

# Newsletter

The Voice of Britain's Racehorse Trainers



## Ann Duffield succeeds Seamus Mullins as NTF President

Our Annual General Meeting marks the end of a cycle for the NTF President. This year it was Seamus Mullins who ended his two-year term as President on 22nd February and the role passes now to our first female President, Ann Duffield. In view of the racing industry's vision for more diverse representation on governing boards, we can point to the fact that Emma Lavelle will assume the Presidency in 2019. In fact, one third of the NTF Council is now female.

You will be aware that the Presidential Triumvirate works as a succession plan for the Presidency and that the NTF aims to alternate codes and maintain geographical representations. With this in mind, the AGM confirmed the election of Ralph Beckett as the new member of the Triumvirate.

Several Council members are entering their final three-year term this year so 2019 will see a significant refresh among regional representatives. If you are interested in representing your region and contributing to NTF policy, please let us know by contacting Rupert Arnold.

## Lycetts Team Champion trainers tell a positive story

Thank you to all trainers who came to the AGM and the ceremony for the Lycetts Team Champion Awards. We welcome feedback about the format of the event and the NTF Council has already made some recommendations based on members' observations.

Congratulations to Nick Alexander and Warren Greatrex and their amazing teams, who were the first winners of the Lycetts Team Champion Award. The judges made it clear that competition for first prize was intense and the decisions were close. They were full of praise about the overall entry and excellent work on staff management and working environment demonstrated by trainers through the nomination forms, which in most cases had been completed collaboratively with the staff. We would therefore like to congratulate the thirty nine trainers who were awarded a star rating under the scoring system. Their names were displayed in the award brochure on the day and on a slide show running almost continuously during the AGM and lunch.

Social media coverage of the awards and the winners was extensive. Thanks to Lycetts publicity efforts and the live stream organised by Anderson and Co, we raised the profile of the award and the standard on which it is based – The Winning Approach.

A successful first year of the Lycetts Team Champion Award has given us strong evidence of the great working environment offered by trainers. This provides the ammunition we need to dispel the outdated ideas about working in racing yards, still prevalent even among industry leaders, and enable us to present positive stories for the media.

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## National Trainers Federation

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In the coming months we will review the award criteria and process; we would be very grateful for your feedback so that we can improve on the first edition and be sure that it is working to enhance your business.

### **Dedicated page on NTF website**

We are displaying the names of star rated trainers on a new page to promote the award within the NTF's website, <https://www.racehorsetrainers.org/industry/teamchampion.asp>. The page is packed with information about the award and The Winning Approach standard. If you didn't enter a nomination for the first award, you can find out what your yard needs to do to prepare for the 2019 award.

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## **Racing working proactively to address Brexit issues**

The headline Brexit issues for British horseracing and particularly for trainers are the continued free movement of people and horses. British racing has had a dedicated team working to a strategy for some time. It is spearheaded by the Thoroughbred Industries Brexit Steering Group, chaired by Julian Richmond Watson of the Thoroughbred Breeders Association.

There has been senior level engagement with European Commission institutions, working with European colleagues, particularly in France and Ireland. The three jurisdictions have met jointly with both European Commissioner for Agriculture, Phil Hogan, and representatives of Michel Barnier's Task Force 50 team co-ordinating negotiations on behalf of the European Union, to discuss thoroughbred movement issues.

The group is also engaging proactively with the UK Government at Ministerial and Official level, with Lord Gardiner (Defra Biosecurity Minister) who has publicly thanked representatives of the Steering Group "for the real engagement with Defra on the challenges and opportunities for the UK thoroughbred industries as we prepare to leave the EU."

With regard to access for EU workers, the BHA, NTF and TBA have provided evidence to DCMS and the Migration Advisory Committee arguing for continued access to skilled workers in the roles of racing grooms and work riders.

### **Draft Brexit transition deal agreed**

Towards the end of March, the UK and EU's negotiating teams reached a Draft Agreement on the withdrawal of the UK from the EU and the transition period through to 31 December 2020. Highlighted within the draft text as an area agreed by negotiators concerns the "movement of live animal or of germinal products between a Member State and the United Kingdom ... the provisions of Union law ... shall apply, provided that the date of departure was before the end of the transition period" [31 December 2020]. Based on the 'Union Law' listed within the Annex, we understand that this includes the continuation of the Tripartite Agreement – a derogation from EU law – to 31 December 2020 if the transition is agreed.

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*“There has been senior level engagement with European Commission institutions, working with European colleagues, particularly in France and Ireland.”*

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## New wage rates from 1st April 2018

We let you know by email on 28th February and in subsequent editions of NTFWeekly that from **1st April 2018**, most of the racing industry minimum pay rates will change following the agreement between the NTF and NARS outlined in the email from us.

This latest change occurred “mid-term” because the increases agreed at the standard review date of 1st October were on an interim basis pending further discussions about working patterns. The new rates are shown below.

| Pay Grade  | April 2018 figure hourly | April 2018 40 hours | April 2018 consolidated |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Scale 1 & 2<br>16 – 17 no increase                       | £4.28                    | £171.20             | n/a                     |
| Scale 1 & 2<br>18 – 20<br>Scale 3 16 - 20<br>Increase 2% | £5.91                    | £236.40             | £262.99                 |
| Scale 1 & 2 & 3<br>21 – 24<br>Increase 2%                | £7.42                    | £296.80             | £330.19                 |
| Scale 1 & 2 & 3<br>25 and over<br>Increase 2%            | £7.98                    | £319.20             | £355.11                 |
| Scale 4<br>1% increase                                   | £8.16                    | £326.40             | £363.12                 |
| Scale 5<br>1% increase                                   | £8.34                    | £333.60             | £371.13                 |
| Scale 6<br>1% increase                                   | £8.85                    | £354                | £393.82                 |
| Time away from yard outside normal working hours         | £7.83                    |                     |                         |

### Statutory payments change in April

The rate of Statutory Sick Pay increases to £92.05 per week from 6th April.

The rate of Statutory Maternity Pay, Statutory Paternity Pay and Statutory Adoption Pay all increase from 1st April 2017 to £145.18.

The Lower Earning Level increases to £116 per week.

## Opportunities to boost your employees' skills

The British Racing School still has places for both its Foundation Course and Ground Based Yard Staff Course running in March and April respectively. Should you have anyone wanting to make the transition from Yard Staff to Rider then the Foundation Course will give them the training to do so. Similarly, the Yard Staff course is a great course for someone who has little equine experience but wants to forge a new career in racing.

If you have any Under 19s on your payroll that need to be in training, these courses will give them the accreditation to work in racing in Britain as well as meeting the government requirement for post-16 education. Should you have a member of staff that wishes to apply, then apply online at [www.brs.org.uk](http://www.brs.org.uk) or alternatively give the recruitment team a call on **01638 675905**.



## Ayr novice chase qualification reminder

Remember that horses must have finished in the 1st eight in a weight-for-age chase during the current season to qualify to enter the £100,000 Novices Handicap Chase (race 32363) at Ayr on 21 April, Coral Scottish National Day.

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## Six-run restriction for novice flat races

Due to the uncompetitive nature of some of the new novice races for three year olds and up, the BHA is altering the definition of novice flat races for this age group with effect from the beginning of the Flat Season, 24 March 2018.

From that date, horses aged three years old and upwards which have won a race and have run more than six times will not be eligible for Novice Flat races (or as otherwise specified in the race conditions); maiden horses will continue to be eligible regardless of the number of previous runs they have had.

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## Auction cap in Median Auction races

In 2018, the auction cap (£20,000 above the media price) in median auction races will only apply to races restricted to 2yos and will be expanded to include all other median auction races in 2019. The revised wording for the rule reads:

Rule (F)4.6.4 a **Median Auction Maiden Race** if it is a flat race which is restricted to Maiden Horses which are the progeny of stallions which established a median price for the sale of yearlings contemporary with the entrants in the race based on the sale or bought in price of one or more animals at specified sales. In addition, two-year-old horses are excluded which have been sold or bought in by public auction under the hammer at specified sales at a price more than £20,000 above the median price stated in the race conditions.

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## Support for stayers in European Pattern changes

The European Pattern Committee has announced changes aimed at enhancing the attractiveness of breeding, buying, owning and racing quality horses which have an aptitude for stamina.

As the list of enhancements to the staying race programme and other changes to the Pattern agreed for 2018 are so extensive, we have listed them on the ntfmuse website. The easiest way to get to ntfmuse is from the link at the top of the left hand column on the NTF home page.

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## Optional Claiming Handicaps to be staged later this year

Racecourses have been offered the opportunity to stage a new race type. There will be up to 10 Optional Claiming Handicaps staged on the Flat in the second half of 2018.

Races will be worth £30,000 or more and connections of runners will be able to claim an allowance off their horse's rating, up to a maximum of 7lb; any horses claiming an allowance of weight will also be available to be claimed for a set claiming price. The claiming price will be prescribed according to the horse's age and rating. We will provide more details in our news in due course; in the meantime, for more information contact Mike Waring, [mwaring@britishhorseracing.com](mailto:mwaring@britishhorseracing.com)



## ROA enhances Owners Jackpot for 2018 with trainer prize

The ROA's successful Owners Jackpot, which every week offers a £2,000 bonus to the winner of a middle or lower tier horse race in Britain, is being enhanced further this year.

Four times a year one of the races, Jackpot+, receives special promotion and, in addition to the £2,000 bonus for the owner of each winning horse and champagne, travel expenses of £250 are paid out for every qualifying ROA-owned runner in the race. Hospitality for association members with or without a runner is also provided including a complimentary drink and light refreshments.

In 2018, a new bonus is being added to Jackpot+. If the Trainer of a qualifying winning horse in the Jackpot+ race is an ROA member, his or her yard will also receive £500. The remaining Jackpot+ days are at:

- 🏆 11 May - Market Rasen;
- 🏆 13 July - Chester (evening meeting);
- 🏆 24 October - Fontwell Park.

The ROA Owners Jackpot initiative, which is aimed at boosting grassroots racing, has been supported by the Racing Post since its inception in 2014.

Consistently the field sizes in ROA Jackpot races have outperformed the industry standard. A key focus for the ROA is the flow of funds to grassroots racing, and this is something that it and other members of the Horsemen's Group continue to work in partnership with racecourses and the BHA to develop.

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## British EBF 2017 review demonstrates investment in racing

The British EBF'S £1.6million investment in racing has been reported in the organisation's first dedicated annual review. The report can be read online at the <http://ebfstallions.com/news/> website.

Over 630 flat races carried EBF conditions in 2017, the races being confined to the progeny of stallions contributing income to the fund or individual horses "opted in" by their owners. The record breaking contribution to prize money covered races that held a total prize fund of £6,713,900. Of equal importance to the remit of the British EBF is a responsibility to NH racing; 84 jumps races were run in 2017 under the EBF banner supporting over £650,000 of prize money.

Working with the BHA and racecourses, the British EBF has developed a series of races to bolster industry initiatives to enhance the racing opportunities for fillies and staying juveniles. NH projects are focused on fillies' programmes but the ever popular EBF National Hunt Novice Hurdle Qualifier series with its valuable £75,000 final continues to be a flagship investment of this discipline.

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*“...84 jumps races were run in 2017 under the EBF banner supporting over £650,000 of prize money.”*

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## Communicating with the BHA Racecourse Department

You may have received an email message early in March from Emma Marley, BHA Head of Racecourse Operations, providing a single email address for racing participants to use for contacting her department about anything to do with racecourse matters. To drive departmental efficiencies in London, the BHA has today have launched a new email contact [racecourseops@britishhorseracing.com](mailto:racecourseops@britishhorseracing.com)

Please use this email address to communicate anything to do with raceday operations; for trainers this may include subjects such as starting/stalls/trainer %, stable yard integrity and sampling (EWIOs), weighing out/in procedures and queries (Scales), track set-up and going (Inspectorate), judging and any other operational aspects on a raceday.

For any important, sensitive or extremely urgent communications please still contact Emma Marley directly.

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## New Fixed Brush hurdles at Southwell

Since the meeting on the 19th March, Southwell has changed its Fixed Brush hurdles. The replacement hurdles have traditional birch backs and were formally used at Haydock, which reverted to traditional hurdles in 2017 due to maintenance costs and infrequent use of the Fixed Brush hurdles.

The existing Fixed Brush hurdles at Southwell are on rollers not wheels so are harder to move and have resulted in some compaction. They are also getting old and need replacing. Southwell will keep the birch in the Haydock hurdles and are not going to use plastic.

For further information please contact Clerk of the Course Roderick Duncan ([07772 958685](tel:07772958685)).

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## Reporting unsatisfactory cleaning of racecourse stables

We are reassured to note a couple of stewards' reports about Veterinary Officers having reported unhygienic conditions in sampling boxes that were not in a fit condition for use on raceday.

One was at Ascot on 17th February 2018 when the VO noticed that one of the two shavings sampling boxes had old droppings in it together with cobwebs in one corner. The other was at Leicester on 31st January 2018 when the VO raised concerns that it appeared someone had urinated in a sampling box prior to racing and therefore it could not be used due to a risk of contamination. In both cases a report was forwarded to the Head Office of the BHA for further consideration.

To ensure the same standards are applied to racecourse stables, please instruct your travelling staff to inspect stables before they take a horse into it and immediately report unhygienic stables to the VO. The NTF provides a form to make this reporting easy. It can be printed off the NTF website in the On the Racecourse section in the Members Area.

Also, please note again the absolute prohibition on stable employees urinating in any stables (at the racecourse or at home in the yard) to avoid contamination.

## Investigation into light weigh-ins

Two occurrences of jockeys weighing in light at Musselburgh and Leicester prompted us to ask the BHA to investigate the circumstances. This week we have received their reply below.

*“In summary, based on this data [we] can see no evidence of any fault with the software or scales. If there was a calibration issue then all weights would potentially be out by ½ pound, and, as it was at different courses on different days... this is unlikely....hundreds of weights are recorded every day by Clerks with no issues, [and] there is not a strong case for any system problem.”*

An interesting fact to emerge was that one of the jockeys weighed out 50 minutes before the race. We suggest that there is potentially a higher risk of a light weigh-in when jockeys weigh out very early. This is not necessarily because of any change in equipment but could be a result of the jockey's body weight changing marginally in that period due to dehydration or other reasons.

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## Changes to BHA General Instructions

The BHA General Instructions (BHAGIs) sit separately to the rules and dictate operational procedures, particularly on racecourses. We have highlighted below some recent changes that of special interest. The second is noteworthy following a recent high profile disciplinary case. The last will be welcomed by trainers who receive warnings of breaches of the Owners' Sponsorship Code due to ambush sponsorship by race sponsors. Although it is important for trainers and their travelling staff to understand and abide by the requirements of the Code, we have told the BHA racecourses must take more responsibility for controlling the action of race sponsors.

### **Removal of Hurdles due to Low Sun**

If it becomes necessary to bypass a flight or flights of hurdles due to low sun in a hurdle race that precedes a NH Flat Race, a flight or flights of hurdles may be removed so runners can run between the wings instead of following the by-pass route as indicated on the racecourse map. This will only happen when there is sufficient time for the ground to be reinstated and with the permission of the Stewards.

### **Retention of CCTV Footage**

On a number of occasions recently racecourses have been asked for their respective footage and found not to have retained it for the required period. As a result the BHA has updated the General Instructions so CCTV systems must be in operation in the Racecourse Stables (BHAGI 7.1) and the Weighing Room (BHAGI 8.3) and be retained for a minimum of 60 days and footage from the Weighing Room for a minimum of 28 days.

### **Greater Clarity for Race Sponsored Attendants Clothing**

Whenever attendants' clothing is going to be provided by the race sponsors it should be included in or added to the race conditions. If unable to add to the race conditions because it is past the 'post published changes' time, trainers with runners at the meeting/race (as applicable) must be advised directly.

The only two meetings where the acceptance of attendants' clothing is compulsory are the Aintree Grand National Festival and the Epsom Derby Festival. At all other meetings where attendants' clothing is provided racecourses must ensure that staff are fully aware that accepting and wearing the clothing is not mandatory and that they should not accept any clothing unless they are carrying another form of sponsorship relating to their owner/yard.



## Tracking down supplies of EHV vaccine

At the AHT Equine Industry Committee on 21st February the NTF enquired about the availability of EHV vaccine. For several years it has been difficult to obtain the vaccine but we had speculated that France Galop's introduction this year of mandatory vaccination for Equine Herpes Virus to race in France might have led to an increase in production.

In response to our enquiry Richard Newton of the AHT commented that Zoetis will be doing their utmost to ensure continuity of supply according to presumed increased demand, although they may not have made pledges that they will be able to guarantee it.

Apparently there has previously been a policy to prioritise supplies for breeding mares. If demand outstrips supply now there is a mandatory requirement for racing, it will be interesting to see if priorities change.

### Paid content

#### Support for equine nasal strips to be permitted in Britain

Dr. Jim Chiapetta, veterinarian and president of Flair, LLC maker of FLAIR® Equine Nasal Strips, was a guest speaker at the NTF's AGM on February 23, 2018. After his presentation Jim spent five days visiting racing yards in Britain and France to meet with trainers to understand their perspective on respiratory issues in racing and training and to educate them about FLAIR Strips. There is significant clinical research supporting the benefits of the Strips when used in racing and training to quicken recovery and reduce lung bleeding.

Currently, under BHA rules, nasal strips are permitted in training but not for use in flat or jump racing in Britain or other European countries. They are approved for use during racing in most other racing venues around the world as well as being approved for use by the FEI and most non-racing competitions around the world including at the Olympics.

At a meeting with the BHA Veterinary Committee in January, Jim learned one of their reasons for maintaining the ban on Strip use is that trainers were not asking that they be permitted for use in racing.

*"We ask that trainers make their support for nasal strip use during racing known to the BHA and NTF leadership" Jim stated. "One of the best ways to support approval is for trainers to use Strips during training to gather first-hand experience that can be delivered to the BHA. Our company is aligned with equine regulatory bodies around the globe who believe that easy breathing and reducing lung bleeding are issues that should be addressed during training and racing for the welfare of the horse and to maintain positive perception of the industry by the public."*

Like a tongue tie or wind surgery the nasal Strip improves airflow through the upper airway. It functions by providing support of the nasal passages, which contrary to what many people believe, is the narrowest part of the upper airway during intensive exercise.

In addition to Strips provided to attendees at the AGM, all NTF members are receiving a complimentary Strip with this newsletter. Jim asks that trainers use the Strip in training, learn more about the Strips at [www.flairstrips.com](http://www.flairstrips.com), and ask the BHA to approve the Strips during racing for the good of the horse and the industry.

NTF members may contact UK Flair Representative Lou Johnston at [lou@flairstrips.com](mailto:lou@flairstrips.com) for additional complimentary Strips and a demo on Strip application at their yards.

## General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

As members will know, the GDPR regulations coming into force on 25th May 2018 require all businesses to look at how they use and protect the personal data of individuals, and put in place new systems and processes. As the next part of our series of advice to help you get ready for GDPR, we have prepared a “steps to take” information sheet and guidance upon identifying the lawful basis for processing your employee’s personal data. These- along with our other advice upon GDPR and links to the Information Commissioner’s Office’s guidance documents – can be found in the dedicated area of our website via the large link on the home page, [https://www.racehorsetrainers.org/members/data\\_protection.asp](https://www.racehorsetrainers.org/members/data_protection.asp).

More information and template documents will be issued by the NTF over the coming weeks to help you with GDPR and a template data protection policy will be available on the website. Members should look out for our weekly email and MUSE updates on this subject.

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### GDPR (2) – Keeping records

This article is the second in our series on the General Data Protection Regulations coming into force on 25th May 2018 and is about keeping records. Employers need to put in place their business policy for data retention – so how long do you keep records for?

The basic rule is that employment records should only be kept for a particular purpose and should not be kept longer than is necessary for that purpose. How long is necessary is not always clear but it is balancing the risks and liabilities associated with keeping or destroying information.

For example, an employee generally has 3 months and occasionally 6 months to bring an employment tribunal claim, so looking at the risks, a decision may be made that most employment records are deleted six months or so after the termination of the employment, particularly those documents which could be described as mundane.

However, some information must be kept much longer – such as information relating to future personal injury claims for which a 6-year period may be appropriate although in some circumstances much longer may be advisable. Payroll and wage records must be kept for six years from the financial year end in which payment were made (Financial Act 1998) and immigration checks should be kept for two years after the termination of employment.

There are other set or advised retention periods. As indicated above, there may not necessarily be one set answer to “how long” but businesses should have a policy in place which sets out their practices.

Further information on this is available on the NTF website and over the coming months more information, including templates, will be provided to help members with this complex subject.

Remember that when deleting data, it must go from all places where it is stored. If an email about a job applicant has been circulated around members of the business, then all recipients must be aware of the data retention policy and the date when it should be reviewed or deleted.

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*“...businesses should have a policy in place which sets out their practices.”*

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## Double charging for ownership registration to cease

We have been contacted by several trainers about the double charging for certain ownership registrations relating to partnerships since the new ownership structures came into effect at the end of last year. The problem seems to be that changing one partner for another gives rise to a charge for each partner.

After investigating, the ROA has told us that the BHA plans to change the charging system from 21st March, the earliest they can do the necessary computer development. The plan is to remove the fee for taking an individual out of a partnership, but retain the fee for adding someone in. Therefore, there will be a charge for making a partnership larger, but no charge will be levied if it is being made smaller.

For example, if one partner exits a partnership and is replaced by another, it would only cost £90 + vat instead of the current charge of £180 + vat.

If you have examples of double charging, please contact the BHA who may offer a reimbursement on a case by case basis.

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## The ROA Trainer Pack: updated chapters

During March 2017 the ROA released the first edition of their Trainer Pack. Hopefully this has proved to be a useful resource in your office and has assisted you and your office team with the various administrative elements that come with owners buying a racehorse, as well as providing answers to questions relating to ownership processes and benefits.

As you know, various administrative processes affecting owners have changed within the past 12 months. Therefore, please find enclosed with this newsletter the updated chapters which replace the outdated information within your Pack. The chapters that have been updated are as follows:

- 🏆 Owner Registrations (Chapter 1)
- 🏆 Syndication (Chapter 2)
- 🏆 Sponsorship & VAT (Chapter 4)
- 🏆 Discounted BHA Fees (Chapter 5)
- 🏆 Raceday (Chapter 6)
- 🏆 Owners Jackpot (Chapter 7)

All other chapters remain unaltered, so please do leave those pages intact within your Pack. Please contact the ROA on 020 7152 0200 or email [cmartin@roa.co.uk](mailto:cmartin@roa.co.uk) if you have any queries or feedback on the Trainer Pack, or if you would like to request additional copies.

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## Clarification on increases in auto enrolment contributions

Under the phasing arrangements for pension contributions to auto enrolment schemes, employee contributions will increase from April. Please speak to your pension adviser for more details about how this applies to your scheme.

We have been asked whether employer contributions will also increase. The answer is that there is no requirement for the contribution rate to exceed the current 2% for the time being. When auto enrolment began, the NTF and NASS agreed that both employer and employee should pay 2% of relevant earnings in to the scheme to ensure that there was no discrimination against employees who, through the previous industry arrangements, were already receiving in excess of the required minimum amounts set out in the legislation.

## Inform Weatherbys to avoid industry pension scheme contributions

Most, if not all trainers, will now have set up an auto enrolment scheme for their stable staff. If you have auto enrolled and not advised Weatherbys, you need to do so without delay and all members are advised to check the information received from Weatherbys to ensure that no monies are collected that should not be.

The last staging date for auto enrolment was 1st February although employers can postpone for up to a period of 3 months. We anticipate the recent 1st March run for the Aviva (Friends Life) industry stakeholder scheme being the last run where contributions are collected into the industry scheme. If you have any queries on contributions collected, then please speak to Weatherbys or to Dawn Bacchus at the NTF office.

Now that national legislation requires all trainers to make pension contributions to stable employees, the NTF will be liaising with the BHA about deleting the rule of racing that makes employer contributions to the industry scheme mandatory.

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## RIABS contributions to rise from 1st April 2018

A small increase in the weekly contributions to the Racing Industry Accident Benefit Scheme (RIABS) has been necessary due to the rising cost of claims.

At the RIABS trustees' meeting held on 20th March, advisers Bluefin showed the effect of an upward trend in claim costs although the number of claims is not rising despite an increase of 3% in the number of "members" of the scheme, i.e. paid stable employees. Other factors driving the need for a contribution increase are wage growth and loss adjuster costs.

The trustees have agreed to lift the contributions by 25p per week from both employer and employee from the 1st April 2018. The weekly employee contribution will therefore be £2.62 (from £2.37) per employee registered as paid.

The annual employer contribution will also now be £2.62 (from £2.37.) This amounts to £136.24 per annum per employee registered as paid at 1st April 2018.

The NTF and NARS believe this is a small price to pay for a scheme which delivers excellent benefits and value for money. The maximum weekly benefit has also been increased to £400.

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## Help shape future Licence Criteria

A review of Trainer licensing is underway and the BHA is asking for your help to shape the licensing criteria. Recommendations from the survey will be presented to stakeholder groups in the Summer ready for implementation by November 2018.

You should have received an email from the review team requesting your feedback on the content and presentation of the current Trainers licensing criteria. At present, this information is set out in a document called "Applications for a Licence to Train – Guidance Notes". You can complete the survey form online at

<https://britishhorseracing.wufoo.eu/forms/trainers-licensing-criteria-review-survey/>

This form is anonymous, your name will not be requested. The BHA will use the data collected to improve the format and content of the criteria. Please submit the survey by Wednesday 18th April 2018. If you would like to discuss the survey with the BHA in more detail please email them on [licensing@britishhorseracing.com](mailto:licensing@britishhorseracing.com).

The BHA's objective is to ensure that the Trainer licensing criteria is relevant to the profession and fit for purpose. They also wish to make sure that the criteria are published in a clear, concise and easily accessible manner.



## Rule changes from 2nd April 2018

### **Application of ice pre-race, on raceday in the racecourse stables**

The application of ice has a short-term analgesic (pain-killing) effect in the horse so rule (C)33 has been changed to prevent the icing of horses pre-race in the racecourse stables on raceday unless a Veterinary Officer grants a special dispensation. The rule now states,

*Restrictions applying in relation to a horse whilst on racecourse property 33.8*

*It is not permissible to stand a horse in ice or iced water, nor is it permissible to apply a cooling device to any part of the horse (including ice boots or bandages, or ice bags), unless a Veterinary Officer. The use of such treatments is permitted post-race or following withdrawal from a race.*

### **Manipulative therapy**

Manipulative therapy may have a short-term analgesic (pain-killing) effect in the horse. Rule (C) 33 has been changed to prevent any horse receiving Manipulative Therapy on raceday. During the consultation it was interesting to note that no request to use manipulative therapy has been made in the last three years. The rule now states

*33A.1 On the day of the race in which the horse is declared to run, it is not permissible for the horse to receive Manipulative Therapy until such time as the horse has either run in the race or has been withdrawn.*

*33A.2 In this Rule, Manipulative Therapy includes physiotherapy, osteopathy, chiropractic and acupuncture.*

### **Cyclosporine implants notification**

Cyclosporine implants are used in the treatment of immune mediated corneal disease and autoimmune uveitis. A suprachoroidal cyclosporine implant is a device which delivers a sustained therapeutic level of cyclosporine and studies have shown that uptake of the implanted drug is poor. To place and remove the implants, horses must undergo ocular surgery under general anaesthetic. It is not considered to be in the interests of horse welfare to mandate that they must be removed for racing.

*Addition to Schedule (B)3*

*8.1 The horse must not have any implant apart from one that is pharmacologically inactive.*

*8.2 Paragraph 8.1 does not apply where the implant is a suprachoroidal cyclosporine implant for the treatment of immune mediated corneal disease or autoimmune uveitis in specific, documented and monitored cases.*

*Additional Rule (C)17D*

*17D Information about suprachoroidal cyclosporine implants*

*17D.1 Where a horse undergoes surgery for the placement of a suprachoroidal cyclosporine implant, a Licensed or Permitted Trainer must notify the BHA Equine Health and Welfare Department within 7 days of surgery with a certificate, signed by a veterinary surgeon to this effect.*

### **Pre-race parades**

The requirement for pre-race parades to be conducted in racecard order has been removed. Parades must now be conducted in the order stipulated by the racecourse managing executive.

*Amendment to Rule (B)30*

*30.4 Any parade must take place in the order requested by the racecourse managing executive.*

*30.5.2 Trainers, Riders and horse attendants must make every effort to assist racecourse officials in maintaining the Parade order requested by the racecourse managing executive in the pre-Parade ring, Parade Ring and during the Parade itself and, where possible, horses should be mounted on the move to assist in this respect.*

### Stand down for horses withdrawn by stewards in veterinary advice

Horses that are withdrawn by the Stewards on veterinary grounds will now be subject to the same three-day restriction as horses declared as non-runners with a vet's certificate. During the consultation the NTF pointed out that sometimes a horse withdrawn by the stewards turns out not to have a problem and this new rule would needlessly prevent such horses from running soon after. The Rule Committee preferred to disregard this point.

*Amendment to Rule (B)6*

*6.4 Any horse withdrawn under paragraph 6.1.9 or 6.1.13 will be suspended from running in future races in Great Britain for the period of three days, starting with the day of the race.*

### Penalty for owner's sponsorship infringement

The penalty structure for breaches of the sponsorship code of conduct has been revised so it is now applied over a rolling 12-month period, rather than records being wiped clean annually on 31st December. The penalty structure also now pays cognisance to the number of breaches in relation to the number of runners, by increasing the number of warnings a trainer will receive.

*1st to 3rd Offence\* – Warning*

*4th offence onwards – A*

*\*(extra warning for 750 runners and every 250 runners thereafter)*

Trainers can check the sponsorship registered for every horse in their yard by hovering on the icon after the horse's name on the new Racing Admin Site. If the registration is incorrect, the error should be taken up with the Sponsorship Desk at Weatherbys. If the error relates to a horse running that day, the Judge on the respective racecourse should be spoken to in advance of the race.

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## Regulation deadlines

- 🛡️ **24th March 2018** – £20,000 cap applies to Median Auction Maiden races.  
See Forthcoming rule changes on BHA Online Rule Book.
- 🛡️ **1st April 2018** – mandatory Equine Herpes vaccination to race in France
- 🛡️ **1st April 2018** – new racing industry minimum pay rates (see above.)
- 🛡️ **2nd April 2018** – ice or cooling devices cannot be applied to a horse on raceday in the racecourse stables, unless a VO had given dispensation
- 🛡️ **2nd April 2018** – manipulative therapy no longer allowed in racecourse stables on a raceday
- 🛡️ **2nd April 2018** – notification of suprachoroidal cyclosporine implants
- 🛡️ **2nd April 2018** – 3-day stand down for horses withdrawn by stewards on veterinary advice

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## Owners to increase their contribution to Retraining of Racehorses

Britain's racehorse owners are to increase their automatic financial contribution to the welfare of retired racehorses from March 1st, 2018. This is the first time there has been increase in the contribution since 2009. Last year owners contributed £202,856 to the charity.

In consultation with the BHA, the Board of the ROA has agreed that the levy charged to owners every time a horse is entered in a race will be raised from £1 to £1.25 from 1st March.



## WEATHERBYS RACING BANK HERE TO HELP



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There are a variety of ways that Weatherbys Racing Bank can help your business. Whether it's helping you to make your owner's life easier through the ownership registration and VAT application process. Or providing services to assist your cash flow, competitive foreign exchange rates or by simply being at the end of the phone to answer any questions – Weatherbys Racing Bank always goes the extra mile.

### Did you know?

With a Weatherbys Racing Bank account you and your owners can always speak to one of our expert team with any questions you may have.

Whilst the new BHA Racing Admin site does not prompt your owners to open a Weatherbys Racing Bank account, your owners can still apply directly with our new accounts team on **+44 (0)1933 304777** or by email [racingbank@weatherbys.co.uk](mailto:racingbank@weatherbys.co.uk). By contacting the team directly your owners can open their accounts prior to registering with the BHA, enabling their finances to be in place before the first bill. Getting your owners finances in order as the first step is a huge benefit, especially for partnerships and syndicates when collecting member's funds.

A further benefit for a Weatherbys Racing Bank account is that you and your owners can access prize money as soon as it is released under Rule (currently 15 days after races). A BHA invoice account pays out prize money just once a month which could be up to six weeks after the race!

Setting up a Weatherbys Racing Bank account could not be easier and can now be completed online. Contact us to sign up at [racingbank@weatherbys.co.uk](mailto:racingbank@weatherbys.co.uk).

The Weatherbys Racing Bank team is here to help, we have a simple New Owner Guide to save you time and make your owners first experience of racing a great one. This will be sent to you shortly, along with our new Weatherbys Racing Bank brochure and both can be easily forwarded to your owners when needed.

The New Owner Guide helps your owners get it right from the beginning by providing helpful information and contact details. The guide covers various areas including the training agreement, our invoice payment service, banking products for their racing finances, the racehorse owners VAT scheme and much more.

### Racing Plus

Launched in 2018, Racing Plus is available to owners, trainers and bloodstock professionals. Racing Plus offers the same exceptional personal service of the Weatherbys Racing Bank with a host of extra benefits including a debit card, reduced line charges, 20% VAT services discount and direct access to the dedicated Racing Bank team.

### Invoice Payment Service

Our unique Invoice Payment Service is available to all owners with a Weatherbys Racing Bank account and enables your owners to settle their training fees with ease. This gives owners complete peace of mind, whilst assisting trainers to manage their cash flow.

To set up this service all you need to do is send the Invoice Payment Mandate to your owners to complete and return it to our team. Copies of the mandate can be obtained from <https://www.weatherbys.bank/racing-bank/invoice-payment-service> or contact us at [tfm@weatherbys.co.uk](mailto:tfm@weatherbys.co.uk).

### Here to help

If you would like to discuss how Weatherbys Racing Bank can help you please call Tom Jonason or Louise Norman on **+44 (0)1933 304777** or email [racingbank@weatherbys.co.uk](mailto:racingbank@weatherbys.co.uk).

## Racing Secretaries Lunch

Weatherbys Racing Bank is holding a series of lunches for racing secretaries and office staff around the country. Upcoming events include Newmarket and Thirsk, so if you would like to join us for lunch and a fun afternoon of racing please contact Tom Jonason: [tjonason@weatherbys.co.uk](mailto:tjonason@weatherbys.co.uk) mobile: **+44 (0)7786 634705**

## Developing your staff

### Yard Managers Course

A 2-day management course suitable for anyone supervising staff in a racing yard/stud farm will run on **May 14th - 15th**. For further information and an application form, please contact Di Farrell-Thomas at the British Racing School on **01638 675907** or email: [Di.Farrell-Thomas@brs.org.uk](mailto:Di.Farrell-Thomas@brs.org.uk)

### Bookkeeping/SAGE

The British Racing School will be running a book keeping course for people in racing on **June 30th - July 2nd**.

Delegates will spend the whole day with the Finance Director of the BRS learning about book keeping in a racing yard. The second day of the course will be spent learning about the accounts programme SAGE. This course is suitable for existing secretaries or anyone considering working as a racing secretary, who would like to improve their CV and make themselves invaluable to a trainer. For more information please contact Di Farrell-Thomas on 01638 675907 or email: [Di.Farrell-Thomas@brs.org.uk](mailto:Di.Farrell-Thomas@brs.org.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](mailto:trainers@racinguk.com).



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**Employment helpline**  
**01488 71729**

**Any other legal enquiry**  
**0333 003 0159**

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## NTF meeting dates

| Region                 | Date               | Venue                       |
|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| North                  | Monday 25th June   | Ripon Racecourse            |
| South West             | Monday 2nd July    | Taunton Racecourse          |
| East                   | Wednesday 4th July | Rowley Mile, Newmarket      |
| South East             | Monday 16th July   | Epsom Racecourse            |
| Central South          | Monday 23rd July   | Oaksey House, Lambourn      |
| West Midland and Wales | Monday 30th July   | Wolverhampton before racing |
| NTF COUNCIL            | Monday 6th August  | London                      |



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