FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - 10 MAY 2026

Liverpool Legend Ian Rush MBE Alleges He Was Sold a Racehorse for 20x Its True Value

Football icon raises alarm over Irish bloodstock transaction.
Regulators, media and police formally notified today

HORSE	PURCHASED	PRICE PAID	TRUE VALUE*	RACES RUN
Rush Nine	20 Sep 2022	€80,000	~€4,000	ZERO

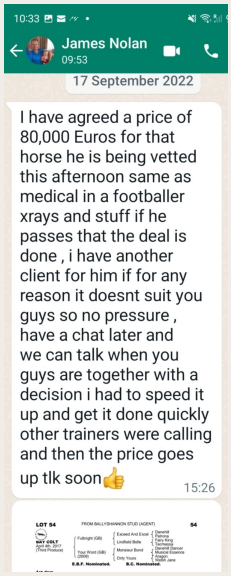
*Independent UK bloodstock valuation at time of sale, September 2022

THE ALLEGATION

Ian Rush MBE - one of Wales' greatest footballers and Liverpool FC's all-time record goalscorer - and his business IRAMA Pte Ltd allege they were deliberately misled into purchasing the racehorse Rush Nine for **€80,000** in September 2022. The horse was presented by James Nolan of Paul Nolan Racing as race-ready and fit, with a specific entry at Navan Racecourse on 27 November 2022. **Rush Nine never ran a single race under their ownership.**

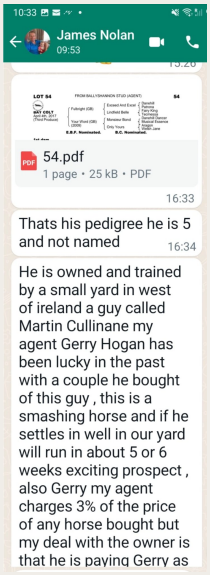
An independent UK bloodstock valuer has formally assessed Rush Nine's true market value at the time of purchase at approximately **€4,000** - a twentyfold overvaluation on the €80,000 paid.

WHATSAPP EVIDENCE - PRESSURE SALE



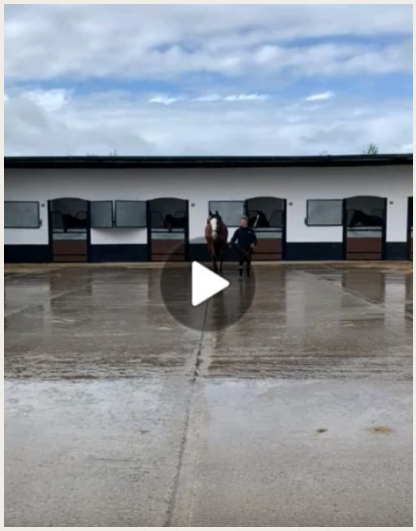
17 Sep 2022: James Nolan sets €80,000 price and tells Ian Rush to decide immediately - "other trainers were calling and then the price goes up"

WHATSAPP EVIDENCE - AGENT DISCLOSURE



17 Sep 2022: James Nolan reveals Martin Cullinane as the unknown seller and discloses agent Gerry Hogan's 3% commission arrangement

RUSH NINE AT PAUL NOLAN RACING YARD



Rush Nine at Paul Nolan Racing yard - video sent to Ian Rush after the sale was agreed

VETERINARY EVIDENCE

Post-purchase examination revealed multiple undisclosed pre-existing conditions:

- **Intermittent epiglottis entrapment** - confirmed Feb 2023 by Fethard Equine Hospital; surgery required at owners' cost
- **Persistent blood abnormalities** across three clinical tests (Dec 2022, Jan 2023, Apr 2023) at Kilcash Equine Clinic, consistent with conditions pre-dating the sale
- **Recurring right hindleg lameness** throughout 2023 documented by trainer Henry de Bromhead
- **Henry de Bromhead's conclusion:** no assessable race value; best option is to give the horse away to a good home

"This is not just about money. James Nolan pressured Ian into a same-day decision on a horse that should never have been sold as race-ready. We want to make clear what footballers and sportspeople face when they enter this world trusting the wrong people."

- Ian Rush MBE and IRAMA Pte Ltd

LEGAL POSITION

Senior Counsel Eoghan Cole SC (BIF Panel Lawyer) has issued an independent legal opinion identifying potential breaches of BIF Code Rules 2 and 5. Rule 3, covering undisclosed profits and secret commissions, is under ongoing review pending further evidence.

UK counsel Clare Reffin of OEC Law has been engaged in parallel. Formal notice of legal action was served on all defendants in March 2025. None has sought to resolve the matter.

ABOUT IAN RUSH MBE

Ian Rush MBE is Liverpool FC's all-time record goalscorer and one of Wales' greatest ever footballers. He and IRAMA Pte Ltd actively support equine charities including the Injured Jockeys Fund - raising £30,000 at the Leger Legends Charity Auction - the National Horseracing College and His Majesty King Charles III's equine charities.

FORMALLY NOTIFIED TODAY - 10 MAY 2026

Ian Rush MBE and IRAMA Pte Ltd have formally notified the following organisations. Full evidence bundle available on request.

INVESTIGATIVE MEDIA

- RTE Investigates (Ireland) - Barry O'Kelly, journalist
- Irish Examiner - Mick Clifford, Special Correspondent
- Sunday Times Ireland - investigations desk
- Racing Post - Lee Mottershead, Senior Writer
- Daily Mirror - sport and news desks
- Daily Mail / MailOnline - sport desk
- BBC Wales - news and sport
- ITV Granada Reports - North West / Liverpool

RACING REGULATORS

- Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board (IHRB) - Integrity Unit
- Horse Racing Ireland (HRI)
- British Horseracing Authority (BHA)
- Bloodstock Industry Forum (BIF) - Leo Powell, Chairman
- Federation of Bloodstock Agents (FBA)
- The Turf Club (Ireland)

LAW ENFORCEMENT

- An Garda Siochana - National Economic Crime Bureau (GNECB)
- National Trading Standards (UK)
- Report Fraud - UK national fraud reporting centre

INDUSTRY CONTEXT

This case closely mirrors the patterns exposed in RTE's landmark documentary Horses: Making a Killing (June 2024), which documented systemic misrepresentation in Ireland's equine industry and triggered European Commission investigations, parliamentary questions and nationwide protests.

The Rush Nine matter provides a fully documented, evidenced human story - with WhatsApp pressure-sale messages, clinical blood test records, surgical reports, an independent valuation and a Senior Counsel legal opinion all on record - at the centre of those same structural industry failures.

KEY DATES

DATE	EVENT
Sep 2022	Rush Nine purchased for €80,000. Payment directed by James Nolan to Martin Cullinane, Galway - unknown to Ian Rush prior to the transaction. No independent pre-purchase veterinary examination was facilitated for the buyer.
Nov 2022	Horse fails to run at Navan Racecourse. Rush Nine never races once under Ian Rush MBE's ownership.
Dec 2022	First abnormal blood test at Kilcash Equine Clinic. RBC and McH readings outside normal range for a horse in training.
Feb 2023	Intermittent epiglottis entrapment confirmed by Fethard Equine Hospital. Surgery performed at owners' cost. Condition consistent with a pre-existing airway problem.
Apr 2023	Third abnormal blood test. Recurring right hindleg lameness begins; horse placed on box rest.
Jul 2023	Henry de Bromhead advises Ian Rush: no assessable race value. Recommends online sale unnamed or rehoming to a good home.
Oct 2024	Formal complaints filed with BHA, FBA, HRI, IHRB and The Turf Club. Legal counsel engaged.
Dec 2024	Eoghan Cole SC (BIF Panel Lawyer) issues legal opinion: potential breaches of BIF Code Rules 2 and 5 identified. Rule 3 (secret profits / commissions) under ongoing review.

Mar 2025	Formal notice of legal action served on James Nolan, Paul Nolan, Mel Nolan and Martin Cullinane. No resolution offered.
10 May 2026	**Independent UK bloodstock valuation confirms true value of Rush Nine at time of purchase at approximately €4,000. Full evidence bundle distributed to 8 media outlets, 6 racing regulators and 3 law enforcement agencies.**

PLAINTIFF
Ian Rush MBE and IRAMA Pte Ltd

MEDIA CONTACT
IRAMA Pte Ltd

pc@claremont.world

+44 7889 469557 | +65 91292733

justiceforsport@gmail.com

DEFENDANTS
James Nolan, Paul Nolan, Mel Nolan and Martin Cullinane
Paul Nolan Racing, Toberona Stables, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford, Ireland

LEGAL TEAM
BIF Panel Lawyer: Eoghan Cole SC (Ireland)

UK Counsel: Clare Reffin, OEC Law

ABOUT IRAMA PTE LTD
Singapore-based investment company. Ian Rush MBE and IRAMA Pte Ltd are proud supporters of the Injured Jockeys Fund - raising £30,000 at the Leger Legends Charity Auction - the National Horseracing College and His Majesty King Charles III's equine charities.