

NTF WEEKLY UPDATE – 24th May 2023 – Issue No. 1343

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INDUSTRY

[Shortage Occupation List](#)

The staffing levels survey has now closed and received 158 entries. This will enable us to build a picture of the challenge faced across the industry to government and we are working now on how we present this to give us the best chance of success. Any data used to present the current position will be aggregated and anonymous.

Our thanks go to all of those who took the time to complete the survey.

[Trainers’ mental health to be supported by NTF charity](#)

Trainers’ mental health got a big push in racing’s coverage of Mental Health Awareness Week. Throughout York’s Dante meeting last week, ITV Racing played a three-part recording of an interview with Jo Foster, Harry Dunlop and David Arbuthnot highlighting the need for trainers to receive support to cope with the pressures of their working lives. All three parts can be seen here:

[Part 1](#)

[Part 2](#)

[Part 3](#)

Luck on Sunday followed-up by heading its programme with Rishi Persad talking to guest Michael Caulfield, who is one of the providers of the trainer-led pilot launched recently in the Lambourn area. View [here](#)

Developed and funded by the Racehorse Trainers Benevolent Fund (RTBF), a charity set up by the NTF, the pilot aims to make it easier for trainers to start a conversation with a person who is not only qualified to provide professional support, but also has a deep understanding of the life trainers lead and the pressures they face.

Michael Caulfield, a sports psychologist whose career began in racing stables before progressing to head the PJA, and David Arbuthnot, whose career as a trainer spanned 38 years, will be out and about chatting to trainers and opening the door to those much-needed conversations.

Harry Dunlop, a recently recruited trustee of the RTBF, explains, "It's well known that however serious the problem, taking that first step to ask for support with a mental health issue is hard to take. People are afraid to show what they perceive as weakness. By getting Michael and David into the places where trainers circulate in their daily working lives, we hope to break down barriers and give trainers a chance to share their problems. That might be all it takes to lighten the load. Or it might lead to scheduling a one-to-one at another time."

The pilot was publicised by Lee Mottershead in the Racing Post on Monday 8th May. You can read his article [here](#)

David and Michael are based in Lambourn so will spend most of their time in and around that area. However, the pilot is open to trainers anywhere in the country. You can contact David or Michael using the details below. Using experience from the pilot, the intention is to recruit more providers to offer a more local personal service in other parts of the country in the future.

David Arbuthnot: Mobile 07836 276 464. Email dwparbuthnot@hotmail.com

Michael Caulfield: Mobile 07831 742321. Email michael@justcaulfield.com

RACE PLANNING

Flat Pre-race Examinations

Trainers are reminded that Pre-race Assessments have been implemented for a number of high-profile flat fixtures this summer. The original communication is available [here](#)

Further to this, it was announced on Monday that the Goodwood meeting on Friday 26th/27th May would also see pre-race assessments undertaken. The announcement for this is available [here](#)

Although it is not ideal that the notice provided for the Goodwood assessments is quite short, the BHAs intent has been to provide trainers with another opportunity to get to grips with the process ahead of its next use at Royal Ascot. Trainers with intended runners at Goodwood are advised to note the section of the guidance regarding the need to notify the BHA in cases where their horses may be described as 'poor movers' or ones which have an 'asymmetrical gait' through the following channels:

Email: vetreports@britishhorseracing.com

Phone: James Given – 07826 671 535

MEMBER SERVICES

NTF Structure and vacancies

As communicated recently, the new NTF Structure will see a slight reworking of the regions. We are in the process of updating the database but each member will receive an email in the coming days to confirm which region they are now part of and who their NTF representative is. One of the aims of this restructure is to ensure that there is greater clarity on who the representative is for each member in cases where they wish to feed something back or steer policy. We will be updating the rules as we work through this process to reflect the changes.

With each region now having one Council Member and a Deputy, there is a need to appoint a trainer in the East region to act as Deputy to Roger Varian. We will contact members of that region directly in the coming days to seek candidates but please feel free to get in touch if you would like to be considered.

Furthermore, we are seeking trainers who would be interested in taking up a position on the NTF Flat and Jump Committees. In the past these have been made up only of Council members but we are now hoping to be able to add a broader group of trainers to the Council members to act as a consultation platform for upcoming race planning matters. Should you

wish to join either the Flat or Jump Committee please contact Paul Johnson at p.johnson@racehorsetrainers.org or on 07823 536 388.

EMPLOYMENT

[Helping staff with reasonable adjustments for mental health](#)

Following on from mental health awareness week, members may find this article from ACAS of interest. It sets out some case studies exploring how different organisations have helped staff with reasonable adjustments for mental health. Whilst these are office based jobs and on the whole large organisations, it gives examples of putting fairly simple support in place such as a mentor and having someone an employee can talk with.

[Case studies about reasonable adjustments for mental health | Acas](#)

[Do you provide living accommodation to staff? If so, please read on:](#)

The Low Pay Commission is seeking evidence on economic and market conditions for employers and employees - from comments we have had from trainers recently we would like to focus our response on the Accommodation Offset, which as you will know is the maximum you can charge an employee for accommodation (including utilities) where the employee is on the NMW. As an example for a 23 year old employee on the 40 hours NMW of £416.80 the maximum you can deduct for accommodation is £63.70.

If you have any comments on the offset and how it affects your business and your workers, it would be helpful to us in framing a response. Some thoughts are:

Should the rate of £63.70 apply regardless of the nature of the accommodation, so a shared mobile home or a single occupancy flat/cottage for example?

Should the employer be able to apply a separate charge for electricity or gas?

Any examples you can provide of how the costs of providing accommodation have gone up/the real value of the accommodation to the employee, perhaps evidencing what a room or similar property would charge to rent in your area.

If you are interested in the full consultation documentation document and would like to provide evidence on other areas, it can be found [here](#)

Please provide any comments to d.baccus@racehorsetrainers.org by 31st May to allow the NTF to prepare its response.

EVENTS

[National Racehorse Week – 9th-17th September 2023](#)

Don't miss your chance to host an Open Day for National Racehorse Week

The deadline to sign for National Racehorse Week is fast approaching and closes on the **31 May**. Sign up today to host an open day and open your doors to the British public and show racing's commitment to horse welfare and that the horse is at the heart of all we do.

From Stud to retirement, National Racehorse Week creates a money-can't-buy moment in the spotlight for racing to unify and speak to those outside of the sport. It provides a platform to connect with the community and draw new audiences to racing.

Please sign up **before 31 May** via the link below to host an Open Day during National Racehorse Week and also get involved with hosting or being a part of a community event, for example: school visit, charity visit, care home visit and much more.

[National Racehorse Week 2023](#)

Or if you would like more information on how your yard can get involved, please contact NRW Project Manager, Sally Lyons – slyons@greatbritishracing.com

[Migrate UK – On-line Seminar – 27th June at 1pm](#)

Migrate UK (<https://migrate-uk.com/>) our immigration advisers are running an on-line seminar for NTF members on 27th June 2023 at 1pm. This will be a further chance to learn about Migrate's services and how they assist trainers looking to recruit from abroad and is an opportunity for members to ask questions of Migrate's team. Invitations will be coming out direct to members next week.

[Postponement of Horseracing Industry Conference to Tuesday October 24, 2023](#)

The Horseracing Industry Conference, in its sixth year, organised by the Racing Foundation in partnership with the University of Liverpool Management School, has regrettably had to be postponed due to the planned train strike on May 31 with further disruptions expected on major lines to York on the day of the event, June 1. The conference will now take place on Tuesday October 24.