

NTF WEEKLY – 27 MARCH 2018

RIABS contributions to rise from 1st April 2018

A small increase in the weekly contributions to the Racing Industry Accident Benefit Scheme (RIABS) has been necessary due to the rising cost of claims.

At the RIABS trustees' meeting held on 20th March, advisers Bluefin showed the effect of an upward trend in claim costs although the number of claims is not rising despite an increase of 3% in the number of "members" of the scheme, i.e. paid stable employees. Other factors driving the need for a contribution increase are wage growth and loss adjuster costs.

The trustees have agreed to lift the contributions by 25p per week from both employer and employee from the 1st April 2018. The weekly employee contribution will therefore be £2.62 (from £2.37) per employee registered as paid.

The annual employer contribution will also now be £2.62 (from £2.37.) This amounts to £136.24 per annum per employee registered as paid at 1st April 2018.

The NTF and NARS believe this is a small price to pay for a scheme which delivers excellent benefits and value for money. The maximum weekly benefit has also been increased to £400.

Ayr novice chase qualification reminder

Remember that horses must have finished in the 1st eight in a weight-for-age chase during the current season to qualify to enter the £100,000 Novices Handicap Chase (race 32363) at Ayr on 21 April, Coral Scottish National Day.

Rule changes – BHA notification

The BHA sent out a notification to trainers last week of various rule changes. It doesn't seem necessary to repeat these at length in this NTFWeekly so soon after the BHA's email so they are summarised below and in the regulation deadlines. We will include them in the March April printed newsletter which will be published next week.

- **Application of ice not permitted pre-race on raceday in the racecourse stables**
- **Manipulative therapy not permitted on raceday**
- **Cyclosporine implants must be notified**

- **Pre-race parades no longer necessary in racecard order**
- **Three-day stand down (two clear days) for horses withdrawn by stewards on veterinary advice**
- **Penalty structure for owner's sponsorship infringement applies over a rolling 12-months; number of warnings related to number of runners.**

A couple of trainers have questioned the rule changes on icing and manipulative therapy. With regard to icing, the BHA has told us it is likely that icing of a bruised foot would be permitted (the Veterinary Officer can use his/her discretion when enforcing this rule.)

With regard to manipulative therapy, during the consultation to the NTF argued that such treatment was justified because human athletes, including jockeys, have physiotherapy before performing. In response, the BHA told us no request for physiotherapy had been made in the last three years. Also, there are integrity risks from allowing unregistered therapists into the racecourse stables.

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

As members will know, the GDPR regulations coming into force on 25th May 2018 require all businesses to look at how they use and protect the personal data of individuals and put in place new systems and processes. As the next part of our series of advice to help you get ready for GDPR, we have prepared a "steps to take" information sheet and guidance upon identifying the lawful basis for processing your employee's personal data. These- along with our other advice upon GDPR and links to the Information Commissioner's Office's guidance documents – can be found in the [dedicated area of our website](#) and via the large link on the home page.

More information and template documents will be issued by the NTF over the coming weeks to help you with GDPR and a template data protection policy will be available on the website. Members should look out for our weekly email and [ntfmuse updates](#) on this subject.

Dedicated page on NTF website for Lycetts Team Champion Award

The Lycetts Team Champion Award now has its [own page](#) on the NTF website. We are displaying the names of star rated trainers on the new page which is packed with information about the award and The Winning Approach standard.

If you didn't enter a nomination for the first award, you can find out what your yard needs to do to prepare for the 2019 award.

Regulation deadlines

- **24th March 2018** – £20,000 cap applies to Median Auction Maiden races. See Forthcoming rule changes on BHA Online Rule Book.
- **1st April 2018** – mandatory Equine Herpes vaccination to race in France
- **1st April 2018** – new racing industry minimum pay rates
- **1st April 2018** – RIABS weekly contributions rise to £2.62 (from £2.37)
- **2nd April 2018** – ice or cooling devices cannot be applied to a horse on raceday in the racecourse stables, unless a VO had given dispensation
- **2nd April 2018** – manipulative therapy no longer allowed in racecourse stables on a raceday
- **2nd April 2018** – notification of suprachoroidal cyclosporine implants
- **2nd April 2018** – 3-day stand down for horses withdrawn by stewards on veterinary advice

NTF meeting dates

REGION	DATE	VENUE
North	Monday 25 th June	Ripon Racecourse
South West	Monday 2 nd July	Taunton Racecourse
East	Wednesday 4 th July	Rowley Mile, Newmarket
South East	Monday 16 th July	Epsom Racecourse
Central South	Monday 23 rd July	Oaksey House, Lambourn
West Midland and Wales	Monday 30 th July	Wolverhampton before racing
NTF COUNCIL	Monday 6 th August	London