Ascot Racecourse Media Release

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JUMPS RACING RETURNS TO ASCOT

- The Prince’s Countryside Fund Racing Weekend & Christmas Shopping Fair – Friday 24th & Saturday 25th November
- Christmas Racing Weekend – Friday 22nd & Saturday 23rd December
- Clarence House Chase Raceday – Saturday 20th January 2018
- Betfair Ascot Chase Raceday – Saturday 17th February 2018
- Spring Family Raceday – Sunday 25th March 2018

This month marks the start of the long-awaited and hotly anticipated ‘Jumps Season’ at Ascot Racecourse. Over 200 days since National Hunt horses last thundered down the famous track, the sport makes a welcome return with eight quality fixtures between November and April 2018. These racedays are one of the social highlights of the Winter season, and the perfect, quintessentially British day out for enthusiastic sports fans and fashionable bystanders alike.

Featuring three Grade One races, seven Grade Two races and two Grade Three races, the unmissable Jumps Season at Ascot attracts some of the best horses, trainers and jockeys from across the country. With prize funds of up to £150,000 for some races (the Betfair Ascot Chase on Saturday 17th February 2018), over 100,000 visitors are expected to descend on Ascot to witness top-class racing.

The Jumps Season racedays exemplify how Ascot Racecourse perfectly complements sport with entertainment. Fairground rides, fireworks, circus acts, festive shopping fairs and music concerts keep racegoers enthralled, resulting in a memorable day out for everyone. View the full list of fixtures here.

Dressing for the occasion is always an important part of Ascot’s raceday experience, and the transition to Jumps racing and a drop-in temperature marks an exciting new chapter for racing fashion. Whilst no formal dress code applies during the Jumps season at Ascot, ladies are encouraged to dress for a smart occasion and gentlemen usually wear a jacket with a collared shirt and tie. Children are invited to wear warm, comfortable clothes, suitable for a smart day out. The Ascot Style Guide is designed to guide and inspire racegoers on what to wear during the Jumps season for each enclosure, and is available to view here.
With the arrival of Jumps racing at Ascot comes a selection of new-season menus available at the many food and drink outlets across the 179-acre racecourse. A new two-course lunch is served in the Horsewalk Restaurant featuring roast beef with all the trimmings, and much-loved Mrs B’s Pies are now available to keep visitors warm for the duration of the season.

Following a survey of 1,000 people to find out what the nation’s favourite warming tipple is, a new Hot Chocolate menu has launched comprising the most sought-after flavours: A Classic Chocolate & Whipped Cream, a Black Cherry & Dark Chocolate and a Peanut Butter & Caramel – all served in the cafes alongside seasonal sweet treats such as a Black Forest Roulade and Rocky Road Flapjack. Racegoers can also enjoy a new Winter Cocktail Menu in the Bit & Bridle Bar, alongside the festive addition of Mulled Wine to the Wine Blush Bar.

For further information and to book please visit www.ascot.co.uk, email enquiries@ascot.co.uk or call 0844 346 3000.

*On Friday 24th November racegoers will enjoy FREE entry to the Queen Anne Enclosure.

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Notes to Editor:

Upcoming events at Ascot Racecourse:

- The Jumps season continues at The Prince’s Countryside Fund Racing Weekend & Christmas Shopping Fair on Friday 24th & Saturday 25th November, which opens on Friday with a varied six-race card over fences and hurdles and FREE admission to the Queen Anne Enclosure. A memorable afternoon of Jumps racing combined with a Christmas Shopping Fair, racegoers can enjoy browsing and shopping the many stalls selling handmade crafts, gifts and delicious delicacies as the festive season comes to Ascot Racecourse.

- The final Jumps meeting of 2018, the Christmas Racing Weekend & Family Raceday on Friday 22nd & Saturday 23rd December makes it the perfect way to celebrate with colleagues and friends. The last working day of the year, Friday offers a day for thrilling racing and festive entertaining for businesses looking to end 2017 on a high. The action continues on Saturday as families are invited to leave the festive stress behind and enter a world of wonder with Father Christmas and his reindeers paying the racecourse a visit, carol singing in the Grandstand, fairground rides and much more.

Ascot Racecourse 2018 Fixture List

Saturday 20th January – Clarence House Chase Raceday
The New Year gets underway with arguably its best-loved Jumps race – the Grade 1 Clarence House Chase on Saturday 20th January. With a prize fund of £150,000 the race is a vital stepping-stone to the Champion Chase at the Cheltenham Festival, attracting the very best speed chasers in Europe.

Saturday 17th February – Betfair Ascot Chase Day
The Betfair Ascot Chase Raceday is one of our most popular Jumps racedays. The highlight of the day is the Grade 1 Betfair Ascot Chase. With a prize fund of £150,000, it is one of the most prestigious races in the Jumps calendar and a key outing for prospects heading on to the Cheltenham Festival in March.

Sunday 25th March – Spring Family Raceday (Family Day)
The Spring Family Raceday is the first family day of the year and brings Ascot’s 2017/18 Jumps season to a close. Away from the track it features a range of countryside inspired activities to keep the whole family entertained. Pony rides, climbing walls, planting activities, a stunning falconry exhibition, animal displays, the annual ‘Lamb National’, a petting farm and countryside pursuits are just some of the activities on offer to look forward to.

Wednesday 2nd May – Discover Ascot Raceday
The opening meeting of Ascot’s Flat season featuring one of the most important trial races for the Gold Cup on the third day of Royal Ascot, the £60,000 Group Three Longines Sagaro Stakes.

Friday 11th & Saturday 12th May – May Racing Weekend
As the evenings get lighter and longer, Friday sees Ascot celebrate the early days of summer with its only evening meeting while Saturday offers an excellent day of racing featuring the Totepool Victoria Cup. On both days racegoers will be able to enjoy live music alongside Flat racing.

Tuesday 19th to Saturday 23rd June – Royal Ascot
One of the most anticipated events in the British sporting and social calendar and the centrepiece of Ascot’s annual calendar, Royal Ascot is the world’s most famous race meeting. Offering five days of world-class horse racing, excitement, pageantry, fashion and style the Royal Meeting is attended by 300,000 people from across the globe.

Friday 13th & Saturday 14th July: Summer Mile Racing Weekend (Saturday: Family Day)
The annual Property Raceday, held on Friday, is a well-established fundraising occasion for the property industry having raised more than £1million for children’s charities. Saturday’s raceday features the £100,000 Group Two Fred Cowley MBE Memorial Summer Mile and is a relaxed yet stylish day of Flat racing and picnicking with plenty of family entertainment including fairground rides, children’s activities and a teddy bears’ picnic on the lawns.

Friday 27th & Saturday 28th July: King George Weekend
The King George Weekend is one of Ascot’s most prestigious summer race meetings. History, style and glory are all bywords for the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes (sponsored by QIPCO), the highlight of Saturday’s King George Day, with more than £1million in its prize fund.

Saturday 11th August – Dubai Duty Free Shergar Cup & Concert
The World’s premier international jockey’s competition returns to Ascot for its 18th year and will once again feature riding talent from around the world. Racing is followed by an evening concert featuring well-known pop icons with the line-up being announced early 2018.

Friday 7th & Saturday 8th September – Festival of Food & Wine Racing Weekend
A celebration of fine food, wine and Flat racing, the Festival of Food & Wine Racing Weekend is one of Berkshire’s biggest foodie events. Between racing, racegoers can enjoy cooking demonstrations from well-known celebrity chefs (to be announced in 2018) and numerous food and wine stalls showcasing gastronomic delights from around the world.

Friday 5th & Saturday 6th October – Autumn Racing Weekend & Ascot Beer Festival
Held in association with the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA), this two-day Flat meeting also features more than 240 ales, ciders and perries to sample alongside racing. For racegoers seeking fine ales by the stein, entertainment from an authentic Oompah band, traditional German dress and a true Bavarian atmosphere, the Ascot Bier Haus has it all on Saturday.

Saturday 20th October – QIPCO British Champions Day
QIPCO British Champions Day is the grand finale of the European Flat season and is the richest day in British racing. A fantastic opportunity to watch the World’s finest horses and their owners, together with the top trainers and jockeys, achieve sporting immortality on Ascot’s historic turf.
3rd November – Fireworks Spectacular Family Raceday (Family Day)
The first meeting of Ascot’s 2018/19 Jumps season and home to one of the largest fireworks displays in the region, the Fireworks Spectacular Family Raceday supports the Berkshire community with all proceeds going to local charities and schools.

Friday 23rd & Saturday 24th November – The Prince’s Countryside Fund Racing Weekend & Christmas Shopping Fair (FREE entry available)
A memorable afternoon of Jumps racing combined with a Christmas Shopping Fair, racegoers can enjoy browsing and shopping the many stalls selling handmade crafts, gifts and delicacies as the festive season comes to Ascot Racecourse. Queen Anne Enclosure admission is FREE making it the perfect occasion for racing newcomers to discover the sport

Friday 21st & Saturday 22nd December – Christmas Racing Weekend (Family Day on Saturday)
The final Jumps meeting of 2018, Friday is a day for thrilling racing and festive entertaining. Saturday is for the whole family with fairground rides, carol singing, reindeers and a visit from Father Christmas as well as the Grade One JLT Longwalk Hurdle and the £150,000 Ladbroke Hurdle.