

NTF WEEKLY UPDATE –11 AUGUST 2023 – Issue No. 1352

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INDUSTRY NEWS

Horsebox Safety

Many of you will have seen Amy Murphy’s tweet regarding their recent experience of migrants seeking to enter the UK by hiding in her horsebox which was travelling back from Deauville via the EuroTunnel – this highlights the importance remaining vigilant, locking doors and checking the lorry.

We thank Amy for sharing this experience and ensure all your travelling staff are aware of the potential issue.

Growing awareness of Trainers Support Network

Back in May, the Racehorse Trainers Benevolent Fund, supported by the NTF, launched a pilot to provide trainers with mental health support ([see NTF News, 24th May.](#))

The pilot aims to make it easier for trainers to start a conversation with a person who will have an understanding of the life trainers lead and the pressures they face. It launched in Lambourn with support provided by former trainer and qualified counsellor David Arbuthnot,

and sports psychologist Michael Caulfield and sought to get them into the places where trainers circulate in their daily working lives, giving trainers a chance to share their problems.

During June and July, they have been out and about chatting to trainers and opening the door to those much-needed conversations and the response has been such that we have worked to extend the Network into other regions. We are delighted to announce that trainer Jo Foster, qualified in Counselling and Sports Psychology, and ex-trainer Chris Wall have agreed to join the team to provide us with representatives near Malton and Middleham, and Newmarket.

The pilot is obviously open to all trainers and details have been added to the NTF website providing details of the free service and how to get hold of someone.

We would encourage any trainer who feels that they would benefit from a conversation to get in touch.

David Arbuthnot: Mobile 07836 276464. Email dwparbuthnot@hotmail.com

Michael Caulfield: Mobile 07831 742321. Email michael@justcaulfield.com

Jo Foster: Mobile 07980 301808. Email jofosterracing@gmail.com

Chris Wall Mobile 07764 940255. Email christianwall@btconnect.com

RACE PLANNING

[Article 111 of French Racing rules - Entry for Foreign Trained Horses](#)

France-Galop has communicated some important changes to the process for the entry of foreign trained horses, stating:

Further to the increase in the number of requests and in order to maintain quality management, we would like to draw your attention to Article 111 of the French rules of racing:

ART. 111 - ENTRY FOR FOREIGN-TRAINED HORSES

*"In order for a foreign-trained horse to be entered in a public race in France for the first time, the horse must be duly declared by the trainer on the France Galop website **at least 15 days prior to the day of the race** in which the horse is due to take part.*

This declaration must include its full designation including name, sex, year of foaling, coat, breeding (sire, dam, dam's sire) and the suffix of the country of birth.

Furthermore, if the race takes place more than 15 days after the entry closing, the declaration above must be made no later than the day before the general entry closing day.

*If an entry is not registered due to a non-compliance with this provision, **no appeal may be lodged.**"*

An implementation date will be announced shortly.

Many thanks for your understanding.

www.france-galop.com

BUSINESS

Public and Employers' Liability Insurance.

We have received a number of queries regarding the cost of Liability Insurance renewal. We are aware that these costs have spiralled in recent years and that premiums continue to increase markedly year-on-year. Piers Plunket of Lycetts has provided the below insight into the background to this situation.

Many of you will have been experiencing a significant rise in the cost of these insurance coverages over recent years and I am afraid this trend is going to continue until there can be some stability created in the insurance market. Like all commercial markets, the insurance industry is underwriting for a profit and there is no default safety net for unprofitable classes of business, the only tool at their disposal if they choose to continue to underwrite that class, is to increase the premiums.

This situation has compounded over the last ten years and is likely to continue into the future as the premium income has become increasingly insufficient to cover the cost of both defending the claims and covering the value of any compensation awarded by the courts. Because the law applies 'Strict Liability' under the Animals Act, which means there need be no fault or negligence, claims have become increasingly difficult to defend, especially when the injured person is an employee.

Health and Safety, or rather the lack thereof, is another reason why claims can be hard to defend and if we are going to reverse the cycle we all have to do two things:

1. Have a better and more diligent motivation towards health & safety, risk mitigation and loss prevention, by reporting incidents that could produce a claim both accurately and promptly.
2. Encourage the BHA and all our MP's to review and amend the law under the Animals Act.

Although we are all mostly concerned with our own businesses, the entire equestrian world in the UK is facing the same reality and future and, unless we address this situation collectively, the direction of travel is likely to continue.

EVENTS

Small/Medium Trainer meetings with the BHA

As per the communication earlier in the week, the dates and locations for these meetings are as shown below. We are pleased that a number of trainers have signed up in the last 48 hours and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at these meetings.

We did receive some helpful feedback that the locations available were not ideal for quite a number of trainers but we have limited scope for change as we are working around the availability of Julie Harrington and her very busy diary. However, we have been able to delay the start time of the York meeting to 11am to, hopefully, allow a little more time for trainers in the morning. We are confident that we will be able to set up a further meeting in the Southwest and will update as soon as that has been confirmed.

Worcester - 22 August 2pm

York - 24 August 11am

Kempton Park - 30 August 3pm

Ayr - 21 September 11am

Should you wish to attend any of these sessions, please sign up [HERE](#)

The Great Racing Welfare Boat Race – Enter your team now

On Wednesday September 6th this year Racing Welfare will be staging the first Great Racing Welfare Dragon Boat Race and they are looking for teams to support the event. Teams can be from individual trainer's yards or you could enter jointly with other yards if it will make the logistics more feasible.

Event details

Windsor Racecourse/River Thames

13:00 – 19:30

21 teams of 11 people (although we will encourage teams to bring extras to swap in and out if required) – 10 rowers and 1 drummer per boat.

Entertainment

Live DJ

Best Turned-Out competition for the crews

Boule's competition

Food and Drink kiosks

Costs

£500 per crew entry

£500 fundraising target per crew

The NTF will offer £250 sponsorship towards the fundraising target for the first four NTF members teams that sign up to take part. Should you be interested in entering a team, please contact Clare Kingston at Racing Welfare: CKingston@racingwelfare.co.uk

If you would like to take part but would need to link up with other trainers to do so, please contact [Jill Crook](#) at the NTF who will help coordinate interested parties.

BEFORE YOU GO

BARROW FARM RIDING FOR THE DISABLED IS LOOKING FOR A REPLACEMENT HORSE BOX

Barrow Farm Riding and Carriage Driving for the Disabled, is a registered charity which operates a specialist riding centre near Chelmsford in Essex. We provide riding and carriage driving to over 130 riders a week and 18 carriage drivers - they have a range of disabilities,

often multiple and of a severe nature, with learning and physical difficulties. Many of them are on the autistic spectrum. Several of them have life limiting conditions. One third of our riders are adults and approximately one third come from local special schools. Our age range is now 5 to mid 80s.

With a team of 11 ponies and horses and over 100 volunteers, the centre provides both indoor and outdoor riding, along with carriage driving six days per week. Due to the specialist nature of our coaches, ponies and facilities we attract riders from all over Essex.

We also offer the opportunity to our riders to compete at Regional and National RDA competitions. In order to do this our ponies have to gain experience at competitions going away from home. For all of these trips we need a horse box. Our box is also used to take ponies to the vets, who no longer provide a horse ambulance for emergencies.

Last weekend we went to the National RDA Championships, on the way our horse box broke down causing much stress and inconvenience to our staff and ponies. We feel we should be looking for a new box to meet our needs and wondered if anyone could help us?

Comments from a Mum about competing at the Regional Competition:

‘Today was so special and watching our son ride with such confidence was so beautiful I don’t have the words. We can’t wait to see where this journey takes him but the difference the last six months have made in his life is more than we even knew was possible.

A year ago, they told us he wouldn’t retain anything he wasn’t going to progress but they were so wrong. He just needed the right people and he found his place and community within Barrow Farm.’

HAVING READ THIS CAN ANYONE HELP US PLEASE? WE ARE LOOKING FOR A 6.5 TO 7.5 TON HORSE BOX, SET UP FOR THREE HORSES, WITH BASIC ACCOMMODATION (we would also consider something smaller!)

Karen Lehner, Vice Chairman, Trustees Email: Karenlehner52@gmail.com

Barrow Farm Riding for the Disabled Ltd