

Newsletter

The Voice of Britain's Racehorse Trainers



Annual General Meeting – Thursday 23rd February

The NTF's Annual General Meeting will take place on **Thursday 23rd February 2017** at 12.00 noon at the Institute of Directors, 116 Pall Mall, London, SW1Y 5ED.

There is plenty going on in racing at the moment and 2016 was an eventful year – come to your Federation's AGM in London where you will be able to raise current issues and anything else important to you of a racing nature.

The Institute of Directors is just round the corner from the Turf Club, which had become a popular venue in recent years. The event had rather outgrown the space available there and our plans for sponsorship at this year's AGM would not be acceptable to the Turf Club.

Full details along with the 2016 Annual Report will be sent to you on 6th February. You will see from the AGM literature that we are planning some new initiatives for this year's event so it would be great to have you there.

2017 Industry Roadshows: one voice on the future of British racing

York Racecourse Mon 27 February; Musselburgh Racecourse Tues 28 February; Cheltenham Racecourse Thurs 2 March; Newmarket Rowley Mile Racecourse Fri 3 March

Each event takes place between 10.30am and 1.30pm followed by an informal lunch

While we fully understand the many competing demands on your time, the events do provide a good opportunity to hear direct from the leaders of the BHA, the Racecourse Association and the Horsemen's Group on important news and developments affecting you and our sport. Issues covered will include progress against racing's growth strategy, the very latest on the implementation of the new levy, the fixture list, what is being done to support the recruitment, retention and development of employees and plans to grow our sport and market it to a wider audience.

Presenters will include Nick Rust, Chief Executive of the BHA, Stephen Atkin, Chief Executive of the RCA, Philip Freedman, Executive Chairman of the Horsemen's Group and Rod Street, Chief Executive of Great British Racing, all of whom will also be on a 'Question Time' panel with others to answer your questions and to listen to what you have to say.

continued on page 2

National Trainers Federation

January/February 2017
Issue No. 1097

Inside this issue

Industry.....	2
Business section	3-5
Race planning.....	6-8
On the racecourse.....	9
Employment matters ..	10-12
Regulation	13
Veterinary notes.....	14
Membership	15

Articles of Special Interest

Challenging business rates	3
Shared racehorse ownership.....	4
2017 2 year old programme.....	6
Flat conditioned races.....	7
Progress on PASS cards....	9
Yard based training	10
Rule changes page	13

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...continued from front page

The event is being promoted widely to other participants, including owners, as well as racecourses and the usual industry bodies. An informal networking lunch will be provided once the event closes at 1.30pm, should you be able to stay.

2017 is an important year for racing, and these events will ensure you are well informed about things that affect you, as well as give you a voice in the future direction of British racing.

Places are limited to 200 (100 at Musselburgh) and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. To reserve your place, please email IndustryRoadshows2017@britishhorseracing.com stating the event that you wish to attend by Wednesday 15 February. You can also register a place for other members of your team or an owner. Please also look out for an invitation and full agenda which will follow in the next couple of weeks. If you have any questions please contact Laura Bewick on 0207 152 0174 or Sheena Coffey on 0207 152 0029.

Changes to news strategy

Through the NTFWeekly email, we asked for opinions on a change to the way we structure our news coverage to members. Our idea was to move to a daily service linked with the ntfmuse website rather than holding news and information for sending out on one weekly publication. The limited feedback we received expressed a preference for the existing system so we will stick with a weekly email comprising all the week's stories.

You will notice that we have begun posting news and information on ntfmuse during the week and using Twitter to draw attention to the posts. That means visiting ntfmuse is the way to get the news soonest.

BHA Budget and fees

In December the BHA communicated to the industry its 2017 budget and fee structure. This was in the form of a BHA Business Plan and Budget Guide and you will note it is for the years 2017 to 2019. Briefly, the guide sets out the following:

- The BHA's nine strategic objectives and how spending is aligned with them
- A 3-year budget to give certainty to shareholders about fee increases, explain how the funds they contribute will be used by the BHA and allow breakeven to be achieved over a period longer than one year
- An explanation of the deficits inherent in the current budget due to the freeze on fees in 2013 and 2014
- Illustration of the large proportion of fixed costs (e.g. Weatherbys contract and testing) which can only be changed over time
- Improved financial management controls to increase accountability for spending within departments
- Over the three years, fee increases will total 7.5%. This is weighted towards the second and third years so a lower increase of 2% can be charged in 2017 to take account of the pressure on industry funding in 2017 in the transition to the levy replacement

The BHA has consulted with the NTF and other representatives of those affected by the fees. The NTF Council accepted reluctantly the need for the fee increases but took reassurance from the more rigorous financial controls introduced.



Industry collaborating to challenge new business rates

The impact of the Non-Domestic Rates revaluation on rural businesses recently made the headlines as well as substantial editorial coverage in The Times (Monday 23rd January.) The equine sector was mentioned in particular. The NTF is continuing its work to mount a challenge before 1st April to the Valuation Office's (VO) valuation method.

“ We depend on trainers providing this information ”

The NTF joined the BHA, the RCA and their respective advisers in December to plan a strategy to combat the increases. That meeting confirmed it is essential for trainers who rent their yards to complete the survey we sent out during the summer to ascertain details of leases and consent to the BHA providing us (confidentially) with information from the licensing database. Make no mistake, our ability to challenge the VO depends entirely on trainers providing this information. Without it, our rates adviser, Christopher Marriott and those with whom he is working, cannot show the VO's methods lack validity across the board. **Rateable Values (RV) are based on what rent would be payable for a premises on the open market.** We need to be able to show the VO that the information on which they have based the new RVs is wrong. Of the 148 trainers we contacted for the original questionnaire, only 67 have replied so far. We need all of them to reply to get the best range of rental evidence. Such is the importance of this process, the BHA has also written to the trainers concerned.

Steps must be taken now to question the assumptions used in the revaluation. Once the April 2017 start date is reached, the only form

of challenge is appeal. The method of appeal has been changed to a system whereby the burden of proof is on the rate payer, not on the VO. This will make it harder to launch an appeal. In addition, there is already a massive backlog of appeals against the previous rating list so there will be many months delay before appeals of the 2017 list are heard during which time the new rateable value (less transitional relief) will apply.

Meanwhile, we can also assist you to calculate the business rates you will pay from next year. The new RV for your yard has been published at <https://www.gov.uk/correct-your-business-rates>. To find out the new RV, you must enter your postcode and select your address from those listed. The part you can't find out is how transitional relief will adjust the rates you will pay in the first years of the new list. Andrew Pratt at David Pipe's office has kindly worked up a ready-reckoner to do this. If you would like to make use of this, please visit the Information/Business area on the NTF website. Click on the first link named 'Business rates ready reckoner'. Download and save the Excel file; when you open it, click 'Enable editing' at the top.

To calculate how much your rates will cost over the next four years:

- In the yellow box - enter the amount of the 2016 – 2017 Annual Rates Bill
- In the purple box – enter the new RV found on the tax service website (link above)

The bands are divided into small, medium and large property depending on your RV.

The values in red show the increase from the amount in the Yellow box – your annual 2016 – 2017 Rates bill. If you need any help, please contact Jill Crook at the NTF office. And if you are contemplating an appeal, please instruct a professionally qualified rating surveyor such as Christopher Marriott to advise you. Siren voices cold calling to offer large savings have a nasty habit of landing you on the rocks!



New central website promoting shared racehorse ownership

Great British Racing is pleased to introduce a new central website to promote the thrill and excitement of shared racehorse ownership.

Inthepaddock.co.uk is a new interactive destination which is aimed at anyone considering getting involved in racehorse ownership for the first time and highlights just how accessible, affordable and exciting it is to be part of the action.

As well as providing useful information on the different facets of racehorse ownership, users can search for racing clubs and syndicates to suit them using the unique search function, which filters results by cost and payment terms, location, their jumps or flat preference, as well as the average number of club members and the numbers of horses in training. They are then able to view the club or syndicate's unique online profile where they can find out more about what is offered and get in touch with the racing manager directly.

Over sixty shared ownership organisations have registered and can currently be searched for at In The Paddock. And, given it is free for ownership entities to create their own online profiles and be listed on the site, more are expected to sign up in the coming weeks.

In The Paddock is launching this week, and if you are a trainer and manage a shared ownership entity that's registered with the BHA, you can also register and feature on the site for free. To register and to find out more please visit www.inthepaddock.co.uk or email info@inthepaddock.co.uk



Change in how Owners Sponsorship Code is regulated

The VAT Scheme for Racehorse Owners is immensely valuable to racing. It is therefore important that the sport adheres to the Sponsorship Code of Conduct, which regulates how branding is displayed on the racecourse. The NTF and BHA met in December to discuss changes to the regulations to make the system work more efficiently.

From 1st January the emphasis has been more on education and communication with Trainers and their Staff, with The Judge able to apply some discretion in a common sense manner. This will be a trial ending on 1st March 2017 with no strikes recorded against any trainer in that period. However the relevant Judge will share information with the rest of the Judges Team and Weatherbys Sponsorship desk when action is required.

Weatherbys have also confirmed that from the first week of January every trainer on the Communication Hub will be advised of all new sponsorship arrangements in the yard, the termination/cancellation of any sponsorship arrangements and if any horse in the yard has been added to an existing arrangement.

When a new owner's sponsorship is registered, the 7-day period during which an objection can be lodged will be removed. Instead, all owners' sponsorships will become effective 5 days after registration but trainers can ask for the sponsorship to be effective sooner or later than the 5 days if that is preferred.



Fraudsters are targeting our industry

Many of you will have read about the misfortune of Hong Kong based British Trainer Richard Gibson recently. It is no secret that the racing industry is the target of extensive financial fraud, online and otherwise. In October 2016, the Professional Jockeys Association urged horsemen to take their accounts away from high street banks as it emerged that several trainers and jockeys had been targeted by an individual with losses amounting to a six-figure sum. In late 2016, Trainer, Richard Gibson became the victim of a 1 million internet fraud when transferring the money for the purchase of a horse. According to newspaper reports, the trainer thought he was transferring the money to a bloodstock agent based in Ireland when actually he was unknowingly using the account details provided to him in a fictitious email from the fraudster(s).

Email fraud and many other types of fraud are becoming more and more prevalent worldwide. In recent months, the NTF has formed a partnership with RacingFX, a leading financial technology company tailored to the racing industry. It is free to open an RFX Cash Manager account and once online, account holders can take advantage of the unique Equine Network payment service. This is not only convenient for making payments but it is fraud preventing as well. When paying a service from the pre-approved list in the Equine Network you can be sure that your money is going to the intended recipient. It is easy to use, 24 hours a day and it's free to add your own company details to the 'Trainers' section. This will provide a quick and secure way for your customers to settle your bills.

With many industry services from mortgages and finance to insurance all in one place, combined with the 'NTF Minimum Rate Guarantee' for currency exchange, this is a very useful tool for any racing office.

To Open an Account please go to www.racehorsetrainers.org and use the RFX link or contact Tom Jonason; tjonason@racingfx.co.uk

Racing statistics from the BHA

You may be interested in the racing statistics that the BAH publishes regularly in the Resource Centre on its website. The figures include fixtures, prize money, field sizes, going, entries, declarations, eliminations, non-runners, horses in training and more.

Bearing in mind the demands in some quarters for tougher regulation on non-runners, it's worth noting that the BHA's figures show non-runners have been falling every year from 2012 until a spike occurred in 2016. Even then the total is below the 2012 figure.

Running and riding rule guidance now online

Following the series of seminars on the running and riding rules, the seminar hand out is now available on the NTF website in the "on the racecourse" section.

The hand out explains the rules in detail and the practical realities of racecourse enquiries. We understand that trainers will have different views upon the giving of instructions and may feel that once the race is underway, instructions go out of the window but it is important to know what is needed to satisfy the test in the rulebook.

If any member would like further information or training for their raceday representatives upon attending stewards enquires then please contact Dawn Bacchus.



Smoothing out the new Racing Admin site

While the Council was meeting at the BHA offices in December, we took the opportunity to invite Richard Wayman (BHA Chief Operating Office) and Steve Gibson (Programme Manager) to tell us what steps were being taken to make changes to the new Racing Administration website in response to trainers' feedback.

The Council was assured that a number of upgrades were being introduced before Christmas. We were told that clarity of the screen print outs had been a big area for feedback and this was being addressed. The BHA welcomes as much comment as possible as that is the best way for them to understand the users' needs and be able to respond. You can email constructive comments to racingadmin@britishhorseracing.com.

The old Racing Admin website will not be switched off until the BHA is satisfied that it is working properly but that time will come, so it's important for trainers and their office staff to make the transition. Steve and his team are happy to travel to trainers' offices to assist trainers and their office staff to use the new site. It would obviously be most cost effective if trainers grouped together for a visit. You can use the email address above to request a visit.

Your chance to test the system

With this in mind, it may also be helpful for you to know about a series of testing sessions the BHA is running for owners at the end of February. The sessions will be an opportunity for owners to try out the new registration forms, provide feedback and say if the system can meet their needs.

While these are aimed at owners primarily, the BHA is aware that a huge volume of registrations will be undertaken by trainers/racing secretaries. It therefore makes sense for any trainers and/or their secretaries to take part in one of the five sessions the BHA is running across the country. The sessions will take place between 1 and 3:30pm and will be staged at:

Mon 20th Feb – Middleham; Tues 21st Feb – Alcester, Warwickshire;
Wed 22nd Feb – Ditcheat; Thurs 23rd Feb – Newmarket; Fri 24th Feb – London

The number of places is limited so if you are interested in and helping to test the new system, please email ownership@britishhorseracing.com or call 0207 152 0155 to reserve a place.

Changes to Two Year Old programme in 2017

Over the last six months of 2016, the BHA Racing Group developed changes to the Two Year Old programme and these will be introduced in 2017. We would like to have coordinated the publication of these changes in our printed newsletter with the BHA's announcement. However, due to circumstances beyond our control that coordination could not be achieved though the details were circulated to members via the ntfmuse website prior to the BHA press release.

Significant changes have been made to the Novice/Maiden programme, restricted races and nursery handicaps.

- Due to the success of the revised Novice/Maiden programme, introduced from March to June 2016, and positive feedback provided by trainers at regional meetings and our Flat Committee, it will be extended throughout the season. During the trial in 2016, there was an 89% increase in winners running again. Their strike rate was comparable to the previous more limited novice programme at 27%, suggesting the penalty structure worked well.
- Handicapping of two year olds with very limited racecourse experience leaves nurseries vulnerable to being uncompetitive. The larger number of races in which previous winners can run afforded by the Novice programme has created an opportunity to revise the eligibility for

nursery handicaps. Under the new rules, two year olds will have to run either three times, or have won twice. In 2017, two year old ratings will be published from 1 July. In the current rules there is an anomaly whereby a two year old rated 80 is eligible for a nursery after winning its first race but would become ineligible after winning its second race if allotted a rating in excess of 85. This will be corrected by removing the restrictions.

“...a larger proportion of the programme should comprise Auction races.”

- The Racing Group debated a paper submitted by a trainer proposing that a larger proportion of the 2yo Novice/Maiden programme should comprise Auction races. Behind this proposal lay an objective to more closely match the number of races where 2yos bought at auction could run competitively with the proportion of the 2yos in training to have been purchased at auction and their sale price. Research by the Racing Department confirmed that cheaper horses are generally less competitive in open company. Therefore with support across the Racing Group for the guiding principle of the proposal, 75 new Novice/Maiden Auction races have been created by converting Open Novice/Maiden and Median Auction Novice/Maiden races.
- In a further move towards more competitive races in the Novice/Maiden programme, an auction cap will apply in Median Auction races. This will be based on the median price +£20,000; for example a race with a sire's median of £20,000 will exclude horses that were sold or bought in for in excess of £40,000.
- Finally, there will be a rebalancing of the 2yo programme in the autumn by converting some races at sprint distances into more staying races for two year olds.

Flat weight-for age race conditions to support field sizes

The proportion of the Flat race programme made up of handicaps has increased significantly in recent years with currently 68% of all races run as handicaps. Last year a small working group of horsemen put a proposal to the BHA for changes to the programme of Conditions races. The proposals were broad in scope but included a suggestion for a different approach to handicapping runners in weight for age races.

In tackling the subject, the BHA Racing Group agreed horses should have the opportunity to run in races other than handicaps but acknowledges that Conditions races notoriously suffer from small field sizes. The NTF has consistently pointed out to the BHA that this is partly because of trainers' reluctance to run in Conditions races for fear of finishing in close proximity to a higher rated opponent on less favorable terms, resulting in a significant rise in a horse's handicap rating.

The Racing Group has decided that to encourage more horses to run in Conditions races, the trainers' fear of the handicapper's reaction would need to be addressed and therefore has recommended the following trial for 3yo and older horses in 2017:

Following the running of a Conditions race, the handicapper would only be able to increase the rating of the winner of the race. All beaten horses must have their rating either unchanged or reduced. It will apply to all horses taking part in the race provided that they have run at least four times prior to the Conditions stakes race.

It covers all races designated as Conditions stakes races throughout the turf season excluding those that are for 2yos only and those that are staged for a Prize Fund of £50k or greater (this excludes the Queen Alexandra, the Epsom Derby trial and the AWT finals races).



Grassroots ROA owners jackpot scheme enhanced for 2017

The successful ROA Owners Jackpot scheme is about to enter its fourth year. Working with racecourses to provide benefits to members of the Racehorse Owners Association, the ROA/Racing Post Owners Jackpot Scheme will be enhanced for 2017. The scheme focusses on those horses racing at grassroots level and members of the ROA will share a jackpot of over £100,000 during 2017.

Races are run at racecourses which have signed up to the racing industry's prize-money agreement, but in a new development for 2017, the weekly races will be run where racecourses guarantee a minimum total prize fund of £5,000. The racecourses see the scheme as important given the impact the Jackpot races have on field sizes. Consistently throughout 2016 the field sizes in a ROA Jackpot race have outperformed the industry standard. A key focus for the ROA is the flow of funds to grassroots racing, and this is something that it and other members of the Horsemen's Group continue to work with racecourses and the BHA to develop.

The schedule of races has been completed for the full year and details can be found on the ROA's website at www.roa.co.uk/jackpot, in the Racing Post and Thoroughbred Owner & Breeder magazine, as well as in BHA publications such as the Racing Calendar and on the Racing Admin website.

Every week one race has a £2,000 bonus attached to it. If the winning horse belongs to an ROA member, the extra payment is made on top of the prize-money on offer from the racecourse. The four Owners Jackpot races in February offering a £2,000 bonus will be:

February 1	Leicester	2m Class 5 4yo+ 0-100 Handicap Hurdle
February 11	Warwick	2m Class 4 4yo+ 0-120 Handicap Hurdle
February 14	Fontwell	2m1f Class 4 5yo+ 0-115 Handicap Chase
February 20	Carlisle	2m4f Class 4 5yo+ 0-120 Handicap Chase

To qualify, horses must be owned by ROA members. Where a horse is jointly-owned, at least 51 per cent of the owners must be ROA members. In a racing partnership, both nominated owners must be members of the ROA.

Don't miss out on Plus 10 bonuses

Trainers are advised the registration window for Plus 10 two-year-olds is drawing to a close and with it the opportunity to significantly boost prize money.

The third and final 'Owner Registration' of £350 is due by 28 February and must be paid in order for horses to win a £10,000 bonus on top of race prize money.

Plus 10 bonuses feature across more than 550 two and three-year-old races in Britain and Ireland each year. New in 2017, a horse can only win one Plus 10 bonus, with £500 from the total bonus shared between the trainer, jockey and stable staff.

To complete the Owner Registration, fill in a registration form and return to Weatherbys.

Visit www.plus10bonus.com to access a registration form and to check a horse's registration status, or contact info@plus10bonus.com or +44 (0)20 7152 0026 for more information.



Progress on revisions to PASS card arrangements

The new PASS card system for complimentary access to the racecourse has now been up and running for three months. The RCA has received lots of feedback from NTF members, owners and racecourses about the new system, particularly surrounding the allocation of badges in advance.

Following a meeting with the RCA in January a series of upgrades to the new system have been agreed and will be announced over the coming weeks to enhance the experience for PASS card holders. This will include improvements for joint owners, administrative rights granted by owners for trainers and earlier access to the concierge service.

One of the main pieces of feedback to the NTF office has been trainers taking prospective owners to the races. Our understanding is NTF badge holders gain access to the racecourse with their passcard and for the majority of fixtures each trainer can request two additional entrance badges through the concierge service for family or prospective owners. If trainers require any further additional entrance badges they should contact the racecourse in advance to request these.

Furthermore the online concierge service now has a 'frequently asked questions' document, which should answer any questions about the new system, the online service and what to do before your go racing. If you have any more queries you can contact the PASS Helpdesk pass@weatherbys.co.uk or George Noad at the NTF Office.

Mojo patches not permitted on racecourses

There have been two recent occasions where horses have been found to have MOJO patches attached to their bridles on racecourse property. The BHA has pointed out to us that the [Mojo patches website](#) claims that these patches are embedded with "holographic, performance enhancing technology" and that they "may help relieve joint and muscle pain, reduce swelling, alleviate stress and enhance endurance".

The BHA has drawn our attention to a notice on its website showing that Mojo patches are prohibited for use on a horse in a race under the [BHA Rules of Racing Manual \(A\) Rule 91](#), which states that "*The Authority may prohibit any equipment for use on a horse in a race which they consider is unsuitable, unsafe or ineffective*".

We have questioned the application of this rule and in turn the BHA has provided us with peer-reviewed studies into Mojo patches. It is also worth taking a look at the relevant BHA notice entitled "Raceday Restrictions on Substances and Treatments" in Veterinary Notices and Policies as it contains a list of other equipment and substances that are not permitted.

Late load to starting stalls in France

On 6th December we received a notification from the BHA of an email it had received from France Galop the same day regarding Late Load Requests of older horses.

Any horse that had a late load request accepted in France before December 9th **2015**, and for which the trainer wished to extend their request for a late load for an extra year, needed to apply in writing to the Secretary of the Stewards before 9th December 2016.

We apologise for the fact that we did not pass this on to you before the deadline. Our last NTF weekly email was sent on the deadline day, 9th December. As a result, if you want any horse to be loaded late, you will have to make a fresh application. The address for the application is as follows; 46, Place Abel GANCE – 92100 BOULOGNE BILLANCOURT. Or via email to; secretcom@france-galop.com



Paying subsistence allowances without deductions

When HMRC introduced new rules about the payment of tax-free subsistence allowances, it raised a number of questions and the need for clarification.

We have now received confirmation from HMRC that provided the qualifying conditions are met and the employer is undertaking the relevant checks, the £10 and £13.50 daily subsistence allowances paid to stable staff going racing can be paid fully tax- and NI-free irrespective of the actual expenditure incurred. The qualifying conditions are that the employee has gone racing and has incurred some expenses; the relevant checks are that the trainer checks at least 10% of expense claims to ensure that the employee went racing and incurred expenses. Further information is on the NTF website in the Employment Information section at Bespoke Subsistence Allowances information.

We had sought this confirmation following an NTF member being challenged upon this during an HMRC investigation. Should any trainer have a tax query on these allowances, please contact the NTF for a copy of the HMRC letter.

Work experience for young people in racing

If you have young staff aged between 16 (must be of school leaving age) and 19 who are maybe only currently ground based or part time and who would like to get experience riding in a safe, controlled environment, the British Racing School is offering a work experience week in February. At the end of this work experience, the BRS will offer a place on the Level 2 Foundation Course which the members of staff would complete before the summer.

The attendees will be doing morning stables, equiciser and ridden training with video progress reviews, a trip to Huntingdon Racecourse for their meeting on the 23rd of Feb, a tour of a racing yard, a talk from a previous trainee of the BRS and other practical activities. This opportunity is aimed at younger people working in racing who have very little or no experience of riding racehorses – perhaps they only work part time but would like to get into the industry.

The dates are from the 20th of February – 24th February. It will be fully residential and completely free.

If you require any more information please contact Maria Baker, Recruitment Co-Ordinator at the BRS on 01638 665103.

Free yard-based training returns for Spring 2017

The British Racing School (BRS) is pleased to announce the return of Yard Based Rider Training for Spring 2017. Following a successful trial with the BRS last summer the Mobile Training Unit moved to the Northern Racing College for the winter where they continued to visit many yards offering work rider training. This training involves filming riders on the gallops, schooling/stalls work, reviewing and discussing the footage afterwards. The BRS can also deliver theory presentations on how and why we ride work and offer remedial training on a mobile simulator where necessary.

The BRS are delighted that the Racing Foundation are continuing to support this initiative allowing us to offer training to yards all over the UK completely free of charge to the trainer and riders. They can come to you at a convenient time and your staff don't have to take time out of their busy schedules to travel to Newmarket for training.

If you have a minimum of 4 staff members to be trained (or can team up with another yard to bring a minimum of 4 staff to one location), contact the BRS now to book a visit from 1st February to 30th April, call Carol Bramhill on 01638 675907 or email Carol.Bramhill@brs.org.uk. Dates filled very quickly last summer so we recommend early booking to avoid disappointment.



Free nutrition and fitness advice now available for stable staff

The Racing Foundation is funding a nutritional intervention programme that could radically change the way jockeys and stable staff control weight. The programme, which officially started on 1st December, is being developed by a specialist team at Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU.) It will provide bespoke advice and guidance on healthy ways of making weight and improving fitness. Results already achieved with a small cohort of jockeys are widely regarded as ground-breaking and revolutionary but the Racing Foundation grant means the free advice and support is now available to all jockeys (including Apprentices and Conditionals) as well as stable staff who are required to ride-out.

In addition to offering the facilities at LJMU to measure bone and body composition, hydration, metabolism and provide strength and fitness assessments, the team will provide workshops, tests and bespoke advice in the main racing centres across the country. Anyone interested in learning how to control their weight whilst maintaining health and performance should contact Dr George Wilson via email: g.wilson1@ljmu.ac.uk.

Trainer volunteer needed to help with jockey development strategy

Dr Jerry Hill, the BHA's Chief Medical Adviser, has asked if a trainer would volunteer to be part of the steering group for developing the jockey athlete. This is part of the Sports Science and Medicine in Racing programme. If you are interested, please contact Rupert Arnold at the NTF office.

Using appraisals and 'job chats' to motivate employees

What motivates an employee can vary greatly from person to person and having a form of employee appraisal or job chat can help motivation through defining goals, giving feedback on how they are doing or looking at training or development.

It can also be hugely beneficial by simply providing the employer and employee with the opportunity to stand back from the day to day routine to discuss work and the workplace. This could identify some small niggling problem which is affecting morale and efficiency and has never been brought to the trainer's or manager's attention but could be resolved quickly and cheaply. For example it may be something as simple as a lack of mucking out equipment causing friction or an employee may suggest changes which could help the day to day running of the yard.

To help trainers who wish to set up informal job chats with their staff or a more formal appraisal scheme, we now have on the NTF website in the "more employment information" documents for both of these forms of employer/employee reviews. These are just suggested templates to use as a starting point and can be adapted to suit individual businesses. More information is available from the NTF office.

Government proposals for tax on accommodation

Trainers may have seen in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement that changes are planned to salary sacrifice schemes including the tax treatment of accommodation. The changes are proposed to be effective April 2017.

At present, there is little information as to the proposals and no detailed guidance available to employers or their advisers. The NTF has an agreement with HMRC relating to accommodation and tax and any effect upon that is unknown. As soon as more details are available, the NTF and its accountants will provide an update and advice to NTF members.



Additional helmet safety standards approved

Approval of safety standards for skull caps from 1st January 2017 has had a troubled journey. Up until November last year, the BHA approved only PAS 015 2011. Then they agreed that Snell E2001 would also be acceptable.

The situation then took another turn when, consulting with the Turf Club in Ireland, it became apparent that there was a legal obligation to include a European-wide standard, which was not the case with the two already approved. The standards suggested were UTAC/CRITT 04/2015 and VG1 01.040 2014-12.

Previous information obtained by the NTF suggested that certain helmets tested against the UTAC/CRITT standard did not achieve the same level of safety as the PAS 015 standard. Dr Jerry Hill, the BHA's Chief Medical Adviser, is going to contact the manufacturer to ascertain their plans for testing against other previously approved standards.

You should also take into account that the VG1 01.040 2014-12 standard is likely to be withdrawn next year when the new EN1384 standard is approved in Europe.

So, to summarise, from 1st January 2017, only the following skull cap standards are approved by the BHA:

🛡️ **PAS 015 2011** 🛡️ **Snell E2001** 🛡️ **UTAC/CRITT 04/2015** 🛡️ **VG1 01.040 2014-12**

UKVI compliance guidance when employing non-EU workers

Earlier this year the NTF met with the BHA and UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) to review the circumstances that led to some trainers having their sponsorship licence suspended.

The result is a guidance document produced by UKVI to help employers comply with the sponsorship requirements and avoid problems in the future. Obviously it is not possible to employ work riders any more under Tier 2 so the guidance applies only to trainers with non-EU workers that have not been granted Permanent Leave to Remain or are taking on non-EU workers transferring from another employer.

We have posted the guidance on our website at this link in Information – Employment – [More Employment Information](#).

Insurance renewals

Death in Service – Stable Employees Life Assurance

In 2016 the death in service benefit eligibility was increased to cover paid employees from the age of 16 to 64 years, who are employed by licensed racehorse trainers. The annual renewal is in process for the 1st April. The policy is underwritten by Canada Life. For the past two years the NTF has paid the premium and will continue the same this year.

Racing Industry Accident Benefit Scheme (RIABS)

The capital benefit part of RIABS is also renewed annually for the 1st April. This policy is underwritten by Argo. The Trustees of RIABS meet during early spring and discuss the continuing policy and any possible enhancements for the benefit of employees.

All trainers will be sent information regarding both schemes during April 2017.

Rule changes on headgear, gelding notification and 14-day qualification to run

The BHA Board has approved some rule changes that will affect common practices in every trainer's operations. Please make sure to note these as we have been told that the BHA is experiencing a fairly regular number of breaches/potential breaches of these rules, in particular the gelding and 14-day Rules.

The rules changes, which we first notified to members in the NTFWeekly email on 9th December 2016 took effect from **3rd January** and are explained below.

Schedule (B)4 – Equipment

(a) Blinkers

The definition has been updated to state that “**Cheek Pieces**” means *two strips of sheepskin of equal size or any other similar material or device which is attached to the cheek pieces of the bridle*. This is as a result of horses wearing cheek pieces of different sizes on a number of occasions this year, where one was virtually non-existent, to attempt to circumvent the requirement of a horse to wear two cheek pieces.

(b) Headgear changes

The current Schedule allows changes to be made to headgear after the time for declarations (for a fee), but only one piece for another – some item of headgear must be worn if it has been initially declared, and vice versa. The new Schedule will also make provision for any change in headgear to be permitted (for a fee of £140) within a 2-hour window after declarations.

Rule (C)17 – Geldings

The current Rule requires that if a horse has been gelded it must be notified at least 5 days before the horse next runs. Although this was logical when all entries were made at the 5-day stage, it is now more consistent to require that the change be notified by the next entry point (whenever that may be for the race in question). Consequently there is also provision for it to be notified before the next Scratching Deadline/

confirmation of entry for an early closer if the horse is gelded subsequent to being entered.

Schedule (B)3 – Requirements for horse to run (“14 day”)

In order to remove any ambiguity in computation, the time for which a horse must have been in a Licensed Trainer's yard before it races will now be described as: *“For the fourteen **clear** days immediately before **the day of the race**, the horse must have been in the care of and trained by a Person who: holds a licence to train for flat races which is granted by the Authority, or, if the horse is trained outside Great Britain, is duly qualified as a Trainer in the country where the horse is trained.”*

Therefore if a horse goes into training in a Licensed yard at any point on 1st of a month (midnight – midnight), it cannot run until 16th of that month.

In any case where the horse has not been recorded as “in training” for the requisite period the trainer will be asked to confirm when the horse went into training. If the date does not comply with the Schedule, the horse will not be allowed to be declared for the race. If the date does comply with the Schedule, and there was just an administrative oversight in not listing the horse as in training, then the horse will be allowed to be declared and run but a fine will be imposed for any breach of the Schedule (please note there is a 72 hour grace period to actually record the horse as in training, provided it has physically been with the trainer for the required period).

Online calculator

There is a calculator in the Resource Centre on the BHA's website. Go to rules and Guides and look for Schedule (B)3 Calculator. Use it to check from what date the horse may race by inputting the date on which the horse arrived at your yard. If you have any questions please contact Disciplinary on 020 7152 0120 or disciplinary@britishhorseracing.com



Elective testing to reduce risk of a positive sample

When managing a horse's recovery from injury and back to the racecourse, the last thing a trainer needs is to follow all the rules on medication control only to find the horse returns a positive sample post-race. This is what some trainers have faced in relation to intra-articular administration of corticosteroids over the past year. As a result we are working with Clive Hamblin, our Veterinary Adviser and the BHA to agree guidance for trainers. Clive will liaise with the British Equine Veterinary Association so other vets are involved.

We will get this guidance to you as soon as possible. In the meantime, we wanted to draw your attention to the opportunity for elective testing. This allows trainers to establish that medication given for essential veterinary treatment has cleared from a horse's system before a race and when a trainer suspects inadvertent medication or contaminated feedstuffs may have been given to a horse or horses.

Elective testing is done at the trainer's expense (the current charge is £123.92 plus VAT for the standard 4-day turnaround) and must follow the terms and conditions stated in the rules of racing. A step by step guide is available in the Resource Centre on the BHA website. Go to Anti Doping and Medication Control and look for Testing Procedures or type this link into your web browser – <http://www.britishhorseracing.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Elective-Testing.pdf>

On this page you will find a link to download an Elective Testing Request Form and an Elective Testing Submission Form. Only urine samples can be submitted and you will have to collect the sample following the guidance provided. You must then send the sample to the laboratory (LGC), which will test for the specific substance you are concerned about. In most cases the result is known within 3 days of receipt of the sample.

Regulation deadlines

- 🛡️ Pension auto enrolment staging dates*
 - **1st June 2015 to 1st April 2017** for businesses with fewer than 30 employees. Date for each business depends on last two letters of the PAYE reference.
 - *Number of employees in PAYE scheme at April 2012. It is essential that you check your staging date on the Pension Regulator website using your full PAYE reference.**
- 🛡️ **31st December 2016** – deadline to replace skull caps that meet the (BS or CSN) EN 1384:2012 standard. Only standards PAS: 015 2011, Snell E2001, UTAC/CRITT 04/2015 and VG1 01.040 2014-12 will be acceptable
- 🛡️ **1st January 2017** – to be eligible to run, a horse must be in the care of and trained by a trainer for 14 CLEAR days immediately prior to the day of the race
- 🛡️ **3rd January 2017** – Pool money list must be displayed for ten days prior to pool money being paid out
- 🛡️ **3rd January 2017** – revised definition of neurectomy, Rule (E)26A
- 🛡️ **3rd January 2017** – stalls tests no longer have to be conducted at a race meeting. Schedule (B)5
- 🛡️ **3rd January 2017** – cheek pieces must be of equal size
- 🛡️ **3rd January 2017** – gelding to be notified by the next entry point
- 🛡️ **1st February 2017** – trainers require minimum £5million level of cover for Public Liability



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