



nars

National Association of Racing Staff

AGM 2024





Mission Statement

The Association was founded to improve the economic and social wellbeing of its members.

To enhance their status, pay and terms of conditions of employment. To watch over and promote and protect the common and individual interests of its members and to regulate relations between members and employers.

To ensure the opportunity for education and training is available to all racing staff in order that they can achieve their full potential within their working lives and careers.

Vision

That racing staff in the UK to recognised as the best in the world and for this recognition to be reflected in status, pay and conditions. To organise our people to strive for a society that places equality, dignity and respect above all else.

Ethos

To enhance the character, creditability and moral values of NARS and its members.

AGM Agenda

- 1 Welcome, opening remarks and introduction**
- 2 NARS Presidents address**
- 3 Financial statements, accounts & balance sheet**
- 4 NEP**
- 5 Racing Home presentation**
- 6 Racecourse Inspectors update**
- 7 Chief Executive report with Q&A**



Presidents Address

Racing is a unique workplace; strong friendships are built between people and our equine colleagues.

From my first job in racing a mere twenty-seven years ago I met my lifelong friends, there's four of us, and we together have experienced the ups and downs of life, from job promotions and death to weddings and the birth of children. We have drank, ate and danced many a night away!

So why am I telling you this?

In racing we have a lot of people from all different backgrounds, but we all have one thing in common, the love of the horse, and that's why long-term friends can be formed.

Friendships are so important because friendship is a crucial element in protecting our mental health.

Mental health affects every one of us regardless of age, gender, or background. It is not a weakness, it's an essential part of who we are, so it's important to accept people for who they are.

Friendship is helping others feel it's ok to seek help when needed, that it is ok not to be ok.

It's very easy to go to work, go home, go to bed and repeat the next day.

It's very easy to not speak, to hide away in the shadows.

Tomorrow when you go to work and if you see someone like this, reach out, and ask them if they are ok. To you it may seem like nothing but to them it could mean everything.

What I'm basically trying to say is treat people how you would like to be treated.



In past speeches at our AGM's I have spoken about knowing your worth in the workplace, now I'm talking about knowing your worth in life. You get to wake up with the sun and work with fantastic equine athletes, the speed and the adrenaline rush that no one sat at a desk will ever know! You are developing skills that others will envy, yes, it's hard at times, but it can be so rewarding.

I personally look back on my life in racing and smile, I've had some amazing times, I've had some pretty painful times as well, but I'm proud of what I have achieved, where I started, and where I am now, the people I've met and the people I've helped along the way, my journey has not ended, and I hope to help and support many more.

Jemma Marshall

Report of Financial Trustee to the Trustees and for Members at the 2024 AGM of NARS

The audited accounts were this year once again prepared by Azets Audit Services and our thanks go to them for producing on time. Accounts have since been approved by the Executive and the statutory AR21 filed with the Certification Officer. Copies of the most significant pages of the Audited Accounts are available to the meeting. A full copy of the accounts can be inspected at the Union office upon request.

As reported in previous Financial Trustee reports the finances have recovered significantly since the very difficult year of 2020 due to the continued careful budgeting and tight control of expenditure. A return to higher prize money and the award of some grant money has seen a return to surplus and NARS reserves now stand at a very healthy level. This is a significant achievement given that the education staff are now funded directly by NARs and not through external grants.

We of course remain linked directly to the 'Prize Pot' for most of our income. Your Chief Executive has so far been very successful in securing some additional funding from the Racing Foundation worth £34,757.00. The audited out-turn for 2023, has produced a surplus of £47,241. General Fund reserves therefore increased and £400k has been invested in a higher income account. Total income was projected based on BHA expectations of Prize Pot Income. This was expected to be close or slightly up on the previous year but is subject to fluctuations in betting revenue, field sizes and abandonments.

It remains, as ever, for the Union Executive to consider how funds are spent, and how future budgets are shaped. The more significant budget items such as Newsletters, Legal and Staff Costs and any new projects should continue to be reviewed and decided upon with the overall budget and value to the Union in mind. There remains a healthy cash reserve that can support any significant short-term change to either income levels or a need for new expenditure.

My thanks go to Georgina Edgecombe who has kept the finance records up-to-date and accurate and to our external book-keeper Laura Willars (Cound & Co accountants) for the provision of regular monthly management information. I recommend that Azets Audit Services be reappointed for the 2024 audit. and I thank your Chief Executive, George McGrath for all his support over this past year.

Dave Eva, Financial Trustee

5 Year Headline figures

	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Actual
Income	404,352	285,654	444,470	562,710	539,934
Expenditure	371,410	288,051	390,309	477,250	492,693
Net Trading Position	32,843	(2,442)	54,302	85,460	47,241
Reserves	633,549	631,107	685,409	770,869	761,500



NARS Education Program



The project which started in 2012 was originally funded by Union Learn; the government funded adult education programme for Trade Unions, to reach workers within the workplaces. With a change of government policy this fund was rerouted via colleges and therefore our funding stopped.

The project was then funded by the John Pearce Foundation for the following year. We then submitted a bid to the Racing Foundation, who have been great supporters of NEP and for the last year two years have funded the project. We are very grateful to them for this.

The Racing Foundation, as with most of the industry, are awaiting the strategy from the Horseracing Industry Peoples Board, to help centralise funding for these types of projects, for better longer-term sustainability, outreach, and outcomes. The strategy has been held up, but is expected to be published shortly

As it currently stands, we are on hold with further development of the project, we are continuing our core delivery and our modules are still being used on the Racing2learn online learning platform.

With much of the learning now becoming easier for many online, lots of staff are taking part on the

various modules on Racing2learn, the industry online learning platform. This is where we have racing industry relevant modules in Maths, English, Introduction to Mentoring and an Introduction to Leadership & Team Skills. We also have a Handicapping Module as well as a Racing Secretaries module, there will hopefully be more courses to come in time, future funding depending of course.

156 racing staff members have taken part on these courses in the last year, with many of those completing more than one.

This year we ran two Equine Photography Courses, a beginner's course as usual, and an intermediate course for those who had previously taken part, to continue developing their photography skills.

Our Photography Exhibition event was held in March, showcasing the work of all of those who took part, a great event highlighting different skills of those working in the industry.

All the photos used throughout this brochure are the work of the students on the course.

In total the NEP project had 249 staff members take part on our courses in the last year.

That's 21% more than the planned outcomes for the funding.

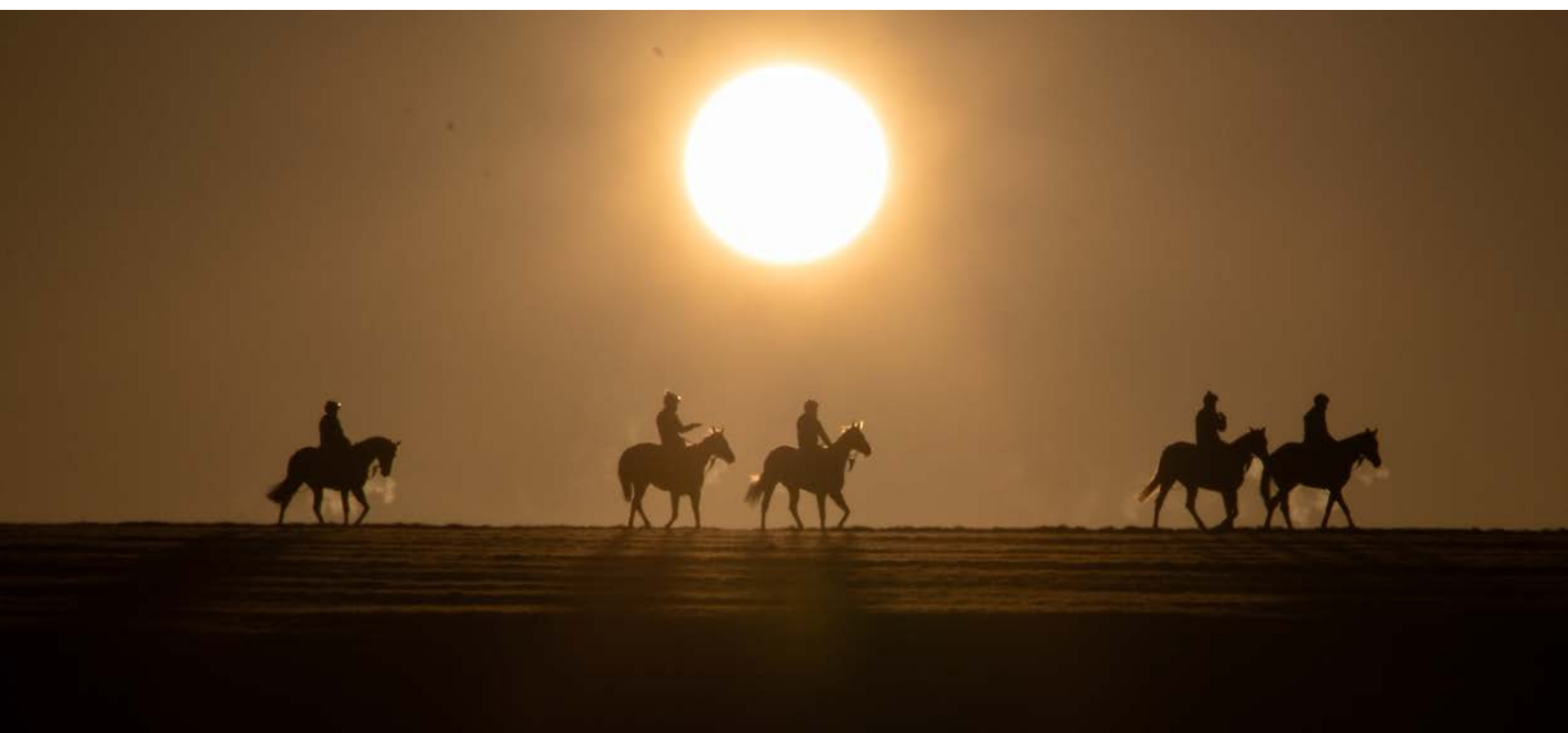


Photo by Karen Woods

The Racing Home Project: Supporting all stakeholders within our Industry

www.racinghome.org.uk is transforming the working lives of parents and carers in both the horseracing and breeding industries. Racing Home's mission is to ensure that all employees are aware of their basic rights and entitlements and can openly discuss the challenges they face as working parents or carers with employers. By addressing these needs inclusively, employers in both racing and breeding will hopefully recognise the benefits of investing in the quality of life of their employees, leading to improved retention, a more motivated workforce, and overall sustainability.

The Programme

The Racing Home project is supported by crucial funding from the Racing Foundation and Kindred (Unibet), enabling Women in Racing, with the support of Simply Racing, to implement the practical and educational recommendations from their comprehensive report. A key component of the project is the development and digitisation of the transparent 'Racing Home' portal. This online resource offers industry-specific and general information on many things from motherhood and parenthood to rights and entitlements providing a go-to place for employers, employees, and the self-employed of our sport to find answers to many questions.

Support for Returning Mothers

Women returning to work after childbirth are encouraged to participate in the pioneering FREE rehabilitation and returning-to-riding program. This initiative of 6+ sessions, run by physiotherapists at Injured Jockey Fund centres, focuses on both the physical and mental aspects of getting back on a horse. This holistic approach is designed to help women regain their confidence and physical fitness in a supportive setting.

For further details on this please visit:
<https://bit.ly/493IFhA>

Educational Initiatives

Education is a cornerstone of the Racing Home project. Modules are set to be rolled out in due course for all including at the racing schools, academies and industry courses to ensure that the next generation entering the sport is well-informed and able to engage in positive discussions with their peers and colleagues. This proactive approach is set to help foster a more inclusive and supportive environment for all.

Resources and Community Building

Racing Home is also producing good practice videos and podcasts that address the challenges faced by parents and carers in the industry. These materials aim to start conversations and reduce feelings of isolation, providing educational and forward-looking content. Additionally, topics such as menopause and IVF are being brought into open discussion, ensuring that everyone feels included and heard.

Making a Difference

Since its official launch, Racing Home has already made a significant impact. By providing resources, support, and education, the project is helping to create a more inclusive and understanding

environment for parents and carers in the horseracing industry. As the project continues to grow, it promises to bring even more positive changes to the lives of those it aims to support.

Racing Home is a beacon of progress for our industry, showing that by addressing the needs of parents and carers, the industry can thrive with a happier, more motivated workforce.



NARS Racecourse Inspection Program

In 2016 the inspection and improving of standards at racecourses was high on the areas for improvement when raised and discussed by staff members at that AGM.

2017 and the program began, enrolling staff to become inspectors, working with courses to help improve facilities for staff and the horses nationwide.

This saw each racecourse inspected twice a year, working with the course management to help give ideas for improvement, whilst we don't have any jurisdiction over racecourses (that is the BHA) we look to work together with the Racecourse Association for the benefit of everyone.

At the end of each year our Racecourse Inspectors (listed in the back of this brochure) score each course in certain areas, it was previously twelve, the next time scores are collated it will be fourteen. This gives each racecourse a final overall score, placing them in order, from a staff perspective, listing the best performing courses to least.

The program has continued to evolve and develop, with many courses making large improvements over the years, as well as our scoring, inspections and understanding of the issues racecourse also have to deal with.

We now have 52 out of the 59 courses providing staff with a free meal voucher, for which we are very grateful for, and hoping that the remaining seven will also partake in this in the future.

The best in the country as scored by the staff are (scoring out of a possible 120 points).

- 1** York 115.2
- 2** Hamilton 112.0
- 3** Epsom 109.3
- 4** Wincanton 109.0
- 5** Doncaster 108.8
- 6** Newton Abbot 106.5
- 7** Newbury 105.3
- 8** Chelmsford 104.8
- 9** Sedgefield 103.5
- 10** Ascot 103.5
Carlisle 103.5

And those at the bottom of the chart are

- Kelso 89.0
- Wolverhampton 88.9
- Thirsk 88.0
- Windsor 86.5
- Hexham 86.0
- Wetherby 83.8
- Ayr 83.7
- Bath 80.6
- Huntingdon 80.0
- Cartmel 75.0
- Ripon 66.0

Chief Executive's Report

It gives me great pleasure to once again hold the NARS AGM in Epsom. This is our 3rd time to have our AGM at Epsom, but the first time we have held it at the famous racecourse. We move the location of our AGM around the Country in order to give all our members the opportunity to attend in person without having to travel too far. We have previously been to Lambourn, Middleham, Malton, Newmarket, Taunton and Scotland.

You will find a lot of information about NARS and what it does for the members throughout the brochure, so I don't intend to cover every topic of interest in my address but rather focus on the areas of most interest and the most challenging aspects facing the workforce historically and going forward.

The year 2023 started with one of the most difficult times that NARS has ever endured. There was a tangible feeling of resentment, anger and frustration within the racing staff community and while some of this is related to ongoing issues, most of the anger was centered around the announcement of a new BHA led trail of 6 Sunday Floodlight meetings to be held between January and March. Most racing staff will have no interest in the process behind which decisions are made, but as they are the ones who will most feel the consequences of those decisions, they will quite rightly be vocal in their anger. I faced the brunt of this personally, as did the NARS as a representative Association. However, as I stand before you this evening, I can proudly say, that because the staff that attended these trial meetings and filled out the NARS survey, we, along with the PJA and NTF were able to present out findings with the impact it was having on the members and ensure the trial was only a trial and as such, was discontinued. That is the power racing staff can have when we stick together, fight for what we believe in and for



what is fair. You will win no wars on social media.

It is probably quite well known that although NARS uses social media to communicate with our members, I personally have no love of social media. A font of all baseless allegations, unsubstantiated claims and a breeding ground for those who enjoy whipping up a storm of anger, and slipping quietly away from the harm and destruction they cause. A platform for radicalization at its worst. But I see on a regular basis, that using social media is beginning to cause my members more issues. There isn't a string in the Country that doesn't have some riders with one hand on the reins and the other one holding a mobile phone. In my day the best riders needed both hands, I doubt that has changed, but in the 80s and 90s we didn't have mobile phones. It isn't just the fact that trying to ride a racehorse with only one hand that is the issue, it's what the rider is doing with the phone that is the real cause for concern. Over the last few years, I am representing more and more staff

You will win no wars on
social media

If the people in racing were treated with the same love and respect as our horses, we would all be in a better place.

getting into trouble for taking pictures at work and sharing them on social media or making comments that get them in trouble with their employers. Most of the pictures are harmless, as are the comments, but not all of them. Some owners take exception to pictures of their horse been shared on social media, what you and I may think funny, could come across as insulting to an owner, especially if they are from a different culture to that our ours. We have seen what social media can incite with the riots following the killing of 3 children in Stockport, but most of the social media posts that triggered the riots contained misinformation. We have seen Jermaine Jenas and Huw Edwards lose their job at the BBC for sending inappropriate messages, and now we are also seeing those responsible for sending messages through any platform being jailed. Social media can be a great way of sharing momentous occasions and person triumphs as well as our most difficult times such as the passing of a much-loved horse or pet, its also one of the quickest ways of losing your job!

Our industry's social license to continue to use animals for sport will continue to come under closer scrutiny with many unfamiliar with our sport unable or unwilling to differentiate between any form of equine discipline and racing. We have seen the consequences for Charlotte Dujardin, the video footage didn't look good, but the outrage on social media should always remind us of the consequences

of our actions. Saying sorry and that the actions are out of character will count for nothing in the public's eyes. Thoroughbred racing is the most stringently regulated of all disciplines, but that will amount to little with those who seek to disrupt our industry or those that just think all animals should roam wild! Within racing we all know horses are much more likely to be injured when they are turned out, or left to their own devices, than they are when they are ridden. At a racecourse they are followed around by an equine ambulance and the fatality rate at a racecourse is 0.20%, but just one bad fall at a prominent race meeting brings the spotlight on racing and the usual clammer from some that our sport is cruel. Personally, I wouldn't mind being a racehorse. You get breakfast in bed, a personal trainer, a shower and massage, followed by lunch, another massage and dinner, all for about 10 days' work a year! If the people in racing were treated with the same love and respect as our horses, we would all be in a better place.

It isn't just the animal rights groups that would like to see the end of horseracing, the gambling commission seems to be hell bent on preventing anyone having a bet. It might start with limiting the amount you can use as your income on betting, but I suspect the main objective is to stop gambling altogether. Horseracing is dependent on the levy which is a deduction on bookmakers' profits on horseracing. Make no mistake, if you think prize money is poor in the UK at the moment, it will simply end British horseracing as an industry or sport if betting is curtailed to the degree the gambling commission might want it to be. To add insult to injury, a bet on a horserace usually involves reading the form, looking at the breeding and making an educated guess. It has no relation to the FOBTs (fixed odds betting terminals) with flashing lights and sound effects specially designed to be addictive, quick wins, in literally split seconds and a constant urge to bet more for bigger wins. The damage the FOBTs do should certainly be addressed

The racecourses may have theater, but we are the players.

but racing shouldn't be included in the gambling commissions objectives or findings. It should also be noted that simply reducing the amount one can bet will not in any way deal with an addiction. Not a single gambling addict has come forward to say they beat their addiction because they had to reduce the size of their bet! Many of those who have had their betting accounts declined or those that had experienced intrusive questions relating to their income and bank accounts will simply move to illegal and unregulated sites.

The industry has also started to take drug and alcohol abuse more seriously and some trainers are starting to implement a testing program in their yards. While this development has gained momentum following a trainer having his license withdrawn suspended for one year, drug and alcohol testing isn't new in racing. The NTF and NARS have had a drug and alcohol policy for many years, the difference is that more trainers are now beginning to implement it. The fact that the BHA testing is getting better as technology progresses is leading to more positive tests, some for recreational drugs, and some for prescribed drugs. All trainers should ask their staff if they are on any prescribed medicines, but few do. In my 30 odd years in racing, I was never asked if I was on any medication, I suspect that may change now, along with the warnings of taking recreational drugs. This shouldn't be seen as a move against the staff, but rather a move that is trying to ensure those of us handling and riding racehorses are doing so in as safe an environment as possible. Our only danger staff should be in should come from the challenges that arise with the handling and riding of racehorses,

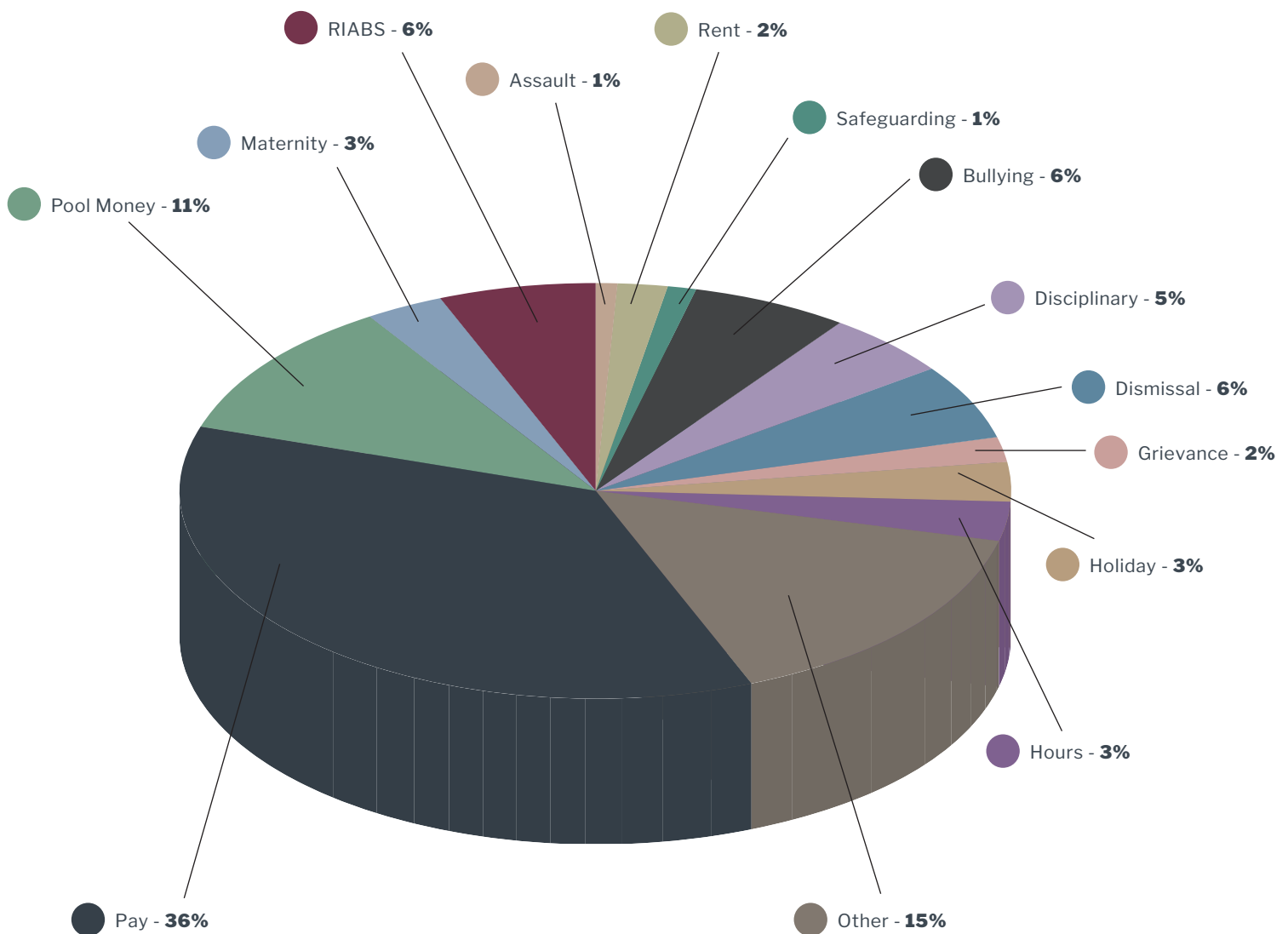
not the people around us. The staff will rightly ask if they must take a drug and alcohol test, the answer is no, you can't be forced to take a test, or to sign a consent to take a test. However, that doesn't mean you can't be randomly selected to be tested, and a refusal to test could lead to disciplinary action. There are two points I have been very clear on when anyone has asked me about implementing any tests, the first is the tests must be random, and include everyone, from the trainer to the newest member of staff. The other point is that any positive test must result in the offering of support and not necessarily a dismissal. As the world around us changes, we as an industry and those working in the industry must adapt and move with the times.

I would finally like to end on a positive note. While racing and employment in racing has and always will have various challenges, be that our social license, the gambling commission, staff shortages and skill shortages etc, all is not doom and gloom. Working with our colleagues in the NTF and PJA, we were able to ensure the trial of Sunday floodlight racing was discontinued. And that is not the only collaborative working within the industry, the RCA are also working with the participants to ensure that the income racing as an industry is fairly shared with those that put the show on the road. The racecourses may have theater, but we are the players. By working together as an industry, we can halt the decline in attendances, betting and viewing, and while that is going on, so to is the work of the Horse racing Industry Peoples Board. This will set out what the racing industry needs to do to ensure we can retain the staff we have. To look after them in the way they deserve and to ensure their wellbeing and promote good working practices. To promote a healthier and safer workplace and together with NARS, and to ensure the workforce is part of racings strategic ambitions.

George McGrath

NARS Overview of Day-to-Day Staff Cases & Queries

The pie chart below is a snap shot of the cases NARS deal with on a daily bases. I have not listed the exact amount of cases per category as I have not included all the phone calls, and in person conversations that take place. Therefore to quote one number would not be as accurate as I would like. It is fair to say that we deal with over a thousand cases and queries in any given year. All of this is handled by the Chief Executive with assistance of the office manager, Georgie Edgecombe, as well as Kevin who will also answer phones and emails as time allows him.



NARS BY NUMBERS *

7,794 members

£682,000 in Personal Injury cases (May 2022 - Current)

£1,524,673.53 in employment settlements/claims for members (May 2022 - Current)

£2,206,673.53 Total claims for members (May 2022 – Current)

£1,138,274 that RIABS have paid out to staff

249 staff have undertaken educational courses run by NARS

156 staff have taken part on the six NARS modules on Racing2learn

194 students addressed at the National Horseracing College and British Racing School

19 the number of boards/groups NARS sits on representing racing staff, in addition to the 3 regional committees and executive committees run by NARS.

118 racecourse inspections undertaken by NARS appointed racecourse inspections annually

62% of racecourses improved facilities for staff and horses from the racecourse ratings scoring

52 out of the 59 tracks now offer a free meal voucher for staff at their courses

3 the amount of NARS employed staff

2 the number of staff responsible for handling the various concerns, complaints, enquires, disciplinaries and grievances of the 7,794 members

1 the number of NARS staff responsible for the educational program

NARS REPRESENTS YOU ON THE FOLLOWING GROUPS

- 1** BHA Commercial Committee, George McGrath
- 2** Thoroughbred Group, George McGrath
- 3** BHA Industry People's Board, George McGrath (Non-Executive Director)
- 4** Trade Unions Congress, George McGrath
- 5** General Federation of Trade Unions, George McGrath
- 6** Scottish Trade Union Congress, George McGrath
- 7** RIABS (Racing Injury and Accident Benefit Scheme), George McGrath (Trustee)
- 8** Racing Industry Development Group, George McGrath
- 9** BHA Diversity, Inclusion and Equality Group, George McGrath
- 10** BHA Code of Conduct Group, George McGrath
- 11** BHA Sexual Harassment in Racing Group, George McGrath
- 12** Racing Staff Development Programme, Steering Group, George McGrath
- 13** Racing Industry Conference, George McGrath (Panel)
- 14** BHA/Godolphin Industry Thoroughbred Awards, George McGrath (Judge)
- 15** Racing to School Board, Kevin Parsons (Trustee, Thoroughbred Group nominee)
- 16** Racing2learn Development Group, Kevin Parsons
- 17** Level 4, Industry Modules, Kevin Parsons (Mentor)
- 18** Industry CPD allocation Group, Kevin Parsons
- 19** Industry Horse Welfare Training and Development Group, Kevin Parsons
- 20** Racing Home, George McGrath
- 21** Walk Back Talking, Julia Bennet

NARS Team Overview



George McGrath

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

George started working in racing when he was 14. He was apprentice to Ian Balding and his first ride was in the Queens silks, but a love of pies and a lack of direction meant this was short-lived! After working as a headman, assistant trainer and travelling headman he became Chief Executive of NARS. He enjoys cooking and Jamie Oliver is his favourite chef – however his missus says it's not Jamie's 30-minute meals but George's 2-hour meals!



Georgie Edgecombe

OFFICE MANAGER

I have been working in the NARS office for four months now, it has been extremely enlightening to be able to see racing from another angle and staff perspective. Until this role within NARS I had no idea the number of issues that staff within the racing faced on a daily basis, it has been a real eye opener and is a rewarding role knowing you are helping those who give so much of their lives to this industry.



Kevin Parsons

EDUCATION PROJECT MANAGER & SPORTS COORDINATOR

Kevin spent seventeen years in the industry in various roles before joining NARS where he now heads up our Union Learn project, helping many staff to achieve qualifications and improve their CV's. It has however been a while since he last rode out, his love of food and dodging the gym being the main reason.

Executive Committee



Terry Albone

(Christine Dunnett)

Next year I celebrate my sixtieth year in the bloodstock industry. Upon leaving school I began an apprenticeship in Newmarket working for Humphrey Cotteril, at that point in my life I had never been near a horse or pony but from the first moment that I sat in the saddle I was hooked.

Redundant at an age deemed to be too old to be employed I volunteered as box driver/travelling head lad for a local trainer.



Anwar Ali

(Charlie Appleby)



Julia Bennet

(Self-employed)

Julia Bennet has been on the executive committee for a few years now and recently joined the Racecourse Inspectors team. After many years working as a travelling head girl, she has taken on a more admin-based role in racing. She remains a strong advocate for all racing staff. Her weekends when not racing revolve around open water swimming, white-water kayaking without swimming, and looking after her beloved rescue dogs.



Angela Bramham

(Grant Tuer)

My first job in racing was in 1998 working for Patrick Haslam, riding out, I progressed to Head Girl. After a few years I left and worked for a few other trainers such as, Bryan Smart, Mark Tompkins, Linda Ramsdan and Alan Swinbank. I left racing a pursued a career in the care industry for about 18 years completing my NVQ 5 in leadership and management and becoming a care manager. 2years ago I decided I missed working outside and have since been at Grant Tuer where I run the treadmill.



Tony Eyre

(Self-employed)



Richard Farmer

(Jim Boyle)

Richard is a work rider for Jim Boyle in Epsom and has been there for 15 years. He's ace at poker — pun intended and would love to go to Vegas with a big wedge of cash and not worry about losing it! After that his next loves are Kronenbourg and food — any and lots!



Claudia Fisher

(Amy Murphy)

Claudia has worked in racing at the “coal face” since the age of 18, and subsequently spent 13 years working in PR and Marketing for Arena Leisure, when under the ownership of Trevor Hemmings. On moving to Newmarket, she spent 7 years in fundraising and communications for Racing Welfare before becoming self-employed from 2007 – 2016, working in a range of racing related positions. After 5 years in HR and Health and Safety for Luca Cumani, she is now with Amy Murphy Racing carrying out a similar role.



Helen Halliwell

(James Fanshawe)

I am Helen, I've worked in the industry for over 25 years and worked for James Fanshawe in Newmarket for nearly 23 years.

Horses have always been my passion and to me it's a way of life not just a job. I also represent NARS as a Racecourse inspector and on the Newmarket regional.



Victoria Harris

(Ollie Sangster)

Works for Ollie Sangster looking after 4 barns. Previously was head lad to Point to Point trainer Hugo Froud and prior to that a work rider for Richard Barber.

Hobbies include walking her 2 dogs, going to gym and socialising when she can. Is keen to make a positive impact in the racing world and eager to get started.



Shaun Johnson

(Daniel & Claire Kubler)

Shaun started working in racing in 1996 and since 2017 has worked for Lycetts team champion winners Kubler racing as their transport manager. He has been on the NARS Lambourn committee since it was formed and am proud to say we have improved many aspects of working in racing in the area.



Thomas Kerby

(Self-employed)

Many of you will probably know me better through my transport business Magnolia Bloodstock. For over 20 yrs I've had the privilege to work with and alongside some of Newmarket's finest trainers and wonderfully dedicated staff.

To join the NARS executive allows me in some way to help give something back and to put stable staff at the forefront in any decision process in the future.



Jemma Marshall

(Tom Ward)

Jemma Marshall is the chair of the Lambourn regional committee; she has also successfully helped stage the AGM there. Jemma also organises the Lambourn football and pool competitions. She works for Tom Wards and has ridden over 73 winners in her career.



Pete McCulloch

(Self-employed)

Pete is a freelance box driver working for various trainers in and around Newmarket, he lists his hobbies as beer and golf and depending on the combination they are taken in his handicap differs! He swears his golf is better than George's.



Patrick McEwan

(Self-employed)

Patrick first joined the Racing Industry in 1982 as Pupil assistant to Nick Gaselee. Over the following 40 years Patrick has developed a wealth of knowledge and experience working with P.Walwyn, G.Alexander (South Africa), P.Cole, M. Tregonning, B.Meehan, W.Muir, R.Hughes each time as Assistant Trainer.

He also rode as an amateur Jockey (Flat & National Hunt & Point to Point) around the country including the Foxhunters over National Fences. The most notable horse Patrick worked with was probably Sir Percy.

In recent years has taken the role of Flying Groom and has now also obtained a HGV licence.



Mudassir Razzaq

(George Scott)

I'm Mudassir Razzaq from Pakistan. I've been in horse racing since 2010. I joined George Scott racing in 2022. It's very fabulous experience in Newmarket to work in horses. It's my passion which is increasing every passing day. It's an honour for me to work with NARS to establishing a good environment in racing industry and for the welfare of racing staff as well. I'm very delighted and thankful to NARS who gave me this opportunity to deliver.



Wendy Storrie

(Sean Woods)

Wendy started in racing at the age of 16 years and is currently travelling head girl at Sean Woods

Wendy is passionate about the horse racing industry and wishes to see standards improve where possible.



Svetlana Zinchenko

(William Haggas)

I have worked in racing for over twenty years, exercising racehorses ridden and on the treadmill and travelling them to the races. I have worked for William Haggas for eleven years ongoing, where I hold the position of Health and Safety Officer, also giving induction to new employees.

I have obtained many qualifications, ranging from Information/Communication Technology, Hospitality, Structure of the Horse-racing Industry, Foundation Degree Equine Science and Management, BSc Equestrian Psychology and Sport Science.

I would embrace the opportunity to support racing staff, striving to realise better pay and working conditions for all.

NARS Appointed Racecourse Inspectors



Julia Bennet

(Self-employed)

Julia Bennet has been on the executive committee for a few years now and recently joined the Racecourse Inspectors team. After many years working as a travelling head girl, she has taken on a more admin-based role in racing. She remains a strong advocate for all racing staff. Her weekends when not racing revolve around open water swimming, white-water kayaking without swimming, and looking after her beloved rescue dogs.



Angela Bramham

(Grant Tuer)

My first job in racing was in 1998 working for Patrick Haslam, riding out, I progressed to Head Girl. After a few years I left and worked for a few other trainers such as, Bryan Smart, Mark Tompkins, Linda Ramsdan and Alan Swinbank. I left racing I pursued a career in the care industry for about 18 years completing my NVQ 5 in leadership and management and becoming a care manager. 2 years ago I decided I missed working outside and have since been at Grant Tuer where I run the treadmill.



Fran Brown

(Self-employed)

Fran has always been around horses. She started her racing life in the early eighties working for Denys Smith in the North. She then moved to Newmarket in the late eighties and worked for various trainers including Mick Ryan. All of her jobs were travelling roles and she has seen an awful lot of changes over the years. Fran also works part time at Nicky Richards Racing.



Mark Ellwood

(Nick Alexander)

Mark is based with Nick Alexander in Kinneston, Scotland and no longer has hobbies or interests as he is a new Dad! Before that he enjoyed travelling and has a deep love for a camper van.



Sarah Guest

(John O'Shea)

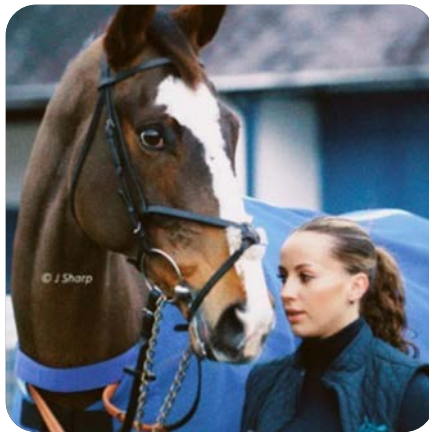
Sarah got into racing whilst still at school working in a point-to-point yard at the weekends. She has worked up the ranks to assistant trainer for John O'Shea where she has now been for the past 20 years. As assistant trainer she pays great attention to the welfare and training of both the horses and the staff. She helps staff through development and training to help them find their career in the sport.



Helen Halliwell

(James Fanshawe)

I am Helen, I've worked in the industry for over 25 years and worked for James Fanshawe in Newmarket for nearly 23 years. Horses have always been my passion and to me it's a way of life not just a job. I also represent NARS as a Racecourse Inspector and on the Newmarket regional.



Natasha Kent

(Nick Kent)

I work at my dad's racing yard which is National Hunt and have done since about fourteen years old. This hands-on experience has given me invaluable insights into the world of horse racing and has fuelled my passion for the sport.

Looking ahead, I am eager to further expand my horizons and gain additional experience in the industry. I am actively seeking opportunities to work at another racing yard, as I believe this will enhance my understanding of the sport and contribute to my growth.



Pete McCulloch

(Self-employed)

Pete is a freelance box driver working for various trainers in and around Newmarket, he lists his hobbies as beer and golf and depending on the combination they are taken in his handicap differs! He swears his golf is better than George's.



Sarah Peacock

(Hugo Palmer)

Sarah was born and bred into racing with her father being a trainer and mother an amateur jockey. She also had a few amateur rides on the flat when she was younger. After working in yards and learning the ropes, for the last 8 years she has been doing the head travelling role for Tom George National Hunt, but this year she made the switch to travelling head for Hugo Palmer on the flat. Sarah found that within racing the travelling and going racing is where her passion lies.



Melanie Tingey

(Richard Phillips)

I have always been around ponies and horses and my first position in a horse racing yard was when I was seventeen, which is now well over 40 years ago for Bob Turnell, I went onto hold an amateur license on the flat and also rode in bumpers and in point to points. During my time in the horse racing industry, I have been an Assistant trainer, Head girl and work rider and ridden some fantastic horses on the gallops including the great Desert Orchid. My devotion and love of the horse racing sport is such that I still work in racing for Richard Phillips.



Photo by Imogen Carter



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