

NTF WEEKLY – 24 JULY 2018

Alert for racehorse rehoming scam

A Lambourn trainer has alerted us to the apparent actions of a person to whom they gave a horse for free rehoming. An advert for the horse then appeared very soon afterwards on a Facebook auction site called “Horse Auction Only from June 2018”.

Having mentioned this case at the regional meeting in Lambourn yesterday, we gather the person usually emails trainers advising that she is looking to offer a horse a home forever and that she has experience working in racing. We understand that there have been other horses recently acquired in the wider Lambourn area which have then appeared on the same website and we want to alert trainers as we believe that more may due to be collected from the area.

Timing of pre-race testing is a nuisance but necessary

From time to time trainers ask us why the pre-race blood tests must be done so close to the race time (usually 30 to 45 minutes.) The answer is that pre-race bloods are taken to detect raised levels of TCO₂, which is an indicator of alkalisiation (or “milk shaking” as it is known.) This practice is designed to buffer lactic acid build up and therefore increase stamina.

The test has to be done shortly before a race to achieve a valid sample because of the metabolism of alkalisiation. Where testing is conducted pre-race the trainer or their representative will usually be given an appointment card indicating the time that they should be present at the horses’ racecourse stable for testing to be conducted.

If a horse is known to react badly to needles, there is an option to have the test done 2 to 3 hours post-race (again, this timetable is due to the metabolism of the sodium bicarbonate (the alkalisating agent.) Trainers need to inform the BHA of horses that are “intractable”, i.e. will react badly to sampling and may be difficult to restrain.

Should you have any questions about TCO₂ testing, or the BHA’s testing programme in general, please contact BHA Officials on duty in the stables, or contact the Equine Health and Welfare Department on 02071520090 or at equine@britishhorseracing.com.

Training to maximising staff retention

Last week's management training module in Newmarket went down well with delegates. Here is a recommendation with one of the senior racing staff members:

"I just wanted to thank you and the NTF for supporting the management training day at the BRS yesterday. The consensus among attendees was of how useful this training is to senior staff and how greatly it will impact morale in yards. Hopefully, it will continue to reach as many trainers, and industry staff members, as possible."

The modules are delivered by Peter Burnet, who already runs management training for the racing industry at the British Racing School. His modules for the NTF have the title Building a Sustainable Business. Trainers either attending the modules or sending representatives in 2017 included Luca Cumani, Ann Duffield, William Haggas, Mark Johnston (LTCA shortlisted), Martin Keighley (LTCA shortlisted), Seamus Mullins (LTCA shortlisted), Jonjo O'Neill, George Scott, Suzy Smith (LTCA shortlisted.)

The module is designed to help trainers recruit and retain exceptional staff teams. It is about sharing ideas, tips and support to match the team award criteria and make other wider ranging changes

Book now for the remaining events at

- Malton on **8th August 2018**
- Cheltenham on **12th September 2018**

Each day will run from 10.00 to 16.30 with lunch and refreshments provided. Dress is casual / work clothes. The day will consist of a mix of activities, discussion and some new ideas. There is no formal preparation for the day and please come with an open mind!

To book places

This year there is a charge of £100 per place. To book yourself and up to one other staff member onto any of the three days please contact the NTF at teamchampion@racehorsetrainers.org or ring 01488 71794.

Starting stalls wanted

We know of a trainer wanting a three-bay set of starting stalls. If you have a set for sale, please contact Dawn Bacchus at the NTF office.

BHA handicapping team restructure

(Implemented 10th June 2018)

As part of the process of Dominic Gardiner-Hill taking over from Phil Smith as BHA Head of Handicapping a restructure of the team was implemented from Sunday 10th June.

The positions of Deputy Head of Handicapping and Senior Handicappers no longer exist and have been replaced by four Team Leaders who will have management responsibilities within the team as well as having overall charge of races run within certain distance categories and/or codes. The new Team Leaders (with race responsibilities):

Graeme Smith	(2yo: all 3yo+ 5f-7f)
Mark Olley	(all 3yo+ 1m+)
Andrew Mealor	(Hurdles)
Martin Greenwood	(Chases & Bumpers)

Should you have a query or a complaint regarding a horse's rating:

- Contact the handicapper who dealt with the horse's most recent race
- If you are not satisfied with the answer or explanation you receive contact the Team Leader in charge of the appropriate distance category/code for the most recent run
- If you continue to be dissatisfied then contact the Head of Handicapping who will give a final decision
- Should none of the above prove satisfactory, the official appeals procedure should be utilised. A new appeal system has been developed following the Handicapping Review and will be announced soon.

Under its standard protocol the handicapping team undertake to at least acknowledge a communication, whether it be voicemail or email, within 24 hours of its arrival. If more time is required to provide a definitive answer, it will be provided as soon as is possible.

Full contact details for the Handicapping team are listed below and are also available on the BHA Racing Admin site and in The Racing Calendar.

Should you have any questions regarding the above, please don't hesitate to contact Dominic Gardiner-Hill either by phone (01403 823725) or email (dgardinerhill@britishhorseracing.com)

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Dominic Gardiner-Hill	01403 823725	dgardinerhill@britishhorseacing.com
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Martin Greenwood	01226 381371	mgreenwood@britishhorseracing.com
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Stewart Copeland	01422 316444	scopeland@britishhorseracing.com
David Dickinson	01162 753413	ddickinson@britishhorseracing.com
Michael Harris	07770 220026	mharris@britishhorseracing.com
Chris Nash	01652 655878	cnash@britishhorseracing.com
Matthew Tester	01672 520041	mtester@britishhorseracing.com

NTF 2018 meeting dates

The last of our summer regional meetings will be held on 30th July at Wolverhampton Racecourse before twilight racing. Please come along or feel free to send a representative such as a partner or assistant trainer.

REGION	DATE	VENUE
West Midland and Wales	Monday 30th July	Wolverhampton before racing
Council and Committees	Monday 6 th August	London

Regulation deadlines

- **2 July 2018** – Racing Admin call centre at Weatherbys closed
- **9 July 2018** – change in elimination sequence in 3yo+ flat novice races
- **1 October 2018** – Level 2 safety vest mandatory for jockeys for race riding