

Newsletter

The Voice of Britain's Racehorse Trainers



National Trainers Federation

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General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

Over recent months we have fed through advice you have needed about the introduction of the new General Data Protection Regulations. This has involved notifications to employees and owners. Now that the deadline for implementation has passed, don't be concerned if you haven't fully completed the processes. Although the Information Commissioner's Office can impose fines, it has said these will only be in extreme cases and its policy will be to help small organisations to comply.

All the information you need is accessible from the link on the NTF website homepage. Below are several items that have appeared in the NTF Weekly email but not so far in the printed newsletter.

Advising owners on the use and protection of their data

A template 'Fair Processing Notice' for advising owners how you use and protect their data is now available on the NTF website along with guidance notes and a template owner personal data processing record. (You can access these documents easily from the main link on the home page.)

As with the employment documents, you will need to adapt the owner's documents to reflect the processes and procedures in your own business. We have also produced a suggested template email for you to use to obtain consent to continue sending communications to non-owners, so for example where you send out information about ownership opportunities.

Outsourcing Payroll

Under GDPR, if you outsource your payroll, you need to risk assess that process. You will need to:

- ensure that the payroll provider has GDPR compliant systems in place, and
- ensure that the data you send to the payroll provider is always sent securely – so protected in line with your data security policy.

You may already have received information from your payroll provider on how they will comply with GDPR but if not, we advise you to contact the provider to discuss GDPR and how they ensure compliance when processing your data. That will include ensuring that they do not retain data for longer than is necessary under GDPR.

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BHA notice on GDPR policy

The following BHA notice has been issued to trainers.

You will no doubt be aware that privacy laws in the United Kingdom have recently changed. To reflect these changes, the BHA has updated its privacy notices for licensed and registered personnel and these can be found on the BHA website on the Data Protection page.

In addition, the Racing Administration System now has functionality so that users can update their contact details and marketing preferences from within the site.

In order that the BHA can ensure that the personal data that it holds on its licensed and registered personnel is as accurate as possible, you are encouraged to keep your details up to date. If you have any questions, please contact dataprotection@britishhorseracing.com

Mental health support for trainers

The Mental Health Training Day in Lambourn in May course was part of racing's support for Mental Health Awareness Week (14th – 20th May 2018) run by the Mental Health Foundation. Racing staff across the country showed their support by wearing green ribbons when leading up on racedays throughout the week.

The initiative received industry-wide backing from the BHA, The Jockey Club and Arena Racing Company alongside independent racecourses who all helped to promote the initiative. The charity commissioned a video produced by Equine Productions to tell the story of one of their beneficiaries who has battled with mental illness; this was shown on the screens of participating racecourses during the week in addition to being posted on social media.

Trainer support

Racing Welfare is working in conjunction with Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU) and the BHA to carry out pioneering research into the provision of mental health services across horseracing.

Led by LJMU postgraduate researcher Will McConn, the aim of the study is to fully understand the scope of the mental health-related challenges faced by those within the racing industry. The NTF is acutely aware of the need for trainers to be supported in this area as we know and understand the pressures trainers often face.

The study's aims are to: a) assess the current mental health needs of the horseracing industry workforce; b) identify appropriate support mechanisms and c) make recommendations for the delivery of holistic support. The focus is on the front line, equine facing, people such as stable employees, jockeys, trainers, etc. Data is being collected through interviews (April-May), focus groups around the country (May-Oct), and via an electronic questionnaire (Oct - Jan 2019). The aim is to get a sense of the breadth and depth of mental health challenges.

If you are interested in participating in this research, or if you would like to meet Will McConn or talk to him by phone about your perspective or experiences, please contact Rupert Arnold at the NTF office or Will McConn on W.J.McConn@ljmu.ac.uk or **07501 9500 10**.

“we know and understand the pressures trainers often face”

BHA publishes policies to shape the 2019 fixture list

The BHA has today confirmed the policies which will be applied during the formation of the 2019 Fixture List.

Its Executive Committee has agreed that in 2019 a focus should be placed on introducing steps to support the sport's workforce, while simultaneously continuing to align the scheduling and timing of fixtures to the needs of the betting industry and maximising the overall commercial returns to the sport. The commitment to supporting jockeys and racing staff – which is supported by all parties within the sport – has resulted in an agreement to implement measures in 2019, including:

- All floodlit fixtures (which run from January to mid-April, and from September to December) are to finish earlier, with the final race starting no later than 8.30pm.
- A six-day break will be introduced for Flat racing participants at the end of the Turf season in November. In addition there will be an intended five-day break in March towards the end of the All-Weather season (although additional late notice fixtures may be programmed during this period in exceptional circumstances if all Jump fixtures on a day look likely to be abandoned).
- No fixtures will be programmed on Sunday 22 December 2019, providing an extra racing-free day before Christmas.

The existing eight-day summer break and five-day end-of-season breaks for Jump fixtures will also be maintained.

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

While the planned November break is a mixed blessing because the transfer of fixtures out of that week will lead to congestion in the weeks either side, the guarantee of earlier finishes from September to April is a real benefit to stable staff. It is therefore more than disappointing that this positive move has been diluted by the addition of 15 twilight fixtures immediately after the summer fixture peak.

The NTF appreciates that fixture moves elsewhere will lead to a net overall increase of only 5 or 6 fixtures and the BHA has produced statistics to show there is a demand for racing opportunities at this time. Also, we know trainers look to run horses on the flat before the important Horses in Training sales. Even so, the additional fixtures take the gloss off the good intentions expressed at the start of the process and may undermine efforts to stabilise field sizes.

Getting to grips with Strangles

A workshop was held at the Animal Health Trust on the 5th October 2017 to share the latest research news and discuss progress towards the prevention and eradication of this disease. You can find a detailed account of the workshop on ntfmuse in the Veterinary Notes section.

Strangles, caused by *Streptococcus equi*, is one of the most frequently identified infectious diseases of horses world-wide. Approximately 600 outbreaks are identified in the UK each year

Dr Richard Newton, Director of Epidemiology and Surveillance, highlighted the importance of identifying and treating outwardly healthy carrier horses, which are frequently overlooked, but can trigger outbreaks for months or years after they have recovered from strangles.

Dr Romain Paillot, Head of Immunology, gave a presentation describing *S. equi's* journey through the horse, highlighting the many interactions the organism has with the equine immune response.

Dr Coral Dominguez-Medina (CD), Post-doctoral scientist, described the current array of vaccines that are produced around the world and the new work at the AHT towards improving the level of protection that strangles vaccines provide.



3yo+ flat novice races – a note from the BHA

From Richard Wayman – 23rd May 2018

We are aware that trainers have expressed concerns about the change made at the beginning of the year to convert the majority of maiden races for three-year-olds and older horses into novice races. This followed on from the same change having been successfully introduced to the two-year-old programme over the previous couple of years.

This new approach was based on feedback from connections saying that winning a race too soon in a horse's career could limit its future prospects and the main aim of the change is to provide an improved programme of races for horses that win on one of their early visits to the racecourse.

Previously three-year-olds and older horses that won on their debut or their second start had few options other than stepping straight into handicap company or, alternatively, aiming for a Listed or Pattern race. The latter often over-faced a young, inexperienced horse. As for the handicap option, the handicapper would have very limited information on which to allot a handicap rating. This could, of course, work both ways in that the horse's rating could underestimate its ability and the horse then make a mockery of whatever handicap it turned up in; on the other hand, if the handicapper overestimated its ability, this could damage the horse's development by over-facing them against more seasoned campaigners at a formative time in their career.

A few months into this new system, we would like to reassure trainers that we are closely monitoring these races and, working with the NTF, we'll review the results from the first half of the year once we get to the end of June. In the meantime, and for your information, the headline numbers since the beginning of the year to 14 May include:

- The programme has included 228 novice races and 59 maiden races giving a total of 287 races. This compares with 291 maiden races during the same period in 2017.
- The average field size in the 287 races in 2018 has been 8.36, which compares with 8.09 in the 291 races in 2017. The average starting price of the favourite is 2.27/1 this year, compared with 2.34/1 last year.
- There have been 306 horses carrying a penalty in a novice race so far this year, of which 87 (28%) won. 38% of the novice races have been won by penalty carriers with 62% won by maidens.
- There have been 259 individual winners of the novice and maiden races staged this year. Last year, there were 291 individual winners of the maiden races.

When we consider this, as well as looking at the data, we'll focus on specific areas:

- Eligibility – Since the beginning of April, previous winners with more than six runs have been excluded from novice races on the basis that they are intended as developmental races for lightly raced horses rather than more experienced types that have only won once or twice. Is six runs the appropriate cut-off point for previous winners?
- Balance of novice and maiden races – The race programme currently comprises 80% novices, 20% maidens. Is this balance right? Some trainers have said that the pace of novice races makes them a tougher place to start for inexperienced horses than maiden races. On the other hand, if there are more maiden races, this runs the risk of maidens avoiding novice races and therefore increasing the likelihood of small fields.
- Penalty structure – Are penalties at the right level?

It is still early days and the new approach remains work-in-progress but please be assured we are listening to feedback from trainers. At the heart of the changes we have made is our desire to provide a programme that encourages horses to win early in their careers and also supports their future development. However, if changes are required to make the system work better, they will be made and we will be working closely with the NTF to ensure that any lessons are learnt from the first half of this year.



Latest on closure of the Weatherbys Call Centre

On 25th April the BHA sent trainers a letter about important changes to the operation of the Weatherbys Call Centre taking effect from Monday 2nd July.

To ensure you are supported moving online, a dedicated Help Desk, open seven days a week and contactable via 01933 440011, will be established to answer questions about using the Racing Admin system and to guide you through the processes. Operators, however, will no longer be able to complete the task for you. In addition, the Help Desk will support you in explaining how the Racing Admin system can be used to answer any questions you may have including those relating to the likelihood of getting a run, and which races are more likely to divide, but will not provide this information directly over the phone.

The NTF has been conveying trainers' concerns about these new arrangements to the BHA. We have asked them to contact all trainers who do not currently make entries and declarations online to find out the reasons. In some parts of the country, particularly rural areas, fast fixed line broadband access is not available. Trainers without fast broadband may need additional support with Racing Admin. Wireless broadband may be an option for some trainers (for example Boundless Networks.)

The BHA has confirmed that on any occasion when the Racing Admin system is not working, it is likely the deadlines will be extended. If you discover you have an unexpected problem with your internet connection, the Help Desk will be able to assist the sooner you contact them. If you are likely to face problems because of the new arrangements, please let the NTF know and we will advise.

Emergency assistance

In addition, based on feedback the BHA has received in May, in the case of an absolute emergency trainers should call the new Help Desk which, at the discretion of the manager, will be able to take an entry/declaration over the phone. This emergency facility will be monitored for the first six months and, if it is being misused, its availability could be put at risk.

The changes

Several functions of the Call Centre are moving entirely online and will only be available through the new Racing Admin system. Most notable of these are:

- Making entries, confirmations and declarations
- Scratching a horse or declaring a non-runner
- Booking a jockey

In addition, if an owner has two or more horses in the same race their colours will be allotted in racecard order. If an owner or trainer wishes to change the allocation they will be able to do so by contacting Weatherbys before 1pm on the day of declarations.

All licenced and permit trainers have been provided with a log in to the new Racing Admin system and around 95% of all entries and declarations are already being made online. The BHA's reason for making these changes is to minimise mistakes and reduce human error in these vital administrative functions. In addition, owing to the reduced costs of making entries and declarations online, the shift will also help reduce owners' charges by over £150k each year.

To ensure you are confident using the online system, in advance of the implementation on 2 July, please call 01933 440011 or email websupport@racingadmin.co.uk if you would like a member of the BHA team to talk through the changes with you and your staff. Alternatively if you need help making entries or declarations online, videos and guides are available or you can email the Racing Admin address above. The BHA has committed to providing you with all the support you require in advance of these changes.



Ice ruling under review

Richard Hughes's column in the Racing Post raised justifiable concerns about the rule preventing the use of ice as a cooling agent in racecourse stables from 2nd April (see March April newsletter.)

It is good to give you the positive news that the NTF Council had already discussed the point with David Sykes at its meeting at the end of March. As a result, the BHA suggested a revised rule allowing ice to be used up to two hours before the horse's race. We didn't want to report this until it was confirmed that the rule had completed its passage through the rule change process. That has now happened and was implemented in time for Derby weekend.

Metal badge forgeries

At its May meeting, York Racecourse identified some forged NTF metal badges. They will be sent to the RCA, which will raise the matter with the BHA Integrity Department.

Racecourses will be alerted about the potential use of forged badges and this is likely to result in additional monitoring. Please ensure all badges are used in conjunction with your PASS Cards to ensure the most expedient access to the racecourse.

Hose pipe restrictions at Doncaster Racecourse

Doncaster Racecourse has been served with an enforcement notice by Yorkshire Water that bans the use of hose pipes outside the confines of our stable yard. This means Doncaster can no longer offer the facility to wash out horse boxes with a hose pipe.

The racecourse will provide buckets and as required under the BHA General Instructions will continue to provide arrangements allowing horse boxes to be mucked out. The management at Doncaster want to apologise to trainers for this inconvenience but the decision has been made outside the racecourse's control.

Tongue ties no longer permitted in German races

The International Racing Bureau has informed us that from 1st June 2018 horses will be banned from wearing a tongue tie in all races in Germany. This notice has appeared in the latest edition of the German Racing Calendar.

New Racecourse Operations Executive at the BHA

Nicole Thompson has changed her role at the BHA, becoming the new Racecourse Operations Executive. Nicole has been with the BHA for over a year and before that had extensive experience in the Thoroughbred Industry, including 4 years as the Office Manager at the prestigious Windsor Park Stud in New Zealand.

She will provide operational management assistance to Emma Marley, Head of Racecourse Operations, and will be able to answer your questions about anything affecting your staff, horses and owners on the racecourse.



Protection of young people and vulnerable adults paramount in racing

Safeguarding – the process of protecting young people and vulnerable adults from harm and abuse – has a high and growing profile in society. Due to notorious cases of abuse in sport, governing bodies are acutely aware of the need to have policies in place to ensure public confidence in their sport.

As potential employers, trainers know how important it is for racing to attract the interest and participation of young people and it is vital that young people who are involved in racing have a positive and fulfilling experience whilst engaged in racing, and are protected from all forms of abuse and harm. The BHA has been consulting industry associations including the NTF so racing can put in place a safeguarding policy with the support of everyone who manages young people and vulnerable adults.

You can find copies of the proposed industry safeguarding policy, regulations and Code of Conduct on the BHA website. The reason for publishing these documents is to provide an opportunity for participants to ask questions ahead of implementation. The BHA would like your feedback to ensure that these are fit for purpose and explain clearly the expected safeguarding standards.

An education programme is currently being developed with the NTF and others. It will be finalised ahead of the official launch of the Policy and Regulations to ensure that participants, especially employers, have a baseline knowledge to support them to incorporate the Policy into their business alongside the safeguarding advice already provided by the NTF.

Students introduced to a career in racing through the Racing to School Riders Program

On behalf of the Racing to School Riders Programme, Shelley Perham and Judith Allen accompanied Second Year equine students from Cirencester on a beautiful sunny morning at Warren Greatrex's Lambourn yard to find out more about possible careers in the horseracing industry and to see the first-class facilities and to watch 2nd lot on the Mandown gallops.

Huge thanks to Warren for opening his doors and to assistant trainer, Ollie Kozak for taking the time to give the students an invaluable insight into a typical morning in a racing yard, which was very much enjoyed by all.

The morning was followed by a unique look behind the scenes at Newbury Racecourse to make the students more aware of how a raceday works. The students watched Oisin Murphy put a horse through a stalls test as well as a trip to the stables, weighing room, and tested their fitness on the mechanical horse. Newbury very generously provided students with a box to enjoy the rest of the day's racing.

The students told Shelley that the experience of the day and the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the package provided to staff was greatly beneficial. From this small group we now have two students looking for work experience and wishing to further a career as Racing Grooms.

Warren Greatrex has kindly offered a work placement position to a Sparsholt College student who attended last month's Riders Program at Watership Down Stud. Seven students provided their details to Shelley at Newbury Racecourse after deciding to begin a career in racing.



Exciting Mentoring and Leadership training will help develop your team

The National Association of Racing Staff (NARS) is set to expand its educational programmes to include a qualification in Mentoring, Leadership and Team Skills after securing a £100,000 funding partnership agreement with the country's largest independent bookmaker, Jenningsbet.

Up to 28 Students each year will have the chance to study for the ILM Level 2 Introduction to Mentoring and ILM Level 2 Award in Leadership and Team Skills on a 12-week course delivered by West Suffolk College, with the first enrolments in September 2018.

George McGrath CEO of NARS said, "I know this course will be very popular and is much needed. The reality is that there are already a number of staff who act as mentors, and our view is that they should be recognised with a government qualification.

"The support we are set to receive from Jenningsbet is outstanding and is an excellent example of bookmakers' commitment to the future strength and prosperity of the sport at all levels, especially at a time when many aspects of the future funding of the sport remain uncertain."

The NTF sees this training as a perfect fit with the aims of The Winning Approach, the industry standard we developed to underpin the Lycetts Team Champion Award (see below.)

Greg Knight CEO of Jenningsbet said, "Racing has identified a problem in retaining young people coming into racing and we think a mentoring system in which experienced racing staff are taught how to bring through the next generation will be an important tool. At the end of the day racing staff keep the whole show on the road - our shops wouldn't be able to function without horseracing and make the media rights payments and levy contributions we make without the staff in the yards. We have a moral responsibility to recognise that."

The Winning Approach – fundamental to the Lycetts Team Champion Award

Thirty-nine trainers now boast the Lycetts Team Champion star rating demonstrating that their business operates a high standard of staff management. Nomination forms compiled by these trainers and their staff showed that the variety of methods used in each yard. Their common denominator is they match the criteria set out in **The Winning Approach** – the bespoke industry standard developed by the NTF in conjunction with Sport and Beyond.

When the NTF began talking to trainers about creating the Lycetts Team Champion Award, we were asked for guidance about the types of management practices the judges would be looking for. Although there is a wealth of information on the internet about the kind of management that supports retention and there are generic standards such as Investors in People, we thought trainers would be more receptive to a set of criteria aligned with the specific environment of a racing yard.

Sport and Beyond has a track record of helping clients to achieve their goals by developing their most important asset – their people. They sat down with us, trainers and staff to learn how to convey proven good practice into an easily understandable format. The result is **The Winning Approach**, which is the starting point for any training business wanting to maximise its staff retention rate. It is intended to support continuous business development. Many trainers have found it crystallises practices they already use as well as making them think more deeply about how they manage staff.

Adopting The Winning Approach throughout your business will make it easier to complete your nomination form for the next Lycetts Team Champion Award later this year. Your way of meeting the award criteria will be at your fingertips. Go to the Award page on the NTF website for a full copy of The Winning Approach.

Brydi Allison's Alex Scott Travel Scholarship experience

It won't be long before we launch the next Alex Scott Assistant Trainers Travel Scholarship. To give Assistant Trainers another illustration of the fantastic experience this award can offer, we have posted the report from last year's scholarship winner, Brydi Allison, on the NTF website in the page dedicated to the award (<https://www.racehorsetrainers.org/industry/alexscottaward.asp>).

Brydi's work placement was with the McEvoy's in South Australia. An interesting insight into the different regime followed in Australia can be gained from this small extract from her report.

"In my first week we had 10 two year olds trial at Murray Bridge. They quite often have horses trialling every week. Mr McEvoy has an excellent strike rate with two year olds. Every horse has to trial and receive a barrier certificate before they are allowed to run. This is something that English racing does not do and is probably the biggest difference to English racing that I have come across.

"Trials are like 'mini races' that are done at racecourses under the rules of racing. Only licensed jockeys can ride in them and they wear their horse's colours. These are not as competitive as an actual race. It is a great education for them and from watching Australian two year old races, I noticed they tend to run less green and more professionally than two year olds in Britain. You can also get older horses that trial which is good preparation for them getting back to full fitness if they've had a long break or injury lay-off from the track and haven't ran for a while.

"Trial races are taken very seriously and are open to the public to view on the Internet and pundits can see how good some of the unexposed two year old are. I strapped a two year old filly called Kinky Boom at Morphettville. She won her trial by 6 lengths on the bridle. You don't have stables at the racecourses in Australia so all the horses stand in tie-ups. I was amazed to see how patiently and well behaved the horses stand in them, even the two year olds who are experiencing this for the first time. The day after Kinky Boom's trial she went to the Flemington yard and five days later she won her maiden at Caulfield very easily."

Look out for news about applications for the 2018 Scholarship. It is sponsored by the Tim Dunlop Memorial Travelling Scholarship. The trustees were disappointed with the low response last year so Assistant Trainers need to show they want opportunities like this if the scholarship is to continue.





ROA Support of Staff & Owner BBQs Keeps Yards Sizzling

For a second year the Racehorse Owners Association will be offering contributions of £100 to trainers organising BBQs or other social events for their staff and owners during Racing Staff Week (1 – 8 July 2018).

The initiative, which saw contributions to 30 events in 2017, proved popular last year and provided an ideal environment for owners and staff to get to know each other better in a relaxed and informal atmosphere.

Owners have cited that an important element of their ownership experience is getting to know the member of staff that cares for their horse(s). It is hoped that these events will continue to develop owner/staff relationships, whilst also celebrating Racing Staff Week and the dedication of racing's workforce.

Trainers will shortly receive an application form for the funding contribution via email. Alternatively, forms can be downloaded from the ROA website. Closing date for applications is **8th June 2018**. A maximum of 30 contributions are available, with successful applications being drawn at random. BBQ organisers will be encouraged to take pictures and share them on social media using **#racingstaffweek** and **#ROABBBQs**. Feedback on the events will also be invited.

For further information on the Staff and Owner BBQs please contact Chloe Martin on cmartin@roa.co.uk or **07725 031336**.

Developing your staff – Bookkeeping/SAGE

The British Racing School will be running a book keeping course for people in racing on **17th to 19th September**.

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

Additional course for potential Conditional jockeys

The British Racing School is putting on an additional Conditional Course from 25th – 29th June 2018. This is a Course just for Category 'B' Amateurs "converting" to Conditional, and not for brand new applicants or Category 'A' Amateurs wanting to become Conditionals.

The Course is a last minute addition to this year's programme and there will not be another Conditional Course after this one until mid-August. Trainers wanting to apply for Conditional Licences for any of their employees (currently hold Cat 'B' Amateur Permits) over the summer need to send their online applications to the BHA as soon as possible.

For further information contact Max Milward by phone **0207 152 0145** or email licensing@britishhorseracing.com.

Targeting riders to work in racing

In 2016 Racing to School piloted a programme targeted at young people who already had horse riding experience. Activities were designed to support their careers knowledge and choices. The Programme plays one part in addressing the horseracing industry's recruitment issues and skills shortages. The Pilot was part-funded by The Racing Foundation. In 2018 The Riders' programme will expand by 50% to 60 events, comprising 17% of Racing to School's overall annual activity.

Through the experience of delivering this pilot Racing to School has developed a strategy for to influence young people during three key decision-making periods during their education pathway. The pilot allowed the charity to build up a range of contacts from within both the equestrian leisure and education industries. The Programme can now efficiently target the specific group of young people for whom these activities would be of most benefit.

- 🛡 The Pony Club - direct links are in place with Pony Club branches and Centres
- 🛡 Equine Colleges – established contacts with lecturers and course instructors

The feedback gained from recent events endorses the approach to develop a programme that provides young people with an experience that showcases the many varied career opportunities within horseracing.

The Riders' programme consists primarily of three types of events but retains flexibility to allow for a more bespoke experience for participants, most usually from a group that has already experienced the programme. The event types are as follows:

- 🛡 Pony Club Racedays
- 🛡 Equine College Racedays
- 🛡 Non-raceday Workshops

Strong links with other industry partners, such as the National Trainers Federation (NTF) helps to make sure all industry resources are promoted to the attendees; this is an area that is being developed. The NTF is aiming to launch their new Racing Groom website later this year, which aims to provide all the information needed for a young person wanting to enter the industry in the role of racing groom, and the information on how best to achieve this.

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BHA Notice – Bisphosphonates

The following Rule was brought into effect on 10 August 2017:

Schedule (B)3 – Requirements for horse to run

11B The horse must not have been administered

- 11.B.1 any bisphosphonate under the age of three years and six months as determined by its recorded date of birth, or
- 11.B.2 any bisphosphonate on the day of the race or on any of the 30 days before the day of the race in which the horse is declared to run.

A Notice regarding this amendment (*New Stand-Down Period: Bisphosphonates*) was published in July 2017, which included the following expectations regarding the use of bisphosphonates in horses racing or intending to race in Great Britain:

- 🛡 The product used should be licensed for horses in the UK;
- 🛡 There must be a diagnosis determined by a veterinary surgeon that supports the use of a bisphosphonate as an appropriate treatment; and
- 🛡 The bisphosphonate must be administered by a veterinary surgeon.

The Rule is intended to cover the use of **therapeutic** bisphosphonates.

Gamma scintigraphy (bone scan) is a diagnostic imaging technique, which involves the injection of a radioactive substance that is bound to a bisphosphonate. The bisphosphonates used in gamma scintigraphy are administered at a low dose and are not licensed for use in horses in the UK. At present, there is no evidence to suggest that they have a therapeutic effect on the horse.

The BHA's position is that the use of gamma scintigraphy, when advised by a veterinary surgeon, is in the best interests of the horse and to discourage such practice may be detrimental to the welfare of the horse. The BHA's approach is that, at its discretion, it will implement an exception to Schedule (B)3 paragraph 11 B for the use of bisphosphonates which are administered for the purposes of gamma scintigraphy in specific, documented cases. The exception permits both the administration of bisphosphonates to the horse under the age of three years and six months and bisphosphonates administered to the horse within 30 days of a race in which the horse is declared to run (however the exception will not permit bisphosphonates administered to the horse for gamma scintigraphy purposes on the day of the race).

It should be noted that any horse to which **therapeutic** bisphosphonates are administered under the age of three years and six months will not be qualified to run under the BHA Rules of Racing at any point in its life.

ARC launch awareness days to promote Retraining of Racehorses

Arena Racing Company (ARC) has joined forces with British racing's official charity for the welfare of retired racehorses, Retraining of Racehorses (RoR), to stage a series of awareness days across the courses in the ARC group.

The 'ARC RoR Awareness Days' will feature parades by former racehorses who have been retrained and are enjoying a fulfilling second career in another equine discipline. The aim is to increase awareness among racegoers of the versatility of racehorses and the increasingly wide range of options available to them when their racing careers are over.

Supported by funding from the racing industry, RoR stages hundreds of competition classes a year exclusively for former racehorses, across a dozen different disciplines, from dressage and eventing to polo and endurance. The charity is also on hand in the event that any former racehorse is considered in need of care and assistance.

Treatment of VAT on business fuel costs

Businesses can reclaim VAT on fuel and if using the vehicle for both business and private purposes, to simplify accounting for private use, there are three ways of handling the VAT (see below.)

Reclaim all the VAT on receipts for fuel by paying the right fuel scale charge for your vehicle. For example, on the lowest CO2 rating, the amount to pay per quarter from 1st May 2018 is £140 and then reclaim all the VAT on the receipts. The HMRC have a question and answer section to calculate the correct fuel scale charge for each vehicle; we have reproduced an extract below.

There are different ways of reclaiming VAT on fuel, if you don't pay a fixed rate under the Flat Rate Scheme (www.gov.uk/vat-flat-rate-scheme)

You can reclaim all the VAT on fuel if your vehicle is used only for business. There are 3 ways of handling VAT if you use the vehicle for both business and private purposes. You can:

- reclaim all the VAT and pay the right fuel scale charge for your vehicle (www.gov.uk/fuel-scale-charge)
- only reclaim the VAT on fuel you use for business trips – you'll have to keep detailed mileage records
- choose not to reclaim any VAT, e.g. if your business mileage is so low that the fuel scale charge would be higher than the VAT you can reclaim

If you choose not to reclaim VAT on fuel for one vehicle you can't reclaim VAT on any fuel for vehicles used by your business.

Vintage colours now available for purchase

The BHA has announced that owners will be able to sell their colours through the BHA website, with a number of vintage sets available to buy.

The new functionality comes as part of the BHA's continued commitment to liberalise owners' colours and will make it easier and more convenient for owners who are keen to sell their silks. Some of the initial sets of colours on offer via the BHA website include sets which date back as far as 1890.

The colours will be listed next to a clear purchase price set by the vendor, eliminating any complexity around bidding and allowing prospective buyers to easily complete a purchase, the administration of which will be handled by the BHA.

Advice from Gov.uk about avoiding and reporting internet scams

'Phishing' emails claim to be from a legitimate source and can look very realistic. They come from fraudsters looking to access personal information such as bank details or passwords. Fraudsters sending these emails may claim to be from the VOA, usually offering council tax or business rates refunds.

The VOA will never send an email about refunds for business rates or council tax. If you receive an email that claims to be from the VOA offering you a refund, you should delete it immediately. The VOA does not offer any kind of refund as it are not responsible for collecting council tax or business rates.

You can report misleading emails you think may be suspicious to Action Fraud (www.actionfraud.police.uk). Don't give out private information (such as bank details or passwords), download attachments or click on any links in emails if you're not sure they're genuine.



Special Private Health Insurance Offers for NTF Members

Tim Francis provides NTF Members and their families with Private Health Insurance, Life Cover and Critical Illness Cover. He works for a large UK broker called The Right Mortgage & Protection Network and it has access to memberships, rates, discounts and offers, some of which aren't available from the insurers directly.

Currently there are some great Private Health Insurance offers for BUPA, AXA PPP and Aviva.

If you already have these types of insurance Tim would welcome the chance to find you more cost-effective memberships as most people are paying more than they should. Alternatively, you may not have anything at present and would like some initial quotations and information.

For quotations & more information contact me at tim.francis@therightprotection.net or call me on **07785 921234**

Personal telephone answer service deal for NTF members

When you need an extra pair of hands to answer your telephone for a few minutes or more the company AnswerConnect may be the help you need. Andy Carruthers for AnswerConnect says, "Our receptionists answer calls with a bespoke script. We send text messages and/or emails after every call to as many people as you want, we can transfer your callers to you on a mobile or landline. Take a look at the Online Portal using the login credentials Email: demo@answerconnect.co.uk **Password:** accesdemo to see the control for managing your account, plan, usage, messages and script and the various other aspects of our service."

Plans are all inclusive monthly fee + VAT for a suitable minutes package based on call volume. The average call duration is 2-3 minutes. Overages of £0.89/minute only occur if you go above your set number of minutes within the month. However, this is monitored closely. Plans can be upgraded or downgraded at any time for free to meet your requirements. **For more information contact Andy Carruthers, Telephone 01904 803343, email andy.carruthers@answerconnect.co.uk, quoting NTF as a reference for a 10% discount offer.**

Regulation deadlines

- 🛡️ **2nd April 2018** – 3-day stand down for horses withdrawn by stewards on veterinary advice
- 🛡️ **1st June 2018** – tongue ties not permitted in German racing
- 🛡️ **2nd July 2018** – Racing Admin call centre at Weatherbys closes

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.



RIABS reminders

Recent questions received at the NTF office have prompted us to remind employers and staff of the following aspects of the scheme:

- The age limit for membership of the scheme is 65.
- Self-employed workers are not eligible. We suggest they contact Lycetts for a bespoke personal accident policy
- Don't forget to check the Weatherbys Statements of contributions collected for the previous 13 weeks employees. It allows 7 days for amendments before the trainer's account is charged.

Employed trainers and the NTF Legal Expenses Insurance

The NTF legal expenses insurance is designed to meet the business needs of an NTF member including representation at BHA disciplinary matters and cover for employment disputes, subject to the policy terms being met.

If you are an employed trainer, you need to be aware that the insurance would not cover any employment dispute you may have with your own employer and you should consider having other cover in place. This type of cover is usually available inexpensively through your household insurance or as standalone insurance. All other aspects of the LEI cover are available to employed trainers. See the Key Facts document on our website.

RACING UK

Don't forget Racing UK has generously offered all NTF members a free subscription for every one purchased. Racing UK shows racing from 34 leading racecourses in the UK – and all in glorious HD. To avail yourself of this offer, please email trainers@racinguk.com.



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Employment helpline
01488 71729

Any other legal enquiry
0333 003 0159

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NTF 2018 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
Council and Committees	Monday 6th August	London



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