

NTF WEEKLY UPDATE –19 SEPTEMBER 2023 – Issue No. 1357

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INDUSTRY NEWS

Racing League races inclusion in trainer stats – member input sought

Following requests from some members for the NTF Council to reconsider the decision not to allow Racing League races outcomes to be included in 2023 trainer stats, the Council met this week for a further discussion. Although some concern remains over the role of Team Captains in determining which horses take part for each team, and a recognition that some trainers may have elected not to run in such races given on the understanding that they would not be included, it was felt that this matter was one that wider member views should be sought over.

In order to gather these views, a very short survey is available at the below link enabling members to vote on whether the 2023 Racing League results should be retrospectively added to the stats:

Whilst the survey is open to all members, we would expect that it would generally be for flat or dual trainers to express a view. <https://paulntf.wufoo.com/forms/z1tjj67e0gsd1n4/>

Reviewing racecourse fatalities: update from the Horse Welfare Board (HWB)

Everyone in British horseracing is committed to continually improving the sport's equine safety record and taking all reasonable steps to reduce the risk of avoidable injuries and fatalities. From Monday 18th September, the HWB will be following an enhanced process for reviewing every equine fatality that occurs on the racecourse and within 48 hours of racing.

This process will be overseen by the Horse Welfare Board (HWB) and build on the current veterinary steps for reviewing racecourse injuries, to help improve our understanding of why a fatality may have occurred. Introduced for an initial six-month trial period, the enhanced process will see us expanding the steps taken when a racecourse fatality occurs, bringing together existing work in one central and more consistent approach.

This will include more in-depth analysis of the incident and greater input from veterinarians, trainers, jockeys and racecourse staff. Through this approach we hope to better understand the causes and further develop our knowledge of the risk factors. The data and information collected will be regularly reviewed and analysed during the pilot period and support ongoing efforts to develop evidence-based improvements to further minimise avoidable risk for all our participants.

The enhanced process - Following a racehorse fatality, the HWB will seek input from the trainer, jockey, BHA steward, BHA course inspector, clerk of the racecourse and veterinary surgeons via an online questionnaire.

This will ask for feedback on areas such as the course, race conditions, the horse's behaviour and some details about the horse's race experience and medical history. Each person will be asked slightly different questions, appropriate to their role. The questionnaire will be sent to you directly via email and take no longer 10 minutes to complete, either via a computer or a mobile device.

There will be an opportunity for a phone call if required and each person is invited to speak openly and honestly about the incident. Identities and information provided will remain confidential and no individual will be identifiable. The aim is to build understanding, identify any potential trends, and help us reduce the risk of injury. It is not about apportioning blame, but finding out more about why something might have happened and, where possible, learning from it.

To ensure the information collected is as accurate as possible, the HWB will ask that the feedback is provided within five days of the incident. Owners and stable staff will not be

approached directly, but may assist or provide information via the trainer. Then, an independent team will review the information submitted and watch the race footage to determine what happened and see if anything can be learned. This team is led by former BHA Steward, Simon Cowley, and includes experienced individuals such as racehorse veterinary surgeons, starters, course inspectors and jockeys. The HWB will share summaries of data across the pilot with those who have contributed to the work, but at no point will any individual be identified in the report.

Do you have to take part? - No, this is not a Rule of Racing, so the enhanced process is entirely voluntary. However, the more information and feedback the HWB can gather and analyse, the better the opportunity to increase understanding and inform future work in this area.

More information - If you have any questions or would like more information, please don't hesitate to contact the HWB team on fatalityreviewteam@racehorsewelfare.co.uk. Thank you in advance for your assistance and cooperation as the HWB continue to work together to reduce the risk of avoidable injuries and fatalities.

Covid relief worth 75% of this year's rate bill is available to those in the Retail, Leisure, and Hospitality industries. In most local authorities in England.

Most local authorities give this relief to racehorse trainers.

If you are not receiving it, there is a possibility it might be made available BUT

Claims have to be in and processed by the end of the month.

Effectively, this means there are about 5 days in which to submit the claim.

If interested, email Mary Samuel at mary.samuel@colliers.com with, if possible, a copy of your latest rate demand. She acts on a "no foal, no fee" basis.

C J W Marriott. TD. MA(Oxon). FRICS. IRRV(Hons) christopher@marriottbrown.co.uk

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EMPLOYMENT

Automatic Extension of Pre-Settled Status

From September 2023 people with pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme will automatically have their status extended by 2 years before it expires if they have not obtained settled status.

The process will be automated by the Home Office and reflected in the person's digital status and the person will be notified of the extension directly so nobody loses their immigration status if they do not apply to switch from pre-settled to settled status. The Home Office is working to automatically grant settled status after 5 years of continuous residence in the UK provided that they can confirm from their records that all requirements have been fulfilled.

You should ensure that you know the date that any of your employees pre-settled status expires and ask the employee to provide you with the share code they are given when their pre-settled status has been extended or upgraded to settled status. It is important that anyone with pre-settled status keeps their online platform up to date and that they keep records of their continuous residence in the UK.

Rises in Home Office Fees

Whilst the implementation date is not known, the Government has announced increases in fees for Visa applicants and for employers taking on migrant workers.

For job applicants, the immigration health surcharge will increase substantially from £624-£1035. This increase will mean that an adult considering applying for a five-year Visa will need to budget to pay a total of £5175. There are some exceptions to the immigration health surcharge, but most main applicants will pay it.

These costs are payable by the individuals themselves although some employers will assist with the fees.

It is also likely that certificates of sponsorships will increase in cost by at least 20%, rising from £199-£239. As members will know the NTF with the BHA and other organisations have been working on a submission to the Migration Advisory Council to have racing staff included on the shortage occupancy list, which if successful would help reduce costs.

Migrant worker looking for employment

We have been approached on behalf of a yard worker from Barbados seeking employment – the pay rate would be for the over 26 age group. We do not have any details of the person's experience or references and it would be for any potential employer to satisfy themselves as to the person's suitability. If any NTF member has a vacancy they would like mentioned put forward, please send details to [Dawn](#) at the NTF. We anticipate this may be more suited to a

trainer already holding a sponsor's licence. The individual would need accommodation supplied.

[RacingGroom.com](https://www.racinggroom.com)

The Trainer Profile gives trainers an opportunity to promote their yard as a great place to work and to explain the benefits you can offer for prospective employees. Contact Shelley Perham on s.perham@racehorsetrainers.org

<https://careersinracing.com/>

<https://jobs.careersinracing.com/>

MEMBER SERVICES

NTF RACING DIARY 2024 - updates required before 30th September

Preparation for the NTF Racing Dairy 2024 is nearly complete. Will you please advise any change to your address and contact details and names of contacts to diary@racehorsetrainers.org the current details are on the NTF website, available [here](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

NTF Regional Forums Confirmed for the Autumn

- **South West and Wales Region** on Monday **16th October** at Taunton Racecourse at 2pm
- **South East Region** on Wednesday **18th October** at Lingfield Racecourse 1:30pm
- **Scotland and the North Region** Monday **6th November** at Newcastle Racecourse at 2pm
- **Midlands and Central North Region** Monday **20th November** at York Racecourse and via Zoom 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.