



10 YEARS
2007
2017

10 EVENTS

WHICH SHAPED

THE BHA

10
YEARS



Collapse of the City of London case at the Old Bailey

A two-month long trial brought by the City of London police involving jockeys Kieren Fallon, Fergal Lynch and Darren Williams - alongside several unlicensed persons - collapsed at the Old Bailey after the judge Mr Justice Forbes stated that the evidence provided by an expert witness was not satisfactory.

The collapse of the case prompted the BHA to ask Dame Elizabeth Neville, former Chief Constable of Wiltshire and a Director of the Serious Fraud Office, to carry out an independent review of its security operations, resulting in sixteen recommendations for improvements and creating a roadmap for the future of integrity in British racing.

Also this year: Self certification for non-runners was introduced in the wake of 48-hour declarations for flat races in preceding years. Great Leighs opens in April before its closure in early 2009. BBC's Panorama focuses on integrity in British horseracing.





The BHA modernises equine drug testing

In a pioneering move, British racing changes its raceday testing programme to a more flexible approach, making increased use of information and intelligence, and employing more targeted testing which occurs both before and after racing, and in training.

The more flexible approach makes testing less predictable and more targeted, forming the blueprint of an intelligent testing strategy which the BHA still uses to this day, in a manner that has been developed and honed over the years.

Also this year: Fergal Lynch, Darren Williams and Karl Burke are charged by the BHA following a review of the evidence from the collapsed City of London trial. "Fit and proper person" suitability criteria are added to the process for licensing individuals.





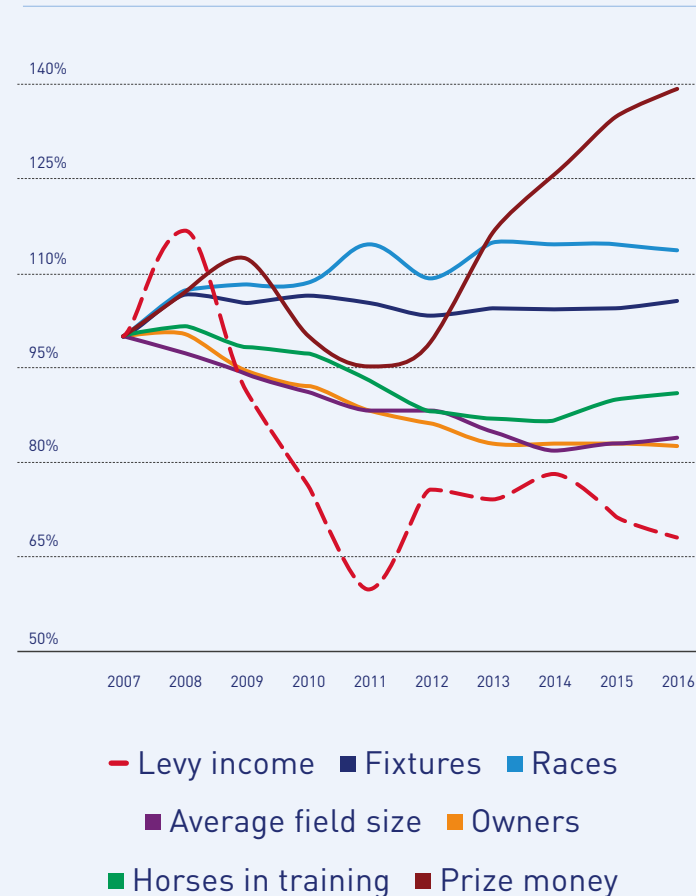
“Racing United – Campaign for a Fair Levy” launched

Facing a global recession and the exploitation of loopholes in the sport’s Levy funding mechanism, the financial future of British racing is thrown into significant doubt. To address this, and for the first time, British racing comes together to form a unified front calling on the Government and the Horserace Betting Levy Board (HBLB) to secure a fair return from the betting industry.

The Charter was launched jointly by the BHA, Racecourse Association (RCA) and The Horsemen’s Group, in a precursor to the modern tripartite structure by which the sport now operates.

Also this year: Plunging Levy yields lead to the introduction of controversial ‘tariffs’ by the Horsemen’s Group. The election in May 2010 and changeover of Government sees many supporters of horseracing appointed to significant positions. The Rick Parry report into sports betting integrity acknowledged the BHA’s work in the field of integrity in sports.

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Major reviews into Grand National and use of the whip

Following the running of the 2011 Grand National which saw welfare concerns raised in the national media about the race and the use of the whip, the BHA launches significant and high-profile reviews into both the race itself and the role of the whip in British racing.

Working with Aintree racecourse a number of recommendations for change are made to the Grand National course and procedures around the race, which were then added to following the 2012 running, including the replacing of the “cores” of the fences with more forgiving material. There have subsequently been no fatalities in the race from 2013 to the current day.

The whip review found that, using the current padded design, and with increased controls on its use, there was a place for the use of the whip in British racing. The revised rules and penalty structure were originally welcomed, however upon implementation several jockeys found elements of the rules unworkable. Richard Hughes publicly hands in his licence to

ride and severe concerns are raised by Christophe Soumillon who lost his winning riders prize money following success on Cirrus Des Aigles in the Champion Stakes at the first ever British Champions Day. Over the course of the coming months the BHA worked with the jockeys on a series of amendments to the rules which resulted in their existing format, which has subsequently seen a greater than 50% reduction in the number of whip offences despite the near halving of the threshold for permitted use.

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Proceeds from the sale of the Tote fund crucial racing projects

British Racing's on-course pool-betting system is sold by Government to Betfred in a £180m deal in 2011. While Racing was disappointed that Government elected not to sell to its own consortium, half of the proceeds are given to racing for the money to be distributed through two different approaches. They include a new charity – The Racing Foundation – which was set up to help fund charitable causes within racing, and a grant scheme, which provided £3.5m in funding to a variety of state-aid compliant horseracing projects.

The Racing Foundation still remains in place to this day, funding – amongst other projects – important medical research into jockey wellbeing and crucial projects to better understand and address the sport's staffing shortage.

Also this year: The BHA and Betfair sign a landmark commercial deal. Trainers boycott a race at Worcester racecourse in protest against prize money minimum values. Frankie Dettori is suspended for six months by France Galop following a positive test for a banned substance.



The logo for 'totesport' is displayed on a solid green background. The word 'tote' is in a dark green, lowercase, sans-serif font, and 'sport' is in a red, lowercase, sans-serif font.



Steroids scandal rocks racing

The sport is rocked by revelations that trainer Mahmood Al Zarooni has been stood down from racing after 11 horses have tested positive for steroids. The trainer is placed swiftly before a disciplinary panel after admitting all charges against him, and disqualified for 8 years on a day when the world's media descended on the BHA's head offices. Following further testing a total of 22 horses are eventually found to have been administered with the substances and a wider investigation into the Moulton Paddocks stables is carried out.

The tumultuous events of this period lead the BHA to significantly enhance its anti-doping policy, and become a pioneer on a world stage for the introduction of international minimum standards relating to steroid control in horseracing. The BHA would later adopt its existing zero-tolerance approach to steroids with controls in place which exceed those of the international minimum standard.

Also this year: Trainer Gerard Butler is also involved in a steroids saga surrounding the use of a substance called Sungate...the trainer is disqualified from racing for five years. Jockey Eddie Ahern is disqualified from the sport for 10 years for his involvement in a corruption case. The BHA launches its The Horse Comes First welfare campaign. Steve Harman replaces Paul Roy as Chairman of the BHA. Most racecourses sign prize money agreements with the Horsemen's Group which agrees minimum prize money values.



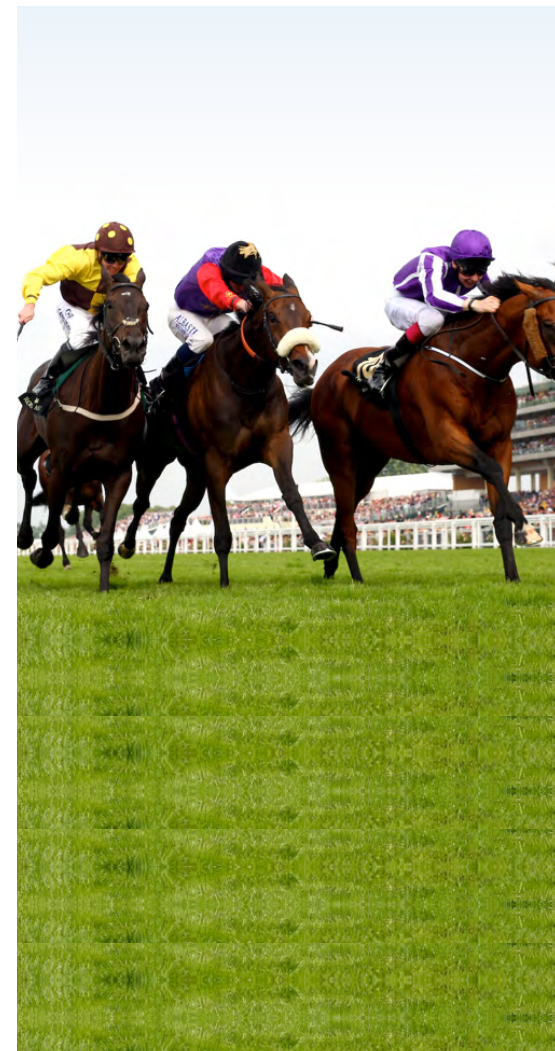


Contaminated batch of feed leads to positive morphine findings

In July it emerges that a number of horses have tested positive for the banned substance morphine, with eight horses in total from different trainers returning the results as the consequence of a batch of contaminated horse feed. Among those horses is the Queen's former Gold Cup winner Estimate, with the positive sample being returned from her runner-up performance when attempting to defend her Ascot crown.

All the horses involved are subsequently disqualified from their performances in which they tested positive, owing to the BHA's strict criteria that all races must be run on a level playing field. While the cause of the issue was clear and none of the trainers involved face any sanctions, the Queen's horse being disqualified from its run in the Gold Cup causes a national stir which hits the front pages.

Also this year: Government changes the law to licence and tax online betting operators, which lays the foundation for critical reform to the Levy in 2017. Racing takes place on Good Friday for the first time. Irish trainer Philip Fenton is involved in a steroids case shortly ahead of his runners competing at the Cheltenham Festival. An internal BHA review of issues involving racecourse medical staff is leaked to the Racing Post. Nick Rust is appointed as the new BHA Chief Executive.





Members' Agreement signed

In a landmark moment in the history of British racing, the Members' Agreement - which implemented a new, tripartite governance structure for the sport - was signed by the industry's major stakeholders. The signing of the document means that the sport is able to act in a unified manner, with the major stakeholders making strategic decisions for the long-term benefit of the industry by acting as a united body, enshrined in a formal Agreement.



The Agreement outlines which decisions can be made autonomously by the BHA, which can be made after consultation has taken place and which must receive a majority or unanimous vote by the members, and has allowed the sport to make progress on several major issues since its implementation.

Also this year: Prime Minister, David Cameron, visited Newmarket and called British racing a “massive success story”. The Authorised Betting Partner scheme is launched by the unified racing industry, which rewards those bookmakers who make a voluntary contribution to the Levy...the scheme would eventually raise over £14m in much-needed funding the sport. The BHA and European Pattern Committee instigate significant bolstering to the sprint programme, including the scheduling of the Commonwealth Cup at Royal Ascot. The BHA launches a review of its integrity services. The industry's Strategy for Growth is launched, including a concerted focus on recruitment and retention of stable staff.



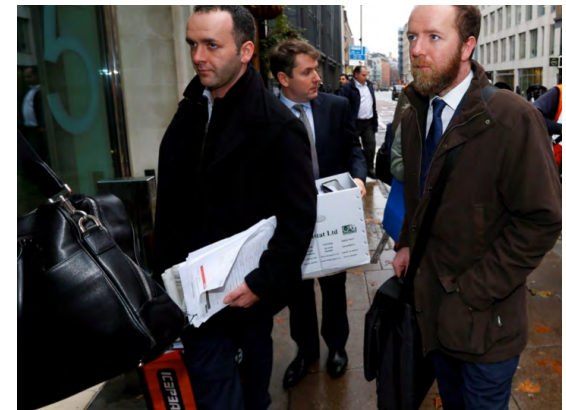
Perception of bias in Jim Best case leads to reform, modernisation and separation of the quasi-judicial system

Following a disciplinary panel hearing involving jockey Paul John accusing trainer Jim Best of instructing him not to run a horse on its merits, the trainer is disqualified from the sport for four years. However, on appeal it emerges that one of the disciplinary panel members, Matthew Lohn, had received payment for unrelated work from the BHA, leading to a perception of bias and causing the appeal board to order a rehearing of the case.

As a result, the BHA fast-tracks an independent and detailed review of its disciplinary procedures by leading QC Christopher Quinlan, which had already been proposed as part of the recently-published integrity review. The Quinlan review found that the BHA's disciplinary system was legally robust and fair, but made a number of recommendations to bring the BHA's approach in line with best practice in sports governance and to increase confidence among participants and stakeholders. The BHA commits to implementing all of the recommendations and ensuring that the sport now has

an independent, modern disciplinary system that stands comparison with the very best. At the rehearing Jim Best is found in breach of the rules and suspended from the sport for six months.

Also this year: Following a year-long project the Flat racing Weight-for-Age scale is amended for the first time in recent history, to reduce the advantage received by three-year-olds over longer distances later in the season.






Years of lobbying achieves essential Levy reform

Following many years of lobbying by the racing industry, led by the BHA, Minister for Sport Tracey Crouch MP declares that the Horserace Betting Levy will be replaced by a new mechanism that captures all betting from the sport, and which came into effect on 25 April 2017. The new funding will return in the region of £30-£40m in lost revenues for the sport that will benefit participants and the many local communities which racing supports across all corners of the country.

A Racing Authority will be formed to distribute the funds, with grassroots prize money, integrity, welfare and developing and retaining the sport's workforce likely areas to be targeted for investment in the coming years.

Also this year so far: The BHA and EPC announce a focus on the staying division with significant enhancements to the race programme. A new judicial panel is appointed featuring former jockeys and trainers. Major research and education projects into jockey wellbeing, nutrition and concussion management are published.

 Tracey Crouch @tracey_crouch - Apr 24
We've crossed the legislative finish line! Today I signed the Statutory Instrument that commences reform of the Horserace Betting Levy 🏇



You, DCMS, Racing UK and 2 others

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