

NTF WEEKLY – 8 AUGUST 2017

Advice to prevent contamination in stables

Today's news headlines relating Dean Ivory's unfortunate experience is a potent reminder of the necessity for stringent policies in your yard to manage not just equine but also human medication. At the NTF we know from this summer's regional meetings how vulnerable trainers feel as a result of the strict liability rules.

In the May/June 2017 printed newsletter, we published a reminder of the advice available from the NTF about medication control and preventing contamination through various sources including feedstuffs and bedding. There is an information sheet entitled "Guidance on preventing contamination by prohibited substances"

<http://www.racehorsetrainers.org/information/veterinary.asp> on our website under Information/Veterinary. It is divided into three main areas: contaminated feedstuffs including the BETA NOPS Code; cross contamination; and medication management. One extract reads:

"Advise staff not to urinate in stables at the yard or raceday stables – highlight the very real risk of cross contamination this poses."

In the same area of our website you can also find a template poster about avoiding the risks of contamination. We are working on the production of a laminated version of this to send to all our members in the near future.

If you would like more advice about the types of measures you can take to show you have taken all reasonable measures to prevent contamination, please speak to Dawn Bacchus at the NTF office.

Novice chase recommendations welcomed

Four current or recent members of the NTF's National Hunt Committee were part of a working group that has made recommendations announced today on the Novice Chase system.

A detailed data analysis was carried out, supported by a questionnaire for Jump trainers and the exploration of a variety of proposals. Thanks to all trainers who responded to the questions. It is essential for the future health of the sport that the race programme provides incentives for trainers and owners to send horses of all abilities Chasing.

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The recommendations, which were approved by the sport's cross-industry Racing Group and the BHA Board and will be implemented from **1 October 2017**, are as follows:

- No handicap rating increase in weight-for-age Novices' Chases of Class 2 and below other than for the winner. This will only apply to horses that have already run four times over obstacles (either hurdles or fences.)

The working party felt that perception can be as important as reality and to encourage more horses to run in weight-for-age Novices' Chases, trainers' preconceptions of the handicappers' reaction needs to be addressed. This has been shown to be effective in flat conditions races.

- An increase in the number of weight-for-age Novices' Chases, to be balanced by a decrease in number of Novices' handicap Chases. A maximum increase of 25% on the current programme of 200 weight-for-age Chases was proposed
- Programming of six 'confined' races during the autumn for horses which have not won more than one race over hurdles. This proposal is aimed at providing a pathway for the later-maturing type destined for Chasing.

Analysis of the horse population revealed a pool of 948 horses went chasing who would have fulfilled these criteria in 2016/17

- Rating band for the Listed Novices' Handicap Chase at the Cheltenham Festival to be increased to 0-145 (from 0-140).

This race has become a key seasonal target for many Novice Chasers, resulting in the cut off for elimination this year being 137. Increasing the banding to 0-145 was considered a more sensible cut off for the handicap and key to the success of the new system, with horses rated 146 and above capable of holding their own in Graded company.

- Valuable Novices' Handicap Chase Series Final to be programmed in the spring. Racecourses to be given the opportunity to apply to stage the £100,000 Final, which will be supported by the BHA Development Fund. Horses must run in at least two weight-for-age Novices' or Beginners' Chase during the season in order to enter the Final.

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Staff accompanying horses to sales

With the sales season approaching, we have had enquiries from trainers about paying expenses to staff when they accompany horses to the sales.

Even where the sales are at racecourses, the subsidised raceday canteens are not likely to be open and staff may be paying full rates for meals and drinks. Trainers should ensure that staff are reimbursed for out of pocket expenses at sales; the tax free element of the daily allowances authorised by HMRC only applies to “going racing” and so the best practice for sales days would be to pay expenses against receipts given to you by staff. Alternatively you could advance staff an allowance and ask them to provide receipts for any money spent and the balance returned.

Essential to keep good record of working time

To help resolve a claim from an employee that they have not been paid the correct overtime for all the hours worked, good record keeping is essential – be that through a clocking in system or asking staff to complete time sheets. An informal clocking in system could simply be a book where employees write down their start and finish times and that is checked by a manager.

It is also good practice to have a system of recording the authorisation of overtime by the trainer or a manager. Where time off is given in lieu of overtime worked, again that should be recorded to avoid any misunderstanding later in the employment relationship.

Demonstrating the real economics of the training business

Trainer Magazine has asked us to prompt trainers to respond to the survey about training fees, which you can access online at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TRAINERWEB_SURVEY. The survey also asks about the factors that affect costs and how this affects the training profession. The question have been framed in a way that is quick and easy to answer so it won't take up much time but will be highly valuable.

The survey is anonymous; if you wish to be contacted there is an opportunity to provide contact details at the end of the survey. The deadline is Wednesday 16th August. The results will be published in the October – December 2017 issue.

Due to the NTF being a member of the European Trainers Federation, our members receive a complimentary copy of European Trainer Magazine, which, like the NTF Racing Diary, is published by Anderson and Co. The ETF has eleven member countries – Belgium, Britain, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Rep. of Ireland, Norway, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and Hungary.

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Last Conditional Jockeys Licence Course of 2017

The Conditional Jockey's Licence Course coming up next month (4-15 September) at the BRS is the last of 2017 so the BHA wants to make sure trainers are aware that this is their last option for new Conditionals looking to attend the course and be licensed this year. There are still places available at the moment.

- All new Conditionals (or those currently holding Category 'A' Amateur Permits who wish to become Conditional) are required to attend the full 2-week Course (plus Pre-Assessment beforehand);
- Those holding Category 'B' Amateur Permits who wish to "advance" to Conditional status are required to attend the second week of this Licence Course (from 11th to 15th September).
- Any questions should be directed to Licensing Team at the BHA on 0207 152 0145.

Regional meeting dates

Scotland & Borders	Wednesday 20 th September	Kelso Racecourse (before racing)
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ROA Owners Jackpot races in August and September

15 Aug	Thirsk	1m Class 5 3yo+ 0-70 Fillies Handicap
22 Aug	Brighton	6f Class 4 3yo+ 0-80 Handicap
29 Aug	Epsom Downs	7f Class 4 30+ 0-80 Handicap
5 Sept	Goodwood	7f Class 5 2yo Fillies Novice Stakes
15 Sept	Salisbury	6f Class 6 3yo only 0-65 Handicap
23 Sept	Newmarket	7f Class 4 3yo+ 0-85 Handicap
25 Sept	Kempton Park	1m Class 3 3yo+ 0-85 Handicap

Conference to build on professional knowledge base

Everyone knows that in the horse world, you are always learning. This year's BHS welfare conference is asking if the equine sector is getting the fundamentals right for horse care and training. You or one of your staff could join them at Towcester Racecourse to hear from a stellar panel on best equine management methods, dealing with emergencies, training

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practices and how to choose from a range of professionals.

Taking place on 20 September, the same content is delivered at scientific level on 21 September to allow even more owners and professionals the chance to attend this unique event. You can book [online](#) or call on 02476 840517. The price is £35 per person.

The following speakers will be presenting on both days:

- **Dean Bland** from Well Equine will focus on the **horse's hoof and farriery issues**
- **Providing emergency care to horses** whilst waiting for the vet to arrive will be presented by veterinary surgeon **Nicky Jarvis**, Head of Veterinary & Care at Redwings Horse Sanctuary
- **Lisa Ashton**, BHSII Accredited Professional Coach and Equicoach, will use the application of equitation science to discuss the **methods of providing safe, effective and ethical horse training**
- **David Kempzell** from WOW Saddles will raise awareness of **the impact poor saddle fit** can have on equine welfare
- The **importance of maintaining regular dental checks** and the impact lack of care can have on the horse will be presented by veterinary surgeon and Equine Dental Technician **Chris Pearce**
- **Dr Wendy Talbot** (Wednesday only) from Zoetis and **Professor Jacqui Matthews** (Thursday only) from Moredun Research Institute will embrace the subject of **worm control**

Regulation deadlines

- Pension auto enrolment staging dates
 - **Up to February 2018** for businesses started since April 2012
- **10th August 2017** – 30-day stand down period for Bisphosphonates takes effect. [More...](#)
- **25th August 2017** – **New ownership registrations will cease at 3pm** to ensure the smooth introduction of the new owners' system. Registrations will re-open in the new Racing Admin system on the morning of **Wednesday 30th August**.
- **By the end of 2017** – original Racing Admin website will close.
- **1st October 2017** – Novice Chase recommendations come into effect. [More...](#)

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