



National Trainers Federation

ANNUAL REPORT

2023

NTF SUPPORTING

Yorkshire Air Ambulance (YAA)



Yorkshire Air Ambulance (YAA) operates a lifesaving rapid response emergency service to 5 million people across the whole of Yorkshire. Our Critical Care Team, comprising Consultant level Doctors and Specialist Critical Care Paramedics and supported by a Pilot and Technical Crew Member, provide swift medical interventions to those in need, and have a major impact on a patient's chance of survival and subsequent quality of life. YAA operate the most advanced Air Ambulance helicopters –

the Airbus H145 D3, ensuring the people of Yorkshire and its visitors are provided with the best possible air ambulance service.

The generosity of donations is the life blood of the Charity, and as an independent charity the YAA would like to thank the National Trainers Federation and their members for supporting the UK's air ambulance charities, keeping us in the air and saving lives. YAA responds to many Equestrian related incidents each year and are extremely grateful to the equestrian community for this continued support.' www.yorkshireairambulance.org.uk

East Anglian Air Ambulance (EAAA)

East Anglian Air Ambulance (EAAA) is a charity providing advanced critical care 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to the most seriously ill and injured people across Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk by air and road. From road traffic collisions to cardiac arrests to medical emergencies, the charity's specialist doctors, critical care paramedics and pilots bring the advanced skills, equipment and medicine directly – normally only found in a specialist emergency department – to the patient's side in the fastest time possible.



EAAA receives no regular government funding, relying almost entirely on public support. We are now called to (on average) eight critical care emergencies every day from our Norwich and Cambridge bases. The average cost of a mission is £3,750 and, in 2022-23, over 1,900 people were in need of EAAA's life-saving care.

EAAA's service to local communities goes far beyond the critical care the charity brings to the incident scene. We constantly strive to do our best for those we serve – that's why our Aftercare Team of experienced nurses provides invaluable emotional and practical support to local people and their loved ones in the turbulent aftermath of their life changing incident, helping them make the difficult transition back to daily life. To find out more about East Anglian Air Ambulance and support from our Aftercare team, please visit www.eaaa.org.uk

A heartfelt thank you to the National Trainers Federation and its members for supporting the UK's air ambulance charities.

Front and back cover photo by Matthew Webb

ANNUAL REPORT

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NTF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

These were the elected Regional Representatives during 2023

Presidential Triumvirate

President 2022/2024: Ralph Beckett
President 2024/2025: Nicholas Alexander
President 2025/2026: Hugo Palmer

Region

Scotland and the North Region

Midlands and Central North Region

East Region

Central South Region

South West and Wales Region

South East Region

C-Opted Reps

2023

Regional Representative: Jim Moffatt

Deputy: Rebecca Menzies

Regional Representative: Henry Daly

Deputy: Matthew Sheppard

Regional Representative: Roger Varian

Deputy: Harry Eustace

Regional Representative: Eve Johnson Houghton

Deputy: Trelawney Hill

Regional Representative: Emma Lavelle

Deputy: Jamie Snowden

Regional Representative: Roger Ingram

Deputy: Suzy Smith

John Gosden, Seamus Mullins

Equine Welfare Panel

Members: Charlie Johnston, Ed Walker, Hughie Morrison, Ilka Gansera Leveque, James Tate, James Moffatt, Neil Mechie, Rebecca Menzies, Richard Phillips, Seamus Mullins, Clive Hamblin.

Flat Racing Committee

Members: Ralph Beckett, Steve Brown, Harry Eustace, Rod Millman, Clare Loughnane, Ed Walker, Archie Watson, Lydia Hyslop (Ind.), Lee Mottershead (Ind.).

Jump Racing Committee

Members: Emma Lavelle, Nick Alexander, Victor Dartnall, Briony Ewart, Di Grissell, Donald McCain, Matt Sheppard, Jamie Snowden, Lydia Hyslop (Ind.), Lee Mottershead (Ind.).

NATIONAL TRAINERS FEDERATION EXECUTIVES AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

National Trainers Federation

9 High Street, Lambourn, Hungerford, Berkshire RG17 8XL

EXECUTIVE AND ADVISERS

President

Chief Executive

Chartered Legal Executive

Membership and Publications Executive

Racing Executive

Recruitment and Training Coordinator

Financial Adviser

Legal Adviser

Veterinary Adviser

Rates and Planning Advisers

Ralph Beckett

Paul Johnson

Dawn Bacchus

Jill Crook

George Noad

Shelley Perham

Peter Treadgold

Rory Mac Neice

Clive Hamblin

Christopher Marriott

John Webber

ACCOUNTANTS

Ross Brooke

2 Old Bath Road, Newbury,
Berkshire, RG14 1QL

SOLICITORS

Ashfords LLP

Tower Wharf, Cheese Lane,
Bristol BS2 0JJ

INSURANCE ADVISERS

Lycetts

1 Stables Court, The Parade,
Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 1NP

NTF AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

In its rules the NTF's objectives are:

“To represent and protect trainers’ interests and to be a reliable and respected source of information, advice and support.”

MEMBERS' BENEFITS

Members of the NTF receive the following benefits:

Services

- Help and advice from the NTF office. We provide a personal direct service with an executive team who understand your working life. There is no limit on the number of times you ask for our assistance.
- Advice on legal problems including employment law from the NTF's in-house Chartered Legal Executive.
- Legal Assistance Scheme for members including Legal Expenses Insurance and helplines.
- Legal Representation for appropriate BHA disciplinary panel enquiries and appeals through the NTF Legal Expenses insurance (subject to terms and conditions of cover).
- Access to advice on finance and tax with Ross Brooke Chartered Accountants, insurance from Lycetts, and veterinary issues from Clive Hamblin.
- The services of Christopher Marriott to provide advice on Non-Domestic Rates and conduct appeals with the Valuation Tribunal.
- Annual Regional Forums open to all members
- Non-transferable metal badges to allow movement within the racecourse for each member and their spouse/partner. Up to seven badges for Assistant Trainers if eligible in proportion to the number of horses trained.
- A Car Park Label for each member and associated Assistant Trainer for entry into the trainers' car park at each racecourse in Britain.
- NTF Members retiring after 15 years' membership are eligible for one RCA photo ID accreditation and an additional RCA photo ID accreditation for a spouse/partner after 25 years' membership.
- Group discount schemes for private health care from Tim Francis, preferential rates for debt collection and Direct Debit services from Group 1 Credit Management and Express Group. Free second subscription to RacingTV and a discounted Racing Post Subscription.
- Free administration of the Racing Industry Accident Benefit Scheme (RIABS) and Death in Service Benefit.

NTF AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

continued

Information

- The NTF Racing Diary, the indispensable working manual for horseracing. Includes a live computer feed for worldwide fixtures and sales dates.
- News channels; NTF Weekly e-mail news update, Industry Perspective, articles on the NTF blog – *ntfmuse*. Breaking news available on Twitter, @NTFnews, and monthly European Trainer Magazine.
- Access to the dedicated Members Area of the NTF Web Site for news, up to date forms, advice sheets and publications. Members contact details listed in the Trainers Contacts area, with a direct website link.
- The NTF Employment Guide, a bespoke manual for employment matters.
- Free Medication Record Books, as required.
- NTF Code of Practice for Infectious Diseases and Biosecurity guidelines, in print and via the EquiBioSafe App available in both Android and iOS.
- A range of free publications and advice sheets.

EUROPEAN TRAINERS FEDERATION

The NTF is a member of the European Trainers Federation, which comprises Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, and Sweden.

All NTF members receive a free subscription to European Trainer Magazine.



Aims and Objectives of the ETF:

- To represent the interests of all member trainers' associations in Europe.
- To liaise with political and administrative bodies on behalf of European trainers.
- To exchange information between members for the benefit of European trainers.

PRESIDENT'S

report



RALPH BECKETT

Much water has gone under the bridge for the NTF over the last 12 months.

The new structure of the BHA means that the NTF has an even greater role to play, through its place on the Commercial Committee. It's clear that we will need Paul Johnson to continue to punch his weight to ensure that the participants don't get rolled over in commercial matters. The Thoroughbred Group's make up has recently been changed, and will mean that as a body it becomes more effective in looking after our interests.

The discussion about jockeys weights was hugely time consuming, as was the whip debate, whilst the publication of the PhD on harassment in the workplace could have been presented in a way that would have been far more damaging to us all. One thing is certain; without the NTF's input and intervention the outcomes in many cases like these would have been different.

On a more parochial level, we have found ourselves negotiating for things that are everyday and taken for granted. For example, the RCA had planned the abolition of metal badges in favour of photo accreditation. Again, the NTF has taken this on and managed the outcome for members. We will continue to press for change on the apprentice agreement, which has been hugely damaging - not least for the apprentices themselves.

The staff situation remains at the forefront of all the NTF does. This year all of the work that we put into the campaign to see racing roles added to the Shortage Occupation List paid off – despite being told before that our chance was virtually zero. The wider government agenda on immigration may yet derail our efforts here but we continue to work on this on behalf of members.

Sadly, the number of trainers continues to fall thanks, in part, to pitiful prize money, and the reluctance of those who could do something about it to be transparent about income. Amongst others, we are sorry to see William Jarvis and Oliver Sherwood hand in their licences.

Despite all this I am optimistic that Nick Alexander's tenure will see bigger change because of the groundwork that has been done. Recent events affirm how the industry now views the NTF. Thanks to you we have become an outfit that at the very least are difficult to outmanoeuvre. That will continue, partly because the NTF is the only organisation that has ex jockeys, owners, breeders and stable staff at its core. We represent all participants.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Beckett', written in a cursive style.

Ralph Beckett
President

MEMBERSHIP

At 31 December	2022	2023	Change
Licensed trainers	512	499	-13
Relinquished in year	42	28	-14
Granted in year	25	19	-6
NTF Members	462	447	-15
Non-members	50	52	+2
Percentage of all trainers	90.00%	89.90%	-0.10%

ELECTIONS AND THE REGIONS

2022 saw significant changes made to the NTF Council, as agreed at last years AGM. This saw Ben Haslam, Ed de Giles, Di Grissell and Jim Boyle step down from the Council. We thank the outgoing members of the Council for their contribution and welcome Harry Eustace, who was elected to the vacant seat in the East region. The regions themselves have also been reworked with the intent of better balancing the number of members in each region.

THE EXECUTIVE

Although we aim for NTF membership to offer a range of benefits to members, one of the most obvious ones is having a dedicated Executive team on hand to support members in the wide variety of issues that they face each year. The NTF is fortunate to continue to have the knowledge and expertise of Dawn, George and Jill to support our membership. We also rely on the work of Shelley Perham, Dana Mellor and Sarah Loxton who play great supporting roles for the NTF.



Dawn Bacchus
(Chartered Legal
Executive)



Jill Crook
(Membership and
Publications Executive)



George Noad
(Racing Executive)

CHAMPIONSHIPS

2022/23 NH Championship – **Paul Nicholls**

Most winners – Paul Nicholls 163

2023 Flat Championship – **John and Thady Gosden**

Most winners – Charlie Johnston 174

Flat	Prize Money Won	National Hunt	Prize Money Won
John And Thady Gosden	£7,211,330	Paul Nicholls	£3,646,585
Aidan O'Brien	£6,456,282	Nicky Henderson	£1,814,945
Andrew Balding	£4,445,095	Dan Skelton	£1,654,866
Roger Varian	£4,187,777	Willie Mullins	£1,721,329
William Haggas	£4,154,315	Fergal O'Brien	£1,516,724

This year saw Paul Nicholls land his 14th Champion Jump Trainer title, amassing over £3.6m in prize money and with a strike rate of 27%. Nicky Henderson and Dan Skelton filled the placings again for a repeat of the 2022 top three.

The Flat Champion Trainer title returned to Clarehaven for the first time since 2020, but this time to the joint training partnership of John and Thady Gosden. Their strike rate of 22% saw returns of over £7.2m.

NTF STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1. **Assisting racehorse trainers to run a long-term, sustainable business**
2. **Working with partners to provide services that support trainers' wellbeing**
3. **Enabling trainers to employ a sufficient number of skilled stable staff**
4. **Ensuring the right balance of racing opportunities for the horse population**
5. **Protecting the welfare of all thoroughbreds in training**
6. **Ensuring racehorse trainers are regulated fairly**
7. **Communicating timely and accurate information and advice to support racehorse trainers**



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S report



PAUL JOHNSON

Again, the preceding twelve months have passed by very quickly and before I know it, I find myself writing another annual report. I wrote last year of the breadth of areas that the NTF involves itself in and there is no doubt that there were some new and unexpected challenges to deal with in 2023. These are often lengthy and time-consuming matters but are ones that have a significant impact on those of our members who are involved – it is the nature of the NTF that members do not need the same help and support from the organisation every year but it is the case that it always makes a difference to have help on hand when it is required.

Even in those years where you do not call on the team directly, we are working to represent your interests at industry level and seeking the best possible deal for trainers – for this reason, I firmly believe that every trainer should be a member of the NTF.

Arguably, the job that we do in representing our members has never been so important as businesses are facing significant challenges, seemingly at every turn. Costs are increasing, owners are becoming disillusioned with the rates of return, yards are increasingly difficult to fully staff and the job becomes ever more demanding on those involved. Against this backdrop, this year we have faced the threat posed to the finances of the sport by the Gambling Commission review. We have also, very clearly, seen the views this year that parts of society hold about the nature of our sport and their willingness to express them, sometimes illegally. With bookmakers forecasting a steady decline in betting revenues for the next three years, there is no doubt in my mind that we have to work hard on the most important items if we are to really help members face these challenges. This will not be something that can be turned around immediately but I believe that we have started taking the right steps.

The sport had a new governance structure agreed in 2022 and last year saw it tested with the agreement of the first stages of the industry strategy. This is going to continue to be developed over time but the initial changes to the fixture list and the way that it is funded are intended to mitigate forecast declines in income. Plenty more is required if we are to tackle the longer-term challenges and we will continue to be an active part of industry leadership.

We also set out this year to ensure that the Thoroughbred Group (TG) was effectively set up to put in place Commercial Partnerships with racecourses. This saw newly drafted articles of association, the employment of an executive to manage the process and a sub-group formed of the NTF, ROA and TBA, led by new TG Chair Julian Richmond-Watson. We have been working to form deals that could deliver meaningful benefit for participants with enhanced competition between racecourses for the runners that are sent to their courses.

As well as a slimming down of the Council this year, we also made changes to the NTF Racing Committees and set up the Trainers Equine Welfare Panel. Both have enabled us to get more input from a wider cross-section of trainers, something that I am keen for us to continue to do.

We have endeavoured in recent years to maintain fees at the same level in order to avoid further cost pressures on trainers. With rising costs and increasing demands on the NTF from across the industry, how we finance our work requires consideration and we will look at available options in 2024.

Finally, I would like to thank our members for their support of the NTF, with a particular thank you to our Council members and other trainers who have given their time to any of our committees and working groups.



Paul Johnson
Chief Executive

NTF STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1 *Assisting trainers to run a sustainable business*

As Ralph points out in his President's report, we continue to see a fall in the number of trainers as the many challenges lead them to the conclusion that their business, or the lifestyle that it demands, is no longer sustainable. For this reason, this objective has to be at the forefront of all that the NTF does.

A major focus this year has been to deal with the threat that is posed by the Gambling Review. We have taken part in the setting of strategy through the Gambling Strategy Group and the lobbying of government. NTF members supported our efforts to reach 100,000 signatures on the petition against affordability checks and a parliamentary debate will take place. This will run on into 2024 and continues to represent a significant risk to the sport in the future through undermining our base of customers who engage with racing in a responsible way.

The Gambling Strategy Group is also responsible for Racing's submissions on Levy review, another process that will run into 2024.

Insurance costs continue to be a source of concern across the equine sector and we have taken part in a number of meetings with a BHA project group that features some of the biggest insurers involved. There is no immediately forthcoming solution at this time but the issue is recognised and we have the engagement of the BHA now, rather than this being seen as a trainer only issue.

The most significant project that we are working on to support businesses of trainers is one that seeks to sign Commercial Partnerships with racecourses. In our view, these are a critical step in the industry being able to work together to grow the appeal of the sport and see mutual financial benefits for all involved. As with most of these big-ticket items, this has not been a quick process but progress is being made. The Thoroughbred Group is now set up to effectively work on agreeing deals and we are starting to make inroads with racecourses to provide the transparency that is the first step in pitching our deals.

2 *Working with partners to support trainers' wellbeing*

This year we have supported the launch of a new initiative that seeks to support trainers' mental health. This is a scheme that has been set up by Harry Dunlop and Rupert Arnold and which seeks to provide informal and accessible opportunities for trainers to discuss their pressures with people who understand. The scheme is currently being funded by the Racehorse Trainers Benevolent Fund whilst it is in its pilot phase.

A further initiative that has sought to deal with abusive communications sent to trainers is the launch of an NTF-wide reporting process for trainers. This was a project initially launched by Lucy Snowden with the help of ex police Superintendent Sean Memory and we have been pleased to be able to support its expansion. Trainers have engaged with this simple to use process and we hope that we will be able to make a difference over time.

In addition to the above, we continue to be grateful for the work of Racing Welfare across the racing industry. A solution to the funding of the Workplace Wellbeing Programme is still sought but we expect a conclusion to be reached now that the Horseracing Industry People Board is up and running.

3 *Enabling trainers to employ sufficient numbers of skilled staff*

A significant step was taken by the sport in 2023 with the setting up of the Horseracing Industry People Board. Although this Board is not intended to be a representative one, we are pleased that Dan Kubler applied and was appointed. The NTF will continue to support the work of this Board.

The other significant piece of work this year was our application to the Migration Advisory Committee to have Racing roles included on the Shortage Occupation List. We had been advised previously that this would be a difficult task but, assisted by the willingness of NTF members to support our lobbying efforts to MPs, we were ultimately one of only eight successful applicants. The changes announced by the government in late 2023 to its immigration policy proposed the replacement of the Shortage Occupation List with a new Immigration Salary List and work continues to be done to get racing roles onto the new list.

We also continue to work with Migrate UK seeking to bring staff in from abroad without difficulty and will adapt our work depending on the Immigration Salary List outcome.

Further challenges that we do have around staffing are the annual increases to National Minimum and National Living wages. These are increasing at a rate beyond, already high, levels of inflation and present a real challenge, both for the cost of staff at that level and for maintaining a hierarchy of staff salaries for the more skilled staff. We can't do much to influence government policy here but have made changes this year to the timings of National Joint Council discussions with NARS in order to align them with government timings. The aim is to have only one change to agreed rates each year, rather than two.

We also made the decision this year not to run the Lycetts Team Champion and Leadership awards. This was a difficult decision as the objectives of the awards are still important, but there was a feeling that the current format had run its course and that a refresh was needed. We will work with the Horseracing Industry People Board to determine what that might look like.

I also wrote last year about reworking the unfavourable Apprentice arrangements that were put in place in 2019. We have not been successful, as yet, but the falling number of Apprentices tells us that we need to continue to push the BHA for a resolution.

A final area that we input into quite heavily this year was the announcement of the new action plan for the sport to tackle gender inequality and harassment within the sport. This is clearly a matter of great importance and a number of trainers took the time to provide necessary input to shape what was a difficult press release for the sport. We have more work to do in 2024 and beyond in this area.

4 Ensuring the right balance of opportunities for the horse population

Industry changes were made this year which saw the Racing Committee amalgamated with the Fixtures Group. The effect of this has been to reduce the levels of independence and expertise around the table in favour of stakeholder representatives. This is not a change that was supported by the NTF but we have endeavoured to work around the issue by refreshing the membership of the NTF Racing Committees. Not only has this seen us engage a wider cross-section of NTF membership, but it has reduced the demands on the NTF Council to enable them to focus on the bigger industry matters. We have also added two independent members to our committees, underlining our willingness to have our views challenged by those with different perspectives.

Another project that we have worked on this year is to negotiate an extension, without any cost to the NTF, to the Easy Entry system, upon which a number of our members rely for their race planning. With Easy Entry due to shut down by the end of 2023 the intent is that this arrangement will bridge the gap until Racing Digital is able to provide an alternative.

As part of our efforts to improve the reliability of going descriptions and race day facilities we have also introduced a new Racecourse Feedback Form. This enables trainers to provide quick and simple feedback to the NTF team for us to take up with the racecourse and BHA. We have already used this form to request formal investigations into events at racecourses where it appears that expected standards have not been met. We are working with the BHA to see investigation reports published to our members to provide full transparency.

5 Protecting the welfare of all thoroughbreds in training

Welfare obviously continues to be an area of significant focus for the sport and NTF representation of trainers is of great importance. We are grateful to Seamus Mullins, who continues to occupy a seat on the Horse Welfare Board, inputting trainer views into their deliberations on how the sport can make continual improvements to welfare outcomes.

We have also set up the new Trainers Equine Welfare Panel this year to provide support for Seamus and George on the various committees and project groups that they attend on trainers' behalf. This group is comprised of a group of ten trainers who, alongside Clive Hamblin, have volunteered to provide expert practitioner input into welfare and veterinary matters. This has been extremely helpful in enabling us to input into projects such as the equine fatality review, equine census and changes to welfare related BHA General Instructions.

The Trainers Equine Welfare Panel also provided input into the introduction of enhanced pre-race examinations for flat meetings and changes to the requirements for racecourses to provide suitable trot-up strips. There are varying views as to the level of improvement to welfare outcomes that this initiative will deliver. Although this is a regulatory matter for the BHA to decide on, we will continue to ensure that we are, at least, consulted on the future of this initiative and will ask for analysis of the impact.

We also saw the third running of National Racehorse Week this year. This is an initiative that goes from strength to strength.

- More than 15,800 spaces were made available to the public to visit yards free of charge across the country
- 60 additional community and school events gave another 3,000 people the chance to meet a racehorse and learn more about racing
- Record participation with 117 trainers, studs, and retraining and rehoming centres opening their doors

6 Ensuring racehorse trainers are regulated fairly

As stated in last year's annual report, trainers are very mindful of the need for the sport to be effectively regulated. We have continued to build the relationship this year with the BHA integrity team and sought to make sure that cases are dealt with in a timely manner, something that the BHA is making progress on.

Through our regular liaison meetings with the BHA, the NTF has been able to provide input and advice for affected members on their individual cases. We have also, via quarterly meetings with the BHA Leadership team, been able to resolve trainers access to the weighing room and changes to the vaccine process to prevent trainers being caught out by non-qualified horses. We continue to raise issues that trainers have with contacting the BHA Licencing team and have seen improvements through the BHA Participant Services team. Following our suggestion, this team now has a dedicated landline contact number that was shared only with trainers and via the BHA website. The 100 calls received in the first two months illustrate that there was a need for this and we will continue to work towards enabling trainers to get help when they need it.

We have also found ourselves engaging this year with the Financial Conduct Authority as we have sought to support members who have been caught up in their investigation. This has been new territory for us and has been difficult for those involved but we have done what we can to provide support and be on hand when needed.

Alongside a small number of other stakeholders, we are part of the Industry Governance Review Group, charged with ensuring that the new governance model is working for us and our members.

We also dealt with a number of questions this year about the regulation of syndicates and racing clubs and expect to be required to do quite a lot more work in this area with the BHA in 2024.

7 Communicating timely and accurate information and advice to support racehorse trainers

We have a number of touchpoints with our members throughout the year although tend to conduct most of our business with the via telephone, email, Zoom calls or messaging. None of these, however, replace face to face meetings and we have to make the time to be more available to see our members in person. This year, we had a good level of attendance for the AGM in February and also managed to get 60 owners of small to medium sized training businesses in front of the BHA Chief Executive, Julie Harrington at planned meetings. The attendance for our run of autumn regional meetings was a little disappointing although we appreciate the efforts of those who did attend and found the meetings extremely useful. We will look at the best way to manage face to face engagement with our members better in 2024.

For incoming communications, we have seen a marked increase in the number of queries that are raised by members, particularly with regard to employment matters. We are pleased to have been able to be available to help NTF members.

From a government perspective, we have endeavoured to build on the excellent work that many trainers already do in engaging with their Member of Parliament through more centralised letter writing to pursue our agenda. This required a significant effort to gather trainer signatures and we are grateful to those who were asked to contribute and did so.

Our main means of communication to trainers is the weekly email through which we provide information on a wide variety of subjects most weeks.

We have posted less frequently to the [NTFMuse](#) blog this year but with 1,132 views for 5 posts.

Our X previously Twitter feed [@NTFnews](#) has grown to 3,265 followers.

The NTF website www.racehorsetrainers.org is managed by Jill Crook.

During 2023:

- 32,147 main site homepage hits: average 88 per day
- 10,233 members area homepage page hits: average 28 per day
- 28,688 pdf files opened average 78 per day
- 52 Podcast listens average 1 per week
- 282 different NTF members logged into the site at some point during 2023

Other trainer benefits and services

REPRESENTATION

The NTF represents trainers' interests on the following racing industry committees and working groups:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| • The Thoroughbred Group | • Horse Welfare Board |
| • Industry Commercial Committee | • National Joint Council for Racing Staff |
| • Industry Programme Group | • Equine Industry Committee |
| • BHA Racing Committee | • Equine Safety Steering Group |
| • BHA Racecourse Committee | • Respect in Racing Group |
| • RCA Technical Group | • Industry Diversity and Inclusion |
| • BHA Stakeholder Integrity Group | • Tattersalls Industry Liaison |
| • BHA Veterinary Committee | • European Trainers Federation |

Through our attendance at the above Committees and Groups, it is our aim to provide strong representation for our members and to bring about better outcomes for them in all areas.

THOROUGHBRED GROUP

Paul Johnson is a director of the Thoroughbred Group, representing the NTF. John Ferguson, as the Member Nominated Director on the BHA Board, also attends meetings.

Key agenda items included:

- Commercial agreements with racecourses
- Future Governance structure for the sport
- Thoroughbred Group structure and resourcing plan
- Levy reform and the Gambling Review

LEGAL EXPENSES INSURANCE FOR MEMBERS

The LEI scheme was renewed for an eighth year with legal services transferred to Ashfords from Knights.

During the year there were 19 claims at a total claims value of £40,800. These were predominantly for BHA Disciplinary hearings and contract disputes.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS, INSURANCE AND CHARITIES

The NTF is the secretariat for the Trustees of the **Racing Industry Accident Benefit Scheme**. From day to day, Jill Crook provides all the administrative support – linking trustees, insurance brokers and loss adjusters, and managing the half yearly trustee meetings.

The NTF is also the sole trustee of the **Life Cover Trust** which provides a Death in Service Benefit for full and part time stable employees.

NTF Charitable Trust

The NTFCT dispenses grants to people who are or have been employed in racing. Grants are awarded for the advancement of retraining and education to enable applicants to develop skills and enhance their employability within the industry.

The trustees are Rupert Arnold (Chair), Jo Foster, Charlie Longsdon and Amy Murphy. Charlie Longsdon has completed three terms but remains a trustee until his replacement has been recruited. Total grants NTFCT awarded in 2023 amounted to £16,107.70. The Toby Balding Award is being reviewed and its 2023 budget will be accumulated to fund a revised award in 2024.

Racehorse Trainers Benevolent Fund

The total accumulated for the Racehorse Trainers Benevolent Fund at 31 December 2023 from a percentage of prizemoney won in this country by trainers based outside Britain stands at £149,466. The trustees agreed this was an appropriate reserve to maintain, and that the charity should aim to spend the majority of annual income. The trustees are Rupert Arnold (NTF appointment), Paul Foster (BHA appointment), Harry Dunlop and James Eustace.

Grants of £9,177 were approved to assist a beneficiary facing hardship. A Trainer Support Network was set up to help trainers facing mental health challenges. The six-month pilot running from June to December cost £9,822 to fund up to four providers in the racing community.

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023

Comments on financial results

As anticipated, after three consecutive loss-making years from 2020 to 2022, this year saw a return to a more stable financial situation with a small profit of c.£20,000. Clearly, this is insufficient to offset the losses incurred in recent years and we need to continue to work to gradually replenish reserves in the next few years to ensure that the organisation has sufficient resilience built into its financial position. The cap on member prize money contributions continues to mean that the NTF sees only a small amount of upside when prize money increases and, even with streamlining of costs, in 2024 it will be necessary for this to be reviewed.

**PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	2023 £	2022 £
TURNOVER	865,784	720,802
Personnel and officials	(371,964)	(369,755)
Administrative expenses	(486,668)	(372,751)
Other operating income	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	7,152	(21,704)
Gain/(Loss) on financial assets at fair value through income and expenditure account	9,168	(12,443)
Other interest receivable and similar income	4,017	821
Interest payable and similar expenses	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	13,185	(11,622)
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION	20,337	(33,326)
Tax on surplus/(deficit) on ordinary activities	(310)	(1,635)
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR	20,027	(34,961)

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	2023 £	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible assets	56,787	65,027
Other financial assets	<u>115,344</u>	<u>106,176</u>
	172,131	171,203
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	6,520	7,815
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>215,410</u>	<u>196,161</u>
	221,930	203,976
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	(125,928)	(127,073)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	96,002	76,903
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	268,133	248,106
CAPITAL AND RESERVES		
Accumulated fund	<u>268,133</u>	<u>248,106</u>
Total equity	268,133	248,106

**DETAILED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 (UNAUDITED)**

	2023 £	2022 £
TURNOVER		
Subscriptions	857,835	684,815
Sundry income	197	13,605
Lycetts Team Champion Award Sponsorship	0	12,500
Insurance commissions	752	2,882
Management fees	7,000	7,000
	865,784	720,802
PERSONNEL AND OFFICIALS EXPENSES		
Salaries and wages, including pension contributions	327,537	331,909
Committee meeting expenses and room hire	7,691	7,591
Motor, travel and subsistence	24,758	17,588
Motor vehicle depreciation	8,862	11,816
Entertaining	3,116	851
	371,964	369,755
ESTABLISHMENT EXPENSES		
Printing, postage and stationery	11,329	7,658
Repairs and renewals	8,836	7,642
Telephone and fax	7,266	5,944
Trade subscriptions	4,117	4,580
Gifts & donations	3,175	12,458
Business rates	566	742
Insurance	846	1,250
Badges	1,635	6,358
Light, heat and power	2,509	3,624
Depreciation	1,843	2,070
Bad Debts written off	0	(872)
	42,122	51,454
FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXPENSES		
Bank charges	247	182
Weatherbys management fees	6,042	4,532
Other professional fees	76,907	100,274
Accountancy fees	5,591	6,231
Auditor's remuneration - audit of the company's annual accounts	6,000	5,000
Legal assistance scheme	349,759	205,078
	444,546	321,297
INTEREST RECEIVABLE		
Bank interest receivable	4,017	821
INTEREST PAYABLE		
Bank overdraft interest payable	0	0

The information above is extracted from the Federation's full accounts for the financial period, which are audited by UHY Ross Brooke. At the time of printing this report the audit had not been formally completed but it is anticipated that the figures will not change. Members of the Federation can view a full set of finalised accounts on the NTF website. Printed copies will be available at the AGM for the purpose of formal approval.



**THE NATIONAL TRAINERS FEDERATION AGM AT
THE HONOURABLE SOCIETY OF GRAY'S INN, ON THURSDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 2023**



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