



NTF WEEKLY – 13th SEPTEMBER 2017

The Lycetts Team Champion Award for your yard has started

The Lycetts Team Champion Award is an opportunity to showcase your yard and team talent, speed and focus ..

- for a chance to showcase your success as a team
- to let everyone know how winning is not only the first past the post
- and to start now by nominating your team and finish on the 22nd February 2018 with £4,000

All licensed trainers will receive in the post this week the information you need to apply. Meanwhile, find out more from the [Awards in Racing page](#) of the NTF website.

Minimum pay rates to increase by 3% from 2nd October

Following the third round of the 2017 annual pay negotiations on Monday 4th September, racing industry minimum pay rates will increase by 3% from Monday 2nd October 2017. The National Joint Council for Stable Staff has agreed this interim deal for the period to 1st April 2018 pending further meetings to agree details of changes to the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) in relation to the definition of the working week and the pay rate for time away from the yard outside normal hours.

Other than the increase in minimum rates, there are no other changes to the MoA from 2nd October. Under the MoA there is no requirement for trainers to apply the percentage increase for staff currently paid above the minimum rates as long as the pay for those staff from 2nd October meets or exceeds the minimum rates. For trainers who use the standard NTF contract of employment, there is a provision that there will be an annual pay review on first of October or such other date as specified, although there is no obligation to increase the rate of pay. Therefore trainers should ensure that they undertake a pay review even if they pay in excess of the minimum rates, and advise their employees of any increase or if the review has resulted in no increase.

The NTF is currently liaising with NASS to agree the precise figures for minimum pay rates on all Scales in the MoA following settlement. We will send out these figures to trainers as soon as they are confirmed.

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Auction price cap to be placed on median auction races from 2018 onwards

The British Horseracing Authority (BHA) has announced that an auction price cap will be placed on median auction races from next year.

Horses which qualify under the median price of the race but were bought or sold in at auction for more than £20,000 above the median value of the race will now be excluded. Paul Johnson, Head of Racing at the BHA, said: “The changes to median auction races are in response to our concerns that the median approach alone occasionally allowed horses that the races were not really designed for to take part, those being horses that had established a high sales price but are the progeny of stallions with a low median sales price.

Newmarket trainers’ are invited to Racing Welfare reception Monday 18th September

The Chairman and Trustees of Racing Welfare invite all the trainers in Newmarket to a Drinks Reception at the Jockey Club Rooms on Monday 18 September at 7 o’clock, to discuss proposed developments in Racing Welfare services.

To confirm your interest and request more details contact Dawn Goodfellow
dgoodfellow@racingwelfare.co.uk

New reforms launched to improve ownership experience through simplified administration

The BHA has launched a package of reforms to modernise and simplify the administration of racehorse ownership. The measures will mean the task of ownership administration is more convenient, efficient and easy to understand, with the transfer of the registration and management process online expected to save owners thousands of hours a year of filling in forms. The simplification and reduction of ownership fees will also save owners thousands of pounds per year in total, with the types and number of ownership options simplified to mean there are now only five types rather than eight: Sole, Company, Partnership, Syndicate and Racing Club.

New and existing owners now have access to the new Racing Admin system, where a newly designed, intuitive ownership portal enables them to manage their ownerships online and keep up to date with their horses and ownerships. It also facilitates free access to a number of enhanced features such as the ability to search the race programme.

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New registrations are also handled through the portal which will not only mean the process is more user friendly, but also ensures swifter turnaround time between submitting the forms and the approval of applications. The reforms benefit existing owners through the alignment of re-registration fees, which will now fall on one date in the year to reduce the drip feeding of charges and correspondence received.

A new code of conduct for syndicates has also been brought in, which highlights a number of basic requirements that all syndicate managers will need to ensure are met. These have been added to the Rules of Racing in order to protect syndicate members.

A dedicated ownership support team at Weatherbys is on hand to answer any questions and guide owners through the new portal. The team is available on 01933 304808 or via ownersupport@weatherbys.co.uk If trainers are aware their owners cannot use or do not have access to the internet they should be asked to call the Ownership Team at Weatherbys, contact details as above. To ensure owners are confident using the new Racing Admin system a programme of events has been compiled. The sessions will take the form of workshops, Q&As at racecourses and online demonstrations and will be staged across the following dates and locations:

18th September – Carlisle Racecourse
19th September – Newcastle Racecourse
26th September – Warwick Racecourse
4th October – Weatherbys, Wellingborough
12th October – Exeter Racecourse
16th October – BHA, London

The BHA will circulate further details.

Successful two-year-old novice programme extended to three-year-olds upwards for 2018

BHA announces the introduction of novice races for both three-year-old and older horses from 2018. It is an extension of the successful conversion of the two-year-old maiden programme which began last year and aims to ensure race programme provides timely and fair opportunities for horse population

From the start of next year, the majority of three-year-old maiden races will be converted to novice events to provide greater opportunities for horses to develop within a programme of novice races by increasing the opportunities for horses that win races in the early stages of their careers. This will not affect the balance of open, auction and median auction contests.

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The move will ensure more opportunities for horses to progress within the Novice programme and provide a programme that complements changes to handicapping rules that will remove the difficulty and uncertainty of handicapping lightly raced winners. This will mean that three-year-olds and older horses will now be required to run three times in order to receive a handicap mark unless they have run twice and won both races.

Due to the size of the weight-for-age allowances that three-year-olds receive in the first half of the year, there will also be early novice opportunities for horses aged four and up.

These will be programmed during the all-weather period and into the first few weeks of the Flat season in order to provide sufficient opportunities and avoid three-year-olds being required to race off very light weights.

Thoroughbred Health Network (THN) – launch a new research review – Pelvic Fractures: risk factors, diagnosis and future prognosis

The THN have reviewed the literature available and written a review of the risk factors, diagnosis and future prognosis of pelvic fractures. They have identified 10 key messages which are clearly organised by the level of scientific evidence supporting for each point available in the [academic paper](#) itself.

The Thoroughbred Health Network has now been approved as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) by OSCR. The THN first launched in June 2015 as a northern pilot project and expanded nationwide in March 2017. This structure enables the THN to work throughout Scotland, England and Wales. The objectives of the THN will remain the same, these are to 1) build a network of those interested in horse health and 2) review, translate and communicate research findings. Follow the growing THN network on Twitter: @ThoroughbredHN www.thoroughbredhealthnetwork.co.uk

Cheltenham Festival moves to 48 hour declarations

The BHA and Jockey Club Racecourses (JCR) have announced that, with effect from 2018, all races at the Cheltenham Festival will move to 48 hour declarations. The NTF was involved in discussions and acknowledges the overall benefits.

- No horse will be able to declare for more than one race excluding non-novice Grade 1 contests, unless it has been eliminated from a race or has been declared as a reserve

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The move is supported by the BHA's Racing Group, the Executive of Cheltenham Racecourse and JCR and has come in response to feedback from the Horserace Bettors' Forum as well as the racing public and media.

The change will provide earlier clarity with regards to running plans for racing fans, bettors, the media and bookmakers and enhance their ability to focus on the race and its participants when promoting the event.

As part of the move to 48 hour declarations for all races at the Cheltenham Festival, no horse will be permitted to declare more than once at the meeting, whether subsequently declared a non-runner or not, unless eliminated from a race or declared as a reserve.

This applies to all races except the five non-novice Grade 1 contests: Stan James Champion Hurdle, Betway Queen Mother Champion Chase, Ryanair Chase, Sunbets Stayers' Hurdle and Timico Cheltenham Gold Cup.

All handicap races at the meeting will have two reserve slots, which will have a deadline of 1pm the previous day, as is the case for the Randox Health Grand National and Coral Scottish National.

The BHA will liaise closely with the rest of the racing industry to monitor the changes as they come into effect, particularly in relation to horses being declared for more than one of the championship races, which will be kept under review annually.

ROA Trainer's Secretaries and Senior Staff informal social events

Following on from the success in Lambourn, there will be two new events held in Yorkshire at the end of this month held between 1-3pm. Light bites and soft drinks will be provided.

Tuesday 26th September – The Saddle Room, Leyburn, Middleham DL8 4TJ

Wednesday 27th September – Jack Berry House, Malton YO17 7HH

These social gatherings provide secretaries and other senior members of staff with an opportunity to meet members of the ROA staff team, and to discuss ways in which the association can best support them in their daily communications with owners.

Details of further events in other regions will be announced shortly. For further information or to RSVP to the above please contact Chloe Martin by email cmartin@roa.co.uk

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Regional meeting dates

Scotland & Borders	Wednesday 20 th September	Kelso Racecourse (before racing)
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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...](#)
- **1st January 2018** – minimum ratings applies to all non-two year old Group 1 and non-novice Grade 1 races.

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