

Newsletter

The Voice of Britain's Racehorse Trainers



2018 Annual General Meeting to host Lycetts Team Champion Award presentation

The NTF's 2018 Annual General Meeting will be held on **Thursday 22nd February** at the Institute of Directors, 116 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5ED. This will take place in the fabulous Nash Room at the IoD. Formal notification of the AGM and the invitation and reply form will be sent out on Monday 5th February.

An inspiring new element to this year's AGM is the announcement of the winners of the inaugural Lycetts Team Champion Award and presentation of prizes.

Lycetts Team Champion Award celebrates the racehorse training yards that have developed a strong team ethos through the highest standards of staff management and safe working practices. The award has two categories – one for yards with 40 or more horses; and one for yards with fewer than 40 horses. Before Christmas we and sponsors Lycetts were delighted to announce the two shortlists for the inaugural award:

40+ horses	Fewer than 40 horses
Tom Dascombe	Nick Alexander
Warren Greatrex	Martin Keighley
Mark Johnston	Seamus Mullins
Dan Skelton	Suzy Smith

At the AGM we will also be publicising the yards that have been awarded a star rating through the quality of their nomination for the award, reflecting their high standard of employment practices. Under the grading system, all the shortlisted yards are awarded 3-star status, carrying the right to use the Team Champion logo. Competition was extremely strong and the standard of nominations very high resulting in other nominated yards also achieving a 1, 2 or 3-star rating. A full list of the Team Champion trainers is available on page 14.

Thank you for the tremendous support from trainers for this new award. With all the evidence of first class management used in racing stables up and down the country, we now have a solid basis to demonstrate best practice to support retention and promote recruitment.

The Late Roger Curtis

We were saddened by the loss of Roger Curtis who was a great support to the NTF both during his term as a member of the council, a National Hunt committee member and since retiring from training in the summer of 2014. He often joined us in the NTF office in his usual infectious good-humoured way continuing his interest in the politics of racing and with a story to tell of idyllic life in Tenerife. He will be missed by us all and may he rest in peace.

National Trainers Federation

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In memory of Richard Woollacott

All will have been touched by Kayley Woollacott's statement following the heartrending news of Richard's passing. We have published it again below both to support Kayley and the family but also to keep attention on the message that help is available to anyone and you should never hesitate to reach out for it. There are more details on this below.

I would like to thank everyone for their messages of support. The racing industry has shown a huge amount of compassion for Richard and us during this tragic time.

Richard was a much-loved husband, father, son, brother and friend. He was also a talented jockey and trainer who achieved many amazing things. Sadly, after battling with it for many years, he lost his life to mental illness.

While nothing will bring Richard back, I feel there is more there could, and should, be done to help others. I have therefore established an online fundraising site in aid of three important charities in Richard's memory:

1. 'mind' who raise awareness of the serious issue of mental health and to encourage people to speak up
2. The Injured Jockeys Fund, a charity close to Richard's heart, which supports his fellow riders and industry colleagues
3. The Devon Air Ambulance which provides urgent medical assistance to the people of Richard's home county

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/SomeoneSpecial/RichardWoollacott>

Advice to those needing mental health support

Charlie Brooks wrote a very personal and direct article in the Daily Telegraph on 28th January about the stresses of a trainer's life. "I fear some [trainers] might be trapped on the treadmill of keeping going, even if mentally that is not a good place for them to be." Alastair Down followed on 30th January in the Racing Post. "Above all, training can be a very lonely job. It is easy to envy the life of a trainer. But simplistic to do so."

Due to the insight we have into trainers' lives from their daily communication to our team, the NTF is very aware of the pressures that build up from multiple responsibilities, demands to deliver success and public scrutiny. This awareness is behind our commitment to sign the Mental Health Charter.

When we set up the Racehorse Trainers Benevolent Fund, our original aim was to provide grants at times of need. This is still the objective but there is also a case for using it to fund a welfare programme for trainers, building on the support that is already available within racing and beyond. This could be along the lines of the helpline provided for PJA members by Cognacity.

- 🛡️ Racing's 24/7 Support line **0800 6300 443** is for all participants, including trainers. You will be connected to someone who can provide information, advice and guidance about mental health and many other areas on a confidential basis.
- 🛡️ Oaksey House has a well-being specialist who visits every Thursday from 10.30am to 2.30pm. There is help with coping with the pressures of racing, reducing anxiety and correcting negative thinking.
- 🛡️ Samaritans phone line **116 123**. Visit a Samaritans branch or [email jo@samaritans.org](mailto:email_jo@samaritans.org)
- 🛡️ Contact Mind on **0300 123 3393**



Mental Health Research

At an industry level, several projects are in hand.

On 9th March the BHA will be running a workshop on Mental Health facilitated by Mind. It will be for stakeholder representatives to focus on developing an industry action plan under the framework of the Mental Health Charter.

A major new research study into the provision of mental health services across all parts of the racing industry has been launched by the BHA. The year-long study, which will draw on results from similar research in football, is being undertaken by Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU), Racing Welfare and the BHA, supported by the Racing Foundation. It is expected to shape mental health help options for everyone involved in the racing industry.

The BHA claims this is the first piece of research that aims to fully understand the scope of mental health challenges faced by individuals across the sport. The study will include stud, stable and racecourse staff, groundsmen, jockeys and stalls handlers, as well as employers and other key stakeholders within the horseracing and breeding industry.

For more details and to book VIP Tickets or Standard tickets please click on the following link:
<https://racingwelfare.co.uk/events-challenges/william-hill-racing-staff-boxing-night/>

Renewal of NTF Legal Expenses Insurance

We are pleased to confirm that the NTF Council has approved the renewal of the members' Legal Expenses Insurance (LEI) scheme with effect from 1st January. The importance of holding this cover was clearly demonstrated in 2017 when there was an increase in the number of claims for recovery of legal expenses and cases where the trainer concerned could not have foreseen that they might be at risk.

Due to the claims frequency the insurers require a significant increase in premium for 2018. We have looked at options to reduce the increase and at alternatives to the current scheme but the Council decided they would not be attractive to members. The cost of the policy is charged out across all NTF members thereby limiting the charge to each individual trainer. For 2018 the charge per member for the maintaining the current level of indemnity is **£130**.

To view the higher charge in proportion, it is still a low cost for the cover and would not be achievable in the market at this price for most trainers. Given the high profile of recent BHA cases, we believe members will see it as a benefit worth having.

The cost of the LEI cover is added to the basic subscription, which has remained at £100 since 2007. It has been decided to increase the basic subscription to £115. The total basic subscription including LEI in 2017 was £160. Of this, the amount for the LEI was £60 and hadn't been increased since the first full year of the scheme in 2015. In the last two years the NTF has absorbed smaller increases in premium. The total basic subscription is therefore **£245** (made up of NTF sub - £115; LEI - £130.)

Limit of cover for "employed" trainers

One aspect of the cover that should be noted is that the Employment sections do not apply to employed trainers (i.e. those employed by a third party and have no proprietary control of the employing entity.) We have negotiated at length with the insurers on this point but they are immovable on the subject. Our brokers, Lycetts, point out that most household insurance policies include family legal protection as standard and this will comprise employment cover. Employed trainers should therefore ensure they have household insurance and that it includes employment.



Investment in Mares' programme continues

A further, significant, incentive towards the ownership of Jumping mares has been announced by the British Horseracing Authority (BHA) as two Mares' Chases are set to be run for substantially increased prize money in 2018 and beyond.

The Listed Lady Protectress Chase at Huntingdon (22nd February) and Listed Yorkshire Silver Vase at Doncaster (29th December) will now be run for a total prize fund of £75,000 each, after both were targeted for a £25,000 boost from the BHA's Development Fund.

The extra funding was agreed following commitments from both Jockey Club Racecourses (JCR) and Arena Racing Company (ARC) to maintain their own investment into the races, both this year and in future years.

Extension of handicap qualification rules from 2 year olds to all Flat horses

As you will be aware, from 1st January 2018 the rules that currently apply to qualification for Nursery handicaps will be extended to older horses. The BHA has issued a notice that the following qualification will apply:

No horse trained in Great Britain may run in a Handicap unless the Handicapper is prepared to allot a rating and

-  *it has run at least three times in a flat race in Great Britain and/or Ireland, or*
-  *it has won twice in a flat race in Great Britain and/or Ireland with at least one of the wins being in Great Britain.*

As this has been rolled out across two years, there may be instances where a horse may have qualified for a handicap rating after fewer than three runs and subsequently been off the track. Although the handicap rating would have been expunged automatically for horses that had been inactive for nine months or more, should a handicap rating be requested for horses that fall into this category, the handicapping team will take the following approach:

“Any horse that was previously eligible for a handicap rating but which does not now meet the new qualification criteria will be required to meet the new qualification criteria detailed above before becoming eligible for a handicap rating in 2018.”

Owner registration deadline for Plus 10 bonus scheme

Time is running out to complete registrations for the expanded Plus 10 bonus scheme, with Owner Registration due by 28 February to qualify eligible 2016 born horses to win £10,000 bonuses.

For the first time, £10,000 Plus 10 bonuses will feature across all Class 5 three-year-old maiden races over 1m3f and further for the 2018 flat season and beyond. The additional races see the total bonus race programme spanning about 800 races across Britain and Ireland. For more information, visit www.plus10bonus.com.



Note the information for trainers about the Cheltenham Festival

Cheltenham Racecourse has sent trainers a letter containing information to assist with the smooth running of the NH Festival. It includes details about stabling, booking of staff accommodation and dining, security, wearing of safety equipment and saddling in the stables.

If you have any questions, please refer first to the information in the letter. Should you have any further queries please contact Victoria Bowen-Jones on **00 44 (0)1242-537602** or e-mail victoria.bowen-jones@thejockeyclub.co.uk or Simon Claisse on **00 44 (0)1242-537664 / 00 44 (0)7785-293966**.

New design of equine sampling kits

On 1 February, the kits used by BHA staff to carry out routine equine testing, both in and out-of-competition, will be updated. Though the kit itself is being changed, there has been no fundamental change to the procedure for raceday and out of competition testing, as outlined in the Rules of Racing Schedule (G)3.

The new equine testing kits will look significantly different and are of an internationally-recognised standard, designed to be tamper-proof and have the added benefit of streamlining and improving the efficiency of the sampling collection process.

Please contact the Anti-Doping team at anti-doping@britishhorseracing.com if you need more information.

Multiple weigh-outs discouraged

We have been asked to advise trainers that multiple weigh-outs are discouraged because jockeys are responsible for the equipment they weigh out until a trainer or representative receives it. It is not the Clerk of the Scales' responsibility to 'mind' equipment according to the rules and they are under immense pressure at times so cannot be expected to perform this function.

There are increased integrity risks and likelihood that returning weight might be inaccurate following multiple weigh-outs, so the BHA would be grateful for trainers' help with this.

Please also note that following the inclusion of 8 prizes for some Class 3 to 5 Jump and Class 4 to 6 Flat races, all riders will be required to weigh in for these contests.

Getting to the parade ring on time

Saddling in stables is popular with trainers and over recent years the NTF has liaised with the BHA about greater flexibility for trainers to do this without having to get permission from the Stewards.

Please remember that it is important to ensure that horses enter the paddock in accordance with the times set out on the ST1 form shown in the weighing room and in the racecourse stables. The BHA is liaising with RCA to ensure Clerks of the Course place ST1 timing sheets in visible locations on-course and in racecourse stable yards, along with asking their teams to help inform personnel.

In similar vein, the BHA has asked that trainers and their representatives help keep races to time by ensuring their riders are mounted in the paddock when instructed to do so by Clerks of the Course. This is a perpetual problem and the BHA is liaising with the PJA about jockeys' cooperation.



Counting 14 days before a horse can run

A recent enquiry to the office has prompted us to issue a reminder about the period of time that must elapse before a horse can run for a trainer. The rule was altered about 12 months ago after a disciplinary case in which the method of counting the required 14 days was disputed.

As a result, 14 clear days must elapse, and the rule is set out in Manual B, Schedule 3 paragraph 22.2 and 23.

22.2 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

22.2.1 holds a licence to train for flat races which is granted by the Authority, or

22.2.2 if the horse is trained outside Great Britain, is duly qualified as a Trainer in the country where the horse is trained.

This means that if the horse arrives on Day 1, it cannot run until Day 16.

Hind-shoe dispensation procedure for flat racing

Ahead of the return of the flat turf season, trainers are reminded to apply for hind-shoe dispensation in good time to avoid horses being withdrawn for entering the paddock unshod without dispensation.

The form provided on the new BHA website (Regulation/Health and Welfare/Notices and forms), along with veterinary evidence, must be submitted by 12pm two working days before the declarations deadline. All the requisite information must be emailed to administrativecontrols@britishhorseracing.com for review by the veterinary department.

No insurance available to horse ambulance operators for injury to horses in transport

After much research, the RCA has concluded that horse ambulance providers are unable to secure insurance for further injury during transport to an already injured horse, thereby creating an uninsurable risk. A central policy was not viable.

The RCA has applied to change the Standard Conditions to give greater context to the position, and alert racehorse owners so that they are suitably prepared to deal with any issues which arise. The proposed addition to the wording, which has been reviewed and agreed by the RCA Technical Group and approved the BHA is:

“Without prejudice or limitation to the provisions of Condition 2(b) above, the Owner acknowledges and agrees that the horse ambulance providers acting as independent contractors to the Racecourse do not hold and are unable to obtain insurance in relation to transportation of already injured racehorses as such insurance is not available in the market. The Owner shall satisfy themselves as to the sufficiency of their insurance cover in relation to their racehorses and any loss, injury, damage or delay of whatsoever kind which they may suffer if transported by such horse ambulance providers. The limitation of liability and agreement not to sue contained with Condition 2(b) shall apply in relation to the Racecourse Authority, Racecourse Employees or Officials in respect of any such loss, injury, damage or delay of whatsoever kind which the Owner may suffer if racehorses are transported by such horse ambulance providers. The Owner agrees that this is a reasonable allocation of risk having considered the relevant circumstances.”



Changing perceptions about jockey ability

There was an interesting insight into the relative abilities of jockeys at the Horseracing Industry Conference instigated by the University of Liverpool.

In a paper entitled "Are Girls Any Good? An Analysis of Gender Differentials amongst British Thoroughbred Horseracing Jockeys", Vanessa Cashmore demonstrated that performance of female jockeys is equal with that of their male counterparts.

Using detailed analysis techniques on data covering a 14-year period, the study (carried out through the Thoroughbred Horseracing Industries MBA) suggests that, once the quality of the horses they are riding is factored in, the performance of female jockeys is essentially no better or worse than male jockeys.

This data shines a light on the fact that only 11.3% of professional jockey licences are held by female jockeys, and only 5.2% of available rides were taken by female jockeys during the period of the study.

Vanessa Cashmore is Work Based Learning Manager at the Northern Racing College and a recent graduate from the Thoroughbred Horseracing Industries MBA. The MBA is run by the University of Liverpool with funding from the BHA, HBLB and the Racing Foundation.

Cashmore said: "I hope [the study] helps to provide more opportunities for female jockeys, and also encourages more women to further their careers as race riders." That is a fair point because it could now be argued that the allowance in France for female riders is unnecessary except as a form of "positive discrimination" to persuade owners and trainers to give more rides to female jockeys.

British Racing Industry Roadshows

The BHA are mobile again this year with the 2018 Industry Roadshows which are taking place at:

York racecourse: Monday 26 February

Newbury racecourse: Tuesday 27 February

Newmarket Rowley Mile racecourse: Thursday 1 March

Musselburgh racecourse: Friday 2 March

Moderated by Nick Luck each event will include:

- Review of 2017
- Plans for 2018
- Panel discussions on key issues facing our sport
- Opportunities to ask questions and have your say on the future of British racing

Each event will be a 10am arrival to start at 10.30am until 1.30pm followed by lunch.

RSVP to racingindustryupdate@britishhorseracing.com with the event you wish to attend by Friday 9 February.





Funding for trainers to train older recruits

Would you like to recruit and train someone over the age of 19 but worry about the expense of carrying an inexperienced employee?

Over the last two years, the NTF and BHA have piloted an “employer led training programme” (ELT) aimed at new entrants to the industry over the age of 19. Training for new staff in this age range is currently limited and restricted at the racing schools to those who may be able to benefit from attracting Government funding.

The ELT Programme enables a trainer to take on a recruit aged over 19 on an employed basis and apply for funding of up to £2,500 to support the training to bring them up to the required industry standard. These recruits may come from a variety of backgrounds with or without established horse care skills but need racing specific training. The training should be delivered over a 30-week period with milestone payments made at agreed intervals.

Skills are recorded against a ‘Skills Passport’, to be completed by the employer and employee and will not involve external assessment or qualification achievement as a mandatory component of the training.

A number of trainers are already using the ELT programme and if you are interested in taking part contact Shelley Perham, the NTF’s Recruitment and Training Coordinator, for further details on 07753 982052 or email s.perham@racehorsetrainers.org

Access to migrant workers still elusive

We know from experience that the period between December and March is the peak time for the shortage of skilled staff. This year is no exception and we receive regular calls from trainers asking what is being done to regain access to workers from outside the EU.

Obviously, the politics of Brexit is a major factor influencing Government policy in this area. As control of immigration has been prioritised above the needs of businesses, it is not surprising that racing find itself in the same position as other industry sectors with a demand for migrant workers but no access to them.

This means the NTF must grab whatever opportunities come our way to influence Government thinking and press the needs of your businesses. Last year the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC), which advises the Government on immigration issues, called for evidence on the impact on the UK labour market of the UK’s exit from the European Union and how the UK’s immigration system should be aligned with a modern industrial strategy. The NTF and BHA composed a joint response for the MAC as well as contributing to a response by the Sports and Recreation Alliance to a request for information from the Department of Culture Media and Sport.

We will keep working hard to explain your needs to policy makers and look at ways the immigration system might allow us to recruit from abroad.

Don’t forget that the **Tier 5 Youth Mobility Scheme** allows companies to employ workers aged 18 to 30 from a narrow range of countries outside the EU for a period of up to two years.

The relevant countries are Australia, Canada, Japan, Monaco, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Republic of Korea and Taiwan. In most cases, the employer is not required to have a sponsor’s licence. The employee must have £1,890 in savings and will have to pay the healthcare surcharge on application for permission to work in the country. See the Youth Mobility Scheme website (www.gov.uk/tier-5-youth-mobility) for more information.

Entry to Employment programme

Another way the industry is attracting new employees is through the Entry to Employment programme, for which applications are now open. This training course is designed to recruit students at equine colleges to work in the racing industry. The programme gives those who already have hands-on experience with horses the chance of a career in British racing.

The results of the 2017 Entry to Employment Programme were positive, with over 80% of the students who took part being placed into employment in racing. Trainers interested in taking on students from the programme should contact Michelle Douglas, mdouglas@britishhorseracing.com.

Cliona Suggett, who completed the course at the British Racing School in 2017, said: "I loved the course, and the British Racing School has helped provide me with the experience and knowledge to allow me to take on an amazing job at a yard. The staff couldn't be any more supportive in my career and their knowledge about the industry truly shows in their teaching. It was a great course for college graduates like myself who thought we were too late coming into the industry."

The course consists of a five-week residential training course followed by a work placement at a training yard and will teach students the specifics of how to ride and look after racehorses. Applicants must have recently graduated or be in their final year of studies for an equine or animal-related qualification at an equine college and have a strong interest and desire to work with racehorses.

Regional Work Rider Training

The NRC are now taking bookings for funded work rider training from March onwards tailored to all levels of experience.

This is work based training within your own facilities and includes simulator and work rider training (gallops and arena training).

Please contact Sam Trainor on samantha.trainor@northernracingcollege.co.uk or telephone **07711 782272**.



Malcolm Jefferson, 1946 – 2018

We are all so sad to hear that Malcolm Jefferson has passed away after fighting serious illness. Our condolences go to the family.

Everyone will know Malcolm as a mainstay of National Hunt racing in the north. To the NTF he was also a much valued member of our Council and NH Committee representing the Northern Region. His down-to-earth common sense and fundamental horsemanship were always evident in his contributions to debate. Another attribute was Malcolm's strong belief in supporting the recruitment and training of young people. He ensured those who showed their enthusiasm for a life racing received a sound education and he will be greatly missed by all sections of our sport.



Clarification on change to equine flu rules

Last week the BHA notified trainers about an amendment to 'Rule (E)18 vaccinations against equine influenza' to allow for a steward to prevent a horse from running if the horse does not comply with any of the requirements for vaccinations against equine influenza.

This prompted a question whether the tightening of the rules would lead to an unnecessary addition to non-runners and cost to owners and trainers. The NTF's opinion on this was corroborated by the BHA, which has stated the new wording:

“will allow the Veterinary Officers and the Stewards to assess the severity of the breach – horses which have never had a primary course, or have had just one vaccination, would be unlikely to be permitted to run. Thankfully, such cases are rare, and we would expect a very low number of horses to be affected..”

Equine Herpes vaccination for racing in France

France Galop has provided the International Racing Bureau with some information regarding the Equine Herpes (EHV-1) vaccination that is now a requirement for all horses to run in France. France Galop has now published the rule and it will become effective on 1st April 2018.

The requirement consists of 2 primary vaccinations followed by a booster. A horse is permitted to race after the second primary vaccination.

- From April 1st 2018, two primary vaccinations must have been completed
- The second first primary vaccination must be given between 21 and 92 days after the first.
- The booster can then be done between 150 and 215 days after the 2nd primary vaccination.
- A horse will not be allowed to race for four days after the 2nd primary vaccination.

Horses will be allowed to run in France up until 1st April 2018 with the current vaccinations requirements. If you are planning an early campaign for your horses in France in April 2018, you will need to plan the course of vaccinations by the beginning of March.

Bio-Security and the EquiBioSafe App



The recent EHV-1 outbreaks in France bring our attention to bio-security in a training yard. The **NTF Code of Practice for Infectious Diseases for Racehorses in Training** outlines procedures that should be followed by trainers, in conjunction with their veterinary surgeons. The handy **EquiBioSafe App** contains all the information with direct link (for notifying disease) to DEFRA and the APHA. Both the App and NTF Code are available to download from the NTF website <http://www.racehorsetrainers.org/publications/cop.asp> or contact the NTF office for a printed booklet of the NTF Code.

Why we welcome the review of equine anti-doping rules

Even before the BHA announced a review of the Equine Anti-Doping Rules, the NTF had arranged a meeting with their senior regulatory officers to discuss the Appeal Board findings in the Philip Hobbs case. That meeting took place on 1st February and we were encouraged by the BHA's willingness to commit to an open and transparent process.

In its recent announcement of a review, the BHA states that it is looking for fairness to all concerned including trainers who have done nothing wrong, whilst ensuring that there is an appropriate deterrent for those who might consider cheating.

The NTF believes this is what the current rules already do as evidenced by recent cases. Five different QCs considered the application of the rules in the Keep Moving (Philip Hobbs) hearing and appeal and Our Little Sister (Hughie Morrison) case. Strict liability for a positive test remains and the horse is disqualified. It is the additional penalty which the recent cases have considered in detail.

We welcomed the finding of no financial penalty in Mr Hobbs' case as we have long said that the practices and procedures a trainer has in place to avoid a positive test should be reflected in any penalty.

The rules still operate to penalise those in breach even where there is no suggestion of any cheating – in recent cases trainers have been fined £750, £2,000 and £8,000 where the Panel considered that the procedures within the yard did not meet the test set out in the current rules. We believe that the BHA should trust the independent Panel to consider the whole body of evidence before it and allow the Panel to distinguish between cases where it considers a penalty (in addition to disqualification) is justified and cases where a different decision is merited.

We have not challenged the principle of strict liability in equine anti-doping cases. At the same time, aspects of recent prohibited substance cases raise serious concerns that will potentially have an impact on the way trainers manage their yards and wider implications for the industry, including the testing regime. For this reason, we support the announcement of a review and look forward to working with the BHA to resolve these issues.

Guidance to help avoid a positive test

We know trainers are feeling very vulnerable to the risk of positive dope tests for prohibited substances, given the current spate of disciplinary cases. There is guidance in the veterinary area of the NTF website in the form of a best practice guidance document and a poster summarising the key points to implement to help avoid contamination or cross contamination within the yard. Trainers should ensure that their staff are aware of good working practices in the yard and when away racing.

The guidance is divided into three main areas: contaminated feedstuffs including the BETA NOPS Code; cross contamination; and medication management.

As the rules of racing place strict liability on trainers for the presence of a prohibited substance in a sample from a horse in the trainer's care and control so it is vital that you take all reasonable precautions to avoid a positive test. The Appeal Board's decision upholding the Disciplinary Panel's verdict not to penalise Philip Hobbs for a positive test, confirmed that where a trainer can meet the criteria in the rules (administration not intentional and reasonable precautions taken) there is an incentive for trainer to use the highest standards of stable management.



Investigation Charter a long time coming but a step forward

This week the BHA announced several integrity initiatives. The NTF is pleased that the Investigation Charter and Guidance Note has at last been finalised. (It was a recommendation of the 2016 Integrity Review.) Too often in the past investigations have extended beyond a reasonable period with little or no communication by the BHA with the person under scrutiny. This puts huge stress on that person and in serious cases can be a threat to their livelihood.

The new Charter sets out what a person under investigation can expect and certain parameters within which the regulator must act. As it is a generic document and not specific to licensed people, not all of it is relevant to trainers. However, the NTF has had input to it through Dawn Bacchus being a member of the Stakeholder Integrity Group and we made sure clear advice is given to trainers in relation to contacting the NTF for legal advice and support.

Paul Barton continues in administrative role

Trainers will be aware that Paul Barton retired as Head of Stewarding on 31 December 2017. The recruitment process for the new Head of Stewarding has been held off pending the outcome of the current and ongoing consultation on stewarding. This is because the BHA believes it is appropriate that anyone who has an interest in being the Head of Stewarding understands what the stewarding model will look like before they commit to the role.

As an interim measure Paul Barton will continue to lead the administrative side of his former role but will not carry out any raceday duties. He will work two days per week in 75 High Holborn and will remain an integral part of the consultation on the future model of stewarding in Great Britain. Robert Earnshaw has agreed to take up the operational leadership role for stewarding as an interim measure. He will lead the Stewards in their raceday stewarding duties and other operational matters.

These interim measures will be in place for six months after which time the BHA will have a new Head of Stewarding in place.

Regulation deadlines

- 🛡️ Pension auto enrolment staging dates
 - **Up to February 2018** for businesses started since April 2012.
- 🛡️ **By the end of 2017** – original Racing Admin website will close.
- 🛡️ **1st January 2018** – when extending declaration deadline, each trainer with a declaration will be deemed to have declared only one horse.
- 🛡️ **1st January 2018** – microchip number on any horse under trainer's care must be checked against the number in the passport.
- 🛡️ **1st January 2018** – a horse may not be made a non-runner on a self-cert once the Declaration Sheet on the racecourse has been signed.
- 🛡️ **1st January 2018** – trainer becomes responsible for notifying the BHA when a mare in their care is pregnant.
- 🛡️ **1st January 2018** – mandatory 5-day stand down before racing for any horse having received shockwave therapy.
- 🛡️ **1st January 2018** – rules tightened on equine flu vaccination records. If horse judged to be a biosecurity risk, Stewards may prevent it from running.
- 🛡️ **19th January 2018** – notification of specified wind surgeries must be made on the Racing Admin website for notification for any horse having its first run following surgery.
- 🛡️ **1st April 2018** – mandatory Equine Herpes vaccination to race in France.

FOBT debate reaching a conclusion

Scary newspaper headlines have recently highlighted the potential impact on racing if the Government chose to impose a £2 limit on stakes for Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOBTs). Ironically, the headlines predated the deadline for responses to the DCMS “Consultation on proposals for changes to Gaming Machines and Social Responsibility Measures” so the Government has yet to consider responses before making a final decision.

It is important that racing draws attention to the possible consequences for the sport of the options open to the Government but there are serious public welfare issues that racing must also accept and factor into its own response. On behalf of the industry the BHA has responded to the consultation and issued the following statement:

“British racing agrees with the Government’s objectives in this important consultation process that there should be a balance between a betting sector which can grow and contribute to the economy, and one which is socially responsible and protects consumers and communities, while not damaging the horseracing sector.

“Our submission emphasises how our sport’s commitment to social responsibility – including employment, education and training and charitable initiatives in many rural communities – is supported by a sustainable income from the betting sector, as recognised by the Government’s recent and very welcome Levy reforms. Any measures which severely compromise that income may have unintended consequences to British racing’s financial stability and the wider rural economy.”

Racing Staff Boxing is back

William Hill a sponsoring brand new boxing event, which will take place on Saturday 17th March 2018 at Goffs UK, Doncaster. The event will raise funds for Racing Welfare and is being organised by Ultra White Collar Boxing.

30 people who work in racing, including stable and stud staff, jockeys, a trainer and racecourse staff, have started their intensive life-changing 8 week training. The exciting night will be a glamorous black tie event and we very much hope that you and your owners will support staff and friends who are taking part, and help raise vital funds for Racing Welfare.

Sir Hugh Robertson to chair the Racing Authority

Former Minister for Sport and current Chair of the British Olympic Association, Sir Hugh Robertson, has been appointed to take on the role of independent Chair of the Racing Authority.

Sir Hugh will start his induction in January when he becomes Chair of the Shadow Racing Authority. The Horserace Betting Levy Board (HBLB) is due to be replaced by the Racing Authority in April 2019, at which stage Sir Hugh’s three-year term as independent Chair will commence.

The key roles of the Racing Authority will be to make expenditure decisions on behalf of British racing, ensure fair and transparent distribution of funds; funding growth; consultation with the betting industry and wider stakeholders and the growth of the racing product. The Racing Authority will be represented by British horseracing’s tripartite structure of the British Horseracing Authority (BHA), Racecourse Association (RCA) and Horsemen’s Group (HG) with Sir Hugh as its independent Chair.



Lycetts Team Champion Awards 2018 Celebrating the top-rated trainers



We congratulate the trainers who have been awarded star ratings by the judges of the inaugural **Lycetts Team Champion Award**.

The rating from one star to three stars reflects the points earned through the nomination form submitted by each yard based on five criteria drawn from The Winning Approach, a bespoke industry standard for employment practices.

1. Effective recruitment and induction systems
2. Ensuring a safe environment
3. Creating a positive working environment
4. Development and Training
5. Reward and Recognition

For more details on the Lycetts Team Champion Award and The Winning Approach visit the information on the NTF website.

40+ horse yards

Alan King	
Andrew Balding	
Ann Duffield	
Ben Pauling	
Brian Meehan	
Brian Smart	
Dan Skelton	
Emma Lavelle	
James Fanshawe	
Jonjo O'Neill	
Luca Cumani	
Mark Johnston	
Nicky Henderson	
Paul Nicholls	
Philip Hobbs	
Ralph Beckett	
Richard Fahey	
Tim Vaughan	
Tom Dascombe	
Warren Greatrex	

Fewer than 40 horse yards

Charlie Fellowes	
Dan Kubler	
Fergal O'Brien	
Geoffrey Deacon	
George Margaron	
George Peckham	
George Scott	
Jamie Snowden	
Jim Boyle	
John Ryan	
Mark Loughnane	
Martin Keighley	
Nick Alexander	
Rae Guest	
Richard Phillips	
Ruth Carr	
Seamus Mullins	
Susan Corbett	
Suzy Smith	

Cash Flow

Weatherbys Racing Bank is here to help! With a range of new and existing services Weatherbys can help your owners to help your cash flow. First and foremost your owners will need a Weatherbys Racing Bank account, this is simple to setup so just email racingbank@weatherbys.co.uk to get started. With a Weatherbys Racing Bank account your owners have access to the unique **Invoice Payment Service**. By instructing the Racing Bank to pay their training bills your owners can rely on the Racing Bank team to make regular invoice payments from their accounts every month. All you need to do as the trainer is send a copy of the monthly invoice to tfm@weatherbys.co.uk. With the invoice payment mandate signed by your owner you can be confident of receiving payment on the same day every month!

Coming Soon

The **New Owner Guide**, designed to avoid the challenges of setting up the administrative side of becoming an owner. One simple online document will guide owners through the process of opening a Weatherbys Racing Bank account to BHA ownership registration, the training agreement, the Invoice Payment Service and more.

Racing Plus accounts are coming soon so enquire now! Racing Plus accounts offer debit cards, reduced line charges, 20% VAT services discount and direct access to the dedicated Racing Bank team. Why not make more of your Racing Bank account with Racing Plus.

If you would like to discuss how Weatherbys Racing Bank can help you please call Tom Jonason **01933 304760** or email tjonason@weatherbys.co.uk.

Don't forget Racing UK has generously offered all NTF members a free subscription for every one purchased. Racing UK shows racing from 34 leading racecourses in the UK – and all in glorious HD. To avail yourself of this offer, please email trainers@racinguk.com.



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