

NTF WEEKLY UPDATE – 11 OCTOBER 2023

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INDUSTRY NEWS

[Training Injury Research Project](#)

The NTF Trainers Equine Welfare Panel recently discussed a project that the BHA are undertaking with the Royal Veterinary College. They are seeking trainers to contribute to this

study which aims to describe the types and frequency of injuries sustained by horses in training in Great Britain, and determine risk factors associated with their occurrence.

A more detailed brief of the project is available [here](#) and trainers who would be willing to take part in the study are asked to contact James Given at the BHA at the following email address:

jgiven@britishhorseracing.com

Affordability checks

Trainers will be aware of the ongoing threat to the sports finances that are posed by the activity of the Gambling Commission at present and in the future. It has been widely reported that the impact of this has already been significant and we have been engaging with the BHA and other stakeholders via the Gambling Strategy Group. However, with the threat still looming of a loss of c.£250m of income to the sport over the next five years, the NTF has lent support to a letter written by Martin Cruddace of ARC to Lucy Frazer, the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. This letter will be sent on behalf of Racing's stakeholders and will be published more widely on Thursday. It will take a more active approach to the one taken so far in highlighting a number of our concerns and will also be accompanied by a social media campaign coordinated by Johnno Spence, commencing on Thursday.

Whilst we understand that some trainers will see this as an issue primarily for bookmakers, we recognise that this threat to income poses a genuine threat to the future of the sport and businesses within it. We would ask trainers who are supportive to:

Engage with the social media campaign that supports the letter to Lucy Frazer – you may be contacted by Johnno's team to help

Complete the Gambling Commission consultation that can be found [HERE](#)

Should you have any questions please contact [Paul Johnson](#). M. 07823 536388

Flat trot ups and enhanced pre-race examinations

Two further dates have been added to the enhanced pre-race examination and trot up schedule for 2023.

All-card trot ups will take place at Ascot Racecourse on **British Champions Day** (21 October) and at **Doncaster's Futurity Trophy** weekend (27-28 October).

The BHA will no longer be trotting all horses on **18 October at Kempton Park** but will be doing so at Kempton's fixture on **Wednesday 13 December**.

The full schedule is now as follows, with pre-race checks at:

- **Ascot Racecourse**, Saturday 21 October
- **Doncaster Racecourse**, Friday 27 - Saturday 28 October
- **Kempton**, Wednesday 13 December

A reminder that all runners in all races at these fixtures will receive:

- A cardiac assessment using a stethoscope
- A trot up over approximately 25 metres, with the horse asked to trot up and back in a straight line on a firm surface
- An examination of the limbs by palpation.

These are standard methods of pre-race checks, which have been used for many years in Flat and Jump racing and will always be performed by BHA Veterinary Officers in the racecourse stables.

Since the BHA started this process, the BHA have examined more than 2,000 horses, with just six withdrawn following conversations with the veterinary teams.

The checks are designed to help ensure horses are lining up in the best possible health following their travel to the racecourse – providing an extra layer of protection and further reducing the risk of avoidable injury.

Notifying the BHA in advance about poor movers

The BHA continue to encourage connections to get in touch with the BHA well in advance of race day about any horses that might be described as “poor movers” or having an “asymmetrical gait”. The easiest way to do this is by emailing:

vetreports@britishhorseracing.com

The BHA know that you and your teams exercise professional judgement on a daily basis about the horses in your care, and by contacting the BHA in advance, the BHA can discuss individual circumstances and consider additional information to support the horse's [suitability to race](#)

New BHA Concussion Awareness Learning Module – Racing2Learn

The BHA recently published a new [concussion awareness learning module](#), which aims to support those working in our sport manage the risks of concussion. You can read the full announcement [here](#) and the course itself is available to complete now on [Racing2Learn](#).

The BHA hope that this will prove a useful resource for you and your teams, and we would be grateful if you could encourage completion within your yards so that everyone can become familiar with best practice health guidance. It also provides support and medical advice around recovery from concussion and how to return safely to work and riding following a head injury.

The module and downloadable resources have been developed by medical experts and racing professionals, building on the UK Government's concussion guidance for grassroots sport, which we shared with you [earlier this year](#).

If you have any specific questions about the module, or identifying, managing and preventing concussion, please do contact the BHA's Concussion Practitioner, Rosy Hyman, on rhyman@britishhorseracing.com

The 2024 Thoroughbred Industry Employee Awards, sponsored by Godolphin - held at Ascot Racecourse on Monday 26 February 2024

- TIEA ceremony to take place at Ascot Racecourse on Monday 26 February 2024
- ITV Racing's Ed Chamberlin to host milestone 20-year celebration
- Nominations open until Tuesday 7 November 2023, with £128,500 in prize money on offer

Ascot Racecourse has today been confirmed as the venue for the 2024 Thoroughbred Industry Employee Awards, sponsored by Godolphin.

Award winning sports broadcaster and ITV Racing presenter Ed Chamberlin will host the 20th anniversary celebrations on Monday 26 February 2024, having previously compèred in 2018 and 2020. Nominations for the Thoroughbred Industry Employee Awards are open until Tuesday 7 November 2023 and can be made online at thoroughbredawards.co.uk

There are six award categories to choose from and prize money of £128,500 up for grabs, with as much as £30,000 available to the overall Employee of the Year and their yard or stud.

Sponsored by Godolphin and organised by the British Horseracing Authority (BHA), the

prestigious ceremony has provided countless heart-warming and unforgettable moments over the past two decades. The 20th renewal at Ascot promises to be the most special yet, and alongside its role as host venue, Ascot Racecourse Supports – the racecourse’s community and charity programme – will become a formal partner for the 2024 awards.

Ascot Racecourse Supports joins longstanding partners the Racing Post and Racing TV to recognise and honour the extraordinary individuals who contribute so much to British racing, our horses, people and local communities.

Thoroughbred Census – British Racing Horse Welfare Board

As announced at the end of June, British Racing’s Horse Welfare Board has launched the first-ever thoroughbred census in Great Britain, in partnership with research experts at Hartpury University.

The project is aiming to enhance the sport’s data bank and improve traceability of thoroughbreds after they have been retired from racing, a key commitment from the sport’s welfare strategy, ‘A Life Well Lived’. Out of the estimated 35,000 former racehorses in Britain, the sport has quality data on around a third of them, primarily via the 12,000+ members of RoR. The Census is one initiative to help bridge that gap.

Details of nearly 4,000 former racehorses have been submitted in the first three months of the project. This is a solid start but, with the ambition to reach 12,000 completions, significant efforts are needed as the closing date of 31st December draws closer. The support of the racing community is essential to help achieve this.

How can you help?

If you still own a thoroughbred that’s been retired from racing, please complete the census via www.ror.org.uk/registration.

If you’ve sold or gifted thoroughbreds at the end of their career, it would be a huge support if you could please send on details of the Census ([Thoroughbred Census Press Release](#)) and encourage the new owners to participate via this link www.ror.org.uk/registration. If you’d be happy to share the census on your social channels that would also help spread the word. The link to the dropbox with a selection of social media assets is [HERE](#)

If you have any questions don’t hesitate to contact the Horse Welfare Board Programme team on info@racehorsewelfare.co.uk

RACE PLANNING

BHA Publish the 2024 Fixture List

The 2024 Fixture List has now been published. There are some changes to the fixture list compared to previous years. The BHA set out these changes in their correspondence to trainers this week outlining:

- 170 high value “Premier Racedays”
- Investing more in prize money
- Creating more competitive racing
- Major investment in improving Sunday racing

All of the communications can be found here:

- The full fixture list can be viewed as a PDF https://media.britishhorseracing.com/bha/Fixture_List/2024_Fixture_List_Full.pdf
- The full fixture list can also be viewed on the BHA website <https://www.britishhorseracing.com/racing/fixtures/full-year/>
- The BHA Update setting out the changes for the 2024 Fixture List can be viewed here <http://bhaplus10.cmail20.com/t/j-e-ssshd-tuhtutgih-r/>
- Paul Johnson’s ‘2024 Fixture List and Funding’ outlining the process for the 2024 Fixture List can be found here <https://mailchi.mp/ec2780da7c76/ntf-industry-perspective-5411082>
- Further information on the headline developments can be found here. Including information on the “protected window” and supporting participant wellbeing https://media.britishhorseracing.com/bha/Fixture_List/2024_Fixture_List_Headline_Developments.pdf

The Programme Book for January 2024 is due to be online by 20 November, with the rest of Programme Book 1 from 29 November.

EMPLOYMENT

ACAS - Today is World Mental Health Day, which aims to raise awareness of mental health and drive positive change, including in the workplace.

A workplace environment where staff feel that they are able to talk openly about [mental health](#) can help to ensure that staff feel supported.

MEMBER SERVICES

NTF Members - Racing Post 25 % Discount

Members of the NTF receive a 25% discount with a subscription to Racing Post Members' Club Ultimate (monthly or annual). This includes unlimited access to the Racing Post digital newspaper, award-winning journalism, replays from all UK & Irish racecourses, results analysis and much more. Simply head to the checkout, select Ultimate Monthly or Ultimate Annual and enter the code **NTFRP23** to unlock your 25% discount.

If you are subscribed to Racing Post Members' Club Ultimate, please contact the NTF who will arrange for the discount to be applied to your future payments.

NTF Members- Racing TV Second Subscription free of charge

Complete the form in this [link](#) and either email to tom.hall@racecoursemediagroup.com or post to: Tom Hall, RMG Operations Limited, Third Floor Gillingham House, 38-44 Gillingham Street, London SW1V 1HU

NTF Members- Centre Forward Marketing - 10% Discount

A 10% discount and free initial consultation with [Centre Forward Marketing Promotions Ltd](#)

Telephone: 01793 731747 Mobile: 07976 432271 Email: cpullan@cfmp.uk

UPCOMING EVENTS

NTF Regional Forums Confirmed for the Autumn – Please sign up [here](#)

- **South West and Wales Region** on Monday **16th October** at Taunton Racecourse at 2pm
- **South East Region** on Wednesday **18th October** at Lingfield Racecourse 1:30pm
- **Scotland and the North Region** Monday **6th November** at Newcastle Racecourse at 2pm

- **Midlands and Central North Region Monday 20th November** at York Racecourse and via Zoom at 2pm
- **Central South Region** on Tuesday **21st November** at Oaksey House at 1:30pm
- **East Region** on Tuesday **28th November** at Newmarket Rowley Mile Racecourse at 1pm

If you are planning to attend a Regional Forum, please sign up here

<https://paulntf.wufoo.com/forms/z6959sp0i71j3r/> The agenda will be out 1 week before the meeting.

Racing Staff Development Programme - 26th October Lameness Webinar Part 2:

How do we investigate lameness? - With Nigel Haizelden, BSc BVetMed MRCVS on Thursday 26th October at 7pm via Zoom. For login details contact S.Trainor@theNHC.co.uk

Horseracing Industry Conference – closing date 17th October for tickets

Tuesday 24th October 2023, York Racecourse

Delivered at a pivotal time for racing as industry leaders develop a new strategy for the future of the sport, the conference will bring together experts from both within and outside of the horseracing industry to explore the theme: Modernising racing: how far and how fast?

The conference will include refreshments throughout the day, a two-course lunch and be followed by a drinks reception, and is an ideal opportunity to network with leaders and delegates from the racing community and discuss the topics of the day.

You've got until Tuesday 17th October to secure your tickets. All the information on the agenda, timings and speakers can be found on the conference website via the link below

<https://www.racingfoundation.co.uk/conference-2023/>