

# NTF WEEKLY UPDATE – 22nd March 2023

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## INDUSTRY NEWS

### Spring Budget 2023

Following last weeks Budget there were some relatively minor points for British Racing:

- Government has committed to reviewing the Shortage Occupation List more regularly, in order to ensure that the legal migration system is quicker and more responsive to the needs of business and the economy. British racing will be making representations to the next Shortage Occupation List review due shortly. The Government will also review Paid Permitted Engagements, which is used by some international jockeys to compete in Britain.
- The outcomes of a Technical Consultation on the Government’s Business Rates Review were published. The BHA and stakeholders submitted evidence to this consultation, and while a fuller analysis will be conducted in the days ahead, some of the points advocated for by British racing have been accounted for, such as a longer-period for challenges for the 2026 review.
- Gross Gaming Yield bandings for Gaming Duty (on casino games, not horseraces) will be frozen from 1 April 2023. There was no wider mention of gambling policy within the Budget.

Unfortunately, there was no mention in the budget of the Horserace Betting Levy review. Thank you to the trainers involved in the letter writing campaign. Although it was not included in the Budget it has been useful. The campaign has raised awareness of the importance of Levy reform with the new DCMS Secretary of State and HM Treasury,

demonstrated the strength of racing's lobby, and put further pressure on DCMS to prepare for a swift Levy review and implementation. This has been reflected in questions to the DCMS Secretary in the House of Commons where she said, '*Government remains committed to supporting the horseracing sector and has committed to "review the Levy by 2024."*'. The industry is still awaiting responses to the letters from the relevant MPs, however the NTF has already had some positive feedback with MPs requesting to visit trainer's yards.

### **Racing Together Community Day – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May**

Racing Together Community Day, returns on Thursday 25 May 2023, when all those involved in the sport are invited to give their time for good causes. A short video on last year's Racing Together Community Day can be watched [here](#).

Please contact: [florence@racingtogether.co.uk](mailto:florence@racingtogether.co.uk) or visit the website for more details and to get involved.

Racing Together will be holding a webinar at the end of April which will focus on Community Day. The panel will be a mixture of those who have both taken part in and benefitted from the day in previous years and they will discuss how to get involved within your limitations, as well as the wider benefits to the community and why the day is so important. More information will be available [here](#).

### **National Racehorse Week – 9<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

After a successful second year in 2022, this important event for the sport is set to take place between September 9<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> this year and we hope that as many trainers as possible will be able to join in again. To take part through hosting an open day or getting involved in a community event, please sign up [here](#)  
<https://survey.alchemer.eu/s3/90530262/National-Racehorse-Week-2023>

## **EMPLOYMENT**

### **National Minimum Wage Rates from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023**

Please be aware that the National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage rates increase on 1st April. As a result, there are some changes to the racing minimum rates as detailed in the link below. The government increases in the National Minimum rates were higher than anticipated and we appreciate that this may cause some issues for trainers where it results in some staff receiving pay increases whilst others may not. We will be discussing this with NARS with a view to coordinating the timings of discussions of the National Joint Council for any future changes to agreed wage rates.

[https://www.racehorsetrainers.org/ntf/excel/updated\\_pay\\_rates\\_for\\_april\\_2023.xlsx](https://www.racehorsetrainers.org/ntf/excel/updated_pay_rates_for_april_2023.xlsx)

In addition to these changes please note that the going racing hourly rate will also increase from 1st April to £10.42, that being the National Living Wage. The accommodation offset also increases from to £9.10 a day (from £8.70) /£63.70 per week (from £60.90)

Should you have any questions or queries please get in touch.

Link to NTF Members Area Employment Minimum Wage Rates

[https://www.racehorsetrainers.org/members/min\\_rates.asp](https://www.racehorsetrainers.org/members/min_rates.asp)

Link to New Rates for the Accommodation Offset

[https://www.racehorsetrainers.org/members/pdfs/accommodation/nmw\\_accom\\_offset\\_april2023.pdf?8686](https://www.racehorsetrainers.org/members/pdfs/accommodation/nmw_accom_offset_april2023.pdf?8686)

## Updates from HMRC

### **Finishing the 2022 to 2023 tax year and starting the 2023 to 2024 tax year**

HMRC has published important information for employers on GOV.UK, which includes:

- help with [finishing the old tax year 2022 to 2023](#)
- starting the new tax year 2023 to 2024, by using our [form P9X \(2023\) Tax codes to use from 6 April 2023](#)
- information on the [rates, limits and changes for 2023 to 2024](#)
- the [Employer Bulletin: February 2023](#) edition, which contains information about sending in your final submissions for the year

## RACE PLANNING

### **On behalf of Larkhill Racecourse - A Flat & Jumps Schooling Day - Tuesday 28th Mar 2023**

Larkhill Racecourse invites owners and trainers to a unique opportunity to school on Larkhill Racecourse on Tue 28th March 2023 from 10.00am to 2.00pm. This end of season offer takes advantage of near perfect conditions on one of the best Point to Point courses in the country, for those who wish to train on the flat and over jumps:

- Flat Schooling at £45.00 per horse. 3 miles (or less as required) over good going, on level ground with an excellent covering of grass running to the left of all fences.
- Jumps Schooling at £55.00 per horse. 3 miles (or less as required) over good going, on level ground with an excellent covering of grass includes 18 x Fences and 2 x Open Ditches.

- A paramedic and vet will be present throughout.
- GOOD going, with more rain forecast.
- For entries and enquiries please contact The Clerk of the Course. Entries close at 6.00pm on Sat 25th March 2023. Schooling times from 10.00am to 2.00pm will be issued after entries close.
- Subject to Weather, Going and sufficient Entries to cover costs (paramedic, vet etc) on the day.
- Welfare of horses remains paramount.

For more information please contact Roly Rickcord Clerk of the Course, Larkhill Racecourse (07597 916242) [Roly.rickcord@hotmail.com](mailto:Roly.rickcord@hotmail.com)

### NTF Badge Policy for the Grand National Festival

Trainers with an NTF badge will be able to collect an Owners and Trainers badge each day at the Grand National Festival. Trainers will need to contact the Owners and Trainers Liaison 0151 522 2959 [Aintree.Owners@thejockeyclub.co.uk](mailto:Aintree.Owners@thejockeyclub.co.uk) for a car pass in advance of the meeting as the NTF car park label will not work. The badges are non-transferable and are for the Trainer themselves and a guest.

RCA accreditation holders have had information sent to them about applying for badges. The deadline was the 3<sup>rd</sup> March and late requests may not be accepted, but the contact email is [RCAGN@thejockeyclub.co.uk](mailto:RCAGN@thejockeyclub.co.uk)

For more information <https://www.thejockeyclub.co.uk/the-grand-national/owners-and-trainers/>

## VETERINARY

### Grand National Festival pre-race veterinary processes

Please follow the following link <http://bhaplus10.cmail20.com/t/j-e-ejuiyiy-tuhtutgih-r/> for an update on the medical declarations and pre-race veterinary examination process for the 2023 Aintree Grand National Festival. The information was also included in the email the BHA sent out on Tuesday and outlines information about the specific submission deadlines for trainers with horses engaged in the following races:

The **Grand National** Handicap Steeplechase

The **Foxhunters'** Open Handicap Steeple Chase

The **Topham** Handicap Steeple Chase