

NTF WEEKLY – 23 JANUARY 2018

FOBT debate reaching a conclusion

Recent days have seen scary newspaper headlines about the potential impact on racing if the Government chose to impose a £2 limit on stakes for Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOBTs). The deadline for responses to the DCMS “Consultation on proposals for changes to Gaming Machines and Social Responsibility Measures” is today so the Government has yet to consider them before making a final decision.

It is important that racing draws attention to the possible consequences for the sport of the options open to the Government but there are serious public welfare issues that racing must also accept and factor into its own response. On behalf of the industry the BHA has responded to the consultation and issued the following statement yesterday:

“British racing agrees with the Government’s objectives in this important consultation process that there should be a balance between a betting sector which can grow and contribute to the economy, and one which is socially responsible and protects consumers and communities, while not damaging the horseracing sector.

“Our submission emphasises how our sport’s commitment to social responsibility – including employment, education and training and charitable initiatives in many rural communities – is supported by a sustainable income from the betting sector, as recognised by the Government’s recent and very welcome Levy reforms. Any measures which severely compromise that income may have unintended consequences to British racing’s financial stability and the wider rural economy.”

Multiple weigh-outs discouraged

We have been asked to advise trainers that multiple weigh-outs are discouraged because jockeys are responsible for the equipment they weigh out until such time as a trainer or representative receives it. It is not the Clerk of the Scales’ responsibility to ‘mind’ equipment according to the rules and they are under immense pressure at times so cannot be expected to perform this function.

There are increased integrity risks and likelihood that returning weight might be inaccurate following multiple weigh-outs, so the BHA would be grateful for trainers’ help with this.

Please also note that following the inclusion of 8 prizes for some Class 3 to 5 Jump and Class 4 to 6 Flat races, all riders will be required to weigh in for these contests.

ROA event at Taunton for racing secretaries and senior staff

Following on from last week's note about a similar event at Epsom, the ROA will be hosting an informal social event for Racing Secretaries and Senior Staff in the Director's Box at Taunton Racecourse (TA3 7BL) on **Wednesday 21st February**.

Secretaries are invited to attend between 1pm and 3pm for a general discussion on ownership related matters and to share new ideas for the recruitment and retention of owners. There will also be the opportunity to discuss ways that the association can support secretaries in their daily communications with owners.

A selection of sandwiches, cakes and light refreshments will be provided.

Those wishing to attend please RSVP to Chloe Martin cmartin@roa.co.uk no later than **Friday 9th February**.

Owner registration deadline for Plus 10 bonus scheme

Time is running out to complete registrations for the expanded Plus 10 bonus scheme, with Owner Registration due by 28 February to qualify eligible 2016 born horses to win £10,000 bonuses.

For the first time, £10,000 Plus 10 bonuses will feature across all Class 5 three-year-old maiden races over 1m3f and further for the 2018 flat season and beyond. The additional races see the total bonus race programme spanning about 800 races across Britain and Ireland. For more information, visit www.plus10bonus.com.

New design of equine sampling kits

On 1 February, the kits used by BHA staff to carry out routine equine testing, both in and out-of-competition, will be updated. Though the kit itself is being changed, there has been no fundamental change to the procedure for raceday and out of competition testing, as outlined in the [Rules of Racing Schedule \(G\)3](#).

The new equine testing kits will look significantly different and are of an internationally-recognised standard, designed to be tamper-proof and have the added benefit of streamlining and improving the efficiency of the sampling collection process.

Please [contact](#) the Anti-Doping team if you need more information.

Racing Staff Boxing is back

William Hill a sponsoring brand new boxing event, which will take place on Saturday 17th March 2018 at Goffs UK, Doncaster. The event will raise funds for Racing Welfare and is being organised by Ultra White Collar Boxing.

30 people who work in racing, including stable and stud staff, jockeys, a trainer and racecourse staff, have started their intensive life-changing 8 week training. The exciting night will be a glamorous black tie event and we very much hope that you and your owners will support staff and friends who are taking part, and help raise vital funds for Racing Welfare.

For more details and to book VIP Tickets or Standard tickets please click on the following link: <https://racingwelfare.co.uk/events-challenges/william-hill-racing-staff-boxing-night/>

2018 Annual General Meeting to host Lycetts Team Champion Award presentation

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.

The event will include the announcement of the winners of the Lycetts Team champion Award and presentation of prizes.

We will also be publicising the yards that have been awarded a star rating through the quality of their nomination for the award, reflecting their high standard of employment practices. This will take place in the fabulous Nash Room at the IoD.

Formal notification of the AGM and the invitation and reply form will be sent out on Monday 5th February.

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 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.
- **19th January 2018** – notification of specified wind surgeries must be made on the Racing Admin website for notification for any horse having its first run following surgery.
- **1st April 2018** – mandatory Equine Herpes vaccination to race in France