

NTF WEEKLY UPDATE – 18 JANUARY 2024

– Issue No. 1370

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INDUSTRY NEWS

NTF Badges

NTF Trainer Metal Badges will be valid until 31st March, and will continue to provide access to racecourses as they have in the past. We have now resolved the issues with the 2024 badges and these will be despatched in time for use from April. As usual, please keep the NTF office updated with changes needed for your badge allocation either by contacting us or using this link to the online form <https://www.racehorsetrainers.org/webforms/badgerequest.asp>

Autism Employment Seminar – one-hour enlightening free webinar

Bobby Beevers, Nigel Payne and the National Autistic Society are holding a one-hour free webinar on the benefits Autistic talent can offer within racing and how to embrace Autism in the industry.

There are people who are Autistic who dream of working with horses. It would be fantastic to get as many trainers or their representatives to attend, to find out how they can make Autistic peoples dream become a reality in becoming valued racing staff.

Details are available [HERE](#)

International Thoroughbred Breeding Industry – Free Webinar and Conferences

Open to all involved in Thoroughbred Breeding and Racing.

This major international industry event will take place on Thursday 18th January 2024 at 12.00 Midday (UK time) for 75 mins

REGISTER https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_uH8AaQC7REOYev_GWsNIRQ

A link to the video recording will be made available to those who register but are unable to attend live.

‘An International Bloodstock Journey’ The story of Kirsten Rausing and Lanwades Stud (ITBF Chairman). An exclusive film and interview telling the story of the businesswoman and Thoroughbred owner-breeder’s journey through the bloodstock world. From the pedigree-obsessed teenager, to breeding World Champion and Prix de l’Arc de Triomphe heroine, ALPINISTA. The bloodstock decisions that made this happen! Live Q & A Session

Equine Grass Sickness (EGS) A devastating disease with an 80% fatality rate that can occur anywhere in temperate areas of the world where equids are kept. Cases go back over 100 years, but the cause remains unknown. Research hampered by a lack of samples from EGS cases and co-grazer control -our presenters explain how we can aid critical research progress, leading to a worldwide understanding of the triggers and causes of the disease - and in turn, the answers that will ultimately protect equines in the future.

Dr Richard Newton MRCVS, MSc, PhD and FRCVS

Director of Epidemiology & Disease Surveillance, Equine Infectious Disease Surveillance

Dr Beth Wells PhD

Principal Research Scientist, Moredun Research Institute

Live Q & A Session

<https://www.international-tbf.com/conferences/>

RACE PLANNING CHANGES FOR 2024

Many of you will be aware of a number of changes to race planning matters sent by the BHA in their December communication. We felt that it would be helpful to remind trainers of all of these changes and have collated them below.

Programme Book Reverting to Four Versions

2024 will see the Programme Book reverting to four versions (previously three). These will have period dates as follows:

- Programme Book 1: 1 January – 22 March
- Programme Book 2: 23 March – 23 June
- Programme Book 3: 24 June – 15 September
- Programme Book 4: 16 September – 31 December

This is intended to deliver a more consistent volume of races per book and align publication with key dates in the Racing Calendar.

Premier Racedays

2024 will see the introduction of Premier Racedays. These fixtures will be run for at least £250k on the Flat (£225k Sunday) and £200K over Jumps (£180k Sunday). Higher Minimum Values will apply at Premier Racedays, where, in addition, no Flat race will be worth less than £20,000 and no Jump race less than £15,000.

Jump Programme

1. Race volume reduction

As part of plans to improve competitiveness of Jump racing in 2024, 300 races overall will be removed across the whole year, with c.60 of those taken out of PB1.

2. Pattern Changes – Jump Review

The announced changes to the Pattern as part of the Jump Pattern's Review continue to take shape through this season, with the following taking effect in PB1:

- Dipper (Cheltenham) and Altcar (Haydock) Novices' Chases have been removed from the programme
- Grade 2 Towton Novice Chase (Wetherby) now takes place a month earlier (13th Jan) and will be run at 2m3f.
- Peter Marsh Chase (Haydock) is now a Premier Handicap (20th Jan)
- Grade 2 Lightning Novice Chase now takes place at Lingfield (21st Jan)
- Grade 2 International Hurdle now takes place on Cheltenham Trials day (27th Jan)

3. 74-95 Handicaps

In order to meet demand and the current shape of horse population, a small number of 74-95 Novices' Limited Handicap Hurdles have been programmed.

4. National Hunt Flat Races

A reminder that changes have been made to the Rules of Racing which mean that:

- A horse may only run in three NHF races but may have a fourth run in a Listed Race or a Pattern Race and a fifth run in a Pattern Race during the same season as the fourth run.
- 6YOs will only be eligible to run in NHF races from 1st Jan until the end of that Jump season.

Flat Programme

1. Divisions

A trial will take place in PB1 on the All-Weather of dividing at 16 declarations as opposed to 18. This will see divisions at Chelmsford City, Kempton Park, Lingfield Park, Newcastle, Southwell and Wolverhampton instigated at 16+ declarations, with two divisions of 8+, from 1 January – 22 March inclusive. Where a race has 27+ declarations and is the only race eligible to divide, the race will be divided three times.

2. Trial removal of +1/+2 in Class 5 and 6 Flat Handicaps

Following the permanent removal of +1/+2 in Class 5 Jump handicaps, a trial of its removal is being applied to Class 5 and 6 Flat Handicaps in order to assess its impact on the distribution of runners and to support competitiveness.

3. Sunday Evening Floodlits

Six Sunday Evening Floodlit fixtures have been scheduled. These cards will be run for at least £145,000, made up of Class 3-6 races, with races at Class 4 and below run at least three times the Minimum Value. These fixtures will finish no later than 20:30, with 7 programmed races and the ability to divide to 8.

4. Removal of March Flat Break

The March Flat Code break that had previously fallen the week after Cheltenham will not take place in 2024 and five Floodlit fixtures will be scheduled this week Monday-Friday. The first two of those fixtures (Monday 18 and Tuesday 19) will be run as rider restricted fixtures.

5. AW Championships

There will no longer be Fast-Track Qualifiers, but horses will still have to have run a minimum of three times during the AW season. Normal elimination rules will apply in the finals. Two trial days will be run with races mirroring Finals Day. These will be staged at Newcastle on 1 January and Lingfield Park on 1 March.

6. Re-ordering races at the declaration stage

A trial will be staged at All-Weather fixtures between January and March which will allow races to be re-ordered at the declaration stage with the aim of maximising revenue streams. No race will be moved by more than 1 hour 10 minutes from its originally published time. The trial will only take place at meetings with no Class 1 or Class 2 races.

Overall

1. Division Thresholds

The 2024 maximum prize money threshold for races dividing will be:

- £15,000 at Core Flat and Jump fixtures (other than NHF races which will be £6,000)
- £15,000 at Premier Jump fixtures
- £20,000 at Premier Flat fixtures

Racecourses can opt out of dividing races to £15,000 at Core fixtures only, on a per Programme Book basis. Should they do this then the maximum prize money threshold for races dividing will be £12,000 (Remains at £6,000 for Jump NHF).

2. Blank Races

A number of blank races will be left in the programme, which will be updated nearer to the race date. Race details will be confirmed approximately two weeks ahead of the fixture. A list of these races will be published on NRAS.

3. Cancellation of Races

Any Class 4-6 Handicap on the Flat or 4-5 Handicap over Jumps that receives three or fewer declarations will be cancelled, subject to a minimum of at least 6 races remaining on the card.

4. Early Closing Race abandonment

Where an early closing race is abandoned at the original venue and is subsequently re-scheduled and transferred to a new venue, other than in exceptional circumstances, entries will be deleted, and the race will be re-opened. If such a race is a handicap, weights will be re-published based on those new entries, ensuring that all runners are running off their latest mark. If the race is re-scheduled at the same venue, it may be re-opened if it is considered there is a significant delay between the new and original date.

EMPLOYMENT

Sunday evening racing

The second fixture of the six-fixture pilot of Sunday evening fixtures is scheduled to take place this Sunday, 21st January.

Trainers are reminded that a guide to the additional payments was sent out on Thursday 21 December. It is available [here](#) and includes:

- Summary of process for payments to be made from racecourses to trainers and how they should be passed on.
- Confirmation of the agreement regarding (unpaid) time off to be granted on at least one evening of the three following the Sunday evening worked, if it was off rota.
- Clarification that existing Sunday afternoon arrangements remain in place and that the above are in addition to these rather than in place of them.

Should you have any questions, please contact Dawn Bacchus at d.bacchus@racehorsetrainers.org

We would also like to confirm that we will be surveying members for feedback on the six fixture trial of Sunday evenings and hope to gather plenty of feedback. Paul Johnson will also

be available at Chelmsford on Sunday evening should you be there and wish to discuss any specific issues. The survey will be circulated after the fourth Sunday evening fixture.

MEMBER SERVICES

NTF Members Legal Expenses Insurance

Members have been sent information about the business legal expenses insurance renewal in their 2024 membership pack.

We appreciate that there will be issues that arise whilst a trainer is an NTF member but where help is needed after the member has relinquished their licence. We are pleased to be able to let members know that the insurance cover will now apply to claims arising whilst a trainer is licensed and an NTF member but where the claim has been submitted after the licence has been relinquished, provided the claim is submitted within three months of that date or the end of the policy year, if sooner. All claims will remain subject to the terms and conditions of the legal expenses insurance and members are reminded that claims must be submitted as soon as possible. **This will only apply to claims made on or after 1st January 2024.**

NTF Website Development – Newsletter archives

The Weekly Update email is available as usual in the newsletter archives and, from January 2024, (due to member request), separately by each topic; Industry News, Race Planning, Employment Matters, Membership Services, Regulation Deadlines and Useful Links.

<https://www.racehorsetrainers.org/members/newsletters.asp>

Further development of the website is underway. Please let us know any change or additional information you would like to see.

SMALL LICENSED YARD TO RENT 20+ boxes

> Rural location 40 miles from Newmarket 2f Woodchip canter 5f woodchip

> gallop > 1 mile grass gallop > Horsecwalker > Lunge pen

> Turnout paddocks > Horsebox if required > Excellent accommodation available

All enquiries to the NTF Office please:

tel. 01488 71719 / email : weekly@racehorsetrainers.org

Horse Box for Sale – Four Horse

7.5t 68 reg No living £54,950 plus vat

Grey and with Geoff Butchers (Horsebox Seller) tel : 07725 470954

View here:

<https://horseboxseller.com/vehicle/778/2019-model-68-iveco-eurocargo-75e210-automatic-75-ton-coach-built-by-quighley-coach-builders-stalled-for-4-horse>

USEFUL LINKS :

Assistance at the start :

training on racing2learn <https://racing2learn.com/course/index.php?categoryid=97>

Point to Point :

https://pointtopoint.co.uk/news_articles/pointing-the-pathway-to-riding-under-rules

https://pointtopoint.co.uk/news_articles/trainers-urged-to-let-horses-race-on-in-points

Regulation Deadlines January 2024

- Grabbing or twitching a horse's ear or tail during the loading process will only be permitted for safety purposes.
- Adjustments to the late load requests.
- All persons assisting at the start must have completed the BHA Trainer Representative - Starts Training Module. <https://racing2learn.com/course/index.php?categoryid=97>
- Trainers should consider replacing 2009 EN13158 back protectors for grooms as they will have reached the end of their lifespan.
- Environment Agency (EA) to withdraw RPS248 on the use of shredded waste carpet in equestrian surfacing.
- Race Planning Updates <https://bhaplus10.cmail20.com/t/j-e-stkldjy-tuhtutgih-r/>
- Changes to National Insurance Contributions
- BHA starters will no longer carry the hunting crop during jump starts

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