Sports

Racing News

Trainer Gordon Elliott had 14 runners in the Troytown Chase in November, including winner Coko Beach. PHOTOGRAPH: TOM MAHER/INPHO

BHA's plan to cap runners per trainer criticised

Brian O'Connor
Racing correspondent

HRI says it has 'no plans' to examine similar restrictions in this country

Radical proposals by Britain's racing authorities that could limit trainers to just four runners in top cross-channel handicap races have been dismissed here as "window dressing".

The British Horseracing Authority (BHA) has confirmed it is seeking the views of stakeholders on a controversial rule change that could restrict trainers to a maximum of four runners in cross-channel handicaps at Class One or Two level.

It comes on the back of a wider debate about the increasing dominance of a small group of 'super trainers' in some top handicap prizes, including how Gordon Elliott saddled a record 14 runners in last month's Troytown Chase at Navan.

However, it is the prospect of similar domination in next year's Aintree Grand National that appears to particularly lie behind the BHA plan. Elliott saddled a record 11 runners in the sport's most high-profile race in 2019. He had five runners this year, the same as his great rival, Willie Mullins.

In October, the BHA outlined a cut to 34 in the maximum number of runners allowed participate in the 2024 Aintree National as part of measures designed to improve safety in the race. The previous limit was 40.

Mullins also had five runners in the 2022 County Hurdle won by State Man at Cheltenham, while further evidence of how any restriction might impact came at last year's festival when Elliott saddled seven in the Coral Cup.

A Racing Post report said no such limits are envisaged in weight for age races due to fears quality might be compromised. It also said no limit would be put on how many runners that owners could have. The winner Coko Beach was one of eight Troytown runners for Michael O'Leary's Gigginstown Stud.

'Well intentioned'

Horse Racing Ireland (HRI) quickly stated yesterday that it has "no plans" for any similar examination of handicaps here while the Irish Racehorse Trainers Association (IRTA) said that while any such move might be "well intentioned" it is unlikely to produce major transformational change to competition problems.

"There is a well-meaning aspect to this but it is not going to bring about the transformative change they might be hoping for. I think everybody wants these high-value handicaps to be ultra-competitive and potentially this could negatively impact on the competitive nature of these races," the IRTA chief executive Ryan McElligott said.

McElligott, a long-time race planner for Gordon Elliott, added: "It strikes me a bit of window dressing, and I would question the amount of thought that has gone into it.

"In limiting trainers to a certain number of runners, I don't think that is jump racing's big problem. It's a level of micro-management with macro implications because of the impact on owners. Obviously we're talking about something that is being proposed in England, but I'm looking at certain handicaps that have been run in Ireland this year and without substantial support from certain yards, they would have been rather poorly subscribed. This wouldn't address that."

Any potential limit would also apply to the flat, with potential implications for leading handicap trainers such as David O'Meara. He had half a dozen runners in this year's Golden Mile at Goodwood.

Elliott's 11 Aintree National runners in 2019 surpassed the 10 saddled by his mentor, Martin Pipe, in 2001, and yesterday Elliott described the prospect of a limit in top handicaps as a "massive worry". He also said it could be "lunacy" if the BHA opt to introduce such a step.

In other news, Elliott said he is leaning towards a tilt at the King George VI Chase on St Stephen's Day with his top Cheltenham Gold Cup prospect Gerri Colombe.

Winner of Down Royal's Grade One feature last month, Gerri Colombe also has Christmas option of Leopardstown's Savills Chase. But ahead of a final decision next week, Elliott indicated the Kempton contest may cut up more.

The John McConnell-trained Mahler Mission, runner-up in Newbury's Coral Gold Cup, is set to miss Christmas entirely and is likely to be pointed towards a tilt at the Aintree National in April.

Briefs

Awards

McIlroy on shortlist for BBC award

Irish golfer Rory McIlroy is among six nominees for the BBC Sports Personality of the Year award.

The Irishman was Europe's top-scorer, winning four out of five matches, as the team bounced back from their heaviest defeat to the United States in the 2021 to triumph in this year's Ryder Cup — the fifth time he has won the event. Four-time major champion

McIlroy, 34, also registered 13 top-10 finishes on the PGA Tour in 2023, won the Scottish Open, retained the Race to Dubai and spent time in the world number one spot.

Manchester United goalkeeper Mary Earps is the bookmakers' runaway favourite to take the award, after helping England reach the Women's World Cup final in August, saving a penalty as they went down 1-0 to Spain. Earps was awarded the Golden Glove after keeping three clean sheets in the tournament.

McIlroy and Earps are joined on the shortlist by retired cricketer Stuart Broad, former jockey Frankie Dettori, heptathlete Katarina Johnson-Thompson, and wheelchair tennis player Alfie Hewett.

The winner of the public vote will be announced on the night of the live show on Tuesday, December 19.

Gaelic Games All-Ireland club SFC

Kilmacud v Glen semi-final to be played in Newry

The eagerly anticipated All-Ireland club senior football semi-final between Kilmacud Crokes and Glen has been fixed for Páirc Esler in Newry on January 7th.

It is a repeat of last January's All-Ireland final, which Crokes won 1-11 to 1-9 at Croke Park. That match ended in controversial circumstances due to the number of players the Dublin champions had on the field in the closing seconds.

The fallout from that substitution drama left a cloud over Kilmacud's celebrations, but the sides have appeared to be on a collision course again for several weeks now as they negotiated their way through their respective provincial competitions. The renewing of acquaintances between the clubs is set to provide one of the highest profile semi-finals in the history of the competition. The match will take place in Newry on Sunday, January 7th, with a throw-in time of 3.45pm.

The Castlehaven versus St Brigid's semi-final will be played on the same afternoon in Semple Stadium, Thurles, starting at 1.45pm.

GORDON MANNING

Rugby

Arundell ineligible for England after committing to Racing 92

Henry Arundell will be ineligible for England until June 2026 after his contract extension with Racing 92 was confirmed.

Arundell has made a flying start to life in Paris and has signed with Stuart Lancaster's club for another two seasons, ruling him out of Steve Borthwick's plans.

The 21-year-old's decision to commit to Racing is a hammer blow for the English Rugby Football Union, who hoped to make him the poster boy of the "hybrid" contracts that will be introduced next season.

Arundell had the chance to join Bath, with the RFU topping up his salary as one of 25 players over whom Borthwick will be able to exercise greater control, but has chosen to continue learning his craft under Lancaster instead.

Arundell joined Racing after the World Cup following the demise of London Irish last summer. Initially he had expected to be available for the coming Six Nations but Borthwick will now not unable to pick one of English rugby's most exciting talents.

LEGAL NOTICES

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 AS AMENDED.

NOTICE OF DIRECT PLANNING APPLICATION TO AN BORD PLEANÁLA IN RESPECT OF A STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT, COUNTY DUBLIN (FINGAL).

In accordance with Section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000, Energia Solar Holdings Limited, gives notice of its intention to make an application for a period of 10 years to An Bord Pleanála for approval of proposed electricity transmission infrastructure, cable connection and associated works in the townland of Fieldstown, Clonmethan Electoral District, County Dublin, Leinster, Ireland.

The Proposed Development comprises of (i) A 110 kV Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) tail-fed substation compound, consisting of a single storey 110kV AIS substation building (total floor area comprising circa 450m2, height approximately 6.1m); medium voltage (MV) switchgear container and switchboard (total floor area comprising circa 60m2; 110kV grid transformer and 2no. house transformers within bunded enclosures (approximately 6m high); diversion of existing 38kV overhead line (OHL); 160MV transformer positioned within bunded enclosures (height approximately 6m); a shunt filter; diesel generator & diesel tank; twelve lightning protection masts (height approximately 20m); a 2.6m high perimeter palisade fencing and post and rail (1.4m high) fencing; internal separation fencing (2.6m high) and (ii) Grid Connection consisting of a 13.3 km underground 110kV cable connection to Finglas Substation to facilitate connection to national grid; approximately 20 no. joint bays primarily within public roadways; trenchless installation in the form of horizontal directional drilling (HDD) will be used at the following locations: Broadmeadow River Bridge, Ward River Bridge on R122 and under the N2 prior to entering Finglas Substation. In addition, the Proposed Development will include a new site entrance off the R122, internal access roads and car parking, drainage infrastructure and all associated and ancillary site development works including localised alterations to the landscape. An Environmental Considerations Report (ECR) has been prepared in respect of the Proposed Development.

The planning application and ECR may be inspected free of charge or purchased on payment of a specified fee during public opening hours, for a period of eight weeks commencing on 12 December 2023 at the following locations at the following locations. The offices of An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1; and The Offices of Fingal County Council, Planning Department, Fingal County Council, County Hall, Swords, Co. Dublin, K67 X8Y. The application may also be viewed / downloaded at the following website once the application is lodged: www.fieldstownsubstation.ie Submissions or observations may be made only to An Bord Pleanála ("the Board"), 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 during the above mentioned period relating to: (i) The implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development, and (ii) The likely effects on the environment of the proposed development, and (iii) the likely significant effects of the proposed development on a European site, if carried out. Any submissions or observations must be accompanied by a fee of €50 (except for certain prescribed bodies) and must be received by the Board not later than 5.30 p.m. on 6 February 2024 and must include the following information: (i) The name of the person making the submission or observation, the name of the person acting on his or her behalf, if any, and the address to which any correspondence relating to the application should be sent, (ii) The subject matter of the submission or observation, and (iii) The reasons, considerations and arguments on which the submission or observation is based in full. (Article 217 of the Planning and Development Act refers). Any submissions or observations which do not comply with the above requirements cannot be considered by the Board. The Board may at its absolute discretion hold an oral hearing on the application. (For further details, see: "A Guide to Public Participation in Strategic Infrastructure Development" on the Board's website www.pleanala.ie). The Board may in respect of an application for permission/approval decide under Section 182B to: (a) Approve the proposed development (b) Make such modifications to the proposed development as it specifies in its decision and grant approval in respect of the proposed development as so modified, or (c) Approve in respect of the proposed development (with or without specified modifications of it of the foregoing kind). Any of the above decisions may be subject to or without conditions, or (d) The Board may refuse to approve the proposed development. Any enquiries relating to the application process should be directed to the Strategic Infrastructure Section of An Bord Pleanála (Telephone: 01 8588 100). A person may question the validity of any such decision of the Board by way of an application for judicial review, under Order 84 of the Rule of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986, as amended), in accordance with Section 50 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended. Practical information on the review mechanism can be accessed under the heading Publications – Judicial Review Notice on the Board's website www.pleanala.ie or on the Citizen Information Service website www.citizensinformation.ie.

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VIEW BY APPOINTMENT
Cathal Daughton: cdaughton@lisney.com
James Kearney: jkearney@lisney.com

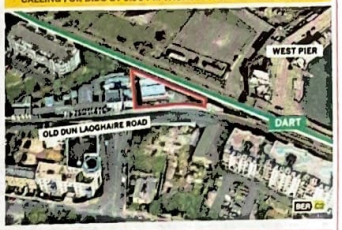
FOR SALE - DEVELOPMENT SITE

Old Dun Laoghaire Road, Co. Dublin

CALLING FOR BIDS BY 5.00 PM THURSDAY 14th DECEMBER 2023

- Located on the eastern side of Old Dun Laoghaire Road approx. 9km east of Dublin City Centre and approx. 1km north of Dun Laoghaire Main Street.
- Existing service station with excellent development potential for signature residential/commercial premises approx. 0.20 acres (0.08 Ha).
- Retail premises of approx. 90 sqm (958 sqft).
- Zoned Neighbourhood Centre.
- Title: Freehold.

VIEW BY APPOINTMENT
Cathal Daughton: cdaughton@lisney.com



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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Having had regard to the provisions of Section 42B(1) of the Industrial Relations Act 1946, the Security Industry Joint Labour Committee hereby gives notice that it has formulated proposals for fixing the minimum remuneration and working conditions of workers in relation to whom the Committee operates.

Copies of the proposals are available at the request of the Security Industry Joint Labour Committee on the website of the Labour Court at www.labourcourt.ie

Any person wishing to make representations in the form of written submission in relation to the proposals should do so in the form of written submission, by 5pm, on or before, 2nd January 2024. Any such representation should be sent by post to The Secretary, Security Industry Joint Labour Committee, Lansdowne House, Lansdowne Road, Dublin 4, or by email to ilcsecretary@enterprise.gov.ie

Representations received after that date shall not be considered.

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Flight Team Lead required by SkyHandling Partner, Dublin Airport 37.5 hrs per week. Annual salary €32,857. Email cv to jobs@shp.ie

Health Care Staff required, Riada Care Ltd, Oldtown, Celbridge, Co Kildare. To assist Residents with the activities of daily living, communicate effectively and work as part of a team. Ten, 39 hour positions available €27000.00 per anum. CV's to office@glenashling.ie

Legal Assistant Portuguese Speaker required by Solicitors Office in Dublin 3. Role: Support our team and actively manage daily workloads. Annual Salary: €30,000. Hours: 39p/w. Email CV to tim@ohanrahan.com

Community Operations Analyst required by CPL Solutions Ltd, Nova Atria, Sandyford Business Park, Dublin. Role: Annotate data, evaluate results, maintain guidelines and research entity categories. Fluency: Hindi, English. Degree | + year experience. €30,375.84 p.a. 37.5hrs p/w permanent. Email CV to Torben.Jensen@cpl.ie

Weekend Review
EVERY WEEKEND IN THE IRISH TIMES

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