

NATIONAL TRAINERS FEDERATION AND LYCETTS ANNOUNCE A NEW AWARD IN BRITISH RACING

- **Team Champion will celebrate stables with best team ethos**
- **Core objectives include retention of stable staff and safe working practices**
- **Development of award will continue in 2017 with first winner announced in February 2018**

The National Trainers Federation (NTF) and sponsors Lycetts are announcing the creation of a new award for racing stables throughout Britain.

The title “Team Champion” will be awarded annually to the stable that has in place employment practices that create the highest performing team ethos.

One of the key challenges facing trainers and British racing is the attraction and retention of skilled racing grooms and riders. This award has been created and structured to

- Encourage employee management practices that attract and retain talent.
- Celebrate examples of management practices that are successful in retaining staff in training yards
- Demonstrate the positive results of doing so through a team that works well together.
- Spread the message about safe and optimal working practices.
- Demonstrate to the world outside racing that for anyone who wants to work with horses, British racehorse trainers provide the best jobs, the most rewarding jobs and best supported jobs anywhere in the equine sector.

Judging criteria

The award will be judged using two sets of criteria:

1. Methods trainers are using to employ and retain staff; and
2. Safe working practices.

Before we finalise the structure of the award, we will be asking for our members’ ideas about the method of assessment. Once trainers have been invited to participate, we will regularly publicise the ways they have chosen to achieve the criteria through the period until the selection of the final shortlist in January 2018.

Prize and rewards for participating

Research shows that high levels of employee engagement improve business performance. Teams that wish to do so will be provided with a personal development programme from our chosen consultants. This training will be worth hundreds of pounds and will benefit the business and staff wellbeing.

Trainers participating in the awards will enhance their reputation as an employer, helping them to improve recruitment to their yard.

Lycetts sponsorship will fund an item of infrastructure or equipment from which all in the winning yard will benefit. The item will be chosen together by the trainer and staff of each participating yard at the outset of the competition and therefore everyone will have an incentive to win.

Speaking at the NTF's Annual General Meeting at the Institute of Directors in London, Rupert Arnold, Chief Executive of the NTF, said "It is important for the NTF, as the body supporting employers, to take a lead role in initiatives to tackle staff shortages. The workplace is our main focus and the Team Champion Award integrates with several projects we are working on relating to management practices and employee engagement for racing grooms and riders.

"We are looking for ways to recognise the role that trainers and their staff acting as a team plays in developing the foundations for a successful racing stable. It has become the norm for trainers to acknowledge the team effort that brings success on the racecourse. Team Champion aims to identify the building blocks of that team success, encourage wider adoption of those ways of working and celebrate the stables that do it well."

On behalf of the Lycetts, the insurance broker and financial services firm that is backing the Team Champion Award, Piers Plunket commented, "Those of us at Lycetts that provide liability coverages to equestrian facilities all over the country, believe this award will go a long way to improving the employment experience of staff in racing yards. We jumped at the chance to be part of this award to help identify, publicise and help provide this best practice ideal to all training establishments in British racing. We believe that everyone in the yard can play a part in the process of keeping the likelihood for accidents to occur to a minimum, helping to keep the claims experience low."

Timeline

The NTF used its AGM on 23rd February 2017 to announce and publicise the concept of the award.

On 1st May, full details of how trainers enter the award and judging criteria will be finalised. All NTF members will be invited to participate in the 2017 competition with the first winner of the NTF Lycetts Team Champion Award announced and presented at the 2018 AGM (and annually thereafter.)

The National Trainers Federation represents the interests of British licensed racehorse trainers.

For more information, please contact Rupert Arnold, NTF Chief Executive, on 01488 71794 or 07899 797010. E-mail: r.arnold@racehorsetrainers.org

Piers Plunket, Associate Director at Lycetts, can be contacted on 07970 540537

For more information on the National Trainers Federation, please go to www.racehorsetrainers.org

For more information on Lycetts, go to www.lycetts.co.uk/