

# Newsletter

The Voice of Britain's Racehorse Trainers



## National Trainers Federation

March/April 2016  
Issue No. 1092

### Seamus Mullins takes over as NTF President

At a packed Annual General Meeting on 25th February, Seamus Mullins was confirmed as the new NTF President, serving a one-year term until the 2017 AGM. The AGM gave warm applause in thanks to Jim Boyle, who was finishing a two-year term, having agreed to provide some continuity during the industry negotiations to finalise the BHA Members Agreement.

Emma Lavelle's nomination for the vacancy on the Presidential Triumvirate was approved by the AGM. Emma will therefore be President in 2018/19, following on from Ann Duffield in 2017/18. There is further news in the Membership section about NTF rule changes decided at the AGM.



Emma Lavelle, Seamus Mullins and Ann Duffield – NTF Triumvirate. Photo credit to Matthew Webb

### Stable staff allowances – important changes from 6 April 2016

#### Change to how HMRC deals with allowances

The way in which HMRC deals with tax free allowances is changing and in order to continue to pay these allowances with the tax free elements, **trainers must follow the new rules with effect from 6th April 2016.**

This is a significant change to the current practice and trainers will need to introduce new systems to account for expenses their staff incur when away from the yard. For detailed advice about what you need to do, please go to our website to read the Bespoke Subsistence Allowance Information Sheet. You can locate it in Information/Employment/More Employment. This document provides a link to the online "Bespoke scale rate application form" on HMRC's website. We have asked the RCA to request that racecourses provide receipts for stable staff purchases in their canteens and we are discussing with NASS pragmatic ways for trainers to manage the new system.

#### Change to amount of tax free element

HMRC have advised that they will allow the £10 daily allowance to be paid fully tax free – this is a change from £7 or £9 being tax-free and the balance being taxable.

Trainers should ensure that the tax-free element reflects the expenses incurred by the employees and we refer trainers to the separate article above relating to changes in how HMRC deals with tax free allowances and the requirement for trainers to apply to HMRC by 6th April 2016 to continue to use the agreed rates with the tax free elements.

*continued on page 7*

### Inside this issue

Industry.....	2
Race Planning .....	3
On the Racecourse.....	4
Employment Matters .....	7
Veterinary Notes .....	10
Business Section.....	12
Membership .....	15

### Articles of Special Interest

Funding for racing .....	2
Vaccination record errors ...	5
Employee handbooks .....	7
Occupational health pilot ...	9
Cobalt threshold.....	11
Recruitment strategy.....	13
Business rate relief.....	14

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## New funding mechanism within grasp

At the time of the Government's announcement of legislation to replace the Horserace Betting Levy the NTF responded with thanks to all those inside and outside racing who have worked tirelessly to reach this historic milestone. In particular, Steve Harman and Nick Rust have given these efforts a fresh impetus and vigour and their determination has been rewarded. We are grateful to all racing's friends in Parliament, on all sides and in both Houses for their unwavering support. We also thanked all trainers who responded to the NTF's call for assistance in lobbying politicians locally and in Westminster. You contributed to an industry campaign of unprecedented strength and purpose.

The new legislation aims to ensure bookmakers, wherever they are based, make a fair contribution to British horseracing from bets they take on the sport. The proposed statutory mechanism is based on the framework of the Horserace Betting Levy but will satisfy all racing's key policy objectives and Government's five tests for the future funding of British Racing:

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Fair</b>                  | Racing will receive a contribution towards its administration, integrity and future development from all betting operators, regardless of their business model or channel, creating a level playing field.                                   |
| <b>Sustainable</b>           | A VAT-efficient model is proposed which provides the flexibility for longer-term arrangements and can react appropriately to future changes in the Betting industry. VAT advantages of the existing Horserace Betting Levy will be retained. |
| <b>Enforceable</b>           | Appropriate "double-lock" enforcement through a civil right of enforcement and the Gambling Commission fulfilling a role in line with its function under the Levy.   |
| <b>Legally Sound</b>         | Satisfies relevant UK and European Union legislation in relation to free movement, free establishment, competition law and State Aid.  |
| <b>Removal of Government</b> | The Government will have no ongoing role in the funding of British Racing from betting activity.   |

The current Levy will be maintained, but under revisions made to the 1963 Act, will operate principally as a collection and enforcement mechanism. This is not simply an extension of the current Levy – it is a radical overhaul of the model and will come into force in April 2017.

The monies generated will be passed to a new Racing Authority – under the sport's new tripartite governance structure – with expenditure against a set of agreed heading. The NTF will be closely involved in this process through its role representing collectively the trainers, jockeys and stable staff on the BHA Members Committee.

There is still plenty of work to do before the new legislation is passed and revenues begin flowing to racing. The replacement system will be implemented by Secondary Legislation, with the legislative process concluding by the end of 2016. Preceding this will be European Commission clearance in the summer/autumn. Though the likelihood of a legal challenge is receding, the rate at which the take-out from betting is set is crucial. The Government has stated it will restore to racing levels of income it received before the shift towards remote betting. That is something of a moving target but the aim is around £100m per annum.

Meanwhile the "Levy cliff" has not gone away. In 2017 statutory yield is set to continue its downward trend and the Levy Board has forecast expenditure cuts. Maintaining the Authorised Betting Partner scheme is essential to offset lower levy yields and the transition to the new mechanism. At the NTF AGM trainers present took a dim view of the large independent racecourses that have apparently chosen not to give outright support to the scheme. The consensus was that Ascot, Goodwood, Newbury and others should give the scheme their unequivocal support. The NTF has coordinated communication from trainers to the racecourses.



## 2017 Fixture List aims to support growth

Work is underway on producing the 2017 fixture list with the NTF directly involved in the Fixtures Group that is overseeing the process. The size of the fixture list is not expected to change significantly in 2017, but there is focus on its structure and whether it could better support racing's growth objectives. This involves assessing whether the fixture list could be arranged differently to help drive up attendances, encourage growth in remote betting, better meet the requirements of the media and consumers, and also whether it could be organised more efficiently from the perspective of those that service it.

The horsemen have three representatives on the Fixture Group and the current work includes an assessment of the potential additional cost to horsemen of a number of fixture move hypotheses. BHA aims to publish the new fixture list in August.

## Galloping Policy at Newcastle Racecourse

Following a number of recent requests Newcastle Racecourse would like to confirm to trainers the situation regarding galloping on the new tapeta surface once racing commences in May 2016

The existing lease with the Northumberland Golf Club, located in the centre and to the outside of the track, will restrict the racecourse from offering galloping.

There will only be opportunities for horses to gallop following race meetings. Galloping outside these times will unfortunately not be possible.

If this policy changes at any point Newcastle Racecourse will update the NTF and its members.

Trainers should contact the Clerk of the Course James Armstrong on 07801 166820 for all enquiries about requests to gallop after race meetings.

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## BHA apologises for late Programme Book

The BHA and Weatherbys would like to apologise to all trainers for the late delivery of Volume 2 of the 2016 Programme Book. In a message to trainers conveyed via the NTF, Richard Wayman, BHA Chief Operating Office, said they understand the frustration and inconvenience this will have caused trainers and owners.

In the future, the BHA will publish publication dates in advance so that trainers can know when the Programme Book will become available. Volume 3 will be online by May 4th and in hard copy by May 18th, while Volume 4 will be online by July 25th and in hard copy by August 8th.

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## Review of race types by new BHA Racing Group

In recent years the structure of the BHA's racing committees has undergone several transformations. From the beginning of this year it has reverted to a single Racing Group with a remit to cover both Flat and Jump issues. Trainers are represented by Seamus Mullins and Ralph Beckett.

At the meeting in March, the Racing Group debated suggestions of different race types to add variety to a programme that is heavily reliant on regular handicaps. Flat horses rated between 81 and 10 were highlighted as a specific concern. Outside handicaps, these horses have limited winning opportunities and it becomes more attractive for connections to sell these horses to go abroad rather than race them in this country. An alternative might be to programme conditions races where all runners would subsequently avoid reassessment of their handicap mark. Some members of the Racing Group thought this might have a detrimental impact on future handicap races but it was agreed that the NTF would consider the proposal before a decision is made.



## New rule on runners being shod all round

Following a lengthy consultation during which the NTF participated in a cross-industry working group, the BHA has announced that with effect from 2nd April, runners in all Flat turf races (except NH Flat races) must be shod all round when they enter the parade ring.

The move was initiated by the Professional Jockeys Association (PJA) based on feedback from its members that horses racing without shoes were more likely to slip; this could result in jockeys and horses being injured and interference to other runners. Though the NTF initially opposed regulation, subsequent research carried out by the BHA demonstrated an increased percentage of runners slipping when not fully shod and the rider/horse safety argument became a priority in the consultation. In addition, it became clear that Britain and Ireland were the only racing jurisdictions not fully signed up to the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities article on raceday shoeing.

At our regional meetings, trainers told us they would prefer to keep the option to leave hind shoes off in circumstances where the individual horse's action caused it to injure itself or when a horse in particularly difficult to shoe. The new rule will permit exemptions on formal application by the trainer to the BHA accompanied by supporting evidence. The 'WISP' protocol will continue to apply when a runner loses a shoe before the start. The rule will not apply to jump races or Flat races on the All Weather Tracks.

In December last year Brant Dunshea, the BHA's Head of Raceday Operations, explained the proposal to the NTF Council, which agreed there was justification for regulation in line with a similar rule in France that came into effect last year.

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*“...research carried out by the BHA demonstrated an increased percentage of runners slipping when not fully shod...”*

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## NTF persuades BHA to change Flat start stats

Having received their end of year statistics for flat starts, trainers will be aware that the BHA has used a different method for calculating trainer's percentage. The NTF has never been satisfied with the way the BHA used the statistics to calculate the trainer's percentage because we believe it has a disproportionate effect on trainers with a small number of runners.

Under previous regimes, our arguments have fallen on deaf ears but a combination of new personnel at the BHA and the capable statistical analysis by George Noad at the NTF has brought about a change of mind set.

For the purpose of calculating each trainer's percentage from 2015 flat runners, instead of discounting any trainer with only one individual runner that incurred a “trainer warning”, all trainers now have a one horse allowance before the percentage is calculated. Our figures show that this would reduce the impact of the regulations on trainers who have a small number of flat runners while still retaining the intention of the rule to encourage proper schooling of horses for starting stalls. The new arrangement is on a trial basis and we will be in consultation with the BHA on improvements to flat start performance.

Don't forget you can use the BHA's pre-race stalls assessments (see NTF Jan/Feb newsletter) and Gary Witheford's barrier trials to help prepare your horses for the raceday experience of starting stalls. See <http://garywitheford.co.uk/booktrials.html>

## Dispensation on vaccination record errors

It has often been a frustration for trainers when they are fined for a vaccination error that was entered in the horse's passport before the horse came into their yard and the record has passed an official inspection at the racecourse.

The NTF decided it was time for this to be acknowledged by the authorities so we applied to the BHA for a rule change that would release the trainer from a fine in these circumstances.

We are pleased to report that this proposal has been approved by the BHA Board so with effect from 2nd April 2016, the Trainer (or the Owner) of the horse will not be liable under Rule 18.7 when

- a) the failure to comply with the requirements of this Rule occurred prior to the horse coming into the Trainer or Owner's care or control;
- b) a Veterinary Officer has subsequently inspected the non-compliant passport and incorrectly stamped it as satisfactory, and
- c) the Trainer or the Owner has not previously been notified of the error.

Note therefore that if you do not correct the error after receiving the benefit of this dispensation, you will be fined on the second occasion.

It has to be said that checking vaccinations is a basic administration task that should be done whenever a horse enters the yard and at each vaccination. Last year 150 vaccination record breaches were identified on the racecourse resulting in approximately £28,000 in fines – that's money needlessly exiting the trainer's pocket. The BHA has warned that if this rate of breaches cannot be reduced, further consideration will have to be given to the current fine levels. Vaccination dates can be checked using proprietary stable administration software or the calculator on the BHA website at <http://brenda.britishhorseracing.com/vaccs/>.

*“...checking vaccinations is a basic administration task that should be done whenever a horse enters the yard and at each vaccination...”*

## Rules on possessing a prohibited substance in the racecourse stables

Rule (G) 2.6 relating to the possession of a prohibited substance or a prohibited method in the racecourse stables has been republished on the Online Rule Book today. The basis of the rule hasn't changed but the BHA had noticed that when originally written, the rule didn't include essential wording to indicate that possession was prohibited “at any time”, not just on raceday.

We thought this was an opportunity to remind you of the rule and that even when a horse enters the racecourse stables on a different day to the day it is due to race, prohibited substances and any means to administer them must not be brought into the stables.





## Claiming race protocol changes

Following a case of a horse claimed from a claiming race having had its gender falsely described in the racecard and in the Racing Post, the BHA declared the claim void following representation by the NTF on behalf of the trainer who had made the claim. The rules have been changed subsequently to make it clear that a claim in such circumstances will automatically be rescinded.

Claims must be made to Weatherbys using the telephone number 01933 303080. However, sometimes there may be a technical error so in the event only that this number is unobtainable then claims should be made on the following telephone number 07554 069475. This number will only be used in the event that the first listed number is out of operation.

Incidentally, the BHA is seeing an increased numbers of trainers who are failing to tell them when a horse has been gelded, Please remember it is your responsibility under Rule (C)17 to notify a gelding to the Racing Calendar Office no later than noon of the day which is 5 days before the horse next runs in Great Britain.

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## Avoid an unnecessary fine for running and riding offences

The next NTF Running and Riding seminar presented by Roderick Moore will be at Oaksey House, Lambourn on Tuesday 3rd May, commencing at 1 pm.

This seminar is designed to help you avoid Running and Riding penalties.

Topics to be covered include:

- Entries & Declarations the **importance of adequate instructions** to the jockey,
- Entries & Declarations the potential consequences of **inadequate or no** instructions,
- Entries & Declarations how to **satisfy the stewards** that you are not in breach
- Entries & Declarations how to present your **best case** at an enquiry.
- Entries & Declarations briefing your **raceday representatives** on the rules to avoid a fine in your absence.

Roderick Moore is a barrister and partner at Devon and Somerset practice, Slee Blackwell Solicitors. He has many years' experience representing trainers, owners, jockeys and other licensed persons in front of the BHA disciplinary panel in running and riding matters, horse welfare, lay betting and corruption cases.

We appreciate that there is racing on that day but hope that either you or one or more of your raceday representatives may be able to attend. To book your place/s please ring Dawn Bacchus at the NTF office on 01488 71719 or email [d.bacchus@racehorsetrainers.org](mailto:d.bacchus@racehorsetrainers.org)

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## Chepstow – Changes to Parking Arrangements

Due to changes in our traffic management plan, in line with advice from the local authority, all access through the Lions Gate (Gate 1) is now for strictly Horseboxes only.

All other traffic will now park in our Main Car Park, Gate 3.

We do have a steward on Gate 1 each meeting, who is directing traffic to the right areas, but over time many people have tried to get in Gate 1, or gotten used to parking in this area. We just want to ensure as well as stewarding, that a message has also been given out. We are also arranging a letter to be sent out via Weatherbys to our most frequent runners over the last 12 months.

### Threshold for taxing expenses

From 6th April 2016, the £8,500 threshold for taxing certain expenses and benefits in kind will be abolished. This means from that date employees earning at a rate of less than £8,500 will be taxed on their benefits in kind in the same way as employees earning at a rate of £8,500 or more, unless you have opted to payroll your benefits in mind from 6th April 2016.

You may receive a letter from HMRC as they are seeking to identify employees who are earning at a rate of less than £8,500 and have benefits in kind that are not currently reported on form P9D because from 6th April 2016 these previously non-reported benefits in kind will be taxable. HMRC are trying to identify such individuals so that HMRC can include the taxable amounts of their benefits in kind in their tax codes by the tax year beginning 6th April 2016 to avoid an underpayment of tax building up during the year.

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*“Trainers should ensure that the tax free element reflects the expenses incurred by the employee...”*

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### Template policies – employee handbook

We have created a new section on the NTF website where we have placed the various NTF / NASS agreements and the template policies produced by the NTF – whilst these documents are in most instances in the NTF employment manual, having them all in one place will hopefully make things easier for members to access them. The policies and templates can be found in the Employment section of the website under “Employment Handbook”.

It is good practice to have an employee handbook to outline in writing the practices and procedures you want your employees to follow and these documents are likely to form the core of any handbook.

Of course, much of the information will be yard specific and businesses will vary as to what information they wish to have in their handbook. We can advise and assist with those documents on request.

You will notice that these documents include new policies on safeguarding and Inside Information policy. Safeguarding is an area the industry in general is focusing upon - the policy provided on our website is a fairly simple one but a useful starting point for employers to adopt; more information on this area is being developed.

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*“It is good practice to have an employee handbook to outline the practices you want your employees to follow...”*

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## Living Wage reminder

The new National Living Wage takes effect from 1st April. This means that for employees aged 25 and over the hourly rate for time away from the yard outside normal working hours increases to £7.20. The minimum rates for Scales 1, 2 and 3 as set out in the NTF NASS Memorandum of Agreement also increases for employees aged 25 and over from 1st April 2016. This means that the minimum rate for anyone working a basic 40 hour week and aged 25 and over will be £288, whilst the minimum rate for the consolidated week for an employee aged 25 and over will be £320.40.

## Statutory Pay Rates April 2016

The statutory pay rates for Maternity Pay, Paternity Pay, Adoption Pay and Shared Parental Pay have been frozen, and will remain at the same rate of £139.58 per week. Statutory sick pay will also remain at the current rate of £88.45. The lower earnings level is unchanged at £112.

The maximum for a week's pay for redundancy increases from £475 to £479 with effect from 6th April 2016.

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## Swatting up on sick pay

We have had a number of calls recently to the NTF office regarding sick pay and whilst we are, of course, more than happy to discuss individual cases, we thought it may be helpful to set out a reminder of the basic framework.

### Sickness absence

Where an employee is off sick (as opposed to off due to an injury at work), the NTF/NASS wage agreement provides that a trainer does not have to pay any sick pay for the first three days of the absence. Trainers can, of course, pay employees for such periods of absence but there is no requirement to do so.

From the fourth day of absence, the sick pay under the wage agreement depends on the employee's length of service. If the employee has been with the trainer for less than six months, it will be Statutory Sick Pay. If the employee has been with the trainer for six months or more at the start of the absence, then under the wage agreement the employee is entitled to one month's normal wages as sick pay in any one year. In both cases there are three waiting days which are unpaid.

### Injury at work

In the case of absence due to an injury at work, the employee is entitled to one month's normal wages before dropping on to Statutory Sick Pay only. This applies regardless of length of service and there are no waiting days. Of course, alongside this a claim to RIABS should be submitted where the absence is for four days or more. The trainer should indicate on the RIABS claim form the period during which normal wages are being paid to the employee and request that the RIABS money is sent to the trainer for that period. Once the employee goes onto SSP only, the RIABS money should go direct the employee.

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*“...a claim to RIABS should be submitted where the absence is for four days or more...”*

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## Progress of Newmarket's Occupational Health and Wellbeing Pilot

The Racing Centre's RACEFIT team are pleased to report a very successful first period of the Occupational Health (OH) Pilot, funded by The Racing Foundation. This has provided a fitness and rehabilitation facility for the local horseracing industry workforce, the aim being to 'enhance injury rehabilitation services for racing's people'. Response and uptake to date has been most encouraging, with strong evidence to suggest that this is a much needed service benefiting both employers and employees.

The service includes:

**TACKROOM TALKS, delivered in the workplace to promote health and wellbeing, available free of charge**, involving short interactive sessions on topics such as safer manual lifting, injury prevention, hydration, nutrition, alcohol, drugs and GP registration. These are delivered by Pippa Stanford, an Occupational Health Adviser, who is also able to offer a simple mini health check to individuals during the visit.

**OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH CLINICS, delivered by Pippa Stanford, available free of charge** for employers to book an appointment for their employees who are off work or have limited performance at work due to health-related issues. An OH assessment is carried out and a written report provided which includes recommendations for improvement and to help enable better performance, as well as where applicable, a safe and effective return to work.

### Service Benefits

- Help the retention of staff in work who are suffering ill-health
- Provide a safer and more effective return to work, assisting with meeting the employer's duty of care to the workforce
- Promote and maintain the health and wellbeing of employees
- Optimise your employees performance at work

### Feedback

"I was really very down when I had my accident. I've found that it's important to get the support that I received and I think if you didn't get the support that is available through the Occupational Health Pilot at RACEFIT then it would possibly force you out of the racing industry altogether. I wasn't aware of the help that was on offer and the help from everyone involved got me back to work safely and I am now back to full fitness. Even I now attend the gym and as many classes as I can at The Racing Centre and the team are so professional and supportive".

**Laura Pike, Rider/Travelling Head Girl, David Simcock Racing Ltd**

"With help from RACEFIT I managed to be back in the gym just 3 weeks after the operation on my ankle! The support I got wasn't just to get me back into good physical shape, it also helped me mentally feel much better about myself!" **Katie Margaron, Assistant Trainer, George Margaron**

"Keeping a healthy, fit team of staff is as important as ensuring the horses are sound and happy. The Varian Stable looks forward to building a strong working relationship with the team at RACEFIT. The Tackroom Talk has been an excellent introduction into the variety of help on offer at RACEFIT." **Will Johnson, Assistant Trainer, Roger Varian**

"The service you and your team have given has been fantastic and we are all extremely grateful a service such as yours is available." **Amy Murphy, Assistant Trainer, Luca Cumani**

**To book your Tackroom Talk, or to refer an employee to the OH clinic, please contact:**

**Annika Broster, RACEFIT Manager, The Racing Centre**  
**01638662828**      [racefit@theracingcentre.org](mailto:racefit@theracingcentre.org)



## Corticosteroid stand-down is not a withdrawal or detection time

Trainers will be aware that the BHA rules of racing **Manual B Schedule 3** provides (at 11A) that a horse must not have been administered any intra-articular corticosteroid on a race day or any of the 14 days before a race day.

It is important to note that this 14-day period should not be relied upon as a withdrawal period and we advise you to speak to your vet to ascertain what corticosteroid is being used and to take specific advice upon the withdrawal period for that medication. The withdrawal time will vary depending upon the corticosteroid used and may also be longer if the horse has had repeated injections.

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## Reviews of veterinary research available from THN

The Thoroughbred Health Network (THN) performs systematic, evidence-based reviews of available scientific research to advise on the latest veterinary understanding on performance limiting health issues. Their aim is to improve our general understanding of the strength of evidence available on each health issue, and consequently identify knowledge gaps.

Trainers who have registered can now gain access to reviews on the prevention of tendon injuries, breeding for sustainability in thoroughbreds, and reducing injury risk in jump racing.

To register for this service, go to the THN website at [www.thoroughbredhealthnetwork.co.uk](http://www.thoroughbredhealthnetwork.co.uk)

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## Impact of 'bleeding' on athletic performance

The Thoroughbred Health Network has released its latest review of findings in veterinary research. The subject is diagnosis of EIPH ("bleeding") and its impact on performance. Last month THN looked at the risk factors for EIPH. There are seven key points in the summarised research, divided into: "what we have good evidence for"; "what we have some evidence for"; and "what we don't have evidence for but would benefit from." To access the research summary, log in (or register now) at [www.thoroughbredhealthnetwork.co.uk](http://www.thoroughbredhealthnetwork.co.uk)

The first taster day was conducted at Reaseheath College for students on Further Education programmes. Following a series of talks by industry professionals, students enjoyed an arena demonstration, 'A Day in the Life of a Racehorse and Stable Staff' with two horses from Oliver Greenhall Racing, compered by ex-jockey Carrie Ford. Students were also provided with talks on career options within racing, insight into the life of a jockey, and guidance on riding technique.

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## Extension of foal registration deadline

The BHA has announced that for the 2015 foal crop only, the deadline for registering a foal to comply with the Equine Anti-Doping (EAD) Rules has been extended by two months to 14 months.

Trainers who are also breeders will know that to make them eligible to race in Britain, foals must be registered within 12 months and be available for testing. Notices and reminders have been issued but as the EAD Rules are relatively new, the BHA has agreed to add a short grace period to help capture late registrations.



## HEROS 10th Anniversary marked by charity raceday

HEROS, the charity dedicated to ensuring ex-racehorses have a safe and secure future, has launched a 10th Anniversary campaign that will include a high-profile fundraising event at Windsor Racecourse on Saturday 27th August 2016.

The Bank Holiday weekend fixture at the Berkshire course will be the highlight of a twelve month appeal with the aim of raising £100,000 in 2016, and £500,000 over the next five years.

Over the past decade, HEROS has retrained and re-homed over 500 ex-racehorses, giving them a second chance to star or act as an equine companion. With proper re-education, an ex-racehorse can learn eventing, dressage, polo, show-jumping or become a suitable hack for a novice rider.

Trainers or supporters who wish to attend the fundraising event at Windsor on 27th August, or to contribute in other ways should call 01488 638820 or visit [www.heroscharity.org](http://www.heroscharity.org).

## BHA warning about a rehoming website

The BHA has told us that Rebecca Rocke is operating an establishment based in Shropshire called 'Rehome a Racehorse', which advertises ex-racehorses for sale via social media (<https://www.facebook.com/RockeRacehorses/timeline> )

A trainer recently became aware of a horse that he had previously trained that was for sale on this website and consequently purchased the horse. The horse returned home in very poor condition, having been turned out for three months without "shelter, food or rugs". The horses for sale on the website are mainly priced between £500 and £700.

In light of this and of the photographs of the above horse they have seen, the BHA does not feel that this is a suitable establishment for ex-racehorses. RoR, the RSPCA and World Horse Welfare have been informed, as have the police.

Our strong recommendation is only to use retrainers listed on the RoR website.

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## Implementation of an international raceday threshold for cobalt

Since 2014, international racing regulatory efforts have been focused on establishing a raceday threshold for cobalt in horses. The BHA has contributed to these efforts via population data, administration studies and scientific expertise.

This threshold has now been agreed and the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities has adopted a raceday urinary threshold for cobalt of 0.01 micrograms (= 100 nanograms) total cobalt per millilitre in urine. On the back of the work carried out by the BHA which supports this threshold level, this will be implemented within the Rules of British Racing as of 2 April 2016.

Whilst cobalt is an essential trace element and is naturally present in the horse, it may also have the potential to enhance performance when present at concentrations that exceed normal physiological parameters. However, it is also possible that exposure to significantly increased levels of cobalt may have welfare implications for the horse.

This threshold has been determined to permit the use of supplements that contain low levels of cobalt (such as Vitamin B12). However, as these supplements would not be considered normal feed and water, they must not be administered on raceday in accordance with the usual Rules of Racing on prohibited substances.



## BHEST renamed 'Racing to School'

In March the British Horseracing and Education Standards Trust (BHEST) changed its name to Racing to School and is introducing two new educational programmes designed to encourage young people to pursue a career in horseracing.

Racing to School was previously just used as the title of the education programme, which would be instantly recognisable to regular racegoers by the colourful sight of schoolchildren wearing racing silks as they are guided through the inner workings of the sport on a raceday.

The charity, which relies on voluntary donations, delivers an outdoor curriculum-based learning day to over 10,000 young people each year at racecourses, trainers' yards and studs. Over the past fifteen years, BHEST has organised over 3,000 teaching days at racecourses, accommodating over 120,000 children and teenagers. The free programme includes provision for children with special educational needs, with over 30% of the beneficiaries attending inner city schools. On-going monitoring of these unique activity days reveals that they are a first introduction to racing and its varied career opportunities for at least 70% of the children.

Racing to School is expanding its work with the launch of two new collaborative programmes to be piloted this year. Building upon the success and experience of its original Education Programme, the charity is focussing on inspiring more young people from all backgrounds to consider what the racing and breeding industries have to offer – both as a potential career path and as a sport to enjoy and follow for a lifetime.

*The Work Programme* will support mandatory careers education in participating schools by engaging racing's employers to attend schools to speak to young people. First-hand insight into the varied and rewarding opportunities and training routes into the sport will lead on to real work experience and employment openings.

Using the same broad approach, *The Riders' Programme* will work with those who have shown a committed interest in equestrianism, whether through membership of The Pony Club or enrolment at an Equine College - these organisations routinely report a low knowledge base and interest in racing.

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Please contact us if you require any further information about any of our products or about our special offers.



## Grand National the backdrop for recruitment strategy

In the Grand National, Aintree hosts “the People’s Race” and it is enhancing this spirit of community engagement as Britain’s first Beacon Racecourse. In the first 12 months of a two-year pilot run by Racing To School, the charity responsible for delivering education programmes through the sport, around 1,500 children, whose ages range from nine to 16, have had access to the world-famous venue, of whom at least 30 per cent had never previously visited a racecourse.

The Beacon concept concentrates on educational elements, with Racing To School working in collaboration with the racecourse, the BHA through Racing Together, the Racecourse Association and Careers In Racing. It therefore plays a key role in our long term recruitment strategy.

Racing To School executive director Judith Allen explains: “The idea of the Beacon programme is to build a series of activities that are woven into the school curriculum, so that from Year 5, for nine- and ten-year-olds, through every year until they leave school, pupils will have a racing-related experience.

“The programme of activities can include taking part in a pony education day at the racecourse, getting involved in an activity based on a racing theme, or having a racing ambassador – someone from the racecourse or a local trainer – help them with careers’ education lessons.

“The whole idea is primarily to support young people’s learning and development, but also to open their eyes to racing as a potential leisure activity and to show them the opportunities the sport can offer for work experience, training or a potential future career.”

*“It plays a key role in our recruitment strategy...”*

## ROA – National Racehorse Owners’ Survey

On 12th April the Racehorse Owners Association and British Horseracing Authority are launching the *National Racehorse Owners’ Survey*, the largest of its kind undertaken in Great Britain, and with just 10 minutes of their time, your owners can help shape the racing industry.

The survey will canvas the views of more racehorse owners than ever, and members of the NTF are asked if they would alert their owners to this opportunity to improve the ownership experience.

The project forms an integral part of the industry’s “Strategy for Growth”, and for the first time, not only are the views of new, experienced and lapsed owners sought, but everyone from sole owners to syndicate members are invited to take part.

*“...alert owners to this opportunity to improve the ownership experience...”*

A link to the short survey can be found at [roa.co.uk/survey](http://roa.co.uk/survey) and, via email and through your social media channels, it is hoped that you will be able to encourage your owners to take part by sharing the link.

The results will set out a route to a more prosperous and sustainable future for the sport, and enable strategies to be devised to better recruit and retain racehorse owners to encourage growth across the entire industry. The survey is set to be completed by the end of April before the results are disseminated later in the spring.

If you have any questions on the survey, please contact Harry Williams at [hwilliams@roa.co.uk](mailto:hwilliams@roa.co.uk)



## Small Business Rate Relief increased in Budget

Non-Domestic Rates represent a burdensome overhead for trainers so there must have been a collective sigh of relief as trainers took in the news in yesterday's Budget that the Rateable Value (RV) threshold for Small Business Rate Relief is to increase from £12,000 to £15,000. Bear in mind though that it doesn't take effect until next year, 1st April 2017, so has no impact on any appeal you have lodged against your current RV. It is also worth bearing in mind that the new rating revaluation list comes into effect from 1 April 2017 so those taxpayers whose RV assessments are subject to an increase may not necessarily be better off.

Businesses with a property with a RV of £12,000 and below will receive 100% relief. Businesses with a property with a RV between £12,000 and £15,000 will receive tapered relief. Contact Bill Simpson, our Rates Adviser, if you require more detailed information specific to your property.

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## NTF legal advisers complete name change

Following the takeover of the NTF's legal adviser Darbys by Knights Solicitors (see January/February newsletter) the combined firm has decided to use the Knights brand name. In future therefore we will be referring to Knights as our legal advisers though we will continue to deal in the first instance with the excellent team in Oxford with whom we established the relationship.

Under the new arrangements, Knights can now offer our members a larger group of lawyers covering a wider range of specific equine legal advice. We met Knights recently to review the working relationship and services and are always keen to hear from members about their experience of the service.

## Women In Racing



Included within this month's newsletter is a poster about Women in Racing. The network, which supports the career of women working in horseracing at all levels, would be very grateful if the poster could be please placed on your notice boards for staff to see who may be interested in finding out more and joining the organisation.

To find out more [www.womeninracing.co.uk](http://www.womeninracing.co.uk) @WomeninRacing1 #intherace



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## Misleading business rates form from the Valuation Office

You may have received a letter from the Valuation Office suggesting that you need to register with them in order to find out about the draft rateable value that will take effect for your business premises from 1st April 2017. Although it looks as if they are just asking for your email address, the form also asks for your address and there is a risk that small scale trainers might inadvertently highlight premises that have not been assessed. That would be followed by a visit from the Valuation Office.

Bill Simpson, our rates adviser, says trainers need not register as the rateable value information will be available online in October. The NTF is working with Bill Simpson and other experts on a strategy aimed at mitigating the potential effects of the commercial premises revaluation in 2017. This is likely to include an online survey in the near future of trainers who rent their stables.



## Racing gains from giving

A variety of people from across the world of British Racing have already registered their interest in getting involved in Give & Gain Day on 20th May, which was officially launched on the Business in the Community (BITC) website on the 18th January: <http://www.bitc.org.uk/programmes/give-gain-day> and via social media twitter @BITC.

For instance, Richard Fahey is hosting a small group of young people, who are on the National Citizenship programme, to meet the staff and learn more about life in the yard and a career with horses.

Please contact **Sean O'Connor** (Tel: 0207 152 0027, e-mail: [racingtogether@britishhorseracing.com](mailto:racingtogether@britishhorseracing.com)) to register your interest in being part of this year's event. You may also wish to get in touch with your local BITC contact to have them support you with running a project.

## NTF Rule changes approved, bar one

With one exception, the resolutions to change NTF rules were approved at the AGM on 25th February. The members asked that the Council reconsider the wording of the proposal to allow a licensed trainer's "spouse, partner or other family member" to be elected to the Council by a region. Although the proposal gave other Council members a veto, the members' opinion was that only licensed trainers should be eligible for election to the full Council.

## Regional meeting reports now online

We always appreciate the effort trainers make to come to the NTF's regional meetings. A rammed fixture list, business commitments and travel time don't make it easy. After last November's meetings, some members asked if notes from the meetings could be posted online for them to catch up on events.

You can now check the meeting minutes for your all the regions by clicking through to the meetings page on the NTF website.

George Noad is liaising with regional chairmen to fix the 2016 regional meeting dates. It is a serious logistical exercise trying to avoid local fixtures, sales dates and other industry events but we will post the dates as soon as possible.

## NTF Meeting Dates

Region	Date	Location
Council – Flat and NH Committee	Monday 18 April	London
Northern Region	Monday 20th June	
South West	Monday 27th June	Taunton
Central South	Monday 18th July	Oaksey House
East Region	Tuesday 19th July	Rowley Mile
South East Region	TBC	
West Midlands and Wales	TBC	
Council – Flat and NH Committee	Monday 1 August	London
Council – Flat and NH Committee	Monday 5 December	London



## Regulation deadlines

### 🛡️ Pension auto enrolment staging dates\*

- **1st June 2015 to 1st April 2017** for businesses with fewer than 30 employees.  
Date for each business depends on last two letters of the PAYE reference.

**\*Number of employees in PAYE scheme at April 2012. It is essential that you check your staging date on the Pension Regulator website using your full PAYE reference.**

- 🛡️ **1st April 2016** – Introduction of Living Wage, £7.20 per hour for time away from the yard outside normal working hours for those aged 25+
- 🛡️ **2nd April 2016** – all runners must enter the parade ring fully shod unless the trainers has been granted an exemption by the BHA
- 🛡️ **6th April 2016** – to justify the payment of allowances to stable staff when away from the yard, new systems must be used to record expenses paid
- 🛡️ **31st December 2016** – deadline to replace skull caps which do not comply with the [BHA Rule](#) as from the 1 January 2017 the only standard allowed by the BHA will be the PAS: 015 2011.

## Executive month, February and March 2016

Trainer representation by Rupert Arnold, Dawn Bacchus, Jill Crook and George Noad unless otherwise shown.

- 🛡️ NTF Annual General Meeting
- 🛡️ NTF NH Committee
- 🛡️ BHA Board
- 🛡️ BHA Members Committee
- 🛡️ BHA Racing Committee (S Mullins and R Beckett)
- 🛡️ BHA Racecourse Committee
- 🛡️ Racing to School Board
- 🛡️ Stud and Stable Staff Awards
- 🛡️ Racing Parliamentary reception
- 🛡️ NTF Charitable Trust meeting
- 🛡️ Horsemen's Group Board
- 🛡️ Fixtures Group x 2
- 🛡️ RIABS Trustees meeting
- 🛡️ AHT Equine Industry Committee
- 🛡️ Knights legal assistance review meeting
- 🛡️ Running and Riding Seminar
- 🛡️ Industry Insurances review
- 🛡️ Jockey Training and Development meeting
- 🛡️ BRS Trainers Course
- 🛡️ Horse waste renewable energy scheme
- 🛡️ Procurement project on bedding
- 🛡️ Clerk of Course accreditation



**National  
Trainers  
Federation**

9 High Street  
Lambourn  
Hungerford  
Berkshire  
RG17 8XL

Phone: 01488 71719  
Fax: 01488 73005  
E-mail:  
[info@racehorsetrainers.org](mailto:info@racehorsetrainers.org)  
[www.racehorsetrainers.org](http://www.racehorsetrainers.org)

**Employment helpline  
0845 900 3592**

**General legal helpline  
0845 900 3585**

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