

# NTF WEEKLY UPDATE – 31st May 2023 – Issue No. 1344

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## INDUSTRY

### NATWEST BANK

We understand that National Westminster bank has advised a trainer that its current policy does not allow them to lend to their business. We have sought clarification from the bank about this policy and they have advised that their current position is not to lend to the businesses of any racehorse trainer. In response to a request for the rationale behind this decision, Natwest were only able to confirm only that “lending to businesses associated to racecourse trainers currently falls outside the bank’s appetite”. Please be aware that this is likely to affect all trainers who bank with Natwest.

### Racing Post Cold List

Following feedback from trainers, we have recently been in discussions with Tom Kerr at the Racing post about publication of the 'Cold list'. Whilst Tom, understandably, felt that there is a need to publish information that is informative to Racing Post readers, he did agree that the current methodology for collation of the data could be unfavourable to the smaller trainer. In the past a change was made that saw trainers excluded from the list if they have had at least 25% of runners placed but a new addition to this is that trainers who average fewer than two runners per week will also be excluded, something that we understand has removed around 50% of smaller trainers from the cold list.

### NTF Jump and Flat Committees

Following the decision of the BHA Board recently to amalgamate the Industry Racing Group and Fixtures Group we feel that there is a requirement to create opportunities for trainers to discuss Race Planning matters with the BHA. In order to facilitate this, we are seeking to recruit trainers with an interest in race planning matters to join our Flat and Jump committees. The intent will be for each Committee to meet twice a year, in London, for around two hours and we are aiming for members of the groups to be a blend of those who sit on the NTF Council and those who do not. In addition, we intend to include two independent representatives from Racings media to provide their input. If you would like to get involved with the NTF and have the chance to steer race planning policy within the sport, please contact Paul at [p.johnson@racehorsetrainers.org](mailto:p.johnson@racehorsetrainers.org)

### Racing Grapevine

The Racing Post has recently launched a new column entitled the Racing Grapevine. This runs every Monday and aims to provide the sport with a weekly digest of interesting news about people working in Racing. To that end, they are appealing for submissions from professionals about any items of news they might have to share. Examples that are of interest include: the arrival of a new owner, appointment of senior staff, appointment of apprentice/conditional or retained jockeys, yard expansion or other development, yard moves etc.

Submissions can be made to [racinggrapevine@racingpost.com](mailto:racinggrapevine@racingpost.com).

### Job adverts

The recent staffing survey has been extremely helpful and has formed part of our submission to the Migration Advisory Committee. It has been suggested that the high number of vacancies is not reflected in the number of adverts on the Careers in Racing website and that more could be made of that platform in sourcing staff. Similarly, the Racing Groom website is available to trainers who are seeking staff and would be interested in posting their profile.

<https://racinggroom.com/>

<https://jobs.careersinracing.com/>

### Great British Racing International (GBRI) Members' Club

The GBRI Members' Club is an exclusive complimentary club for international owners with at least one horse in training in Great Britain, offering benefits and privileges such as the possibility to request for up to four raceday badges via a special RCA badge for Club members (selected race meetings do not apply), full GBRI concierge services and numerous lifestyle benefits with Club partners.

Trainers can nominate their international owners to the Club via the nomination form located on this page: <https://www.greatbritishracinginternational.com/own/members-club>

## RACE PLANNING

### JETS - Message to Jumps Trainers

JETS, PJA and GBR are hosting a two day Jockey Ambassador training programme on July 13 & 14 at Sandown Park. If you have a jockey riding for you who you think would be a good candidate to take part, please encourage them to [apply here](#). Applications close on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

### Important Race Planning Changes for Programme Book 2

Following industry wide consultation through the Racing Group and other sub committees the following changes will be introduced for Programme Book 2 and beyond, unless otherwise stated.

- 6-Y-Os will no longer be eligible to run in National Hunt Flat races as of 1<sup>st</sup> May, underpinned by a 3.6% reduction in NHF races in PB2. For the avoidance of doubt, this means that 6yos will be allowed in NH Flat races every year until 1<sup>st</sup> May but will not be allowed after that date.
- The maximum number of runs in National Hunt Flat races has been reduced from four runs to three runs as of 1st June, with the exception of Class 1 races. A fourth run in a National Hunt Flat race will be permitted if the race is a Pattern or Listed Race and a

fifth run permitted if the race is a Pattern Race (not Listed) during the same season as the fourth run.

- The WFA Novices' Chase programme has been removed entirely from Programme Book 2, with races replaced by a programme of Class 3 Novices' Limited Handicap Chases. As a result 33 Class 3 Novices' Limited Handicap Chases programmed.
- +1/+2 system removed in all Jump handicaps from June-September.
- July and August: Maximum number of programmed races 6 other than where the total prize money is £200,000 or above. Meetings will be allowed to divide a 7th and 8th race.
- Increased cap on races to divide from £8k in handicaps and £10k in non-handicaps, to £12k across the board.
- From March to August, racecourses must programme at least one Novice, Maiden or Juvenile WFA Hurdle, reduced from three races for every two meetings in March to June, leading to an overall 3% reduction.

It is worth re-iterating that the Summer Jumping Programme is a National Programme, with the horse population unable to service duplicate programmes in the north and south. Therefore, horses in training during the summer can expect to travel for their opportunity, in particular at Class 3 and above. Whilst the BHA have been able to make mitigation for regional opportunities at the lower levels, some degree of travel may still be required.

## MEMBER SERVICES

### [NTF Website Spotlight - Reducing the risk of cross-contamination](#)

A reminder that in the [Horse Welfare](#) area of the NTF website, members can access guidance and policies on reducing the risk of cross contamination in the yard, including from human medication as well as cross contamination between horses. There are, of course, potential sources of contamination which are outside of the trainer's control but these documents set out some good practice steps for trainers and their staff.

## EMPLOYMENT

[Support from HMRC - Paying the National Minimum Wage \(NMW\) correctly and protecting your workers' rights is a vital part of being an employer.](#)

It is easy to make mistakes with the National Minimum wage and find that deductions or payment arrangements have inadvertently reduced the wage below NMW.

### **Joint NMW, GLAA and EAS webinar – Decent Work**

HMRC's NMW team is offering a live webinar where they will be joined by colleagues from GLAA and EAS – talking through the concept of Decent Work, and how employers can protect their workers' rights.

[Register now to book your place](#)

ACAS - Highlighting our [HR for beginners](#) training session.

This is valuable training designed for those needing a refresher in HR or for those needing to learn the essentials of HR and employment law.

We will introduce you to the fundamentals of employing people and map the employment relationship from recruitment, issuing contracts, managing holidays, absence and disciplinary matters, through to ending the employment relationship.

[View more details or book onto an upcoming event](#)

## EVENTS

### [National Racehorse Week – 9th-17th September 2023](#)

**LAST CHANCE** to host an open day for National Racehorse Week

Sign-ups for National Racehorse Week close tomorrow, 31 May. Don't miss out on this opportunity for the racing industry to unite and open its doors to the British public to showcase the fantastic care that racehorses receive.

From Stud to retirement, National Racehorse Week aims to demonstrate racing's commitment to horse welfare and show that the horse is at the heart of all we do.

Sign up before tomorrow, 31 May, via the link below to host an Open Day during National Racehorse Week and also get involved with hosting or being a part of a community event, for example: school visit, charity visit, care home visit and much more.

### [National Racehorse Week 2023](#)

Or if you would like more information on how your yard can get involved, please contact NRW Project Manager, Sally Lyons – [slyons@greatbritishracing.com](mailto:slyons@greatbritishracing.com)

