



## NTF WEEKLY – 27 NOVEMBER 2017

### **This Friday is the deadline for Lycetts Team Champion Award nominations**

Your team has a chance to win £4000 by sending us a nomination this week for the Lycetts Team Champion Award [#lycettsteamchampion](#). **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December is Deadline Day.**

It has been great to see the nominations that have already arrived. They are a reminder of the fantastic team spirit that makes working in a racing yard such a satisfying and enjoyable experience.

And there are benefits to taking part, whether or not your team is stepping up to receive the winning prize. Gain sufficient points on the nomination form scores and your yard becomes authorised to use the unique logo we are creating to denote a yard that has attained The Winning Approach standard.

A detailed explanation of the Award, a full copy of The Winning Approach, and a sample nomination form are all on the [NTF website here](#). Use the downloadable nomination form on the website for your entry. The winners will be presented with their awards at the NTF AGM on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018 at the Institute of Directors in London.

Our aim is to praise the best managed yards and showcase the positive results of developing a team that works well together. Together we can improve stable staff recruitment and retention rates by promoting the most successful ways in which racehorse trainers manage their staff and encouraging wider adoption of those ways of working.

### **Fair regulation is vital**

When the independent Appeal Board dismissed the BHA's appeal against the Disciplinary Panel's verdict on the positive test returned by Keep Moving, Philip Hobbs came out on the right side for the second time in a high profile appeal. Earlier this year, the NTF had supported his successful appeal to the Upper Lands Tribunal in a test case on non-domestic rates. We are grateful to our Legal Assistance team including Legal Executive, Dawn Bacchus, barrister Roderick Moore and Knights 1759 solicitors for their first class work in the latest case.

Trainers have expressed to us how vulnerable they feel to the unexplained presence of prohibited substances. The NTF has pressed the BHA in recent years to accept that when a trainer can show that he or she has done everything in their power to avoid the presence of a prohibited substance, there is justification for no penalty. The Appeal Board has now confirmed that the rules of racing endorse the NTF's position.

As you know, the BHA has stated it will seek a change in the rules so that the Responsible Person cannot escape a penalty if the source of the prohibited substance cannot be proved. The burden of identifying the source falls on the Responsible Person. We will vigorously resist such a change in the rules because, as Roderick Moore pointed out, "it would lead to trainers who have done everything right and absolutely nothing wrong" being hit with a penalty. It would offend against fair regulation.

### **BHA justifies declaration of wind surgery on basis of punter appeal**

Notification of specified wind operations is now obligatory and the notation WS will begin appearing in racecards from 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018 on the first occasion a horse runs following surgery.

The BHA's consultation began after our summer regional meetings but our Council conveyed its opinion to Nick Rust at its August meeting. It proposed an evidence-based approach. The first step would be to collect data from trainers about wind surgeries carried out over a two year period. That data would then be analysed to assess the extent to which different wind surgeries have a significant effect on the performance of a large enough cohort of horses to have some confidence in the value of information provided to bettors.

Although collation of evidence forms part of the new arrangements, the BHA's priority was to make available to the public information that might affect their betting behaviour.

The types of wind surgery to be declared are:

- Tie back (prosthetic laryngoplasty)
- Hobday (ventriculectomy/cordectomy)
- Epiglottic surgery
- Tie forward (dorsal displacement soft palate surgery)
- Soft palate cautery

The racecard will not display the specific type of wind surgery.

The declaration of wind surgeries will only be required for horses which have previously raced, regardless of whether this was in Great Britain or elsewhere. The declaration of a wind surgery will be required prior to declarations for the horse's first race start after it has been subjected to wind surgery. Where a horse is subjected to wind surgery on multiple occasions the declaration will be required on each occasion. The requirement to declare wind surgeries will apply equally to horses trained in Great Britain and horses trained overseas which are racing in Great Britain.

For more detail about the administrative requirements for trainers, please refer to the email sent to all trainers by the BHA on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November.

### **NH Flat Races at Newcastle**

Please note that throughout January and February, all NH Flat Races at Newcastle Racecourse will be run on the all-weather track.

### **Horses going to a vet centre are not insurable**

Please note that we are advised that injured horses being transported from the racecourse to a specialist veterinary centre for assessment and treatment are not insurable. You should instruct your travelling staff that they must not travel in the trailer with the horse.

### **Avoid incorrect collection of industry pension contribution**

Trainers who have auto enrolled are advised to check that all their employees are flagged as having 'other pension arrangements' on the Stable Employee Register to ensure that no contributions are collected for the Aviva/Friends Life industry pension scheme. The next pension run date is 1st December 2017 – if contributions are collected based on an incorrect Stable Employees Register entry, they cannot be reimbursed once processed by Aviva.

### **Brexit impact on staffing raised at politicians' visits**

A racing industry group is spearheading efforts to influence decisions about key issues caused by the UK's impending departure from the EU. Two major issues are movement of people and movement of horses and the BHA is ensuring that politicians understand the implications. Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP has written about his visit to Jackdaw's Castle in his latest newsletter, including this statement about access to labour after Brexit.

*"Last Friday's schedule began with a fascinating visit to Jonjo O'Neill's racing stables at Jackdaws Castle in Temple Guiting. My tour was conducted by Edward Gillespie, former Chief Executive of Cheltenham Racecourse, and included a detailed tour of the stables and horses with some interesting conversations with the stable lads and lasses.*

*"We then went outside to watch some horses on the gallops which was very poignant for me remembering my old point-to-point days. The purpose of my visit was to demonstrate the absolute necessity for the Government to do a Brexit deal which allows sufficient labour to enter from EU countries to support local industries in the Cotswolds such as racing, farming and tourism. Jonjo has about 140 horses in training and employs 50 staff along with providing indirect employment for a similar number of people in the local economy."*

You may be aware that earlier this year the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC), which advises the Government on immigration issues, called for evidence on the impact on the UK labour market of the UK's exit from the European Union and how the UK's immigration system should be aligned with a modern industrial strategy. The NTF and BHA composed a joint response for the MAC as well as contributing to a response by the Sports and Recreation Alliance to a request for information from the Department of Culture Media and Sport.

Meanwhile, in Lambourn on 21<sup>st</sup> November, Stan Moore hosted a visit by John Howarth, MEP for the South East, and his secretary Ben Farnes. Sarah Moore and Christina Dunlop were also on hand to explain how an end to the current Tripartite Agreement, which allows free movement of horses between Britain, Ireland and France, would lead to unacceptable and expensive delays and concerns for the welfare of horses.



## Regulation deadlines

- Pension auto enrolment staging dates
  - **Up to February 2018** for businesses started since April 2012
- **By the end of 2017** – original Racing Admin website will close.
- **30<sup>th</sup> October 2017** – New non-runner rules take effect: trainer's non-runner percentage, 2-day stand down for Vet Certificates; increased fine for non-runners after 9.00am
- **1<sup>st</sup> November 2017** – in handicaps, if after raising of weights, a horse rated 1lb or 2lbs above the rating band is set to carry more than 10.7 (flat) or 12.7 (jumps), the weights will be lowered so the top weight carried 10.7/12.7 and other weights lowered accordingly. Amateur races on flat – 12st.
- **21<sup>st</sup> November 2017** – notification of specified wind surgeries may be made on the Racing Admin website. Mandatory notification for any horse having its first run following surgery from 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

- **1<sup>st</sup> January 2018** – minimum ratings applies to all non-two year old Group 1 and non-novice Grade 1 races.
- **1<sup>st</sup> January 2018** – when extending declaration deadline, each trainer with a declaration will be deemed to have declared only one horse
- **1<sup>st</sup> January 2018** – microchip number on any horse under trainer’s care must be checked against the number in the passport
- **1<sup>st</sup> January 2018** – a horse may not be made a non-runner on a self-cert once the Declaration Sheet on the racecourse has been signed.
- **1<sup>st</sup> January 2018** – trainer becomes responsible for notifying the BHA when a mare in their care is pregnant.