



# ASCOT

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Ascot Racecourse Media Release  
*For immediate release, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017*

## **JUMPS RACING RETURNS TO ASCOT**



- **The Prince's Countryside Fund Racing Weekend & Christmas Shopping Fair** – Friday 24<sup>th</sup>\* & Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November
- **Christmas Racing Weekend** – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> & Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December
- **Clarence House Chase Raceday** – Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2018
- **Betfair Ascot Chase Raceday** – Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2018
- **Spring Family Raceday** – Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 tippie 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](http://www.ascot.co.uk), email [enquiries@ascot.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@ascot.co.uk) or call 0844 346 3000.

\*On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November racegoers will enjoy FREE entry to the Queen Anne Enclosure.

**ENDS**

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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 24<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> & Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> August – Dubai Duty Free Shergar Cup & Concert**

The World's premier international jockey's competition returns to Ascot for its 18<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

**3<sup>rd</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> & Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> & Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.