



Michael O'Callaghan Racing Club **FAQ**

Q. What is the difference between a syndicate and a Racing Club?

A. If you wish to join a syndicate, you must purchase equity in a horse and will be responsible for the full range of costs, thus enabling you to make certain owner-specific decisions. Racing Club membership does not involve purchasing equity in a horse, nor does it entitle you to equity in any Club horse. Members purchase Club Membership in the same way as one would purchase gym membership or golf club membership; they can use the facilities but don't own the equipment or golf course. Members will have the opportunity to attend race meetings and receive updates as if they are owners but they will not be able to make decisions relating to the horse.

Q. How much does it cost to join the Racing Club?

A. Club Membership costs €199 if a one-off payment is made in advance. Or one can pay €50 a quarter. Membership is for twelve months regardless of payment method. There are no additional costs and Members will not be liable for any unforeseen expenses, such as veterinary bills.

Q. What is included in the Annual Membership?

A. Membership entitles one to apply for owners' tickets and parade ring passes whenever a Michael O'Callaghan Racing Club horse is declared to run and enjoy the taste of the full ownership experience on race day. There will be a minimum of five horses registered under the Club name. All members will receive an exclusive Michael O'Callaghan Racing Badge, identifying them as Members at race meetings.

Members can also access our unique App which provides daily updates, notifications and exclusive content about Club horses, including pre-race and post-race reports. Our resident tipster provides exclusive weekly reports. This information will also be emailed to you. We organise regular stable visits for members and there will be other social events throughout the year. Monthly newsletters are also circulated to Club Members. Our objective is to ensure that the experience of Club Membership is fun and accessible to all. The Club's share of any prize money, following HRI deductions, will be distributed to members at the end of each calendar year. A detailed explanation of how this is allocated can be found below.

Q. What is the difference between Associate Membership and Membership?

A. Michael O'Callaghan Racing Staff are classed as Associate Members as they may have admin privileges on the App. There are no other differences between the categories.

Q. Can couples, friends or families share a membership?

A. Unfortunately not. If a friend or family member wishes to enjoy Club membership, they have to purchase their own individual Club membership. Each membership is limited to an individual.

Q. Can children join the Club?

A. Members must be aged 18 years and above.

Q. Do I have to join at the start of the season?

A. You can join at any time. Once payment has been received or a payment arrangement set up, you will receive a confirmation email within 48 hours and then will have full membership and access to everything the Club has to offer for twelve months from the signup date.

**Q. I am buying Membership as a Christmas/birthday Gift.
Is it possible to choose a Membership start date?**

A. Yes! Please advise us of the date on which you would like the membership to start. We will activate it from that date rather than the date of payment.

Q. Do I have to be based in Ireland to join the Club?

A. Definitely not! Our App allows you to view workouts, photos and all other updates wherever you are in the world. Club horses have the option to race all over Ireland, including throughout the winter on the All-Weather surface at Dundalk. We cannot guarantee that Club horses will race outside of Ireland but Michael has raced horses in the UK and USA in previous seasons so the possibility is there.

Q. What happens to the prize money?

A. The Club's share of the prize money, after HRI deductions, is distributed amongst the members at the end of the calendar year. There can never be any guarantee of a specific amount of prize money. This is dependent on how well the horses perform on the racecourse and the number of Members in the Club on the date of the race in which prize money was won. If a member joins on 1st October, for example, they will be allocated their share of any prize money won between 1st October and 1st December at the end of that year. They will receive their share of any prize money won between 1st December and the end date of their twelve month membership in the following December.

Should I expect a return on my membership fee?

A. This is 100% for entertainment purposes. It is not an investment opportunity. As above, members will receive a share in the Club's prize money but the amount is not guaranteed.

Q. What happens if I fall behind with my payment arrangement?

A. It is vital to the running of the Club that all payments due are made on time. Should you fall one month in arrears, immediate expulsion from the Club may apply and you will no longer have access to full membership privileges. You can only become a member again by the payment, in full, of all outstanding payments. When signing up for another year's membership, members who have previously been in arrears must purchase a twelve month membership in full. The monthly and quarterly payment options will not be available to them. If you feel that you may miss a payment, please contact us as soon as possible.

Q. What happens if I want to leave the Club?

A. Letters of resignation should be addressed to the Club Secretary as the club must make quarterly membership notifications to HRI. There will be no refunds on membership fees unless notification is received within 14 days of the signup date.

Q. How will I know what is happening in the Club?

A. Our unique App is updated daily and you can also receive information through Twitter, Facebook and email. We appreciate that some members may not have access to the Internet or email so alternative arrangements can be discussed on request.

Q. Can I call to the yard at any time?

A. We are a working yard and it is not possible to call to the yard at any time. Due to the nature of the Club and the number of members, yard visits will be arranged by Club management. We will limit numbers to ensure a more personal experience. Members will be invited to the yard on a rotating basis.

Q. Does Club membership entitle you to information on all of Michael O'Callaghan's horses outside of the Club?

A. Unfortunately not. Michael has a policy of only sharing information about a horse with its specific owner. Receiving privileged information about the Club horses is a benefit of joining the Club.

How is the Club able to offer such value with so many horses?

A. The Club is in a privileged position to lease a certain percentage of each Club horse. Therefore, Club overheads are reduced, allowing us to focus on delivering the membership experience.

Q. What happens if a Club horse is sold or is no longer able to race?

A. The Club leases the horses and, as a result, members are not entitled to any money resulting from the sale of a Club horse. If a horse is no longer able to race- for any reason- a suitable replacement will be found. The Club will have no fewer than five horses at a time and this number may fluctuate. Horses may join or leave the Club affiliation at any time.

Q. Is this a Flat or a National Hunt Club?

A. Michael O'Callaghan is primarily a Flat trainer and, as such, the majority of horses will be Flat horses. We may look at acquiring dual purpose horses in the future.

Q. Will I get Tickets every time I wish to go racing?

A. The Club is only allocated four tickets for race days on which a Club horse is running. However, certain racecourses are very generous and sometimes provide us with free tickets. They may also provide a reduced ticket price for Club members. The Michael O'Callaghan Racing Club will try to secure as many tickets as it can.

Q. How are Tickets Allocated?

A. Members will be notified immediately when a Club horse is entered in a race and will be invited to apply for tickets by email or telephone. If the horse is then declared to run, ticket applicants will be contacted. It is often possible to allocate a ticket to everyone who applies. If demand for tickets is greater than our allocation, first preference will be given to members who have not attended race meetings with the Club. Any remaining tickets are allocated by a random draw.

Q. What happens on raceday when you have a Club Member ticket?

A. When your ticket has been allocated, you will be contacted with information on how to collect it on the day. This information will differ depending on the racecourse. You will usually receive a Parade Ring Pass. Members are more than welcome to meet in the parade ring twenty minutes before their race to meet with Michael and the jockey and listen to their pre-race discussions. If a Club horse places or wins, members can enter the parade ring after the race also. Please note that members can only enter the parade ring for races in which a Club horse is running. Updates will be given throughout raceday via the app and email.

Q. Can I go racing if the Club hasn't allocated me a Ticket or if the racecourse has not offered a reduced rate?

A. Of course you can. You can purchase a general admission ticket and then meet up with Club Members and enjoy your day! We cannot guarantee parade ring access for the race in which the Club has a runner but we will certainly do our best.