

Summary of responses to Trainer Survey on Sunday evening racing

Headline data

Total Respondents	136		
Did not have runners	60	44%	<div style="width: 44%; background-color: #4F81BD; height: 10px;"></div>
Had runners	76	56%	<div style="width: 56%; background-color: #4F81BD; height: 10px;"></div>

Attendance by trainer

Attended	42	55%	<div style="width: 55%; background-color: #4F81BD; height: 10px;"></div>
Did not attend	34	45%	<div style="width: 45%; background-color: #4F81BD; height: 10px;"></div>

Reasons given for running

The only suitable race for my horses within the next few weeks took place	32	42%	<div style="width: 42%; background-color: #4F81BD; height: 10px;"></div>
My owner gave me no choice	9	12%	<div style="width: 12%; background-color: #4F81BD; height: 10px;"></div>
The high prize money	56	74%	<div style="width: 74%; background-color: #4F81BD; height: 10px;"></div>
I have no issues with working on a Sunday evening	8	11%	<div style="width: 11%; background-color: #4F81BD; height: 10px;"></div>
I recognise that the sport has to seek to generate more income	15	20%	<div style="width: 20%; background-color: #4F81BD; height: 10px;"></div>
Other (please specify below)	5	7%	<div style="width: 7%; background-color: #4F81BD; height: 10px;"></div>

Reasons for not having runners

There was no suitable race within the programme	15	20%	<div style="width: 20%; background-color: #4F81BD; height: 10px;"></div>
I could not get staff members to cover	14	18%	<div style="width: 18%; background-color: #4F81BD; height: 10px;"></div>
I have concerns over work/life balance within business	30	39%	<div style="width: 39%; background-color: #4F81BD; height: 10px;"></div>
My owners are not supportive of Sunday evening racing	21	28%	<div style="width: 28%; background-color: #4F81BD; height: 10px;"></div>
I am opposed to the concept of Sunday evening racing	39	51%	<div style="width: 51%; background-color: #4F81BD; height: 10px;"></div>
Other (please specify below)	4	5%	<div style="width: 5%; background-color: #4F81BD; height: 10px;"></div>
I had problems booking a jockey	2	3%	<div style="width: 3%; background-color: #4F81BD; height: 10px;"></div>
My horse was eliminated	2	3%	<div style="width: 3%; background-color: #4F81BD; height: 10px;"></div>
I am (largely) a Jump trainer	23	30%	<div style="width: 30%; background-color: #4F81BD; height: 10px;"></div>

General Feedback	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I am supportive of the concept of Sunday evening racing	7%	11%	14%	36%	32%
I was able to adequately find staff to work the Sunday evenings	11%	31%	22%	20%	16%
I would have been able to staff the meetings adequately without the additional payment made by the racecourses	0%	11%	16%	24%	49%
I found the process for incentive payments to staff to be clear and easy to administer	9%	38%	19%	28%	5%
Staffing Sunday evening fixtures did not have a knock-on effect on weekly rotas	3%	9%	15%	45%	28%

Conditions for support for continuation

Minimum prize money of £145,000 per fixture	52	38%	<div style="width: 38%; background-color: #4F81BD; height: 10px;"></div>
Continuation of enhanced jockey payments	12	9%	<div style="width: 9%; background-color: #4F81BD; height: 10px;"></div>
Continuation of incentives for staff members in attendance	50	37%	<div style="width: 37%; background-color: #4F81BD; height: 10px;"></div>
Introduction of direct payments to trainers sending runners, whether in attendance or not	33	24%	<div style="width: 24%; background-color: #4F81BD; height: 10px;"></div>
Inclusion of trainers working as staff on the evening in staffing incentives	37	27%	<div style="width: 27%; background-color: #4F81BD; height: 10px;"></div>
Substantial new revenue for the sport	40	29%	<div style="width: 29%; background-color: #4F81BD; height: 10px;"></div>
Not applicable - the trial should be discontinued	69	51%	<div style="width: 51%; background-color: #4F81BD; height: 10px;"></div>
Other (please specify below)	10	7%	<div style="width: 7%; background-color: #4F81BD; height: 10px;"></div>

General comments	+/-
I think it's tough on the staff, the schedule is exhausting and relentless!	-
I do not support Sunday evening racing no matter what the incentives. We're all exhausted and the racing schedule is already completely relentless. The horses need a break on a Sunday never mind the humans staffing these fixtures.	-
I don't support in under any circumstances	-
It was great for small trainers we had a winner of which the prize money was beneficial, we would have had to of won 3 normal races at that level to get those winnings. I also occasionally lead my own horses up if I need staff to be left at home and my wife drives the lorry she is also on my staff list the incentive mentioned above for trainers to be paid when using themselves as staff would be highly beneficial especially for the small trainers/yards.	+
If they can provide money for Sunday racing why can't they try and do that during the week nor regularly, especially when the bookmakers claimed it wasn't that beneficial?	0

<p>Don't be naive enough to listen to bookmakers telling you that turnover was better because it was on a Sunday evening. Turnover was better because prize money was higher so field sizes were bigger and more competitive. As always, prize money is all that matters. If you took the prize money of these fixtures back to normal levels for similar races of that type, we would simply not have runners.</p> <p>And if they want to continue to bang the drum that Sunday evening is a high performing window in terms of turnover, then what periods of the week are low performing? Monday afternoons? Tuesday afternoons? Give us one of those periods back then, don't just keep spreading the cake thinner and thinner as soon we'll be 10am to 10pm Monday to Sunday and no more than greyhound racing.</p>	-
<p>In small yards where there is only the trainer and 1-2 members of staff, when horses are away racing it means the whole workforce has to cover duties, whether at the racetrack or yard. All year round, a 'sunday off' consists of early morning yard duties, only then with a few hours of 'private life time', to then return to do tea duties in the yard.</p> <p>If there is the substance of finance to put on dramatic extra payments for staff, jockeys, prize money etc on a Sunday, why on earth have we been struggling for so long on a Monday to Saturday with such horrendously low prize money coming back?</p>	-
<p>Just for once please listen to participant's calls, Sunday evening racing will add fire to an already obvious staff crisis and work/life balance - driving a train to crash in slow motion that's racing. Racecourses or namely ARC are siphoning off racing proceeds leaving us all out to dry. When will enough be enough to stop companies like ARC, who only have their shareholders interests at heart, controlling the sport which has been given away so cheaply?</p>	-
<p>We race from morning and often into the night 364 days a year. We race throughout the week and intensively on Saturdays. Abroad and domestically on Sundays. To add in Sunday evenings when staff are fully stretched and exhausted is both irresponsible and reprehensible. It will prove impossible to attract young people to work in this industry with such demands and it has all been done to fill the only remaining betting slot. We have only had one runner and I remain convinced it is a terrible directive. Maybe the authorities should consider a non racing day every week because our business model is to stack it high and sell it cheap thereby devaluing our racing product. The tail is wagging the dog and soon the horse population will not be able to adequately serve the racing program and particularly in the better grades of quality racing which are our shop window.</p>	-
<p>Trainers comments to me: No allocation of payment for the box drivers - less want to drive on a Sunday evening than staff want to go with the horses. Disrupts the rest of the week as the staff need time to relax Sunday is a family day, most have young family. Owners don't want to go out on a Sunday evening. The bonus isn't enough as the staff get 50% due to tax and autoenrolment. Administration takes a long time. Discussing with the staff takes up a lot of time. Calling the BHA and Weatherbys to sort when an error takes a long time e.g., staff who haven't swiped their cards. Staff who lead up four horses only receive as if one or two.</p>	-
<p>I totally disagree with Sunday evening Racing</p>	-
<p>Shouldn't persevere with Sunday racing in my opinion. Less race meetings with more prize money is the answer.</p>	-
<p>I think it is a step too far for staff and has only had runners due to enhanced prize money which could have been used to bolster the PM for all lower grade racing</p>	-
<p>It's potentially very disruptive</p> <p>1) those who do go are "over rewarded " for one day in the week compared with staff going on other days , 2)they should then have paid time off during the week, 3)if those who go are due to work that Sunday we have to pay someone else to cover for them ,who again will be entitled to time off in lieu . 4) we are on call 24/7 and Sunday evening should be sacrosanct.</p> <p>Ok we are in the entertainment industry so to ameliorate the above we need a lot more than we are receiving which is nothing.</p>	-
<p>I am only in favour of Sunday evening racing if the prizemoney continues to be at the same level as it was during the trial. Most trainers were in attendance "hands on" so why aren't trainers entitled to some kind of appearance money? Why only jockeys and staff, when trainers are the ones that made these Sunday evening fixtures possible.</p>	0
<p>I am against Sunday Evening racing because I do not think it is good for society to be encouraged to race on a Sunday, let alone a Sunday evening, which is the evening before everyone should be working the next day. If this is what racing needs to keep it in business, it is very sad. Sunday racing really does reduce EVERYONE'S quality of life, because even the race-goers are too tired to do a day's work the next day, let alone the stable staff. I do appreciate that Sunday racing is necessary to keep 'Racing's Share' of spectators, but Sunday Evening racing is very unnecessary and a detriment to society.</p>	-
<p>Family members attended and looked after the runners as staff members are already exhausted and they have a right to say no. We are constantly running 3 members of staff short and without family, after over 50 years in the business - would have to leave racing. Everyone that has left my employment in the last few years, has left racing. The continued exploitation of staff with never ending night meetings is abhorrent and totally against a modern societies view of work/leisure balance. To be a female with young children, there isn't a more discriminatory industry available to work in.</p> <p>Giving the jockeys extra payments or targeting 'second tier' jockeys doesn't help the staff. The jockeys jump in a car, arrive an hour before and straight home 10 minutes after the race. They have no slow journey on a horsebox. They already get paid to ride.</p> <p>Why would you pay Haggas, Gosden, Appleby et al, to have Sunday runners and not attend? Have we found a money tree?? Maybe make it mandatory that trainers with runners should attend - Sunday evening racing wouldn't last a month!</p> <p>Regardless of what evidence is used, we all know, the pilot will be claimed a success. In 5 years time, we will have low grade racing filling every Sunday night - in the same way that despite early assurances on Sunday afternoons, they have evolved into low grade canon fodder for the bookies. The industry is hell bent on finishing itself.</p>	-
<p>would agree if there were to be a blank day for racing, preferably on a Monday.</p>	0

Prize money is woefully inadequate for most evening winter racing and staff should be getting attendance money for all winter evening meetings. Getting home at 11pm and midnight plus in the middle of winter should not be acceptable without reward !!	-
- Travel incentives for horses running, distributed directly to the owner. - Restrict Sunday evening to jockeys that have not won X amount of races in past 12 months.	0
Sunday racing is a terrible concept, there is already far too much racing, it is not being done for the benefit of racing, the horses or staff and trainers whose families already put up with ridiculous hours and long weeks. We dont have the staff to staff it and my owners wont support it. In my opinion it is wholly wrong for our sport and it should be stopped..	-
Having sat years ago on the jockey club board to discuss sunday racing we are so far away nowadays from what was originally proposed back then ie two feature races with enhanced prize money £300 attendance etc, i can only see sunday evening racing going the same way, what guarentees are in place ? Do we really need it, you can see quite clearly the value of sunday racing as in attendance, once more to benefit racecourses, but as far as i could see at Newcastle evening there was no uplift in attendance, are we doing it to link in with America ? Being a small yard with few staff, it will be impossible to staff going forward. you dont get sunday lunch on a monday !	-
I don't regard it as any more of an inconvenience than Sunday afternoon racing (which I dislike) - they both mess up the Sunday equally. With Sunday evening racing one gets home later, but doesn't have to leave home so early. I think it's important, if it is to continue, that the existing financial inducements continue because one is going to have to pay the staff considerably more than usual. (And, realistically, very few owners will want their horse to run at such an inconvenient time). Sunday afternoon racing, which similarly is more expensive to attend, began like this with appearance money to provide the extra money for the staff's double time, but that has subsequently & wrongly been discontinued.	0
I strongly believe there is not a need for evening fixtures on a Sunday. There is plenty of racing in the week and with a staffing shortage I feel it's unfair to add additional meetings on a Sunday, where even if staff are working a weekend on it's seen as an easy day & this is needed for a work/life balance. I would find it hard to believe that there is a strong need for these fixtures & that there can't be a huge enough public attendance to make this worth doing for the racecourses?	-
When Sunday racing was introduced it several years ago it was supposed high prize money and top racing but its became no different to midweek fodder. I really hope we do not go down the same road again the extra prize money and incentives do help but it puts a big strain on the yard. If the powers that run racing say it's been a success then maybe they can support the other days of the week with the same incentives.	-
Money talks!	0
I would only run horses if the owner insisted on their horse running I feel the whole industry is under pressure with staffing issues, it is hard enough to attract people into working in Racing as it is especially for the smaller trainer and I feel adding further work load is causing a lot of unrest, with everyone short staffed as it is it is not easy to give staff alternative time off especially with there already being so many meetings on during the week.	-
Like everything in this sport - the horsemen's views will be ignored. The promise of increased revenue will last for so long until it becomes bedded in then it will just become another evening of dross. I could not be more against this.	-
It's a terrible idea and just adds another negative for encouraging people into the sport. No consideration has been put into the people who work in the sport.	-
Trying to encourage work life balance and then to put Sunday evening racing in the mix is just clueless	-
It should provide substantial new revenue to the sport otherwise I do not see any other benefits from the Sunday evenings.	0
I feel this is an own goal. In an era when problem gambling is coming under the spotlight, this slot is merely catering TO the problem gambler. We are meant to be helping with this problem not adding to it. It is also a "genie out the bottle" moment. Once we agree to this we can never go back, they will start reducing prize money and we will be worse off than before. As far as I am concerned this is a line in the sand that should not be crossed. This should end now.	-
If the prize money can be such an incentive on a Sunday why can't it continue throughout the week? Do organisers take into consideration our staffs home life? It is so important to have a work life balance!! Sunday day racing is one thing, but evening racing is another!! Do organisers understand the hours staff work: not able to leave until an hour after the horse has ran and then road closures etc etc. I'd love somebody from BHA to have a day in the life of our stable staff!	-
The whole staffing issue is completely unacceptable on a Sunday evening & I definitely feel that without the incentive payments, I will struggle to find people happy to continue to attend.	-
We have one evening a week when we don't race. I have a young family and would love to spend time with them. The financial benefits will be minimal, the prize money will drop, and it should not be continued. Please please please don't allow Sunday night racing to go ahead	-
If Sunday evening racing is going to be successful and have a place in the weekly calendar we need a day off in the week for staff - probably Monday would make sense	0

<p>The prize money fund that was made available for Sunday evening fixtures should anyway be made available for other fixtures within the calendar. While we are lucky enough to have won one of the races on a Sunday evening fixture, it has only made a small difference to my finances when there should be more opportunity to race for this kind of prize money anyway. My wife and I have both had to sacrifice our 'rest' day along with one or two members of staff and it an additional stress which adds to an already evening heavy racing calendar all year. I don't think that evening meetings serve any other purpose than the one mentioned by Julie Harrington when she said that overseas betting patterns are busier during the evening period and if that is the case then it is not even benefiting British Racing or any of the people who work 24/7 to put racing on. Trainers are under more pressure mentally and financially than ever before, which is why so many have already handed their licences in over the last couple of years. We do not support Sunday evening racing in any shape or form it makes a mockery of the mantra about 'work /life balance' and mental health awareness because you have no option but to enter a race with bigger prize money, but no-one even goes to watch on a Sunday evening in the winter so it isn't to benefit or encourage the racing public in the UK.</p>	-
<p>I have no problem with supporting Sunday evening racing if this is our ONLY option to have a higher level of prizemoney on offer. However, I strongly disagree with the fact that all horsemen are expected to work seven day weeks. If Sunday evening racing is to continue then, like with many other racing jurisdictions, we MUST have one blank day of racing EVERY week in order for staff to have a rest period. The staffing crisis is something that has been an ongoing issue in the industry for many years now without any resolution. Surely this must be addressed as a priority in order for us to facilitate such demands. Horsemen cannot continue with this relentless work load with no work/life balance in place which is the main contributing factor to why most people leave the industry and/or are not interested in getting involved in the industry.</p>	0
<p>I am concerned that bookmaker turnover generated at these meetings compared to mid-week meetings is misconstrued. I would argue that any increase in turnover generated is because higher prize money leads to more competitive racing which in turn encourages people to bet. I feel this would be the same if prize money was as high on a Friday evening for example.</p>	-
<p>I do NOT support Sunday evening racing, it is pushing us to breaking point, even the pit ponies used to get a rest. I had no choice to go as it was the only race but this is a time bomb that will end in disaster. NO more of this ridiculous idea.</p>	-
<p>My staff are racing under floodlights non stop. Continuous late nights and no break. At some point there is going to be a serious accident be it on the track or roads as there is no consideration for health and welfare. Completely unfair and Sunday nights were the only time people had to call their own. Comparing statistics with any other fixture returns is totally flawed. There will be no staff left in racing alert from the large yards who aren't attending anyway.</p>	-
<p>I would be far more supportive of Sunday Evening Racing if consistent code dark days were found in the following week. Particularly if they became regular.</p> <p>The major flaw of this trial is that it does not replicate the intense effect that racing every Sunday evening would have.</p> <p>The meetings appeared to be very poorly marketed - we can not generate extra betting turnover without a much more cohesive marketing strategy for the sport that drives customer engagement. Since the revenues are controlled by the venues they should be largely responsible for funding this, with participants being prepared to contribute and being available for interviews and coverage etc.</p>	0
<p>Until we provide more information to the betting public and reduce fixtures I am not a supporter of Sunday evening racing.</p>	-
<p>I agree with Sunday racing but I think there should be one day in most weeks where there is no racing, a rest day for staff and Jockeys.</p>	+
<p>If you speak to most trainers and jockeys they feel that we are being pushed into doing something no one wants, but many are too worried to voice their real opinions. Any owners that I speak to are also not in favour of Sunday evening racing.</p>	-
<p>364 days and evenings of racing is impossible to staff. Sunday evenings are sacrosanct. Staff cannot continue to service the fixture list especially with the heavy load of Fridays and weekends. The horse population will be unable to service the fixture list unless it is the intention to drag British Racing down to the lowest common denominator of endless low grade handicaps.</p>	-
<p>We are struggling to keep staff in this industry despite your, and our, best efforts In my role as northern mental welfare Consultant for Trainers I have visited a couple of these fixtures and discussed with both staff and trainers what their position is. 75% of trainers with runners I spoke to are unwilling to let owners down or risk losing them so they go with the horses themselves if they cannot get staff to work. It is having SERIOUS consequences on their well being, family life and relationships. It appears to be a similar situation with the staff I spoke with from 8 smaller yards (less than 50 horses) The ONLY people this will benefit are the small number of big trainers who have staff to cover or budget to get transport companies to take the horses racing. You will definitely see negative consequences in family life amongst the racing community if you continue with sunday evening racing amongst both staff and trainers The knock on effect of this will then continue as you can work out down the line, including staffing figures, mental health, sickness leave, fewer trainers, less horses in training etc etc</p>	-
<p>It is nigh on impossible to manage staff in a small yard where you are continually having to give them time off in the week because they have raced on a Sunday evening. Staff need to have time outside Racing and by taking up their Sundays is adding to the problem we have of encouraging new people into our industry. Having a day off in the week doesn't help when their partner and mates are at work. Sunday evening Racing is a bad idea!! I am sure that if the concept is continued that in no time the financial incentives will be reduced just as they have with normal Sunday Racing.</p>	-
<p>Prize money should be distributed more evenly during weekday fixtures at a minimum of 145k & give trainers jockeys & staff there Sunday evenings back to have some downtime. It's hard enough getting staff to work weekends as it is.</p>	-
<p>I have had to take the horse myself but do not receive any payment for it in the incentives which i assumed i would hence attending. Being a member of staff and taking the horses Racing myself is the only way i earn money so to not have been paid when i assumed i would be i was very unhappy</p>	-

<p>If they continue it, they need to continue to incentivise the payments to staff and include trainers as staff as they have had to give up their Sunday evening as well</p>	<p>0</p>
<p>We would not support Sunday evening racing if the incentives were withdrawn.</p> <p>If the Sunday evening racing is so vital for revenue could there be a weekday when the number of fixtures could be reduced, ie Monday when, presumably, the revenue is less significant?</p>	<p>0</p>
<p>Firstly very few of my owners want to go racing on a Sunday evening and added to this it ends up costing me as a business. The staffing of it is very hard. It costs the business as i have to pay overtime and i have to give the staff back there day in lieu. It also puts added pressure on the team at home who are working there one weekend in three to help cover for the staff who have gone racing. I put up with Sunday day racing as i realise it is important to have but Sunday evening racing i believe is unnecessary.</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>Not opposed as a principle <u>provided</u> prize money remains the same and it is not moved from other fixtures</p>	<p>+</p>
<p>The vast majority of the Saturday all weather fixtures, even where there are two meetings, have been held from 3.30pm onwards and it is the continuous evening all weather racing throughout the winter that is attritional. The vast majority of my owners have no interest in going, it is expensive and there is no extra prizemoney to compensate this. At least the Sunday meetings have been well rewarded but whether this can be maintained remains to be seen.</p>	<p>0</p>
<p>The options were far more appealing in regards to prize money, however, I don't believe Sunday evening fixtures are the answer</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>I don't support as there is to much racing as it is and the staff work hard enough. It's not all about the money for the staff they need to have some down time.</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>For our novice runners it was the only suitable option</p> <p>In terms of prize money it was more than other options, but it is flawed to define it as "high". In an industry of poor returns, we try our best to maximise prize money, but the Sunday evening prize money is still not high enough to compensate for the exhaustive impact on the workforce and compared to the gains that will be had by bookmakers.</p> <p>It is irresponsible and dangerous of the racing Industry/Commercial Committee/betting industry/racecourses to stretch an already exhausted workforce with Sunday fixtures particularly at night leading to trainers ultimately not having a day off and working dangerous hours. It's interesting to learn racecourses use their revenues to afford enough people to give executives 4 day working weeks whilst trainers are expected to work 7 day weeks with many days over 12 hours to try and break even. This is not sustainable and will lead to mental health issues and accidents</p>	<p>-</p>