

NTF WEEKLY UPDATE- 08 DECEMBER 2023 – Issue No. 1367

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INDUSTRY NEWS

[BHA – 2024 will show the Programme Book in four issues](#)

This update is intended to inform you about the key changes that will be delivered across Programme Book 1 and beyond in 2024.

2024 will see the Programme Book reverting to four versions (previously three). These will have period dates as follows:

Programme Book 1: 1 January – 22 March

Programme Book 2: 23 March – 23 June

Programme Book 3: 24 June – 15 September

Programme Book 4: 16 September – 31 December

This is intended to deliver a more consistent volume of races per book and align publication with key dates in the Racing Calendar.

We have also fed back to the BHA that the timings for Programme Book 1, in particular, cause problems for trainers and have asked that more notice is given in future. We understand that this is linked to fixture list delays and will also make this point at the Industry Commercial Committee to ensure that this is noted by those who are newly involved in this process.

Further updates from the BHA racing department were announced on Monday including updates to the Jump and Flat Programme. The full press release can be found here:

<https://bhaplus10.cmail20.com/t/j-e-stkldjy-tuhtutgih-r/>

RoR successful Equine Ambassador scheme at racecourses

The Horses For Courses programme, with the [new promotional film](#) highlights careers for retired racehorses. The RoR welcome trainer and prior owner support to help promote the industry commitment to equine welfare, by recognising the second career achievements of former racehorses, and adding the RoR activity of horses formerly in your care.

Click here to [Find out which horses are registered](#) on the scheme and follow the RoR social media for former racehorses in their second careers on X and Instagram:

Twitter/X: <https://twitter.com/RoRlatest>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/retraining_of_racehorses/

Thank you, RoR

EMPLOYMENT

To Clarify Rolled Up Holiday Pay

To clarify the item on rolled up holiday pay in last week's weekly. Rolled up holiday pay was found to be unlawful in a 2006 court case at European level which stated payment for holidays should be made when the actual holidays are taken. Following that case, the UK

Government did not put in place legislation prohibiting the use of rolled up holiday pay although ACAS advises that employers should not pay rolled up holiday pay. Businesses who adopt the practice do face some risks and the legislation coming into force next year will be welcomed as rolled up holiday pay can work well for both employer and employee for those on zero hour or casual working.

Migrant Workers - Government announcement

Following the Government's announcement that it is increasing the minimum skilled worker salary, our advisers Migrate UK are determining the impact this will have on current employees and businesses with a view to put together a strategy.

They confirm that current applications and those submitted before any changes due in spring 2024 will be considered under the current rules. However, once the date of change to increase the minimum rate is announced the new rate will be effective from the date of changed mentioned.

If the Job Code 6139, which includes the racing industry jobs, is added to the shortage occupation list and the Government introduces a special industry rate, then businesses in the racing industry will benefit albeit as Migrate expect there would still be a minor uplift in salary for overseas employees. However, if no special industry rates are applied for racing, then Migrate advise they can look at switching or extending the immigration conditions of employer's current workforce under the skilled worker route, applying for the maximum time possible, which is up to 5 years or the time to qualify for settlement, relatively soon to benefit from the lower rate of pay whilst it remains intact.

Migrate will continue to update us and its clients. Once the Government offers more details surrounding the change at which point, they will be better able to advise on the broad impact of these changes for racing businesses and their workforce.

As trainers would have seen in the Racing Post, the BHA and industry team, which includes the NTF, worked on the submission to the migration advisory committee is also seeking clarification from the government as to the impact on key skilled worker roles

MEMBER SERVICES

NTF Members Digital Calendar Feed – includes updates throughout 2024

To access the Digital Calendar Feed, NTF members can register their details via:

theracingdiary.com/digital-calendar-2024

The Digital Calendar Feed will sync to the computer calendar / phone calendar and detailed instructions on how to do this are on a link once details are registered.

The Digital Calendar feed includes all the race meetings / sales dates / key races listed in the diary as well as any updates which occur throughout the year.

Regulation Deadlines

Immediately

- BHA starters will no longer carry the hunting crop during jump starts

1st January 2024

- Grabbing or twitching a horse's ear or tail during the loading process will only be permitted for safety purposes.
- Adjustments to the late load requests.
- All persons assisting at the start must have completed the BHA Trainer Representative - Starts Training Module.
- Trainers should consider replacing 2009 EN13158 back protectors for grooms as they will have reached the end of their lifespan.
- Environment Agency (EA) to withdraw RPS248 on the use of shredded waste carpet in equestrian surfacing.

January 2024

- Changes to National Insurance Contributions

Latest News from the Point to Point Authority

Almost three-quarters of Jump jockeys based in Britain began race riding in British point-to-points. In this article Carl Evans explores how pointing has become one of the leading pathways to riding under rules. For more information please follow this link

https://pointtopoint.co.uk/news_articles/pointing-the-pathway-to-riding-under-rules

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