

NTF WEEKLY – 5 JUNE 2018

Trial of new race type: Optional Claiming Handicaps

The BHA had announced a trial of a brand new type of race, known as Optional Claiming Handicaps – a hybrid of handicaps and claimers. These new races form part of a cross-industry commitment to diversify the race programme and create more options for trainers to campaign horses in races which are not solely based on their handicap rating.

In addition, Optional Claiming Handicaps are designed to help stimulate trade in a group of higher rated horses that are less likely to attract interest from abroad and lack the stamina to appeal to the jumping market. Starting in July, the 10-race trial is pitched at horses rated in the 80s and 90s. These events will be staged over distances from 6f to 1m and each carry a total prize fund of £30,000.

More information can be found in the press release [here](#), with the first of the new races taking place at Yarmouth on 18 July.

BHA working with the Government on staffing crisis

We know the serious shortage of skilled staff is probably the number one concern for many trainers. A key factor behind the shortage was the Government's decision to change the rules for migrant workers in 2011 leading to Work Riders being removed from the Shortage Occupation List. Brexit has the potential to make matters worse if it puts in place more obstacles for EU workers to be employed in British racing stables.

The NTF and BHA are working together to communicate to Government the industry's requirements from a future immigration system. We have communicated to Government that, while proactive steps are being taken to counter the current shortfall of available staff through domestic recruitment, it is important for British racing to still be able to have appropriate access to the best internationally skilled workers in the short-to-medium term. British racing has made these representations to the Migration Advisory Committee call for evidence on the impact of EEA workers in the UK Labour Market which will inform future Home Office Immigration Policy.

British racing's submission (developed alongside the NTF and TBA) was published as part of an [Interim Report](#) by MAC on 27 March, while the Department for Digital, Culture, Media

and Sport (DCMS) also highlighted British racing's case in their own Departmental submission.

In summary, British racing has called for a post-Brexit immigration system which:

- i) Does not adversely compromise the status of EEA and non-EEA workers already based in the UK, which would exacerbate the current shortfall
- ii) Recognises that work riding is a highly skilled profession and allows (as was the case before 2011) racing grooms to be included on the Shortage Occupation List: and
- iii) Does not have separate tracks for EEA and non-EEA immigration

We also continue to explore opportunities for raising the profile of the industry on these issues, such as through an ongoing House of Lords EU Home Affairs sub-committee inquiry on people movement in the fields of sport and culture, to which the BHA has also provided written evidence.

Management training to support your Lycetts Team Champion nomination

We are beginning the build up to the 2019 Lycetts Team Champion Award; nominations will open at the beginning of September. Trainers looking for support for the award have the opportunity with their senior staff to attend a supporting management development module created for the NTF by Peter Burnet of The Peplow Group.

With the title 'Building a Sustainable Business' the module is designed to help trainers recruit and retain exceptional staff teams. It is about sharing ideas, tips and support to match the team award criteria and make other wider ranging changes.

It will take place at three venues this summer / autumn:

- Newmarket on 20th July 2018
- Malton on 8th August 2018
- Cheltenham on 12th September 2018

Tea and Coffee will be available from 09.30. Each day will run from 10.00 to 16.30 with lunch and refreshments provided. Dress is casual / work clothes. The day will consist of a mix of activities, discussion and some new ideas.

Each participant will be encouraged to generate an action plan to help implement any new ideas back in the yard. There is no formal preparation for the day and please come with an open mind!

To book places

In the first year of the award, the Racing Foundation fully funded the management training. This year there is a charge of £100 per trainer/yard. To book yourself and up to one other staff member onto any of the three days please contact the NTF at teamchampion@racehorsetrainers.org or ring 01488 71794.

Get your horse's vaccination dates right with EquiBioSafe

A recent insight into the systems used by trainers to ensure their horses are vaccinated on the correct dates to comply with the rules suggested a reminder about the EquiBioSafe app would be useful.

EquiBioSafe is the app designed to assist trainers and breeders follow the respective Codes of Practice for Infectious diseases affecting thoroughbreds. It is available on both Apple and Android.

The app, launched thanks to funding and support from the Horserace Betting Levy Board, has a handy vaccination date calculator to help avoid passport errors. Its main purpose is a comprehensive management tool enabling trainers to identify diseases and locate their nearest APHA reporting centre. Download it now from The App Store or Google Play.

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.

NTF 2018 meeting dates

REGION	DATE	VENUE
North	Monday 25 th June	Ripon Racecourse
South West	Monday 2 nd July	Taunton Racecourse
East	Wednesday 4 th July	Rowley Mile, Newmarket
South East	Monday 16 th July	Epsom Racecourse
Central South	Monday 23 rd July	Oaksey House, Lambourn
West Midland and Wales	Monday 30 th July	Wolverhampton before racing
Council and Committees	Monday 6 th August	London

Regulation deadlines

- **25th May 2018** – General Data Protection Regulations come into force
- **1st June 2018** – tongue ties not permitted in German racing
- **2nd July 2018** – Racing Admin call centre at Weatherbys closes