

NTF WEEKLY UPDATE –30 AUGUST 2023 – Issue No. 1354

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INDUSTRY NEWS

[New Whip Rules in France](#)

From 1st September 2023 horses running in France will be disqualified when their jockeys use the whip nine times or more. This means the horse will be immediately excluded from the finishing order and the decision will be announced before bets on the race concerned are paid out. The aim of this rule is to further strengthen deterrence against whip abuse, with the

allowed number of ship strokes having been reduced to four on 1st May 2023. Further information can be found [here](#)

Migrants in horse boxes - first published in NTF Weekly 11th August 2023

Many of you will have seen Amy Murphy's tweet regarding their recent experience of migrants seeking to enter the UK by hiding in her horsebox which was travelling back from Deauville via the EuroTunnel – this highlights the importance remaining vigilant, locking doors and checking the lorry.

We thank Amy for sharing this experience and ensure all your travelling staff are aware of the potential issue

BHA - SERVING RACEHORSE OWNERS: PART 1

Owner fees - especially the ones relating to entry/dec handling fees.

The BHA is working to improve and simplify the administrative process for racehorse owners through Racing Digital – starting with changes to the fee structure, which will be introduced later in 2023. Part 1 is available via this link here:

<https://www.britishhorseracing.com/serving-racehorse-owners-part-1/>

On behalf of the Jockey Club in New York : IFAR – The International Forum for the Aftercare of Racehorses

The International Forum for the Aftercare of Racehorses (IFAR) announced 19 July that the third episode of the IFAR video magazine is now available. It features the important work retired racehorses are doing in the realm of human therapy. The [full episode](#), as well as [a highlight reel](#), can be found on the IFAR website as well as on [IFAR's YouTube channel](#).

The short film demonstrates how former racehorses are having a positive and profound effect on humans, whether they be aspiring Paralympians, military veterans, or prisoners. There is mounting evidence to show that retired racehorses are particularly well-suited to providing equine assisted services and equine assisted therapy, delivering life changing support to people affected by physical and/or mental health conditions.

Contact: Andrew Chesser

info@internationalracehorseaftercare.com

+1 (859) 224-2741

EMPLOYMENT

Health and Safety - manual handling

We mentioned in a recent weekly about inductions and how they can be help in defending a personal injury claim. It is important to have the proper practices in place to seek to avoid or minimise the risk of injury in the first place, but also to help employers and their insurers when a claim is received. Our spotlight this week is on manual handling – you should have a risk assessment in place for manual handling tasks and there is a template and information in the new BHA “red book” on www.racing2learn.com. The Health and Safety Executive has information and a booklet with pictures showing good lifting practice <https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg143.htm> and if you use an external health and safety adviser you may ask them to do training for you. As with any other training it should be done at the start of employment and then refreshed, ideally yearly, and make sure that you keep records of training and have those signed by the employee

Racing Industry Accident Benefit Scheme (RIABS) - contributions and the importance of keeping the SER (stable employee register) up to date

The weekly contribution for employees who are eligible for RIABS is £7, divided 50/50 by the employer and employee. Weatherbys administer the contributions and deduct the annual employer contribution from the trainers account for all eligible employees on the 1st April, and the Employee contributions are also deducted from the trainer account but retrospectively every 13 weeks for eligible employees during that period. Weatherbys provide a statement of the charges. Trainers may deduct the RIABS employee contribution of £3.50 per week from the employees' net pay.

Note the eligibility for RIABS is for paid employees aged 16 and 65. Once an employee reaches 65 years old they are no longer eligible for RIABS.

The NTF advises a couple of alternatives for employees not eligible for RIABS e.g., over 65 and self-employed workers :

- [British Grooms Association](http://www.britishgrooms.org.uk) links to the details of their insurance with the Platinum Membership. Contact : Lucy Katan email : lucy.katan@britishgrooms.org.uk

- Lycetts Insurance offer a separate policy for employees or self-employed not eligible for RIABS Contact : Piers Plunkett email : piers.plunkett@lycetts.co.uk

Apprentice and Conditional Jockeys who have reached 75 rides in the previous season will no longer be eligible for RIABS and be covered in total by PRIS. Weatherbys RIABS contributions will cease at that point.

Reminder – to advise your payroll not to deduct the RIABS contributions from the paid employees when they reach the age of 65 or the Apprentice and Conditional Jockeys after their 75th ride in the previous season.

More information for RIABS is available on the NTF website for everyone [here](#).

MEMBER SERVICES

Contacting the NTF

When ringing the NTF office and your call is redirected to answerphone please leave a message. There are occasions when we are unable to take a call but we will respond to the message as soon as we're able. Contact details and roles are here: [The NTF Executive](#)

NTF RACING DIARY 2024

Preparation for the NTF Racing Dairy 2024 is underway. Will you please advise any change to your address and contact details and names of contacts to diary@racehorsetrainers.org the current details we have are shown on the NTF website, available [here](#)

Nathan Taylor - Reducing the risk of a positive test

A reminder for members that we have joined with Nathan Taylor from NTT Sporting Investigations to offer a discounted service for NTF members which includes a full survey of your training premises identifying areas of potential compromise in relation to cross contamination and biosecurity, an on site consultation with key staff members in respect of best practice enabling you to improve onsite processes immediately and a comprehensive report highlighting any identified areas of potential compromise, along with a bespoke user friendly, anti - contamination positive sample prevention strategy.

Nathan has agreed to offer a 15% discount to NTF members which will be matched by the NTF, meaning a total discount of 30%.

For more information please click [HERE](#) or visit www.nttsportinginvestigations.com

Alternatively, contact:

Nathan Taylor

Email Info@nttsportinginvestigations.com

Phone 07462 530846

The value of this service will be understood and appreciated by trainers who have been unfortunate enough to have a positive test through contamination and who have faced the challenge of showing that all reasonable precautions were taken and that no penalty should be applied.

Members can also find an updated menu of documents on good practice (feedstuffs, medication management and human medication) and these can be found in the Horse Welfare area of the website

UPCOMING EVENTS

NTF Regional Forums Confirmed for the Autumn

- **South West and Wales Region** on Monday **16th October** at Taunton Racecourse
- **South East Region** on Wednesday **18th October** at Lingfield Racecourse
- **Scotland and the North Region** Monday **6th November** at Newcastle Racecourse
- **Midlands and Central North Region** Monday **20th November** at York Racecourse
- **Central South Region** on Tuesday **21st November** at Oaksey House
- **East Region** on Tuesday **28th November** at Newmarket Rowley Mile Racecourse

Agenda to follow 1 week before the meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Direct Vision Standards for London

From next year the Direct Vision Standards legislation comes into effect in London. Therefore any horsebox over 12tonne going into London must be fitted with cameras and audible warnings of turning and reversing. This should not affect trainers as racecourses are situated outside of the zone however Heathrow Airport is within the zone.

For more information on DVS <https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/deliveries-in-london/delivering-safely/direct-vision-in-heavy-goods-vehicles>

For more information on ULEZ <https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/ultra-low-emission-zone/ulez-where-and-when>

PRE-TRAINING YARD FOR RENT AT BOTTISHAM HEATH STUD (POA)

Set in a secure, immaculate, tranquil setting, the stud is a haven for both horses and staff. Ideal for a new starter or established pre-trainer or spelling operation.

- ▶ 25 boxes (10 additional available)
- ▶ Claydon horse walker
- ▶ Lunge ring
- ▶ 2 turnout pens
- ▶ 8 furlong Polytrack gallop
- ▶ 3 bed semi-detached cottage with enclosed garden (by separate negotiation)
- ▶ Grazing available

Where: Bottisham Heath Stud, Six Mile Bottom, Newmarket, CB8 0TT.

Contact: Katy@robertcowellracing.co.uk Tel: 01638 570330

For Sale :

Racewood simulator for sale, very low mileage, for full details contact Laura@trippetts.com

£16,000 or sensible offer and located in Sussex.