



# # # News Release # # #

### **Re-routing the National Team Chase Championship 2023**

Following cancellation of the Fernie Team Chase which was due to be held at Tur Langton last Saturday, and following discussions between British Team Chasing and relevant event organisers, BTC is pleased to confirm that the much-coveted **Goring Hotel Challenge Trophy** has been re-routed for 2023 and will now be awarded to the winner of the Open Class at the **Bicester Team Chase** which takes place at Newton Morrell, near Bicester this **Sunday 23rd April 2023**.

The winner of that competition will be therefore be crowned as National Team Chase Champion 2023.

In addition, **The 'Junior' Cup**, named after the legendary lead Team Chasing horse who led The Forge Flyers to victory in the National Championship on 4 successive occasions at Tur Langton in the early 2000's, will be awarded to the most promising Young Rider who completes the course during the competition.

The Bicester's Open Team Chase course has formed part of Team Chasing annual calendar for many years. The course is situated between Bicester and Finmere in northeast Oxfordshire close to the Buckinghamshire border. The track comprises a succession of substantial hedges and timber fences as part of a renowned course which includes a number of twists, turns and switch-backs. Some modifications to both the course and the administrative arrangements for the day have been agreed with the event organisers as part of the revised arrangements. Competitors will also cross a small tributary of the River Ouse during their round. The course is sure to provide a worthy National Team Chase Champion for 2023.

With the agreement of the Bicester Team Chase organising team, entries for the Open Class at the Bicester Team Chase will continue to stand despite this change, and it is recognized by BTC and the sport at large that with the change only coming at this late stage that there will not be as



much opportunity as usual for wide participation in the Championship. However with both the 2020 and 2021 National Championship having been lost to Covid, an opportunity for the sport's leading teams to showcase their talent and ability is to be welcomed by everyone with Team Chasing and the equestrian world at large.

The National Team Chase Championship class at the Bicester event will commence at 12 noon. Entry to the event is charged at £5 per person. There will be a range of food and drink outlets on-course throughout the day, in addition to local trade stands. More detail relating to the event can be found at [www.teamchasing.co.uk](http://www.teamchasing.co.uk) or on the Bicester Team Chase's Facebook page.

British Team Chasing is grateful to the organisers of both the Bicester and the Fernie Team Chases for their flexibility and hard work in accommodating this late change to the Spring 2023 Team Chasing calendar, following the most unfortunate intervention by the British weather late last Friday afternoon.

We wish all teams at Novice, Intermediate and Open level every success at Newton Morrell next weekend.

For more detail relating to the day please contact:

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