

# NTF WEEKLY UPDATE- 03 NOVEMBER 2023 – Issue No. 1362

INDUSTRY NEWS .....	1
Gambling Review - Have you signed the Affordability Petition? .....	1
Thoroughbred Census.....	2
How can you help?.....	2
Nominate NOW for the Thoroughbred Industry Employee Awards – closes TUESDAY .....	2
Firework Displays Following Racing .....	3
Newcastle Racecourse 3rd November and Ascot Racecourse 4th November .....	3
Unibet and The Jockey Club launch new Middle Distance Veterans’ Chase Series.....	3
FULL LIST OF FIXTURES 23/24 .....	4
Syndicate/Racing Club Changes in Racing Digital – BHA Update.....	4
SERVING RACEHORSE OWNERS: PART 2.....	4
SYNDICATE DEFINITION .....	5
SYNDICATE MEMBER SHARES.....	5
SYNDICATOR AND CLUB MANAGER LICENCES.....	6
MORE INFORMATION .....	6
Update from the Point-to-Point Authority. ....	6
Post pregnancy support programme .....	7
EMPLOYMENT.....	7
Racing Industry Pension Scheme for Employees in the year 2001 and earlier.....	7
UPCOMING EVENTS .....	8
NTF Regional Forums Confirmed for the Autumn – Please sign up here .....	8

## INDUSTRY NEWS

### [Gambling Review - Have you signed the Affordability Petition?](#)

Take a minute to sign the petition in opposition to affordability checks [link here](#) to sign and read more information.

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## Thoroughbred Census

There is now only two months left to complete the thoroughbred census. If you still own a thoroughbred that's been retired from racing, please complete the census via [www.ror.org.uk/registration](http://www.ror.org.uk/registration).

The project is aiming to enhance the sport's data bank and improve traceability of thoroughbreds after they have been retired from racing, a key commitment from the sport's welfare strategy, 'A Life Well Lived'.

Details of over 4,500 former racehorses have been submitted in the first three months of the project. This is a solid start but, with the ambition to reach 12,000 completions, significant efforts are needed as the closing date of 31st December draws closer. The support of the racing community is essential to help achieve this.

### How can you help?

Please spread the word and share the thoroughbred census on your social media. We have a selection of social media assets to use [HERE](#)

There have been some great posts already, like this one from [Suzy Smith](#):

If you've sold or gifted thoroughbreds at the end of their career, it would be a huge support if you could please send on details of the Census ([Thoroughbred Census Press Release](#)) and encourage the new owners to participate via this link [www.ror.org.uk/registration](http://www.ror.org.uk/registration).

If you have any questions don't hesitate to contact the Horse Welfare Board Programme team on [info@racehorsewelfare.co.uk](mailto:info@racehorsewelfare.co.uk)

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## Nominate NOW for the Thoroughbred Industry Employee Awards – closes **TUESDAY**

There is less than a week to go until nominations close for the 2024 [Thoroughbred Industry Employee Awards](#), sponsored by Godolphin.

With £128,500 in prize money available across six categories, these awards are about shining a spotlight on the people working in our yards and providing the best possible care for our horses.

This might be someone new to the yard who has made a quick impression, a great leader or dedicated colleague with years of service, or simply a brilliant member of the team.

If you know someone who deserves recognition, don't miss out – please nominate them now at: [www.thoroughbredawards.co.uk](http://www.thoroughbredawards.co.uk).

Nominations are open until Tuesday 7 November 2023. Just go to the website and complete the online form or submit a quick video nomination.

For information, including full details about the categories and nomination criteria, visit [www.thoroughbredawards.co.uk](http://www.thoroughbredawards.co.uk).

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## Firework Displays Following Racing

Newcastle Racecourse 3<sup>rd</sup> November and Ascot Racecourse 4<sup>th</sup> November

Newcastle and Ascot Racecourses will be holding firework displays after racing. The firework displays will not start until at least 1 hour after the last race. The displays will not start until the vets have finished treating any horses and the sample unit is clear. Further information can be found under the going section of the respective racecourses on racing admin.

It is less easy to plan for individuals letting off fireworks in their own gardens so evening meetings on Friday and Saturday are scheduled to conclude earlier than normal. This should help to manage the noisiest times.

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## Unibet and The Jockey Club launch new Middle Distance Veterans' Chase Series

Unibet, The Jockey Club and BHA will be launching a new middle-distance veterans' chase series for 10-year-olds and upwards over two miles and four furlongs.

The Unibet Middle Distance Veterans' Series has been created to generate more opportunities for quality 10-year-old-plus chasers who might have found winning chances limited in other valuable races.

The series will launch throughout the 23/24 season, with six races followed by a series finale which will take place at Haydock Park on Saturday 30 March 2024.

The 2024 finale will not require horses to have run in previous races in the series. However, The Jockey Club will fund a £10,000 bonus for any horse that wins the finale, if they have also won another race in the series earlier in the season. In addition to this bonus, the winning horses of every race in the series will also receive free entry to races at Jockey Club Racecourses for a year from the date of their win.

The opening race of the series will take place at Kempton Park on Monday 13 November 2023, before heading to Cheltenham for The Christmas Meeting on Friday 15 December

2023. Four of the races currently scheduled throughout the 2023/24 campaign will be shown live on ITV.

Richard Norris, Group Racing Director at The Jockey Club, said: “We’re delighted to be strengthening our partnership with Unibet in an area of the race programme that has proved so beneficial to the horse population and popular with racegoers.

“Our thanks go to Ed Nicholson and his team at Unibet for their drive and support for this initiative and we look forward to seeing the series commence over the coming season.”

If you have any questions please email [trainers@thejockeyclub.co.uk](mailto:trainers@thejockeyclub.co.uk).

#### FULL LIST OF FIXTURES 23/24

13/11/2023 Kempton Park

15/12/2023 Cheltenham

26/12/2023 Aintree

19/01/2024 Market Rasen

10/02/2024 Warwick

18/03/2024 Kempton Park

30/03/2024 Haydock (Final)

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#### [Syndicate/Racing Club Changes in Racing Digital – BHA Update](#)

##### SERVING RACEHORSE OWNERS: PART 2

*In the second of a series of blogs designed to explain the benefits owners can expect from the new Racing Digital platform, we describe some of the improvements owners will see in the way syndicates and racing clubs will be administrated in the new platform and regulated by the BHA.*

The growth of shared ownership is crucial to support the future of British racing. It is, therefore, vital to ensure that in designing [Racing Digital](#) the new platform not only supports syndicators by simplifying administration, but also protects against regulatory risks associated with the increased number of syndicates.

Central to these improvements is simplifying the definition of what a syndicate is and does, and introducing a new requirement to record members’ percentage shares to allow for an increased visibility and understanding of their ownership interest.

In addition, we will also introduce a brand-new licence for syndicators and club managers, aimed at bolstering the regulation of syndicates and racing clubs. More information on this is provided below.

#### SYNDICATE DEFINITION

Following significant feedback from syndicators and members alike, the BHA will be simplifying its definition of syndicates to provide greater clarity for anyone registering or joining a syndicate.

From spring 2024 when Racing Digital will be launched for owners, the syndicate registration will be reserved for more commercial entities and syndicates will be defined as:

***A form of shared ownership where the Members own, or lease, an interest in racehorses and the Syndicator receives remuneration for their role and/or the method of attracting participation in the entity includes invitations to the public.***

Alongside this, racing clubs will continue to be defined as:

***An entertainment associated with racehorses, where the Members acquire no ownership rights to, or lease an interest in, any racehorses but may acquire certain benefits such as the sharing of prize money.***

To allow for this change some important improvements have been made to the way that partnerships (a form of shared ownership primarily aimed at family and friends who come together to own or lease racehorses) will operate in Racing Digital, making them much more accessible. These include:

- Allowing partnerships to join other partnerships to form a new ownership group for the first time;
- Significantly reducing the cost of registering a new partnership; and,
- Allowing all individuals to register as owners free of charge.

All syndicates will be contacted directly with more details about these changes and to explain how their ownership type can be changed free of charge if required.

#### SYNDICATE MEMBER SHARES

To increase members' visibility of their ownership interests and promote transparency around the selling of shares, syndicators will be required to declare the percentage shares of horses owned by their members.

Syndicators will be able to upload and update members' details and their shares at any point during the life of the syndicate and will either be able to add members one by one, or through a bulk upload – simplifying the administration process.

More information will be sent directly to syndicators in advance of launch including specifics relating to the lead time provided to ensure all necessary information is uploaded before

syndicate members are given access to the Racing Digital system to view their own shares in horses.

#### SYNDICATOR AND CLUB MANAGER LICENCES

To help the BHA proactively regulate shared ownership, in mid-2024 a new licence will be introduced for anyone wishing to manage a syndicate or racing club.

The licence, which follows significant feedback from across the industry, seeks to help bolster consumer confidence in shared ownership. This will allow the BHA to better evaluate all syndicators and racing club managers to ensure they are able to meet the requirements placed on them by the Rules of Racing, the sport and their members.

This will include assessing business competence and an understanding of how to properly advertise and promote shared ownership, whilst ensuring they have the financial resource available to remain sustainable.

A licence will be required by both new and existing syndicators and racing club managers, and more information will be communicated directly in early 2024 around when this will be introduced and how to apply.

#### MORE INFORMATION

More detail will be provided ahead of implementation, however, if owners, syndicators or club managers have any questions on the changes, they can email [ownership@britishhorseracing.com](mailto:ownership@britishhorseracing.com).

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#### Update from the Point-to-Point Authority.

This season point to point trainers (keepers in Britain and handlers in Ireland) will have official responsibility for the horses in their care and control for the first time. Owners can retain or share some responsibility for aspects of the role. For example, making race-day declarations. This is an update from the previous rule where the owner was responsible for the horses. This was due to the majority of pointers being owner-trained. This update will better reflect the changing landscape of the point to pointing in Britain.

For further information and for a preview of the upcoming season please follow this [LINK](#).

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## Post pregnancy support programme

The Racing Home project has been awarded funding to provide [FREE physio rehab sessions](#) across all racing yards in the UK. This is for women working in yard-based roles pre or post maternity leave. Each programme includes six sessions of physio providing a tailored fitness plan for rehab, strength and conditioning to maintain fitness going forwards. The sessions are delivered by fully qualified IJF physios at one of the three [Injured Jockeys Fund centres](#) where practicable and can be accessed elsewhere to suit the location of individual candidates. Those eligible include female rider/grooms looking to get back to riding & other yard duties as well as mothers who've already returned to any yard-based role in previous years.

Thanks to Racing Welfare's Occupational Health team and Kindred for their support.

[Racing Home](#) is a tailor-made hub for industry employers, employees and the self-employed providing advice, support and recommendations for supporting and retaining parents in the industry. A [short film](#) explains the objectives of the programme and solutions implemented so far.

For more information, queries or to enquire about a place, please contact Dana Mellor [dana@simplyracing.uk](mailto:dana@simplyracing.uk)

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## EMPLOYMENT

### [Racing Industry Pension Scheme for Employees in the year 2001 and earlier](#)

Racing Staff who were employed in the year 2001 and earlier may have a pension fund in the old industry pension scheme – the Stable Employees' Pension Plan (SEPP). Winterbourne Trustee Services administer this scheme and will welcome enquiries. Please pass this message on to past employees who may be eligible.

Information about the SEPP and the contact details for the administrators (Winterbourne Trustee Services) are available via this [LINK](#)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

NTF Regional Forums Confirmed for the Autumn – Please sign up [here](#)

- **Scotland and the North Region** Monday **6th November** at Newcastle Racecourse at 2pm
- **Midlands and Central North Region** Monday **20th November** at York Racecourse and via Zoom at 2pm
- **Central South Region** on Tuesday **21st November** at Oaksey House at 1:30pm
- **East Region** on Tuesday **28th November** at Newmarket Rowley Mile Racecourse at 1pm

If you are planning to attend a Regional Forum, please sign up here <https://paulntf.wufoo.com/forms/z6959sp0i71j3r/> The agenda will be out 1 week before the meeting.

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