

NTF WEEKLY – 9 JANUARY 2018

Renewal of NTF Legal Expenses Insurance

We are pleased to confirm that the NTF Council has approved the renewal of the members' Legal Expenses Insurance (LEI) scheme with effect from 1st January. The importance of holding this cover was clearly demonstrated in 2017 when there was an increase in the number of claims for recovery of legal expenses and cases where the trainer concerned could not have foreseen that they might be at risk.

Due to the claims frequency the insurers require a significant increase in premium for 2018. The cost of the policy is charged out across all NTF members thereby limiting the charge to each individual trainer. We investigated ways to reduce the premium such as introducing an excess and/or a lower limit of indemnity of £50,000. However, the Council decided that it was best to maintain the current £100,000 indemnity.

Consequently the charge per member for the higher indemnity will be **£130**.

The Council asked us what the NTF could achieve by allocating the charge paid by members to self-insure for legal expenses. In these circumstances the budget would only allow an average pay out of £3,000 per claim. Although plenty of claims currently fall close to this amount, it would preclude the higher pay outs and we would not be able to offer the legal helplines. The Council decided this option would not be an attractive benefit to members.

To view the higher charge in proportion, it is still an exceptionally low cost for the cover and would not be achievable in the market at this price for most trainers. Given the high profile of recent BHA cases, we believe members will see it as a benefit worth having.

The cost of the LEI cover is added to the basic subscription, which has remained at £100 since 2007. It has been decided to increase the basic subscription to £115. The total basic subscription including LEI in 2017 was £160. Of this, the amount for the LEI was £60 and hadn't been increased since the first full year of the scheme in 2015. In the last two years the NTF has absorbed smaller increases in premium.

The total basic subscription taken in January will therefore be **£245** (made up of NTF sub - £115; LEI - £130.)

Equine Herpes vaccination for racing in France

France Galop has provided the International Racing Bureau with some information regarding the Equine Herpes (EHV-1) vaccination that is now a requirement for all horses to run in France. France Galop has now published the rule and it will become effective on 1st April 2018.

The requirement consists of 2 primary vaccinations followed by a booster. A horse is permitted to race after the second primary vaccination.

- From April 1st 2018, two primary vaccinations must have been completed
- The second first primary vaccination must be given between 21 and 92 days after the first.
- The booster can then be done between 150 and 215 days after the 2nd primary vaccination.
- A horse will not be allowed to race for four days after the 2nd primary vaccination.

Horses will be allowed to run in France up until 1st April 2018 with the current vaccinations requirements. If you are planning an early campaign for your horses in France in April 2018, you will need to plan the course of vaccinations by the beginning of March.

Start now to incorporate new Data Protection Regulations

New data protection regulations are coming into force on 25th May 2018. Whilst that seems a long way off, businesses need to start taking action now to move towards compliance next year.

The General Data Protection Regulations apply to employers because they process personal data about their workers – personal data is general data about the individual and a special category of data which relates to particular characteristics (racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, health, sexual orientation or sexual life and genetic and biometric data) - extra steps must be taken with regard to special category data.

The NTF will be issuing guidance over the coming months, working through the different stages of what you need to do.

The new legislation will require privacy notices to be given to employees explaining how their personal data is used, the lawful basis for the business processing the information, and the amount of time it will be retained, as opposed to the employee just giving blanket consent as at present.

Other key issues are that you must be able to demonstrate compliance and notify those affected by a data breach. You must have systems in place designed with privacy and data protection in mind.

As an initial step, we would advise that you decide who in the business will take responsibility for overseeing compliance with the new data protection regulations. Once you have done that, the next step will be to audit what information your business currently holds. You can then consider what needs to be kept, why you need it and then move towards notifying employees about it.

Further information – which will be developed over the next few months as more guidance is issued by the Information Commissioners Office – is available on the NTF website in the employment area under General Data Protection Regulations. Members can find a suggested audit template and a link to the ICO website.

Sir Hugh Robertson to chair the Racing Authority

Former Minister for Sport and current Chair of the British Olympic Association, Sir Hugh Robertson, has been appointed to take on the role of independent Chair of the Racing Authority.

Sir Hugh will start his induction in January when he becomes Chair of the Shadow Racing Authority. The Horserace Betting Levy Board (HBLB) is due to be replaced by the Racing Authority in April 2019, at which stage Sir Hugh's three-year term as independent Chair will commence.

The key roles of the Racing Authority will be to make expenditure decisions on behalf of British racing, ensure fair and transparent distribution of funds; funding growth; consultation with the betting industry and wider stakeholders and the growth of the racing product. The Racing Authority will be represented by British horseracing's tripartite structure of the British Horseracing Authority (BHA), Racecourse Association (RCA) and Horsemen's Group (HG) with Sir Hugh as its independent Chair.

2018 Annual General Meeting on Thursday 22nd February 2018

The NTF's 2018 Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 22nd February at the Institute of Directors, 116 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5ED. This year we have booked the fabulous Waterloo Room.

As well as the standard AGM business, the winners of the inaugural Lycetts Team Champion Award will be announced and prizes presented.

Dates for Industry Roadshows

The Industry Roadshows are taking place again this year. Organised by the BHA in collaboration with Tripartite members the Horsemen's Group and Racecourse Association, the Roadshows are a chance to hear about industry strategy and pose questions to industry leaders.

This year's dates are:

Monday 26 February – York

Tuesday 27 February – Newbury

Thursday 1 March – Newmarket

Friday 2 March – Musselburgh

Booking details will be provided in due course

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.
- **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.
- **1st January 2018** – mandatory 5-day stand down before racing for any horse having received shockwave therapy.
- **1st January 2018** – rules tightened on equine flu vaccination records. If horse judged to be a biosecurity risk, Stewards may prevent it from running.
- **19th January 2018** – notification of specified wind surgeries must be made on the Racing Admin website for notification for any horse having its first run following surgery.
- **1st April 2018** – mandatory Equine Herpes vaccination to race in France