



UCORB: Christmas update

Dec 21, 2023

Christmas greetings to all. Following official launch of the new United Council of Racecourse Bookmakers on December 1st, we bring you a short update on progress so far.

From a standing start, our new one-voice body already has a membership of more than 75% of the number of registered racecourse bookmakers. As at today's date, membership stands at 264. This number is increasing daily.

All former bookmaker trade associations have now recommended that their members move over to UCORB, with the exception of the BRBA with whom discussions have been continuing. Former BRBA chairman Chris Hudson has moved over and is now Company Secretary of UCORB, as well as being director with responsibility for all financial matters.

Official launch of the new association dates from December 1st, which will be the renewal date in future years. The insurance year will run from January 1st each year, to allow time for the necessary administration.

As a reminder, insurance for Employers' Liability up to £10m and Public Liability up to £5m is offered free of charge to all members. And of course membership itself is also offered without charge.

Important work on behalf of the new membership has already begun. Among the priority projects is the subject of data provision. We will shortly be entering into more discussions about obtaining value from our pricing data, with the potential benefit spread among all members. It is important to note that in this matter, as in others, the larger the membership number the greater the chances of a beneficial outcome to negotiations – although the high take-up of

membership currently achieved means we can already provide data to the sample standard required.

Early in the new year we will be launching a programme of liaison with each racecourse, to secure and develop relationships and to ensure successful working through the liaison committees with a consistency of approach.

The new dedicated UCORB website is nearing completion and is expected to be launched in January. The council's accounts will be published within a dedicated membership area of the new site.

The next Board meeting of the new Council will also take place early in January and detail of those discussions will be posted as an update to members in the following days.

Footnote: Membership is still available at this stage to any registered bookmaker among those who have not yet joined. Please contact the Membership Secretary Simon Walmsley by email on contactucorb@gmail.com if you have not already done so.