

NTF WEEKLY UPDATE 25 OCTOBER 2023 – Issue No. 1361

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INDUSTRY NEWS

Westminster Hall Debate today

Today, Newmarket MP Matt Hancock has secured a Westminster Hall debate on the subject of the future of British Horseracing.

The debate will be streamed and will see politicians from all sides taking part. Stephanie Peacock, the new shadow sports minister, will respond for the official opposition. Stephanie recently visited Doncaster on St Leger Day and was given a detailed briefing on the sport including welfare issues by the BHA. She has since communicated that she found the briefing incredibly helpful and if welfare is raised as an issue in the debate today she is prepared defend the sport's integrity.

Matt Hancock and many of the other MPs taking part have received detailed briefings on the key issues facing the sport from the team at the BHA: these include the sport's roles on the shortage occupation list, horse welfare, Levy reform, financial risk checks and the Industry Strategy/2024 Fixture List.

For those who want to watch the debate, the link is [here](#).

Westminster Hall debate: Future of horseracing

Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP (West Suffolk, Independent)

Thoroughbred Group appoint new Independent Chair

The Thoroughbred Group is the umbrella group representing Trainers, Owners, jockeys, Racing Staff and Breeders. The announcement of the appointment of Julian Richmond-Watson as a new Independent Chair is available [HERE](#)

BHA Licence surcharge

As communicated in the note sent directly to all members yesterday, please be aware that the BHA Licence surcharge notification sent by Weatherbys yesterday contained some inaccuracies and will be reissued. No payments have been taken for the incorrectly calculated amounts.

NTF Racing Committees

We have recently put in place new Flat and Jump Racing Committees that seek to feature a wider representation from across our membership. These Committees will give consideration to all race planning matters, as well as going and ground related issues. We are pleased to report that in addition to a great deal of varied trainer expertise, we have also been able to enlist two independent members in Lydia Hislop and Lee Mottershead. Both will join the Flat and Jump committees in order to try to offer wider, independent views on subject matters. Neither will vote or will be affiliated to the NTF in any way and we welcome their input alongside that of our appointed members.

The Committee members are:

Flat

Ralph Beckett (Chair)

Steve Brown

Harry Eustace

Rod Millman

Clare Loughnane

Ed Walker

Archie Watson

Lydia Hislop (Independent)*

Lee Mottershead (Independent)*

Jump

Emma Lavelle (Chair)

Nick Alexander

Victor Dartnall

Briony Ewart

Di Grissell

Donald McCain

Matt Sheppard

Jamie Snowden

Lydia Hislop (Independent)*

Lee Mottershead (Independent)*

[Racecourse Going and facilities feedback](#)

With the recent spate of bad weather, we have received some requests from trainers to look into the background to specific fixtures that have been lost or where there are questions

around the accuracy of the information that has been provided in the lead up to the fixture. We are continuing to push the BHA to conduct thorough investigations into such circumstances and to take meaningful action where appropriate. We also discuss such sets of circumstances with the racecourse concerned and/or the RCA with a view to avoiding repeated issues. Trainers are reminded that they can provide direct feedback to the NTF Executive team should they have concerns about the ground or facilities at any fixture. The link to this form is available on the home page of the website and every submission will be reviewed and acted upon.

Common Health Entry Document

If you use a shipping agent for movement of horses to and from Great Britain to other countries, the shipping agent will undertake the Common Health Entry Document for you.

If you transport your own horses, please be aware the Common Health Entry Document will be required by the person responsible for the movement of horses into GB from other countries. The import notifications must be submitted one working day before the horse arrives in GB using the IPAFFS system. From 2 November 2023, IPAFFS will prompt those moving live animals from EU and EFTA countries to complete the CHED Part 1 import notification, in place of the current IMP notification.

IPAFFS already prompts those moving live animals from non-EU/EFTA countries to submit the Common Health Entry Document (CHED) Part 1 import notification. This change aligns the import notifications for both EU and non-EU countries, with just one process for both.

Nominate NOW for the Thoroughbred Industry Employee Awards

There's less than a fortnight to go until nominations close for the 2024 [Thoroughbred Industry Employee Awards](#), sponsored by Godolphin.

With £128,500 in prize money available across six categories, these awards are about shining a spotlight on the people working in our yards and providing the best possible care for our horses.

This might be someone new to the yard who has made a quick impression, a great leader or dedicated colleague with years of service, or simply a brilliant member of the team.

If you know someone who deserves recognition, don't miss out – please nominate them now at: www.thoroughbredawards.co.uk.

Nominations are open until Tuesday 7 November 2023. Just go to the website and complete the online form or submit a quick video nomination.

For information, including full details about the categories and nomination criteria, visit www.thoroughbredawards.co.uk.

Trustee (Voluntary Role)

The British Racing School [BRS] provides education and training for those employed in or seeking employment in the horseracing industry, primarily young people. The Trustee Board is currently seeking to appoint an additional trustee. It is the board's policy to increase the diversity of its Trustee Board, in order that the Board better reflects the Charity's beneficiaries and to realise the benefits that diverse leadership brings.

To complement the current skills of the board, applications from individuals with experience of training racehorses or working in a similar role in the thoroughbred racing industry, will be welcomed.

A genuine interest in improving the life chances of young people through education and training is a paramount requirement. In addition, the BRS Board is looking for Trustees who can think strategically about the BRS' activities and employ their own insights and experience for the benefit of the Board and the management team.

The current Board will provide newly appointed Trustees with a comprehensive induction programme.

The successful candidates will demonstrate the ability to add value outside their natural areas of expertise and demonstrate motivation to effectively contribute to the BRS.

Personal qualities are important to the BRS – the successful candidate will be pragmatic and intellectually curious with sound people judgement, high emotional intelligence and strong listening skills. It is critical that the successful candidate possesses an open and collaborative style which matches the current culture and values of both the BRS and the Board.

In line with the BRS safer recruitment practices, applicants are required to complete a Trustee Application form which can be downloaded from the BRS website <https://brs.org.uk/about/vacancies/>. An enhanced DBS check will also be required as will a

minimum of 2 professional references. The school reserves the right to conduct online searches of candidates to determine their suitability from a safeguarding perspective. The closing date for applications is Monday 20th November. If you have any queries, please contact Carol.Bramhill@brs.org.uk

EMPLOYMENT

Under 18s overnight accommodation at racecourses

In connection with work being done by the BHA safeguarding team and moving accommodation booking on to a digital platform it would be of assistance if members could let us know whether they send under 18s to stay overnight at racecourses. Please use the following to reply: <https://paulntf.wufoo.com/forms/z158axzm0mhtabt/>

Thank you to those who have replied and to help us ensure we have a good overall picture we would be pleased to hear from more trainers.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NTF Regional Forums Confirmed for the Autumn – Please sign up [here](#)

- **Scotland and the North Region** Monday **6th November** at Newcastle Racecourse at 2pm
- **Midlands and Central North Region** Monday **20th November** at York Racecourse and via Zoom at 2pm
- **Central South Region** on Tuesday **21st November** at Oaksey House at 1:30pm
- **East Region** on Tuesday **28th November** at Newmarket Rowley Mile Racecourse at 1pm

If you are planning to attend a Regional Forum, please sign up here <https://paulntf.wufoo.com/forms/z6959sp0i71j3r/> The agenda will be out 1 week before the meeting.

