

## NTF WEEKLY – 10 OCTOBER 2017

### Have your say on British racecourses

The Racecourse Association is requesting the help of trainers to get a better understanding of the key reasons for running horses at their Racecourses. A joint letter from the RAC and NTF Presidents inviting trainers to participate can be read on ntfmuse [here](#).

By completing the survey below, the results will enable racecourses to better understand the entry process and ultimately how they can improve the experience for trainers and owners. The survey has a number of generalities which have been necessary for practical reasons. However the RCA hopes the survey can be used to drive positive change and help to inform prize money and spending decisions.

Go to the survey at this link <https://racecourseassociation.wufoo.eu/forms/p158u9dn0sxfsi0/>

### ROA event for Racing Secretaries in Newmarket

The ROA will be hosting an informal social event for Racing Secretaries and Senior Staff at The Racing Centre in Newmarket on **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October**.

Secretaries are invited to attend between 1-3pm for a general discussion on ownership related matters and to share new ideas for the recruitment and retention of owners. There will also be the opportunity to discuss ways that the association can support secretaries in their daily communications with owners.

A selection of sandwiches, finger food and cakes will be provided. Those wishing to attend please RSVP to Chloe Martin [cmartin@roa.co.uk](mailto:cmartin@roa.co.uk) no later than **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October**.

### Ludlow Racecourse to use 'One Fit' Padded Hurdle

Ludlow Racecourse on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2017 will be the latest racecourse to adopt the 'One Fit' Padded Hurdle, joining Bangor, Exeter, Kelso, Newton Abbot, Stratford, Taunton and Uttoxeter. The BHA launched the hurdle as a trial at Newton Abbot in 2013 and the design has been rolled out to eight courses in total following positive feedback from the industry.

### Judges announced for Godolphin Stud & Stable Staff Awards

The BHA has announced three new judges who will form part of the panel of 12 for the 2018 Godolphin Stud and Stable Staff Awards.

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The Awards, sponsored by Godolphin and run by the BHA in association with the Racing Post, recognise and reward the outstanding dedication and skills of the stud and stable staff who are at the heart of British racing.

The new Judges are: Josh Apiafi, Founder and Director of Rewards4Racing.com; last year's Employee of the Year Terry Doherty of Watership Down Stud; and ITV Racing's Alice Plunkett.

The Awards offer more than £125,000 in prize money, with up to £40,000 available to a single yard or stud. The prizes will be presented in front of an invited audience on the evening of Monday 19 February 2018 at the Jumeirah Carlton Tower Hotel in Knightsbridge, London.

The nomination process is very simple and is available to trainers online via the Racing Administration website. Nominations can also be completed or downloaded via [www.studandstablestaffawards.co.uk](http://www.studandstablestaffawards.co.uk) and [www.racingpost.com](http://www.racingpost.com).

### **Employment Programme building numbers of new entrants**

A recent update from the BHA People and Development Department reported on the success of the Entry to Employment programme. Equine College Students taking part graduated at the end of July, following a 4 week training course held at the Northern Racing College (BRS cohort having graduated earlier). 16 students took part in this programme with 12 of them being placed into employment at a Racehorse Trainers Yard. The other 4 required extra training before they could be placed into the industry and are still at the racing schools.

This is just one of a number of initiatives from the BHA and the industry stakeholder group to promote recruitment into racing yards. It is welcome news that new joiners to the stable staff register in Quarter 3 of 2017 were 357 compared with 338 in 2016.

### **Tax evasion becomes a corporate criminal offence**

As of 30th September 2017, new legislation came into force regarding corporate criminal offences in relation to tax evasion. Although the legislation is targeted at large corporate entities, all companies and partnerships, regardless of their size, are within the scope.

Historically, the domestic offence of tax evasion has been committed by taxpayers (either an individual or an entity) and 'associated persons' who facilitate the offence. From this month if, as a corporation, you fail to prevent a representative from facilitating tax evasion, then you will be held criminally responsible.

Entities, including partnerships, will be criminally liable when a UK or foreign tax evasion offence is facilitated by a person associated with the entity (e.g. employees, agents, payroll companies); and they failed to put adequate procedures in place to prevent the associated person from committing the facilitation offence. Companies that have a particularly high risk profile include those that have an international client base; make payments to suppliers in cash refer clients to third-party service providers.

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Our tax adviser Smith & Williamson say as far as NTF members are concerned, whilst the authorities will take account of the fact that one could not expect trainers and/or their staff to know when tax laws are being broken, or could be broken, there is a certain level of assumed knowledge.

One example may be when an owner asks the trainer to invoice in a certain way – perhaps changing the invoice address or amending the description of the services to facilitate the recovery of VAT or obtaining tax relief where none is due. There is a potentially particular concern when the owner is from overseas.

Paying cash to a tradesman without an associated VAT invoice could also be indicative of income being diverted. So could the receipt of unusually large amounts of cash to settle training fees.

A trainer should also ask him/herself whether he is 100% satisfied as to the probity of any given transaction. If this question cannot be answered in the affirmative then one might form the view that the business relationship should cease.

### 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 October 2017** – Novice Chase recommendations come into effect. [More...](#)
- **2nd October 2017** – 3% increase in racing industry minimum pay rates. [More...](#)
- **1st January 2018** – minimum ratings applies to all non-two year old Group 1 and non-novice Grade 1 races.

### NTF meeting dates

<b>South West</b>	Monday 30th October	Taunton
<b>West Midland and Wales</b>	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Warwick Racecourse
<b>North</b>	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	Ripon Racecourse
<b>East</b>	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Newmarket
<b>South East</b>	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Epsom Racecourse
<b>Central South</b>	tbc	Newbury Racecourse
<b>Committees and Council</b>	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	London

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