



## NTF WEEKLY – 1 NOVEMBER 2017

### **Tell us about your great team and win £4000**

So often now trainers attribute successes on the racecourse to the great team they have in the yard. On the back of this the NTF created the Lycetts Team Champion Award and there is now one month remaining to submit nominations (deadline is 1<sup>st</sup> December.)

All trainers were sent a brochure in September containing a detailed explanation of the Award, a full copy of The Winning Approach, and a sample nomination form. All these documents are on the [NTF website here](#). Use the downloadable nomination form on the website for your entry, which must be with us by 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017. (The judging panel will be announced shortly.) The winners will be presented with their awards at the NTF AGM on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018 at the Institute of Directors in London.

Our aim is to praise the best managed yards and showcase the positive results of developing a team that works well together. We are supporting trainers by developing a framework of best practice called The Winning Approach, which forms the basis of the judging criteria for the Award. Together we can improve stable staff recruitment and retention rates by promoting the most successful ways in which racehorse trainers manage their staff and encouraging wider adoption of those practices.

This project is jointly funded by the Racing Foundation as part of its £1m investment in people development within racing.

### **BHA managing budget to limit fee increases**

When the BHA agreed a three year budget with stakeholders last year, it set a forecast for industry fees (including trainers' licence fees) so in 2018 there would be an increase by the higher of 2.75%, or CPI plus 0.75%. The latest CPI figures published last week show that inflation has risen to 3%, meaning that fees could have been increased by 3.75% from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018.

The BHA Board has decided, however, to limit the increase to **2.75%**, which will apply to all fees from the beginning of 2018. This lower increase has been made possible by an

improved financial performance this year, which means the BHA can apply this lesser increase in 2018 and still meet its aim to break-even over the three years.

### **Northern Lights Series nearing its conclusion**

The Northern Lights Series was launched earlier this year to provide a further incentive to own and train jump horses in the north, and stimulate investment into the grassroots of the sport in this region.

A series of 75 qualifiers are taking place which will culminate in five £25,000 finals, which will be class 2 handicaps, at Carlisle on 3 December.

The series are not confined exclusively to horses trained in the North and to qualify horses must have started in at least two series qualifiers and been placed in the first eight on at least one occasion. This qualification is specific to each individual series and cannot be mixed and matched across two different series. The dates, locations and ratings bands of remaining series qualifiers and locations can be seen below:

#### **3m Handicap Hurdle Series**

08/11/2017 Musselburgh (0-110)  
15/11/2017 Ayr (0-115)  
18/11/2017 Wetherby (0-120)

#### **2½m Mares' Handicap Hurdle Series**

02/11/2017 Sedgefield (0-120)  
15/11/2017 Ayr (0-120)

#### **3m Handicap Chase Series**

04/11/2017 Wetherby (0-120)  
08/11/2017 Musselburgh (0-120)  
18/11/2017 Wetherby (0-105)

#### **2½m Handicap Chase Series**

04/11/2017 Ayr (0-115)  
13/11/2017 Carlisle (0-120)

#### **2m Handicap Hurdle Series**

08/11/2017 Musselburgh (0-120)  
22/11/2017 Hexham (0-120)

There remain significant, valuable and winnable opportunities for horses partly qualified for the finals so the BHA is communicating with trainers and owners via text and e-mail to ensure they are aware of the series, which only has a few qualifiers left. Trainers or owners wishing to see if their horse is fully or partially qualified can do so via the BHA notices section on the Racing Admin site: [https://support.racingadmin.co.uk/racing-admin-support/bha-notices/series\\_qualifiers/](https://support.racingadmin.co.uk/racing-admin-support/bha-notices/series_qualifiers/).

## **Raising of weights in flat and jump handicaps**

Allowing horses rated 1lb or 2bs above the rating band in handicaps has led to a number of anomalies. The BHA Racing Group has now agreed a change from 1<sup>st</sup> November.

Where the raising of weights is necessary, horses rated 1lb or 2lb above the upper rating limit of the race are initially disregarded for the purposes of raising of the weights. Once the weights have been raised based upon the horses rated within the rating range of the race, the weights of the horses above the band are also raised accordingly.

From 1<sup>st</sup> November, if the top weight (excluding penalties) remaining engaged in the race is therefore raised above 12st 7lb in jump handicaps or 10st 7lbs in flat handicaps, the top weight will be lowered to a maximum of 12st 7lb in jump handicaps and 10st 7lbs in flat handicaps, and all other weights lowered accordingly. In flat handicaps confined to Amateur Riders, the relevant top weight will be 12st.

## **Syndicates Association to collaborate with the NTF**

For many trainers, syndicates are the life-blood of their yard and it's not uncommon for well over half the horses to be in group ownership schemes of various types. It is estimated that there are over 5,000 owners involved; commercial syndicators are already managing well over 1,000 horses, with numbers growing all the time; and the economic contribution to British racing is well over £50 million a year. This is in marked contrast to sole ownership which is in steady decline. Syndicates are inevitably going to be an even greater component of total ownership in the future. Different types are emerging, with trainers entering into joint ventures with professional syndicators, racecourses setting up their own racing clubs and increasingly large numbers of first-time owners coming into the sport through small, fractional shareholdings.

The Racehorse Syndicates Association (RSA) is the industry body representing professional syndicators. Details can be found on [www.racehorsesyndicates.org](http://www.racehorsesyndicates.org). All the big names such as Highclere and Middleham Park are represented, as well as many smaller operations right across Britain. Some of these groups are amongst the biggest owners in the country. Membership has doubled in the past two years and is now at its highest ever level. In the short term the RSA is working hard to improve the overall benefits package at racecourses for syndicators and syndicate owners while developing a longer-term strategy that assesses the broader implications for racing of the likely huge growth in syndication.

The RSA recently approached the NTF with a view to collaborating with us, so we're proposing a small working group to identify areas of common interest and create an action plan for joint promotion of syndication as well as understanding the needs of trainers and racing secretaries in this area. If you'd like to be involved in this group, please let us know.

## **Pro bono legal representation provides a safety net**

In his 2016 report on the BHA Disciplinary structure, Christopher Quinlan QC addressed the issue of “inequality of arms” and recommended that *“The BHA should introduce the relevant stakeholders to Sport Resolutions with a view to those bodies establishing formal partnerships offering Racing’s participants access to pro bono legal advice and representation in the event that they become subject to a BHA investigation or disciplinary proceedings and cannot afford representation themselves.”*

The BHA has announced an agreement with Sport Resolutions to provide access to their pro bono panel for racing participants who cannot afford their own legal representation. The only cost would be a fixed administration fee of £200 plus VAT per case, payable by the participant. For this fee (which is solely intended to cover their administration costs - they are a not for profit organisation), Sport Resolutions would match the participant with an appropriate solicitor or barrister from the pro bono panel, who would then provide all necessary advice and representation, for no further fee. The BHA would have no involvement in the relationship between Sport Resolutions and the participant, and no knowledge of whether a particular participant had chosen to seek access to the service. The BHA intends to include standard wording in its charge letters to make participants aware of the availability of the service, and will include contact details for Sport Resolutions for those who may wish to use the service. Further information regarding the pro bono panel can be found here: <https://www.sportresolutions.co.uk/services/pro-bono>

This is not intended to replace existing methods of procuring legal advice and will only be available to individuals who satisfy Sport Resolutions that they cannot afford their own legal representation. Whilst the lawyers who make up the pro bono panel are highly qualified individuals with expertise in contentious matters relating to sport (including corruption, anti-doping etc.) they are unlikely to be expert in horseracing matters.

We will be taking this development into account as we review the NTF’s Legal Expenses Insurance and Legal Assistance scheme before renewal in 2018.

## **Another chance to have your say on British racecourses**

Though there has been a good response from trainers to their survey, the RCA is keen to maximise the feedback to get a better understanding of the key reasons for running horses at their Racecourses. A joint letter from the RCA and NTF Presidents inviting trainers to participate can be read on ntfmuse [here](#).

By completing the survey below, the results will enable racecourses to better understand the entry process and ultimately how they can improve the experience for trainers and owners. The survey has a number of generalities which have been necessary for practical

reasons. However the RCA hopes the survey can be used to drive positive change and help to inform prize money and spending decisions. Go to the survey at this link <https://racecourseassociation.wufoo.eu/forms/p158u9dn0sxfsi0/>

### Extra copies of the NTF Racing Diary 2018

The NTF Racing Diary is the official diary of the National Trainers Federation, containing invaluable information for daily use by a racehorse trainer.

If you would like to order extra copies of the 2018 edition, you can do so through this [link on the NTF website](#).

### Retired trainers' metal badges for 2018

The RCA would like to remind retired trainers who are the holders of RCA Metal Badges that they will only send 2018 badges to those who are holders of PASS cards. Everyone should have received their PASS cards but if not either download this [application form](#) or contact Weatherbys PASS card department [pass@weatherbys.co.uk](mailto:pass@weatherbys.co.uk)

### Look out for upcoming rule changes

This autumn has been a busy one for rule changes. The BHA Board has approved a raft of rule changes that have an impact on trainers so the NTF will be doing a summary and explanation to post on our website. Nearly all these changes take effect on 1<sup>st</sup> January.

### Regulation deadlines

- Pension auto enrolment staging dates
  - **Up to February 2018** for businesses started since April 2012
- **By the end of 2017** – original Racing Admin website will close.
- **30<sup>th</sup> October 2017** – New non-runner rules take effect: trainer's non-runner percentage, 2-day stand down for Vet Certificates; increased fine for non-runners after 9.00am
- **1<sup>st</sup> November 2017** – in handicaps, if after raising of weights, a horse rated 1lb or 2lbs above the rating band is set to carry more than 10.7 (flat) or 12.7 (jumps), the weights will be lowered so the top weight carried 10.7/12.7 and other weights lowered accordingly. Amateur races on flat – 12st.
- **1<sup>st</sup> January 2018** – minimum ratings applies to all non-two year old Group 1 and non-novice Grade 1 races.
- **1<sup>st</sup> January 2018** – when extending declaration deadline, each trainer with a declaration will be deemed to have declared only one horse

## NTF meeting dates

<b>West Midland and Wales</b>	<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Warwick Racecourse, 1pm</b>
<b>North</b>	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	Ripon Racecourse
<b>East</b>	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Newmarket
<b>South East</b>	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Epsom Racecourse
<b>Central South</b>	Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Newbury Racecourse
<b>Committees and Council</b>	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	London