

NTF WEEKLY UPDATE – 24 MAY 2024 – Issue No. 1382

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MEMBER SERVICES

NTF fees

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2024 NTF Badges

The first batch of the RCA Photo ID Accreditations and NTF Metal Trainers Badges have now been produced and sent out.

We are in the process of processing the next group of applications and these will be produced and sent out as soon as possible.

A new form has been opened for further applications and will close on 7th June, at which point those applications will be processed and produced. It is available [HERE](#)

As we approach a point where the majority of IDs have been produced, we will turn our attention to communicating policies for trainers to make changes to the badge holders listed on the NTF database and to cancel IDs for leavers and replace them with ones for new staff members. For now, please remember that badge holders who leave their employment will need to leave their RCA pass and badge and re-apply for the pass through their next employer.

We will also be working with the RCA in the coming months to seek a technological solution that will enable photo IDs to be carried on the mobile phone instead of in hard copy.

INDUSTRY NEWS

New Licence for Syndicators & Racing Club Managers

The industry will be introducing a new licence for anyone wishing to manage a syndicate or racing club. This new licence will apply to anyone who is ultimately responsible for managing a syndicate or racing club that advertises publicly or that they are paid to administer.

This will include licensed trainers who run syndicates or racing clubs although the BHA has ensured that information that is already held as part of licensing will be taken into account and should make the process simpler than for those who are not already licenced.

The BHA has provided the following explanation as to what the changes might mean for trainers and to ensure the appropriate support is available before the license is launched in early June. This is available [HERE](#)

In addition, a comprehensive FAQ document will be shared with trainers ahead of the new licence being introduced.

Should trainers have any questions please contact the BHA Ownership Team ownership@britishhorseracing.com

0207 152 0004

Sunday Evening Meeting Pilot

You will have seen in the BHA announcement this week that the BHA Board has agreed that the Sunday evening racing pilot will not be resumed at this time.

The full press release can be found [HERE](#)

The pilot was introduced as part of industry strategy discussions that seek to improve the sports financial position and was originally proposed as a trial of thirty fixtures. We were able to agree a trial of just six fixtures as it was recognised that the sport faces significant ongoing resource challenges and that a trial of thirty would have been very difficult to achieve.

The surveys that the NTF, NARS and the PJA sent out at the conclusion of the trial were important in order to be able to provide a clear view from participants. This was critical in helping the Commercial Committee and BHA Board reach the decision to shelve this trial and we would like to thank members who took the time to provide their feedback.

There is some likelihood that discussions around the concept of Sunday evening racing will resurface again in the future but it is an important caveat made by the BHA Board that any further trial would be contingent on sufficient progress being made to address staffing issues within the sport.

Royal Ascot 2024 – Trainer Mini Guide

Ahead of the Royal meeting, Ascot racecourse has asked us to share the attached [MINI-GUIDE](#) to the meeting. This provides information on prize money, entry to the racecourses and some guidance for anyone planning a picnic in car park 2.

Equine Influenza Vaccinations

We have been contacted by the BHA and Weatherbys regarding the grace period that is offered to trainers to ensure that vaccine data is up to date at the point of race entry. Trainers will recall that a new policy was agreed with the BHA last year that meant that horses were not NQ'd immediately at entry stage if all vaccine requirements were not in place but were given until 9am the next day to ensure that they were completed. The aim of this was to ensure that horses were not unnecessarily NQ'd because of a procedural point.

Since that time, it has become evident that dealing with some of the more complex queries that involve more than a vet sign off, can lead to impacts on Weatherbys processes for getting information out to the public. For this reason, the policy has now been amended, such that the following will apply for races that close on or after June 1st 2024:

- The deadline for the Trainer updating the Vaccination App will be 4pm on the day the race closes
- The deadline for the Trainer's veterinary surgeon to verify vaccinations will continue to be 9am the day after the race closes

Further to this, we continue to engage with the BHA on the subject of 6 monthly vaccinations and are seeking an increase to the interval between vaccines to be increased to at least 8 months. We also asked the BHA at a recent meeting to commit to an investigation to whether there are any adverse findings following the introduction of 6 month vaccinations, something that they have agreed to do.

We will continue to update members with any progress here but are conscious that feedback from the BHA has consistently noted their desire to remain aligned with the rest of Europe.

Recent studies have shown that schooling race and galloping opportunities on racecourses provide a valuable stepping stone from the home training grounds to the first experience of a competitive race environment. The BHA's Equine Safety Steering Group (ESSG) has deemed this area worthy of further exploration, and this HWB survey is the first step on that journey. **The purpose of the survey is to gauge the level of support British trainers would give if it were possible to implement a similar system in the UK to that run in Ireland.** We shall be liaising and working with the Point-to-Point Association (PPA) and the Racecourse Association (RCA) throughout the project.

Your feedback at this stage will be pivotal to the direction taken, and a high response rate is vital to the credibility of the survey, so please do complete this if you can. The survey will remain open until **Friday 7th June.**

Conscious of your time pressures, we have deliberately made the first section short with 16 multiple choice questions. **It should take no more than five to ten minutes to complete.** The final questions allow free text answers, so those of you who wish to give more expansive thoughts and feedback can do so there. **The survey is anonymous, and raw data will be discarded once analysed, so please speak freely.**

Additional information can be found in Jane Hedley's MBA paper: [Evaluation of Racecourse Galloping and Schooling activity - J Hedley November 2023](#) and if you have any queries or would like to discuss the idea further, please contact Pip Kirkby: pkirkby@racehorsewelfare.co.uk

Thank you for your time. Please access the survey here - Racecourse Galloping and Schooling Survey

Trainer Support Network – Roles available

Following on from the successful coverage by Sky Sports Racing, highlighting the Racehorse Trainers Benevolent Fund and National Trainers Federation Trainer Support Network, with interviews between Josh Apiafi and Michael Caulfield, the Trainer Support Network is looking for additional members to for the team, to be available in the racing community for trainers to approach informally. Further information and contact details are available via this link :

https://www.racehorsetrainers.org/ntf/pdfs/Trainer_Support_Network_role_spec.pdf

Ethnically diverse community research- Survey closes 31st May

Thank you to everyone who has completed and shared the survey over the last few weeks- so far over 300 people have engaged across the industry but we want to hear from more people and we would appreciate any support in further sharing the survey with colleagues, students, participants and members either internally or via social media channels.

The survey is gathering information about the experiences of ethnically diverse communities working in racing and after the survey, there is the opportunity to participate in confidential 1:1 interviews and focus groups by emailing horseracingreview@plan4sport.co.uk

The work has been supported by the Racing Foundation

The survey can be accessed here: Introduction to the survey : [Exploring experiences of working in horseracing](#) (smartsurvey.co.uk)

More information about the survey can be found here: [Survey to explore experiences of ethnically diverse communities in British racing](#) | British Horseracing Authority

If anyone has any questions or would like someone to speak to colleagues, participants or members about the research, please get in touch. Thank you.

Lyndon Roberts (Pronouns: He / Him) Email : lroberts@britishhorseracing.com

Head of Diversity and Inclusion

British Horseracing Authority

Mobile: +44 7876 182 919

[National Racehorse Week will take place on the 7th – 15th September 2024](#)

National Racehorse Week showcases the magnificent care racehorses receive from stud through to retirement. By opening your doors, racing is able to create deeper relations between the sport and new audiences. [link here](#)

A video is now available to share, *Why is National Racehorse Week So Important ?* [Link HERE](#)

To take part in National Racehorse week through hosting an open day or getting involved in a community event, please sign up by [following this link](#).

EMPLOYMENT

Careers in Racing Jobs Board

We know from speaking to members that there can be a mixed response to using the Careers in Racing Jobs Board, with some jobs receiving no applications and others receiving applications from overseas workers where the potential employer does not hold a sponsor licence.

The team behind the Jobs Board have sent us through statistics on its use including the number of times on average jobs are looked at and the new users each week, see the results via this link: [Careers in Racing Job Board Highlights - 2024](#)

We would encourage members to use the Jobs Board as it helps the industry know the level of vacancies as well as hopefully helping you fill the job role. We know that many trainers do put in whether or not they hold a sponsor licence and are able to recruit a new migrant worker and that is helpful information.

OTHER BUSINESS

USEFUL LINKS :

HMRC – New VAT Scale charges from 1st May 2024 – 30th April 2025

Link here : <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/vat-road-fuel-scale-charges-from-1-may-2024-to-30-april-2025>

Assistance at the start :

Training on racing2learn <https://racing2learn.com/course/index.php?categoryid=97>

Point to Point :

https://www.pointtopoint.co.uk/news_articles/pointing-route-to-training-under-rules

Trainer Support Network :

A network of knowledgeable and empathetic people for trainers to share the burdens of their busy and challenging working life. <https://www.racehorsetrainers.org/ntf/tsn.asp>

Latest Edition of IFAR's Global Aftercare Newsletter Now Available

Check out the current newsletter [HERE](#) for global aftercare updates, how to become a member or supporter of IFAR, and for information on IFAR's upcoming conference in Sapporo, Japan. <https://www.internationalracehorseaftercare.com/>

Great British Racing (GBR) - Latest Update Jan – Apr 2024

https://www.greatbritishracing.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Great-British-Racing-Q1-2024-Industry-Update-1.pdf?dm_i=27WU,209CH,7T9CMB,76WOZ,1