

NTF WEEKLY UPDATE 19 OCTOBER 2023 – Issue No. 1360

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INDUSTRY NEWS

[Inclusion of Racing League race in the Trainers Championships](#)

Following our recent survey, members have voted in favour of the inclusion of Racing League races in the Trainers Championships. The table for 2023 will be retrospectively updated in the coming days to reflect races that were part of these fixtures.

Although the Council were very much of the view that it should be for members to determine the outcome here, it is important to reflect the continuing view of a number of Council members that the ability of Team Captains to determine which horses will take part is a concern. Discussions are taking place with ARC at present over the specific arrangements for the 2024 Racing League fixtures and an update on that will be provided in due course. Six Racing league fixtures have been approved for 2024 by the BHA Board

Trainer access to weighing room

Trainers are reminded that if they have a declared runner on the day, there is no exclusion from them entering the weighing room at any point. Any trainers who have had difficulties entering the weighing room should report this to the NTF.

RACE PLANNING

Raceday procedures for inspections, race delays or abandonments due to concerns raised over the conditions at a racecourse.

BHAOP 2.4 which relates to inspection, delay and abandonment processes on a racecourse has been updated. While this is an internal BHA Operating Procedure, the RCA, NTF, and PJA have all fed into this rewrite as it is fundamental that all parties understand the process. This BHAOP covers delays/abandonment process such ground, adverse weather, visibility and facilities issues. Fundamentally the enquiry process hasn't changed but there are some minor tweaks to offer more clarity around the process, in particular around ground enquires where a flow chart has been developed. Stewards will have a couple copies of the flow chart on hand to share with representatives in case they want a better understanding of the process and we are asking Racecourses to have the chart posted in the Stewards Room as well.

To view the full BHAOP please follow [this link](#).

EMPLOYMENT

Migrant worker fees

Confirmation that from 4th October 2023, the cost of a certificate of sponsorship to allocate to a new employee has risen from £199 to £239. The visa application fees have also increased from £625 to £719 for an individual overseas applying to work in the UK and from £719 to £827 where the person is already in the UK, in both cases where the visa is for 3 years maximum. The sponsor licence fee has not increased although as previously advised there is a substantial increase planned in the immigration health surcharge – a date is not yet known for that. If racing is successful in being placed on the shortage occupancy list the visa fee is paid at a reduced rate.

Under 18s overnight accommodation at racecourses

In connection with work being done by the BHA safeguarding team and moving accommodation booking on to a digital platform it would be of assistance if members could let us know whether they send under 18s to stay overnight at racecourses. Please use the following to reply: <https://paulntf.wufoo.com/forms/z158axzm0mhtabt/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- **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.

Racing Staff Development Programme - 26th October Lameness Webinar Part 2: How do we investigate lameness? - With Nigel Haizelden, BSc BVetMed MRCVS on Thursday 26th October at 7pm via Zoom. For login details contact S.Trainor@theNHC.co.uk

Nominate NOW for the Thoroughbred Industry Employee Awards

Nominations are OPEN for the 2024 [Thoroughbred Industry Employee Awards](#), sponsored by Godolphin. With £128,500 in prize money across six categories, these awards are about shining a spotlight on the people working in our yards and providing the best possible care for our horses.

This might be someone new to the yard who has made a quick impression, a great leader or dedicated colleague with years of service, or simply a brilliant member of the team. If you know someone who deserves recognition, please nominate them now at:

www.thoroughbredawards.co.uk.

Nominations are open until Tuesday 7 November 2023. Just go to the website and complete the online form or submit a quick video nomination. For information, including full details about the categories and nomination criteria, visit www.thoroughbredawards.co.uk.