



NTF WEEKLY – 9 JULY 2018

Thank you to trainers during Racing Staff Week

A theme of Racing Staff Week, which finished on Saturday, was a Thank You to staff. Many of you will remember the video created by the NTF two years ago featuring trainers saying “thank you” and this year Racing Welfare followed up on the same theme with an excellent video in which many trainers starred.

In recognition, the NTF wants to say a big Thank You to trainers. You responded brilliantly to requests from around the industry to support Racing Staff Week, including one from us to post photos of your team. All the while you keep the racing show running – finding the owners, employing the staff, training the horses, planning their races, keeping them in one piece to maintain performance, booking the jockeys. Your resilience is legendary, so you deserve some appreciation.

John Dunlop

Today’s Racing Post is packed with memories of John Dunlop, who died at the weekend. For us at the NTF, John was all this and more. He gave so much time to the Federation and as a valued Council member instigated the constitutional review which led to the current regional structure and Presidential Triumvirate system.

As a trustee of the NTF Charitable Trust, which makes training grants to racing employees, John allowed staff to develop their skills and so forge a career in the sport. This was typical of his approach to people – full of encouragement and practical support. He will be greatly missed and our thoughts are with all his family.

Increase in weighing out allowance for new jockey’s safety vest

The BHA has announced that, from 1 October 2018, the minimum acceptable standard for a safety vest (body protector) for race riding for jockeys of all disciplines will be increased. As a result, all jockeys will be required to wear the new Level 2 body protectors, rather than the current Level 1 model. (This does not affect stable staff, who must use Level 3 safety vests.)

This change is because the Level 2 vest offers superior protection of up to 50% to the Level 1 vest against direct blows such as kicks. The relevant rule – Schedule (D)2, Equipment PART 1 – has been updated and Rule (B)22 - Weighing out procedure has also been changed to allow an increase of 1lb in the allowance at the scales when weighing out.

Message about early publication of 2yo ratings from Handicapper

Graeme Smith

Following the successful of publishing of full list of 2yo ratings prior to entries for the first nursery being made for the first time last year, we have done so again in 2018, with the list being published on Tuesday 26th June.

The reason for keeping nursery ratings private until late July in the past was that ratings for two-year-olds at that time of year are particularly fluid. For example, a horse may be rated 75 after posting his best effort when second in a novice event, but if several of those he'd run against post figures significantly higher or lower on their next appearance he could have his rating changed dramatically without having run again.

Such movements can be unpopular and are, unfortunately, common place with two-year-olds in early summer as the various form lines are put to the test on handicap terms. Keeping ratings private meant there was less instability for participants as we ran these processes, and the fact the early nurseries are run without rating bands attached (0-70, 0-85, etc) made this possible.

Nurseries continue to be run throughout July without rating bands being attached to give us the flexibility to frame the most competitive races possible. However, in the spirit of transparency and openness we feel it is appropriate to put our data in the public domain while we do this, and simply ask for owners and trainers to be understanding while normal processes are run to bed the file down.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me on gdsmith@britishhorseracing.com or 01904 790457.

Optional claiming handicaps closing this week

The first two races in the 10-race optional claiming handicap trial are due to close later this week. Full details can be found in the original announcement [here](#), with the first race over 6f at Yarmouth on 18th July closing at 12 noon this Thursday, 12 July.

The second race at Pontefract over 1m on 20th July closes at 12 noon on Saturday 14 July. Both races have a TPF of £30,000. More information about the entry process can be found [here](#) or by contacting the BHA Racing Department 0207 152 0050 or via racing@britishhorseracing.com. A full list of the 10 races can also be viewed [here](#).

Additional ROA Owners Jackpot race in July

The ROA has added a Jackpot race to list of races we published in NTFW on 26th June. It is a 7f handicap on 30th July at Wolverhampton and we have updated the list below.

Further details can be found at www.roa.co.uk/jackpot

July 5	Perth	3m Class 4 4yo+ 0-105 Novices Handicap Hurdle
July 13	Chester	7f Class 4 3yo+ 0-85 Handicap
July 20	Haydock	1m2f Class 5 3yo 0-70 Handicap
July 26	Doncaster	6f Class 4 3yo 0-80 Handicap
July 30	Wolverhampton	7f Class 4 3yo+ 0-80 Handicap
August 6	Ripon	1m 4f Handicap 3yo+ 56-75
August 15	Worcester	2m 7f Handicap Steeple Chase 0-110
August 22	Bath	1m Handicap 46-65
August 28	Epsom	1m 2f Handicap 51-70 3+

Updated to elimination sequence for Novice Flat Races

Further to the [recent announcement](#) regarding the new definition of a Novice Flat Race, the elimination sequence for these races held from 9 July 2018 onwards has also been updated to remove the possibility of winning horses that have run in three or more races being given greater protection from elimination than horses which have run fewer than three times or those that have never been placed in the first four home.

The wording of the rule can be seen here – [Part K of Manual \(F\), Schedule 8](#).

Welcome for racecourses providing free meals to racing staff

Trainers have often suggested that racing staff should get free meals at the racecourse so we welcome Jockey Club Racecourses' decision to announce this policy with effect from Racing Staff Week. It prompted other racecourse to publicise that they were already providing free food for racing staff – a good outcome for all.

Members will know that under the wage agreement a daily subsistence allowance is payable to staff going racing and this can be paid tax free where it meets the HMRC criteria – the employee is going racing and has incurred expenses. Whether the allowance is paid tax free will therefore vary from day to day. Even when free meals are provided, due to the hours away from the yard, staff may incur the expense of purchasing food and beverage on the way to or the way back from racing. We are also aware that some employees prefer to purchase a meal outside the racecourse as an alternative to the free meal provided.

Clarifying an exclusion in legal expenses insurance

One of the conditions of the NTF legal expenses policy is that a claim is not covered where the allegation against the member involves dishonesty. After discussing this with the

insurers, ARAG have removed this exclusion for BHA disciplinary cases where dishonesty may be alleged simply because of the way the rules are worded. Cover for a BHA matter is still subject to the other policy terms and conditions including a merits test.

The “dishonesty exclusion” remains a standard exclusion for business legal expenses and applies to all claims other than for BHA enquiries.

We aim to have legal expenses insurance cover which will help you when you need it whilst at the same time having a premium that is at an acceptable level for all members. As with any insurance, there will be terms and conditions which must be met for insurers to accept a claim. Since the scheme has been in place it has helped members with legal expenses for BHA enquiries, employment disputes, debt recovery, property and other contractual disputes.

Insured legal assistance through the scheme is provided only by Knights1759. Knights1759’s equine team provide advice to the British Horse Society and major Equestrian insurers as well as being the NTF’s solicitors. Cases are handled by their partners or associate solicitors with expertise in the relevant area of law so you need not be concerned about using Knights1759 instead of your usual solicitor. Key contacts include Brent Williams, who outside of his legal work is heavily involved in thoroughbred racing and breeding including having two horses in training; and Martin Bourne, who has wide experience in equine law including representing professional riders and NTF members.

Taking precautions with new owners

We understand that a northern based trainer has recently been the subject of an attempted scam by a person indicating he would have horses in training. We strongly advise trainers to make checks to be confident of the identity of any new owner and that the potential owner can fund any purchase.

If the person is not already a registered owner and intends to be a sole owner, the individual will have to satisfy the BHA that they are suitable to be registered. They should be aware of the criteria the BHA will consider as set out on the relevant guidance note which can be found [here](#) .

“Inspirational” management training to support staff retention

“Inspirational.” “Very good ideas to take back to the yard and help with staff retention.”

“I learned a lot about leadership and management.”

“It has made me look at things from a completely different perspective and question how we do things in our yard.”

These are a few of the feedback comments about the management training modules we put on last year to support trainers with their Lycetts Team Champion Award nominations. Trainers looking for support for the award have the opportunity with their senior staff to

attend one of the modules created for the NTF by Peter Burnet of The Peplow Group. The 2019 series begins on **20th July in Newmarket.**

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:

- The BRS in 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 place. 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.

NTF 2018 meeting dates

There is a break this week in the schedule of regional meetings to allow for the July Festival and Sale in Newmarket. Regional meetings resume a week today (16th July) at Epsom for the South East. Please come along or feel free to send a representative such as a partner or assistant trainer.

REGION	DATE	VENUE
South East	Monday 16th 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

- **2 July 2018** – Racing Admin call centre at Weatherbys closes
- **9 July 2018** – change in elimination sequence in 3yo+ flat novice races
- **1 October 2018** – Level 2 safety vest mandatory for jockeys for race riding