



NTF WEEKLY – 14 AUGUST 2018

Metal badge use at Newmarket on Friday 17th August

The RCA has asked for trainers' cooperation with entrance procedures at Newmarket Racecourse on Friday 17th August.

Please note that complimentary access for metal badge holders on this date will only be on presentation of a valid PASS card along with your metal badge. Access will be granted via the Free Pass Office or the Owners and Trainers Desk entrance only. We believe this is in connection with the music night.

Bath Owners Jackpot Race transferred

The ROA Owners Jackpot race due to take place on August 22nd will now be taking place at Brighton, owing to Bath being unable to race. The race conditions all remain the same, but the race distance will be reduced to 7f.

York starting stalls available to view

Today's Racing Post report on the new 22-bay set of starting stalls at York explains that the stalls will be available for trainers to view during the Ebor meeting. This will be followed by a barrier trial day in September when trainers will be invited to bring horses.

Rupert Arnold attended the trial for the NTF; we have been very keen to avoid a repetition of the controversy that ensued with the introduction of Steriline stalls in the early 2000s. The first impression this time was that the stalls have a very stable structure and operate quietly. This is probably because it is one continuous structure with no movement around the "hinge" created by the joint when connecting multiple 10-bay sets. The jockeys were certainly happy. As reported, the back gates open wider than 90 degrees to the stall line; in addition, the foot rail is angled to offer a less protruding surface. Together, these features provide a more inviting entry for a horse. The only potential concern is the depth of the back gate, which looks similar to the original Steriline gate which was modified at the request of trainers and jockeys. There is a plenty more padding in the latest version and no horse was seen to react to the lower gate.

The NTF has some photos and videos available to view on request. We strongly recommend trainers take advantage of the opportunity to see the new York stalls at the Ebor meeting and/or the barrier trial next month.

Programme Book and Racing Calendar changes announced

Trainers will receive from the BHA today details about changes to the publication of the Programme Book and Racing Calendar from the beginning of 2019.

These changes, which have been discussed with the NTF and were supported at our regional meetings in recent weeks, are intended to streamline processes and enable continual improvements to be made to the programme in the coming years. The most notable of these changes are:

- Three Programme Books will be produced a year, each spanning four months. Indexes of races will be provided 10 weeks in advance of the first race with races available on Racing Admin seven weeks in advance. Hard copy Programme Books will still be produced and will arrive five weeks before the first race;
- The information contained within the hard copy Programme Book will be rationalised. While the books will show the principal conditions, information on weights will move online so each fixture is displayed on one page;
- The Racing Calendar will now span a fortnight rather than a week. Publication timings will apply as they do now for the first week in the calendar; therefore, access to the second week in the Calendar will be one week in advance of the current timescale.

One of the aims of the changes has been to give stakeholders sight of races earlier than before. While trainers who use them will receive hard copy Programme Books a week later than before, the Books will include an extra month of races and will be preceded by published indexes over two months in advance of the first race.

Should you have any queries about any aspects of this change please feel free to contact the BHA Racing Department by telephone on 0207 152 0055 or by email to racing@britishhorseracing.com.

Careers service aims to support retention

CATS is the British horseracing industry's very own Careers Advice and Training Service. Run by Racing Welfare with funding from The Racing Foundation, it aims to keep racing staff informed of careers and training news, events and services across the industry through its newsletter. Click here to read the [summer edition](#). You will see the newsletter is promoting the Alex Scott Future Trainers Travel Scholarship.

The NTF's Charitable Trust (NTFCT) is closely connected to CATS. When racing staff approach CATS to find out about training and development opportunities, the NTFCT is often able to provide the funding for a course. Over the last two years, HGV Driver training has been especially popular and is evidently meeting trainers' needs for people with this skill. The NTFCT's objective is to help keep valued and experienced racing staff in the sport. There is more about the NTF's charities on our website [here](#).

Take the Reins project targets young people to make a career in racing

In its last funding round, the Racing Foundation awarded a grant of £83,000 to Active Communities Network (ACN) to develop and deliver the 'Take The Reins' (TTR) programme with Flying Futures and other racing industry stakeholders.

TTR aims to raise awareness of career opportunities in racing through a year-round delivery programme accessible to young people across the South and North of England. It includes workshops, work experience and training packages that will make racing more accessible to young people via an established network of local community groups and youth organisations. Activities will include research projects, personal development programmes, accredited training courses, ambassador visits, open days and career pathways to utilise racing's assets to inspire, support and offer opportunities to young people.

Richard Fahey, the Northern Racing College and Lingfield Park Racecourse are all involved, offering work experience and training. This project is now underway; for more information please click [here>>](#).

Regulation deadlines

- **1 October 2018** – Level 2 safety vest mandatory for jockeys for race riding
- **January 2019** – Changes to Racing Calendar and Programme Book take effect