhampton has a dismal record of pile-ups and injuries to horses and jockeys.

Our own Homebred Star was subject of an afternoon-long enquiry under the 'non-trier' rule having been only beaten a head and a neck.

Rider Robbie Brisland, now Newmarket trainer, was ludicrously cautioned for not obtaining the best position when only denied by a matter of inches in a driving finish! Nick Rust, the BHA's chief executive, appointed QC Christopher Quinlan to review racing's rules and regulations and on receiving 24 different recommendations said: "The changes we're making mean that everyone connected with racing will be able to have total confidence in the impartiality and fairness of the sport's governance".

Retiring in a Baze of glory!



Russell Baze - amazing total of wins

The final win tally of jockey Sir Anthony McCoy - 4,358 - over a 23-year career was incredible and hugely impressive, but a more recent retirement from the saddle knocks that figure into a cocked riding hat. Russell Baze won very few big races, but he won a heck of a lot of races, the 57-year-old finally calling time last month on a simply amazing career, after no fewer than 12,844 victories, amassed since 1974, when he rode his first winner aged 16.

Baze went on to have another 53,500 rides, the vast majority away from the limelight. He had 5,765 winners at just one track, Golden Gate Fields in the San Francisco Bay area. Baze retired at the top of the winning-most riders' standings, but Brazilian legend Jorge Ricardo, with whom Baze traded the world-record leadership several times, is around 200 winners behind him and would appear likely to overhaul Baze, injury notwithstanding.

BHA announces new weight-for-age revisions



Flat racing's weight for age scale is to have its first shake up in more than 25 years. The aim is to ensure a more level playing field when three-year-olds, who have been found to enjoy a disproportionately higher strike rate, meet their elders over distances of ten furlongs and more in the second half of the season. The changes, which will be the first since 1990, have been made in the interests of fairness and competitiveness and have

come about following very exhaustive research. They will also be implemented across Europe from the second half of June onwards including Group races and other conditions events. The changes are relatively minor - in most cases a reduction by a pound of the allowance received between 10 and 12 furlongs; of 2lb from 13 furlongs to two miles inclusive; and of 3lb over more extreme distances. However, the 3lb change over extreme distances is not consistently applied month by month owing to an uneven distribution in the old scale. In the Cesarewitch the allowance has changed by just 2lb and in future will be 10lb instead of 12lb, a difference again that should still have the knock-on effect of increasing the number of three-year-olds running. "The key findings were that three-year-olds have a higher strike rate than older horses, from July onwards".



Online bookies who signed up to pay for the racing product will benefit...

Twilight fixtures scrapped

The 2017 fixture list will be shaped partly by the Authorised Betting Partner initiative, with twilight fixtures cut and evening meetings increased. There will be a net increase of around 12 meetings in 2017 - there were 1,482 fixtures programmed this year - and BHA Chief Operating Officer Richard Wayman said the shift to online betting had to be borne

in mind when compiling next year's schedule: "Historically, the fixture list had been organised around the Levy Board's fixture criteria, which has been driven solely by the requirements of the betting shops" he said. "While retail betting remains important, with less than half of betting activity through that channel, using the fixture list to create further growth in remote

betting makes perfect sense. The changes focus on fixtures on Thursdays and Fridays between September and early April. Wayman added: "In practice, this will involve starting around 30 fixtures an hour or so later than is currently the case. We'll also stage a fixture on every Saturday evening through the year, which will mean filling a few remaining blank dates in

the winter, as well as introducing incentives to improve the quality of racing on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday afternoons".

2017 fixture list key points

- Net increase of around 12 fixtures
- Twilight cards moved into evenings on Thursdays and Fridays
- An evening meeting every Saturday
- Additional Friday evening fixtures, worth at least £75,000, in height of summer
- No Flat fixtures on Sundays during the winter and a Flat-free Sunday each month during the summer
- Geographical clashes removed where possible
- Funding incentives for tracks to improve quality of midweek and Sunday racing, subject to Levy Board agreement