

Newsletter

The Voice of Britain's Racehorse Trainers



NTF leads summit meeting on stable staff shortage

On Tuesday 21st April the NTF led a summit meeting of key people in racing's recruitment and training activities with the aim of agreeing action to ensure there are sufficient skilled stable staff to service the sport. The initiative was supported by the BHA, whose Director of People and Development, Carole Goldsmith, was present with a diverse group of trainers and the leaders of industry training providers.

It was especially apt that the meeting followed the BHA's Industry Update, which featured a progress report on the strategy for growth. A shortage of skilled employees will hinder growth, particularly for those trainers whose businesses are expanding.

The discussion covered the trainers' current experience, available employment data and requirements, and development of strategy over the last eighteen months. There was recognition of the social, educational, demographic and political reasons for the availability of staff; this is exacerbated by the miniscule budget for career marketing relative to other industries. A number of common and familiar themes were clear but some new approaches to recruitment, retention and employment practices are needed. These have been integrated with the existing strategy to establish short, medium and long term plans for action.

On 18th May, the NTF launched a survey of members for two purposes. First, the summit agreed it was important to have reliable data about the numbers of additional employees needed by trainers. Second, if we are to persuade decision makers of the need for support, we need to produce evidence to back our case. The deadline for completion was 5th June but if you didn't reply to the survey, do call us with some details of your experience. It all helps to complete the picture.

Start planning early for Auto Enrolment to avoid a fine

Don't underestimate the length of time you need to plan for Auto Enrolment before your staging date. Starting early not only means you will be under less pressure to get organised, it may also cost you less. It is common for consultants to charge higher rates to set up your scheme the closer you are to staging date.

The Pension Regulator's (TPR) experience to date also shows that employers should begin gathering the information they need to complete their declaration of compliance well in advance of their deadline. Read the NTF's Auto Enrolment Guide in the Information – Business section in the members' area of our website.

continued on page 2

National Trainers Federation

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Inside this issue

Industry News	2
Race Planning	3
On the Racecourse.....	5
Employment Matters	8
Veterinary Notes	11
Membership	15

Articles of Special Interest

Don't miss out on Plus 10.....	3
Impact on chasers' ratings.....	4
Stable staff charity race.....	5
Avoiding a positive test ...	11
Equine anti-doping	12
Cobalt awareness.....	14

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continued from page 1

The TPR website is a useful place to get advice and information. For instance it has a page to help you create an action plan for introducing your scheme. A TPR survey showed 22% of employers who are due to stage between June and November this year haven't yet drawn up a plan to meet their new automatic enrolment duties.

The number of employers approaching the date when they must confirm that they have complied with new workplace pensions duties (known as a declaration of compliance) is now beginning to rise significantly as Auto Enrolment is rolled out across all employers. In future months, TPR expects to see more employers who, despite the message to prepare early, leave it too late or do not comply at all.

TPR is fining employers who fail to meet their legal obligations. 166 Fixed Penalty Notices of £400 have been issued to employers who failed to meet their obligations in the last quarter of 2014.

Levy Board plans to reduce spending in 2016

As expected, the Levy Board (HBLB) forecast expenditure cuts for 2016 when it announced its latest business plan in May. This follows discussions with racing and agreement to find savings of £4m. Cuts are needed because of ongoing decline in levy yield from British bookmakers.

The HBLB decided last year to maintain 2015 expenditure at broadly similar levels to 2014, in the knowledge that this would very likely incur a deficit for both the 2014/15 and 2015/16 Levy years. These deficits will be met from the Board's reserves. Exactly which areas of spending would be cut and by how much has still to be decided. The BHA, Horsemen's Group and RCA (collectively representing racing) aim to agree a united position to put to the HBLB.



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"As an update on the body protector side – we are doing our utmost to supply trainers with updated body protectors as quickly as possible & to meet the high volume of orders. The BHA are fully aware of the situation and their licensing teams are working on the basis that as long as trainers can show an order is in place to update their body protectors, then no further action will be taken. We apologise for any inconvenience the delays have caused and thank trainers for their patience."

Plus 10 – Don't miss out on £10K!

Since the beginning of the Flat season, Plus 10 qualified two-year-olds have won 25 British bonus races and amassed £250,000 in bonus prize money for connections.

With the vast majority of bonus wins occurring across Class 2-4 Maiden and Class 5 Fillies Only Maiden races, there remain a great many opportunities to win a Plus 10 £10,000 bonus in a two-year-old Class 2-4 Conditions or Novice race and significantly boost a horse's racetrack earnings up until the end of June.

Date	Racecourse	Sex	Distance	Plus 10 Winners' Prize Money (£)*
06/06/2015	MUSSELBURGH	All	5f	28,675
24/06/2015	SALISBURY	All	6f	17,115
28/06/2015	WINDSOR	F	5f10y	19,960
29/06/2015	PONTEFRACT	All	6f	21,205
12/06/2015	CHEPSTOW	All	6f16y	14,851
17/06/2015	CHELMSFORD CITY	All	5f	16,469
24/06/2015	KEMPTON PARK	All	6f	14,357
25/06/2015	NEWCASTLE	All	6f	14,528
26/06/2015	DONCASTER	All	7f	13,752
27/06/2015	CHESTER	All	5f16y	16,469

Two-year-old races to feature a £10,000 bonus in Britain:

- **All Class 2-4 Conditions races**
- **All Class 2-4 Novice races**
- All Class 2-4 Maiden (Open, Auction and Median Auction) races
- All Class 5 Fillies Only Maiden races

British-trained horses can also compete for Plus 10 bonuses in Ireland where there are 100 bonuses available on all two-year-old, non-black-type races (Open Maiden, Auction Maiden, Median Auction Maiden, Nursery and Winners) rolled over until all are won.

Jockey riding fee payment for non-runners

Although it was reported at the time of the negotiation, some trainers may be unaware that as a result of the annual negotiations between the ROA and PJA over riding fees, a booked jockey receives a partial payment (40%) of the riding fee if the horse is declared a non-runner after 9.00am on the day of the race. This arrangement is in place of an increase in the riding fee across the board.

The deal was struck at the end of 2014 and came into play at the start of the year. The NTF Council suggested a deadline of 10.00am to fit in with the normal declaration time but the ROA and PJA's calculations shows that 9.00am created the best balance between the forecast cost of the partial riding fee against the cost of an inflationary increase in the riding fee for all jockeys.



Impact on ratings of a chaser running in a non-handicap race

As you all know, increasing field sizes was a central objective in the BHA's 2015 fixture policy. In particular figures show that field sizes in steeplechases have been on a downward trend since 2010 and in recent years the BHA has altered handicap eligibility rules for chases to improve the number of runners in novices' chases.

One factor trainers often cite for their reluctance to run in weight for age chases is the reaction of handicappers, especially if a horse is placed behind a budding star from one of the big yards. We are now able to publicise data from the BHA that demonstrates that in non-handicap chases, on average, placed horses' ratings remain unchanged or are dropped.

These are the figures for races for 3m+:

	Winners	Seconds	Thirds	Fourth	Fifths	Others	Total
Number increased	27	9	3	3	0	1	43
Total increase	172	34	7	11	0	1	225
Average increase	6.4	3.8	2.3	3.7	0.0	1.0	5.2
Number left unchanged	21	23	17	12	15	22	110
Number dropped	1	15	24	24	13	39	116
Total drop	-5	-39	-92	-104	-55	-154	-449
Average drop	-5.0	-2.6	-3.8	-4.3	-4.2	-3.9	-3.9
All	49	47	44	39	28	62	269
Total change	167	-5	-85	-93	-55	-153	-224
Average change	3.4	-0.1	-1.9	-2.4	-2.0	-2.5	-0.8

These figures were for races between 30 April 2014 and 17 March 2015 (with Hunter Chases excluded). Although, the figures vary a little depending on distance range, the overall picture holds true for all distances.

In summary

- On average the only finishing position that is subject to a raised rating is the winner
- 60% of runners are left unchanged following a run in a non-handicap
- 14% of runners are raised following a run in a non-handicap
- 27% of runners are dropped following a run in a non-handicap
- The total change to ratings resulting from 800 non-handicap runs is a drop of 187 lbs

Averages always have to be treated with some caution when analysing statistics. They miss the impact on the individual and trainers are most likely to be influenced by the experience of their particular horses.

It is also fair to point out that if, because of their fears of a big hike in rating, trainers are generally in the habit of avoiding non-handicap races with horses that are improving, the BHA's statistics won't capture the type of performance that would lead to an increase in ratings for placed horses.

Even so, the BHA's figures certainly deserve to be publicised prominently so that perceptions can be questioned. Perhaps with this insight, trainers will be more at ease with supporting non-handicap chases.



Reward your best riders with an entry in the stable staff charity race

The inaugural running of the Clock Tower Cup, a charity race fundraiser for Racing Welfare with runners to be ridden by stable staff, takes place on Friday 26th June at Doncaster Racecourse. This is a wonderful innovation giving stable employees a chance to realise a dream and show their skills.

The trainer of the horse and in turn, the employer of the stable staff, must make the nomination. An information and nomination form with all the details trainers need was attached to the NTF Weekly email on 14th May and can also be obtained from Joe Morgan at Racing Welfare on jmorgan@racingwelfare.co.uk, telephone 01638 560763. Twelve riders will be chosen and notified by Friday 12th June, with 2 reserves. The race is over 7f on the flat with a flag start.

Successful riders will agree to meet the minimum sponsorship pledge of £200 which must be banked with Racing Welfare by Monday, 15th June. Personal injury insurance cover for all riders has been arranged. We hope you will give this initiative your full support.

Pre-race stalls assessments for any unraced horse

Gary Witheford's new barrier trials are a great initiative and are not surprisingly popular with trainers. Unlike the official pre-race stalls assessments, they allow more than one horse to be loaded and jumped out together.

The barrier trials are not just for problem horses, nor 2 year olds; any horse can come along just for experience or confidence and they are permitted to gallop afterwards. For online booking go to <http://garywitheford.co.uk/booktrials.html>. The arrangements are slightly different for sessions at Southwell and Lingfield.

Pre-race stalls assessments

The BHA's pre-race stalls assessments have the benefit that the starters get prior knowledge of any horse that needs special treatment and can make sure they receive this when they do come to race. The horse may also qualify for a late load without incurring a criteria failure. **They are available**

for any unraced horse, not just for two year olds. Booking a pre-race stalls assessment is done in the same way as for stalls tests.

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

“...horses that have already raced are also now allowed to undergo an assessment....”



Understanding the rules on running and riding offences

After a period with very few running and riding breaches, there have been a number recently so we thought it sensible to remind trainers of the key rules.

The main requirements are:

- Rule (B) 58 requires every horse to be run and to be seen to run on its merits
- Rule (C) 45 the trainer must give adequate instructions so as to ensure the horse runs on its merits
and a trainer must not send any horse to race with a view to schooling or conditioning the horse.
- Rule (C)45.4.3 provides that if a trainer can show that he gave appropriate instructions and the trainer can show the jockey failed to comply with them, the trainer may not be found in breach.
- Rule (C)46 If the trainer is unable to attend the meeting, he must authorise a person to represent him, that person must know the riding instructions, must be authorised by the trainer and must be able to inform the Stewards whether the rider has complied with such instructions.

Schooling and conditioning in public

The BHA guidelines on penalties and procedures states that these will often be where a horse is running first time out or returning after a lengthy absence or having a confidence restoring run or a horse being educated after a problem on a previous run.

Where a horse is returning after an absence or a problem, the horse still has to run on its merits – it cannot be protected from being put in the race or being asked to compete. The horse is not there for education or to get its confidence, even if in practice those may be a by-product of the run.

Remember the jockey has to be able to show that he asked the horse for a “timely, real and substantial effort” and that it was ridden to obtain the best possible placing.

Instructions

The instructions must be such as to ensure the horse runs on its merits. Instructions which might be suitable for an experienced senior jockey are unlikely to be comprehensive enough for a jockey with less experience and instructions must cover the use of the whip when employing an apprentice or conditional jockey.

Trainers need to ask themselves when giving instructions to a jockey, would those instructions “stand up” to scrutiny in a running and riding enquiry? Would you be able to say whether or not the jockey rode to those instructions and if the jockey didn’t, could you say clearly where and when he or she didn’t? If the jockey does not “ride to the rules” and is found in breach, unless the Trainer can show that the instructions were adequate and that the jockey failed to comply with them, the trainer will be found in breach.

Reporting obligations

The reporting obligations for trainer, jockey and delegating such reporting obligations to jockeys are set out in rules (C) 34 and (D) 49.

Trainers are also reminded of the obligation on jockeys to pull a horse up where the horse is lame or injured. Where the horse is lame or injured, the jockey must dismount immediately and must not ride to a finish.

Racing pregnant mares

The rules of racing already say that mares cannot race if more than 120 days pregnant. To provide more certainty that this will not happen, a new rule took effect from 1st May whereby the owner must inform Weatherbys within 25 days of the last covering date if a horse he owns is pregnant and is (or is going into) in training.

Bedding allowance at the racecourse

If you have ever wanted your horse to have more bedding in its stable at the racecourse but been afraid to ask, don't be.

BHA General Instructions 7.1, paragraph 16 states "a bedding store with a notice indicating its location is to be available in the Official Racecourse Stable, in case additional fresh bedding is needed." So if your horse needs more bedding, there should be information in the stabling area to help you find it.

Incidentally, the Instruction goes on to say "All soiled bedding...is to be suitably contained and not to be kept within the immediate proximity of stabled horses." This is a reminder that if the stable allocated to your horse contains any dirty bedding, you or your travelling staff should notify the Veterinary Officer immediately on the day and use the special form provided by the NTF. A supply can be downloaded from our website under Information – On the Racecourse – Report of Unsatisfactory Cleaning.

"...a horse...can't be protected from being put in the race or being asked to compete."

Equipment lost in the weighing room

Items of equipment that have been lost in the weighing room and jockeys' changing room may be tracked down by contacting the valets on duty at that meeting. Chris Maude usually knows which the relevant valet would be. You can contact him on 07831 094601.

Newmarket Clerk of the Course phone number

Please note that in the NTF Racing Diary the mobile phone number for Michael Prosser, Clerk of the Course at Newmarket, is wrong by one digit. The correct number is **07802 844578**.



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Auto Enrolment – staging dates for small employers

We have had a few calls about staging dates from trainers who employ the fewest employees. They have been under the impression that if they had fewer than 30 employees on 1st April 2012 then their staging date would be 1st June 2015. Confusion follows when The Pension Regulator tells them they have a later staging date.

The NTF's Auto Enrolment Guide makes it clear that for the smallest employers (those who had fewer than 30 employees in their PAYE scheme on 1st April 2012), the staging date will be between 1st June 2015 and 1st April 2017 and each case depends on the last two letters of the employer's PAYE reference. The Regulation Deadlines item in NTFW has the same information but we have revised it slightly to try to make it even clearer.

The Pension Regulator (TPR) has put together a 11-step guide for small employers to help them through the process of auto enrolment for workplace pension schemes. According to TPR the online guide has been written specifically for employers with between one and 50 employees. You can access the guide on TPR's website in the employers' section.

What about employees' funds in the existing NTF Friends Life Stakeholder Scheme?

With some changes to pension legislation coming into force recently, we have received calls from trainers on behalf of their employees regarding taking their NTF stakeholder funds – this is the Friends Life pension which has been the stable staff scheme since 2001.

It is likely that funds in the Friends Life scheme can be transferred to an employee's new Auto Enrolment (AE) scheme. The employee should consult the AE scheme provider and check whether any charges would apply.

If a member of the NTF Stakeholder is aged 55 or over and chooses to access their retirement fund then the options open to them are those for a defined contribution pension scheme. To exercise their options and obtain specific information the member should contact Friends Life direct on 0845 502 9221 or via their website <http://customers.friendslife.co.uk/contact-us/>

The NTF is not authorised to give financial advice to trainers or scheme members about their pensions and any scheme member should consider taking financial advice from a suitably qualified individual if considering their retirement options. They may have to pay for such advice and that will be at their own expense. The stakeholder contract itself may not provide all of the options that are now available in legislation. With the right advice a member should be able to consider what is available to them, how to access their money, the tax implications and to make a quality and well informed decision. The tax position will depend on their personal situation. Potentially up to 25% of benefit, depending on how it is accessed, may be tax free.

Our advisers have informed us that they are aware of a number of scams and fraudulent claims being operated in connection with member pension accounts generally. Registered financial advisers can be found and checked on the Financial Conduct Authority website www.fac.org.uk



Wages and the Memorandum of Agreement

The consolidated wage in the Memorandum of Agreement is based upon the basic 40-hours working week plus alternate weekends on. The weekends are calculated at 2 hours on a Saturday afternoon at an overtime rate of time and a half plus three hours on a Sunday at the overtime rate of double time.

The 40-hour working week is based upon 7 hours daily from Monday to Friday and five hours on a Saturday morning.

Where employees work different basic hours to these or the weekends-on are structured differently, then trainers must calculate the consolidated wage for those employees with anything over and above 40 hours being paid at the relevant overtime rates.

If instead of overtime, employees have time off in lieu, then it is important to keep accurate records of any such time off. Similarly if an employee is late in and not being paid for the unworked time, or takes other time off which is to be unpaid, then ensure that any adjustments are made in that week's pay roll or as soon as possible to avoid any dispute after an employee has left over whether it was paid or unpaid.

Please contact Dawn Bacchus at the NTF office should you need any assistance in calculating wages.

NTF standard employment contracts

The standard employment contract available for trainers to use has been updated to reflect the current position on the calculation of holiday.

We recently issued advice that as a result of recent case law regular overtime should be included in the calculation for holiday pay. See Chapter 16.4 of the NTF Employment Manual for detailed information.

The current interpretation of this case law is that the requirement to include overtime in holiday pay calculations only applies to the 20 days Working Time Directive holiday, not the full contractual holiday. Accordingly the contract has been updated to state that

“For holiday pay purposes, the first 20 days holiday in each year will be deemed the Working Time Directive holiday entitlement”

Trainers may decide it is easier or simply prefer to pay the enhanced holiday rate for all holiday but if trainers wish to restrict the rate to the 20 days Working Time Directive holiday then this amendment to the contract supports that practice and clearly states which days count as that leave.

The balance of holiday over the 20 days should still be paid at the consolidated rate as per custom and practice and the NTF NASS Memorandum of Agreement but additional regular overtime would not need to be included in the calculation for those additional days.

Trainers do not have to use the NTF standard contract of employment and are, of course, free to use their own form of contract.



No charges for Death in Service benefit this year

A Death in Service Benefit of £10,000 is paid to the next of kin of any full time paid employee who dies while in the service of a licensed trainer. This is provided under the NTF Life Cover Trust.

Trainers usually pay an annual charge per employee and this is shown on the annual RIABS statement in April. Last year the charge was £17. This year the charges will be paid from a surplus of funds from previous years' charges. We hope this is a welcome cash flow boost.

Looking ahead, the NTF has reviewed the trust deed and We have appointed lawyers to produce a new trust deed and the NTF Council recently approved a recommendation to widen the scheme to all paid employees, full and part time. The next step will be to consider the level of benefit.

“...widen the scheme to all paid employees....”

Promoting the Assistant Trainers Travel Scholarship

The NTF is responsible for the promotion and administration of the application process for the Alex Scott Assistant Trainers Travel Scholarship. This annual award gives the winner the chance to spend one month abroad gaining work experience and furthering their careers with a trainer in the country of their choice. We do this on behalf of BHEST, which funds the award.

It is not long now before the 2015 award is launched and we have a few plans to give the award a higher profile and try to reach all the people who would be eligible to apply. We do ask that trainers are generous in allowing their assistants time away to benefit from the life changing opportunities the award offers. Reports from the last two winners, Ross Birkett and Charlie Duckworth are on the ntfmuse blog under the Awards in Racing category (see <https://ntfmuse.wordpress.com>). Meanwhile, any Assistant Trainer is welcome to contact Rupert Arnold at the NTF office with an expression of interest so we can begin compiling a list of candidates.

Checking rules on workers' self-employed status

We mentioned in our March April newsletter that several trainers had contacted us regarding HMRC inspections so we thought we should advise trainers to review the status of their workforce, particularly with regard to the use of self-employed people.

The NTF advice on self-employed status can be found in the document entitled 'Employment status advice 2015' on our website under Information – Employment – More Employment Advice and there is a link in that advice to the HMRC employment status indicator, an interactive online tool. It is important to bear in mind that one of the key tests for whether a person is employed or self-employed is the degree of control operated over them – in most cases the trainer is required to control the work and will determine what is done and when. That is an indicator that the person is an employee and will be subject to PAYE. Licensed jockeys riding out are treated as self-employed as that is part of their profession.

Best practice to avoid a positive test

Trainers will have seen the Racing Post report on the disqualification of Very Wood from a chase at Navan when the horse tested positive for a prohibited substance contained in a supplement marketed for use in racehorses.

It is best practice to use a supplement or feed carrying the BETA NOPS accreditation which shows that the manufacturer is part of a scheme designed to help minimise the risk of naturally occurring substances causing contamination. You should be wary of claims made by feed or supplement manufacturers that are not part of the BETA NOPS code.

Feed and medication – good practice for racing yards

The NTF has produced guidance on good practice for avoiding a positive test due to contaminated feed stuffs and medication management. These can be found in the veterinary section of the NTF website.

Following this guidance will never guarantee the avoidance of a positive test because many of the substances that cause a positive

test from a feed occur naturally in plants increasingly grown commercially. However, the best practice will help trainers avoid a positive test and give trainers a strong argument against a fine being levied at a disciplinary enquiry should a positive occur.

The main advice is to use feeds and supplements manufactured by a BETA NOPS accredited company. If you use feeds or supplements from a company that is not accredited, you should investigate the chain of supply and how it is transported to satisfy yourself of the risks of contamination. You should ask if the product is intended for racehorses and what assurances the grower, manufacturer or retailer can give as the processes involved.

Record keeping is essential and you should have yard policies that minimise the risk of contamination and ensure these are communicated to your staff and that they follow them. The NTF has produced a poster for this purpose. Please refer to our website documents for full details.

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BHA Equine Anti-Doping Rules – Transfer of responsibility

We expected to receive plenty of enquiries from trainers after the introduction of the BHA's Equine Anti-Doping rules in March. We thought the requirement to use a template document to transfer responsibility to an owner when a horse leaves the trainer's care and control could spark questions so we thought we would remind you what needs to be done.

Horse goes to another licensed trainer	<u>You must</u> update the Racing Administration Site
Horse goes to owner's yard	<p><u>You must</u> notify owner of transfer of responsibility by first class post, hand delivery to their address, fax or email. There is a template on the BHA website.</p> <p>Obtain written acceptance of the transfer (email, fax, letter)</p> <p>If the owner does not return the signed form, then <u>you must</u> contact the owner a second time by phone or email, leaving a message if no reply.</p> <p><u>You must</u> keep records of sending the transfer notice and all attempts at chasing it, i.e. keep emails, keep a note of times called/messages left.</p> <p><u>You should</u> keep a record of any instructions from the owner, including instructions made over the phone or in person. Consider confirming those instructions by email/including them in the transfer notification. All this will help show that you took reasonable steps to notify the owner and obtain acceptance of the transfer.</p> <p><u>You must</u> update the Racing Administration Site</p>
Horse at third party location (not trainer's yard or owner's property)	<p>(if the owner chose the third party yard) - To transfer responsibility to the owner, <u>you must</u> follow the steps outlined above in "horse goes to owner's yard"</p> <p><u>You must</u> also update the Racing Administration Site</p>

The rules, guidance and forms provided by the BHA are on their website at Resources Centre – Anti-Doping and Medication Control – Equine Anti-Doping Rules and Guidance. There is a summary of the requirements and additional information on the NTF website under Information – Veterinary.

Multiple horses for one owner

As several trainers have asked us about a more efficient way of transferring responsibility for multiple horses in one ownership, we suggested to the BHA some variations in the form to deal with these circumstances. The BHA has agreed our suggestions, which include a revised template with additional boxes for each horse's name, date of transfer and details of transfer.

This new additional template will be posted on the BHA website at the page listed above. We advise trainers strongly to use the BHA templates rather than create something for their own use. The content of the templates was agreed between the BHA, NTF and ROA to ensure trainers and owners received accurate guidance in meeting the requirements of the rules. Using any other form may put you at risk of a breach of the rules.



Serving the notice of transfer

Service of the transfer of responsibility may be done by email or fax if that is already a means used by that owner and trainer to communicate between them.

Completion of the transfer

Note that although it is good practice for the owner to sign and return the transfer form, the rules only require that the owner confirms in writing (including email or fax) that he/she accepts the transfer of responsibility. Trainers should retain that confirmation in their records. It does not need to be lodged with the BHA.

Hong Kong and Sweden granted exemption from Equine Anti-Doping testing

The BHA has added Hong Kong and Sweden to the list of racing nations whose runners in Britain will be treated, in terms of sampling procedures, the same as British-trained horses. The other countries that already form part of this group are Ireland, France and Germany due to key aspects of their anti-doping policies reflecting those of the BHA.

Following confirmation that the rules of Svensk Galopp, Sweden's horseracing regulatory body, together with Sweden's national legislation, meet the BHA's anti-doping requirements, the BHA agreed that Sweden qualified for exemption. All other international runners are required to be sampled prior to running in Britain.

Go to RoR for advice on rehoming and retraining racehorses

Retraining of Racehorses (RoR) aims to be the one-stop-shop both for people looking for horses to be rehomed but also for owners and trainers needing information and advice about reliable retraining professionals.

To assist in this aim RoR has relaunched its website at www.ror.org.uk. (There is a link directly from the Home Page of the NTF website.) On the left side of the RoR banner is a link entitled Rehoming and Sourcing. This takes you to information about retrainers with a directory of professionals endorsed by RoR; a link to the For Sale website, which is currently under construction but will allow owners and trainers to advertise horses they are looking to retire from racing; a link to the equine charities (centres), which RoR supports to cater for welfare cases; and information about the different equine sport disciplines that now offer racehorses career extending activity.

The idea is that owners and trainers now have sufficient advice to avoid the siren calls of "rogue traders" who entice them to part with horses not suspecting that the horses may be subject to indifferent standards of care. In some cases it is known that little regard is given to making sure horses are matched to new owners who have the expertise to ride or look after them in the way they deserve. If you have any doubts at all about the future for any of your retiring horses, go to www.ror.org.uk



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Don't get caught out by cobalt

By now British-based trainers will be well aware of the high profile investigations involving a number of trainers in Australia for raised levels of cobalt in samples returned by horses in their care. Back in January the BHA commented to the press:

"Cobalt is an essential trace dietary mineral therefore all horses have a base level of cobalt in their system. Cobalt is also present in various legitimate veterinary treatments. However, the use of cobalt as a doping agent, with the intention of boosting red blood cell production, has no place in British Racing. BHA has a zero-tolerance approach to doping in British racing and a robust testing structure.

BHA, through the LGC laboratory, has the capability to detect cobalt via standard testing procedures and as a result of on-going surveillance BHA has found no evidence of the use of cobalt as a doping agent in British racing."

From the work BHA has carried out measuring cobalt in British-trained horses they do not believe there is any reason to be concerned that current practices pose a risk of generating cobalt levels that would cause the BHA to take action (i.e. standard doses in accordance with manufacturer guidelines, not given on raceday).

However, this is a timely reminder about the need for trainers to keep accurate records of all substances administered to horses in their care and control, not only veterinary medicines but also supplements and specialised feeds; the requirement to give nothing other than normal feed and water on raceday and the inadvisability of administering any other non-supplementation preparation of cobalt.

Trainers should keep accurate records of the use of veterinary medicines that contain cobalt, such as Intravit@12 Solution for Injection (Norbrook), Vitamin B12 and feed additives and supplements containing cobalt.

First contributions to the new Trainers Benevolent Fund

Irish winners at Aintree's Grand National meeting marked the first contributions to the new Trainers Benevolent Fund, announced on 2nd April. From 6th April a small deduction from the non-British based trainers' winnings is being channelled to the fund for the benefit of British trainers who are NTF members. This will enable us to support members who meet unforeseen crises.

In time we may propose widening the purposes of the fund and having created it, we have the opportunity to swell the fund from other sources. Charges for the replacement of lost NTF metal badges will in future be directed to the benevolent fund.

Regulation deadlines

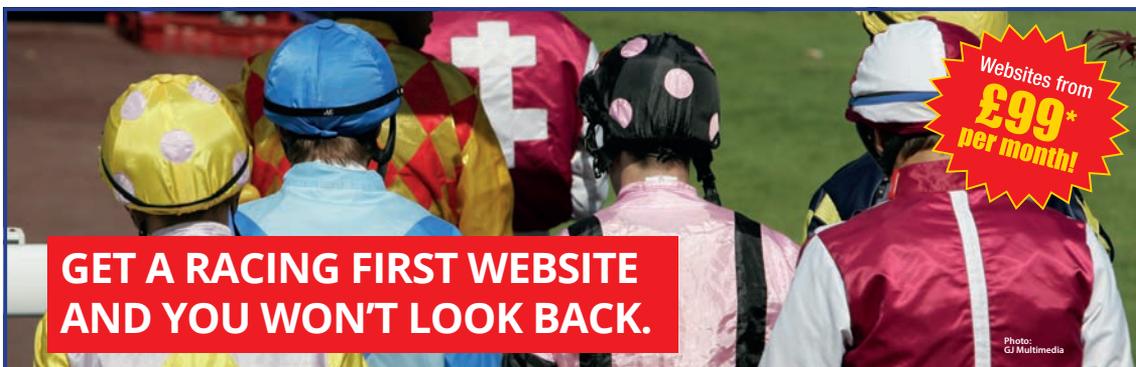
🛡️ Pension auto enrolment staging dates*

- **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.
- **1st August 2015** for 40 to 49 employees
- **1st October 2015** for 30 to 39 employees

***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 January 2016** – deadline to replace skull caps that meet the (BS or CSN) EN 1384:1997 standard.

🛡️ **31st December 2016** – deadline to replace skull caps that meet the (BS or CSN) EN 1384:2012 standard.



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NTF 2015 Meeting Dates

The NTF's regional meetings are on the horizon. This year's summer events start slightly earlier than usual so we can fit them into the busy racing schedule. We have also listened to requests for alternative formats in some regions where meetings will be held before racing. This means we are going where trainers are already congregating and trainers from outside the region have a chance to attend a meeting if they are not able to go to one in their own region.

Make a note now of the dates. These twice-yearly events are a great opportunity to get together to discuss important topical issues and share your thoughts with the NTF executive.

Meeting	Date	Venue
North	Mon 22 June	Wetherby before racing
East	Tues 30 June	Rowley Mile
South East	Thurs 2 July	Epsom before racing
West Midlands and Wales	Mon 13 July	Wolverhampton before racing
Central South	Mon 20 July	Newbury Racecourse
South West	Tues 21 July	Taunton Racecourse
Council and NH Committee	Mon 3 August	London
Scotland and Borders	Tues 16 September	Kelso before racing

“...a great opportunity to...share your thoughts with the NTF executive...”

Executive Months – April and May 2015

(Representation by R Arnold, D Bacchus, J Crook and G Noad unless stated)

-  NTF Council meeting
-  Flat Committee meeting
-  BHA Board
-  BHA Executive Committee
-  Horsemen's Group Board
-  Fixture List Consultation Group
-  Stable Staff Summit
-  Employment Law seminar
-  BHEST Audit Committee
-  Procurement project update
-  NTF/Weatherbys liaison meeting
-  BRS Racing Secretaries' Course
-  BRS Supervisory Staff Training



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