

NTF WEEKLY UPDATE – 21 FEBRUARY 2024 – Issue No. 1374

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INDUSTRY NEWS

Annual General Meeting

The 2024 NTF Annual General Meeting takes place on Thursday 29th February at Saddlers Hall, London <https://thesaddlers.org/>

We are keen to see as many of our members as possible and have secured the services of two excellent guest speakers as well as attendees from the BHA. Please see more details [HERE](#)

C:\Users\Paul\Dropbox\AGM 2024\Flyer\AGM Flyer.png

You can sign up or provide your apologies HERE

<https://paulntf.wufoo.com/forms/zd6loj30o59o78/>

The Annual Report 2023, NTF accounts for 2023 and minutes of last year's AGM will be sent as hard copies before the AGM. We hope to see you there.

Cheltenham Festival – Badge Policy

NTF Metal Badges will not gain access to the Cheltenham Festival.

Trainers with runners at the Festival will be able to collect lapel pin badges for the day(s) that they have runners from the following locations;

- 9th – 11th March from the Hall of Fame
- Festival race days from the Owners and Trainers Desk at North Entrance.

Those without runners who are members of the NTF will be able to collect a Club Ticket and Badge from the O&T desk at North Entrance on arrival. Please note that for the Cheltenham Festival, NTF badges do not allow access to O&T facilities.

Trainers with runners please ensure you have your metal lapel pin with you on arrival at the Festival to gain access into, the Weighing Room, Parade Ring, Pre-Parade Ring, Unsaddling Enclosure, O&T Facilities, and the Reserved Viewing on the steps in front of the Main Grandstand.

Cheltenham request that any trainers who may be collecting badges bring a form of ID should it be required.

Should trainers require any additional tickets/badges please get in touch with Jennifer Dewhurst on 01242 537602 or e-mail: Jennifer.Dewhurst@thejockeyclub.co.uk

Parking

Owners & Trainers Parking is reserved for trainers with runners at The Festival. Car Parking labels will be posted out prior to the meeting via Weatherbys.

The Gold Cup Winning Trainer

There will be a Press Conference in the Media Centre beside the Pre-Parade Ring following The Gold Cup on Friday, where the winning jockey and trainer will be escorted to answer any questions from the Press. Your co-operation with this is very much appreciated.

National Racehorse Week 2024 – 7th – 15th September

After a brilliant week in 2023, with many trainers hosting superb open days and community events around the country, National Racehorse Week will be returning for its fourth year.

The 2024 event will take place between 7th and 15th September and we hope to be able to continue to build on the success of this great initiative.

Yards will be able to sign up to be involved from March.

Should you have any queries please email :slyons@greatbritishracing.com”

Eighth International Forum for the Aftercare of Racehorses will be held as part of 2024 Asian Racing Conference

The eighth International Forum for the Aftercare of Racehorses (IFAR) will be held in conjunction with the 40th Asian Racing Conference (ARC), which is scheduled to take place between 27 August and 1 September 2024, in Sapporo, Japan.

The 40th ARC is presented by the Asian Racing Federation (ARF) and the Japan Racing Association (JRA), which is the host of this conference.

The IFAR conference will take place on Tuesday, 27 August, and it will facilitate an aftercare facility visit as well as host a variety of panels with speakers from around the world.

IFAR Chair Di Arbuthnot said, “We are thrilled to once again be a part of the ARC. The aftercare of racehorses remains an important issue on a global scale. Being able to meet in person to share experiences, best practices, and success stories is a vital part of IFAR.”

For more information about the Asian Racing Conference and how to register, please visit <https://arcsapporo2024.com>

IFAR is an independent forum that recognizes geographical and industry differences among racing countries and is designed to enhance Thoroughbred aftercare worldwide. Working with the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA), IFAR will raise awareness of the importance of welfare for Thoroughbreds, improve education on lifetime care, and help increase demand for former racehorses in other equestrian sports. For more information on IFAR, visit <https://www.internationalracehorseaftercare.com>.

EMPLOYMENT

Fit Note (unfit for work notes)

We have had a number of calls recently regarding the evidence an employee needs to provide when they are off ill.

An employee can self-certificate for the first 7 calendar days – there is a template self-certification form in the NTF employment manual . The employer should not generally ask for medical evidence for the first 7 days as the healthcare professional may not be prepared to provide it or may charge a fee, which the employer should cover.

After 7 days, the employee is required to provide medical evidence of their absence, through a fit note. This can be issued by a doctor, nurse, occupational therapist, pharmacist or physiotherapist. An employee does not have to see the healthcare professional in person for a fit note, the assessment could be face to face, or it could be video call or telephone consultation.

If after 7 days, the employee has not provided a fit note, you should contact the employee to remind them that a fit note is required in order for you to ascertain that they qualify for sick pay and establish with them when you may receive the fit note.

Healthcare professionals do not provide a “fit for work” note at the end of a period of sickness.

Data Protection and IT usage policies

There are a range of template policies in the General Data Protection area of the NTF website. These include an electronics communication policy with guidance on how staff use equipment such as computers and smartphones for work and an IT security policy, along with a template setting out company policy on handling a data breach. Having such policies will help you protect data security and show you are seeking to comply with your GDPR requirements.

The employee handbook area also has a template WhatsApp policy setting out guidelines for company WhatsApp groups to set out rules for conduct to minimise the risk of complaints of harassment or bullying or inappropriate content.

Illegal Working

From 13th February 2024 the maximum working penalties which may be imposed against an employer who is employing illegal workers has increased to £45,000 for a first breach (up from £15,000) and £60,000 per illegal employee for repeated breaches. It is therefore very important to ensure you have conducted valid right to work checks on employees and keep a record of the check you carried out.

The Government interactive right to work check is at <https://www.gov.uk/check-job-applicant-right-to-work>.

British Equestrian – Female Health Month

With their kind permission we are sharing a link to British Equestrian's health month [Female Health February - British Equestrian](#). We hope this may be of interest to members and their staff. The website has advice and graphics available to download, plus podcasts with topics including the impact of pregnancy on time in the saddle, hormones and menstrual cycle and body image, along with practical matters such as finding the right sports bra.

MEMBER SERVICES

NTF legal expenses insurance

A reminder that the NTF scheme is designed with your training business in mind including helping you recover unpaid debts, assisting with contract disputes and employment tribunal claims and providing representation for you in most BHA disciplinary matters, subject to terms and conditions of cover. If an issue arises where you think you may need legal representation, it is important to put in a claim at an early stage. To report and make a claim you can call 0330 303 1955, complete the form on the NTF website or contact the NTF office. Of course, not every matter that may arise within your business will be covered but many members have benefitted from the insurance providing specialist legal advice and representation for them.

OTHER BUSINESS

Schooling Fences for sale :

Four steel framed schooling fences, each section 7 feet 6 inches wide. Excellent condition but would benefit from re birching, £1000 plus VAT

John Norton Email: johnrnorton@hotmail.com mob: 07970 212707

SMALL LICENSED YARD TO RENT 20+ boxes

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

1 mile grass gallop

Horse walker

Lunge pen

Turnout paddocks

Horsebox if required

Excellent accommodation available

For further details contact the NTF Office

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/making-a-british-point-at-the-sales

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

Trainer Support Network :

A network of knowledgeable and empathetic people for trainers to share the burdens of their busy and challenging working life. <https://www.racehorsetrainers.org/ntf/tsn.asp>