



NTF WEEKLY – 4 DECEMBER 2017

Thank you for your Award nominations

We were delighted with your response to the call for nominations in the inaugural running of the Lycetts Team Champion Award. At the close of nominations on Friday the number submitted had exceeded the target so we would like to say a big thank you for the huge efforts made by trainers and their staff in nominating yards.

This gives us a wonderful opportunity to fulfil the aims of the award –

- Showcase the great places to work in British racing stables;
- Raise awareness of what ‘good’ looks like in managing staff; and
- The positive results of developing a team that works well together.

This week our judging panel will begin scoring the nominations in accordance with the criteria set out in the entry form. Later this month, two shortlists will be announced comprising the four highest scoring yards with 40 or more, and fewer than 40 horses. In January the judges will visit those eight yards with the winning stable in each category presented with their £4000 prize at the NTF’s Annual General Meeting at the Institute of Directors on 22nd February.

Grand National course walk available this weekend

BHA Jockey Coach, Brian Harding, will be available on Saturday morning to walk the Grand National course with any riders who would like to do so. Jockeys who are having their first or second ride over the Grand National course will walk it with Brian; and likewise any with less experience over the Grand National course.

Harry Cobden was recently quoted about the value of the course walk: “Aintree trialled the course walks with a Jockey Coach at the Grand National meeting and I thought it was a great idea, so walked the course with Carl Llewellyn on the Friday ahead of the Topham Chase. I subsequently won on Ultragold and Carl’s advice and insight proved invaluable, so much so I walked the course with him again the next day before the Grand National! Whilst luck wasn’t to be repeated I did complete the course on Just A Par and I couldn’t recommend this initiative enough.”

Brian will be available from first thing in the morning and is happy to walk the course as many times as necessary. We hope that you are willing to encourage jockeys to utilise Brian and his experience. Brian's numbers are 017684 80960, 07968 863068 for anyone who would like to liaise direct with regard to walking time.

Extension of handicap qualification rules from 2 year olds to all Flat horses.

As you will be aware, from 1st January 2018 the rules that currently apply to qualification for Nursery handicaps will be extended to older horses. This means that the following qualification will apply:

No horse trained in Great Britain may run in a Handicap unless the Handicapper is prepared to allot a rating and

- *it has run at least three times in a flat race in Great Britain and/or Ireland, or*
- *it has won twice in a flat race in Great Britain and/or Ireland with at least one of the wins being in Great Britain.*

As this has been rolled out across two calendar years, the BHA is aware that there may be horse of 4 years old or greater that may have qualified for a handicap rating after fewer than three runs and subsequently been off the track. Although the handicap rating would have been expunged automatically after nine months of inactivity, the BHA has clarified the approach the handicapping team will take should a handicap rating be requested for horses that fall into this category.

Any horse that was previously eligible for a handicap rating but which does not now meet the new qualification criteria will be required to meet the new qualification criteria detailed above before becoming eligible for a handicap rating in 2018.

Alex Scott Assistant Trainers Travel Scholarship Award winner

We are delighted to report that Brydi Allison has been awarded the 2017 Alex Scott Assistant Trainers Travel Scholarship. Brydi, who works for David Simcock, will be spending her work placement in Australia with Tony McEvoy. The award, worth £3000 and funded by the Tim Dunlop Memorial Travel Scholarship, helps to fund air fares and living expenses, allowing Brydi to gain experience across several locations from the Barossa Valley to Adelaide and Melbourne.

Insights into Strangles surveillance and research

The Strangles Workshop recently held at the fabulous Animal Health Trust (AHT) Visitor Centre provided a fascinating insight into the complex and ground breaking disease surveillance and research underway into this disease. Strangles is endemic across most of

the world, with evidence that more than 600 outbreaks are identified annually in the UK alone, but thankfully very few of these occur in British racehorses. Dr Richard Newton of the AHT commented,

“The rarity of strangles in racing is undoubtedly linked to the zero-tolerance that the industry has to it, such that trainers, their vets and the BHA all work closely together to control and eradicate the disease when it occurs. It is important that racing remains vigilant and in particular becomes open to adopting wider preventive strategies such as quarantining and screening batches of horses entering training for the first time and those returning from events, such as international meetings, where there may be a heightened risk of introducing a range of infectious diseases including strangles.” You can read more about the workshop on <https://ntfmuse.wordpress.com>

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.
- **30th 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
- **1st 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.
- **21st November 2017** – notification of specified wind surgeries may be made on the Racing Admin website. Mandatory notification for any horse having its first run following surgery from 19th January 2018.
- **1st January 2018** – minimum ratings applies to all non-two year old Group 1 and non-novice Grade 1 races.
- **1st January 2018** – when extending declaration deadline, each trainer with a declaration will be deemed to have declared only one horse
- **1st January 2018** – microchip number on any horse under trainer’s care must be checked against the number in the passport
- **1st January 2018** – a horse may not be made a non-runner on a self-cert once the Declaration Sheet on the racecourse has been signed.
- **1st January 2018** – trainer becomes responsible for notifying the BHA when a mare in their care is pregnant.