

NTF WEEKLY – 22 AUGUST 2017

New Racing Admin system training events

Further to an email earlier this month from the BHA about the introduction of the new Racing Admin system for owners on 30th August and the removal of the old racing admin site at the end of the year, a programme of events has been compiled to ensure trainers and their staff are confident using the new system.



While the events are staged across the country, in the instance that you are unable to attend any of the sessions, or you require further support, please do not hesitate to get in contact via racingadmin@britishhorseracing.com. In addition to arranging separate visits, online demonstrations can also be staged to ensure that all trainers have the chance to raise any queries before the original system is replaced.

Online Demo

Following the conclusion of the online demo today, a video will be uploaded to the Racing Admin Help & Support site accessible [here](#) to help explain the new ownership functions on the Racing Admin system. It demonstrates how to make the most out of the new features and provide an opportunity to ask questions.

Workshops

Throughout September and October the BHA and Weatherbys will be staging a series of training workshops for trainers and their staff across the country. The sessions, which will all start at 12:30pm and last just over an hour, will take place at:

11th September – British Racing School, Newmarket

19th September – Middleham Key Centre

9th October – The Queen's Arms, Lambourn

The workshops will help guide you through the switch to the new site and if you are interested in attending please email racingadmin@britishhorseracing.com to reserve your place.

Racecourse visits

In addition to these workshops, there will also be the opportunity for owners and trainers to ask questions about the new Racing Admin system and the ownership reforms at drop in sessions hosted on racedays across the country at:

18th September – Carlisle

19th September – Newcastle

26th September – Warwick

12th October – Exeter

Members of BHA and Weatherbys staff will be present throughout each meeting and there is no need to reserve a place. Similar sessions will also be hosted throughout October at Tattersalls

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during the sales with members of the Weatherbys Ownership Team on hand to answer any questions.

It is also important for trainers to note that, to ensure the smooth introduction of the new owners' system, it will be necessary to **stop taking new ownership registrations at 3pm Friday 25th August**. Registrations will re-open in the new Racing Admin system on the morning of Wednesday 30th. In the instance you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact the Weatherbys Ownership Desk on 01933 304808 or email ownersupport@weatherbys.co.uk.

NTF responds to new rule on non-runners

Since the consultation began last autumn, the National Trainers Federation (NTF) has had extensive discussions with the British Horseracing Authority (BHA) about its proposals to regulate on non-runners. While agreeing it is desirable to reduce the numbers of non-runners and appreciating the effect of non-runners on betting, we have stressed to the BHA that the factors that lead to non-runners are often beyond trainers' control. The BHA refers to the protection of international revenues generated by 48-hour declarations but everyone agreed at the time they were introduced that 48-hour declarations would inevitably increase the rate of non-runners and data backs this up.

The NTF's policy is that rules on non-runners should be proportionate and targeted. In the past we have supported an approach aimed at trainers with the highest non-runner rates. We believe this has played a part in causing a decline in the long term trend in non-runner rates since 2012 shown in the BHA's published figures. Though the graph moved up in 2016, the figures are down again in 2017.

The outcome of our discussions with the BHA is a package aligned with our policy. There are sound reasons for a two-day stand down following withdrawal with a vet's certificate. Publishing trainers' non-runner rates and the sanction for a high rate will have an impact on trainers' decisions across all reasons for declaring a non-runner.

We will liaise with the ROA and PJA about late declaration of non-runners. The deadline of 9.00am, as well as creating an unwelcome third declaration deadline each morning, presents logistical difficulties for trainers if going reports have not been updated and owners cannot be contacted within this timescale.

Rupert Arnold said, "Trainers want to have runners. They only withdraw horses if it is in the horse's and the owner's best interest. We support the 2-day stand down following a vet certificate and publishing each trainer's percentage will encourage trainers to think hard about declaring non-runners. This and the other rule changes should have the desired effect of reducing the number of non-runners without risking horse welfare or unreasonably restricting trainers from acting in the owners' interests."

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While going descriptions are still subjective, there being no objective measure of the state of the ground that carries universal confidence, it has been impossible to agree rules that restrict withdrawal related to going. Weather is volatile and unpredictable in this country and we understand the Horseracing Bettors Forum judges that a large number of going descriptions are inaccurate based on race times. We acknowledge Clerks of the Course have an unenviable job but before any restrictions are placed on trainers withdrawing for going related reasons, accountability for going reports and the timing of their publication is essential.

Details announced on consultation around the future of Stewarding – BHA Press Release

22/08/2017 @ 12:00:00

The British Horseracing Authority (BHA) has today launched further details of its formal industry consultation regarding the future model for racecourse stewarding in Britain.

The aim is to gather views on how to maintain the highest standards of racecourse decision-making as the sport modernises and becomes increasingly complex to regulate.

This consultation comes soon after the BHA implemented the proposals of the Quinlan Review, which increased the independence of its judicial functions, including the Disciplinary Panel which deals with referrals by Stewards from the racecourse and appeals against the Stewards' decisions.

The current model of stewarding involves a mix of Honorary Stewards – who are unpaid volunteers - and Stipendiary Stewards – who are full time, salaried members of BHA staff. A Stewards Secretary assists the Stewards on raceday with administrative support.

This consultation will be a two-stage process, beginning today with the first stage, a wide-ranging, eight-week industry consultation.

Detailed recommendations will be developed by the BHA and the resulting options will then be the subject of further consultation, involving the key stakeholders in racing.

The BHA will closely involve the tripartite partners in the Members' Agreement – the Racecourse Association and the Horsemen's Group – in the development of the final proposals.

Jamie Stier, Chief Regulatory Officer for the BHA, said: "We want to continuously improve British horseracing at a time of rapid change for our sport, with two key areas being accountability and consistency.

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“We do this at a time when prize money is increasing and there are increasingly complex challenges around the integrity and regulation of the sport.

“We have seen other major sports move to fully professional referees and we believe it is against this background that the time is right to consult to see what is the most appropriate model for taking the stewarding of horseracing forward in the future.

“Horseracing has relied on the massive commitment of Honorary Stewards throughout our history – people who are not only volunteers but also passionate participants in the grassroots of our sport and some of whom are owners.

“In consulting on change, we seek to respect the contribution that our Honorary Stewards have made in the past and to listen carefully to the many participants right across our sport before deciding on the right direction for the future.”

Owners Jackpot £2000 bonus races in September for ROA members

There will be five races carrying a £2,000 Owners Jackpot bonus during September. Where the winner of these weekly races is owned by an ROA member/members, the extra payment is made to the owner in addition to the winning prize-money.

The first race in September is an Owners Jackpot+ race. All qualified runners in this race will be offered £250 travelling expenses and there will be a pre-bookable ROA facility on the day offering a complimentary drink and light refreshments.

September 5	Goodwood - Owners Jackpot+ (see below)	7f Class 5 2yo Fillies Novice Stakes	
September 15	Salisbury	6f Class 6 3yo 0-65 Handicap	
September 23	Newmarket	7f Class 4 3yo+ 0-85 Handicap	
September 25	Kempton Park	1m Class 4 3yo+ 0-85 Handicap	
September 29	Haydock	1m2f Class 5 3yo+ 0- 70 Apprentice Handicap	This is an additional race owing to an abandonment of an earlier jackpot race at Haydock

To qualify for the bonus, horses must be owned by members. In the case of partnerships, at least 51% is required to be owned by members. For horses owned in a Syndicate, over half of the Syndicators need to be members of the ROA.

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As usual, each weekly race selected offers a minimum prize fund of £5,000 for a class 4, 5 or 6 race.

International consistency regarding use of cobalt-containing supplements (IFHA)

The International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) has published guidance in their Advisory Document [Cobalt Threshold Values – Advisory Document](#) regarding Cobalt Threshold Values, providing further information on the use of cobalt containing supplements.

If you have any questions please contact the NTF office or Amanda Piggott, BHA Veterinary Adviser.

Regional meeting dates

Scotland & Borders	Wednesday 20 th September	Kelso Racecourse (before racing)
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Regulation deadlines

- Pension auto enrolment staging dates
 - **Up to February 2018** for businesses started since April 2012
- **10th August 2017** – 30-day stand down period for Bisphosphonates takes effect. [More...](#)
- **25th August 2017** – **New ownership registrations will cease at 3pm** to ensure the smooth introduction of the new owners' system. Registrations will re-open in the new Racing Admin system on the morning of **Wednesday 30th August**.
- **By the end of 2017** – original Racing Admin website will close.
- **1st October 2017** – Novice Chase recommendations come into effect. [More...](#)
- **1st January 2018** – minimum ratings applies to all non-two year old Group 1 and non-novice Grade 1 races.

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