

June 2026



## HBLB Newsletter

Welcome to the Horserace Betting Levy Board newsletter. HBLB's website [www.hblb.org.uk](http://www.hblb.org.uk) has significant additional information about the organisation.



### £14.2m Confirmed in Non-Fixture Grant Awards

HBLB has agreed funding of **£14.2m** in grants to support a wide range of projects across British racing and Veterinary Science and Education in 2026. A summary of the £10.5m in non-fixture grants is listed in the table below:

Grantee	Key Activities	Grant Award
British Racing School (BRS)	Core Training	£1,258,000
Great British Racing (GBR)	National Marketing Campaign	£3,545,000
Great British Racing (GBR)	Step changing GBR's digital profile	£250,000
Great British Racing (GBR)	Equine Welfare Communications & National Racehorse Week	£138,926

Horse Welfare Board (HWB)	Ground and Going Support Project	£50,000
Horseracing Industry People Board (HIPB)	HIPB Board and Staff Costs	£245,125
Horseracing Industry People Board (HIPB)	Careers Marketing and Recruitment	£101,000
Horseracing Industry People Board (HIPB)	Modernising Employment, Training Provision Review and Digital Hub & Workforce database projects	£216,000
Horseracing Industry People Board (HIPB)	Rider Development Pathway	£351,990
Horseracing Industry People Board (HIPB)	Industry People Wellbeing	£200,000
Jockey Nutrition & Physiotherapy	Racecourse physiotherapy and industry-wide nutrition support service.	£229,129
Lloyd Bell Productions	Racing Audio Distribution Service	£12,000
National Horseracing College (NHC)	Core Training	£1,332,491
National Stud	Level 3 Stud Management & Sales Consignment Course and Thoroughbred Industry Access Programme.	£308,800
Point to Point	Fixture Grants, Marketing, Officials' Training and Horse Welfare provisions.	£413,916
Pony Racing Authority (PRA)	PRA Pathway into Racing Programme.	£70,810
Racehorse Owners Association (ROA)	Encouraging & Rewarding Investment in Ownership & Breeding	£294,250
Racing to School	Racing to School Education Programme.	£380,000
Racing Together	Community Engagement across Racing.	£158,726
Rare Breed Societies	Breed Society Grants	£200,000
Rare Breeds Survival Trust	Habitat integration of Native Equines	£35,000
Retraining of Racehorses (RoR)	RoR Education Programme and Vulnerable Horse Scheme.	£264,000
Scottish Racing Academy (SRA)	Core Training	£324,035

Thoroughbred Breeders' Association (TBA)	TBA Education Programme.	£91,935
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Click [here](#) for further information.

In addition, HBLB increased funding for its Equine Veterinary Science and Education programme starting in 2026 to £3.7m. Read more [here](#).

## 2025 Prize Money exceeds £200m

Overall prize money returns to participants in 2025 exceeded £200m for the first time.

Total prize money under published race conditions rose by 3.5% in 2025 to £194.7m, reflecting continued investment from the sport's primary prize money funders. Of this amount, HBLB increased its direct contribution by 4.6% year-on-year to £63.2m, with racecourse Executive Contribution providing £103.4m, racehorse owners £26.8m through entry fees and the British Horseracing Authority £1.3m via its Development Fund.

In addition, HBLB allocated a further £7.4m to targeted prize money initiatives, including the Great British Bonus and the Sunday Appearance Money scheme. This brought HBLB's total contribution to £70.7m and ensured that overall returns to participants exceeded £202m.

For further information please click [here](#).

## Top 10 Betting Races for 2025

The Randox Grand National and races at the Cheltenham Festival continue to make up the Top 10 Betting Races by turnover in 2025.

Top 10 races by Turnover (Jan - Dec 2025)									
Position	Race Name	Code	Course	Race Date	Winner Name	Winner SP	Fav Name	Fav SP	Runners
1	THE RANDOX GRAND NATIONAL HANDICAP STEEPLE CHASE	Jump	Aintree	05/04/2025	Nick Rockett	33/1	Iroko	13/2	34
2	THE BOODLES CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP STEEPLE CHASE	Jump	CHELTENHAM	14/03/2025	Inothewayurthinkin	15/2	Galopin Des Champs	8/13	9
3	THE UNIBET CHAMPION HURDLE CHALLENGE TROPHY	Jump	CHELTENHAM	11/03/2025	Golden Ace	25/1	Constitution Hill	1/2	7
4	THE BETMGM QUEEN MOTHER CHAMPION STEEPLE CHASE	Jump	CHELTENHAM	12/03/2025	Marine Nationale	5/1	Jonbon	5/6	8
5	THE MARTIN PIPE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE RACE	Jump	CHELTENHAM	14/03/2025	Wodhooh	9/2	Koypeck De Mee	5/2	24
6	THE ALBERT BARTLETT NOVICES' HURDLE RACE	Jump	CHELTENHAM	14/03/2025	Jasmin De Vaux	6/1	The Big Westerner	9/2	20
7	THE JCB TRIUMPH HURDLE RACE	Jump	CHELTENHAM	14/03/2025	Poniros	100/1	East India Dock	5/4	17
8	THE PADDY POWER STAYERS' HURDLE RACE	Jump	CHELTENHAM	13/03/2025	Bob Olinger	8/1	Teahupoo	7/4	13
9	THE RYANAIR STEEPLE CHASE	Jump	CHELTENHAM	13/03/2025	Fact To File	6/4	Fact To File	6/4	9
10	THE WILLIAM HILL COUNTY HANDICAP HURDLE RACE	Jump	CHELTENHAM	14/03/2025	Kargese	3/1	Kargese	3/1	16

Further breakdowns, including by month and code are available [here](#).

## Veterinary End of Project Reports Published

The HBLB has recently published end-of-projects reports from a number of major equine research projects.

These reports provide valuable insight into the objectives, outcomes and impact of the research funded by HBLB, demonstrating how levy funding contributes to the advancement of veterinary science and education.

Publications of reports can be found [here](#).

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## **HBLB Grant Spotlight: Jockey Welfare initiatives (£229,129)**

Through its non-fixture grants process, the HBLB supports the sport's human athletes by providing funding towards the Racecourse Physiotherapy and Jockey Nutrition services.

### **Racecourse Physiotherapy**

The Racecourse Physiotherapy Service is funded jointly by racecourses, jockeys, the Injured Jockeys Fund, the BHA and the HBLB. In 2026, HBLB awarded a grant of £139,129, representing 42% of the service's total costs.

The service is designed to ensure that a senior physiotherapist is present at every fixture, recognising their integral role within the multi-disciplinary jockey support team. The Physiotherapists assist in preparing the jockeys for competition, both in terms of injury prevention and for treating injuries on the racecourse. The redevelopment of Weighing Room facilities is now creating bespoke treatment and warm-up areas for the Physiotherapists to work from. In addition, they play an important role as first responders for mental health issues and signpost jockeys for more specialist help.

In 2025, the physiotherapy team delivered 11,003 treatment encounters – an average of 8 per fixture. Over the course of the year, 267 jockeys accessed the service, with average usage of 41 encounters per jockey.



Dr Jerry Hill, BHA Chief Medical Advisor commented *“In addition to funding from the jockeys, the BHA, Injured Jockeys Fund and racecourses the ongoing financial support from the HBLB has enabled the Racecourse Physiotherapy Service to expand to ensure a Senior Practitioner is available at all fixtures.*

*The Physios are a key part of the jockey support team providing advice and treatment for a range of issues and help prepare our human athletes for competition. It is impossible to imagine a professional sport without a full physiotherapy service, and I am very grateful for the support of the Levy Board in achieving this.”*

## **Jockey Nutrition**

The Industry Nutrition Team has been awarded a £90,000 grant from the HBLB for 2026. This funding covers 90% of the programme’s total costs, with the remaining 10% provided by the BHA. This continued investment recognises the vital role nutrition plays in supporting jockey health, wellbeing and long-term career sustainability.

The Nutrition Team’s ambition is to be recognised worldwide as Racing’s leading jockey nutrition service that contributes to research while delivering practical, real-world solutions to the everyday challenges faced by jockeys.

Across the year, the team provides:

- Early education, training, and intervention where required at all pre-licencing, licencing and claiming jockey courses.
  - Weekly clinics at each of the three Injured Jockey Fund centres, supporting both fit jockeys with weight management and performance nutrition, and injured jockeys with injury rehabilitation.
  - Support BHA Medical in upholding BHAGI 8.3 which relates to service and provision of jockey racecourse catering via racecourse visits and audits
  - Collaborate and engage in active jockey-focussed research projects with research institutes .
  - Provide ongoing nutrition education and content via social media, from recipes, dietary hints and tips, example meal plans, supplement advice, research updates, and Q&A’s with jockeys on diet and nutrition.
  - Expertise and opinion on industry-wide working and steering groups with other key stakeholder groups.
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## HBLB Board Appointments

Madeline Campbell and Wilf Walsh joined the Board in January 2026, succeeding Lord Risby and David Armstrong respectively. Details can be found <https://hblb.org.uk/release/733> and <https://hblb.org.uk/page/15>.

Catherine Colloms has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport as a member of the Board for four years from 1 January 2027. Details can be found <https://www.hblb.org.uk/release/737>.

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## Levy Yield of Around £110m Expected For 2025/26

Levy income for the year ended 31 March 2026 is expected to be around £110m, the strongest return since the Levy collection reforms introduced in 2017/18. The estimate is based on provisional year-end submissions from the majority of Levy-paying bookmakers and represents a marginal uplift on last year's £109m.

Further details are available [here](#).

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<https://www.hblb.org.uk/>

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