

## NTF WEEKLY – 9 MAY 2018

### **Book your place at the Musselburgh Industry Roadshow**

This Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> May, senior industry leaders will be present at Musselburgh racecourse to discuss key topics & developments throughout 2017 and outline their strategy for British racing in 2018 and beyond. Nick Rust will give a key note presentation and panel discussions will be held – with opportunities for audience questions throughout – on a number of different topics, including industry staffing.

If you are not already registered and would like to attend please contact Laura Bewick via [lbewick@britishhorseracing.com](mailto:lbewick@britishhorseracing.com) or 07585 504 837. The event will begin at 10.30am and finish at 1.30pm with lunch provided afterwards.

### **BHA publishes policies to shape the 2019 fixture list**

The BHA has today confirmed the policies which will be applied during the formation of the 2019 Fixture List.

Its Executive Committee has agreed that in 2019 a focus should be placed on introducing steps to support the sport's workforce, while simultaneously continuing to align the scheduling and timing of fixtures to the needs of the betting industry and maximising the overall commercial returns to the sport. The commitment to supporting jockeys and racing staff – which is supported by all parties within the sport – has resulted in an agreement to implement a number of measures in 2019, including:

- All floodlit fixtures (which run from January to mid-April, and from September to December) are to finish earlier, with the final race starting no later than 20:30.
- A six-day break will be introduced for Flat racing participants at the end of the Turf season in November. In addition there will be an intended five-day break in March towards the end of the All-Weather season (although additional late notice fixtures may be programmed during this period in exceptional circumstances if all Jump fixtures on a day look likely to be abandoned).
- No fixtures will be programmed on Sunday 22 December 2019, providing an extra racing-free day before Christmas.

The existing eight-day summer break and five-day end-of-season breaks for Jump fixtures will also be maintained.

The NTF has been a leading advocate of changes in the fixture list to support the workforce. We therefore welcome the efforts of the fixture group to take account of staffing issues.

While the planned November break is a mixed blessing because the transfer of fixtures out of that week will lead to congestion in the weeks either side, the guarantee of earlier finishes from September to April is a real benefit to stable staff. It is therefore more than disappointing that this positive move has been diluted by the addition of 15 twilight fixtures immediately after the summer fixture peak.

The NTF appreciates that fixture moves elsewhere will lead to a net overall increase of 5 or 6 fixtures and the BHA has produced statistics to show there is a demand for racing opportunities at this time. Also, we know trainers look to run horses on the flat before the important Horses in Training sales. Even so, the additional fixtures take the gloss off the good intentions expressed at the start of the process and may undermine efforts to stabilise field sizes.

### **Valuable staff training in Mental Health First Aid**

Racing Welfare, kindly supported by the NTF and the Thoroughbred Breeders Association, will be hosting a Mental Health Training Day on Wednesday 30th May at the Queens Arms Hotel, East Garston.

Run by Mental Health First Aid England, this course is open for individuals to join independently but we hope that trainers will nominate a member of staff to attend, whom they are happy to give the afternoon off work if required to be able to make it.

The idea is that this person will become a key point of contact for anyone within the team who may be struggling with their own mental health or be worried about that of someone else. This need not necessarily be a member of the yard management structure but more just a trusted member of staff who others are likely to confide in and is interested in learning about what to do to help maintain the wellbeing of others.

Places on the training day cost £20 and can be purchased from the Racing Welfare office in Lambourn or on the RW website here.

### **Exciting Mentoring and Leadership training will help develop your team**

The National Association of Racing Staff (NARS) is set to expand its educational programmes to include a qualification in Mentoring, Leadership and Team Skills after securing a £100,000 funding partnership agreement with the country's largest independent bookmaker, Jenningsbet.

Up to 28 Students each year will have the chance to study for the ILM Level 2 Introduction to Mentoring and ILM Level 2 Award in Leadership and Team Skills on a 12-week course delivered by West Suffolk College, with the first enrolments in September 2018.

George McGrath CEO of NARS said, “I know this course will be very popular and is much needed. The reality is that there are already a number of staff who act as mentors, and our view is that they should be recognised with a government qualification.

The support we are set to receive from Jenningsbet is outstanding and is an excellent example of bookmakers’ commitment to the future strength and prosperity of the sport at all levels, especially at a time when many aspects of the future funding of the sport remain uncertain.”

The NTF sees this training as a perfect fit with the aims of [The Winning Approach](#), the industry standard we developed to underpin the Lycetts Team Champion Award.

Greg Knight CEO of Jenningsbet said, “Racing has identified a problem in retaining young people coming into racing and we think a mentoring system in which experienced racing staff are taught how to bring through the next generation will be an important tool. At the end of the day racing staff keep the whole show on the road - our shops wouldn’t be able to function without horseracing and make the media rights payments and levy contributions we make without the staff in the yards. We have a moral responsibility to recognise that.”

## **BHA Notice – Bisphosphonates**

The following Rule was brought into effect on 10 August 2017:

Schedule (B)3 – Requirements for horse to run

11B The horse must not have been administered

11.B.1 any bisphosphonate under the age of three years and six months as determined by its recorded date of birth, or

11.B.2 any bisphosphonate on the day of the race or on any of the 30 days before the day of the race in which the horse is declared to run.

A Notice regarding this amendment (*New Stand-Down Period: Bisphosphonates*) was published in July 2017, which included the following expectations regarding the use of bisphosphonates in horses racing or intending to race in Great Britain:

- The product used should be licensed for horses in the UK;
- There must be a diagnosis determined by a veterinary surgeon that supports the use of a bisphosphonate as an appropriate treatment; and
- The bisphosphonate must be administered by a veterinary surgeon.

The Rule is intended to cover the use of therapeutic bisphosphonates.

Gamma scintigraphy (bone scan) is a diagnostic imaging technique, which involves the injection of a radioactive substance that is bound to a bisphosphonate. The bisphosphonates

used in gamma scintigraphy are administered at a low dose and are not licensed for use in horses in the UK. At present, there is no evidence to suggest that they have a therapeutic effect on the horse.

The BHA's position is that the use of gamma scintigraphy, when advised by a veterinary surgeon, is in the best interests of the horse and to discourage such practice may be detrimental to the welfare of the horse. The BHA's approach is that, at its discretion, it will implement an exception to Schedule (B)3 paragraph 11 B for the use of bisphosphonates which are administered for the purposes of gamma scintigraphy in specific, documented cases. The exception permits both the administration of bisphosphonates to the horse under the age of three years and six months and bisphosphonates administered to the horse within 30 days of a race in which the horse is declared to run (however the exception will not permit bisphosphonates administered to the horse for gamma scintigraphy purposes on the day of the race).

It should be noted that any horse to which **therapeutic** bisphosphonates are administered under the age of three years and six months will not be qualified to run under the BHA Rules of Racing at any point in its life.

## Special Private Health Insurance Offers for NTF Members

Tim Francis provides NTF Members and their families with Private Health Insurance, Life Cover and Critical Illness Cover. He works for a large UK broker called The Right Mortgage & Protection Network and it has access to memberships, rates, discounts and offers, some of which aren't available from the insurers directly.

Currently there are some great Private Health Insurance offers for BUPA, AXA PPP and Aviva.

If you already have these types of insurance Tim would welcome the chance to find you more cost-effective memberships as most people are paying more than they should. Alternatively, you may not have anything at present and would like some initial quotations and information.

For quotations & more information contact me at [tim.francis@therightprotection.net](mailto:tim.francis@therightprotection.net) or call me on 07785 921234

## Regulation deadlines

- **2<sup>nd</sup> April 2018** – 3-day stand down for horses withdrawn by stewards on veterinary advice
- **2<sup>nd</sup> July 2018** – Racing Admin call centre at Weatherbys closes

## NTF 2018 meeting dates

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