

Newsletter

The Voice of Britain's Racehorse Trainers

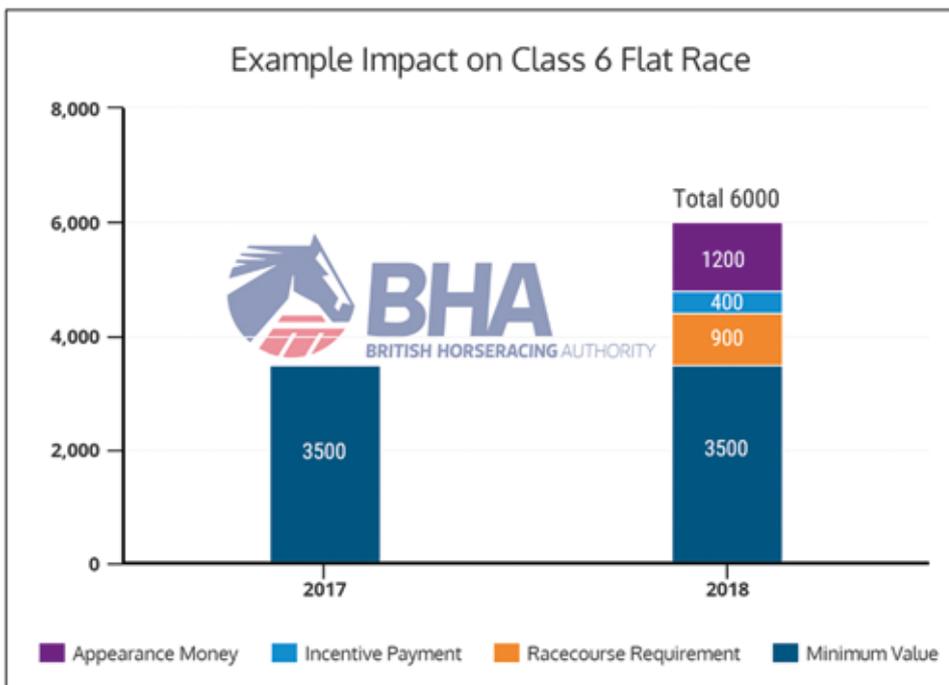


£9.7m funding boost for grass roots as 2018 Fixture List is published

Alongside the publication of the 2018 Fixture List, the BHA, with the support of the RCA and Horsemen's Group has announced a package of proposals to invest additional Levy income with the aim of delivering three key objectives for the sport – supporting ownership, delivering more competitive and compelling racing, and increasing customer engagement, which will in turn help grow the sport's future revenues. Along with other horsemen representatives, the NTF was involved in the protracted and complex discussions to agree these measures.

Central to the proposals is an estimated boost of £9.7 million of additional Levy funding targeted at mid and lower-tier racing through increases to prize money funding supported by a new appearance money scheme and race incentive fund. These schemes will improve returns to horsemen and also aim to increase field sizes at Class 3 and below over jumps and Class 4 and below on the flat. As a consequence, most races in Britain (with a small number of exceptions depending on race type) will now be run with a total race value of at least £6,000 from 2018.

Racecourses will be given the opportunity to invest their own revenues to unlock the extra prize money funding and appearance money, which would see qualifying races introduce payments of at least £300 for horses finishing between fifth and eighth place. As a result the overall boost to returns to horsemen at grass roots level will be significantly greater than the extra money invested via the Levy, with an estimated total boost of more than £11m to prize money.



continued on page 2

National Trainers Federation

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Inside this issue

Race planning.....	2-4
On the racecourse.....	5-6
Employment matters	7-9
Veterinary notes & Horse welfare	11-13
Business section	14
Membership	10, 15

Articles of Special Interest

Handicapping policy	2
Racing Admin changes	3
Safeguarding at racecourses.....	5
Assistant Trainers Travel Scholarship.....	7
Toby Balding Award	7
Employee handbooks	8
Trainers benevolent fund	10
Combatting infectious disease	11
Bisphosphonate standdown	11

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...continued from front page

In addition, an existing £6m race incentive fund will continue to incentivise the programming of races at Class 1 to 3, with a £500,000 Development Fund continuing to be used to support longer term strategic initiatives to enhance the breed, alongside £1m of new funding collected through an auction of BHA Fixtures.

It is also the intention that the Plus 10 Bonus Scheme will receive a boost in 2018 with around £300,000 of revenue being invested to support returns to three-year-old staying horses, aligning the scheme with the broader, industry objective to encourage the breeding and racing of stayers.

The proposals are subject to the availability of forecast levy funding and the approval of the Horserace Betting Levy Board (HBLB). They are based on anticipated minimum Levy spend on prize money of £57.4m in 2018, which represents a growth of £8.05m from 2017. Prize money spending efficiencies, including race divisions being funded by the racecourses, will allow for the £9.7m investment in grassroots. Other headlines include:

- Earliest Fixture List publication since 2009
- Introduction of a week-long break after the Bet365 Jump Finale at Sandown, with the new Jump season proper starting on the following Saturday afternoon at Uttoxeter
- A small number of additional fixtures have been programmed in customer-friendly slots on Friday evenings and Saturday afternoons throughout summer with the aim of increasing attendances.
- Around 20 Monday and Tuesday afternoon fixtures, capable of being staged under floodlights in the winter, will have a later start time as a twilight fixture to support changes to the betting market.
- At the time of year when the available horse population means that flat eliminations are at their highest, twilight fixtures will be staged on Monday evenings in September and October.
- With a view to continuing strengthening Sunday racing, an incentive fund will offer support for the staging of a fixture worth at least £70,000.

“Prize money growth of £8.05m from 2017”

Change of Handicapping Policy

Over the last eighteen months the NTF has been questioning the BHA handicappers' policy of taking undeclared jockey's overweight into account when reassessing a horse's handicap rating. Trainers had contacted us having only been told by a handicapper, when enquiring about a horse's new mark, that a jockey had put up overweight that was not high enough to contravene the rules but was 1lb or higher. This information was not put in the public domain.

Following consultation with the NTF and PJA, the BHA agreed that with effect from races run on Sunday 11th June, its handicappers would no longer take account of cases of jockey weighing in carrying 1lb more than the weight at which they weighed out. Because it would involve a breach of the Rules of Racing, however, the handicappers continue to take account of cases of jockeys weighing in carrying 2lbs or more over the weight at which they weighed out, with the details of the extra weight carried included within the published official result. This approach is consistent with the policy adopted in almost all other major racing nations.

Racing Admin website changes ahead

Ownership structure reforms

The BHA is about to launch a number of reforms set to improve and simplify the administration of racehorse ownership. The changes, which will be introduced on 30th August, include:

- Simplification of ownership registration structures – the number of registration types will be reduced from 8 to 5, with the options available being Sole owner, Company, Partnership, Syndicate and Racing Club.
- Reduced charges – a number of fees will be removed and others simplified to save owners £140k per annum.
- The alignment of re-registration fees – re-registration fees will be aligned to one date in the year to reduce the drip feeding of charges and letters received.
- Improved registration process – all new Partnership, Syndicate and Racing Club registrations will be completed online via the new Racing Admin system. The new registrations will be easier and quicker to complete, with turnaround time between submitting the forms and approval of applications also improved.
- Owner access to the new Racing Admin system – owners will be able to manage their ownerships online as well as having access to other features, such as the Programme Book and handicap ratings.

To ensure the smooth introduction of the new owners' system, it will be necessary to **stop taking new ownership registrations at 3pm Friday 25th August**. Registrations will re-open in the new Racing Admin system on the morning of Wednesday 30th. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Weatherbys Ownership Desk on **01933 304808** or email ownersupport@weatherbys.co.uk.

Syndicate Code of Conduct

In addition, the new Syndicate Code of Conduct will become effective on the same date. The Code, explained in the NTF March April 2017 newsletter, outlines some basic requirements syndicators will need to ensure are met and with which you may be required to comply if you receive payment for managing a Syndicate on top of training fees, or advertise publically for participation in a Syndicate. For more information on whether the Code applies to you and what it entails, please visit the owners' resource section of the BHA website.

The BHA will be writing to owners and trainers during August to provide a reminder of these changes which were all announced earlier in the year. If either you or your owners have any questions on the reforms please do not hesitate to contact the Weatherbys Ownership Desk on **01933 304808** or email ownersupport@weatherbys.co.uk.

Racing admin system

NTF members who came to the recent regional meetings will know that the original Racing Admin system will be taken out of action before the end of this year. As trainers have told us there are still improvements to be made before they are confident of using the new system, we have asked the BHA to put on one more round of regional workshops to provide one further opportunity for trainers and their staff to be taken through the new Racing Admin system and to raise any queries before the original system is replaced. The sessions will take place in September and October and will be staged across the country, including Newmarket, Lambourn and Middleham. Venues, dates and timings will be confirmed in due course.

In advance of these workshops, a 30 minute webinar will be staged for trainers at 12:15 on Tuesday 22nd August to help explain the new ownership functions on the Racing Admin system. Details about how to join the session will be circulated closer to the date.



Penalties in Jump Grade 2 and Listed races

The Jump Pattern Committee has introduced revised penalty structures for Jump Grade 2 and Listed races, having considered previous penalties going too far down the scale and not necessarily encouraging the progression of horses through the class structure. It was also felt that in non-Novices' races, a differential between levels of black-type race should be introduced. The revised penalty structures are below.

Novices' and Juvenile Hurdle Races

A winner of a Class 2 WFA or Class 1 handicap hurdle race3lb
Of a Class 1 WFA hurdle race5lb

Novices' Steeple Chases

A winner of a Class 2 WFA or Class 1 handicap steeple chase3lb
Of a Class 1 WFA steeple chase5lb

Non-Novices' Hurdle Races

Penalties, after, September 30 2016,
a winner of a Listed or Grade 3 hurdle race4lb
Of a Grade 1 or Grade 2 hurdle race6lb
(Half penalties for wins achieved in Novices' or Juvenile hurdle races in Great Britain or Ireland, and three-year-old only hurdle races in France)

Non-Novices' Steeple Chases

Penalties, after, September 30 2016,
a winner of a Listed or Grade 3 steeple chase4lb
Of a Grade 1 or Grade 2 steeple chase6lb
(Half penalties for wins achieved in Novices' or Beginners' Steeple Chases in Great Britain or Ireland, and three-year-old only Steeple Chases in France)

Reminder of Entry Processing Fees

Trainers will be aware of the BHA's entry processing fees, which currently stand at £20.33 for internet entries and £30.50 for entries made over the telephone. A higher charge of £76.50 is payable for foreign entries. At present these charges are not brought to your attention at the point of entry, therefore, they can be easily overlooked – that is until the next statement lands with the owner. ROA Chief Executive Charlie Liverton says:

'Racing's grassroots owners are often hit hardest by these fees and, although we recognise that it can sometimes be difficult to find races for more lowly-rated horses, trainers are reminded that each entry commits the owner to another £20 or £30 on top of the entry fee itself. This can lead to owners racking up a not insignificant bill before their horse even makes it to the track.'

Please bear these fees in mind when considering making multiple entries for your owners.

Reminder of New Qualification Rules for Nurseries

The BHA would like to remind trainers that the qualification rules for nursery handicaps were revised prior to this season. The new criteria for a 2yo trained in Britain is that to be eligible for a rating a horse must compete at least 3 times in flat races run in Great Britain and/or Ireland, or a horse must win 2 flat races in either Great Britain and/or Ireland, with at least one of the wins being in Great Britain.



Safeguarding responsibilities for racecourse accommodation

When booking overnight accommodation for your staff at the racecourse, the overnight stabling/accommodation form asks you to indicate if the employee is male or female. The form can be found on the NTF Website at Information/On the Racecourse.

There is also a section on the form where you can provide any other information which the racecourse needs to be aware of. For instance, to help safeguard your employees, you should use this part of the form to advise the racecourse if the accommodation is for a young worker under 18 years of age or a vulnerable adult such as someone with a physical impairment or a sensory impairment or who may need special consideration when allocating accommodation.

If the intended staffing arrangement changes on the day and different arrangements are needed – for example the adult worker who was going is not available and a young worker is going instead – let the racecourse know as soon as possible; don't leave it for the employee to arrange when they get to there.

Disinfection of racecourse stables

There have been an increasing number of instances where trainers have taken it upon themselves to disinfect the stables they are allocated on the racecourse. The BHA has asked us to remind trainers that this is not permissible as the BHA cannot control the products used and racecourses are responsible for the disinfecting and cleanliness of their stabling under the BHA General Instructions (BHAGI).

If individual racecourses are not complying with the BHAGIs, then please trainers or their travelling staff should make sure they notify the Veterinary Officer on duty of any perceived unacceptable levels of cleanliness. There is a form on the NTF website (NTF Members/On the Racecourse) that can be used to report unsatisfactory cleaning of racecourse stables.

Following the EHV-1 Outbreak, the NTF Northern Region initiated a wider discussion about biosecurity at its meeting in June including the question of hygiene at racecourses. We added this to the agenda of other regional meetings so we have a broad view of members' opinion on the existing requirements for cleaning stables. At the meetings trainers raised other potential sites where infection might be spread. As a result the NTF will be putting forward suggestions to the BHA and RCA to minimise the biosecurity risks.

Have your PASS card ready

The RCA are reminding all holders of metal badges, NTF, RCA and PJA, that it is essential to have your PASS card as well as your metal badge with you to gain entry to racecourses.

Racecourse security has been heightened and badge checks may take place on racecourses.

All metal badge holders require a PASS card and if you do not have a PASS card please go to the ntfmuse website; select PASS CARD in the categories (<https://ntfmuse.wordpress.com/category/on-the-racecourse/pass-card/>) and click on the link to the form; print off and complete it, and return it to Weatherbys. Any queries regarding your PASS card should be directed to pass@weatherbys.co.uk



Allow more time when declaring foreign jockeys to ride in France

France Galop has contacted the BHA to remind trainers of the timescales involved for booking jockeys when they have runners/rides overseas.

Any trainer or jockey who requires a clearance to be sent to France Galop should contact the BHA Licensing Team in good time so that this can be written and sent to France Galop on the day before declarations day, at the latest.

The BHA always encourages jockeys to pick up a racecourse clearance before riding overseas (this can be picked up from the Clerk of the Scales after their last ride). However, France Galop often requires a full clearance which needs to be obtained from BHA Licensing. Jockeys and trainers are advised to request this with at least 48 hours' notice or as soon as they are aware of the proposed ride.

Please be aware the BHA Licensing team are only in the office from Monday to Friday, so jockeys/trainers need to factor that in when requesting a clearance. To contact the BHA Licensing team call **020 7152 0145** and France Galop **+33-1-49-10-21-26**



“Since March 1, 2017, the French Rules of Racing require that any foreign jockey must be in good order with France Galop at the latest the day before the declarations of mounts (art. 43 § IV) :

IV. Jockeys étrangers. - *Tout jockey titulaire d'une autorisation de monter délivrée hors de France qui n'aura pas fourni à France Galop les informations relatives à sa licence la veille de la clôture de la déclaration des partants pourra voir la déclaration de sa monte non validée. En outre, à partir de deux mois de séjour en France, tout jockey étranger doit faire la demande d'autorisation de monter prévue par les dispositions du paragraphe II du présent article. A partir de cette date, les Commissaires de France Galop peuvent lui interdire de monter s'il n'a pas fourni toutes les pièces nécessaires à son agrément.*

Therefore, in order to accept their rides, we must receive the clearance of their horse racing authority at the latest the day before the declarations of mounts.”

Coaching support for apprentice and conditional jockeys

To assist trainers in supporting their apprentice and conditional jockey, we are highlighting two resources that help with their professional development. The second issue of Coaching Matters, a quarterly newsletter designed to arm jockeys with knowledge, news and information within the world of jockey coaching, training and development, has been published by the BHA.

The latest edition features information on training, courses and seminars being held up to October, and a must-read guide to walking the course from former jockeys and now jockey coaches, Philip Robinson and Colin Brown. All licensed jockeys should receive a copy as part of their regular communications from the PJA. Aspiring riders who aren't yet licensed would also benefit and can access the latest edition on the ntfmuse website (<https://ntfmuse.wordpress.com>) Click on the Categories box on the left side, choose either Employment Matters or Training and scroll down.

Apprentices and Conditional jockeys also benefit from support via the Jockey Education and Training Service (JETS.) Their summer newsletter draws attention to the Jockey Matters Series of online videos. Series 2 highlights the journey a jockey goes on from the very outset when they embark on the Jockey Coaching Programme, following on with the Personal Development Programme run by JETS to ensure they are developing as jockeys. Later films in the series will look at concussion and mental resilience, both due to be released in the Autumn. They can be viewed on the JETS website here – www.jets-uk.org/news-and-videos/videos/



2017 Alex Scott Assistant Trainers Travel Scholarship – Applications invited

It has become a feature of successful young trainers to travel abroad, working for a trainer in another country to add to the array of knowledge needed and to acquire new insights to further their career. For those without the necessary funds, these opportunities may seem beyond reach. One reason for setting up the Alex Scott Assistant Trainers Travel Scholarship was to provide that opportunity for those who wouldn't otherwise be able to go abroad.

From 2017 the Scholarship is being funded by the Tim Dunlop Memorial Travelling Scholarship (TDMS). TDMS is a charity that was set up by friends of Tim, in his memory, after he was tragically killed in a car accident in France at the age of 21 in 1987. The charity sponsors young people who wish to travel abroad to expand their experience in the thoroughbred industry initially as a prize for the best overall student on the main National Stud course, it now also sponsors a participant on this course as well.

The NTF is responsible for promoting and managing the Alex Scott Scholarship. The winner will receive a grant of £3000 towards their travel costs and living expenses. The NTF will assist the winner to plan their trip and if necessary will facilitate introductions to a trainer abroad.

James Given and Charlie Longsdon are among previous winners; to get an idea of the hugely valuable experiences these and others have gained, reports from recent winners can be viewed on the Awards page on our website. They include Charlie Duckworth, who is still assisting Champion trainer Chris Waller in Sydney.

Applications, which must be received by 30th September, can be made by downloading the form from the same page here: www.racehorsetrainers.org/aboutthentf/alexscott.asp

We hope you will bring this opportunity to the attention of your assistant in recognition of the huge part winning the award could play in helping his or her career.

“ The winner will receive a grant of £3000 towards their travel and living expenses ”

The Toby Balding Award

For Stable Staff Week last year the NTF enabled its members to say a big Thank You to all the dedicated people who care for the horses at the centre of our great sport. This year, to support Racing Welfare's Racing Staff Week, we created a new way for aspirational racing staff to develop their career path with the launch of The Toby Balding Award for development and training.

The £4,000 award funded by the National Trainers Federation Charitable Trust (NTFCT) from a donation made by the Swire Trust in memory of Toby Balding, will be presented to a member of stable staff who demonstrates a desire to further his or her career and to train for a higher level qualification or undertake personal development training.

Toby Balding was a great supporter of anyone looking to make their way in horseracing so the annual award named after him offers an exciting opportunity for ambitious employees in British racing yards to widen their knowledge and train to acquire new skills. We would encourage all trainers to embrace this award by supporting those loyal members of their staff to apply and help them advance to a more senior role.

We are creating a poster for your staff notice board to promote this award and the Assistant Trainers Travel Scholarship. More details will be on the NTF website and by contacting Shelley Perham by email at s.perham@racehorsetrainers.org.



Advice on creating an Employee Handbook for your yard

The Handbook area of the NTF website contains a variety of employment policies for members to use or to adapt for use within the yard. It is good practice to have an employee handbook to outline in writing the practices and procedures you want your employees to follow.

While the NTF can provide sample documents and guidance on what may be included in a handbook, much of the information will be yard specific and may vary from yard to yard.

Examples of the types of documents available in the handbook area on the NTF website at www.racehorsetrainers.org/em/handbook.asp are:

- 🛡 Safeguarding policy
- 🛡 Dignity at Work policy
- 🛡 Social media policy
- 🛡 Inside Information policy
- 🛡 Drug and Alcohol policy
- 🛡 Wage agreement
- 🛡 Disciplinary and Grievance procedure
- 🛡 Health and Safety policy

A new addition to this is a **template holiday policy** dealing with issues such as giving notice of holidays, what happens if an employee is ill whilst on holiday or an illness coincides with a pre booked holiday.

When issued with the handbook, your employees should confirm that they have read and understood it. New policies or procedures should be implemented in consultation with employees and if you have never had a handbook before it is sensible to meet with your employees and go through the handbook with them.

A simple way to produce the handbook is to use a ring bind folder which gives the employee somewhere to keep their contract, accommodation licence, etc and is easy to update should policies or procedures change.

Help with Model Agreement for apprenticeships

NTFW and the printed newsletter have reported recently on the Government's reforms to the apprenticeship programme. These came into effect on 1st May together with a new funding mechanism.

Trainers with employees on the programme will receive from the training provider a Model Framework Agreement (relating to Apprenticeship Training for Non-Levy Funded Employers.) It looks complicated but Duncan Gregory at the British Racing School clarified to us that

- 🛡 It is a generic document to be used across all sectors delivering apprenticeships
- 🛡 It looks more onerous than it is. In reality little has changed in terms of obligations
- 🛡 Do read the explanatory notes written by Anna Hall of Edmondson Hall solicitors
- 🛡 Any trainer concerned by the document may contact the BRS so that any uncertainties can be explained.

Therefore do feel free to contact your training provider for an explanation if required.



Nominations open for Godolphin Stud and Stable Staff Awards

Nominations are now open for the 14th edition of the Godolphin Stud and Stable Staff Awards which recognise and reward the outstanding skills, commitment and contribution of racing's 6,000 stud and stable staff.

The awards, sponsored by Godolphin and run by the BHA in association with the Racing Post, offer more than £120,000 in prize money, with up to £40,000 available to a single yard or stud. Nominations will close on Tuesday 21 November 2017.

As well as recognising and rewarding stud and stable staff, the awards are an advertisement for racing as a great place to work and an industry that looks after its horses and its people. The 'Rory MacDonald Community Award' recognises the contribution from stud and stable staff to benefit the wider community.

Last year there was a record number of nominations and we hope you will continue to support the awards in appreciation of your deserving employees. Nominations can be completed or downloaded via www.studandstablestaffawards.co.uk.

Awards and prizes:

- 🏆 **Leadership Award, Dedication Award, Rider/Groom Award, Stud Staff Award** – the winner of each of these categories will receive a prize of £5,000, with an additional £5,000 also being awarded to the winner's yard or stud. Two runners-up in each of these categories will win £2,000 each, with the same amount going to their yard or stud.
- 🏆 **Rory MacDonald Community Award** – this award acknowledges those who support the stud and stable staff or have made an outstanding contribution to benefit the wider racing community. The winner of this award will receive £5,000, with the same going to a charity of their choice. The two runners-up will receive £2,000, with the same going to a charity of their choice.
- 🏆 **David Nicholson Newcomer Award** – this award is for people who entered racing within the last three years. The winner of this award will receive £2,000, with the same amount going to their yard or stud, while two runners-up will receive £1,000 each, with the same amount for their yard. There is an additional prize for the winner of the David Nicholson Newcomer Award, which includes return flights, a five-day educational tour of Dubai together with accommodation in a five-star hotel.
- 🏆 **Employee of the Year Award** – the winner is drawn from the winner of each of the Leadership, Dedication, Rider/Groom and Stud Staff Awards. The Employee of the Year will receive an additional prize of £15,000, with the same amount going to their yard or stud.

Mandatory Jump Jockeys Seminars must be booked now

All trainers who employ a 3lb and 5lb claiming Conditional jockey should note that the mandatory Jump Jockeys Seminars take place on Tuesday 26th September at Hilton Hotel, Warwick and Wednesday 18th October at Mercure Hotel, Wetherby.

Jockeys should have received a letter about the seminars, which start at 9.30am prompt. Late arrivals and non-attendees will be required to submit their reasons in writing to the Disciplinary Department.

Please ensure your Conditional jockey has booked on to one of the seminars by Friday 25th August.



Trainers' supported by the new benevolent fund

We hear a lot in racing about the trials and tribulations of various participants but seldom are trainers seen as in need of welfare support. The NTF has put in place a fund that ensures we can come to the rescue if disaster strikes.

When trainers based overseas win a race in Britain, they pay a small percentage of their share of prize money to the Racehorse Trainers Benevolent Fund (RTBF.) The trustees can then make grants to current or formerly licensed racehorse trainers in Britain for the relief of financial hardship due to exceptional events beyond the control of the applicant. Examples include accident, illness, family breakdown, bereavement, animal disease and environmental factors. All awards are discretionary and may be varied to meet exceptional circumstances.

If you are a current or former trainer needing support, read the Grant Criteria and Application Form on the NTF website and contact the NTF Chief Executive on 01488 71719 or by email at rtbf@racehorsetrainers.org.

Based on discussion at the West Midlands and Wales regional meeting, we believe there may be a need to provide support to trainers on issues such as mental health and career advice. This reflects the many challenges facing trainers trying to forge a livelihood in racing today. In some ways the situation is similar to the farming industry where support networks of this kind are already well developed. We hope the RTBF will be involved. The RTBF is registered with the Charity Commission (Number 1172296) and its trustees are Henrietta Knight, Martin Fetherston-Godley, Rupert Arnold and Will Lambe (BHA.)

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Combatting the spread of infectious disease

It is a huge relief that the outbreak of EHV-1 in North Yorkshire was contained and it is business as usual again. It is great credit to everyone involved that vets were able to act quickly and the BHA's restrictions applied thoroughly.

When Jean Claude Rouget's stable in Pau suffered from an outbreak of the same disease earlier in the year, the NTF contacted the BHA to ensure that measures being taken by France Galop to stop the disease spreading were to a similar strict standard. At that time, David Sykes, BHA Director for Equine Health and Welfare, was new to the post, so the French outbreak may have helped prepare for what happened subsequently in Britain.

David is currently bringing his extensive experience to bear on developing a modern equine welfare strategy for British racing. Trainers will obviously play an integral part in this and the NTF is looking forward to the consultation. David has already remarked that the NTF's EquiBioSafe App would be a highly effective platform to deliver aspects of the BHA's strategy. We will bring you more information on this subject as the consultation progresses. It is likely to be an item at autumn regional meetings.

New stand-down period: BISPHOSPHONATE

The BHA would like to advise the Responsible Person (i.e. trainers, owners, breeders) and their veterinary surgeons of a new Rule requiring a mandatory 30 day Stand-Down period from racing following the administration of any bisphosphonate licensed for equine use. The most common proprietary form is TILDREN. This Rule will be effective from 10 August 2017:

- 11B The horse must not have been administered
- 11.B.1 any bisphosphonate under the age of three years and six months as determined by its recorded date of birth, or
- 11.B.2 any bisphosphonate on the day of the race or on any of the 30 days before the day of the race in which the horse is declared to run".

The BHA expectations with regard to the use of bisphosphonates in horses racing or intending to race in Great Britain in order to comply with the Rules of Racing:

- 🛡 The product used should be licensed for use in horses the UK;
- 🛡 The horse must be over three years and six months of age at the time of administration as determined by its recorded date of birth;
- 🛡 There must be a diagnosis determined by a veterinary surgeon that supports the use of a bisphosphonate as an appropriate treatment; and
- 🛡 The bisphosphonate must be administered by a veterinary surgeon.

Due to their complex nature and action, the excretion of bisphosphonates may be unpredictable, leading to considerable variation in excretion times. This variability may be increased when bisphosphonates are administered to horses with on-going musculoskeletal disease process, including the possibility that bisphosphonates may be released from bone at a period remote from initial administration. As such, it cannot be guaranteed that future musculoskeletal disease processes will not result in an Adverse Analytical Finding.

As a guide, the BHA are aware of data from studies in normal horses which indicate that if a single dose of Tildren®(CEVA) at 1 mg/kg were administered intravenously, the Detection Time would be unlikely to exceed the Stand-Down period. A discussion between the Responsible Person and their veterinary surgeon is essential when considering administration of any medication which is a Prohibited Substance on raceday.



How to identify illegal veterinary medicines

The Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) is the government agency responsible for the regulation and control of all UK veterinary medicines. If a medicine is not authorised, it is illegal. So how can you tell? This question could be important if, for example, you buy medicines over the Internet.

Authorised medicines:

- Are labelled in English
- Display on the packaging a legal category looking something like this

POM-V	POM-VPS	NFA-VPS	AVM-GSL
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- Have a clearly displayed authorisation number starting Vm, Vh or EU. For instance Vm12345/1234 or EU/1/99/099/001-001
- All imports of veterinary medicines require an import certificate unless labelled AVM-GSL.

If you have reason to believe you have been sold an illegal medicine or you come across one another way, you should report it to the VMD Enforcement Team using one of these contact details: email enforcement@vmd.defra.gsi.gov.uk ; phone **019338313** or **01932 338311**.

Promoting The Horse Comes First at Epsom Trainers' Open Day and Newmarket Open Weekend

The NTF is a supporter of The Horse Comes First, an industry-wide initiative which many of you will be familiar with. The Horse Comes First promotes and raises awareness of the high standards of equine welfare in the sport. The initiative aims to improve understanding of the care given to our horses throughout and after their careers in racing.

The Epsom Trainers' Open Day on Monday 28th August and Newmarket Open Weekend on Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th September are great opportunities for you to engage with The Horse Comes First and share the positive messaging about the high levels of welfare with visitors to your yards. Here's how you can get involved:

Messaging

In order for you to be able to share the messaging confidently, please find below the key messages promoted by The Horse Comes First:

British Racing has a track record to be proud of: *British Racing is among the world's best regulated animal activities. The sport employs over 6,000 people to provide care and attention for the 14,000 horses in training, providing them with a level of care and a quality of life that is virtually unsurpassed by any other domesticated animal.*

British Racing has a duty of care to its horses: *Since the year 2000, British Racing has invested £32 million in veterinary research and education.*

British Racing is open and transparent: *Within the last 20 years, the equine fatality rate in British Racing has fallen by one-third, from 0.3% to 0.2% of runners.*

Further information and messaging from The Horse Comes First can be found on its website (www.thehorsecomesfirst.com/key-facts) and we welcome you to share the messaging as you show visitors around your yards.

Promotional Material

The Horse Comes First is also more than happy to provide you with leaflets and a 2-side illustrated handout to give to your visitors and help spread the word about the care you and your colleagues provide to the horses you train.

If you would like to receive this material (free of charge), please contact Zoe Chadwick from The Horse Comes First on **zoe.chadwick@plmr.co.uk** or **0203 463 0813** and she will arrange for material to be sent to you ahead of the respective open days.

This notice is particularly relevant for trainers in Epsom and Newmarket. Nonetheless, if you are based outside these locations, we would be delighted for you to show your support at future open days and similar events too.



Elective testing to reduce risk of a positive sample

The merits of elective testing have been in the headlines recently. 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 medication might not have cleared a horse's system 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.

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.

RSPCA asks racing community for winning homes for companion ponies

The RSPCA is asking racing trainers for help rehoming small hack and companion ponies this summer.

For several years now the RSPCA and other horse charities has been picking up the pieces of the equine crisis, with inspectors being called out to sick, injured, neglected or cruelly treated horses every single day.

Despite its best efforts, the RSPCA has more than 800 horses, donkeys and ponies in our care and we are asking for the racing community for help to give them winning homes.

Amy Quirk, a former jockey, and the RSPCA's director of field operations, said: "We are asking the racing community for help rehoming our ponies as we know these animals will get fantastic care and also lead purposeful lives as hacks or field and travel companions for your thoroughbreds.

"You may not have considered rehoming a rescue horse until now, but we have hundreds of really smart little ponies who are just waiting for a chance in a new home after being rescued from serious neglect and cruelty."

To find out more, please email equinerehoming@rspca.org.uk the RSPCA website and see the companion horses, ponies and donkeys currently available for rehoming or foster (www.rspca.org.uk/homesforhorses)



Time running out to appeal gallops rating

Back in February, the Upper Tribunal published its decision in favour of Philip Hobbs in his appeal against the rating of his All Weather gallop. As well as the issue of the monetary value of the rating assessment, the key aspect at stake was the method of valuation. The Tribunal decided the Valuation Office's method was wrong and therefore other rating assessments of trainers' All Weather gallops may be open to appeal.

To appeal against the 2010 rating list, there is a six month deadline from the date of the publication of the Hobbs decision on 28th February. You should therefore contact the NTF's retained consultant, Christopher Marriott, as soon as possible if you want advice and support with an appeal. He can be contacted at Marriotts Property LLP on **01367 242422** or email **christopher.marriott@marriotts.co.uk** (The deadline does not apply to appeals against the 2017 rating list.)

The effect of the Decision will vary across the country, because it seems that it will depend upon the base value of loose boxes; the savings ranging from very little, if anything, in Newmarket, to significantly more in the north and west country.

What we do for you

- We are working on several projects to support training and retention of racing staff and have been successful twice applying for grants from the Racing Foundation to fund this work.
- We represent trainers on the BHA Programme Board that has developed a funding model for an effective strategy for recruitment, training and retention of racing staff. We will be putting this forward for funding from the new money coming into racing from the extension of levy to off-shore betting operators.
- As a member of the Horsemen's Group Board, we have been involved in developing the constitution of the Racing Authority, which will take over the role of the Horserace Betting Levy Board in 2019 for distributing levy income.
- Twice a year we join the meetings of the BHA Executive Committee, which recently considered the Ownership Marketing plan lead by the ROA with NTF input.
- In July our Chief Executive and Legal Executive provided guidance to the lawyers who have been appointed to rewrite the Rules of Racing. We are keen to make sure this opportunity is taken to make the rule book shorter and expressed more clearly.
- We are continuing work on revisions to the training agreement between owners and trainers to ensure it is effective and used by all owners and trainers.
- NTF Executives have presented to the Trainers Course and the BHA Graduate Development Programme, explaining the key place of trainers in the industry and the role of the NTF.
- Through June and July we held six regional meetings for NTF members. There were outstanding turnouts in the North, East and Central South reflecting some hot topics such as equine disease, apprentice arrangements and equine anti-doping.
- The NTF Chief Executive has joined a new BHA Public Affairs group, which will be involved in the racing industry's Brexit strategy with access to migrant workers a key subject.
- The NTF has been discussing rules on non-runners with the BHA. While understanding the impact non-runners have on other parts of the industry, our policy is that rule changes should be targeted to prevent exploitation of the rules and discourage unwarranted numbers of withdrawals rather than restrict legitimate reasons for them.
- Our Veterinary Adviser, Clive Hamblin, represents the NTF on the BHA Veterinary Committee, which met in July. Items included injury recording by trainers and ringworm certificates.



Racing Foundation reviews progress made during the last year

The Racing Foundation has published a 'Review' of its activity for 2016, which witnessed a rise in the number of applications received and the number of grants awarded. The latter totalled more than £2.3million meaning that, since inception, the Racing Foundation has pledged over £7.8million in support of a wide range of charitable projects and initiatives to help make a positive difference to the Thoroughbred breeding and racing industry.

The Racing Foundation distributes funds derived from the sales proceeds of the Tote. In 2017, the NTF Charitable Trust has been awarded two grants totalling over £60,000 for work on training and retention of racing staff.

Review provides information on grants that were awarded in 2016 and demonstrates the impact of grants awarded in previous years. It also highlights progress being made in addressing key issues facing the racing industry, including research that is expected to inform future strategy and policy making.

Auto Enrolment Pensions

Auto Enrolment applies to all employers.

Do you know your staging date?

Have you notified a contact to the Pension Regulator?

Don't risk a fine by failing to comply

Read the NTF Auto Enrolment Guide on our website and plan your scheme now.

RACING 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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Employment helpline

01488 71729

Any other legal enquiry

01206 846143

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Regulation and other notable deadlines

- 🏇 Pension auto enrolment staging dates
 - **Up to February 2018** for businesses started since April 2012
- 🏇 **10th August 2017** – 30-day stand down period for Bisphosphonates takes effect.
- 🏇 **25th August 2017** – **New ownership registrations will cease at 3pm** to ensure the smooth introduction of the new owners' system. Registrations will re-open in the new Racing Admin system on the morning of **Wednesday 30th August**.
- 🏇 **By the end of 2017** – original Racing Admin website will close.

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