

NTF WEEKLY UPDATE – 26 JANUARY 2024

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INDUSTRY NEWS

NTF Badges

NTF Trainer Metal Badges 2023 are valid until 31st March, and provide access to racecourses as they have in the past. The 2024 badges will be despatched in time for use from April. Please keep the NTF office updated with the badge number of any which are lost, (date of where and when lost) and when a staff member allocated a badge leaves. NTF badges are non-transferable.

Confirm your 2024 NTF badge allocation here

<https://www.racehorsetrainers.org/webforms/badgerequest.asp>

Autism Employment Seminar – one-hour enlightening free webinar

Bobby Beevers, Nigel Payne and the National Autistic Society are holding a one-hour free webinar on the benefits Autistic talent can offer within racing and how to embrace Autism in the industry.

There are people who are Autistic who dream of working with horses. It would be fantastic to get as many trainers or their representatives to attend, to find out how they can make Autistic peoples dream become a reality in becoming valued racing staff. Details are available [HERE](#)

Autism Awareness workshop coming up in Newmarket.

We would like to get as many trainers or representatives to attend on the evening.

Our ambassador, Will Buick, is going to help where he can in rounding up Newmarket.

Please click [here](#) for details

Racing Welfare - Home Energy Grant for 2024

This will follow the same format as previous years and for those in the racing industry, who come under the minimum income standard and are struggling to meet their home energy costs they will be receive a £300 grant for use towards this. Full eligibility can be discussed with a welfare officer so we would encourage everyone to ring and check. Applications can be made using our online portal which can be found on the website [here](#)

ROR Strategy 2024-2026 - Download [here](#)

RoR's mission is clear: to safeguard the wellbeing of all former racehorses. This strategy sets out our ambitions and goals, and how we will get there. Crucially, successful implementation depends on the collective commitment, collaboration and support of the entire racing community — from the British Horseracing Authority to trainers, owners, breeders, racecourses, and international partners through the International Forum for the Aftercare of Racehorses.

In order to deliver the strategy, over the next three years we need to elevate industry funding to cover core RoR activities including our welfare and education streams and direct support for horses. Achieving this milestone would serve as a powerful testament to the

industry's support for aftercare. A successfully delivered strategy will position British racing with an aftercare structure to be truly proud of, reflecting positively on the entire industry.

Your support is integral, and we are confident that, together, we can create a lasting impact and ensure a brighter future for former racehorses in Great Britain.

Trainer Magazine – available online

Trainers in the U.K. are encouraged to sign up for website updates and access articles / past issues via trainermagazine.com/register - trainers are also welcome to share the link with their staff.

World Horse Welfare's event – Social licence: What can we learn from other industries?

Following on from the WHW virtual conference yesterday on 'Maintaining public acceptance of equestrianism: What can we learn from other industries?', the WHW are very pleased to let you know that a [recording](#) of all the presentations is now available to view. Please feel free to share this link with any colleagues you think would be interested in the topics explored.

RACE PLANNING

Programme Book 2 Schedule

The BHA has provided the below timetable for the publication of Programme Book 2. We are advised that this timetable has been impacted by the knock-on delays caused by the late publication of the 2024 Fixture List. We have fed back to the Industry Fixtures Committee that this is unsatisfactory from a trainer's perspective and that earlier publication for 2025 is required. The following key dates apply:

Monday 29 January Publication of race index pdf version for races from 23 March to 21 April (this will be circulated via the next edition of the weekly email)

Monday 5 February Publication of race index pdf version for races from 23 March to 21 April (this will also be circulated via the weekly email)

Monday 12 February Publication of races for 23 March – 21 April on Racing Admin system

Wednesday 21 February Publication of races for 22 April – 23 June on Racing Admin system

Wednesday 6 March Hard copies to trainers

EMPLOYMENT

Migrant worker immigration health surcharge

The increase in the health surcharge initially anticipated this month will now come into effect on 6th February 2024. This increases the Immigration Health Surcharge rate by 66% from to £1035 from £624 per applicant per year of leave. This is paid by most applicants when submitting their visa application form. For a 3-year visa for one person this means the IHS will be £3,105 and £5,175 for a 5-year visa.

Holiday calculation

The Government has introduced various holiday pay reforms, including a new way of calculating leave for workers terminating employment during the holiday year, the right to carry over leave and holiday pay calculations. The new way of calculating accrued leave is a relatively simple calculation whilst the reforms relating to carry over of leave and pay calculations confirm advice already given to ensure employees are aware of and encouraged to take their holiday, and what earnings should be included in holiday pay calculations. The reforms do reinforce the importance of written records showing that employees are reminded of outstanding holiday entitlement and that if not taken before the end of the holiday year it will be lost (other than where there is a statutory right to carry over, such as where holiday cannot be taken because of sickness absence or maternity/family leave). Link to the Holiday Pay Reforms and New Government Guidance worked examples [HERE](#)

National Living and National Minimum Wage increase April 2024

The National Joint Council (NTF and NARS) are in negotiations over the new Memorandum of Agreement to be effective 1st April 2024 and trainers will be notified as soon as new terms are finalised. In the interim, a reminder that the Government announced the increase in the National Living Wage effective April 2024, as follows.

- 21 and over - £11.44 (increase of £1.02) (9.8%)
 - 18-20 - £8.60 (increase of £1.11) (14.8%)
 - 16-17 and apprentices - £6.40 (increase of £1.12) (21.2%)
 - The accommodation offset will £9.99 per day (increase of 89p) (9.8%)
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Paternal Leave

Changes to paternity leave are due to come into force in April 2024. These will permit fathers or partners to split their leave into two blocks of one week whereas at present only one block can be taken. It will also extend the time period in which the leave can be taken from 8 weeks to any point in the first year after the birth or adoption of their child. The change also adjusts the way in which notice is given to employers – the new process will be for the employee to give notice that they intend to take leave 15 weeks prior to the expected week of childbirth and then 4 weeks’ notice of dates prior to each period of leave.

The eligibility criteria for paternity leave and pay will remain unchanged at 26 weeks’ service as at 15 weeks prior to the expected week of childbirth.

Using an approved immigration service adviser

A reminder to members to ensure that anyone who is providing them with immigration advice or services must be registered with the OISC (Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner) or be a member of an approved professional body, such as a solicitor or barrister. The OISC has a portal <https://portal.oisc.gov.uk/s/adviser-register> listing registered advisers and a registered adviser will be able to provide their registration number.

It is vital that members check the credentials of anyone approaching them offering them immigration services – using a non-registered or non-approved advisor could damage the ongoing work we are doing with the Migration Advisory Committee and put at risk the inclusion of racing jobs on the Immigration Salary List (the scheme replacing the Shortage Occupation List). We would also like to remind trainers that Ronald Wali who was jailed in 2016 for breaching immigration law remains indefinitely excluded by the BHA.

We work with Migrate-UK <https://migrate-uk.com/> registered service providers who are always happy to speak with trainers about their services.

Measles outbreak information

Dr Jerry Hill has kindly shared the following information with us:

Measles Outbreak

As many of you will have read in the news there is a significant outbreak of measles in Birmingham with cases in London, Yorkshire, Humber, and South Wales. [Measles outbreak could spread warns UKHSA Chief Executive - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Most of these cases are in those aged under 35 years of age (with the 0-18 years of age being the largest) and the majority are in people who have had no MMR vaccinations.

Young children, pregnant women and anyone with reduced immunity are at increased risk along with the unvaccinated. More information can be found here. [Measles - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

UKHSA have instituted contact tracing and if you are identified as having been exposed e.g. on transport you may receive a 'warn and inform' message. The infectious period is generally considered to be 4 days before and 4 days after the onset of the rash.

Vaccination offers very high levels of protection of up to 99% from two routine MMR vaccinations.

Please be vigilant and if you feel you or a family member may have measles contact NHS 111 for advice.

MEMBER SERVICES

NTF Members Legal Expenses Insurance

Members have been sent information about the business legal expenses insurance renewal in their 2024 membership pack.

We appreciate that there will be issues that arise whilst a trainer is an NTF member but where help is needed after the member has relinquished their licence. We are pleased to be able to let members know that the insurance cover will now apply to claims arising whilst a trainer is licensed and an NTF member but where the claim has been submitted after the licence has been relinquished, provided the claim is submitted within three months of that date or the end of the policy year, if sooner. All claims will remain subject to the terms and conditions of the legal expenses insurance and members are reminded that claims must be submitted as soon as possible. **This will only apply to claims made on or after 1st January 2024.**

USEFUL LINKS :

Assistance at the start :

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

Point to Point :

https://pointtopoint.co.uk/news_articles/pointing-the-pathway-to-riding-under-rules

https://pointtopoint.co.uk/news_articles/trainers-urged-to-let-horses-race-on-in-points

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