

NTF WEEKLY – 22 SEPTEMBER 2017

Racing Industry Minimum Pay Rates from 2nd October available on the NTF website

The new minimum pay rates that take effect from Monday 2nd October are now on the NTF website. Click on [this link](#) to view and download or print off a copy.

Other than these new minimum rates, no other changes have been made to the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) at this time. The Racing Post reports about the interim agreement with NASS have included some comments about the nature of discussions between the NTF and NASS at the National Joint Council meetings. We would like to reassure you that the intention is not to make a dramatic change to the working hours. Our aim is to modernise the definition of the working week to reflect the adjustments many yards are already making. These adjustments mean the traditional “consolidated week” is becoming less relevant; replacing it will free trainers to deploy more flexible working patterns while guaranteeing adequate weekend cover.

Change of legal helpline number

With effect from 9am on Monday 25th September, the telephone number for business legal advice (non-employment) is changing to 0333 003 0159 (the current number, which is being replaced, is 01206 846143.)

This number should also be used for notifying the Legal Expenses Insurers, ARAG, of a claim and requesting a new claim form. Alternatively a claim can be notified and a claim form requested by email from newclaims@arag.co.uk.

The telephone helpline goes directly through to Knights1759 solicitors and you will be put through to a lawyer specialising in the area relevant to your call.

For employment matters, the existing helpline number 01488 71729 remains the number to call – this puts you through to Dawn Bacchus in the NTF office and if Dawn is unavailable will divert to Knights1759 solicitors.

Super Claiming Stakes at Newcastle

This October sees the return of Super Claimers, with Newcastle staging a £20,000 edition, with a Claiming price range of £40,000 down to £21,000.

AUTO ENROLMENT – DON'T IGNORE IT

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01488 71729**

**General legal helpline
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Super Claimers are aimed at horses which would out-perform the type of horse normally seen running in an average Class 5/6 Claiming races or Sellers race.

In addition to adding some variety to the race programme for followers of the sport, these events also offer trainers an outlet for the sort of horse that would normally race in a decent handicap.

Reminder about ROA social events for secretaries and senior staff

Two social events for **Trainer's Secretaries and Senior Staff** are being hosted by the ROA next week, details as follows:

- Tuesday 26th September – The Saddle Room, Leyburn, Middleham DL8 4TJ
- Wednesday 27th September – Jack Berry House, Malton YO17 7HH

The events are open to all secretaries and office staff within the local area. They will provide an opportunity to meet members of the ROA staff team, and to share ideas on owner communications and other ownership-related topics.

Both events will be held between 1-3pm. Food and drink will be provided, as well as cakes to take back to the yard.

To RSVP to the above please contact Chloe Martin by email cmartin@roa.co.uk

Nominate your staff for the Godolphin Stud and Stable Staff Awards

Trainers are encouraged to nominate staff for the 2018 Godolphin Stud and Stable Staff Awards to recognise and reward the outstanding skills, commitment and contribution of their workers. More than £120,000 in prize money will be up for grabs, including up to £40,000 available to a single yard or stud. The Awards are sponsored by Godolphin and run by the British Horseracing Authority in association with the Racing Post.

The 2018 Award winners will be selected from a shortlist who will be interviewed by a panel of judges. The winners will then be announced during the Awards evening dinner and ceremony on Monday 19 February 2018.

[Nominations](#) can be made by anyone within the industry so trainers, owners, managers and colleagues are all encouraged to show their appreciation and nominate someone from their team. Nominations can be made online at the dedicated [Godolphin Stud and Stable Staff awards website](#). Nominations close Tuesday 21 November, so don't miss this opportunity to show your appreciation to your staff.

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BHA Licensing set to trial phone answering protocol

The BHA Licensing Department is implementing a series of initiatives to manage phone calls from trainers and jockeys.

This team currently answers 30 to 40 phone calls per day and the BHA's analysis indicates that a large proportion of these calls are confirmation of submission and routine progress enquiries from applicants and interested parties. The least amount of calls are received by Licensing between 2pm and 4pm therefore this time has been chosen to ensure that applicants are still able to contact the team at the times most convenient to them.

From Monday 18th September the team will take phone calls only from **9am till 2pm and then 4pm to 5pm.**

The above will ensure that a 2 hour period will provide an interruption-free period that can be devoted to the progression of licensing issues rather than dealing with routine telephone queries. During this period callers will be directed to the Licensing FAQs and Forms pages of the new website, they will also still have the option of emailing the Licensing Team.

We would be grateful for feedback from trainers about this trial. In recent years we have been concerned about the efficiency of communications with the department and the speed with which applications and renewals are handled so we would like to know if trainers see an improvement.

Beware of scam letters asking you to place bets

The BHA has become aware of an increase in number of 'scam letters' being sent to racing participants, stakeholders and the general public. The letters offer payment in return for placing bets on behalf of the sender.

The BHA does not know who is behind these letters. The companies do not exist and the addresses listed often belong to shops and restaurants and are not linked to the sender or important as part of the scam. It is also very likely that the person named as the contact/sender of these letters is also fictitious.

The BHA have previously notified the Police and Trading Standards over this type of letter, as potentially criminal offences are being committed relating to obtaining money by deception. The BHA wishes to ensure that participants and stakeholders are aware of these letters and the potential threat they pose to anyone who decides to respond to them.

Anyone who receives any of these letters, or any letters of a similar nature, should report this to the BHA Integrity Department by emailing intel@britishhorseracing.com or phoning 0207 152 0169 and advise that the recipient of any such letter does not engage with the sender. The BHA is logging all the details on letters that are brought to their attention. Anyone who has engaged with the senders of such letters and has suffered a financial loss should report this is a crime to their local Police Force.

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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.
- **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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