

NTF WEEKLY – 20 DECEMBER 2017

Our thanks to you all

In this last weekly email of 2018, we would like to wish all our members a Happy Christmas and a New Year full of winners. It is a non-stop life in a racing yard so it's hard to find time for a break but we hope you manage to enjoy the season anyway.

We appreciate your membership of the Federation, which is owned by you and exists to look after your interests. Your 2018 Metal Badges are in the post and will arrive soon so look out for the large plastic envelope! It contains all your 2018 membership details, badges and car park labels.

Congratulations to Lycetts Team Champion Award shortlisted yards

We and sponsors Lycetts are delighted to announce the two shortlists for the inaugural Lycetts Team Champion Award.

Lycetts Team Champion Award celebrates the racehorse training yards that have developed a strong team ethos through the highest standards of staff management and safe working practices. The award has two categories – one for yards with 40 or more horses; and one for yards with fewer than 40 horses. The shortlists (in alphabetical order) are:

40+ horses	Fewer than 40 horses
Tom Dascombe	Nick Alexander
Warren Greatrex	Martin Keighley
Mark Johnston	Seamus Mullins
Dan Skelton	Suzy Smith

Under the grading system, all the shortlisted yards are awarded 3-star status. Competition was extremely strong and the standard of nominations very high resulting in other nominated yards also achieving a 1, 2 or 3-star rating. The judges would like to emphasise how impressed they were with the very high standard of nominations.

Thank you for the tremendous support from trainers for this new award. With all the evidence of first class management used in racing stables up and down the country, we now have a solid basis to demonstrate best practice to support retention and promote recruitment.

BHA Racing Department contacts over the holiday period

If you need to contact the BHA Racing Department about race times or race planning matters, the contact details below should be helpful

	Race times	
23-Dec	Alan Austin	07711501282
26-Dec	Lyn Bowker	01604863606
27-Dec	Alan Austin	07711501282
28-Dec	Alan Austin	07711501282
29-Dec	Alan Austin	07711501282
30-Dec	Lyn Bowker	01604863606
31-Dec	Lyn Bowker	01604863606
01-Jan	Lyn Bowker	01604863606

	Race Planning		Race Planning	
23-Dec	Stu Middleton	07956531146	Paul Johnson	07823536388
26-Dec	Stu Middleton	07956531146	Paul Johnson	07823536388
27-Dec	Stu Middleton	07956531146	Paul Johnson	07823536388
28-Dec	Stu Middleton	07956531146	Paul Johnson	07823536388
29-Dec	Stu Middleton	07956531146	Paul Johnson	07823536388
30-Dec	Stu Middleton	07956531146	Paul Johnson	07823536388
31-Dec	Stu Middleton	07956531146	Paul Johnson	07823536388
01-Jan	Stu Middleton	07956531146	Paul Johnson	07823536388

Potential conditional jockeys should not miss this course

There is a Conditional Jockey's Licence Course coming up in the New Year which doesn't have very many applicants at the moment.

The Course is taking place from 19th February until 2nd March 2018 at the British Racing School. However in order to attend, applicants must successfully complete one of the following Pre-Assessment days:

- 8 January 2018 at British Racing School
- 10 January 2018 at Northern Racing College

Brand new Conditionals and Category 'A' Amateurs who wish to turn Conditional must attend the full two weeks of the Licence Course. Category 'B' Amateurs only have to attend the second week of the Course.

After February there will not be another Conditional Course until August 2018. So any trainers thinking about applying for a Conditional Licence for one of their employees in the next month or two really need to get their applications in to the BHA as soon as possible.

Questions can be directed to the BHA Licensing Department, who will provide prospective applicants with the relevant forms and information. Please contact them on 020 7152 0145 or email licensing@britishhorseracing.com

Extension of handicap qualification rules from 2 year olds to all Flat horses

This is a slightly revised version of the article that appeared in NTFW on 12th December.

As you will be aware, from 1st January 2018 the rules that currently apply to qualification for Nursery handicaps will be extended to older horses. The BHA has issued a notice that the following qualification will apply:

No horse trained in Great Britain may run in a Handicap unless the Handicapper is prepared to allot a rating and

- *it has run at least three times in a flat race in Great Britain and/or Ireland, or*
- *it has won twice in a flat race in Great Britain and/or Ireland with at least one of the wins being in Great Britain.*

As this has been rolled out across two years there may be instances where a horse may have qualified for a handicap rating after fewer than three runs and subsequently been off the track. Although the handicap rating would have been expunged automatically for horses that had been inactive for nine months or more, should a handicap rating be requested for horses that fall into this category, the handicapping team will take the following approach:

Any horse that was previously eligible for a handicap rating but which does not now meet the new qualification criteria will be required to meet the new qualification criteria detailed above before becoming eligible for a handicap rating in 2018.

Clarification on change to equine flu rules

Last week the BHA notified trainers about an amendment to 'Rule (E)18 vaccinations against equine influenza' to allow for a steward to prevent a horse from running if the horse does not comply with any of the requirements for vaccinations against equine influenza.

This prompted a question whether the tightening of the rules would lead to an unnecessary addition to non-runners and cost to owners and trainers. The NTF's opinion on this was corroborated by the BHA, which has stated the new wording
“will allow the Veterinary Officers and the Stewards to assess the severity of the breach – horses which have never had a primary course, or have had just one vaccination, would be unlikely to be permitted to run. Thankfully, such cases are rare and we would expect a very low number of horses to be affected.”

Investigation Charter a long time coming but a step forward

This week the BHA announced several integrity initiatives. The NTF is pleased that the Investigation Charter and Guidance Note has at last been finalised. (It was a recommendation of the 2016 Integrity Review.) Too often in the past investigations have extended beyond a reasonable period with little or no communication by the BHA with the

person under scrutiny. This puts huge stress on that person and in serious cases can be a threat to their livelihood.

The new Charter sets out what a person under investigation can expect and certain parameters within which the regulator must act. As it is a generic document and not specific to licensed people, not all of it is relevant to trainers. However, the NTF has had input to it through Dawn Bacchus being a member of the Stakeholder Integrity Group and we made sure clear advice is given to trainers in relation to contacting the NTF for legal advice and support.

Managing this year's Christmas working days

This year Christmas Day falls on a Monday, making the bank holidays for the Christmas period Monday 25th December and Tuesday 26th December. Similarly New Year's Day falls on a Monday so there are no substituted Bank holidays.

There isn't any right for employees to take the actual bank holidays off provided employees are receiving their correct amount of total days off, so either 30, 32 or 34 days (depending on length of service) if full time for a whole year and pro rata for part time or a part year. If an employee is on rota on Christmas Day itself or New Year's Day, the employee would not be entitled to any additional holiday or time off as that is all factored into the 30/32/34 days.

2018 Annual General Meeting on Thursday 22nd February 2018

The NTF's 2018 Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 22nd February at the Institute of Directors, 116 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5ED. This year we have booked the fabulous Waterloo Room, with its ornate decoration.

As well as the standard AGM business, the winners of the inaugural Lycetts Team Champion Award will be announced and prizes presented.

Regulation deadlines

- Pension auto enrolment staging dates
 - **Up to February 2018** for businesses started since April 2012
- **By the end of 2017** – original Racing Admin website will close.
- **21st November 2017** – notification of specified wind surgeries may be made on the Racing Admin website. Mandatory notification for any horse having its first run following surgery from 19th January 2018.
- **1st January 2018** – minimum ratings applies to all non-two year old Group 1 and non-novice Grade 1 races.
- **1st January 2018** – when extending declaration deadline, each trainer with a declaration will be deemed to have declared only one horse
- **1st January 2018** – microchip number on any horse under trainer's care must be checked against the number in the passport

- **1st January 2018** – a horse may not be made a non-runner on a self-cert once the Declaration Sheet on the racecourse has been signed.
- **1st January 2018** – trainer becomes responsible for notifying the BHA when a mare in their care is pregnant.
- **1st January 2018** – mandatory 5-day stand down before racing for any horse having received shockwave therapy.
- **1st January 2018** – rules tightened on equine flu vaccination records. If horse judged to be a biosecurity risk, Stewards may prevent it from running.