

# NTF WEEKLY UPDATE – 12 JANUARY 2023

## – Issue No. 1328

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### Membership

#### NTF Trainer Metal Badges 2023 – despatch update

The NTF Member renewal packs together with the 2023 badges have been sent to the Royal Mail delivery office today for delivery by first class post and parcel post where several badges are enclosed.

#### Energy Bill Discount Scheme

This week the Exchequer Secretary, James Cartlidge, delivered a Ministerial Statement on non-domestic energy support. In it he confirmed that the new Energy Bill Discount Scheme (EDBS) **will run for 12 months from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024**, providing £5.5bn of support for businesses, charities and public sector organisations.

The policy announcement issued by HMT summarises the main aspects of the Energy Bills Discount Scheme which includes the eligibility scheme which are as follows:

1. As with the original scheme, the new scheme will be available to everyone on a non-domestic contract including:
  1. Businesses
  2. Voluntary sector organisations, such as charities
  3. Public sector organisations such as schools, hospitals, and care homes
2. This includes every business which is:
  1. on existing fixed price contracts that were agreed on or after 1 December 2021

2. signing new fixed price contracts
3. on deemed / out of contract or standard variable tariffs
4. on flexible purchase or similar contracts
5. on variable 'Day Ahead Index' (DAI) tariffs (Northern Ireland scheme only)

More details can be found at this link:

[Energy Bills Discount Scheme - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/energy-bills-discount-scheme)

## Employment

### Management Training Opportunity for Small Businesses

ACAS are offering management training webinar for small businesses (3-49 employees). The webinar will outline a free training and research offer

**Skilled Managers - Small Businesses** A new approach to management training

Monday 23 Jan, 11am [Find out more or register your place](#)

**About this event:** The Skilled Managers – Small Businesses research project offers the chance for employers to receive **free management training** for themselves and their line managers.

The training is delivered online and will take managers just a few hours to complete. You will also gain access to an online management toolkit as part of this offer. The focus of the training and toolkit is the development of skills required to build positive relationships and prevent, contain and resolve conflict at work.

In return, the researchers would like your help to find out whether this training intervention has a positive impact on staff engagement within your organisation. The project is being led by the University of Westminster, in conjunction with the University of Sheffield and ACAS, and the project team are inviting organisations with 3 - 49 employees to take part. Participation is free of charge.

You can hear more about the benefits of participating by attending the upcoming webinar: [View more event details and register your place here](#) (this event is free to attend)

If you are interested in getting involved with Skilled Managers but are unable to make the session on the 23 Jan you can email [skilledmanagers@westminster.ac.uk](mailto:skilledmanagers@westminster.ac.uk) to get in touch with the team and find out more.

### ACAS - Labour Market Shortages

ACAS is holding an online conference on 31st January about labour shortages and staff retention. A member of the NTF executive is attending. The details are [here](#) should a trainer wish to attend.

## Industry News

### Vaccinations

As previously communicated, the new 6 monthly requirement is now in place for Equine Influenza. This means that horses that do not comply with the requirement will be NQ'd at the point that entries close if a vaccine has not been administered and details have not been uploaded to the Weatherbys app and validated by the vet.

Should you have any queries please contact George Noad at the NTF.

### Trot ups

The BHA monitors all racecourse equine injury and fatalities and, in conjunction with the Racecourses, it has been agreed that a trial of trotting-up all runners on arrival will be carried out at selected courses where injury rates dictate it might be appropriate to do so. Similar trot-ups at Aintree, Cheltenham and some Jump Meetings in summer months have been successful and well-received.

All Trainers will be individually notified by the Racecourse after Declarations, for a selected meeting, if the trot-ups will be taking place

### Change of on-course obstacles from orange to white

All jumps tracks have now changed the markings on fences and hurdles from orange to white. As part of the ongoing project trainers are invited to complete the following survey on the experience of the change of colour.

<https://forms.gle/he6FiJK6758rSTJx8>

The project has been championed by the Horse Welfare Board and has been led by a cross-industry working group, which included trainer representation. This project is part of the industry's ongoing work to improve on-course safety and help to reduce injuries and fallers and is based on cutting-edge research into equine vision completed by Exeter University during 2017/18. The full research by Exeter University can be seen here [Equine Vision Research](#).

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S016815911930142X>

### BHA Consultation into the Penalty Structure

Thank you to those trainers who have submitted a response to the consultation survey sent out on Monday. The deadline for this is Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January at 4pm. Please take the opportunity to express your views on this matter.

The survey can be reached here:

<https://paulntf.wufoo.com/forms/mxuh9sg19kwd5g/>

The BHA has advised us that they intend to commence a consultation into the Guidance and Sanctions framework of the Rules of Racing. This consultation is required to ensure that current

sanctions are appropriate, particularly on the back of feedback into the BHA on a number of occasions that they are out of date.

We feel that this is a subject where the full NTF membership should have the opportunity to provide feedback so have produced a survey that can be completed. It covers the following areas:

- General questions
- Interference rules
- Running and Riding
- Pulling up a horse
- Human anti-doping
- Equine anti-doping

The survey comprises 20 questions and will take 15-20 minutes to complete.

Thank you for taking the time to submit your views.

## Upcoming Events

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February in London. The annual report and agenda papers will be posted out to members to arrive two weeks before the meeting.