



NTF WEEKLY – 10 APRIL 2018

Grand National Course Walk highly recommended for jockeys

The Jockey Course Walk initiative, introduced at Aintree in 2017, will be rolled out again at this year's Radox Health Grand National Festival. The Jockey Course Walks proved highly popular last year, particularly among jockeys with little or no experience over the Grand National fences.

Thursday's walk on April 12 will be conducted by former top jockey Brian Harding, with the Friday (April 13) and Saturday (April 14) walks led by dual Grand National winning jockey Carl Llewellyn. The walks will leave the weighing room at 10.30am each day.

Aintree Racecourse, the Professional Jockeys Association and the Amateur Jockeys Association urge every first and second-time rider over the Grand National fences, plus any others, to join one of the walks. All riders are equally welcome.

Aintree's Clerk of the Course, Andrew Tulloch, explained: "This is a practice we want to encourage year on year and we are writing to individual jockeys to urge them to join one of the walks. This applies also to amateur riders competing in the Radox Health Foxhunters' Chase on Grand National Thursday. We are delighted to have two such experienced riders as Brian and Carl to lead the walks."

Harry Cobden, victorious in last year's Radox Health Topham Chase on Ultragold on his first ride over the Grand National fences, remarked: "Aintree trialled the course walks with a jockey coach at the Radox Health Grand National Festival last year and I thought it was a great idea, so I walked the course with Carl Llewellyn on the Friday ahead of the Topham Chase that afternoon. I won the Topham on Ultragold and Carl's advice and insight proved invaluable, so much so I walked the course with him again the next day before the Radox Health Grand National! Whilst luck wasn't repeated, I did complete the course on Just A Par and I couldn't recommend this initiative enough."

Bridle numbers in use for races over Grand National Course

To assist in the management of horses engaged in races over the Grand National course (the Foxhunter, Topham and the Grand National,) Aintree will be using small number tags attached to the bridle. These numbers will be extremely beneficial to identify horses once their saddle/saddle cloth has been removed. For instance, in the washdown area where it can prove difficult to distinguish between horses, particularly once they have all been washed down and they all similar.

Have explored various options and have managed to produce a design/solution, as per the attached photographs. It is basically a laminated number, with a slot top and bottom. The number is attached simply by threading it through the throat lash as shown in the picture right.



A letter mentioning bridle numbers will be sent to all Owners and Trainers who are likely to have runners in any of the Grand National races along with a note which shows how they will fit.

Employed trainers and the NTF Legal Expenses Insurance

The NTF legal expenses insurance is designed to meet the business needs of an NTF member including representation at BHA disciplinary matters and cover for employment disputes, subject to the policy terms being met.

If you are an employed trainer, you need to be aware that the insurance would not cover any employment dispute you may have with your own employer and you should consider having other cover in place. This type of cover is usually available inexpensively through your household insurance or as standalone insurance. All other aspects of the LEI cover are available to employed trainers. See the [Key Facts document](#) on our website.

Developing your staff – Bookkeeping/SAGE

The British Racing School will be running a book keeping course for people in racing on **June 30th - July 2nd**.

Delegates will spend the whole day with the Finance Director of the BRS learning about book keeping in a racing yard. The second day of the course will be spent learning about the accounts programme SAGE. This course is suitable for existing secretaries or anyone considering working as a racing secretary, who would like to improve their CV and make themselves invaluable to a trainer. For more information please contact Di Farrell-Thomas on 01638 675907 or email: Di.Farrell-Thomas@brs.org.uk

Help shape future Licence Criteria

A review of Trainer licensing is underway and the BHA is asking for your help to shape the licensing criteria.

You should have received an email from the review team requesting your feedback on the content and presentation of the current Trainers licensing criteria. At present, this

information is set out in a document called [“Applications for a Licence to Train - Guidance Notes”](#) . You can complete the survey form online at this [link](#)

This form is anonymous, your name will not be requested. The BHA will use the data collected to improve the format and content of the criteria. If upon completing this questionnaire, you would like to discuss this matter with the BHA in more detail please email them on licensing@britishhorseracing.com .

The BHA’s objective is to ensure that the Trainer licensing criteria is relevant to the profession and fit for purpose. They also wish to make sure that the criteria are published in a clear, concise and easily accessible manner.

The feedback from the survey will be analysed and recommendations presented to stakeholder groups in Summer 2018 ready for implementation by November 2018. Please submit the survey by Wednesday 18th April 2018.

Personal telephone answer service deal for NTF members

When you need an extra pair of hands to answer your telephone for a few minutes or more the company AnswerConnect may be the help you need. Andy Carruthers for Answer Connect says, “Our receptionists answer calls with a bespoke script. We send text messages and/or emails after every call to as many people as you want, we can transfer your callers to you on a mobile or landline. Take a look at the [Online Portal](#) using the login credentials **Email:** demo@answerconnect.co.uk **Password:** accesdemo to see the control for managing your account, plan, usage, messages and script and the various other aspects of our service.”

Plans are all inclusive monthly fee + VAT for a suitable minutes package based on call volume. Our average call duration is 2-3 minutes. Overages of £0.89/minute only occur if you go above your set amount of minutes within the month. However, this is monitored closely. Plans can be upgraded or downgraded at any time for free to meet your requirements. **For more information contact Andy Carruthers, Telephone 01904 803343, email andy.carruthers@answerconnect.co.uk , quoting NTF as a reference for a 10% discount offer.**

Regulation deadlines

- **24th March 2018** – £20,000 cap applies to Median Auction Maiden races. See Forthcoming rule changes on BHA Online Rule Book.
- **1st April 2018** – mandatory Equine Herpes vaccination to race in France
- **1st April 2018** – new racing industry minimum pay rates (see above.)
- **1st April 2018** – RIABS weekly contributions rise to £2.62 (from £2.37)

- **2nd April 2018** – ice or cooling devices cannot be applied to a horse on raceday in the racecourse stables, unless a VO had given dispensation
- **2nd April 2018** – manipulative therapy no longer allowed in racecourse stables on a raceday
- **2nd April 2018** – notification of suprachoroidal cyclosporine implants
- **2nd April 2018** – 3-day stand down for horses withdrawn by stewards on veterinary advice

NTF 2018 meeting dates

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