

# NTF WEEKLY UPDATE- 15 NOVEMBER 2023 – Issue No. 1364

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## INDUSTRY NEWS

### [Gambling Review – Please sign and share the Affordability Petition?](#)

It is now nearly two weeks since the launch of the petition to seek to halt affordability checks and we stand at around 84,000 signatures.

We had expected that progress would slow down after the initial surge of signatures, however we are still 16,000 signatures short of the initial target of 100,000. We are aware that you have all taken action to encourage people to sign the petition but would ask for another push to do so.

Reaching 100,000 signatures has the potential to make a meaningful difference to the financial wellbeing of the sport. Please pull out all the stops in sharing as widely as possible.

Click the [link here](#) to sign.

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## Series of Threatening Telephone Calls to Trainers Reported

We published a press release this week on a series of threatening telephone calls that were received by trainers last Friday. These calls were made from somebody referring to themselves as “The acid man” and involved a personal threat of harm to the victims.

This has obviously been very unpleasant for those concerned and we are pushing for real action to be taken by the police on this matter.

This has been made easier by the project launched by Lucy Snowden some time ago that we have recently sought to widen to cover all trainers. Ex police Superintendent, Sean Memory, has collated evidence from ten trainers now and submitted to the police and BHA. This has included two partial recordings of the calls made on second mobile phones as they too place as well as clear logging of the details of the calls, including time and preceding calls received.

We know that the police are under resource pressure at present but will be doing everything that we can to get this individual identified and prosecuted.

The press release is available [here](#)

For more information about the NTF’s campaign and reporting process, please see the details on the NTF website [here](#)

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## Recruitment, Skills and Retention of Staff in the British Racing Industry – comments requested from all participants - soon to be released Public Perspectives Survey

The survey has been commissioned by the Industry People Board with funding from the Racing Foundation in partnership with the British Horseracing Authority, the National Trainers Federation and the National Association of Racing Staff.

This survey is the fourth in the series, from 2016, 2018 and 2021, collecting regular data to measure progress of initiatives, identify new problems for racing staff and will lead the development of racing’s long-term plan for its workforce.

The racing industry is asking all trainers and stable staff, who will be contacted directly, to participate in the study. The survey will commence in November until early January.

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## RoR Awards 2024 -Nominations close Monday, 20 November 2023

There is less than one week left to nominate for the RoR Awards 2024, which take place on Wednesday 31 January 2024 at The Jockey Club Rooms in Newmarket.

The two awards open for nomination this year are:

- The Jockey Club RoR Horse of the Year Award.

This award is open to all RoR registered former racehorses that have successfully transitioned from racing to a new career. Click [here](#) for entry criteria and to nominate.

- The Sir Peter O’Sullivan Charitable Trust RoR Community Impact Award.

This award recognises any individual, former racehorse partnership or organisation that has made a significant impact on people’s lives with a former racehorse. Click [here](#) for entry criteria and to nominate.

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## EMPLOYMENT

### Rehabilitation of Offenders

There has been a recent change reducing the time periods after which a custodial period is spent – once a conviction is spent, it does not have to be disclosed on a job application.

The new rehabilitation periods are:

Custodial Sentence Length	Spending period after sentence ended
1 year or less	Full sentence plus 1 year (6 months if under 18)
Over 1 year and under 4 years	Full sentence plus 4 years (2 years if under 18)
Over 4 years	Full sentence plus 7 years (3.5 years if under 18)

Community Order/Youth Rehabilitation Order are spent on the last day on which the order has effect.

Those who have committed serious sexual, violent or terrorist offences, however, are excluded from these new rules. Stricter disclosure rules also apply to jobs that involve working with vulnerable people through standard and enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks.

The updated Government information is [here](#)

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## Concussion awareness

The Injured Jockeys Fund along with British Equestrian recently hosted a cross industry concussion symposium to focus upon the implementation of the grassroots concussion guidelines with the equine industries working together to focus upon concussion. The BHA recently produced a “concussion awareness” course which is on [Racing2Learn](#) and we suggest that trainers and senior staff undertake this short training session, which includes a fact sheet setting out more information on recognising the signs and symptoms of concussion as well as information on a gradual return to activity. A person does not have to be knocked unconscious to suffer concussion and it is important that everyone can recognise the signs.

Remember the four Rs if you suspect a concussion: Recognise the signs and symptoms; Remove the injured person from all horse-related activities; Recover until all symptoms have been resolved and Return to ridden activity through a gradual, stepwise process. More information about the four Rs in on the [Racing2Learn](#) course.

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## RACE PLANNING

### [Programme Book 1 - Early Index](#)

The early index for Programme Book 1 is now available on the NTF Website. Schedules for both Flat and Jump are included in separate tabs. BHA are aiming to publish January races by 20th Nov, with February to 22nd March online by 29th November.

[Link to early index](#) nb this file will download to your download folder

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## MEMBER SERVICES

### NTF Trainer Metal Badges - 2024

Discussions are ongoing for the NTF Trainer Metal Badges and how the badge scheme will operate next year. The 2023 NTF Metal Badges will continue to be valid whilst these discussions continue.

As usual at this time of year, if members wish to make changes to their badge allocation, please email the NTF office [here](#)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

NTF Regional Forums Confirmed for the Autumn – Please sign up [here](#)

- **Midlands and Central North Region** Monday **20th November** at York Racecourse at 2pm
- **Central South Region** on Tuesday **21st November** at Oaksey House at 1:30pm
- **East Region** on Tuesday **28th November** at Newmarket Rowley Mile Racecourse at 1pm

If you are planning to attend a Regional Forum, please sign up here <https://paulntf.wufoo.com/forms/z6959sp0i71j3r/> The agenda will be out 1 week before the meeting.

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