

# NTF WEEKLY UPDATE – 27 JANUARY 2023

## – Issue No. 1329

### IN THIS WEEKS UPDATE

Veterinary .....	1
Cheltenham Festival Medical Declaration Process .....	1
Enhanced Veterinary Procedures for 2023 Grand National .....	2
Equine Influenza Vaccinations process.....	2
BHA Reminder: horses moving from unlicensed premises.....	2
Industry News .....	3
SMS Scams .....	3
BHA Consultation into the penalty structure – last day to complete the survey!.....	3
Trainers Equine Welfare Panel.....	3
Riding Fee 2023.....	3
Cheltenham Festival NTF Badge Policy .....	4
Employment.....	5
Unacceptable language in the workplace.....	5
Sickness absence policy .....	5
Upcoming Events .....	6
Aintree Medical Declarations Webinar – Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> February, 2pm.....	6
NTF AGM – Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February.....	6
Other Business .....	6
FOR SALE - 4 point to point chase fences .....	6

### Veterinary

#### Cheltenham Festival Medical Declaration Process

The medical declaration process for horses aiming to run at the Cheltenham Festival is now open. BHA will be emailing trainers who have entries this year and/or had entries for the 2021 and 2022 Festivals this week. The link for Form A is [Cheltenham Festival Form A 2023](#) Form A should be completed per horse and returned via the Cognito link by 8th March 2023. Form B will follow closer to the Festival.

The guidance note for the Form is on the [NTF website](#)

Should you have any questions please reply to this email or contact [cheltenham-meds@britishhorseracing.com](mailto:cheltenham-meds@britishhorseracing.com)

## Enhanced Veterinary Procedures for 2023 Grand National

The BHA have written to trainers regarding the medical declaration and pre-race veterinary processes for this year's Aintree Grand National Festival, which include enhanced veterinary checks for horses entered in the Grand National itself. Trainers with horses entered in the Grand National, Topham and Foxhunters' will all receive detailed guidance and the requisite support once entries have closed. However, the BHA wanted to give connections advanced notification about the procedures that will be in place – especially for the Grand National.

The update covers :

- New enhanced veterinary protocols for all entries in the 2023 Grand National
- Medical declaration requirements for the Topham and Foxhunters'
- Equine MediRecord – a new online system for recording all medical submissions
- Pre-race examinations and trot-ups for all runners in all races at the 2023 Grand National Festival

You can read the update in full [here](#). If you have any questions please get in contact by replying to this email. Equine Medi Record will be holding a webinar on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm. Further details to follow.

## Equine Influenza Vaccinations process

Following discussions with the BHA, we have agreed some amendments to the Equine Influenza vaccine process which are intended to reduce the risk of horses being NQ'd due to vaccine status being incorrect. The new process will see trainers given a window between entries closing and 9am the next day to correct any issues rather than being NQ'd automatically. At 9am the day after entries, horses that are still non-compliant with requirements will be automatically NQ'd.

This amendment is intended to be a safety net and it is recommended that trainers continue to aim to ensure that vaccine status is correct before entries close.

Full details can be found [here](#):

## BHA Reminder: horses moving from unlicensed premises

Please could all trainers be reminded that horses moving from unlicensed premises should not be taken into racecourse stables. This is an essential biosecurity measure to help protect the whole racecourse population from the outbreak of infectious disease.

It is also important that companion horses or racehorses not racing at the meeting ('travellers') that are travelling from licensed premises to the racecourse are clinically healthy and fully vaccinated in line with the [Vaccinations Code](#). Please ensure that passports for these horses are presented at racecourse stables **before** unloading.

Sally Taylor MA VetMB Cert AVP(EP) MRCVS, Head of Equine Health and Operations, BHA  
Veterinary Officer

## Industry News

### SMS Scams

We have recently been made aware of text messages being sent to trainers offering a service to lay bets. Should you be contacted in this fashion please forward to the [BHA Integrity Team](#) and the [NTF](#).

### BHA Consultation into the penalty structure

As previously communicated, the BHA has advised us that they intend to commence a consultation into the Guidance and Sanctions framework of the Rules of Racing.

We have had 20 responses so far and the BHA has allowed us to extend the deadline for completion until Tuesday 31st January in the hope of gathering more feedback. Your contributions to this consultation are appreciated.

The survey can be found [here](#):

### Trainers Equine Welfare Panel

In the Industry Perspective email sent last week, Paul Johnson discussed the setting up of a new panel of trainers to provide effective input to the BHA and Welfare Board on the growing list of welfare initiatives. It is hoped that we would be able to put in place a panel of 6-8 trainers, potentially with some veterinary experience, for occasional short Zoom calls to provide practitioner feedback on upcoming matters. The reason for having quite a large panel is that it is understood that not all members will be available for every call.

Should you be willing to offer your services please contact Paul Johnson.

[p.johnson@racehorsetrainers.org](mailto:p.johnson@racehorsetrainers.org)

### Riding Fee 2023

The ROA and PJA established a joint Working Party in 2022 to undertake a strategic review of key elements of jockey remuneration. A key part of this exercise was a 'deep dive' into income and costs with a view of identifying a simplified structure and a more sustainable model to help improve the welfare and health of jockeys, whilst ensuring they are commensurately rewarded at all levels of the sport.

While the Working Group is undertaking a holistic review of jockey's remuneration, the Working Group has proposed an increase in the Riding Fee for 2023. This uplift has been agreed by the Boards of the ROA and PJA and subsequently ratified by the BHA.

The increases detailed below will be implemented from 1 February 2023.

	<b>Current</b>	<b>New</b>
<b>Flat</b>	<b>£142.90</b>	<b>£157.90 (plus PRIS £20.52 + CEI £3.91)</b>
<b>Jumps</b>	<b>£194.63</b>	<b>£214.63 (plus PRIS £27.90 + CEI £3.91)</b>

The increase in riding fee was agreed following confirmation from the PJA that the distribution of prize money would also be aligned with that of owners and trainers. This will see a greater distribution of returns to those who are placed in their races which in turn will see a greater increase to the median income of a professional jockey. The effective date will be shared in due course, as this will be aligned to other industry-wide initiatives.

The Working Party is formed of board representatives from the Racehorse Owners Association (ROA) and Professional Jockeys Association (PJA). It is co-chaired by Steven Astaire, with Simon Cox of the PJA and the ROA is represented on the Working Party by Alan Spence and Ken McGarrity.

### [Cheltenham Festival NTF Badge Policy](#)

NTF Metal Badge holders gain access to the Cheltenham Festival but only for the named person to whom the badge is registered. NTF badges allow access to the racecourse and act as a club enclosure badge. Please note that for the Cheltenham Festival, NTF badges do not allow access to O&T facilities.

Trainers with runners at the Festival will be sent, prior to the meeting, lapel pin badges on the day(s) that they have runners. To prevent any embarrassing situations, please make sure that you have your metal badges with you on arrival at the Festival to gain access into, the Weighing Room, Parade, Pre-Parade Rings, Unsaddling Enclosure, O&T Facilities and the Reserved Viewing on the steps on the front of the Main Grandstand and to walk the course. For any trainers who are not members of the NTF tickets will be sent with their pin badges.

Trainers who are not members of the NTF will be able to collect tickets to access to the racecourse from the O&T desk at North Entrance. We request that any trainers who may be collecting badges bring a form of ID should it be required.

Should you require any more tickets/badges please get in touch with Jennifer Dewhurst on 01242 537602 or e-mail: [Jennifer.Dewhurst@thejockeyclub.co.uk](mailto:Jennifer.Dewhurst@thejockeyclub.co.uk)

### **Parking**

Owners & Trainers Parking is reserved for trainers with runners at The Festival. Car Parking labels will be posted out prior to the meeting via Weatherbys.

### **The Gold Cup Winning Trainer**

There will be a Press Conference in the Media Centre beside the pre-parade ring following The Gold Cup on Friday and the winning jockey and trainer will be escorted to the Media Centre to answer any questions from the Press. Your co-operation with this is very much appreciated.

### **RCA Badge Holders**

RCA badge holders need to apply via the usual system in advance of the Festival, the email to contact this year is [Cheltenham.rca@thejockeyclub.co.uk](mailto:Cheltenham.rca@thejockeyclub.co.uk)

## **Employment**

### **Unacceptable language in the workplace**

This employment law case of an altercation between employees in a manufacturing company highlights the need for employers to educate staff about what is acceptable use of language in the workplace. Whilst it was held that “industrial language” was common place on the factory floor there is a line which must not be crossed and in this case the Employment Tribunal held that one employee calling another a “bald [expletive] ” amounted to sex-related harassment. It was held that there was a connection between the word “bald” on the one hand and the protected characteristic of sex on the other, baldness being more associated with men than women. The remark was intended to be offensive – the conduct by the employee was unwanted, violated the dignity of the other employee and was intimidating, creating a hostile environment. Should anyone wish to read the case, it can be found [here](#)

### **Sickness absence policy**

In addition to the simple notification of absence template in the NTF employment guide, members can also access a more [detailed template sickness absence policy](#). This includes provisions to set out arrangements for the trainer and employee to keep in touch during the absence, the position with regard to the employee doing other work whilst off and that the employee should not do anything inconsistent with being unfit for work, and when the employer may request further information. It also provides information about a phased or partial return to work which is an area we often find there is misunderstanding

about. Having this policy in place will help members manage absences and support staff in a return to work.

## Upcoming Events

### Aintree Medical Declarations Webinar – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2pm

All trainers with a Grand National entry will be contacted directly via email once entries have closed with specific guidance about the information required and the submission deadlines.

However, we felt it would be also useful to arrange a webinar with the Equine MediRecord team, so that you have the opportunity to see how the system works and ask any questions in advance of entries closing.

This will take place on **Monday 6 February at 2pm**. The webinar will be held online via Zoom and should last approximately one hour. Details of the webinar will be out next week

### NTF AGM – Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

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

## Other Business

FOR SALE - 4 point to point chase fences

Fully birched metal frames and in good condition. Four sections per fence 32ft long. Sold together or individually. £700 per fence. Nr Monmouth, Contact Liz 07809 502690