

# NTF WEEKLY UPDATE – 21 MARCH 2024 – Issue No. 1376

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## MEMBER SERVICES

[NTF Subscription and Legal Expenses Insurance premium charge](#)

We confirmed the renewal of the Legal Expenses Insurance scheme for members in our December letter to members.

With the charge for individual trainers based on the number of people on the stable register at 1st January 2024, your NTF subscription will be charged to your account early next week.

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## 2024 NTF Badges

Thank you to all who have completed the application form for RCA Photo ID Accreditation, and anyone who has yet to send their form and photo please find the link to the form here <https://www.racehorsetrainers.org/webforms/badgerequest.asp>

Please note that photos uploaded need to be similar in style to passport photos, ideally a .jpeg, .png or .tif file, and ideally of a resolution that will see a file size of 1mb+.

As communicated in our emails of Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February and Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March, changes are being made to the policy for accessing racecourses from 1 April 2024.

This means that trainers will now be issued with both an NTF badge and a Photo ID accreditation. We have had a few questions raised which we have sought to answer below:

### **Will I have to queue to get in?**

NTF members should not have to queue for any significant time. Photo IDs can be scanned by hand-held devices at entrances and NTF members will not have to queue to gain access beyond waiting for the person operating the hand-held scanner to be free to scan their ID. This would be in line with previous arrangements where the member of staff would check that they had an NTF badge.

### **Will I have to wear my Photo ID at all times?**

No, the Photo ID is required by racecourses to ensure that sites comply with current safety guidance for sports grounds. This only requires Photo ID at the point of entry and your NTF badge will provide you with access to all areas of the racecourse that it has done in the past, once you are in (noting that the RCA recommend that Photo IDs are retained about your person in order that they are able to be shown upon request).

Access includes the O&T facility and the paddock although some additional restrictions will continue to exist at selected, high profile, meetings. Any such restrictions will be communicated in advance in the same way as they have been before. However, the RCA

recommend that the Photo ID should be kept about your person during time on racecourses so as to be available on request.

**How can I gain access to the racecourse if I forget my Photo ID?**

In such circumstances, it will be necessary to queue at the O&T desk to gain access.

**Can I get a replacement for my Photo ID if I lose it?**

Yes, this can be done via the NTF office.

**Can I get a replacement for my NTF badge if I lose it?**

Yes, this can be done via the NTF office although this arrangement is subject to review with the RCA depending on the number that are lost throughout the year.

**Can my Photo ID be uploaded to my mobile phone and will this be accepted by racecourses?**

At present, no. However, we intend to work with the RCA to put this in place later this year.

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## INDUSTRY NEWS

### Sunday Evening Racing pilot

The pilot of six Sunday evening fixtures has now concluded and will be discussed at the Industry Commercial Committee in the coming weeks. Alongside NARS and the PJA, we will be submitting the results of our survey which attracted 138 responses from members and can be seen [here](#).

Thank you to all of you who took the time to complete the survey, we will update further on discussions in due course

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### Business Rates Increases 2024/25 – from John Webber, Head of Rates at Colliers

Dear Member,

The Billing Authorities are in the process of issuing new business rates demands for 2024/25. You may have received your new bill by now and discovered your payments are due to increase.

For 2023/24, selected Billing Authorities granted 75% relief for retail, hospitality, and leisure businesses. If you are not in receipt of any relief for the upcoming year, there are some of options to consider.

Please contact John Webber at Colliers, our recommended Rating agents, for advice on obtaining relief.

Colliers act for racing yards and stud farms across England and can ensure your Rateable Value is fair and reasonable.

**John Webber** BSc FRICS Dip Rating

Head of Rating

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## PRESS RELEASE From the RACEHORSE TRAINERS BENEVOLENT FUND

### Trainers' charity secures funding for its mental health support network

In 2023, the Racehorse Trainers Benevolent Fund (RTBF) set up a six-month pilot scheme offering mental health support to licensed trainers in Britain.

The RTBF is delighted to announce that with the backing of the Sir Peter O'Sullivan Charitable Trust, the Trainer Support Network can build on its initial success and expand coverage of the trainer community over the coming years.

The Trainer Support Network is a team of four knowledgeable and empathetic people who are out in the racing community making it easier for trainers to share the burdens of their busy and challenging working life. This innovative outreach model is key to reducing the barriers that inhibit people from seeking help.

In its first six months, the support network team had over 50 interactions with trainers in the form of conversations taking place on the racecourse, bloodstock sales, telephone calls, and requested visits to trainer's home.

These conversations led to 23 in depth follow-up conversations to provide support to enable trainers to manage emotional/psychological issues.

The pilot outcomes show the need for mental health support in our industry and one way to remove the stigma around it.

Rupert Arnold, the RTBF Chair, says, “The indications are that demand will continue to grow as awareness of the support network spreads and willingness to open up to one of the providers increases. We are extremely grateful to the Sir Peter O’Sullivan Charitable Trust for providing financial assistance to help us reach more trainers needing this type of support.”

Welcoming the new funding, Harry Dunlop, an RTBF trustee who has tirelessly promoted the support network, said “The pilot has endorsed our approach of recruiting trusted, familiar, and knowledgeable people to be visible and available in the places where trainers work. The Sir Peter O’Sullivan Charitable Trust has been a great friend to the training community in the past. Their three-year funding of the Trainer Support Network is another example, which we are thrilled to receive.”

On behalf of the Sir Peter O’Sullivan Charitable Trust, Nigel Payne said, “We have been very active in our support for jockeys and their mental health and when we were approached to give support to the RTBF we felt it entirely appropriate to support trainers too. We are convinced that this is something Sir Peter would have wanted.”

The Racehorse Trainers Benevolent Fund, a registered charity number 1172296, was created in 2016 and is funded from prize money earned by overseas trainers in Great Britain. The trustees are Rupert Arnold, Paul Foster, Harry Dunlop and James Eustace.

The Trainer Support Network team comprises David Arbuthnot, Michael Caulfield, Jo Foster and Chris Wall.

The Sir Peter O’Sullivan Charitable Trust is in its 26th year and has distributed over £5 million equally between the six charities it supports: Blue Cross, Brooke, Compassion in World Farming, World Horse Welfare, Racing Welfare and The British Thoroughbred ReTraining Centre. In addition the Trust has pledged over £10 million to other charitable causes, mainly equine or equine related.

## **Contacts**

For more information, please contact

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Harry Dunlop at [harrydunlop76@gmail.com](mailto:harrydunlop76@gmail.com) 07880 791895

Websites:

Racehorse Trainers Benevolent Fund

[NTF Supported Charities \(racehorsetrainers.org\)](http://NTF Supported Charities (racehorsetrainers.org))

## RACE PLANNING

### Programme Book 2 Update

#### Premier Racedays

Premier Racedays continue in PB2 where fixtures are run for at least £250k on the Flat (£225k Sunday) and £200K over Jumps (£180k Sunday). Higher Minimum Values will apply at Premier Racedays, where, in addition, no Flat race will be worth less than £20,000 and no Jump race less than £15,000. The full list of Premier Racedays in PB2 can be found here <https://www.britishhorseracing.com/2024-programme-book-2-update/>

#### Flat Programme

##### 1. Divisions

Following a trial of dividing races at 16 declarations on the All-Weather (outside the Turf season), AW races will now return to dividing at 18 runners at all racecourses while a review of the trial takes place.

##### 2. +1/+2

The option to run horses that are 1lb or 2lb above a race's published rating band will return to Class 5 and 6 handicaps following the trial of its removal during PB1. A review of that trial will now take place.

##### 3. Race Volume

As part of the re-distribution of Flat races to better match the horse population across the year, the following rules will apply to Core race volume:

- On the Turf in March and April, fixtures will programme 7 races and be able to divide to 8.
- On the AW to the end of March, fixtures will continue to programme 7 races, with the option to divide to 9. In April, they will only be permitted to divide to 8.

– On both surfaces during May, June and July, racecourses will programme an average of 6.5 races across these three months. This will mean a combination of 6 and 7 race cards. All meetings will be permitted to divide to 8.

#### 4. Flat Pattern

– As previously confirmed, the Listed Ganton Stakes at York (8f, 3yo+, June), The Sovereign (8f 3yo+ Gp3, August) at Salisbury and the Scarborough (5f 2yo+ Listed, September) at Doncaster have been removed from the Pattern and Listed race programme.

– A change to the race conditions for the Listed Chesham Stakes at Royal Ascot (7f, 2yos) will see horses no longer be eligible to qualify via their dam's performance. The race will return to a stallion only qualification as the race was prior to 2019 (sire must have won over 10f+).

– The win restriction has been removed from the Acomb at York (7f, 2yo Gp3 August)

– The Group 3 Pinnacle Stakes at Haydock Park (12f, 4yo+ fillies & mares, June) has been renamed as the Lester Piggott Stakes.

#### 5. Restricted Race Bands

The following changes have been made to the Restricted race programme for 2024:

– There has been a reduction in the number of Band D races for two-year-olds and an increase in the number of Band B races. All remaining Band D races will be run as Maidens.

– There will be no Band D races run for older horses in 2024.

#### 6. High Value Maiden and Novice

As previously announced, 84 High Value Development Races worth more than £3million in total prize money will be staged in Britain in 2024, across a range of racecourses, with the programme made up as follows:

– 32 Open Novice/Maiden races for two-year-olds, worth a minimum of £40,000;

– 29 Restricted Novice/Maiden races for two-year-olds, worth a minimum of £30,000;

– 23 Open Novice/Maiden races for three-year-olds plus, worth a minimum of £40,000.

– This will begin with the Brocklesby Stakes at Doncaster on the opening day of the 2024 Turf season, one of 60 such races for two-year-olds.

#### 7. Additional Northern Fixtures

Two additional Flat fixtures have been added in the North to address regional gaps in the race programme. Newcastle will stage an afternoon All-Weather fixture on Monday 8 April, with Thirsk racing on the afternoon of Tuesday 9 April.

These have been added having identified specific gaps from a race planning perspective which have been filled to support northern participants.

## Jump Programme

### 1. Race volume reduction

As part of plans to improve competitiveness of Jump racing in 2024, 300 races overall will be removed across the whole year. Racecourses will continue to programme an average of 6.5 races per fixture across the whole of the year.

Further information can be found here

[https://www.britishhorseracing.com/press\\_releases/2024-fixture-list-delivers-innovation-aimed-at-growing-british-racing/](https://www.britishhorseracing.com/press_releases/2024-fixture-list-delivers-innovation-aimed-at-growing-british-racing/)

### 2. +1/+2

The option to run horses that are 1lb or 2lb above a race's published rating band remains unavailable in Class 5 handicaps.

### 3. National Hunt Flat Races

A reminder that changes have been made which mean that:

- A horse may only run in 3 NHF races, other than in a Pattern Race as the fourth and fifth run
- A six-year-old will not be eligible to run in NHF races after the end of the season, i.e. 28th April onwards.

## Overall

### 1. Division Thresholds

The 2024 maximum prize money threshold for races dividing will be:

- £15,000 at Core Flat and Jump Fixtures (other than NHF races which will be £6,000)
- £15,000 at Premier Jump fixture



– £20,000 at Premier Flat fixtures

At Core fixtures, racecourses can opt out of dividing races with prize money greater than £12,000. Should a racecourse take this option, it would apply for all such races at that venue within the relevant Programme Book.

## 2. Blank Races

A number of blank races will be left in the programme, which will be programmed nearer to the race date, so that the latest horse population requirements can be taken into account.

Race details will be confirmed approximately two weeks ahead of the fixture. A list of these races will be published on Racing Admin.

## 3. Cancellation of Races

Any Class 4-6 Handicap on the Flat or 4-5 Handicap over Jumps that receives three or fewer declarations will be cancelled, subject to a minimum of at least six races remaining on the card.

Where a fixture only has six races, a deletion can still occur if a Class 3 or below has at least 12 declared runners and therefore a division of two races of at least six + can be created.

## 4. Programme Book 3 Schedule

Programme Book 3 will run from 24 June – 15 September. The first set of races (24 June – 14 July) will be available online on 1 May, followed by the rest of the programme on 16 May.

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## EMPLOYMENT

### RIABS contributions increase from 1st April

Due to the increasing cost of claims the trustees of the Racing Industry Accident Benefit Scheme (RIABS) have decided to raise the weekly contribution per employee from £7.00 to £8.00. As you know, the contribution is shared equally between employer and employee.

From 1st April, trainers and eligible members of staff will each pay £4.00 (currently £3.50.)

RIABS is managed by the NTF for the trustees; the weekly benefit is run as a mutual fund so surpluses are retained within the scheme to pay claims in future years.

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## Migrant Workers – Immigration Salary List

Members will have seen the email from the BHA advising that six racing and stud roles (racing grooms, work riders, stallion handlers, stud grooms, stud hands and stud handlers) have been placed on the Immigration Salary List which has replaced the former Shortage Occupation List for migrant workers.

As many of you will be aware, the Government announced that the minimum salary for new migrant workers starting on or after 4th April 2024 is £38,700 per annum. Obtaining the inclusion of these racing jobs on the Immigration Salary List means employers of new skilled workers in these roles will benefit from a reduced minimum salary of £30,960 which is £15.88 hourly rate – the Immigration Salary List figure is based on a 37.5 hour working week, not a 40 hour racing week.

The provision of accommodation cannot be taken into account for the £15.88 hourly rate, but an accommodation charge can be made where it is provided.

Current skilled workers who are extending or moving employer will have a slight uplift to current salary rates, an increase from £10.75 to £11.90 per hour is stated in the guidance.

Our advisers Migrate UK are reviewing the Home Office Guidance and will provide us with further information, including any other concessions which may be applicable to racing jobs, in due course.

As advised in the BHA's email, the new roles will still need to meet existing criteria, with the employer holding a sponsorship licence. Information on employing migrant workers can be found in the recruitment area of the NTF website.

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Reminder – New Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024  
Link to the new **Memorandum of Agreement 01 April 2024** [HERE](#)

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## OTHER BUSINESS

SMALL LICENSED YARD TO RENT 20+ boxes

Rural location 40 miles from Newmarket 2f Woodchip canter 5f woodchip gallop

1 mile grass gallop

Horse walker

Lunge pen

Turnout paddocks

Horsebox if required

Excellent accommodation available

For further details contact the NTF Office

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## USEFUL LINKS :

Assistance at the start :

Training on racing2learn <https://racing2learn.com/course/index.php?categoryid=97>

Point to Point :

[https://www.pointtopoint.co.uk/news\\_articles/pointing-route-to-training-under-rules](https://www.pointtopoint.co.uk/news_articles/pointing-route-to-training-under-rules)

Trainer Support Network :

A network of knowledgeable and empathetic people for trainers to share the burdens of their busy and challenging working life. <https://www.racehorsetrainers.org/ntf/tsn.asp>