



EMPLOYMENT MATTERS



TEMPORARY NATIONAL INSURANCE NUMBERS

Quite a number of long term employees are registered on the Stable Employees Register with temporary national insurance numbers. For the administration of the pension scheme, it is important that where ever possible permanent NI numbers are shown on the register. If employees obtain permanent NI numbers, could offices please ensure that the Jockey Club is notified so that the stable employees register can be updated.

THE EXECUTIVE MONTH - JANUARY 2004

- Industry Committee
- Claiming Procedures Implementation Group
- Meeting with Jockey Club about rule changes
- Race Planning Committee (T Balding, C Wall)
- Evidence to Joint Scrutiny Committee on the Draft Gambling Bill
- Meeting with Insurance Advisers about Liability Insurance (D Bacchus)
- Executive Committee meeting with BHB
- Racing Post Stable Staff Awards
- Meeting with Jockey Club Head of Security
- Meeting with BHB Training Director about work-based training schemes
- Doncaster Bloodstock Sales Annual Seminar
- Talk to Trainers Course, Module 1
- Veterinary Seminar Steering Committee

NTF MEETING DATES 2004

| Meeting | Day / Date | Location |
|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| AGM | Thursday 4th March | Montcalm Hotel, London |
| Council and NH Committee | Thursday 22nd April | Institute of Directors, London |
| T Valley | Monday 28th June* | Newbury Racecourse |
| North | Monday 5th July | Leeming Bar |
| E Anglia | Monday 12th July* | Newmarket Racecourse |
| Midlands | Tuesday 13th July | To be confirmed |
| S East | Tuesday 20th July | Lingfield Racecourse |
| S West | Monday 26th July* | Taunton |
| Council and Flat Committee | Monday 2nd August | Montcalm Hotel, London |
| S East | Thursday 4th November | Lingfield Racecourse |
| Midlands | Friday 5th November | To be confirmed |
| T Valley | Monday 8th November | Newbury Racecourse |
| E Anglia | Thursday 11th November | Newmarket Racecourse |
| S West | Monday 15th November | Taunton |
| North | Tuesday 16th November | Leeming Bar Council |
| NH and Flat Committees | Thursday 25th November | Institute of Directors, London |

* 12.30 pm start to allow for Windsor evening meeting

FOREIGN STAFF – A NEW PROVIDER

Kings Human Resource Management is a new provider of foreign staff from India and Pakistan. Run by Mohammed Ahsan, who has extensive experience in the field of careers and employment in both the private and public sector, the company is based in Newmarket.

Though a newcomer to the racing industry, Mohammed Ahsan has already provided employees for several trainers. The company is

able to offer a full service from locating potential recruits to arranging visas and work permits.

Stable staff from overseas are now an established part of the British racing scene. If you would like any more information about the service offered by Kings Human Resource Management, please ring Mohammed Ahsan on 01638 665456.



Newsletter

The Voice of Racehorse Trainers in the UK

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2004

Thursday 4th March at the Montcalm Hotel in London is the date and venue for the 2004 AGM. In view of the success of last year's new format, we will follow a similar style, the main meeting beginning at 11.30 am followed by an informal lunch to which trainers' spouses or partners are also very welcome.

NTF regional meetings provide a great platform for trainers to express their views on arrange of subjects so the AGM aims to fulfil different objectives.

On the serious side it is to ensure that members have an opportunity to ask questions about the operation of the Federation. On a lighter note, it offers the chance for a larger group of members to gather socially in a relaxed setting.

We really look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. Invitations will go

out to everyone with the Annual Report in a few weeks time. For catering purposes we would be very grateful if you could use the reply form to indicate your attendance.



IN THIS ISSUE...

- On the racecourse
- Race planning
- Veterinary notes
- Employment Matters
- The Executive Month

ON THE RACECOURSE

STARTING STALLS

As noted in the article on minimum values in the Race Planning section, the transfer this year of the cost of starting stalls is likely to lead to various changes in the way stalls are deployed on racecourses.

Currently RaceTech performs a centralised service for all courses. In the future some courses will purchase their own stalls, RHT and Arena tracks being cases in point. We understand that these courses will continue to employ Racetech to service and operate the stalls and supply stalls teams.

Other racecourses will participate in a pooled system in which RaceTech continues to supply stalls and handlers on each race with racecourses sharing the

cost on an agreed basis. There has been some concern expressed about the possibility of courses employing their own stalls handlers. At the moment, our information is that this is not planned. In respect of existing handlers, Sim Harris, Managing Director of RaceTech reported in the RCA Update:

"RaceTech have to make major changes to their operation in order to offer a cost efficient service to racecourses.....RaceTech is proud of its standard of service and the professionalism of the stalls teams it employs. There is no plan to lower this standard or to employ staff who will not be able to meet the current professional standards."

SAFETY IN APPRENTICE RACES

After comments made by some trainers about the potential dangers of allowing inexperienced apprentices to ride in apprentice races over certain distances at some tracks, we asked the Jockey Club Racecourse Department and Inspectorate to review the situation.

As a result races will not be scheduled over 6f and 7f at Catterick and over 9f at Redcar for riders who have not ridden more than 10 winners.

Safety factors are reviewed at the end of every year; please let us know if you are concerned by starts at any other courses.

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RACE PLANNING

MINIMUM VALUES REVISITED

Contrary to expectations the BHB agreed to a request from the RCA that some further slight amendments would be made to minimum values other than those already notified for Class G races.

From the start of the turf season Class E races will carry a minimum value of £5,000 (from £5,200) and Class F races will carry a minimum value of £4,000 (from £4,200).

Both these adjustments have been made to help racecourses cope with the new additional cost, transferred to them by the Levy Board, of starting stalls.

MAIDEN AUCTION RACES – NEW CONDITIONS

The status of horses bought before the 1st July of their yearling year is to be recognised in new conditions for maiden auction races.

After consideration by the Race Planning Committee, it has been decided to use the last price for which a horse was sold as the reference price for horses that were sold more than once.

As a result, a differential of £3000 will apply to horses sold before the 1st July, a figure that was arrived at after study of five-year statistics showing the increase in the price of yearlings sold before and after that date.

For example, race conditions may say:

For two year old maidens sold or bought in as yearlings by public auction, or as two year olds at the breeze up

sales, for 15,000 gns or less before July 1st 2003, or for 18,000 gns or less after June 30th 2003

Allowances will continue to be for a fixed price but for the purpose of calculating the allowance, you will need to add £3000 to a pre-July 1st sale price.

On a related matter, we often receive phone calls from trainers asking whether the prices in maiden auction races take account of increases in prices at the yearling sales. The answer is that they do and having received figures from the major Sales Companies showing returns increased in 2003 by between 20% and 40%, we can report that the BHB Executive has decided to increase qualifying values by 25%.

CLAIMING PROCEDURES

Another meeting of the Claiming Race Implementation Group was held at Weatherbys on 7th January. The following items were discussed:

- To speed up the process, the time for telephone claims to be made was reduced from 20 to 15 minutes with effect from 1st January.
- It was felt to be more important to retain the objective of maximising the number of claims rather than restrict them by reducing the telephone claiming in time any further.
- The Racing Post is now reporting successful friendly claims as well as aggressive claims.
- A draft claiming protocol has been produced, which will be circulated to all interested parties and advertised in appropriate media once finalised. The remaining points below form part of the protocol and it is hoped they will come into effect for the start of the turf season:
 - a) Anyone wishing to obtain a security code to make telephone claims will have to become a registered owner.
 - b) Telephone claims will be available in selling races.
 - c) Weatherbys will contact unsuccessful friendly claimants.
 - d) A number of measures to minimise the chances of payment default are will be introduced.
- Pledges to provide payment by cheque of BACS/CHAPS will no longer be acceptable. Weatherbys will have to be able to confirm available funds in a Weatherbys/BHB account or through verification

of debit/credit cards before a claim is accepted.

- With the exception of licensed trainers or their representatives, anyone making an aggressive claim must do so by telephone. Friendly claims can still be made on the racecourse.
- Trainers' representatives will have to have written authorisation from the trainer to make a claim.
- Trainers will continue to benefit from some flexibility in clearing their Weatherbys/BHB account following a successful claim.

It is very important to remember that the person making the claim is responsible for payment. As trainers, you need to be very careful when claiming a horse "to order" for a client that the client will pay you. If your client is a registered owner it is clearly safest to ask them to make a telephone claim. Security codes can be processed very quickly.

The telephone claiming system has proved a great success with 294 claims received in 143 claiming races since 1st July 2003. It was originally an NTF initiative that has benefited greatly from enthusiastic implementation by Carla Moore at the RCA so many thanks to her for taking it forward.





ON THE RACECOURSE (cont.)

RIDING INSTRUCTIONS – TRAINERS' REPRESENTATIVES

In our December 2003 Newsletter we carried an article about the requirement under Instruction D5 for you not only to appoint a representative when you are unable to attend a race meeting where you have a runner but also to ensure that your representative knows the riding instructions and is able to tell the stewards whether the jockey has followed them or not.

Having read many transcripts of stewards' enquiries on the racecourse we can see that representatives frequently express satisfaction with a jockey's ride almost as a matter of course, regardless of

the circumstances. This often results in the stewards having no choice but to find a trainer in breach of Rule 155 in that the stewards must conclude that the jockey followed instructions that prevented the horse from being given an opportunity to obtain the best possible placing.

It is therefore very important for you to ensure that the person you appoint as a representative is confident and competent enough to tell the stewards if the jockey (regardless of seniority) has followed instructions. Many expensive and time consuming appeals would thus be avoided.

TRAINER STATISTICS

Latest figures off the Jockey Club register show the largest number of licensed trainers since at least the mid-1980s. The figures for the period between 1994 and 2003 show an increase from 501 to 551. Observing the high turnover of trainers each year, it would be easy to attribute this growth to the boundless optimism of potential trainers. However, a closer look reveals a different slant to the figures.

The number of permit trainers has fallen

over the same period from 241 to 169 resulting in a net fall of all trainers of 22 from 742 to 720.

Changes in licensing criteria can therefore be seen to have influenced the type of licence for which trainers now apply. Quite a number of people, who would previously have been satisfied with a permit, now apply for a licence so they can train for clients outside their immediate family but on a small scale.

VETERINARY NOTES

WITHDRAWAL TIMES – OMEPRAZOLE

Another drug that has caused similar headaches to trainers trying to assess withdrawal times in omeprazole, commonly sold as Gastrogard®.

In an effort to identify an accurate detection time for this drug the Jockey Club has agreed to fund a study. We are therefore looking for volunteer trainers with at least three horses regularly on gastroguard. Taking

part in the study would involve obtaining urine samples from horses about three to eight days after they have finished treatment. Accurate recording of the daily dose rate and length of time of treatment would need to be made and a degree of patience needed to collect the urine samples. James Main has no doubt this will be a really useful study and should be supported.

BEATING RESPIRATORY DISEASES



We are currently updating and revising the NTF Code of Practice for Respiratory Diseases with the help of James Wood at the Animal Health Trust. Publication is planned for early March so that you will have clear guidelines well before one of the most vulnerable times of year in the spring. If any of you have suggestions for its contents, don't hesitate to contact us.

Last year's flu outbreak, mainly focused in Newmarket, demonstrated that disease can spread rapidly but that it can be contained if appropriate action is taken. Our revised guidelines will give you the best practical advice on this score. Any protocol of this kind can only be effective if there is a strong collective agreement amongst trainers to abide by it. We hope you will agree that this is the best way to protect the industry and avoid the sort of serious disruption suffered by racing in South Africa in recent months.

CLENBUTEROL / VENTIPULMIN®

Following the uncertainty created by the spate of clenbuterol positive samples last year, a meeting has been arranged by the Jockey Club with the connections of Three Valleys and Tillerman at the Horserace Forensic Laboratory.

All parties have agreed that James Main, who is Roger Charlton's vet, will also attend in his capacity as the NTF's veterinary adviser. Relevant information emanating from the meeting will be provided in future Newsletters.

