

# THE BLACK HORSE NEWSLETTER

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WILLIAM JONES

Shining a fierce light on the **GREED, CORRUPTION, EXPLOITATION**  
and **INJUSTICE** in horse racing and bloodstock around the world



John Magnier



Amer Abdulaziz Salman



Sheikh Mohammed

# THE MONEY LAUNDERERS

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# COOLMORE LAUNDERS MILLIONS FOR ABDULAZIZ'S PHOENIX



SALES NEWS TRADE TALK

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## Just like old times as €1.5 million Galileo filly leads the way at Goffs Orby

Coolmore's seven-figure purchase headed a buoyant market in Kildare

It was an important headline in the Racing Post on 28 September 2021. Like old times because Goffs held its premier yearling sale on home territory after a two year hiatus due to Covid, and Coolmore Stud's champion Galileo, the best Thoroughbred stallion in the world, was again responsible for another millionaire yearling.

The filly (pictured above) was bred by Phoenix Thoroughbred Ltd whose owner Amer Abdulaziz Salman is on the run from the FBI over the OneCoin cryptocurrency scheme created in the aftermath of the huge success of BitCoin.

Out of the Grade 1 Frizette Stakes winner Nickname and prepared for the sale by David Cox's Baroda Stud in Kildare, her transatlantic pedigree was of obvious interest to the international buyers who operate at the top of the flat racing game, but she was destined to stay at home in Ireland.

Without touching on the filly's connection to Abdulaziz, the Racing Post reported that Coolmore's MV Magnier had the final bid at €1.5 million and he revealed he had been following the filly's progress closely from when she was foaled at his family's famous County Tipperary stud farm.

**“She has been in Coolmore all her life and she's a lovely filly. Roger O'Dwyer and all the lads who have looked after her all the time have always really liked her. She's by Galileo, which says enough on its own. Her mother was a very good racemare by Scat Daddy, who looks as if he will be a good broodmare sire, so everything came together.”**

Named Starry Eyed and trained by Aidan O'Brien for the usual Coolmore team of Magnier, Tabor and Smith and in partnership with Opel cars billionaire Georg Von Opel, she has been placed third twice in three runs to date in 2022.

She wasn't the only Galileo yearling bred by Phoenix to sell on the same day at Goffs. Leading US trainer Kenny McPeck was looking for a son of Coolmore's champion stallion to take home and he paid €440,000 for the second foal out of the Invincible Spirit mare Pocketfulofdreams, who Aidan O'Brien trained to run second in the Listed Salsabil Stakes and Lingfield Oaks Trial.

Pocketfulofdreams was a €550,000 yearling bought by Mayfair Speculators and Irish bloodstock agents Peter and Ross Doyle in France in 2015 and went into training with O'Brien at Ballydoyle. She was raced by Magnier, Tabor and Smith in partnership this time with Markus Jooste, the corrupt South African businessman whose company, Steinhoff International, the Ikea of Africa, went spectacularly bust in late 2017.

Mayfair Speculators was an investment company owned by Jooste, who spent millions with MV Magnier in pursuit of the best yearlings money could buy, until the South African crook's money ran out.

At the time Jooste hooked up with the Coolmore partners, he was reportedly worth over \$400 million. South African authorities are still trying to work out what happened at Steinhoff, where Jooste secretly fiddled the company's books to an extraordinary degree in a scandal which saw millions of small investors lose their life savings.

But that's the way it often turns out, the ordinary investors at the bottom of the pile are the ones who get shafted, just like with the Cryptoqueen and Abdulaziz in OneCoin. It will surprise no one in Ireland that the Coolmore mafia are in the mix in both the Jooste and OneCoin scandals.

When her racing career ended, Pocketfulofdreams was sold to Stephen Hillen Bloodstock for 475,000 guineas in February 2018, put in foal to Galileo, stud fee around E300,000, and resold to Phoenix later in the year for one million guineas.

To bring the Irish connection of the Phoenix story up to date, Nickname's latest yearling was sold at Goffs two months ago. Another filly by Galileo, she was bought by the British Bloodstock Ireland agency for €430,000 on behalf of Maurice Regan of Newtown Anner Stud in County Tipperary.

With the assistance of Coolmore's bespoke money laundering operation, which included Goffs Sales and Baroda Stud, Abdulaziz had raked in well over €2 million in sparkly clean cash for his three Galileo yearlings born and reared at John Magnier's stud farm. Lovely jubbly, as that geezer in Only Fools and Horses liked to say.

Nickname had been bought as a broodmare by Abdulaziz in 2017 as part of his grand plan to become a major player in the racing world using stolen money.

Bloodstock agent Kerri Radcliffe bought her for \$3 million at auction in the US and told the media: **"She was gorgeous. I didn't think I would have to pay that much for her. But she's a collector's item. She will be going back to England and if we can, we will breed her to a pretty good stallion called Galileo."**

Radcliffe indicated she had more mares to purchase for Abdulaziz: **"This is part of the plan as Phoenix goes forward. We love America."** Phoenix also soon had 27 trainers on its payroll in the UK and moved into every other major racing jurisdiction worldwide, just as Abdulaziz had promised. What a transformation in the life of the man from Bahrain who no one in the racing game appeared to have heard of.

But the love felt by Radcliffe and Abdulaziz for America was not reciprocated anywhere for long, apart from Ireland.

The FBI started to investigate where all this money really came from and two years on, Konstantin Ignatov, brother of Dr Ruja Ignatov, the charismatic **“Cryptoqueen”** mastermind who defrauded investors from around the world of over \$4 billion, was arrested at Los Angeles International Airport as he was about to do a runner.



Dr Ignatov (pictured), a Bulgarian national, had already disappeared without trace and Abdulaziz was holed up in Dubai living the high life, safe because Sheikh Mohammed doesn't believe in extraditing villains from his empire in the UAE to face justice for their crimes committed in the real world.

He loves them all, Russian oligarchs, the biggest drug gangs, fraudsters of every shape and size - Dubai is a haven for any dodgy money floating around.

Konstantin Ignatov made a deal with the FBI, pleading guilty to a couple of charges of fraud in exchange for a lighter prison sentence yet to be determined. He then gave evidence at the trial of Mark Scott, a lawyer acting for OneCoin who was unable to show how he came to possess \$400 million and was, unsurprisingly, found guilty of fraud.

Abdulaziz has the same problem with the \$250 million he tucked away. It does take quite a bit of explaining, so Abdulaziz doesn't even try any longer because no one believes a word he says.

# ABDULAZIZ STOLE \$250 MILLION IN CRYPTOCURRENCY SCAM

Konstantin Ignatov said at Scott's trial that Abdulaziz **“was one of Ruja's main money launderers”** but he suddenly began buying racehorses with millions of dollars he stole from OneCoin. Abdulaziz claims the money belongs to the Dubai registered Phoenix Fund Investments Ltd, which he owns, and well heeled individuals he has never been able to identify gave him \$250 million to invest in whatever catches his eye. The \$250 million is the figure he has quoted, it's probably much higher.

To add to the absurdity of his claims, Abdulaziz has absolutely no track record as an investment fund manager, big or small. Allegations have surfaced that he left a trail of bad debts in a previous foray into racehorse ownership at a significantly lower level many years ago. He is clearly a fantasist with one notable exception - he really did have \$250 million - but he has never been able to prove where it came from.

He describes his equine business on the website of Phoenix Equity Holdings, which also includes references in glowing terms to his interests in construction, metal and waste management and a business hub, but there is no evidence that any are trading.





Phoenix Thoroughbred does not have stables in the US, Europe, Australia or the United Arab Emirates. The lies are all part of the fraud. And he further claims:

**“We have the support and strong alliance with the Dubai Government.”**

Two years ago, Horse Racing Ireland said it had started an investigation to determine if Phoenix should be allowed to operate in the Republic, but have refused to comment since and the fact that Coolmore Stud has continued to launder the proceeds of Abdulaziz’s crimes reveals all - no one tells Magnier what he can or can't do.

Phoenix said it **“categorically denies all allegations made against it and its owner, Mr Amer Abdulaziz, in legal proceedings against OneCoin and its conspirators. We will fully cooperate with relevant authorities, should they require any assistance.”**

Abdulaziz left an email address but never replied to my requests to find out how he was getting on. He has definitely not hopped on a plane back to the US to assist the FBI with their investigation. There must be a misunderstanding, right?

There’s no misunderstanding about the level of money laundering going on in Ireland, it’s one of the fastest growing industries. More than €64 million has been laundered through the Republic by so called money mules working for international crime gangs.

The Garda National Economic Crime Bureau said it has identified more than 800 such fraudsters, but estimates there are more than 4,000 mules in Ireland.

Many of them have been recruited abroad and flown in to open accounts to launder millions of euro. A total of 264 people have been arrested in a two year investigation for organised crime offences and money laundering while only 130 have been charged.

Government statistics suggest that €126 million was laundered throughout the country in 1998, which had increased to over €5.4 billion by 2012 and has continued to rise exponentially since. In 2019, Minister for Justice, Charlie Flanagan, told the Oireachtas (Parliament) he didn’t have the faintest idea how much money is now being criminally laundered. When asked for an estimate he replied: **“It is not possible to provide the information requested.”**

It must be bad, if he’s afraid to even take an educated stab in the dark. He’s since been sacked and spends his spare time counting vegetables on his allotment.

Spuds are the trickiest, you never know how many there are underground, could be anything between five and five billion.

Compare how Australia handled the Abdulaziz scandal. The first point to be made is that Australian racing is alive, vibrant and progressive. Their regulators are trying hard to show the sport is serious about corruption, particularly for the presence of performance enhancing drugs.

The second point is that Irish flat racing is in serious decline with one foot in the grave; few want to watch it and even fewer want to bet on it, one reason being the lack of competition created by Coolmore's obsession for total control for its own corrupt benefit.

Ireland's best horses are also regularly sold abroad - Waterville is the latest, sold by Coolmore to Australia for £400,000 days after banking over £300,000 for winning the Irish Cesarewich, a race HRI said they had made worth so much money so that these good horses could win a decent pot at home and wouldn't have to be sold abroad. They all dance to Magnier's tune.

There is no meaningful anti-doping programme, despite the propaganda spewed out by the Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board. Few believe Irish racing is clean and the never ending line of trainers found to be doping their horses gets longer every week.

## Magic Millions buyer linked to money laundering, \$4b crypto scam

*The FBI is investigating the biggest investor in Australian horseracing over a scam that could have cost Australians \$770 million, according to a former executive.*

*Over the past four years, a previously obscure Dubai businessman named Amer Abdulaziz Salman has helped drive a horseracing investment boom that culminated in January at the Magic Millions yearling sale, where Abdulaziz and Canberra casino owner Tony Fung spent \$11.6 million on 19 horses, becoming the biggest spenders at one of the most lucrative Australian horse sales in history.*



*As Magic Millions owners Gerry Harvey and Katie Page celebrated the success of the \$212 million auction - and their 10 per cent cut - some industry insiders were asking themselves a troubling question: how did a man accused in a US court of laundering money for a global cryptocurrency scam that the US Department of Justice estimated cost Australians almost a billion dollars become one of the leading investors in horse racing?*

## **The Australian Financial Review 2021.**

The Australian racing authorities conducted an investigation and duly banned Phoenix from racing in the country and billionaire Fung terminated his partnership with Abdulaziz. Ireland is now the only country which feels any love for the beleaguered mogul who dreamt of conquering the racing world.

So he is now on the run from the law and domiciled in Dubai; it's a five star town, a fine place to be holed up. But his racing operation is registered in the UK which is a democracy rather than an autocracy like Dubai and there are important company rules to be followed. Directors must file annual accounts.

Revelations about Abdulaziz were reported in the first Black Horse Newsletter 18 months ago, when Adrian McGuinness and Fozzy Stack were exposed for the first time as Phoenix Thoroughbred's trainers in Ireland.

The audited accounts for 2019 filed with Companies House in the UK showed Phoenix to consist of four companies which recorded combined losses of £15 million. Net liabilities at the end of that year stood at £28 million and creditors due to be paid within one year totalled over £131 million.

Official documents stated Phoenix had no bank borrowings but was financed from Dubai through Phoenix Fund Investments LLC, which Abdulaziz says he owns. Company horses were valued at £88 million.

The auditors, Nexia Smith & Williamson, highly regarded experts in the bloodstock industry, resigned from their position with Phoenix in January 2021 because they said they had become aware of money laundering allegations against the sole director, Abdulaziz, which he has been unable to disprove.

His answer to his auditors walking away was to change his accountancy policies particularly for his latest accounts for the year 2021 just filed. He claims his company is now entitled to an exemption under the Companies Act which permits small entities with a low annual turnover to produce abridged accounts and consequently disclose very little financial information.

His racing operation covers four separate companies to ensure he qualifies for the exemption, which also means he is not required to have them independently audited. Theoretically this is legal and to date Phoenix Thoroughbred Ltd has not been officially vetted and approved.

Abdulaziz now claims in the latest accounts he holds bloodstock valued at over £47 million in total, down from £88 million two years ago, with net liabilities of £50 million (up from £28 million) and creditors of £108 million falling due for payment within one year, but there is only his word for this as he has audited the financial information himself. His main company states it has two employees and the other three companies none.

The operation he now runs is a million miles away from what he announced in 2017, when he told the media he was launching the world's first regulated fund for Thoroughbred horse racing. **“We have fund managers to report back to, and transparency has to be 200 per cent being regulated in Luxembourg. We like the transparency. Our legal structure is very unique. We’re the only regulated fund worldwide, which for me is a huge achievement.”**

What was undoubtedly huge was Abdulaziz's capacity to lie; it's all make believe, a sham. The Luxembourg authorities refused to regulate the fund and Abdulaziz placed it into voluntary liquidation.

**But he still had the OneCoin cash. He carried on as an unregulated investment fund from Dubai and, even though he was banned from racing around the world, Coolmore Stud and Goffs Sales loved his ambition and have been laundering his stolen money ever since.**

# SPORTSWASHING RACING WITH ARAB OIL



Doha, capital of Qatar.

You have probably heard the World Cup is being held in Qatar at this time. You also may know Qatar lured millions of people from the poorest countries on earth and then forced them into what is commonly known as modern slavery so that eight magnificent stadiums with all the gilded add-ons referred to as infrastructure could be delivered at a cost of over €230 billion, in time for opening day 20 November 2022.

Most people will also be aware of the worst of the many damning statistics that sum up the Qatar World Cup - over 6,500 of those immigrant workers are said to have died over the last decade to make this ridiculous dream come true. The Guardian newspaper blew the whistle on what was going on, but politicians did nothing other than quietly splutter a few embarrassed tut tuts. They now see it as a lot more serious.

Football is the most popular sport in the world, with an estimated following of over 3.5 billion fans. Qatar has executed a sportswashing coup like no other with the full cooperation of corrupt western governments which confirmed that Qatar is gold medal standard for bribery.

Sportswashing has, of course, been around for a long time; the difference now is that no one tries to dress it up or even hide it at all. While football might be described as the sport of the common man and woman, racing is known as the sport of kings, which has long propagated the illusion that it's a bit superior.

Far from demonising sportswashing, racing loves it. Without tainted money from the likes of Qatar, Dubai, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia to go with the dodgy practices of the gambling conglomerates such as Paddy Power, Bet365 and William Hill, racing as we know it wouldn't exist. It's corruption in all its guises that keeps the wheels turning.

Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Emir of Qatar, bought the Paris St Germain football club in 2011 and it has become the richest club in France and one of the wealthiest in the world thanks to Qatar's gas and oil money. It's perfectly natural, then, that many football supporters around the world hate PSG with a vengeance for being so lucky, especially in France.

Qatar's sportswashing in British and European racing took off around the same time it was bunging millions of dollars in the deep pockets of important decision makers in football. It is not surprising the more parochial world of racing has cost Qatar a lot less cash than football, which has such a huge worldwide audience, but it still amounts to hundreds of millions of pounds.

QIPCO Holding was set-up in Doha in 1999 as a global investment company with interests in real estate, construction, oil and gas, trading, finance and health. It's owned by six brothers who are cousins of the Emir of Qatar. Their website brags about how much influence their money has bought.

**“Since 2010, its portfolio of interests has extended to include horseracing and its investment in the sport as both sponsor and commercial partner is the largest in the history of British racing. The global racing and bloodstock operations, Qatar Racing and Qatar Bloodstock, are subsidiaries of QIPCO.”**



The Al Thani brothers who own QIPCO with Sheikh Fahad on the right.

QIPCO's position as an official partner of Ascot Racecourse is gold dust and grants Qatar serious credibility, principally because of Royal Ascot, one of the premier racing and social events in the world, but also as title sponsor of British Champions Day at the track at the end of every flat season in October.

The Qataris went a step further than stand-alone sponsorship by also creating their own racing operation in 2012 **“with the ultimate goal to maximise success on the racecourse and promote the Qatar Racing brand.”** After a bright start, the big plan is now falling apart but it doesn't matter, it's only money, it's how sportswashing works.

QIPCO has already pulled racing sponsorship from France and Ireland and when the Qatari Sheikhs work out how much hosting the World Cup has cost them they will quietly leave the racing stage; when the oil and gas runs out they are going to wish they weren't so profligate with their wealth in the last decade.

Qatar Racing Ltd had a tough time in 2021, the ninth year it has traded according to its recently filed accounts at Companies House, and this year is worse again. These are the main points:

- **The financial statements indicate “a less successful year” with a £10,992,112 loss in 2021 compared to a £47,957 loss in 2020.**
- **At 31 December 2021, the balance owed by Qatar Racing to QIPCO (the parent company registered in Doha) amounted to £87 million. Including the loan from QIPCO, Qatar Racing had total net debts of nearly £89 million.**

- Qatar Racing borrowed £7.75 million from QIPCO in 2021 to enable it to meet its obligations. Its principal assets were its equine stocks valued at a fast depreciating £13.7 million.
- Worldwide turnover for the company for 2021 plummeted from £19.2 million in 2020 to £5.9 million. The biggest problem was in the UK (Europe and Rest of World were its two other operating regions), where turnover dropped like a stone from £15.2 million in 2020 to £2.8 million in 2021. The accounts stated the main reason for the fall was the bloodstock being sold in 2021 was valued significantly lower compared to the previous year.
- An analysis of the company's worldwide turnover for 2021 showed bloodstock sales amounted to £4 million and prize money and sponsorship earned nearly £2 million. In the current year, prize money won in Britain by horses wholly owned by Qatar Racing has so far amounted to a withering £189,116 to indicate the operation's problems are mounting ominously.
- Despite the substantial amount it is owed, QIPCO confirmed it was prepared to throw more money at the racing division. Notes to the financial statement revealed that QIPCO did not require the interest free loan of £87 million to be repaid within the following 12 months and also indicated that although it expects the company to be self-funding it is also prepared to provide further financial support. Qatar Racing also owes its fellow subsidiary - Qatar Bloodstock Ltd - £2.45 million but is under no pressure to settle the debt.
- The company's Longholes Stud in Newmarket has been for sale at an asking price of £6 million for over two years. Qatar Racing hasn't bought any yearlings of note at the recent sales in England and Ireland in 2022 but has been selling breeding stock at the Newmarket sales this month. The accounts stated:

**“Taking into account the mitigating steps that could be taken (including the accelerated sale of bloodstock assets) and the ongoing availability of the loan facility from the parent entity, the directors have a reasonable expectation that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence in the foreseeable future.”**



Qatar Racing's directors are listed as: Sheikh Fahad bin Abdullah Al Thani, Kareem Adeeb Abdallah Altaji and David John Luke Redvers. The financial statements reveal the directors receive no remuneration.

Redvers owns Tweenhills Farm and Stud in Gloucestershire where he currently stands four stallions on behalf of Sheikh Fahad's operation. He is also the Racing Manager for the company whose debts are likely to be much closer to £100 million now.

Qatar Racing is either a bit of a disaster or its accountants have come up with a brilliant scam. It's no big deal either way, QIPCO will just write off the hundred million, they will need a miracle to trade their way out of this mess. The big question is has all this money enhanced Qatar's reputation?

Serious questions also need to be asked about the influence on sport of the whole Gulf region and not just because of the World Cup in Qatar and the war in golf caused by Saudi Arabia, but racing doesn't do tricky questions, it just rolls out the red carpet to anyone who can throw an oil tanker full of cash its way. Bahrain is an interesting sportswashing case.

It takes some believing considering how rich Bahrain is and how the UK is so poor that the British Government has provided millions in funding to their Bahrain counterparts to try and reform its judicial system. It is well documented innocent people are routinely executed after sham trials or tortured and imprisoned for decades.

Bahrain's royal family, originally from Qatar, is headed by King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, who is leader of the minority Sunni Islamic religious group whereas the majority of the country's 1.5 million citizens are Shiite Islamists. Democracy isn't coming to Bahrain any time soon, which is why it has an appalling civil rights reputation; the Sunnis are outnumbered almost 2:1 by the Shiites, so the King pays the Army well to keep him in power.

The 2011 Bahraini uprising, inspired by the Arab Spring, ended in a bloody crackdown against the Shiite demonstrators who had demanded an elected government, bravely threatening the Sunni monarchy's grip on power.

*Amnesty International's* 2015 report on the country points to the continued suppression of dissent, restricted freedom of expression, unjust imprisonment and frequent torture of its citizens who are opposed to the self-appointed King Hamad.

A further report was made in 2017: **“Since June 2016, Bahrain has rapidly deteriorated into a full blown human rights crisis. The authorities have dramatically stepped up their clampdown on freedom of expression. They have subjected over 160 peaceful critics to arrest, prosecution and imprisonment, as well as other forms of harassment. The authorities have also targeted Bahraini activists residing outside Bahrain, subjecting their families to interrogation and prosecution in reprisal for their relatives’ human rights activities or participation in protests abroad.”**

Despite intimating he was going to reform the judicial system, King Hamad oversaw the execution of six prisoners in 2017 and has continued to rule with an iron fist.

And the UK has continued to provide millions of pounds as part of a £70 million package to the Gulf region over the past five years to promote reforms. Funding to Bahrain and Saudi Arabia has been doubled but the Saudi response was to execute 81 people in a single day earlier this year and have recently put another 13 to death to bring the total to over 130 in 2022. Most executions are beheadings with a sword.

How the Arabs must be in stitches laughing at the British giving them taxpayers’ disappearing cash when so many can’t afford to heat their homes this winter. And the killing goes on.

*Human Rights Watch* reported Bahrain is still executing people while also denying medical treatment to some of the prominent opposition figures being kept in permanent detention. It provided evidence that 13 children aged between 11 and 17 were beaten and threatened with rape and electrocution when detained for taking part in a peaceful protest.

A report published just a month ago by *Human Rights Watch* and the London-based *Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy* claimed that many confessions are still obtained through torture. Defendants in these cases say they have been subjected to electric shocks to the genitals, rape, beatings and sleep deprivation. Government doctors determined these allegations were true following medical examinations.

While all this has been going on British racing has been offering Bahrain its fullest support. Bahrain is growing its own racing calendar by sponsoring races at Newbury Racecourse and promoting the opportunities available for UK trainers to fly their horses out to the Gulf to compete for appreciably greater prize money in the winter.

Frankie Dettori and Andrew Balding are two ambassadors who have extolled the virtues of Bahraini racing. Dettori told anyone who would listen: **“It is a joy to ride in Bahrain. It is probably one of the best turf courses in the Middle East. His Highness Shaikh Isa has done a fantastic job in creating the Bahrain International Trophy, which has already attracted some fantastic horses. It is a very exciting time for racing in Bahrain.”**

British racing never speaks out about human rights. Dettori rode in last week’s Bahrain International Trophy. Does he feel any guilt for his glowing recommendation of the country considering its appalling reputation for killing, beating, raping and imprisoning its citizens, or does Shaikh Isa’s money override all other considerations?

This year, Bahrain Turf Club became the sponsor of the Irish Champion Stakes at Leopardstown, the country’s one elite flat race. Each edition is now worth €1 million in prize money until 2027. Suzanne Eade, Chief Executive of Horse Racing Ireland, eulogised over the close ties between the two countries.

**“I would like to thank His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa and the Bahrain Turf Club for this sponsorship. We are very aware of the desire the Kingdom of Bahrain has to grow their racing product and Bahrain has a continued presence at our sales for many years now and also a growing bloodstock interest in Ireland.”**

The Black Horse Newsletter is going to ask Ms Eade to explain why she supports the killing and imprisonment of innocent people without fair and open trials in a country that she describes as one of Irish racing’s most important trading partners.

Does she believe she has blood on her hands for allowing Bahrain to sportswash its appalling reputation for abusing the rights of one religious group, the Shiites, by sponsoring the Irish Champion for €6 million? Her answers will be in the next issue of the Black Horse Newsletter.

## **A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS**

United Arab Emirates’ President, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, met Vladimir Putin in Moscow on 11 October. The UAE has maintained close business ties with Russia during its war with Ukraine and has refused to join sanctions imposed by the West in response to Moscow’s illegal invasion. They are in Putin’s team.

The Russian leader thanked the President of the UAE for supporting the decision taken by OPEC, the oil producing cartel which includes Middle East countries and Russia, to slash production by two million barrels a day when the world was crying out for more not less oil.

The price of oil increasing significantly was a huge bonus for Putin but came with dire consequences for millions of ordinary people in Europe, who will be under severe pressure this winter to heat their homes and afford basic food as the cost of living spiraled out of control. People, particularly the elderly and the sick, will die because they are hungry and cold, as Arab states in the Persian Gulf unequivocally side with Putin to use oil and gas as a weapon against the West over the war in Ukraine.



The owner of Godolphin Racing and Darley Stud, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Makhtoum, is Vice President, Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the UAE. He is also the Ruler of Dubai and is at the centre of Arab support for Russia.

One week before the Presidents of the UAE and Russia met in Moscow, Sheikh Mohammed Al Makhtoum spent over £25 million buying 26 yearlings at the UK's premier yearling sale in Newmarket. The increase in the price of oil covered the £25 million he spent many times over.

He has just been crowned Champion Racehorse Owner in the UK for the 2022 Flat Season, winning total prize money of over £8 million. He has doubled that with his horses running worldwide and the new stallions he has now created through another successful season will collectively earn hundreds of millions in stud fees. His principal trainer, Charlie Appleby, has just become Champion UK Trainer for the second time.

Godolphin are on a bit of a roll, and with the extra revenue the UAE will now pull in because of the oil price agreement with Putin, ain't life grand. But racing fans and workers in the UK and Ireland need to wise-up and realise the Arabs are taking them for a ride; they are now permanently aligned with Russia and there is no turning back. That's the UAE, Bahrain, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, all of whom are dependent on their involvement in British and Irish racing and breeding to promote their own racing industries and egos.

Without the United States, UK, Europe and Japan, Arab racing would be as competitive as a donkey derby on a beach. British and Irish racing should stand-up to the bullies from the Middle East, but you won't see any courage or moral leadership at the BHA or HRI.

## **A MESSAGE FROM STAFF AT SHADWELL FARMS IN IRELAND, THE UK AND AMERICA**

The email arrived in the summer. It wasn't anonymous. I've been waiting for the right time to go with it, which is now at the end of the flat racing season. Shadwell's brilliant racehorse, Baaeed, has been honoured as a true champion, the highest rated turf horse for a decade.

Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, brother of Sheikh Mohammed and owner of Shadwell, died aged 75 in 2021. He was Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Minister for Finance, Industry and Trade.

He was also Champion Owner in the UK nine times and was one of world horse racing's foremost owner breeders for over thirty years. He bred and raced some of the best horses in the modern era; Nashwan, Dayjur and Salsabil being just three early greats in a long list.

In 1982 he bought Derrinstown Stud in County Kildare and two years later added Shadwell Stud in Norfolk and then the 3,200 acre Shadwell Farm in Lexington, Kentucky, to earn legendary status in the Thoroughbred world, with Baaeed the latest off the production line that has now being dismantled.

His family decided on a mass cull of his racing empire after his death which resulted in over two thirds of his racehorses and bloodstock being sold along with complete dispersals of his interests in South Africa and Australia. This year three of his farms in Ireland were put up for sale.

It was a reduction in size and at a pace few people saw coming, not least his loyal and devoted staff on the farms. It probably would have even surprised Sheikh Hamdan, who had a well-earned reputation as a thoroughly decent man and exemplary employer. Perhaps the kids weren't happy with their inheritance. This is the email about the staff.

Fourth Group 1 win for Baaeed but where is the staff that nurtured him?

Baaeed got the business done at Royal Ascot but 50% of stable staff of Derrinstown Stud and Shadwell Stud where Baaeed was bred and raised were made redundant before the start of the 2022 flat racing season. Staff lost their homes, their jobs, their identity and were given cents above statutory redundancy to pack their bags and leave quietly.

Following the death of Sheikh Hamdan last year his bloodstock interests were inherited by Sheikha Hissa which included Baaeed and her brothers Sheikh Rashid, Sheikh Saeed and Sheikh Maktoum. The Royal Family of Dubai went to great lengths to publish that they would be continuing their father's bloodstock legacy.

Brutal, cutthroat, barbarous redundancy followed with the sacking of Rick Nichols who was a lifetime friend of Sheikh Hamdan and manager of Shadwell Farm in America. Richard Lancaster who was the manager of Shadwell in England was given the boot and 50% of the staff in Derrinstown Stud and Shadwell Stud were made redundant with more redundancies to follow. What legacy?

Under the instruction of Sheikha Hissa and her advisers stable staff in UK and Ireland have been left homeless due to redundancy even though the Shadwell Estates and Derrinstown Stud have hundreds of houses under their control, many Manor houses and thousands of acres. Most of the minimum waged staff had a personal relationship with the late Sheikh Handan (Sheikh Mohammed's Brother) have been left devastated.

Take nothing away from Baaeed's reputation but what about the Royal Family of Dubai.



Two weeks ago I contacted Chris Kennard, a director of Shadwell Stud in Norfolk. I outlined my concerns and said: **“Kindly come back to me within the next seven days if you wish to respond. The email I have referred to is printed below exactly as I received it except that I have withheld the sender’s details.”** Mr Kennard chose not to reply.

Within a week Shadwell announced a surprise expansion of their racing operation after all the slashing and burning of the last 12 months. Three young trainers - George Boughey, Kevin Phillipart de Foy and Harry Eustace - had been added to their roster of trainers for the first time and would be sent yearlings to train, even though Shadwell continued to sell stock at Newmarket Sales last week.

Days later the stud farm spent £1.2 million buying seven foals at Newmarket because their downsizing had been too severe and they would be short of yearlings next year. Sheikh Hamdan made his name by breeding his own champions, not buying them. Shadwell’s greatest days have gone.



**Baaeed**

# THE SECRETS THE BHA REFUSE TO GIVE UP

This is the continuing story about Sarah Waring, who isn't a Grand National winning trainer and hasn't won any races at the Cheltenham Festival.

Issue 6 of the Black Horse Newsletter told of the ordeal Waring was put through when she dared to stand up to Oliver Sherwood and the British Horseracing Authority. It's just the start, because this is a story which says so much about the corrupt elite who are leading racing into oblivion.

In the aftermath of that story appearing in the newsletter, I received information about an incident at Huntingdon Racecourse on 19 November 2016. The official Stewards' Report stated:

**Race 1 - 12:05pm.**

**THE PAMELA LAWRENCE-TEULON 50TH BIRTHDAY MARES' NOVICES' HURDLE RACE (CLASS 4)**

The Stewards held an enquiry following a report from the Veterinary Officer that Oliver Sherwood, the trainer of ROBINESSE (IRE), may have breached the restrictions imposed under Rule (C)33 "Restrictions applied in relation to horses whilst on racecourse property." They interviewed the trainer, and the Veterinary Officer. Having heard their evidence, they forwarded the matter to the Head Office of the British Horseracing Authority for further consideration

There were two issues of particular interest. Firstly, Sherwood was alleged to have breached BHA rules when found in possession of a syringe on the racecourse. Secondly, it was claimed the Veterinary Officer involved in this case was Dr Matthew Tong, who graded a horse Sarah Waring had in training with Sherwood as 1 on the scale veterinarians use to determine whether a horse is in poor or good condition - 1 is the lowest score. Tong then failed to appear as a witness in a court case involving Sherwood which resulted in Waring's case against the trainer collapsing.

I wrote to Catherine Beloff, BHA's Head of Legal, on 4 October 2022 asking for an explanation of what happened when this issue came before the BHA for further consideration.

**“I can find no case on the BHA website to explain what the BHA decided to do about this referral from Huntingdon Stewards. Can you please give me an explanation? This is important as the information I have received is that the Stewards alleged Mr Sherwood breached the rules of racing when he was discovered on racecourse property in possession of a syringe, but the BHA covered it up.”**

As is usual with the BHA, if a question is too difficult to answer they say nothing at all because they are an unregulated and rogue organisation which doesn't have to account to anyone. It's how they keep information of public interest a closely guarded secret.

I emailed Beloff five weeks later noting that she had chosen not to reply to my request for an explanation regarding the issue raised by Huntingdon Stewards. I said: **“Under these circumstances, I will assume that what I wrote in my letter is true.”**

During litigation between Sherwood and Waring, which was recounted in Issue 6 of The Black Horse Newsletter, Tarnya Sherwood (Oliver Sherwood's wife), wrote an email to his advisers which alleged the BHA prevented The Sun and The Daily Mail newspapers from publishing stories about a welfare complaint Waring had made against Sherwood.

The email was included in documentation used in court proceedings. **“Sarah Waring contacted various newspapers/press before the Grand National in 2016, when we had the favourite for the race, claiming he (Oliver Sherwood) had been found guilty of cruelty and neglect to her horse Treasury Bond. The Sun and The Daily Mail contacted Oliver on 10th April 2016 to ask for a quote, he denied being found guilty but they were still attempting to run the story until the BHA stepped in to stop them printing it because it wasn't true.”**

Waring has made a request under the Data Protection Act for copies of any data the BHA holds which refers to her and The Sun and Daily Mail. On 21 October 2022 Catherine Beloff replied and provided one seven line paragraph which was heavily redacted. She said the BHA could provide no further written information because the matters concerning the two newspapers were conducted by **“verbal interaction”** and no notes were made of any discussions.

The brief data she did provide ended by saying: **“We explained all of this to the (Sun) journalist, and also had [name redacted] explain to [name redacted] that the photos [name redacted] has do not show a horse in poor health. It would seem that this action has killed the story.”**

The BHA “**killed**” the story by appearing to make numerous allegations against Waring which they now refuse to substantiate. It is interesting that the BHA believes it was appropriate to say what they liked to journalists in order to kill a story they didn’t want to be published, but are attempting to keep it all a secret from Waring, who has made a perfectly legitimate data request.

Waring gave Beloff one final opportunity to provide the full information she has sought, but BHA’s Head of Legal has again refused to reply. She will now lodge an appeal to the Information Commissioner and, if necessary, take a case to the High Court.

On 19 June 2017, Paul Beeby, Head of Integrity at the BHA, was sent an email, which I have seen, alerting him to a series of vile social media posts instigated by Tarnya Sherwood which personally attacked Waring. Beeby didn’t reply.

Beeby worked for the Cambridge Police Authority for 26 years before joining the BHA, ending up as a detective sergeant. It’s entirely reasonable to have expected a considerably better response from Beeby, but there again, BHA standards are a lot lower than even today’s police force.

British racing has a potentially important initiative, Respect in Racing, which states: **“The BHA Code of Conduct establishes a set of standards aimed at protecting the values of the sport of horse racing and making racing a great place to work based on a culture of respect.”**

This is point 4 of the code: **“Everyone who uses social media and the online space must act responsibly and not engage in any form of online bullying, harassment or abuse.”**

I mailed a letter to Catherine Beloff on 9 November 2022 adding the same Facebook thread sent to Paul Beeby in 2017. It’s available to view below. I said:

- **For the record, Tarnya Sherwood is the wife of Oliver Sherwood and is fully involved in the running of Mr Sherwood’s training operation. Andy Thomas Llewellyn is Mr Sherwood’s assistant trainer.**
- **Emma Chugg is Mr Sherwood’s racing secretary and wife of Richard Chugg, the Joint Chief Executive of Weatherbys Hamilton Insurance. Please note the hashtag Ms Chugg uses - goingdownbitch - which is**

clearly aimed at Ms Waring. Ms Sherwood uses a similarly derogatory hashtag - diseaseofawoman - aimed at Ms Waring.

- There is a Jonathan Geake named at the end of the thread, who may or may not be the licensed trainer and former judge. Noel Williams is also believed to be a trainer.

I had one question for Beloff: **What are you going to do about the appalling comments posted by individuals working in British racing which seriously impacted on the health and wellbeing of Ms Waring to such an extent that she was receiving counselling for suicide prevention?**

**By doing nothing in 2017, the BHA was complicit in the persecution of Sarah Waring. And Beloff is still doing nothing five years later. The BHA can talk the talk, as you might expect, but walking the walk is way beyond them as they stumble from one disaster to another.**



PART ONE OF TARNYA SHERWOOD'S FACEBOOK POST

facebook.com

 **Tarnya Sherwood**  
1 June at 18:09 · Lambourn · 🌐

Emma Chugg I just hope there isn't a breeders prize #diseaseofawoman

👍 Like    ➦ Share

👍 😂 18

 **Andy Thomas Llewellyn** #classic 🙄  
Like · 🌐 3 · 1 June at 18:10

 **Nick Hooper** Has thunder cunt had a winner  
Like · 🌐 2 · 1 June at 18:21

 **Tarnya Sherwood** "We" had a winner the undateable bred it ....  
Like · 1 June at 18:22

 **Nick Hooper** Was she there? Wouldn't it be awful if she had a bit quite fatal crash on the way home.  
Like · 1 June at 18:24

 **Tarnya Sherwood** Nick Hooper we couldn't be that lucky 😄  
Like · 1 June at 18:27

 **Nick Hooper** Sadly - what a total fucking failed abortion she is  
Like · 1 June at 18:28

 **Emma Chugg** Just checked and pretty sure there isn't a BP!  
#goingdownbitch  
Like · 🌐 3 · 1 June at 18:24

 **Tarnya Sherwood** PS. Well ridden Tom Garner 🍑🍑  
Like · 1 June at 18:50

 **Fergus Jones** Danvinnie (GB)  
b g 2009 Midnight Legend (GB)-Top Gale (IRE)(Topanoora)... See more  
Like · 🌐 3 · 1 June at 18:59



## PART TWO OF THE POST



A screenshot of a Facebook comment thread. The comments are as follows:

- Tarnya Sherwood** Breeder- nothing... totally right 🙌  
Like · 1 · 1 June at 19:07
- Jane Starkey** Not in the loop of this joke!  
Like · 1 June at 19:31
- Tarnya Sherwood** The person that bred him owes Oliver money for non payment of training fees from 2014 she claims he neglected/abused her horse.... the BHA vets and a court of law thought differently.... look up who bred him.. 🤔  
I guarantee you will know her or of her ... her reputation amongst the racing/breeding/ showing world is ...shall we say....less than good  
Like · 6 · 1 June at 19:46
- Rosemarie Heyes** Tarnya Sherwood wish she was removed from all records 😂😂😂😂  
Like · 1 · 1 June at 22:52
- Noel Williams** Just had a nosey snoop. Will be sure to keep a wide berth if I ever have the misfortune!  
"Neglect and abuse" of horses?! Well, yes of course everybody knows how much you guys mistreat your horses! 😏  
Fuck my life there are some mentalists in this world!  
Well done by the way, and well done to TTom Garner the ginger ninja!  
Like · 5 · 1 June at 20:01
- Tarnya Sherwood** As we say "beWaring" 😂😂  
Thanks buddy xx  
Like · 4 · 1 June at 20:02
- Noel Williams** Tarnya Sherwood 😏👍  
Like · 1 · 1 June at 20:02
- Jonathan Geake** Go it! Ha ha.  
Like · 2 · 1 June at 20:18

TO VIEW ALL ISSUES OF THE BLACK HORSE NEWSLETTER GO TO:

[www.goldrushpublications.com](http://www.goldrushpublications.com)

OR EMAIL: [will.r.jones@hotmail.com](mailto:will.r.jones@hotmail.com)

