



NTF WEEKLY – 12 MARCH 2018

Cheltenham Festival – access for trainers

Trainers with runners at The Festival will already have received information and relevant badges from Cheltenham Racecourse.

For trainers with no runners, the NTF Metal Badge acts as a Club ticket for access to the racecourse.

There are also different routes for car parking. Trainers with runners should use the BLUE route and display the hanging label sent by the racecourse. NTF members without runners should use the RED route and display the NTF car park label.

Reporting unsatisfactory cleaning of racecourse stables

We are reassured to note a couple of stewards' reports about Veterinary Officers having reported unhygienic conditions in sampling boxes that were not in a fit condition for use on raceday.

One was at Ascot on 17th February 2018 when the VO noticed that one of the two shavings sampling boxes had old droppings in it together with cobwebs in one corner. The other was at Leicester on 31st January 2018 when the VO raised concerns that it appeared someone had urinated in a sampling box prior to racing and therefore it could not be used due to a risk of contamination. In both cases a report was forwarded to the Head Office of the BHA for further consideration.

To ensure the same standards are applied to racecourse stables, please instruct your travelling staff to inspect stables before they take a horse into it and immediately report unhygienic stables to the VO. The NTF provides a form to make this reporting easy. It can be printed off the NTF website [here](#).

Also, please note again the absolute prohibition on stable employees urinating in any stables (at the racecourse or at home in the yard) to avoid contamination.

New wage rates

From 1st April 2018, most of the racing industry minimum pay rates will change following the agreement between the NTF and NARS outlined in the email from us on 28th February. The new rates are shown below.

Pay Grade	April 2018 figure hourly	April 2018 40 hours	April 2018 consolidated
Scale 1 & 2 16 – 17 no increase	£4.28	£171.20	n/a
Scale 1 & 2 18 – 20 Scale 3 16 - 20 Increase 2%	£5.91	£236.40	£262.99
Scale 1 & 2 & 3 21 – 24 Increase 2%	£7.42	£296.80	£330.19
Scale 1 & 2 & 3 25 and over Increase 2%	£7.98	£319.20	£355.11
Scale 4 1% increase	£8.16	£326.40	£363.12
Scale 5 1% increase	£8.34	£333.60	£371.13
Scale 6 1% increase	£8.85	£354	£393.82
Time away from yard outside normal working hours	£7.83		

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.)