

## NTF WEEKLY – 12 JUNE 2018

### **BHA announces further changes to 3yo flat novice conditions**

Responding to feedback from trainers and analysis of five months of race data, the BHA has announced more changes to the 3-year-old flat novice race conditions. These will take effect for races staged from Monday 9th July.

- The definition of a “novice” is modified such that horses that have run three times and have won a race would be ineligible for three-year-old and three-year-old and upwards novice races. This means that the only winners that can run in novice races will be horses that had one or two previous runs.
- There is a small increase in the number of maiden races restricted to unraced and once-raced horses, particularly in the first three months of the turf season. This proposed change will see the balance in novice and maiden races move to c.75% novice: 25% maiden.
- Penalties carried by winners of Class 4 and 5 Open Novice and Class 4 Novice Auction races to be increased
- See the [post on ntfmuse](#) for the penalty changes and statistics.

The BHA says that comparing 3yo and 3yo+ novice/maiden races with the equivalent races staged in 2017, average field sizes have increased and their competitiveness, measured by the average starting price of the favourite, is almost unchanged. The main purpose of the latest changes, however, is to address concerns that the participation of a highly rated, more experienced horse looking for a soft option is making some novice races uncompetitive.

Ralph Beckett, who represents the NTF on the Racing Group said:

“These changes should address the issues that have emerged with extending the novice system from the two year old programme, where it is working well, to three year olds and older horses. We all know that in the past winning on your first or second start was often limiting to a horse’s future prospects, and this new approach is changing that.

“I know that a number of trainers have been concerned about the consequences for a horse’s handicap rating of finishing too close behind a previous winner, and it is important that we as trainers remember the BHA’s handicapping policy is to focus on what a horse has beaten, rather than what has beaten it.”

## Confirmation of structure for funding distribution body

Agreement has been reached between British racing's tripartite bodies regarding the structure of the new Racing Authority, which is set to take over responsibility for Levy distribution from April 2019.

Under UK Government proposals to "reduce financial and administrative burdens on the betting and horseracing industries" which were consulted on earlier this year, the Horserace Betting Levy Board (HBLB) will be abolished in April 2019. Its responsibilities for collecting the Levy will transfer to the UK Gambling Commission, while distribution of the Levy will be carried out by the Racing Authority.

The key roles of the Racing Authority will be to implement the policy and strategy for racing's central funding set by its Members (BHA, Horsemen's Group and RCA); distribute the funds fairly and transparently in accordance with this policy; fund growth; consult with the betting industry and wider stakeholders on the growth of the racing product.

The composition of the Racing Authority Board is

<u>Independent Appointees</u>	Sir Hugh Robertson – Chairman One further Independent Board Member
<u>British Horseracing Authority</u>	Nick Rust, Chief Executive Richard Wayman, Chief Operating Officer
<u>Horsemen's Group</u>	Julian Richmond-Watson, Chairman, TBA Charlie Liverton, Chief Executive, ROA
<u>Racecourse Association</u>	Maggie Carver, Chair Stephen Atkin, Chief Executive

## "Inspirational" management training to support staff retention

*"Inspirational." "Very good ideas to take back to the yard and help with staff retention."*

*"I learned a lot about leadership and management."*

*"It has made me look at things from a completely different perspective and question how we do things in our yard."*

These are a few of the feedback comments about the management training modules we put on last year to support trainers with their Lycetts Team Champion Award nominations. The 2019 series begins in July. Trainers looking for support for the award have the opportunity with their senior staff to attend one of the modules created for the NTF by Peter Burnet of The Peplow Group.

With the title 'Building a Sustainable Business' the module is designed to help trainers recruit and retain exceptional staff teams. It is about sharing ideas, tips and support to match the team award criteria and make other wider ranging changes.

It will take place at three venues this summer / autumn:

- The BRS in Newmarket on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2018
- Malton on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2018
- Cheltenham on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Tea and Coffee will be available from 09.30. Each day will run from 10.00 to 16.30 with lunch and refreshments provided. Dress is casual / work clothes. The day will consist of a mix of activities, discussion and some new ideas.

Each participant will be encouraged to generate an action plan to help implement any new ideas back in the yard. There is no formal preparation for the day and please come with an open mind!

### **To book places**

In the first year of the award, the Racing Foundation fully funded the management training. This year there is a charge of £100 per place. To book yourself and up to one other staff member onto any of the three days please contact the NTF at [teamchampion@racehorsetrainers.org](mailto:teamchampion@racehorsetrainers.org) or ring 01488 71794.

### **Bloodstock and racehorse sales review is underway**

The NTF has been contacted by the BHA to confirm the process for a review of the buying and selling of bloodstock and racehorses within British racing. The scope of the Review is:

1. To review the nature and integrity of the practices involved in the buying and selling of bloodstock and racehorses within British Racing and to report its findings to the BHA Board; and
2. To consider what (if any) action the BHA should take, by way of enhanced regulation or otherwise, to ensure legally and ethically robust, fair, transparent and responsible practices exist in the buying and selling of bloodstock and racehorses within British Racing and to make written recommendations accordingly to the BHA Board. As an example, as part of this aspect of the Review, consideration will be given as to whether The Bloodstock Industry Code of Practice is fit for purpose.

Justin Felice is the Project Leader. He has 40 years of experience within law enforcement across a wide range of international jurisdictions, including working on behalf of HM Government.

As well as speaking to the NTF, Justin Felice will interview some trainers to get the benefit of their knowledge and experience. Others will be drawn from across the full breadth of the industry and will include buyers, sellers, agents, sales houses and regulatory authorities.

### Trainers Modules dates at the Northern Racing College

Racing staff interested in the opportunity to do their Trainers Modules could be interested in the following dates for the courses at the Northern Racing College.

Trainers Module 1	18 <sup>th</sup> to 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2018
Trainers Module 2	9 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
Trainers Module 3	30 <sup>th</sup> July to 3 <sup>rd</sup> August 2018

There is also a Conditional Jockeys Licence course from 13<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> August 2018.

### NTF 2018 meeting dates

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

### Regulation deadlines

- **25<sup>th</sup> May 2018** – General Data Protection Regulations come into force
- **1<sup>st</sup> June 2018** – tongue ties not permitted in German racing
- **2<sup>nd</sup> July 2018** – Racing Admin call centre at Weatherbys closes