

Newsletter

The Voice of Britain's Racehorse Trainers



2019 Fixture List announced

The 2019 Fixture List was published at the end of July. These were the BHA's headline figures:

- A total of 1,511 fixtures have been scheduled, 3 more than were originally scheduled in 2018
- 915 Flat fixtures scheduled (14 more than in 2017). Of these fixtures, 564 are Flat Turf fixtures (five fewer than 2018) while 351 are All Weather fixtures (10 more than originally scheduled in 2018)
- 596 Jump fixtures scheduled (two fewer than 2018)
- Ratio of fixtures in 2019 – Jump: 39.4%, Flat Turf 37.3%, All Weather 23.2% (2018: Jump: 39.7%, Flat Turf 37.7%, All Weather 22.6%)
- There will be 1,081 afternoon fixtures (15 fewer than 2018) and 430 evening fixtures (18 more than 2018).

The BHA press release stated:

“The focus in compiling the 2019 Fixture List has been to bring in measures to assist those who work in the sport whilst simultaneously aligning the fixture schedule to the changing needs of the betting industry.

“The policies governing the compilation of the 2019 Fixture List led to new initiatives including breaks for Flat participants in March and November and all floodlit fixtures between January to mid-April and September to December having a final race time of no later than 8:30pm to help jockeys and racing staff. These measures are designed to help alleviate some of the demands that the Fixture List might place on their physical and mental wellbeing through extensive travel and late working hours.”

The NTF has been a leading advocate of changes in the fixture list to support the workforce. We therefore welcome the efforts of the fixture group to take account of staffing issues.

While the planned November break is a mixed blessing because the transfer of fixtures out of that week will lead to congestion in the weeks either side, the guarantee of earlier finishes from September to April is a real benefit to stable staff. It is therefore more than disappointing that this positive move has been diluted by the addition of 15 twilight fixtures immediately after the summer fixture peak. The NTF appreciates that fixture moves elsewhere will lead to a net overall increase of 5 flat fixtures and the BHA has produced statistics to show there is a demand for racing opportunities at this time. Also, we know trainers look to run horses on the flat before the important Horses in Training sales. Even so, the additional fixtures take the gloss off the good intentions expressed at the start of the process and may undermine efforts to stabilise field sizes.

National Trainers Federation

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John Dunlop, 1939 – 2018

Evidence for the respect with which racing held John Dunlop flooded out in the media when he died last month. For us at the NTF, John was all this and more. He gave so much time to the Federation and as a valued Council member instigated the constitutional review which led to the current regional structure and Presidential Triumvirate system.

As a trustee of the NTF Charitable Trust, which makes training grants to racing employees, John helped staff to develop their skills and so forge a career in the sport. This was typical of his approach to people – full of encouragement and practical support.

There will be a service of thanksgiving for John on Wednesday 19th September at 2.00pm at St. Paul's Church, 32a Wilton Pl, Knightsbridge, London SW1X 8SH.

EU citizens – their status post-Brexit

The Home Office has provided information on how EU citizens and their families living in the UK can secure their long-term status here with the same EU entitlements to work, study and access public services as now.

EU citizens and family members who, by 31st December 2020, have been continuously resident in the UK for five years will be eligible to apply under the scheme and will be granted “settled status” which will allow them to stay in the UK indefinitely.

EU citizens and family members who arrive by 31st December 2020 but will not yet have been continuously resident here for five years will be granted “pre-settled status” under the Scheme which will enable them to stay in the UK until they have reached the five-year threshold. At that point they can apply for settled status.

“Continuously resident” in the UK generally means that the person must not have been absent from the UK for more than six months in total in any 12-month period. There is no restriction on the number of absences permitted, provided that the total period of absence does not exceed six months in any 12-month period.

Close family members (a spouse, civil partner, durable partner, dependent child or grandchild, and dependant parent or grandparent) living overseas will still be able to join an EU citizen resident here after 31st December 2020 where the relationship existed at that date and continues to exist.

Registration will involve an online digital application which will require the applicant:

- to prove their identity and nationality (which can generally be done through their passport or EU ID card)
- to provide evidence that they have been continuously resident in the UK for the five years required for settled status. This may involve an automated check through HMRC data or the applicant will be able to upload documents to prove their residency – more details of what documents will be acceptable will be published by the Government later.

The applicant will also need to provide a facial image which will be checked to see that it matches the photograph on the passport or ID card and to declare any serious criminal convictions.

The application process is not open yet but is expected to open later in the year. The application fee under the Scheme will be £65 for an adult and £32.50 for a child although if an EU citizen already holds permanent residence there will be no fee.

Further information will be provided in due course, but trainers may wish to ensure that any of the employees to whom this may apply are aware of the procedures and that if they are wishing to apply for settled status do not absent themselves from the country for more than 6 months in any 12-month period.

Changes to employing Croatian nationals

The restrictions on employing Croatian nationals has been removed and as such they now have the same freedom to work in the UK as other EEA nationals.

Trainers are reminded that all employers are required to carry out a simple 3 step check on all potential employees to prevent the employment of illegal workers. These steps are:

-  Obtain the person's original documents as specified in the Home Office guidance https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/441957/employers_guide_to_acceptable_right_to_work_documents_v5.pdf
-  Check the validity of the documents in the presence of the holder, and
-  Make and retain a clear copy and make a record of the date of the check.

The Government has an online interactive tool <https://www.gov.uk/legal-right-work-uk> to help an employer check if a potential employee has the legal right to work in the UK.

Confirmation of structure for funding distribution body

Agreement has been reached between British racing's tripartite bodies regarding the structure of the new Racing Authority, which is set to take over responsibility for Levy distribution from April 2019.

Under UK Government proposals to "reduce financial and administrative burdens on the betting and horseracing industries" which were consulted on earlier this year, the Horserace Betting Levy Board (HBLB) will be abolished in April 2019. Its responsibilities for collecting the Levy will transfer to the UK Gambling Commission, while distribution of the Levy will be carried out by the Racing Authority.

The key roles of the Racing Authority will be to implement the policy and strategy for racing's central funding set by its Members (BHA, Horsemen's Group and RCA); distribute the funds fairly and transparently in accordance with this policy; fund growth; consult with the betting industry and wider stakeholders on the growth of the racing product.

The composition of the Racing Authority Board is:

Independent Appointees	Sir Hugh Robertson – Chairman One further Independent Board Member
British Horseracing Authority	Nick Rust , Chief Executive Richard Wayman , Chief Operating Officer
Horsemen's Group	Julian Richmond-Watson , Chairman, TBA Charlie Liverton , Chief Executive, ROA
Racecourse Association	Maggie Carver , Chair Stephen Atkin , Chief Executive



Lycetts Team Champion Award nomination window, 1st September

Last year's launch of the Lycetts Team Champion Award successfully showcased the British training yards that are great places to work. It broke new ground by creating an opportunity for trainers send out a positive image of the way they manage racing staff, spread the message about safe working practices and thereby improve recruitment and retention rates.

We are delighted to report that Lycetts and the NTF have agreed terms for the next three annual awards. As a result, the 2019 Lycetts Team Champion Awards will open for nominations on 1st September. Full details will appear on the dedicated page on the NTF website to which there is direct link from the home page and, as last year, we will send an explanatory package out to members.

In response to demand from trainers participating in the inaugural awards, we have produced a guide, compiled by Kevin Parsons (a member of the judging panel) containing examples from yards' nominations to help trainers understand what the judges are looking for. This will be posted on the NTF website in August with hard copies also available.

The criteria for the Lycetts Team Champion Awards are based on The Winning Approach, the industry standard for the best ways to engage and motivate staff in racing yards. For the second instalment of the award, the nomination form will cover the full standard but it is well worthwhile trainers and their team starting now by checking out the explanation, nomination form and The Winning Approach at www.racehorsetrainers.org/industry/teamchampion.asp .

Alex Scott Future Trainers Travel Scholarship – call for applications

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 Future Trainers Travel Scholarship was to provide that opportunity for those who wouldn't otherwise be able to go abroad.

The Scholarship is 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 now Racing Manager for Chris Waller, trainer of the great Winx 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/industry/alexscottaward.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.

BHA announces further changes to 3yo flat novice conditions

There hasn't been a hotter topic than 3yo flat novice races among the race planning items on regional meeting agendas. Responding to feedback from trainers and analysis of five months of race data, the BHA has announced more changes to these novice race conditions. The changes took effect for races staged from Monday 9th July.

- The definition of a "novice" has been modified such that horses that have run three times and have won a race are ineligible for three-year-old and three-year-old and upwards novice races. This means that the only winners that can run in novice races are horses that had one or two previous runs.
- There is a small increase in the number of maiden races restricted to unraced and once-raced horses, particularly in the first three months of the turf season. This proposed change will see the balance in novice and maiden races move to c.75% novice: 25% maiden.
- Penalties carried by winners of Class 4 and 5 Open Novice and Class 4 Novice Auction races to be increased
- See the post on ntfmuse for the penalty changes and statistics.

The BHA says that comparing 3yo and 3yo+ novice/maiden races with the equivalent races staged in 2017, average field sizes have increased and their competitiveness, measured by the average starting price of the favourite, is almost unchanged. The main purpose of the latest changes, however, is to address concerns that the participation of a highly rated, more experienced horse looking for a soft option is making some novice races uncompetitive.

Message from Handicapper Graeme Smith about early publication of 2yo ratings

Following the successful of publishing of full list of 2yo ratings prior to entries for the first nursery being made for the first time last year, we have done so again in 2018, with the list being published on Tuesday 26th June.

The reason for keeping nursery ratings private until late July in the past was that ratings for two-year-olds at that time of year are particularly fluid. For example, a horse may be rated 75 after posting his best effort when second in a novice event, but if several of those he'd run against post figures significantly higher or lower on their next appearance he could have his rating changed dramatically without having run again.

Such movements can be unpopular and are, unfortunately, common place with two-year-olds in early summer as the various form lines are put to the test on handicap terms. Keeping ratings private meant there was less instability for participants as we ran these processes, and the fact the early nurseries are run without rating bands attached (0-70, 0-85, etc) made this possible.

Nurseries continue to be run throughout July without rating bands being attached to give us the flexibility to frame the most competitive races possible. However, in the spirit of transparency and openness we feel it is appropriate to put our data in the public domain while we do this, and simply ask for owners and trainers to be understanding while normal processes are run to bed the file down.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me on gdsmith@britishhorseracing.com or **01904 790457**.



Optional claiming handicaps offer something new

The first races in the 10-race optional claiming handicap trial have been run; no doubt it will take trainers time to use these new races to best advantage. Optional claiming handicap races form part of a cross-industry commitment to diversify the race programme and create more options for trainers to campaign horses in races which are not solely based on their handicap rating. They are also designed to help stimulate trade in a group of higher rated horses that are less likely to attract interest from abroad and lack the stamina to appeal to the jumping market.

When entering a horse in an Optional Claiming Handicap, trainers can choose a handicap rating up to 7 lbs lower than its published rating but, in doing so, they make that horse available to claim for a pre-determined price which is in line with the reduced rating chosen. The prices and corresponding weights were published in a supplement to the Racing Calendar and it is available with other instructions on the Racing Admin website.

Update to elimination sequence for Novice Flat Races

Further to the recent announcement regarding the new definition of a Novice Flat Race, the elimination sequence for these races held from 9 July 2018 onwards has also been updated to remove the possibility of winning horses that have run in three or more races being given greater protection from elimination than horses which have run fewer than three times or those that have never been placed in the first four home. See Part K of Manual (F), Schedule 8 of the rules for the full wording.

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Antagonistes
Byo chestnut gelding
Current Ownership: Jnr Ben Kingsland (33%) and Mr
Current Keep: Full training - since 1 Nov-2016 Cur

Treatments and Services

Date	Description
7-Nov-16	Circling
23-Oct-16	Transport Hovebur
5-Oct-16	Furrier
30-Sep-16	Furrier
29-Sep-16	Dentist

Workbook
Today Thursday, 09 Oct 2017

No.	Exercise
1	Canter, Easy, st
2	Canter, Easy, st

Training Notes

Administrator 8-Mar-17
Looking very well and sweet

Administrator 8-Mar-17
Very happy with work this

Administrator 1-Feb-17
Slight knock to rear fo

Administrator 19-Jul

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Forged NTF metal badges confiscated at racecourse

Four forged NTF metal badges were identified and confiscated at Newmarket Racecourse last week. This follows similar incidents at other racecourses so please be aware that the RCA has requested additional checks to be made at race meetings across the country.

Although the fakes are well made, they have noticeable differences compared with the originals. The most obvious difference is the colour and pattern of the cord. It would be extremely helpful if you would notify racecourse officials if you notice someone wearing a badge that looks different. It is also worth reiterating that each genuine badge is allocated to specific people and they are strictly non-transferable. Because of the access they allow to certain areas on the racecourse, this is an integrity matter.

Welcome for racecourses providing free meals to racing staff

Trainers have often suggested that racing staff should get free meals at the racecourse so we welcome Jockey Club Racecourses' decision to announce this policy with effect from Racing Staff Week. It prompted other racecourse to publicise that they were already providing free food for racing staff – a good outcome for all.

Members will know that under the wage agreement a daily subsistence allowance is payable to staff going racing and this can be paid tax free where it meets the HMRC criteria – the employee is going racing and has incurred expenses. Whether the allowance is paid tax free will therefore vary from day to day. Even when free meals are provided, due to the hours away from the yard, staff may incur the expense of purchasing food and beverage on the way to or the way back from racing. We are also aware that some employees prefer to purchase a meal outside the racecourse as an alternative to the free meal provided.

Timing of pre-race testing is a nuisance but necessary

From time to time trainers ask us why the pre-race blood tests must be done so close to the race time (usually 30 to 45 minutes.) The answer is that pre-race bloods are taken to detect raised levels of TCO₂, which is an indicator of alkalisiation (or “milk shaking” as it is known.) This practice is designed to buffer lactic acid build up and therefore increase stamina.

The test has to be done shortly before a race to achieve a valid sample because of the metabolism of alkalisiation. Where testing is conducted pre-race the trainer or their representative will usually be given an appointment card indicating the time that they should be present at the horses' racecourse stable for testing to be conducted.

If a horse is known to react badly to needles, there is an option to have the test done 2 to 3 hours post-race (again, this timetable is due to the metabolism of the sodium bicarbonate (the alkalisating agent.) Trainers need to inform the BHA of horses that are “intractable”, i.e. will react badly to sampling and may be difficult to restrain.

Should you have any questions about TCO₂ testing, or the BHA's testing programme in general, please contact BHA Officials on duty in the stables, or contact the Equine Health and Welfare Department on **02071520090** or at **equine@britishhorseracing.com**



Get your horse's vaccination dates right with EquiBioSafe



A recent insight into the systems used by trainers to ensure their horses are vaccinated on the correct dates to comply with the rules suggested a reminder about the EquiBioSafe app would be useful.

EquiBioSafe is the app designed to assist trainers and breeders follow the respective Codes of Practice for Infectious diseases affecting thoroughbreds. It is available on both Apple and Android.

The app, launched thanks to funding and support from the Horserace Betting Levy Board, has a handy vaccination date calculator to help avoid passport errors. Its main purpose is a comprehensive management tool enabling trainers to identify diseases and locate their nearest APHA reporting centre. Download it now from The App Store or Google Play.

New Irish rules on passport irregularities

In June this year the Irish Horseracing Regulatory Authority modified its rules on vaccination records in passports. The key points are

- A horse may run if the equine influenza entry in its passport contains a clerical error which does not impact upon the vaccination status of the horse following certification by its trainer that the error is clerical. It will also be able to run if the passport has been previously accepted by the IHRB.
- A horse shall not run if the equine influenza entry in its passport is 'demonstrably incorrect'

The modified rules reflect the different risk to the horse population's vaccination status that these two different scenarios present. A horse with a clerical error is permitted to run whereas one with a vaccination history that is incorrect will not because its immunity to the disease via vaccination is not properly assured.

The Irish rules differ slightly to the BHA's where the Stewards use their discretion to decide the risk posed by individual circumstances of an error.

The message to British-based trainers is that if you have any doubt about the status of a vaccination record in the passport of a horse you plan to run in Ireland, you should contact the IHRB Chief Veterinary Officer, Lynn Hillyer on **00-353-45-445600** or email lynn.hillyer@ihrb.ie who will examine a copy of the vaccination record and advise on its compliance.

New Clerk of the Scales Team Principal appointed

Ollie Mann has recently been appointed by the BHA as the new Clerk of the Scales Team Principal as Charles Stebbing has recently stepped down from full-time duties. Charles will continue to do some racedays up to and including the EBOR Festival at York before he officially retires.

Ollie joined the BHA as a full time Clerk of the Scales in 2015, having previously worked as a Police Officer for 15 years with the Metropolitan Police Service and West Midlands Police Force. The son of a NH Jockey and grandson of a NH Trainer, he grew up in the West Midlands and occasionally rode out for Peter Chapple-Hyam at Manton.

After gaining a wealth of experience within the police, he sought a career change and an involvement in horseracing once again, joining our Clerk of the Scales team.

Ollie's contact details are omann@britishhorseracing.com



Pre-race stalls assessments

The BHA's pre-race stalls assessments have the benefit that the starters get prior knowledge of any horse that needs special treatment and can make sure they receive this when they do come to race. The horse may also qualify for a late load without incurring a criteria failure. They are available for any unraced horse, not just for two year olds. Booking a pre-race stalls assessment is done in the same way as for stalls tests.

Certain horses that have already raced are also allowed to undergo an assessment. Only horses that are deemed suitable from examination of their behavioural records would be granted the opportunity to be assessed, e.g. one that is stubborn and plants itself to avoid loading. A horse that has shown a tendency for unruliness outside the stalls or when in, will not be allowed to undergo an assessment. Having been granted special loading privileges, these will be adopted on a raceday with prior agreement from the trainer. If they prove unsuccessful, the horse will be withdrawn. To take advantage of this, you must apply to Robbie Supple by email at rsupple@britishhorseracing.com or telephone, office **01327 352879**, Mobile **07771 376326**.

The BHA has also confirmed that the "stalls rein" developed by Michael Easterby to prevent horses putting their head down to get under the front gate, may be used at pre-race assessments as a practice aid.

Retraining of Racehorses Championships showcases versatility

The fourth running of the RoR Goffs UK National Championships at Aintree International Equestrian Centre opens on Tuesday 21st August through to Sunday 26th August. This annual event showcases the versatility of former racehorses in a variety of equine disciplines and is open to the public on all six days with admission free.

Over six days there will be a total of 90 classes with more than £6,000 awarded in prize money and an expected entry of over 200 horses. It includes the RoR Dressage Series Championships and RoR National Showing Championships, as well as a range of classes open to all former racehorses registered with RoR.

The highlight on the concluding evening is the RoR Elite Performance Award for Showing leading to the crowning of the 2018 Goffs UK Supreme Champion, with its prize of £2,500 to the winner. It also features a parade of former 'Stars of the Racing World', as well as the Veterans' Championship class and the crowning of series winners.

Increase in weighing out allowance for new jockey's safety vest

The BHA has announced that, from 1st October 2018, the minimum acceptable standard for a safety vest (body protector) for race riding for jockeys of all disciplines will be increased. As a result, all jockeys will be required to wear the new Level 2 body protectors, rather than the current Level 1 model. (This does not affect stable staff, for whom the rules have not changed.)

This change is because the Level 2 vest offers superior protection of up to 50% to the Level 1 vest against direct blows such as kicks. The relevant rule – Schedule (D)2, Equipment PART 1 – has been updated and Rule (B)22 - Weighing out procedure has also been changed to allow an increase of 1lb in the allowance at the scales when weighing out.



Management techniques for maximising staff retention

When the NTF introduced the Lycetts Team Champion Award (LTCA) in 2017, trainers asked us how to learn about the management practices that support staff retention. Our industry standard, The Winning Approach, is the blueprint for best practice but trainers were also looking for some direct training in the areas it covers.

Responding to this demand we arranged management training modules delivered by Peter Burnet, who already runs management training for the racing industry at the British Racing School.

His modules for the NTF have the title Building a Sustainable Business. Trainers either attending the modules or sending representatives in 2017 included Luca Cumani, Ann Duffield, William Haggas, Mark Johnston (LTCA shortlisted), Martin Keighley (LTCA shortlisted), Seamus Mullins (LTCA shortlisted), Jonjo O'Neill, George Scott, Suzy Smith (LTCA shortlisted.)

Feedback comments about the management training modules were highly positive and we are repeating them again this year with continued support from The Racing Foundation. The module is designed to help trainers recruit and retain exceptional staff teams. It is about sharing ideas, tips and support to match the team award criteria and make other wider ranging changes

Book now for the remaining event at Cheltenham on **12th September 2018**

Tea and Coffee will be available from 09.30. Each day will run from 10.00 to 16.30 with lunch and refreshments provided. Dress is casual / work clothes. The day will consist of a mix of activities, discussion and some new ideas.

Each participant will be encouraged to generate an action plan to help implement any new ideas back in the yard. There is no formal preparation for the day and please come with an open mind!

To book places

This year there is a charge of £100 per place. To book yourself and up to one other staff member onto any of the three days please contact the NTF at teamchampion@racehorsetrainers.org or ring **01488 71794**.

Coaching plans for racing grooms

Following the success of the BHA's Jockey Coaching Programme, attention is being turned to developing the skills of racing grooms. With funding support from The Racing Foundation, a new BHA Rider Coaching Programme (RCP) will be piloted in Middleham this summer, led by the Northern Racing College.

The RCP will train experienced staff members from several different yards to gain nationally recognised qualifications as Level 1 Coaches so that they will be able more effectively to improve the horsemanship of less experienced riders in their yards. Having proved the concept with the pilot and fine-tuned the programme, the plan is to roll it out across the country thereafter.

This initiative will give experienced staff real opportunities to grow and enhance their skills, adding even greater value while also providing them with them with an incentive to progress in their chosen career.

“ This initiative will give experienced staff real opportunities to grow and enhance their skills. ”



BHA working with the Government on staffing crisis

We know the serious shortage of skilled staff is probably the number one concern for many trainers. A key factor behind the shortage was the Government's decision to change the rules for migrant workers in 2011 leading to Work Riders being removed from the Shortage Occupation List. Brexit has the potential to make matters worse if it puts in place more obstacles for EU workers to be employed in British racing stables.

The NTF and BHA are working together to communicate to Government the industry's requirements from a future immigration system. We have communicated to Government that, while proactive steps are being taken to counter the current shortfall of available staff through domestic recruitment, it is important for British racing to still be able to have appropriate access to the best internationally skilled workers in the short-to-medium term. British racing has made these representations to the Migration Advisory Committee call for evidence on the impact of EEA workers in the UK Labour Market which will inform future Home Office Immigration Policy.

“The NTF and BHA are working together to communicate to Government the industry's requirements from a future immigration system.”

British racing's submission (developed alongside the NTF and TBA) was published as part of an Interim Report by MAC on 27 March, while the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) also highlighted British racing's case in their own Departmental submission.

In summary, British racing has called for a post-Brexit immigration system which:

- i) Does not adversely compromise the status of EEA and non-EEA workers already based in the UK, which would exacerbate the current shortfall
- ii) Recognises that work riding is a highly skilled profession and allows (as was the case before 2011) racing grooms to be included on the Shortage Occupation List: and
- iii) Does not have separate tracks for EEA and non-EEA immigration

We have also assisted the BHA with its response to a House of Lords EU Home Affairs sub-committee inquiry on people movement in the fields of sport and culture. The Sub-Committee has published a letter it has sent to Tracey Crouch MP (Minister for Sport and Civil Society) at the conclusion of its inquiry. The letter contains several references to the evidence provided to the inquiry by British racing, with this key passage on the first page:

We heard from the British Horseracing Authority (BHA) that there were 7,377 employees on the BHA register as of March 2017, of which 814 (11 per cent) were from 23 non-UK EEA countries, including 348 (4.7 per cent) from the Republic of Ireland. 985 (13.4 per cent) were from the rest of the world.¹ Horseracing generates revenues of £3.5 billion a year; employs around 17,400 staff, including people who work at racecourses, training yards and breeding operations; and is the second-largest sport in the UK in terms of revenue and attendances. Has the Government considered the effect of ending free movement on sports such as horseracing?

The BHA and its advisers will be monitoring the Minister's response and we will keep you informed.



Group 1 Credit Management offers trainers a free trial

You may have read a recent article by Lee Mottershead in the Racing Post on the ‘fight against non-paying owners’ – a subject he has written about before.

Lee’s most recent article centred on the announcement that Weatherbys Racing Bank and Arno Rudolf’s AR Legal collections have joined forces to form Group 1 Credit Management – a business dedicated to working with clients who are struggling with unpaid invoices.

As the name suggests, Group 1 Credit Management will help clients to manage their cash flow before debts start mounting. New clients of the service receive a welcome pack including advice about how to avoid a growing debt, the typical warning signs to look out for and some useful ways to react to those signs.

Arno Rudolf, CEO of Group 1 Credit Management, said: “From our experience many trainers do suffer from slow payment of training fees but understandably are uncomfortable talking about it and knowing how best to tackle the issue. He went on to suggest that “customers in any business will pay monthly bills with some degree of regularity even if they’re overdue. By getting in touch with Group 1 as soon as you think something is amiss our experienced team will get to work to recover the overdue payments quickly and discreetly.”

The Group 1 model allows clients to pay a monthly fee of £99+VAT which covers all costs regardless of the size of debt recovered. The annual cost to Group 1 clients could be recovered with only one use of the service if the overdue payment equates to a month’s worth of training fees or more. Furthermore, **Group 1 Credit Management is now offering a 3 month free trial and a further 3 month’s half price.**

David Hart, associate director of Weatherbys Racing Bank, said: “With cash flow being so critical, we have offered an **Invoice Payment Service** for a number of years where, with the necessary authorisation, payments can be made directly from an owner’s Weatherbys Racing Bank account. This service is used by hundreds of owners and trainers and it is really convenient. We actively encourage both parties to use it and you can find a copy of the authorisation form inserted in this newsletter. The formation of Group 1 is in many ways an extension of this service in assisting trainers with the financial management of their businesses.”

As you can see from the enclosed form, the Invoice Payment Service allows the owner to choose a day in the month on which payment to the trainer will be made. For the trainer this provides some cash flow predictability and with the added touch of Weatherbys service the owners will be contacted prior to the payment date should the account require a top up to cover outgoing bills.

The NTF supports the venture having worked with Arno Rudolf and his company for several years. They have provided an excellent service for some of our members. Trainers need to be proactive in managing credit and in taking steps to protect themselves against owners running up a debt which becomes more and more difficult to collect. Weatherbys’ services can help achieve this and we also have credit management advice on our website.

Taking precautions with new owners

We understand that a northern based trainer has recently been the subject of an attempted scam by a person indicating he would have horses in training. We strongly advise trainers to make checks to be confident of the identity of any new owner and that the potential owner can fund any purchase.

If the person is not already a registered owner and intends to be a sole owner, the individual will have to satisfy the BHA that they are suitable to be registered. They should be aware of the criteria the BHA will consider as set out on the relevant guidance note which can be found on the BHA website under Regulation/Ownership.

Bloodstock and racehorse sales review is underway

The NTF has been contacted by the BHA to confirm the process for a review of the buying and selling of bloodstock and racehorses within British racing. The scope of the Review is:

- To review the nature and integrity of the practices involved in the buying and selling of bloodstock and racehorses within British Racing and to report its findings to the BHA Board; and
- To consider what (if any) action the BHA should take, by way of enhanced regulation or otherwise, to ensure legally and ethically robust, fair, transparent and responsible practices exist in the buying and selling of bloodstock and racehorses within British Racing and to make written recommendations accordingly to the BHA Board. As an example, as part of this aspect of the Review, consideration will be given as to whether The Bloodstock Industry Code of Practice if fit for purpose.

Justin Felice is the Project Leader. He has 40 years of experience within law enforcement across a wide range of international jurisdictions, including working on behalf of HM Government. As well as speaking to the NTF, Justin Felice will interview some trainers to get the benefit of their knowledge and experience. Others will be drawn from across the full breadth of the industry and will include buyers, sellers, agents, sales houses and regulatory authorities.



Alert for racehorse rehoming scam

A Lambourn trainer has alerted us to the apparent actions of a person to whom they gave a horse for free rehoming. An advert for the horse then appeared very soon afterwards on a Facebook auction site called "Horse Auction Only from June 2018".

Having mentioned this case at the regional meeting in Lambourn yesterday, we gather the person usually emails trainers advising that she is looking to offer a horse a home forever and that she has experience working in racing. We understand that there have been other horses recently acquired in the wider Lambourn area which have then appeared on the same website and we want to alert trainers as we believe that more may due to be collected from the area.

Avoiding resale of horses gifted for a permanent home

To help avoid these situations, our solicitors, Knights1759 have suggested owners enter into an agreement with the person taking ownership of a horse on the basis that it will not be sold on. This agreement could take the following form:

"X as owner relinquishes ownership to Y of [name of horse] at no charge in consideration of Y's agreement to care for the horse and not to sell, offer to sell or attempt to transfer ownership of [name of horse] in the future for a profit. Any offer by Y to sell [name of horse], any attempt by Y to sell [name of horse], or any purported sale of [name of horse] is a breach of the agreement. The consequence of such a breach is the reversion to X of all rights of ownership of [name of horse]."



Clarifying an exclusion in legal expenses insurance

One of the conditions of the NTF legal expenses policy is that a claim is not covered where the allegation against the member involves dishonesty. After discussing this with the insurers, ARAG have removed this exclusion for BHA disciplinary cases where dishonesty may be alleged simply because of the way the rules are worded. Cover for a BHA matter is still subject to the other policy terms and conditions including a merits test.

The “dishonesty exclusion” remains a standard exclusion for business legal expenses and applies to all claims other than for BHA enquiries.

We aim to have legal expenses insurance cover which will help you when you need it whilst at the same time having a premium that is at an acceptable level for all members. As with any insurance, there will be terms and conditions which must be met for insurers to accept a claim. Since the scheme has been in place it has helped members with legal expenses for BHA enquiries, employment disputes, debt recovery, property and other contractual disputes.

Insured legal assistance through the scheme is provided only by Knights1759. Knights1759's equine team provide advice to the British Horse Society and major Equestrian insurers as well as being the NTF's solicitors. Cases are handled by their partners or associate solicitors with expertise in the relevant area of law so you need not be concerned about using Knights1759 instead of your usual solicitor. Key contacts include Brent Williams, who outside of his legal work is heavily involved in thoroughbred racing and breeding including having two horses in training; and Martin Bourne, who has wide experience in equine law including representing professional riders and NTF members.

GDPR - Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) template and guidance

A Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) template and guidance has been added to the suite of GDPR documents available for NTF members.

The DPIA is a risk assessment of proposed processing of personal data. Under the GDPR legislation a business must undertake a DPIA where the processing of personal data is likely to result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of employees. In practice, most of the HR functions in a small business are unlikely to carry a level of risk high enough to warrant a DPIA. High risk for employment is likely to apply when automated processing is used; there is large scale processing of special categories of data or monitoring of public areas (capturing CCTV)

However it is still good practice to work through the questions to consider what risks there may be to employees' personal data and to be able to show that you have considered any risks and the solutions to them. For example if a business were to introduce an automated process for assessing an attendance bonus, with the eligibility being based on the use of an automatic system for clocking in and out. Further information on DPIA is available on the ICO website (www.ico.gov.uk)

Regulation deadlines

- 🏇 **2 July 2018** – Racing Admin call centre at Weatherbys closes
- 🏇 **9 July 2018** – change in elimination sequence in 3yo+ flat novice races
- 🏇 **1 October 2018** – Level 2 safety vest mandatory for jockeys for race riding

Trainer sponsored RoR Eventing Championship now at Gatcombe

The NTF sponsors the RoR Retrained Racehorse Eventing Championship, which this year was held at The Magic Millions Festival of British Eventing at Gatcombe Park on 3rd – 5th August. For further information visit www.festivalofbritisheventing.com. Our sponsorship is funded by trainers through part of the contributions trainers make each year with their licence renewal. Together the sponsors have put up a £6,000 prize-fund for the final.

The Championship is open to any grade of horse and will run as an IN with combinations undertaking an intermediate dressage and showjumping test but run at Novice cross country height.

The winner, Gold Nugget, an eight year old gelding formerly trained by Richard Hannon Snr., now owned by Jane Moss. In 2nd place, Dream Big, a seven year old mare, with Zippi Jazzman, last years' winner in 3rd place.

1st	Gold Nugget	Andrew Downes	34.7 pens
2nd	Dream Big	Tom McEwen	34.8
3rd	Zippi Jazzman	Izzy Taylor	35.0
4th	Summon Up The Blood	Carlos Parro	39.8
5th	Laurentian Lad	Gemma Plastov	42.6



The winner Gold Nugget and rider Andrew Downes

How to deal with abusive emails

It is a sad fact that social media has spawned an epidemic of abusive behaviour online. There are regular reports of trainers receiving abusive messages and recently some particularly unpleasant ones have been sent by email.

Trainers have forwarded some of these to the BHA, who advise trainers to forward a copy to Intel@britishhorseracing.com marked for the attention of Chris Watts and to save a copy on their computer. There are some common elements to some of the recent emails; we won't share the details here but the BHA and the police may be able to use them to trace the sender and take some action.

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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