

# Newsletter

The Voice of Britain's Racehorse Trainers



## National Trainers Federation

November/December 2015  
Issue No. 1090

### Members Agreement binds racing together

Most of the coverage of the signing of the BHA Members Agreement has been about its unifying effect, bringing segments of the sport together to speak with one voice, and its clarification of responsibilities for key decisions. Less coverage has been given to the structures to which responsibilities are devolved.

It's worth remembering that the Members Agreement is part of a package that includes reformation of the BHA Board and creation of the Members and Executive Committees.

The new look BHA Board has been in place now for twelve months. Six Non-Executive Directors were appointed with an impressive breadth of experience in areas that are crucial to the good governance, administration and future prospects of racing. Atholl Duncan, Julie Harrington, Noel Harwerth, Joe Saumarez Smith, Laura Whyte and Eamonn Wilmott have been working on key strategic objectives and supporting the BHA Executive team. Rupert Arnold and David Thorpe, nominated by the Horsemen and Racecourses respectively, have provided the crucial industry knowledge. Andrew Merriam and Sir Paul Stephenson deliver all-important regulatory expertise while a team ethic has been instilled by Chairman Steve Harman and CEO Nick Rust.

#### Members Committee

The BHA's Members are the Licensed Personnel (NASS, NTF and PJA), Racecourse Association, Racehorse Owners Association, and Thoroughbred Breeders Association. Each provides representatives to the Members Committee (MC), which is chaired by the BHA Chairman and also attended by the Chief Executive and additional observers.

The purpose of the MC is to make some of the important strategic decisions as defined by the Members Agreement. In view of the independence of the BHA Board, it also provides a vital link between the BHA Chairman and Chief Executive and the industry stakeholders via the Members. The MC meets quarterly.

#### Executive Committee

The Executive Committee (EC) meets monthly and comprises the BHA Chief Executive, the Chief Executive of the RCA and a Horsemen's Group Board member. The Chief Executive of Racing Enterprises Ltd also attends. Twice a year, Chief Executives of all the industry bodies attend the EC.

The purpose of the EC is to manage important tactical issues of joint interest that require an industry response. The EC also supports the MC and can refer matters to the MC when agreement at EC level hasn't been possible.

Some pundits have remarked on the ability of any party to the Members Agreement being able to terminate the arrangements unilaterally. With this potential fragility, it will be important for the Members to be respectful of the new decision-making structure, allowing it to develop some stability and building confidence through the industry that a unified sport can achieve what a fragmented sport could not.

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## Racing goes to Parliament to press for the Racing Right

Trainers were strongly represented at the BHA-organised Racing Reception in the Houses of Parliament on 17th November. The BHA were extremely grateful to trainers who travelled from all parts of the country to add to the grassroots presence; they mixed with politicians and policy makers with the headline objective of urging the Government to introduce legislation as soon as possible to establish the Horserace Betting ("Racing") Right.

Steve Harman's speech, in which he brought home the stark realities of failure to capture the circa £30m per annum of levy leakage offshore, has been widely reported. Less so the speech by Guy Opperman, MP for Hexham and a former accomplished amateur rider, who kindly hosted the reception. His central message to those present was to contact their MP and help get racing's message across about the urgency of bringing in the Racing Right.

In the last 12 months, the NTF has provided trainers with the means of writing to their MP to press racing's case in Racing Right consultations. We have also written ourselves to MPs with significant numbers of trainers in their constituency. The Government acknowledged the outstanding response of the sport to those consultations. With BHA support, the NTF will soon be calling on trainers for another effort to persuade the Government to press on as the March 2016 deadline for finalising the year's legislative schedule approaches.

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## No increase to trainers' licence fees in 2016

Much coverage has been given to the BHA's proposed 3% increase in industry fees (including trainers' licence fee) in 2016. The BHA has focused considerable efforts to reduce expenditure while in parallel there has been a cost to kick-starting the industry Growth Strategy. A 3% increase in fees was calculated to add to continuing efforts to bring the BHA back to a balanced budget.

Recent developments have seen several proposals for differential fees to encourage behaviour that would have a longer term effect of reducing costs. Applying this principle to trainer activity, an admin fee could be applied to the horses in training function used by trainers. Trainers have the ability to enter their horses into training (HIT) online but over the period August 14 – July 15 more than 3,600 HIT transactions were completed by submitting paper forms to Weatherbys for processing. A handling fee, akin to the current cheque handling fee, could be applied for this service in the hope this will encourage more online use.

Following consultation, the NTF Council approved a BHA proposal for no general increase to the trainers' licence fee counterbalanced by the introduction of a handling fee for HIT returns completed on paper or by telephone.

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## Racing stats inspire cautious optimism

On 2nd December, the BHA published its latest data pack, which gives a snapshot of key statistics such as horses in training and field sizes. You can view the data packs on the BHA website in the Resource Centre; go to Reports and Statistics.

For the 2015 Fixture List the BHA introduced a series of measures designed to offset the impact of previous increases in fixtures on field sizes and reduce the number of small-field, uncompetitive races. The result of those measures is now starting to emerge more strongly. The decline in average field sizes over Jumps has been arrested and field sizes have improved marginally in the period January – October 2015 compared to the same period in 2014.

There are still too many races where the fields are too small and uncompetitive, and clearly there is much still to be done. However, the data shows that we have reversed the trend and the numbers are starting to go in the right direction.



## Introduction of incentives for NH Mare Owners

The HBLB has agreed to introduce a valuable new incentive for owners and trainers to race British-bred or –sired NH fillies, commencing on 1st January 2016. This is the NH Mare Owners Prize Scheme (NH MOPS), which offers substantial prizes for British-bred or -sired fillies that win appropriate races under NH Rules. The Scheme will apply from the foal crop of 2012 (now 3YOs) but not to earlier crops.

In order to be eligible for the Scheme a filly needs to be nominated to it, for a one-off fee of £50 to members of the TBA or ROA or £150 to non-members. For fillies born in 2012 nominations have to be received (and paid for) by 31st December 2015, so urgent action is required.

Mares can win the following awards:

**£10,000** for wins in Class 1-2 Open races, Class 1-4 Novice Chases & Hurdles, and **£5,000** for wins in NH Flat races.

In order to support the Mares-only racing programme and to aid promotion of the Scheme and monitoring of its effects on field sizes, the Scheme is confined to **Mares-only** races.

Prizes will be reduced by 50% for fields of less than 8 runners, and for an individual horse will be confined to a maximum of £50,000 for results in Class 2-6 races plus a further £50,000 for results in Class 1 races. The Scheme will begin on January 1st 2016. All prizes are paid to owners and other connections in the same way as for general prize money.

Normally it is expected that breeders will nominate their filly foals to the Scheme, expecting to benefit either from MOPS prizes if they are owner / breeders or from greater prices paid for eligible fillies. However, since the Scheme will commence with the NH foal crop of 2012 it is inevitable that some breeders will have already sold fillies that can be made eligible for NH MOPS. These will therefore have to be nominated by their owner if this is a different person.

Accordingly, if you have in training any GB-bred filly or one bred abroad but by a British stallion, it makes sense for trainers to encourage her owner to nominate her to the Scheme. The only restriction is that nominated horses must not have made their racing debut in a flat race.

If you have any queries about the Scheme please phone or email the TBA Office: 01638 661321, [louise.kemble@thetba.co.uk](mailto:louise.kemble@thetba.co.uk).

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## Don't miss out on Plus 10 early bird rate

Trainers who bought Plus 10 yearlings at recent sales are urged to finalise scheme registration before the end of the year to save £50 per horse on the cost of registration.

The third and final Owner Registration reduces to £300 if paid by 31 December. Between 1 January and 28 February 2016 the cost of Owner Registration rises to £350.

After a horse is qualified for Plus 10, it can win an unlimited number of £10,000 bonuses across more than 550 races. This year, Plus 10 horses have won almost £2.7 million in bonus prize money on British tracks. From 2016 bonuses will feature on the following races:

- 🏆 2YOs: All Class 2, 3 and 4 Maiden, Novice and Conditions and Class 5 Fillies' Only Maiden and Novice races
- 🏆 3YOs: All 3YO Only Class 2, 3 and 4 Maiden and Conditions and Class 5 Fillies' Only Maiden races

British-trained horses can also win bonuses on Irish tracks. To view the Irish Plus 10 race programme, and for more information, visit [www.plus10bonus.com](http://www.plus10bonus.com) or contact 020 7152 0026 or [info@plus10bonus.com](mailto:info@plus10bonus.com).



## Challenger Series emerges from Jump Racing Review consultation

The BHA has announced the creation of the Challenger Series – five new Jumps Series for mid-tier Jump horses each culminating in £50,000 finals **worth approximately £265,000 in total to be held at Haydock Park on Easter Saturday, live on Channel 4.**

The Challenger Series is an expansion of the successful and popular Grassroots Jump Series which was launched in 2011/12 and run exclusively to date by Jockey Club Racecourses. From November 2015 the series will be expanded significantly and staged across all of the British Jumps courses which are racing between November and March.

The initiative has arisen from the Jump Racing Review. A number of trainers (including NTF Council members) were members of the review group and in the summer, a BHA team came to the NTF South West region meeting to consult the wider membership. Trainers supported strongly the concept of additional jump series and made suggestions to the BHA about the type of races that would work.

It is good to see these ideas evolving into reality to provide a boost to owners and trainers of mid-tier jumpers and especially for jump racing in the north.

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## Moving forward with Holistic Race Planning

In August of this year the BHA launched a formal consultation for stakeholders into the development of a more holistic approach to race planning. This review was based around the premise that a more collaborative, co-ordinated and inclusive system of race planning ought to deliver an improved race programme. If successful, this is likely to lead to better use of the available horse population, something which can be seen as an easy win for the sport and which will contribute to the wider industry growth strategy.

The feedback suggested that the race programme itself is not broken, yet the processes behind the compilation of that programme could be improved to deliver a more optimal outcome for the sport. A working party has been set up consisting of representatives from the BHA, Horsemen's Group and Racecourses. Rupert Arnold and George Noad have participated for the NTF.

Discussions are ongoing around whether it might be possible to generate a clearer understanding of the number of horses in training that are actively seeking a run; whether to increase and/or continue with the existing number of Interactive Race Planning slots; and whether existing Programme Books and Racing Calendars could be amalgamated and/or replaced by a single, regular publication issued throughout the year.

Improved communications with trainers might include regular Programme Book debriefs at the end of each quarter and an opportunity for trainers to alert the BHA to any gaps and/or clashes in the programme via the Racing Admin site.

It has also been proposed that the BHA should take more of a co-ordinating role when compiling the race programme and that the BHA's ability to take a more aspirational approach to race programme should remain in order to nurture certain animals and maintain the diversity of the breed overall.

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## Additional place prizemoney scheme to end

It took twelve months to activate and now it is going to disappear after only twelve months in operation. When the largest bookmakers agreed to top up their levy payments with Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVC) worth £4.5m per annum for five years, they specified the funding should be used to increase field sizes and produce more competitive racing. After many months of talks, the method chosen was to extend prizemoney to more places and guarantee a minimum amount down to sixth or eighth place, depending on the type of race.

Although there is some evidence that AVC races have performed reasonably well against the agreed indicators, the bookmakers exercised a force majeure clause enabling them to terminate the funding. (Incidentally, this is a good illustration of the need for a funding mechanism that does not depend on voluntary arrangements.)

There is a residual sum of money left from the AVC funding and as the newsletter goes to print, discussions are continuing about the races it will support. The NTF is keen to see a valuable race series that provides incentives for participation. We will update you once more details are decided.

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## Launching the new-look Racing Admin website

In the New Year, the BHA will launch an improved and new-look version of the Racing Administration website. This is the result of many months development work during which a pool of trainers has been involved in explaining the functionality required and giving the BHA feedback at each stage. This is part of an overall software development programme for BHA IT services with the working title “Delphic”.

As part of a soft launch to the new site, the BHA will be contacting a small group of trainers over the coming weeks to help them with the rollout, anticipated to be initially in December and January. The full rollout will be done gradually to minimise risks to the service. Trainers will be contacted approximately six weeks before switch over with instructions and help guides.

Functionality of the system will be built upon over the coming months and years. Services such as a new race search will be introduced. Much simpler screens will replace old paper based processes (e.g. stable employee maintenance.) The design means screens are easier to understand and use. A new communications hub will give the trainer the ability to see all messages, receipts and alerts in one place.

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## Registering stable “employees” with the BHA

On 1st January 2016, a change to the wording of Manual (C) Schedule 2 will come into effect regarding trainers’ duties to register stable “employees”. The new wording makes it clearer who should be included on the Stable Employee Register. Note that it is not necessary for the relevant person to be employed. Subject to some obvious exceptions, anyone who has regular access to the yard should be placed on the Register. This is the new rule:

- 🏆 **1.2 A Trainer must make an application to the Racing Calendar Office for a Person’s name to be entered on the Register of Stable Employee Names where**
  - 🏆 **1.2.1 he decides to employ that Person in his stable, or**
  - 🏆 **1.2.2 that Person has regular access to or involvement in his stable, subject to the exceptions in Paragraph 1.2.3.**
  - 🏆 **1.2.3 Paragraph 1.2.2 does not apply to**
    - 🏆 **1.2.3.1 service providers; or**
    - 🏆 **1.2.3.2 Owners, unless they have duties in the stable.**



## Trainer's duties when selling a horse to an owner

Earlier this year, the NTF and ROA liaised over the responsibilities of trainers when selling a horse to an existing or prospective owner. This resulted in a joint approach to the BHA to amend the Trainers Code of Conduct set out in Part 2 of (C) Schedule 4. The BHA approved new wording at clause 8.5, which takes effect from 1st January 2016, states

"When a Licensed Trainer acts in relation to the sale of a horse trained or likely to be trained by him to an existing or intended owner in his yard then, irrespective of the capacity in which the trainer so acts, he must:

- 8.5.1 advise the buyer that the horse may be examined before purchase by a veterinary surgeon appointed by the buyer; and
- 8.5.2 disclose to the buyer, to the extent that it may be applicable to the horse in question, that the horse has been seen to weave, box-walk, windsuck or crib bite and/or any veterinary condition known to the Licensed Trainer which might affect performance and/or any surgery that the horse has undergone to the Licensed Trainer's knowledge."

We recommend strongly that you should ensure your advice to the owner is conveyed in an email or a letter so you can prove the advice was given. In general, based on our experience of recent BHA investigations, it is wise to retain as much written and photographic evidence as possible relating to horses in your care and communication with their owners. This will protect you against unfounded allegations.

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## 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 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.**
- 31st December 2015** – safety vests must comply with (BS) EN 13158:2009
- 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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## Be seen on dark winter mornings

At this time of year we are contacted regularly by members of the public asking that trainers ensure their staff wear high visibility clothing and/or equipment so they are visible to motorists.

This is a basic health and safety measure. If you send your horses out to use the roads when it is either dark or visibility is poor, it is essential to protect their safety and that of their riders. Remember that drivers are at a low level compared to the rider so consider equipment on the horse that may be more visible to people in cars and lorries.



## Confirmation of increase to minimum racing industry pay rates

On 12th November, we confirmed to members by email the outcome of the annual negotiations with the National Association of Stable Staff (NASS) regarding the standard conditions of employment. The Racing Industry Minimum Rates of pay will increase by 2.5% with effect from 14th December 2015. Full details of the new rates were emailed and posted to trainers.

A finalised version of the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) is now available on the NTF website following approval and signing by both parties. The only amendment from the version sent to trainers is a correction to the Scale 2 Improver rate for 16 and 17 year olds, which is £188.60 (not £155.74.) Also, you should note that from 1st April 2016, due to the introduction of the Government's National Living Wage, workers aged 25 and over must be paid at the rate of £7.20 per hour for time worked away from the yard outside normal working hours. The MoA states trainers have discretion whether to apply the increase to workers already in receipt of pay exceeding the minimum rates. The NTF has no mandate in this area but feedback from trainers suggests differentials are generally maintained when minimum rates rise.

As well as the pay rate, this year's negotiations covered other areas that NASS felt were important to make a job in a racing yard more attractive, including time off in recognition of weekend working and payments for time away from the yard. These ambitions were set against the background of the acknowledged shortage of stable staff. While sympathetic to the ideas, the NTF Council felt unable to agree a uniform method applying to all trainers. We have therefore agreed to work with NASS on separate guidance suggesting ways trainers could use their discretion to introduce improved working conditions that may assist with recruitment and retention of staff.

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## Guidance on managing an employee's mental health

Mental health is moving centre stage in the health arena. The background to Pat Eddery's sad demise and the PJA's praiseworthy initiative in providing their members with access to a mental health helpline have drawn this issue to the attention of everyone in racing.

According to NHS figures at any one time around 1 in 6 adults may be suffering from a mental health problem and at chapter 10.4 of the NTF Employment Guide there is advice for trainers in managing an employee with a mental health condition. This chapter gives an overview and, as always, advice on individual issues is available from the NTF office and NTF 24 hour legal helpline. The chapter also contains links to websites and advice lines for employers and employees on mental health issues.

The BHA is also stepping into this space with its Welfare Development Manager, Matt Mancini, promoting the Mental Health Charter for Sport and Recreation. There is more information on this at the website [www.sportandrecreation.org.uk](http://www.sportandrecreation.org.uk).

For the NTF's part, the creation this year of our Trainers Benevolent Fund offers an opportunity to support the welfare of our members. The responsibilities of running a business and the uncertainties of racing have a big emotional and mental impact but personalities being as they are, it is not always easy to admit to oneself or others. There is almost certainly a hidden demand for the right service and we now have the means to consider how best to meet that demand.

### Auto Enrolment Pensions

Auto Enrolment applies to **all** employers.

Do you know your staging date?

Have you notified a contact to the Pension Regulator?

**Don't risk a fine by failing to comply**

Read the NTF Auto Enrolment Guide on our website and plan your scheme now.



## RIABS – Medical/Repatriation Expenses

When your staff are temporarily working overseas, members of the Racing Industry Accident Benefits Scheme have cover for medical and repatriation expenses up to a limit of £2,000,000. Download a copy of the RIABS rules from the NTF website for your employee to take with them for contact details if necessary and also proof for VISA applications.

This element of the Scheme is administered by Argo Assistance and in the event of an Insured Person requiring assistance in connection with an occurrence likely to result in a claim under this Extension, immediate notice should be given to Argo by telephone: +44 (0)1243 621105 or e-mail address: [argoassistance@cegagroup.com](mailto:argoassistance@cegagroup.com).

The policy extends to sickness and covers repatriation to the UK. If your staff are abroad for an extended length of time, please contact the NTF to ensure their cover is valid. Note this is not travel insurance for loss of baggage, missed flights etc.

Please note that this cover is for temporary work overseas and if your employee is likely to be away for an extended period working for their UK trainer please contact Jill Crook for further details.

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### To claim RIABS, employees need a payslip

Where trainers register family members on the BHA stable register as a paid employee and they receive a wage under PAYE and are given a payslip, RIABS contributions will be made and the employee will be eligible to claim on RIABS.

All well and good, but if family members or partners are not in PAYE and are without a payslip, they will be a director or partner in the business and will be classed as receiving monetary remuneration in the form of a dividend and therefore are not eligible to claim on RIABS.

Directors or partners of the business should be registered on the BHA Stable Employees Register as unpaid and an alternative accident insurance should be sought either through your own broker or contact the NTF Insurance Consultants, [Sophie Chambers](#) at Lycetts Tel: 0207 423 0900 who will be able to advise an alternative policy.

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### Avoiding unrecoverable pension contributions to the Friends Life Scheme

Large, medium and small scale trainers now have to comply with the legal requirement to provide an Auto Enrolment pension scheme for their employees. Once you have begun making payments to your new scheme, the requirement to contribute to the NTF Friends Life (“industry”) scheme falls away. Page 5 of the NTF’s Auto Enrolment Pensions Guide (available on the NTF website) explains how to ensure you do not pay twice – once to your auto enrolment scheme and also to the Friends Life scheme.

On the Stable Employee Register trainers should flag their employees as having “Other Arrangements” in order for no further contributions to be deducted from their Weatherbys account for the Friends Life scheme. There is no facility to do this flag on the online admin system and trainers will need to either ring or email Weatherbys. At the present time the contact at Weatherbys is Victoria Morris ([vmorris@weatherbys.co.uk](mailto:vmorris@weatherbys.co.uk)). The NTF will not be able to keep track of contributions wrongly made to the Friends Life scheme after a trainer has auto enrolled. **You must follow the advice above to ensure you do not make unrecoverable payments.**



## ANNOUNCEMENT TO MEMBERS AND INTERESTED PARTIES

### STABLE EMPLOYEES PENSION PLAN AMENDMENT TO INVESTMENT FUND

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In light of recently introduced pension freedoms, the Trustee of the Stable Employees Pension Plan (SEPP) has undertaken a review of a number of aspects of the Plan. This has included taking advice from its investment consultant. After consideration, the Trustee has decided to move member investments from the current F&C Funds to a Diversified Growth Fund. This will be known as the SEPP Diversified Growth Fund.

Historically the SEPP was designed to provide an income in retirement through an annuity. However, experience in respect of benefit settlement for members and the introduction of pension freedoms demonstrate that the vast majority of settlements are taken as either a transfer to another arrangement or settled as a stand-alone lump sum. It is in the light of this experience, and likely member expectations that the Trustee has reached this decision and is therefore making the change.

The objective of the SEPP Diversified Growth Fund will be 'to follow a diversified, risk controlled investment process that aims to achieve smoother returns during extreme market conditions, a return similar to a balanced portfolio over a market cycle and to do so with approximately 40% less risk than a balanced portfolio'. The fund has a comparator performance objective linked to a composite market index and the manager provides comparisons against libor plus 3.5% pa. There are no guarantees relating to performance and the value of member accounts may still rise or fall. The Trustee considers that this arrangement will be appropriate and more suitable to the needs of the members going forward.

Initially the Fund will be managed by Black Rock, a leading investment manager, and will be held on an investment platform with Mobius Life. The Fund charges are 0.7% per annum which is reflected within the unit price. There are additional total expenses incurred of a modest nature, generally in the order of 0.03% pa.

Certain members of the SEPP have defined contribution entitlement relating to a former arrangement. These benefits are invested in the SEPP Cash Fund and will remain so in accordance with the terms of the Trust Deed. The underlying manager for this is Legal and General Investment Management and this is also held on the Mobius Life investment platform. The current annual management charge is 0.17% pa and the Trustee keeps this under review. Although this investment is expected to be stable the value of investments in the SEPP Cash fund are not guaranteed and may rise or fall in value.

Members and their Advisors who have questions about their benefits and entitlement under the Plan should contact:

**Winterbourne Trustee Services Limited, One Oakridge Park, Southampton Road,  
Whaddon, Salisbury SP5 3HT**

Enquiries to Winterbourne Trustee Services Limited from members may be made by email to [enquiry@winterbourne-trustee.co.uk](mailto:enquiry@winterbourne-trustee.co.uk), or in writing to the address above.

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## Our report from the World Horse Welfare conference

British Horseracing was at the forefront of the World Horse Welfare (WHW) Conference held in London at the Royal Geographical Society on Tuesday, 10th November. The event is sponsored by Betfair, who have supported WHW for the past five years. Its Chairman, Gerald Corbett, spoke of the company's keen interest in the welfare of equines both in the UK and overseas.

The theme of the conference was 'Challenging the Status Quo' and racing was represented with the vast experience of John Francome. John gave an entertaining and heartfelt talk comparing traditional methods to modern practices, particularly in the use of the whip, and the riding experience of young aspiring jockey's. His views and those of the other addressees and more can be viewed on Youtube via this link to the [WHW website](#) They include Sir Jim Plaire, former Defra Minister, on 'Would our horses be better off inside the EU, or out'; and Josep Subriana, Veterinary Surgeon and advisor of Governments and NGOs, on 'an international view of the issue of euthanasia'.

British racing fared well overall with the industry regulations and insistence of racing drug free; however the report of a Weatherbys-registered thoroughbred found injured and abandoned in the UK was shocking. That and the report of live thoroughbreds exported to a dubious and unknown future overseas gave racing clear indication of the work to be done. HRH The Princess Royal, WHW President, addressed the Conference and WHW CEO, Roly Owers summed up the morning's debate by imploring everyone involved with all equines to Challenge the Status Quo by questioning everything or even just one thing that we do from traditional to modern methods in the mutually beneficial quest between horse, owner and trainer (whether in sport or a working animal) to Put the Horse First.

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## Current trainer is responsible for vaccination records

We would like to remind you that you should not rely on a horse's vaccination records being correct because the horse has raced and had its passport checked/stamped. If an historic problem with the vaccination records comes to light, the trainer currently responsible for the horse on the raceday will be fined.

If a trainer is uncertain as to whether past vaccinations meet the requirements of the rules, then they should ask their own vet to check or if they take the passport to the races on a day when the horse is not racing, they can ask the vet on duty to check it. Any alterations must be done according to the Rules ([Manual E, part 2, \(E\)19](#)), which are very strict in this area.

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## Research on preventing tendon injuries

This month, Thoroughbred Health Network (THN) is launching its first review of research on racehorse health and the first topic is prevention of tendon injuries.

THN is a collaborative pilot project of industry stakeholder organisations, including the NTF, for racing in Scotland and Northern England. If successful, it will be extended nationwide. It will evaluate and share decades of racehorse research but in an easy to read format that can be easily digested by all trainers.

If you have already subscribed to the network, you will receive an email notification containing login details to access the review. If you have yet to subscribe, do so free of charge at the THN website [www.thoroughbredhealthnetwork.co.uk](http://www.thoroughbredhealthnetwork.co.uk)

## The Rating Revaluation 2017

*In the last edition, we described the NTF's work aimed at helping to reduce trainers' costs on Non-Domestic (aka Business) Rates. Below, Bill Simpson, our rating adviser, explains the background to the NTF's strategy.*

The Valuation Office is currently undertaking a rating revaluation, which will come into effect on 1 April 2017, of all commercial properties in England and Wales. A similar rating revaluation is also taking place in Scotland. Each commercial property will have a new Rateable Value which will then determine the amount of rates payable. The last revaluation was carried out in 2010, and the purpose of the revaluation is to update valuations to reflect the open market rental value of each property.

Racing Stables are a valuation category in themselves. The Valuation Office co-ordinates the market evidence which has been provided by trainers who rent yards and have supplied details on Forms of Return. A draft publication of the 2017 Rating List will be published by October 2016 when the VO will send each occupier a summary valuation of how the new 2017 Rateable Value is derived. If there are factual errors these can be notified to the VO and changes made. The new Rateable Values will then come into effect from 1 April 2017. The Government will announce the multiplier (i.e. rate in the pound, which is currently about 50p) and provisions for Transitional Relief before 1 April 2017. (For example for a property with a Rateable Value of £12000, the actual payment would be £6000 per annum – without small business relief).

The Valuation Office has a useful website to check what valuation any property is currently based upon. Go to Valuation Office Agency, then Check your Business Rates Assessment, then find my property and insert the postcode. This will show how the current Rateable Value is calculated and the number of stables, gallops, etc at the yard in question.

If you have any questions please contact your current adviser or Bill Simpson (Tyto Consultancy on 01488 685111, email [tyto@btconnect.com](mailto:tyto@btconnect.com)) who acts as Consultant to the NTF and has about 80 clients with racing yards and stud farms. With the impending revaluation there is likely to be an increase in activity from agents trying to win instructions through high pressure telephone techniques. **Beware of agents who insist on the signing of contracts unless the small print is fully understood particularly the fee arrangement, including the termination fee and duration of the contract.**



# RACESAFE

**JOCKEY VEST. LEVEL 1,2&3. BS EN13158:2009**  
**BHA RULE CHANGE REQUIRING ALL JOCKEY & STAFF BODY PROTECTORS TO MEET 2009 VERSION OF EUROPEAN STANDARD. BS EN13158:2009**

Jockey Vest. L1



Jockey Vest. L2



Jockey Vest. L3



CONTACT THE RACESAFE TEAM OR LOCAL STOCKIST FOR DETAILS. [WWW.RACESAFE.CO.UK](http://WWW.RACESAFE.CO.UK) | +44 (0)1536 771051



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Competitive Prices



[www.wattfences.com](http://www.wattfences.com)  
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Watt Fences have the ability to offer a large range of schooling hurdles and fences to cater for the first day of schooling through to schooling fences for the seasoned handicapper. We currently have a range of double and single sided hurdles with both available with wooden or steel frames. The portable schooling hurdles are available in traditional birch, rubber or plastic birch and normally come in 6ft sections however we are able to custom build to individual requirements with size.

Our portable schooling fences are available in traditional birch or plastic birch and all are built to Jockey Club specifications for licensing requirements. These are available with either wooden or metal frames. Our fences come fully padded and ditch boards are also available.

Alongside our hurdles and fences we can provide trainers with schooling wings and upright or swan neck gallop rail. Our full range of products can be viewed at [www.wattfences.com](http://www.wattfences.com) Please contact us if you would like any further information regarding any of our products.



Fornells plastic birch hurdle, 6ft section, timber frame



Double sided rubber hurdles, 6ft sections



New Design - double sided lightweight steel framed hurdle with plastic birch, 1m sections



Schooling fence with 2 rows of plastic birch

Our products can be seen in use at Newmarket Links, Malton Gallops and Middleham Gallops. Currently used by many trainers including Philip Hobbs, Kevin Ryan, Richard Fahey, Mark Johnston and many more

## Executive month, October/November 2015

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

- NTF Regional meetings x 6
- BHA Board x 2
- Racing Parliamentary Reception
- Holistic Race Planning consultation
- Horsemen's Group Board x 2 (Ralph Beckett)
- Consultation on AVCs
- Racing Together Steering Group
- National Joint Council
- Recruitment and Training consultation
- Valuation Office Agency meeting (Bill Simpson)
- RIABS Trustees meeting
- World Horse Welfare annual conference
- Visit to HEROS
- Future Purchasing on Procurement
- Alex Scott Travel Scholarship interviews
- BRS Trainers Course
- Racing Yard Managers Course
- RCA Technical Group

## 2016 Annual General Meeting

In 2016 the Annual General meeting will be on Thursday 25th February. Once again we will welcome members to the Turf Club, which has become a popular venue.



**National  
Trainers  
Federation**

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