

NTF WEEKLY – 14 MAY 2018

Appearance Money Scheme (AMS) at Non Criteria Fixtures

Some trainers have been enquiring about the lower than expected prize money levels at certain meetings scheduled later this month and further through Programme Book 2.

These meetings (listed below) are “non-criteria” meetings which are commercially very attractive to racecourses but sit outside the optimal time of the fixture list. These non-criteria meetings do not receive central funding including AMS money. Most courses running these fixtures have upgraded their executive contribution to make up some of the shortfall in prize money, but others have chosen not to. Please be aware of this when making plans for your horses throughout the summer and beyond.

The upcoming non-criteria fixtures are:

Stratford-upon-Avon	20/05/2018
Fontwell Park	27/05/2018
Hexham	24/06/2018

Valuable staff training in Mental Health First Aid – 30th May

Racing Welfare, supported by the NTF and the TBA, will be hosting a Mental Health Training Day on Wednesday 30th May at the Queens Arms Hotel, East Garston, near Lambourn.

Run by Mental Health First Aid England, this course is open for individuals to join independently but we hope that trainers will nominate a member of staff to attend, whom they are happy to give the afternoon off work if required.

The idea is that this person will become a key point of contact for anyone within the team who may be struggling with their own mental health or be worried about that of someone else. This need not necessarily be a member of the yard management structure but more just a trusted member of staff who others are likely to confide in and is interested in learning about what to do to help maintain the wellbeing of others.

Places on the training day cost £20 and can be purchased from the Racing Welfare office in Lambourn or on the Racing Welfare website [here](#).

The course is part of racing's support for Mental Health Awareness Week running from 14th – 20th May 2018 run by the Mental Health Foundation. Racing staff across the country will be showing their support by wearing green ribbons when they lead up on racedays occurring throughout the week.

The initiative has received industry-wide backing from the BHA, The Jockey Club and Arena Racing Company alongside independent racecourses who are all helping to promote the initiative. The charity has also commissioned a video produced by Equine Productions to tell the story of one of their beneficiaries who has battled with mental illness; this will be shown on the screens of participating racecourses during the week in addition to being posted on social media.

Trainer support

Racing Welfare is working in conjunction with Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU) and the BHA to carry out a pioneering piece of research into the provision of mental health services across horseracing.

Led by LJMU postgraduate researcher Will McConn, the aim of the study is to fully understand the scope of the mental health-related challenges faced by those within the racing industry. The NTF is acutely aware of the need for trainers to be supported in this area as we know and understand the pressures trainers often face. If you would like to meet Will McConn or talk to him by phone about your perspective or experiences, please contact Rupert Arnold at the NTF office.

Have your say on racehorse welfare assessment

As part of its strategy on equine welfare, the BHA is looking into the development of what it calls a "welfare assessment tool" and has commissioned Bristol University to take it forward. David Sykes, the BHA's Director of Equine Health and Welfare came to the NTF Council meeting in March to explain. Following that, Deborah Butler and Siobhan Mullan from Bristol University would like to meet trainers and senior staff to get their feedback on what constitutes positive welfare, such as feeding and training practices, and horse-staff ratio for instance.

During the latter part of May and during June they are holding focus groups in Lambourn, Middleham and Newmarket initially. Food and refreshments will be provided and the meetings will last approximately 1.5 to 2 hours. We will send out dates and venues nearer the time. Should you require any further information Deborah can be contacted by email, db18440@bristol.ac.uk. We hope you would be willing to help.

Hose pipe restrictions at Doncaster Racecourse

Doncaster Racecourse has been served with an enforcement notice by Yorkshire Water that bans the use of hose pipes outside the confines of our stable yard. This means Doncaster can no longer offer the facility to wash out horse boxes with a hose pipe.

The racecourse will provide buckets and as required under the BHA General Instructions and continue to provide arrangements allowing horse boxes to be mucked out. The management at Doncaster want to apologise to trainers for this inconvenience but the decision has been made outside the racecourse's control.

Reminder about Racing Admin call centre closing

Following an announcement at the end of April, the BHA wishes to remind trainers about the important changes that are being made to the operation of the Weatherbys Call Centre, taking effect from Monday 2nd July.

Several functions of the Call Centre are moving entirely online and will only be available through the new Racing Admin system. Most notable of these are:

- Making entries, confirmations and declarations
- Scratching a horse or declaring a non-runner
- Booking a jockey

To ensure you are supported moving online, a dedicated Help Desk, open seven days a week and contactable via 01933 440011, will be established to answer questions about using the Racing Admin system and to guide you through the processes. Operators, however, will no longer be able to complete the task for you. In addition, the Help Desk will support you in explaining how the Racing Admin system can be used to answer any questions you may have including those relating to the likelihood of getting a run and which races are more likely to divide, but will not be providing this information directly over the phone.

While the BHA has already spoken to a number of trainers directly over the last fortnight, if you still currently do not make entries and declarations online please do let the BHA know (via 01933 440011 or websupport@racingadmin.co.uk the reasons why so they can address any issues and ensure you are confident using the new system. Alternatively help videos and guides are available [here](#).

The BHA has committed to providing you with all the support you require in advance of these changes so please do not hesitate to get in contact.

NTF 2018 meeting dates

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

Regulation deadlines

- **25th May 2018** – General Data Protection Regulations come into force
- **2nd July 2018** – Racing Admin call centre at Weatherbys closes