



ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW UNITED BOOKMAKING ASSOCIATION

November 10, 2023

For too many years the racecourse bookmaking industry has suffered from problems of fragmentation. Membership has been split across numerous separate trade bodies, some with different agendas, some representing only particular areas, and others speaking only for particular Rings.

It has been obvious that other professional bodies the on-course industry needs to work with – racecourses, regulatory bodies and others – find it difficult or impossible to deal successfully with this historic dis-unity.

Today all that is changing, with the launch of the ***United Council of Racecourse Bookmakers.***

With the formation of the united association all racecourse bookmakers have the once-in-a-generation opportunity to speak with **ONE** voice, and to have the impact that has been needed for so long.

The benefits will be huge and will be felt throughout the industry.

The new association has been formed to represent ALL bookmakers from all regions and all Rings.

The FRB, NAB, APOB, and Rails Associations are already closing. Many more, including the ARB, SOUTH, DEVON&CORNWALL, have strongly advised their members to join, with the intention of winding down once everything is in place. There has been a big uptake into the new body already. Discussions continue with the remaining regional associations with the aim that every racecourse bookmaker opts to be included. But there is no requirement from UCORB that a joining member gives up membership elsewhere if they so choose.

How will it work?

The initial structure will be a board of 12, drawn from across England, Scotland and Wales, and from all Rings.

Chairman will be John Hooper; deputy chairman Keith Johnson who will also represent the North on the Board on an interim basis while the new body is established. Other board members at launch are John Fox (Scotland); Paul Garrity (North-West); Michael Punshon (Midlands), Michael Howard (South); James Lovell (Wales/S.West/Cornwall); Russell White (Rails); Graham Thorpe (Tattersalls); Nick Daisley (Minor Rings) Christopher Hudson (Company Secretary), Simon Walmsley (Membership Secretary). Elections will be held in due course.

All the biggest names in racecourse bookmaking have already pledged their support and moved over. The new chairman has promised that all bookmakers, big or small, will be represented passionately. John's father was himself a small-time bookmaker with back-line pitches, and John is keenly aware of the needs and particular issues in that part of the on-course membership.

A new dedicated website is being set up with a focus on keeping all members properly informed.

Costs

The United Council is already strongly funded and there will be **no charge** for membership in the first year to January 2025. This will include free PL/EL insurance. The intention is to maintain the subscription and insurance charge in subsequent years at **NIL**, or as close to it as possible subject to annual review.

Looking ahead, UCORB is already examining potential new income streams for the benefit of the whole membership, as well as starting to tackle a range of issues and to build co-operative relationships with racecourses and regulators.

UCORB is offering a welcome to every registered racecourse bookmaker in the United Kingdom to be part of a united future.

Contacts

Any bookmaker who has not already done so should confirm their details to contactucorb@gmail.com as soon as possible to ensure being included within the funding available. *It is important to confirm your details even if your association is one of those rolling-over its membership.*

Simon Walmsley on the above email can provide further information if required, or contact either John Hooper (chairman) or Keith Johnson (deputy chairman)

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