



ROYAL ASCOT

18th - 22nd June 2019

MEDIA GUIDE

CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| WELCOME TO ROYAL ASCOT FROM HER MAJESTY'S REPRESENTATIVE | 5 |
| RACING AT ROYAL ASCOT | |
| TOP CLASS PRINCE OF WALES'S STAKES HEADLINES ROYAL ASCOT 2019 | 7 |
| BET WITH ASCOT | 9 |
| ROYAL ASCOT 2019 ORDER OF RUNNING AND PRIZE MONEY | 10 |
| ROYAL ASCOT OVERSEAS-TRAINED RUNNERS AND WINNERS SINCE 2000 | 12 |
| BROADCASTERS AT ROYAL ASCOT | 14 |
| THE WEATHERBYS HAMILTON STAYERS' MILLION | 16 |
| FOUR BREEDERS' CUP CHALLENGE RACES TO BE HELD AT ROYAL ASCOT IN 2019 | 18 |
| WORLD HORSE RACING | 20 |
| ASCOT RACECOURSE HONOURED IN RACECOURSE GROUNDSTAFF AWARDS | 21 |
| VETERINARY FACILITIES, EQUINE AND JOCKEYS' WELFARE | 22 |
| FRANKIE'S SENSATIONAL 60 | 23 |
| THE ROAD TO QIPCO BRITISH CHAMPIONS DAY | 28 |
| TREADING THE TURF | 29 |
| AWAY FROM THE TRACK | |
| 2018 CHARITABLE ACTIVITY | 35 |
| THE GENERATION GAME | 37 |
| SCULPTURES AT ROYAL ASCOT | 40 |
| TAKE HOME TREATS | 45 |
| PARTNERS & SUPPLIERS | |
| ASCOT'S OFFICIAL PARTNERS | 48 |
| ASCOT'S OFFICIAL SUPPLIERS AND SPONSORS | 50 |
| FASHION & DRESS CODE | |
| ASCOT LAUNCHED THE EIGHTH ANNUAL ROYAL ASCOT STYLE GUIDE | 55 |
| THE HISTORY OF FASHION AT ROYAL ASCOT | 56 |
| THE ROYAL ASCOT MILLINERY COLLECTIVE 2019 | 58 |
| ROYAL ASCOT DRESS CODE | 60 |
| FINE DINING AT ROYAL ASCOT | |
| 8-MICHELIN STAR CHEF LINE-UP | 63 |
| FINDING INSPIRATION | 66 |
| ASCOT HISTORY | |
| ASCOT STORIES AND OTHER PROMOTIONAL FILMS | 69 |
| A PROCESSION THROUGH TIME | 70 |
| THE BOWLER HAT AND ASCOT | 73 |
| ROYAL ASCOT FACTS AND FIGURES | 74 |
| ASCOT RACECOURSE IN NUMBERS | 75 |
| ASCOT - ITS HISTORY AND TRADITIONS | 76 |
| THE QUEEN AND ROYAL ASCOT | 80 |
| THE QUEEN'S ROYAL ASCOT WINNERS | 81 |
| ASCOT RACECOURSE KEY DATES | 82 |
| RACE HISTORIES & CONDITIONS | 85 |
| DID YOU KNOW...? | 88 |
| MEDIA & RACING CONTACTS | 89 |
| ACCREDITATION & MEDIA SERVICES | 89 |



WELCOME TO ROYAL ASCOT

FROM HER MAJESTY'S REPRESENTATIVE



WELCOME TO ROYAL Ascot - a collage of colour, elegance and style set against a backdrop of history, pageantry and the best racing in the world.

Last year, The Prince of Wales's Stakes - the highlight of Wednesday's card - was officially the top-rated race in Britain, and quality will again abound this week.

In collaboration with one of our Official Partners, Longines, we are integrating sectional timings into our coverage, which will help racegoers to better understand the precise merit of every horse, and when and how winning moves are made.

Our grateful thanks go to Longines for their ongoing support and to our other key partners, QIPCO and Gigaset, together with all our Official Suppliers, many of whom are providing innovative offerings this week. We are particularly excited to have Moët & Chandon as our Official Champagne this year.

Every year we seek to improve the Royal Ascot experience, and this year we have installed an escalator from the concourse to assist racegoers and connections heading to the Parade Ring. In our restaurants and boxes this year, we are offering a plant-based menu option following a surge in popularity for this cuisine. I urge guests not to miss the vegan celeriac gnocchi with nettle pesto!

Developing our facilities, fine tuning the race programme and expanding what is on offer in our restaurants and all around the racecourse is crucial to maintaining Royal Ascot's position among Britain's most celebrated national events.

We are so proud to be able to present a race meeting with such history and the very best racing. We are enormously grateful for the continued presence and support of Her Majesty The Queen and the Royal Family.

Whether you are joining us at Royal Ascot or watching ITV's outstanding coverage, thank you for sharing this unique week with us. I hope you have a wonderful time.

Prize money is a record £733 million. In recent years we have focused on improving the quality of our sprint races and, latterly, our long-distance events, headlined by The Gold Cup. Staged on Thursday, last year The Gold Cup saw Stradivarius crowned a true champion in a tremendous finish. He remained unbeaten throughout the season.

A full order of running is on page 10 of this media guide. We have moved The Jersey Stakes from the last race on Wednesday to the second race on Saturday. This is a prestigious race, with 2018's winner Expert Eye going on to win the Breeders' Cup Mile in Kentucky.

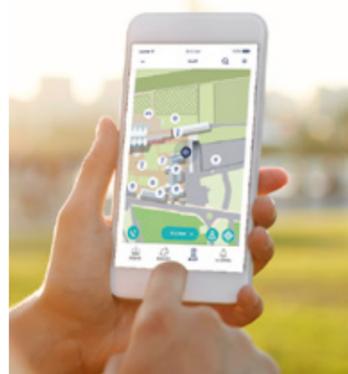
Four of our races are Breeders' Cup 'Win and You're In' events as we strengthen the Royal Meeting's international reach and resonance. Our relationship with the Breeders' Cup extends to a new digital platform run by Ascot, Goodwood, Breeders' Cup and the Victoria Racing Club. I encourage you to look at World Horse Racing for fascinating behind the scenes filming and stories from all the world's great racing events.

This is an exciting year for us as it is the first Royal Ascot with our own in-house pool betting operation, Bet With Ascot. This is a partnership with Totepool and, for Royal Ascot, the Hong Kong Jockey Club. Bets taken in Hong Kong for some of our races will be joined together with those in the UK. This will provide a larger and more robust pool, giving better value for our customers on course, although picking winners may not be any easier!

Johnny Weatherby
Her Majesty's Representative

Royal Ascot online

WiFi is free around the racecourse. Log in to follow us on Twitter @Ascot, on Instagram @ascotracecourse, or find us on Facebook for tips, offers and competitions. Use #RoyalAscot for your tweets and photos, and be sure to download the Ascot app.





TOP CLASS PRINCE OF WALES'S STAKES HEADLINES ROYAL ASCOT 2019

The 2018 Prince of Wales's Stakes, won by Poet's Word, was officially Britain's premier race last year, as defined by the globally ratified International Federation Of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) Longines World Rankings. It was the third highest rated race in the world.

The 2019 renewal looks set to be one of the highlights of the week with the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe runner-up Sea Of Class on course to meet last year's Derby winner, Masar, along with Group One winning Japanese mare, Deirdre, and the rock solid Group One performer, Crystal Ocean. Waldgeist is likely to add further international interest to the race for France following his win in the Prix Ganay, whilst Magical, Aidan O'Brien's Tattersalls Gold Cup winner, is also in the mix.

When entries closed for the eight Group One races at Royal Ascot in April, nine nations were represented, including from outside Europe; Japan, the USA, Australia, New Zealand and Singapore. This is still set to be the case come the big week in June.

There are a few minor changes to the order of running this year. The Windsor Castle Stakes and Jersey Stakes swap places, so that the latter gets a higher profile prime time slot on Saturday to reflect its growing status and importance. Last year's winner, Expert Eye, went on to win the Breeders' Cup Mile.

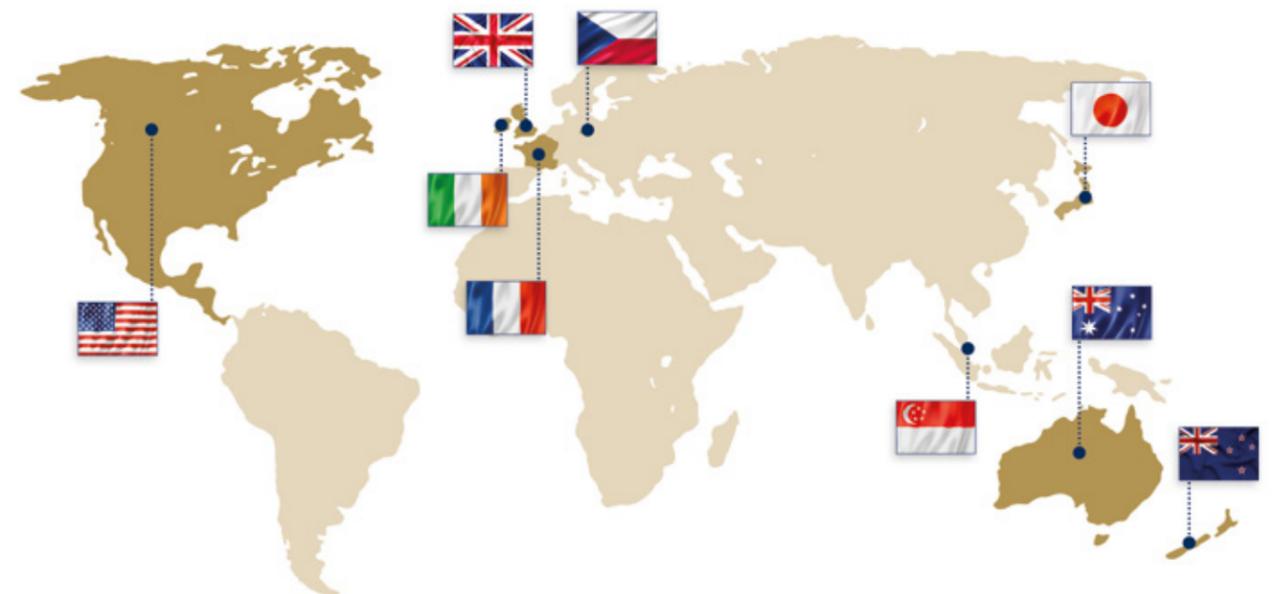
In addition, on Wednesday, the Prince of Wales's Stakes will be run as race three, with the Duke of Cambridge Stakes as race four. This is to enable significantly more engagement in Japan, set to be represented by Deirdre and star jockey Yutaka Take, in what will now be a pre-midnight slot there.

Since elevated to Group Two, the Queen's Vase has been an early closing race in line with the other Group Two events not restricted to two-year-olds. It will now be a regular closer so that connections can later identify the type of horse required for this specialist long distance race for three-year-olds.

Four Royal Ascot races are Breeders' Cup "Win & You're In" races - the Norfolk Stakes, the Queen Anne Stakes, the Prince of Wales's Stakes and the Diamond Jubilee Stakes.

There is great synergy between the Royal Meeting and the Breeders' Cup in the USA - their championship autumn event. Numerous Royal Ascot winners have won at various Breeders' Cups and, indeed, some have won the other way around. US-based trainer Mark Casse made history with the 2015 Breeders' Cup Mile winner Tepin taking the Queen Anne the following year.

RACING AT ROYAL ASCOT



LIKELY PARTICIPATING NATIONS AT ROYAL ASCOT 2019



Her Majesty The Queen presents Frankie Dettori with his commemorative number cloth for riding his 60th winner at Royal Ascot.

One of the highlights of 2018, not just for Ascot but for the sport as a whole, was the domination of the stayers' programme by John Gosden's Stradivarius. In winning the Gold Cup, Stradivarius provided Frankie Dettori with his 60th Royal Ascot winner and provided some great pictures around the world, when The Queen presented him with his commemorative "60 winners" saddle cloth.

Stradivarius won a £1 million bonus, sponsored by Weatherbys Hamilton, for adding the Goodwood Cup and York's Lonsdale Stakes to the Gold Cup and indeed also won the Long Distance Cup on QIPCO British Champions Day.

The champion returned to action with an impressive win in the Yorkshire Cup in May, setting up a second tilt at the Gold Cup and the bonus. One of the highlights of the week is likely to be the clash with Melbourne Cup winner, Cross Counter, who warmed up for Royal Ascot with a facile win in the Dubai Gold Cup.

The Gold Cup won't lack strength in depth either, with Coolmore aiming several at the race, whilst Mark Johnston seems to have successfully reinvented Dee Ex Bee, the 2018 Derby runner-up, as a stayer, as demonstrated by his runaway win in the Longines Sagaro Stakes on Royal Ascot Trials Day. He has also most recently won the Henry II Stakes at Sandown.

£7,330,000



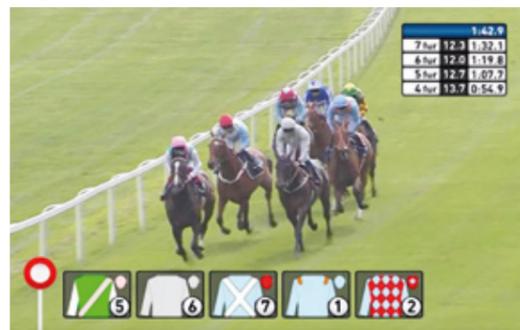
NO RACE RUN FOR LESS THAN £90,000

Frankie wasn't the only racing celebrity to reach a milestone at last year's Royal Meeting. Sir Michael Stoute went past the late Sir Henry Cecil's then record 75 winners mark, and received his commemorative saddle cloth. Whilst the all powerful Coolmore, Aidan O'Brien and Ryan Moore combination took top owner, trainer and jockey honours, with Ryan riding his 50th Royal Ascot winner.



LONGINES TRACKING SYSTEM

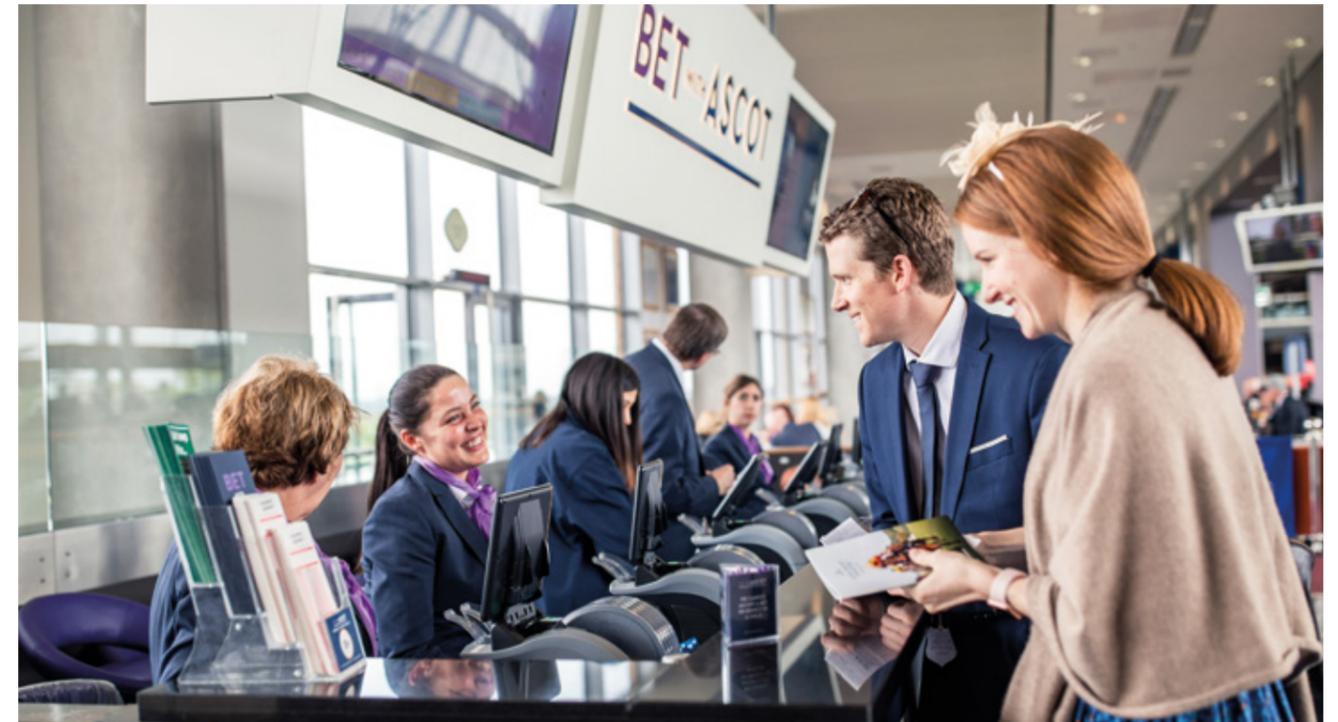
The Longines Tracking System was tested during the 2018 Flat season and formally introduced on 1st May this year. This new timing system allows us to publish and distribute sectional times for all runners.



Screenshot of the on-screen sectional timing information from Royal Ascot Trials Raceday.

BET WITH ASCOT

Introducing our new betting service and World Pool, available at the Royal Meeting in 2019



THIS YEAR'S ROYAL Meeting will be the first with our in-house betting service, Bet With Ascot, which launched last summer and is run in partnership with Totepool.

Available on-course at Royal Ascot to all visitors in 2019, it is a bespoke pool-betting operation focused on providing outstanding service and value to our customers.

Exclusively for Royal Ascot, bets placed on-course in certain markets will be co-mingled with the Hong Kong Jockey Club to form a World Pool, generating greater liquidity for customers on-site. This is expected to see UK liquidity increase significantly and should, in turn, provide customers with the potential for greater value for money.

Approximately 30 individual pools from 10 countries are expected to bet into the world's first ever worldwide pool betting operation.

“BET WITH ASCOT SHOULD PROVIDE CUSTOMERS THE POTENTIAL FOR GREATER VALUE.”

In tandem, there is a new media rights deal which will see Royal Ascot coverage in Hong Kong expanded from last year's record four days to all five days.

As well as the standard win, each-way and place bets, there are a series of exotic bets on offer including "The Survivor", which is exclusive to Bet With Ascot. The Survivor is a knockout bet, where customers try to pick the winner of each race to be the last man standing. In the event of more than

one winner, a dividend would be declared based on the number of winning bets.

As part of Ascot's wider corporate social responsibility programme, racegoers are invited to drop any losing Bet With Ascot slips into charity bins across the site to be in with a chance of winning a Fine Dining experience and £100 of Bet With Ascot vouchers. The charity with the most betting slips at the end of the year will receive a £1,000 donation from Ascot.



TUESDAY 19TH JUNE 2018

| | | | |
|--|----------|--|----------|
| The Queen Anne Stakes (Group 1) | £600,000 | The Queen Anne Stakes (Group 1) | £600,000 |
| The Coventry Stakes (Group 2) | £150,000 | The Coventry Stakes (Group 2) | £150,000 |
| The King's Stand Stakes (Group 1) | £500,000 | The King's Stand Stakes (Group 1) | £500,000 |
| The St James's Palace Stakes (Group 1) | £500,000 | The St James's Palace Stakes (Group 1) | £500,000 |
| The Ascot Stakes (Handicap) | £90,000 | The Ascot Stakes (Handicap) | £90,000 |
| The Wolferton Stakes (Listed) | £100,000 | The Wolferton Stakes (Listed) | £100,000 |

WEDNESDAY 20TH JUNE 2018

| | | | |
|--|----------|--|----------|
| The Queen Mary Stakes (Group 2) | £110,000 | The Queen Mary Stakes (Group 2) | £110,000 |
| The Queen's Vase (Group 2) | £200,000 | The Queen's Vase (Group 2) | £225,000 |
| The Duke of Cambridge Stakes (Group 2) | £175,000 | The Prince of Wales's Stakes (Group 1) | £750,000 |
| The Prince of Wales's Stakes (Group 1) | £750,000 | The Duke of Cambridge Stakes (Group 2) | £175,000 |
| The Royal Hunt Cup (Heritage Handicap) | £175,000 | The Royal Hunt Cup (Heritage Handicap) | £175,000 |
| The Jersey Stakes (Group 3) | £90,000 | The Windsor Castle Stakes (Listed) | £90,000 |

TUESDAY 18TH JUNE 2019

| | | | |
|--|----------|--|----------|
| The Queen Anne Stakes (Group 1) | £600,000 | The Queen Anne Stakes (Group 1) | £600,000 |
| The Coventry Stakes (Group 2) | £150,000 | The Coventry Stakes (Group 2) | £150,000 |
| The King's Stand Stakes (Group 1) | £500,000 | The King's Stand Stakes (Group 1) | £500,000 |
| The St James's Palace Stakes (Group 1) | £500,000 | The St James's Palace Stakes (Group 1) | £500,000 |
| The Ascot Stakes (Handicap) | £90,000 | The Ascot Stakes (Handicap) | £90,000 |
| The Wolferton Stakes (Listed) | £100,000 | The Wolferton Stakes (Listed) | £100,000 |

WEDNESDAY 19TH JUNE 2019

| | | | |
|--|----------|--|----------|
| The Queen Mary Stakes (Group 2) | £110,000 | The Queen Mary Stakes (Group 2) | £110,000 |
| The Queen's Vase (Group 2) | £200,000 | The Queen's Vase (Group 2) | £225,000 |
| The Duke of Cambridge Stakes (Group 2) | £175,000 | The Prince of Wales's Stakes (Group 1) | £750,000 |
| The Prince of Wales's Stakes (Group 1) | £750,000 | The Duke of Cambridge Stakes (Group 2) | £175,000 |
| The Royal Hunt Cup (Heritage Handicap) | £175,000 | The Royal Hunt Cup (Heritage Handicap) | £175,000 |
| The Jersey Stakes (Group 3) | £90,000 | The Windsor Castle Stakes (Listed) | £90,000 |

THURSDAY 21ST JUNE 2018

| | | | |
|--|----------|--|----------|
| The Norfolk Stakes (Group 2) | £100,000 | The Norfolk Stakes (Group 2) | £100,000 |
| The Hampton Court Stakes (Group 3) | £90,000 | The Hampton Court Stakes (Group 3) | £90,000 |
| The Ribblesdale Stakes (Group 2) | £200,000 | The Ribblesdale Stakes (Group 2) | £200,000 |
| The Gold Cup (Group 1) | £500,000 | The Gold Cup (Group 1) | £500,000 |
| The Britannia Stakes (Heritage Handicap) | £120,000 | The Britannia Stakes (Heritage Handicap) | £120,000 |
| The King George V Stakes (Handicap) | £90,000 | The King George V Stakes (Handicap) | £90,000 |

FRIDAY 22ND JUNE 2018

| | | | |
|---|----------|---|----------|
| The Albany Stakes (Group 3) | £90,000 | The Albany Stakes (Group 3) | £90,000 |
| The King Edward VII Stakes (Group 2) | £225,000 | The King Edward VII Stakes (Group 2) | £225,000 |
| The Commonwealth Cup (Group 1) | £500,000 | The Commonwealth Cup (Group 1) | £500,000 |
| The Coronation Stakes (Group 1) | £500,000 | The Coronation Stakes (Group 1) | £500,000 |
| The Sandringham Stakes (Handicap) | £90,000 | The Sandringham Stakes (Handicap) | £90,000 |
| The Duke of Edinburgh Stakes (Handicap) | £90,000 | The Duke of Edinburgh Stakes (Handicap) | £90,000 |

SATURDAY 23RD JUNE 2018

| | | | |
|--|------------|--|------------|
| The Chesham Stakes (Listed) | £90,000 | The Chesham Stakes (Listed) | £90,000 |
| The Hardwicke Stakes (Group 2) | £225,000 | The Jersey Stakes (Group 3) | £90,000 |
| The Windsor Castle Stakes (Listed) | £90,000 | The Hardwicke Stakes (Group 2) | £225,000 |
| The Diamond Jubilee Stakes (Group 1) | £600,000 | The Diamond Jubilee Stakes (Group 1) | £600,000 |
| The Wokingham Stakes (Heritage Handicap) | £175,000 | The Wokingham Stakes (Heritage Handicap) | £175,000 |
| The Queen Alexandra Stakes (Conditions) | £90,000 | The Queen Alexandra Stakes (Conditions) | £90,000 |
| TOTAL | £7,305,000 | TOTAL | £7,330,000 |

THURSDAY 20TH JUNE 2019

| | | | |
|--|----------|--|----------|
| The Norfolk Stakes (Group 2) | £100,000 | The Norfolk Stakes (Group 2) | £100,000 |
| The Hampton Court Stakes (Group 3) | £90,000 | The Hampton Court Stakes (Group 3) | £90,000 |
| The Ribblesdale Stakes (Group 2) | £200,000 | The Ribblesdale Stakes (Group 2) | £200,000 |
| The Gold Cup (Group 1) | £500,000 | The Gold Cup (Group 1) | £500,000 |
| The Britannia Stakes (Heritage Handicap) | £120,000 | The Britannia Stakes (Heritage Handicap) | £120,000 |
| The King George V Stakes (Handicap) | £90,000 | The King George V Stakes (Handicap) | £90,000 |

FRIDAY 21ST JUNE 2019

| | | | |
|---|----------|---|----------|
| The Albany Stakes (Group 3) | £90,000 | The Albany Stakes (Group 3) | £90,000 |
| The King Edward VII Stakes (Group 2) | £225,000 | The King Edward VII Stakes (Group 2) | £225,000 |
| The Commonwealth Cup (Group 1) | £500,000 | The Commonwealth Cup (Group 1) | £500,000 |
| The Coronation Stakes (Group 1) | £500,000 | The Coronation Stakes (Group 1) | £500,000 |
| The Sandringham Stakes (Handicap) | £90,000 | The Sandringham Stakes (Handicap) | £90,000 |
| The Duke of Edinburgh Stakes (Handicap) | £90,000 | The Duke of Edinburgh Stakes (Handicap) | £90,000 |

SATURDAY 22ND JUNE 2019

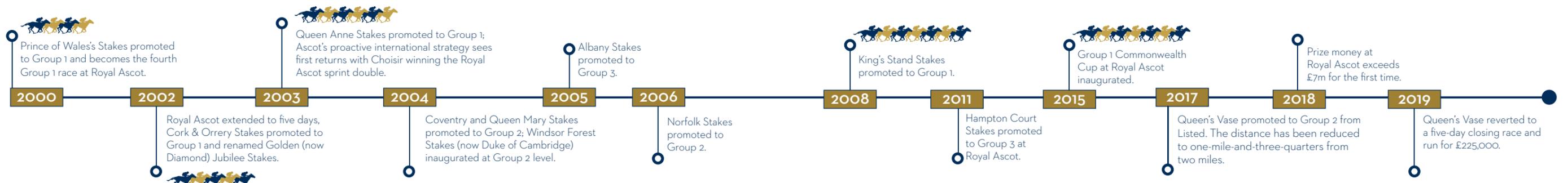
| | | | |
|--|------------|--|------------|
| The Chesham Stakes (Listed) | £90,000 | The Chesham Stakes (Listed) | £90,000 |
| The Hardwicke Stakes (Group 2) | £225,000 | The Jersey Stakes (Group 3) | £90,000 |
| The Windsor Castle Stakes (Listed) | £90,000 | The Hardwicke Stakes (Group 2) | £225,000 |
| The Diamond Jubilee Stakes (Group 1) | £600,000 | The Diamond Jubilee Stakes (Group 1) | £600,000 |
| The Wokingham Stakes (Heritage Handicap) | £175,000 | The Wokingham Stakes (Heritage Handicap) | £175,000 |
| The Queen Alexandra Stakes (Conditions) | £90,000 | The Queen Alexandra Stakes (Conditions) | £90,000 |
| TOTAL | £7,305,000 | TOTAL | £7,330,000 |

Full race conditions can be found on pages 85 - 87.



ROYAL ASCOT'S RACE PROGRAMME MILESTONES SINCE 2000

Key Number of Royal Ascot Group 1 races





BROADCASTERS AT ROYAL ASCOT

Royal Ascot 2019 will be broadcast in 175 territories with a reach of 650 million households

Tuesday 18 June

The Opening Show 9am-10am ITV4
Royal Ascot: Live Racing 1.30pm-6pm ITV

Wednesday 19 June

The Opening Show 9am-10am ITV4
Royal Ascot: Live Racing 1.30pm-6pm ITV

Thursday 20 June

The Opening Show 9am-10am ITV4
Royal Ascot: Live Racing 1.30pm-6pm ITV

Friday 21 June

The Opening Show 9am-10am ITV4
Royal Ascot: Live Racing 1.30pm-6pm ITV

Saturday 22 June

The Opening Show 9.30am-10.30am ITV4
Royal Ascot: Live Racing 1.30pm-6pm ITV



During Royal Ascot, all 30 races will be broadcast live on ITV, totalling almost 30 hours of coverage across the week.

Daytime coverage starts at 1.30pm on ITV with The Opening Show preview programme shown daily at 9am on ITV4, and 9.30am on the Saturday.

Coverage will be hosted by Ed Chamberlin and Francesca Cumani, recently jointly awarded Broadcast Sports Presenter of the Year at the Sports Journalists' Association Awards.



NBC Sports Group is back for a third year at Royal Ascot. For five consecutive days between June 18th-22nd, NBCSN will present 4.5 hours of live daily coverage of the Royal Meeting to American audiences. Once again this year, Saturday's races will be featured live on the NBC broadcast network from 9:00-1:00pm ET on June 22nd. All coverage will be streamed simultaneously on the NBC Sports app and NBCSports.com - NBC Sports Group's live streaming platforms for desktops, mobile devices, tablets, and connected TVs. Additionally, NBC's renowned TODAY Show will provide live look-ins of the Royal Procession during event week.

Nick Luck returns to host NBC Sports Group's five days of coverage, providing American audiences with the storylines and intricacies of this historic event on a daily basis. This year, Nick will be joined by co-host Britney Eurton for the duration of the Royal Meeting. Nick and Britney will provide comprehensive coverage of this singular event, including interviews with racing connections and noteworthy attendees throughout the week. On Friday and Saturday, The TODAY Show's Dylan Dreyer returns to Ascot for her second year. Dylan will conduct live hits into Friday's TODAY Show broadcast, and work alongside Nick and Britney throughout the NBC telecasts to give viewers a closer look at all Ascot has to offer. For the first time, expert handicapper Eddie Olczyk joins the NBC team, and will offer his unique perspective on betting all the races at Ascot for the final two days of the event.



An expanded presentation team led by Alex Hammond will broadcast live from Ascot beginning at 9am each morning, with all 30 races shown in full HD.

The 40 hours of Royal Ascot coverage will feature enhanced camera coverage and broadcast innovations including the bespoke Sky Sports Racing SkyCart, which will provide extensive pre and post-race analysis.



Correspondent Cornelius Lysaght and commentator John Hunt will be on-site all five days. There will be extensive coverage, commentary and news on 5 Live throughout the week.



Ascot welcomes many other valuable news networks, including Sky Sports News and BBC Radio Berkshire, who are both based on site through the week.

THE WEATHERBYS HAMILTON STAYERS' MILLION

Following the extraordinary exploits of Stradivarius last year, the Weatherbys Hamilton Stayers' Million (WHSM) is back for 2019.

Building on the success, the 2019 WHSM has been further enhanced with the introduction of four qualifying races in Dubai, Germany, France and Ireland to supplement the four British qualifiers, which remain as last year.



Stradivarius puts on a show at the official launch of the 2019 Weatherbys Hamilton Stayers' Million.

If one of these horses can then go on, as Stradivarius did so memorably last year, to win the Gold Cup at Royal Ascot (June 20th), the Qatar Goodwood Cup at the Qatar Goodwood Festival (July 30th) and the Weatherbys Hamilton Lonsdale Cup at York's Welcome to Yorkshire Ebor Festival (August 23rd), its connections will win the £1 million prize.

As in 2018, the £1 million will be split between the connections of the successful horse, with 70% awarded to the owner and 30% divided equally between the trainer, stable staff, breeder and jockey.

The introduction of the four international qualifying races is designed to promote even wider interest in the WHSM and the Stayers themselves, and the prospect of there being up to eight contenders in with a chance of embarking on the winning sequence come the Gold Cup at Ascot in June is to be savoured.

THE EIGHT PRELIMINARY RACES

The eight preliminary races all take place at intervals between March and May, and are recognised preparatory races for the UK season's feature staying races:

- i) **The Dubai Gold Cup sponsored by Al Tayer Motors:** Meydan, Group 2, 2 miles, 3 year olds and up
WINNER: **Cross Counter**
First run in 2012 as part of Dubai World Cup night, it was initially a Group 3 race but has been run at Group 2 level since 2014. Won by some top stayers over the years, such as Opinion Poll and Brown Panther. The Aga Khan's Vazirabad won the three runnings between 2016 and 2018.
- ii) **The Vintage Crop Stakes:** Navan, Group 3, 1 mile 6 furlongs, 4 year olds and up
WINNER: **Master of Reality**
First run as a Listed race in 2003, it was run over a furlong shorter until 2011 and upgraded to Group 3 status in 2014. Aidan O'Brien has trained no less than seven winners of the race (Yeats (2007, 2008), Fame And Glory (2011, 2012), Leading Light (2014), Bondi Beach (2016), Order of St George (2018).

- iii) **The Longines Sagaro Stakes:** Ascot, Group 3, 2 miles, 4 year olds and up
WINNER: **Dee Ex Bee**
Formerly known as the Paradise Stakes, it was renamed the Sagaro Stakes in 1978 after Sagaro, the winner of the Gold Cup at Royal Ascot in each of the preceding three seasons. Several winners of the Longines Sagaro Stakes have won the Gold Cup in the same season, the most recent being Estimate in 2013. In 2018 it was won by Torcedor before he went on to lay down such a big challenge to Stradivarius in the Gold Cup, Goodwood Cup and Lonsdale Cup.
- iv) **The Boodles Diamond Ormonde Stakes:** Chester, Group 3, 1 mile 5 furlongs, 4 year olds and up
WINNER: **Morando**
The race is named after Ormonde, an unbeaten Triple Crown winner owned and bred by the Duke of Westminster at his Eaton Hall Stud in Cheshire. It is run during Chester's May meeting and is used as stepping stone for major races of 1 1/2 miles + later in the season. In recent years, it has been won by leading stayers such as Brown Panther and Dartmouth and in 2018 by Idaho.

- v) **The Comer Group International Oleander-Rennen:** Berlin-Hoppegarten, Group 2, 2 miles, 4 year olds and up
WINNER: **Raa Atoll**
Named after Oleander, a successful German racehorse in the 1920s, it was established in 1972 with the first two running being won by Sarto. For a period, it held Listed status, it was promoted to Group 3 level in 1989 and Group 2 level in 2017. Andreas Wohler is the race's winning-most trainer (Camp David (1996, 1997), Altano (2012, 2013, 2014), Wasir (2016), Red Cardinal (2017)).

- vi) **The Matchbook Yorkshire Cup:** York, Group 2, 1 mile 6 furlongs, 4 year olds and up
WINNER: **Stradivarius**
First run in 1927, it takes place during York's Dante Festival and its winners include legendary hoes such as Classic Cliché (Gold Cup at Royal Ascot winner), Kayf Tara (Dual Gold Cup at Royal Ascot winner) and Red Cadeaux (2nd 3 times in the Melbourne Cup). In 2017, it was won by the Queen's Dartmouth who was beaten by a nose in the Weatherbys Hamilton Lonsdale Cup in the same year and then of course in 2018 it formed the launch pad for Stradivarius' assault on the inaugural Weatherbys Hamilton Stayers' Million.

- vii) **The Matchbook Henry II Stakes:** Sandown Park, Group 3, 2 miles, 4 year olds and up
WINNER: **Dee Ex Bee**
First run in 1963 this race is an established trial for the Gold Cup at Royal Ascot and was won by Big Orange in 2017 on his way to victory in the Royal Ascot showpiece in June. Persian Punch, a winner of both the Goodwood Cup and Lonsdale Cup in 2001, won it three years in succession. Magic Circle won the race impressively in 2018 before being put away for an attempt on the Melbourne Cup later in the year.

- viii) **The Prix Vicomtesse Vigier:** ParisLongchamp, Group 2, 1 mile 7 furlongs, 4 year olds and up
WINNER: **Called To The Bar**
Established in 1859, and named after the Viscountess Vigier, it was originally the second leg of a pair of races called the Prix Biennal. Such equine luminaries as Gold River, Royal Gait, Turgeon, Double Eclipse, Kayf Tara, Westerner, and Americain have landed the Group 2 over the years. The last three runnings have gone the way of the Alain de Royer-Dupre-trained Vazirabad which chased Stradivarius home so memorably in the Gold Cup at Royal Ascot in 2018.

THE MAIN EVENTS

- i) **The Gold Cup at Royal Ascot:** Ascot, Group 1, 2 miles four furlongs, 4 year olds and up
WINNER: **TBC**
England's most prestigious race for Stayers is the centrepiece of the Royal Meeting and was first run in 1807, sandwiched between Trafalgar and Waterloo. It has been won by owners and trainers from England, Ireland, France and Italy. Yeats won it a record four times 2006-2009.

- ii) **The Qatar Goodwood Cup:** Goodwood, Group 1, 2 miles, 3 year olds and up
WINNER: **TBC**
First run in 1808, a year after the Gold Cup at Royal Ascot, it is a natural progression for the winner of that race. It takes place during the Qatar Goodwood Festival and is normally around five to six weeks after Ascot. Double Trigger won the race three times between 1995-98 - having also competed in the Gold Cup at Royal Ascot in three out of those four years.

- iii) **The Weatherbys Hamilton Lonsdale Cup:** York, Group 2, 2 miles, 3 year olds +
WINNER: **TBC**
Weatherbys Hamilton has sponsored the Lonsdale Cup since 2013 and it is run during the Welcome to Yorkshire Ebor Festival at the end of August. The third and final leg of the WHSM and has been won by top class stayers' such as Further Flight, Persian Punch, Celeric and Royal Rebel and is a fitting conclusion to the Weatherbys Hamilton Stayers' Million which Stradivarius won so memorably in 2018.

THE RECORDS

Before Stradivarius wrote himself into the record books in 2018 by winning the treble, the records do show a number of horses that have won both the Gold Cup and the Goodwood Cup and would presumably then have been given the chance of winning the Lonsdale Cup as well if the WHSM had been on offer. These include Le Moss (1979 & 1980), Ardross (1981), Gildoran (1984), Sadeem (1988), Double Trigger (1995) and Yeats (2006 & 2008).

In 1995 Double Trigger covered himself in further glory by also winning two of the qualifying races - the Sagaro and Henry II Stakes and finishing third in The Yorkshire Cup. He was a truly remarkable horse that embodied all the finest qualities of the Stayer.

Further Flight (1992) notched up the Goodwood Cup/Lonsdale Cup double but the horse that got closest before Stradivarius accomplished it in 2018 was Persian Punch in 2001. He was only beaten a head by Royal Rebel in the Gold Cup at Royal Ascot before going on to win both the Goodwood Cup and the Lonsdale Cup. Royal Rebel, Kayf Tara and Big Orange all won two out of three of the Gold Cup at Royal Ascot, Goodwood Cup and Lonsdale Cup, but not in the same year.



PRESENTED BY **AMERICA'S BEST RACING** 

FOUR BREEDERS' CUP CHALLENGE RACES TO BE HELD AT ROYAL ASCOT IN 2019

Winners of The Queen Anne Stakes, The Prince of Wales's Stakes, The Norfolk Stakes and The Diamond Jubilee Stakes to earn automatic berths, travel and paid entry fees into 2019 World Championships.



James Doyle and POET'S WORD win the Prince Of Wales's Stakes (June 20, 2018).

Winners of The Queen Anne Stakes, The Prince of Wales's Stakes, The Norfolk Stakes and The Diamond Jubilee Stakes to earn automatic berths, travel and paid entry fees into 2019 World Championships.

In its continuing international expansion of the Breeders' Cup Challenge Series, the Breeders' Cup, in conjunction with Ascot Racecourse, announced that the winners of this year's Queen Anne Stakes (G1), Prince of Wales's Stakes (G1), Norfolk Stakes (G2) and Diamond Jubilee Stakes (G1) at the Royal Meeting, will be awarded automatic "Win And You're In" berths into the 2019 Breeders' Cup World Championships at Santa Anita Park.

All four races will be televised live and streamed in the U.S. as part of NBC Sports Group's live coverage of Royal Ascot.

The Queen Anne Stakes, June 19, for 4-year-olds and older at one mile on turf, will give the winner an automatic berth into the Breeders' Cup Mile (G1). Queen Anne Stakes winners Baratheia (IRE) and Goldikova (IRE) also won the Breeders' Cup Mile.

The Prince of Wales's Stakes, June 19, for 4-year-olds and older at 1 mile, two furlongs on turf, will give the winner an automatic berth into the 1 1/2 mile Longines Breeders' Cup Turf (G1). Prince of Wales's Stakes winners Fantastic Light and Highland Reel (IRE) also won the Breeders' Cup Turf.

The Norfolk Stakes, June 20, for 2-year-old males and fillies at five furlongs. The winner will receive a free berth into the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf Sprint, which is run at 5 furlongs.

The Diamond Jubilee Stakes, June 22, for 4-year-olds and older at six furlongs on turf, awards the winner with an automatic berth into the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint (G1), which will be run at 5 1/2 furlongs.

These races join the 1 mile and four furlongs King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes (Sponsored by QIPCO) (G1), run July 27, and will award an automatic berth into the Breeders' Cup Turf, as the fifth "Win and You're In" races to be run at Ascot Racecourse this

year. The King George has been a part of the international Breeders' Cup Challenge since 2011.

The Breeders' Cup Challenge is an international series consisting of 86 graded/group races whose winners receive automatic qualifying positions and fees paid into a corresponding race of the Breeders' Cup World Championships.

This year's series has 64 Grade/Group 1 events in 11 countries, and features seven new races, including the Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (G1) at ParisLongchamp (G1), and the first-ever European "Win and You're In" for the Breeders' Cup Classic in the Juddmonte International (G1) at York.

Horses from around the globe will be qualifying for the 36th Breeders' Cup World Championships to be held at Santa Anita Park in Arcadia, California on November 1-2. This year's Championships consists of 14 races, 13 of which are Grade 1 events, with purses and awards totaling more than \$30 million.

The Breeders' Cup Challenge Series, now in its 13th year, will be held at many of the world's premier racetracks in **11 countries**: U.S., Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, England, France, Ireland, Japan, Peru and South Africa.

As part of the enhanced benefits to horsemen competing in the series, Breeders' Cup will pay the entry fees and guarantee a starting position in a corresponding Championships race for winners of all Challenge races. The Challenge winner must already be nominated to the Breeders' Cup program or it must be nominated by the Championships' pre-entry deadline of October 21 to receive the rewards.

In addition, Breeders' Cup will provide a \$40,000 travel stipend to the connections of all Championship starters from outside of North America and a \$10,000 travel allowance for starters within North America that are stabled outside of California.

ABOUT BREEDERS' CUP

The Breeders' Cup administers the Breeders' Cup World Championships, Thoroughbred racing's year-end Championships. The Breeders' Cup also administers the Breeders' Cup Challenge qualifying series, which provides automatic starting positions into the Championships races. The 2019 Breeders' Cup World Championships, consisting of 14 championship races (13 Grade 1 events and one Grade 2 race) with purses and awards totaling more than \$30 million, will be held on November 1-2 at Santa Anita Park in Arcadia, Calif., and will be televised live by the NBC Sports Group. Breeders' Cup press releases appear on the Breeders' Cup website, www.breederscup.com. You can also follow the Breeders' Cup on social media platforms Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.



ASCOT RACECOURSE HONOURED IN RACECOURSE GROUNDSTAFF AWARDS

Ascot Racecourse named best dual-purpose racecourse at the 2018 Racecourse Groundstaff Awards



Ascot's Groundstaff team are presented with Racecourse Groundstaff Award.

YOUR TICKET TO THE **GREATEST RACES** FROM AROUND THE WORLD

World Horse Racing brings together the most important races in the global racing calendar. From the action on the field to the fashions off it, we celebrate the sport of racing and the inspirational characters who make it happen.

By highlighting the best of racing's human, equine, social and sporting stories, World Horse Racing is attracting a new, untapped global audience, including the hard-to-target Millennial demographic.

In doing so, World Horse Racing is changing the perception of horse racing on social media by creating content that is engaging and authentic.

Since its launch in May 2018, World Horse Racing has generated more than **40 million views** on its social platforms, and has a cultivated a highly-engaged, organic global **audience of over 80,000**.



The Ascot Racecourse Groundstaff team celebrated the start of the turf flat season earlier this year by lifting the Racecourse Groundstaff Award for dual-purpose racecourse, sponsored by Pitchcare, Watt Fences and Fornells.

A presentation party, including sponsors Bill Watt and Tom Challinor, were on hand to award the celebratory plaque to Head Groundsman Reon Sanford and his team during racing on Friday 10th May.

Upon winning the award in 2018, the judges commented "Ascot produced a top-class racing surface throughout the year and the course during Royal Ascot was impeccable. Despite only having 1.6mm of rain in June, the surface was consistent and safe throughout the five days.

"Their scientific approach to turf husbandry is one we encourage all racecourses to employ and the results have made a significant improvement to the racing surface. Ascot excels in the Continuing Professional Development of their team, showcased most recently when two members of the team were sent on a study tour to Sydney and Melbourne to learn more about international practices of turf husbandry."

John Richards, Operations Director of sponsors Pitchcare, commented "Last year was a very difficult one for all racecourse groundstaff; a very cold spring followed by a very dry summer. Despite these challenges, the work of the team at Ascot was

exceptional, providing a top-class surface throughout the year which has earned it this richly deserved accolade."

Holly Cook, Racecourse Services Manager at the RCA, added "the Racecourse Groundstaff Awards recognise the exceptional commitment, dedication and excellence of Racecourse Groundstaff at British Racecourses, and we were thrilled to be able to celebrate the presentation of the Award for best dual-purpose racecourse 2018 to the Groundstaff Team at Ascot Racecourse."

The 2018 Racecourse Groundstaff Awards, sponsored by Pitchcare, Watt Fences and Fornells, celebrate the best in racecourse turf husbandry and care. Split into three categories (jump, flat and dual-purpose), the awards are decided by an industry-wide judging panel made up of representatives from the RCA, Professional Jockeys Association (PJA), British Horseracing Authority (BHA) and National Trainers Federation (NTF). Winners and runners up are decided in each category before an overall Champion (2018- Warwick) declared at the RCA Showcase & Awards.

VETERINARY FACILITIES, EQUINE & JOCKEYS' WELFARE



The safety and welfare of horses and jockeys is paramount throughout the year at Ascot and nowhere is this better demonstrated than in the changes made to the racing surface itself during the redevelopment (Ascot reopened in 2006).

The key elements of the project were to camber the home and old paddock bends and, crucially, to remove the road crossings over the track, replacing them with underpasses. This has created a safer racecourse for the horses, where previously some less experienced runners had occasionally shied at the differing surfaces.

Four specifically qualified equine vets (five for the major meetings including Royal Ascot), led by Senior Veterinary Surgeon, Svend Kold, are on duty every raceday at Ascot, dedicated to the welfare of all the horses. During each race, vets follow the runners by car and can respond to and attend a casualty generally within a minute – as fast as the paramedic teams responsible for human casualties.

There are two equine ambulances (three for Royal Ascot) on course at all times and three ambulances for any incidents involving injuries to jockeys.

Ascot's two permanent veterinary boxes are supplemented with an X-Ray machine for the major meetings to assist with swift diagnosis before administration of treatment on-site or any movement necessary to equine hospitals.

The jockeys' facilities at Ascot include a medical treatment room, rest rooms and a dedicated room for physiotherapy. During Royal Ascot, there are six doctors on site, led by Senior Racecourse Medical Officer, Dr Roger Goulds, specifically to deal with any jockey injuries.

A £700,000 project to create a new enhanced unsaddling area, increased in size to accommodate the number of horses that run in races like the Wokingham and Royal Hunt Cup more comfortably and thereby improve equine welfare, was completed in 2016.

In order to improve its efficiency, the Flat Course Pop-Up irrigation system underwent a £150,000 overhaul in 2017. All 300 of the pop ups around the track were replaced and a new filter system fitted to the pump station.

Together with the Injured Jockeys Fund (IJF), Ascot has installed two state of the art exercise bikes in the jockeys' changing room to encourage jockeys to warm up sufficiently, therefore reducing the potential for injuries.

Former Champion Jockey and President of the IJF, Sir AP McCoy OBE, supported the initiative:

"As President of the IJF, I am delighted that Ascot have chosen to support the work they are doing in this way and hope the bikes help to reduce the injuries that can be sustained out on the track whilst riding. The charity is very important to me and in the past, helped with my own recovery on numerous occasions."

Investment in preventative measures is a key area for the IJF and Ed Stroud, Head of Rehabilitation at the IJF, championed the additions:

"The Injured Jockeys Fund primarily aims to take a jockey from the point of injury and get them back fit to ride, depending on their injury level. The bikes represent the second facet of what the charity aims to achieve. Injury prevention is high on the list and giving jockeys the resources to warm up correctly at Ascot, will greatly assist in this."

ROYAL ASCOT | FRANKIE DETTORI

FRANKIE'S SENSATIONAL 60



Frankie and Stradivarius win last year's Gold Cup

Stradivarius' 2018 Ascot Gold Cup win gave Frankie Dettori another milestone in a glittering career and victory erased a painful memory, as the marquee jockey revealed to Marcus Townend →



LEFT TO RIGHT
Frankie celebrates after winning the 2012 Gold Cup with Colour Vision; Frankie's return to the racecourse in 2017 after being forced to pull out of Royal Ascot due to injury

when driving Stradivarius to win the Ascot Gold Cup, the Royal Meeting's feature race, with an appropriate virtuoso performance from the artful jockey. Dettori loves winning the compelling two-and-a-half-mile marathon. He'd won it five times before with Drum Traps (1992 and 1993), Kayf Tara (1998), Papineau (2004) and Colour Vision (2012). But even such a glittering record didn't diminish why the three-quarter-length success of Stradivarius, from formidable French stayer Vazirabad, was so special.

THE GOLDEN MOMENT

Making the victory extra special was what had happened 12 months before when popular stayer Big Orange won The Gold Cup. On the back of the now-retired Michael Bell-trained stayer was James Doyle. It should have been Dettori. His 2017 Royal Ascot had ended before it had even begun as, hours before the first race, Dettori finally accepted that the persistent arm injury he had incurred when thrown in the paddock at Yarmouth days earlier had scuppered his meeting, even though he had ridden the Gosden-trained Shutter Speed to fourth place in the French Oaks the previous weekend.

Having both his favourite stage, and a perfect script denied to him in such cruel circumstances was too much for Dettori to bear. He did not hang around to watch his understudy deliver the lines that had been penned for him. Dettori said: "Missing the winning Gold Cup ride on Big Orange was one of the most painful moments of my career. Royal Ascot is the meeting I look forward to most every year. My season largely revolves around these five days in June.

"I tried absolutely everything I could to get fit enough to get back into the saddle, but I knew the game was up by the morning of the meeting.

"THE ITALIAN HAS RIDDEN WINNERS AROUND THE WORLD, BUT COMES ALIVE ON A LUSH GREEN STRIP OF TURF IN BERKSHIRE"

Dettori may have lived in Flat racing's HQ of Newmarket since arriving in this country from his homeland, but Ascot is his professional home and the Royal Meeting, in particular, is the time and place for a clutch of Dettori's command performances. He produced two at the track on the John Gosden-trained Stradivarius last season, the second when he came with an unlikely run between the rail and the Ryan Moore-ridden Flag Of Honour in the Long Distance Cup on QIPCO British Champions Day in October, securing a win which would have slipped away under a less daring ride.

The first had come earlier in the summer

Every actor needs a stage – a platform on which to perform that draws the best from deep within their body and soul. For our greatest thespians, it could be the Old Vic in London, where great names of the stage from Sir Laurence Olivier to Dame Judi Dench have commanded standing ovations with their performances. For a ballet dancer, it could be the renowned Sadler's Wells theatre in Islington, while some of the world's biggest rock stars reserve their very best performances for the Pyramid stage at the Glastonbury Festival.

It is the same with sport. Tennis icon Roger Federer is synonymous with epic performances on Wimbledon's Centre Court, while golf legend Tiger Woods comes alive on the lightning quick greens at Augusta.

Frankie Dettori freely admits that, at 48 years old and in the 32nd season of his career, the humdrum days no longer get his juices flowing. But it is very different when he is on his stage. The Italian has ridden winners around the world, but the place where he comes alive is on a lush green strip of turf in Berkshire.



"Not being able to ride there would break my heart anyway, but what Big Orange did made it even worse. He is owned by Bill Gredley and his son, Tim, is one of my best friends. I'd have given anything to wear the Gredley silks to victory in The Gold Cup.

"I knew Big Orange had a great chance and, I'll be honest with you, there was no chance I was going to hang around to watch. That would have been like rubbing salt into the wound. So, I flew back home and tried to pretend the meeting wasn't on in an attempt to dull the agony. Some chance!

"But missing 2017, and especially Big Orange, did have the effect of making the win on Stradivarius even more special last year. It probably could not have worked out better. Stradivarius had been a progressive three-year-old the season before when he had improved as the summer had gone on. We knew he had strengthened up over the winter and we genuinely thought we had a real Gold Cup contender on our hands. We started to believe that even more when he won the Yorkshire Cup at York's Dante meeting in May."

Dettori and Gosden realised that in Stradivarius, a chestnut colt with distinctive white socks on his legs, they had a rare commodity – a stayer with a turn of foot. But the extreme distance of The Gold Cup was something Stradivarius had never attempted before and that meant Dettori had to ride a perfectly timed, hold-up race.

For much of the race, Dettori sat in midfield with his eye very much on the previous year's winner and other 7-4 joint favourite, the Ryan Moore-ridden Order Of St George, before Torcedor powerfully swept to the front on the home turn.

It was not before the leaders hit the furlong pole that Dettori urged Stradivarius to the front and asked the colt to dig even deeper, as Vazirabad and jockey Christophe Soumillon refused to throw in the towel. But by the line Stradivarius, bred and owned by Bjorn Nielsen, was edging further away with every stride.

The Gold Cup win was special, but it had even wider significance, financially for Nielsen and historically for Dettori. Stradivarius went on to add wins in last season's Goodwood Cup and York's Lonsdale Cup to his Yorkshire Cup and →

“IT SEEMS A LONG, LONG TIME AGO SINCE MY FIRST WIN AT THE ROYAL MEETING ON MARKOFDISTINCTION IN 1990”

Ascot Gold Cup successes. The four wins earned a £1 million bonus – the Weatherbys Hamilton Stayers’ Million – introduced to boost long-distance races and promote the horses who contest them.

For Dettori, the wider importance of The Gold Cup win was that it was his 60th at the Royal Meeting. Only Lester Piggott and the late Pat Eddery have ridden more. Dettori added: “It’s crazy when you think about it. Who would have thought the little boy who arrived in Britain, barely able to speak a word of English, would make such an impact on a meeting that is a British institution. I must be doing something right!”

“It also seems a long, long time ago since my first win at the Royal Meeting on Markofdistinction in the 1990 Queen Anne Stakes for my first boss in Britain, Luca Cumani. There were some great jockeys riding against me that day, including Pat Eddery, Willie Carson, Steve Cauthen and the man who is now my agent, Ray Cochrane. I am the only one still going! I won’t catch Lester’s amazing total of 116 winners at the Royal Meeting, but I suppose there is a slight chance I might make it to Pat’s total of 73 – but things will have to go amazingly well.”

AN ENDURING CAREER

Just how long Dettori will carry on riding is the source of constant speculation during the summer months. A rumour, without foundation, that constantly circulated last summer had it that he was poised to retire. Dettori laughed it off.

His proclamation immediately after he won The Gold Cup that he would ride until he was 60 was fuelled by euphoria, but there



ABOVE
Frankie's trademark leap from Cracksman after The QIPCO Champion Stakes at Ascot in 2017

is no doubt that he is as addicted to the adrenaline kick of a big winner as much he ever was. Probably more so. That's not surprising when Gosden has supplied a string of wonder horses for Dettori to ride, which have been headed by 2015 Derby winner Golden Horn, QIPCO King George, Breeders' Cup and dual Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe heroine Enable, Cracksman, twice successful in The QIPCO Champion Stakes, and 2018's leading two-year-old Too Darn Hot.

Dettori said: “Riding horses like those obviously gives you a spring in your step. →



ABOVE
Frankie and Colour Vision (nearside) hold Opinion Poll (far side) in the 2012 Gold Cup

I feel like a teenager when the season starts, and I still can't wait to get going. I am as fit as I have ever been, spending time in the gym, and I look after myself – but I also must be realistic.

“That doesn't mean I am taking things easy – simply making sure I am both mentally and physically sharp for the really big moments each season is now key. I am very lucky to have a boss like John. He understands me. He'd rather have me up for the weekends and the big days, fresh and hungry, than slogging around the country chasing smaller prizes that just don't motivate me anymore. There was a time when I wanted to win every race. I'd have driven miles for a winner, even if it was just a seller. But it is impossible to maintain that level of motivation.

“Now I am pacing myself. It's a bit like the football player who has spent years running himself ragged playing centre forward, now dropping back into midfield. So, I'm putting my foot on the ball and directing the pace of the game. But I can still produce a match-

“NOW I AM PACING MYSELF ... BUT I CAN STILL PRODUCE A MATCH-WINNING TURN OF SPEED WHEN IT'S NEEDED”

winning turn of speed to put me in a scoring position when it's needed.”

The jockey refuses to make firm predictions on how long he will keep race riding – “It would be stupid to do that when you don't know what's around the corner,” he says – but you get the impression that the mature Dettori is both enjoying and appreciating this Indian Summer in his career.

The sport should make sure it enjoys what remains of his working life in the saddle, too. A life in the racing media will undoubtedly be part of Dettori's career after his time in the Weighing Room, but there is no one he will leave behind who will carry a banner for Flat racing quite like Frankie Dettori.

When he does go, it will leave a void. A vacancy with no qualified candidates – and that is a worry for a sport that must constantly battle to gain its fair share of exposure. But, for now, rather like Stradivarius at the end of his races, Dettori's stride is not shortening. There is plenty left in the tank of this Ferrari of a jockey. ◉

THE ROAD TO QIPCO BRITISH CHAMPIONS DAY

MAY

SAT 4TH MAY | NEWMARKET

THE QIPCO 2000 GUINEAS

ROLL OF HONOUR 2018 SAXON WARRIOR

SUN 5TH MAY | NEWMARKET

THE QIPCO 1000 GUINEAS

ROLL OF HONOUR 2018 BILLESDON BROOK

FRI 17TH MAY | YORK

THE MANSIONBET YORKSHIRE CUP

ROLL OF HONOUR 2018 STRADIVARIUS

SAT 18TH MAY | NEWBURY

THE AL SHAQB LOCKINGE STAKES

ROLL OF HONOUR 2018 RHODODENDRON

FRI 31ST MAY | EPSOM

THE INVESTEC OAKS

ROLL OF HONOUR 2018 FOREVER TOGETHER

THE INVESTEC CORONATION CUP

ROLL OF HONOUR 2018 CRACKSMAN

JUNE

SAT 1ST JUNE | EPSOM

THE INVESTEC DERBY

ROLL OF HONOUR 2018 MASAR

TUE 19TH JUNE | ROYAL ASCOT

THE QUEEN ANNE STAKES

ROLL OF HONOUR 2018 ACCIDENTAL AGENT

THE KING'S STAND STAKES

ROLL OF HONOUR 2018 BLUE POINT

THE ST JAMES'S PALACE STAKES

ROLL OF HONOUR 2018 WITHOUT PAROLE

WED 19TH JUNE | ROYAL ASCOT

THE PRINCE OF WALES'S STAKES

ROLL OF HONOUR 2018 POET'S WORD

THUR 20TH JUNE | ROYAL ASCOT

THE GOLD CUP

ROLL OF HONOUR 2018 STRADIVARIUS

JUNE

SAT 22ND JUNE | ROYAL ASCOT

THE DIAMOND JUBILEE STAKES

ROLL OF HONOUR 2018 MERCHANT NAVY

FRI 21ST JUNE | ROYAL ASCOT

THE COMMONWEALTH CUP

ROLL OF HONOUR 2018 EQTIDAAR

THE CORONATION STAKES

ROLL OF HONOUR 2018 ALPHA CENTAURI

JULY

SAT 6TH JULY | SANDOWN

THE CORAL-ECLIPSE STAKES

ROLL OF HONOUR 2018 ROARING LION

FRI 12TH JULY | NEWMARKET

THE TATTERSALLS FALMOUTH STAKES

ROLL OF HONOUR 2018 ALPHA CENTAURI

SAT 13TH JULY | NEWMARKET

THE DARLEY JULY CUP

ROLL OF HONOUR 2018 U S NAVY FLAG

SAT 27TH JULY | ASCOT

THE KING GEORGE VI & QUEEN ELIZABETH STAKES SPONSORED BY QIPCO

ROLL OF HONOUR 2018 POET'S WORD

TUE 30TH JULY | GOODWOOD

THE QATAR GOODWOOD CUP

ROLL OF HONOUR 2018 STRADIVARIUS

WED 31ST JULY | GOODWOOD

THE QATAR SUSSEX STAKES

ROLL OF HONOUR 2018 LIGHTNING SPEAR

WED 31ST JULY | GOODWOOD

WED 31ST JULY | GOODWOOD

AUGUST

THUR 1ST AUG | GOODWOOD

THE QATAR NASSAU STAKES

ROLL OF HONOUR 2018 WILD ILLUSION

THUR 1ST AUG | GOODWOOD

AUGUST

WED 21ST AUG | YORK

THE JUDDMONTE INTERNATIONAL STAKES

ROLL OF HONOUR 2018 ROARING LION

THUR 22ND AUG | YORK

THE DARLEY YORKSHIRE OAKS

ROLL OF HONOUR 2018 SEA OF CLASS

FRI 23RD AUG | YORK

THE COOLMORE NUNTHORPE STAKES

ROLL OF HONOUR 2018 ALPHA DELPHINI

THE WEATHERBYS HAMILTON LONSDALE CUP

ROLL OF HONOUR 2018 STRADIVARIUS

FRI 23RD AUG | YORK

SEPTEMBER

SAT 7TH SEPT | HAYDOCK PARK

THE 32RED SPRINT CUP

ROLL OF HONOUR 2018 THE TIN MAN

FRI 13TH SEPT | DONCASTER

THE DONCASTER CUP

ROLL OF HONOUR 2018 THOMAS HOBSON

SAT 14TH SEPT | DONCASTER

THE WILLIAM HILL ST LEGER STAKES

ROLL OF HONOUR 2018 KEW GARDENS

SAT 14TH SEPT | DONCASTER

OCTOBER

SAT 5TH OCT | NEWMARKET

THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN SUN CHARIOT STAKES

ROLL OF HONOUR 2018 LAURENS

SAT 19TH OCT | ASCOT

2019 QIPCO BRITISH CHAMPIONS DAY

BRITAIN'S RICHEST RACEDAY £4.3M IN PRIZE MONEY FIVE CATEGORY FINALS

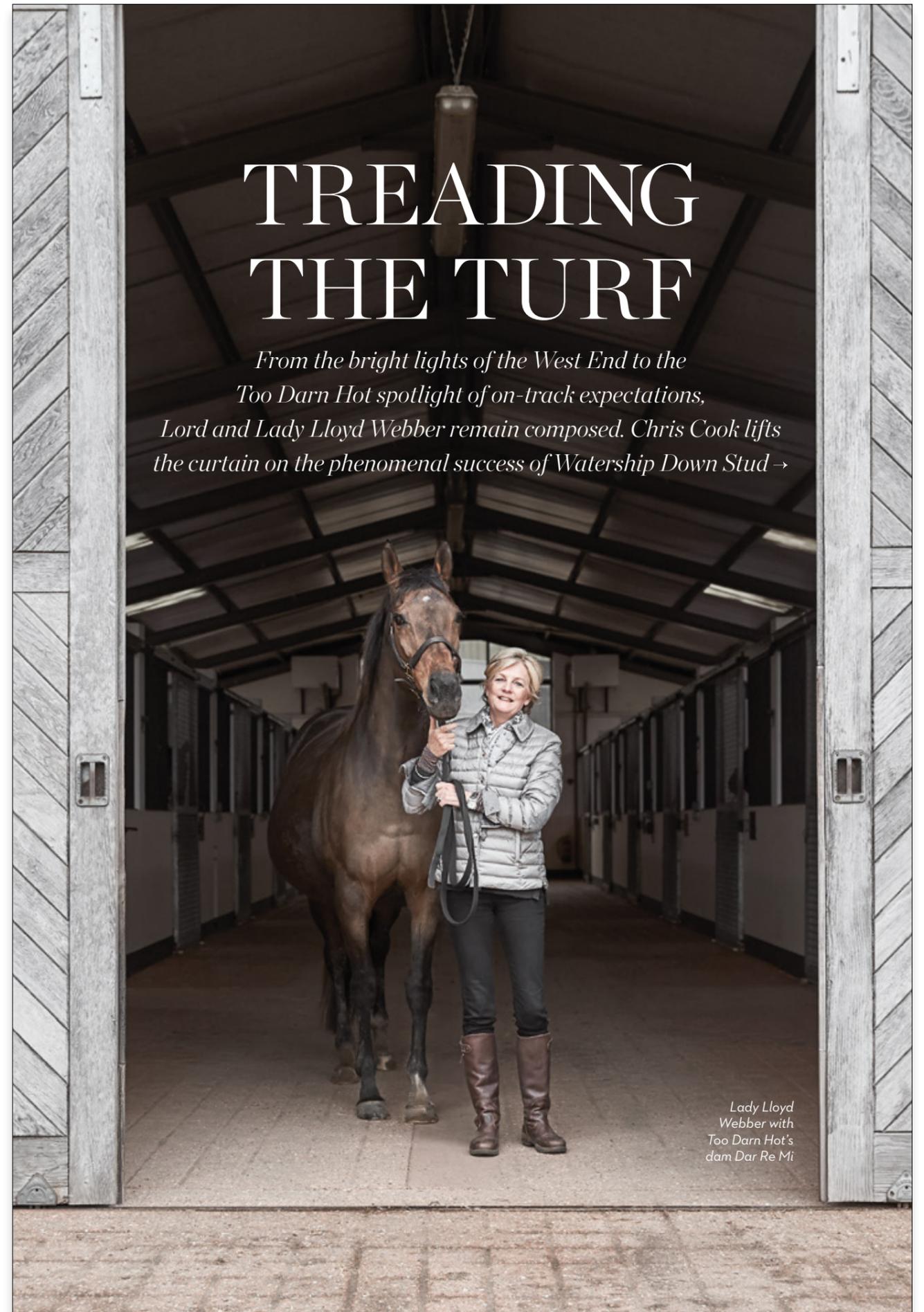
SAT 19TH OCT | ASCOT

SP SPRINT MI MILE MD MIDDLE DISTANCE LD LONG DISTANCE FM FILLIES & MARES

VISIT: BRITISHCHAMPIONSERIES.COM

TREADING THE TURF

From the bright lights of the West End to the Too Darn Hot spotlight of on-track expectations, Lord and Lady Lloyd Webber remain composed. Chris Cook lifts the curtain on the phenomenal success of Watership Down Stud →



Lady Lloyd Webber with Too Darn Hot's dam Dar Re Mi



Watership Down Stud-owned mares have produced 117 foals, which between them have won more than £15.5 million in prize money

“It’s all about the grass,” says Madeleine, Lady Lloyd Webber, reflecting on the fortunate decision she and her husband made more than a quarter of a century ago to install a stud south of Newbury on the Sydmonton estate, which he had owned for 20 years, on the border between Berkshire and Hampshire. “It’s a bit like wine-making; you’ve got to have the right grass to grow the right horses.”

“This valley is pretty good. We’ve got the Baldings up one end, Highclere at the other, and we’re bang in the middle. It’s a prolific, successful valley.”

That local success is owed in large measure to the Lloyd Webbers’ Watership Down Stud, the source of some very classy animals in recent years. Starting with the headline acts, there has been Dar Re Mi, whose Sheema Classic win in Dubai took her prize money earnings to £2.6 million, and The Fugue, who beat the colts in The Irish Champion Stakes and The Prince of Wales’s Stakes. And then, last year came Too Darn Hot, a show-stopping talent to make everyone leap from their seats in appreciation. The fifth foal out of Dar Re Mi, he won all four races as a juvenile and in just two months earned himself a huge reputation.

A LUCKY STAY

We meet in early spring, when anticipation of Too Darn Hot’s Classic season is starting to build in the press. Frankie Dettori has described him as probably the best two-year-old he has ridden. What can he do this year? By now, you will know part of the answer.

But in a sense, the job is already done. A Dewhurst winner, Too Darn Hot will have a stallion career whatever happens next and a deal is being done for him to stand at Darley. They don’t have the facilities to stand stallions at Watership Down, having never expected that the need would arise.

“All our colts are for sale, and some of our fillies,” Madeleine says. “That’s been our strategy from day one and it’s served us well. The people who have bought from us seem very happy. We’ve sold a lot of Stakes horses. We are a commercial stud and can’t be seen to be keeping the ones that we think are going to be champions. Anyway, we’d get it wrong.”

Nothing but chance stopped Too Darn Hot being sold as a yearling. Had he been, the Lloyd Webbers would now be tracking his progress with pride, as they have done with many another in the past. “But he had an X-ray situation that started very early on. We don’t sell horses that we don’t feel can pass the vet, so we kept him.

“It’s probably the first colt we’ve kept and put into training. Maybe there’s been the odd one, but generally they’re fit and well and they go to the sales. Occasionally, we keep part ownership, but he is the first one where we kept the whole thing. It was unbelievable luck.”

WHAT’S IN A NAME?

And so it happens that the potential star of racing’s show this summer is owned by the man credited with reinventing the musical, and was named by him. Horses have always been a passion for Madeleine and, since their marriage, an interest for her husband, but that interest is evidently deepening.

“We go to Andrew for the naming and he has a bit of success in that,” Madeleine says. Tongue in cheek, she adds: “There are an awful lot of bad names we reject. We pretend they’ve already been taken, but the annoying thing is he’s getting quite smart at it and he wants the link to the naming webpage from Weatherbys on his iPad, which is a disaster.

“Unfortunately, he’s going to go direct soon to check out the availability of some of his terrible names. Up to now, we’ve been choosing the least terrible names that he comes up with and he usually completely nails it.”

Too Darn Hot is not Andrew’s only hit.

He also came up with Dar Re Mi, The Fugue and Twyla Tharp, among others. A daughter of Sadler’s Wells, Twyla Tharp was named after the great choreographer, and narrowly missed out on her own moment in the limelight when she was beaten on the line in The Ribblesdale Stakes of 2005, the year the Royal Meeting was held at York. She then foaled The Fugue, named after Tharp’s breakthrough piece from 1970, a filly who went one better than her mother by scoring at Royal Ascot in 2014.

“They could all have been terrible names if those horses turned out to be terrible racehorses,” Madeleine muses. “Fact is, they turned out to be good racehorses, so they’re good names. He now thinks he’s a genius at naming. There’ll be some terrible names in the future, I would think.”

But Too Darn Hot is clearly not among them. In the Cole Porter song of 1948, “too darn hot” is a complaint about weather: “I’d like to fool with my baby tonight, break every rule with my baby tonight, but pillow you’ll be my baby tonight, ‘cause it’s too darn hot...” Translated to the track last summer, the words “too darn hot” came to signify a

“WE GO TO ANDREW FOR THE NAMING ... THERE ARE AN AWFUL LOT OF BAD NAMES WE REJECT”

Watership Down Stud was founded by Andrew and Madeleine Lloyd Webber in 1992



blazing turn of foot that quickly settled the outcome of the Solario, The Champagne Stakes and the Dewhurst. With those races, all won in the space of six weeks, came a new kind of fame for the Lloyd Webbers.

“Fillies are great, and they get an awful lot of attention,” Madeleine reflects. “However, it doesn’t compare to a great colt in the publicity machine. I hadn’t been aware how different it is. There are more people who mention Too Darn Hot to me now than ever mentioned The Fugue, who was a multiple Group 1 winner, or Dar Re Mi, who won Group 1s all over the world. Taxi drivers will say to Andrew, ‘I saw that Too Darn Hot...’ – we haven’t had that before. This has gone beyond the racing pages to news and interest from the general public.

“By the time we got to the Dewhurst, the hype was ludicrously over the top. It’s amazing how, in the middle of the season, everyone’s looking for the next star and jumping on anything that might be exciting, and of course he kept delivering.

“It’s been an extraordinary surprise and a journey we hadn’t been on before. When the Dewhurst came round in other years, we might be watching horses that we’d bred or had an interest in. We’ve never been there with our colours. That was a wonderful day.”

A FOCUS ON QUALITY

The word from John Gosden’s stable in Newmarket is that Too Darn Hot made good progress over the winter until a setback that prevented him from running in the 2,000 Guineas, and there is every reason to hope for more fireworks when he returns to the races. But star juveniles are not always able to maintain their superiority and everyone at Watership Down Stud has seen enough of the game to be able to bear it with equanimity if, in fact, there are no more big days to come.

“I don’t feel pressure because we had no expectations,” Madeleine says. “It’s not like we bought a £3 million yearling and all our eggs were in one basket. We’d love him to do well, but if the bubble burst, we’ve got this incredible operation here, we’ve got the family, we have three full sisters and his mother, who is 14 now.”

The influence of Too Darn Hot was felt in Tattersalls’ sales ring in October, when his yearling brother was sold for 3.5 million guineas. “He’s the one we all wanted,” said David Redvers, who made the final bid on behalf of Qatar’s Sheikh Fahad. “The mare →

is quite extraordinary. It's a hell of an operation we've bought from."

Madeleine, who was present for that auction, told a reporter at the time: "I can only compare it to an opening night when that curtain goes up and all the critics are in and my husband and I sit there thinking, 'Oh my God, this is it now!' It was exactly like that. The adrenaline was pumping, it was pure show business. We're just very lucky that the mare is breeding these rather perfectly formed offspring."

Were such heady experiences in mind when the Lloyd Webbers set up their stud back in the early '90s? Madeleine exchanges an amused look with her friend and racing manager, Simon Marsh, who was brought in to help run the operation from day one. "I think if we had imagined that, Simon would have been absolutely furious and told me to stop being so ridiculous and don't set my sights so high, because I'd get terribly disappointed. We've always played it down. With Andrew, who's a non-racing and non-breeding person, we don't want to raise any hopes, because we don't want him to say, 'Well, you told me we'd be winning the Derby' after 10 years of breeding racehorses."

In fact, Madeleine has no fear of any such misunderstanding. "We love Andrew being involved and he's a very intelligent, intuitive man – he gets it very quickly, you don't have to explain things to him."

Indeed, it could be said that Lord Lloyd Webber's practice of focusing on quality, in his work and in his private interests, is a policy that has also served the stud well. "He has always



TOP TO BOTTOM

The stud's policy is to buy and develop top-class bloodlines; The Fugue with the Lloyd Webbers after winning The Prince of Wales's Stakes in 2014

been someone who wants to find the very best, whether it's a very best Victorian picture or a very best theatre, it's always blue chip. He would much rather spend the right amount of money on the very best than buy a lot of mediocre stock.

"Simon said, 20-odd years ago, 'We have got to buy the best broodmares, because in my view that is the only way we will have a chance to breed Stakes horses. We have to start with the best and breed to the best and then we may have a chance of success on the track.'

"I didn't really know anything about Flat racing. I was a three-day eventer, breeding wasn't my thing. I brought Simon in as the brains and the skills and we always wanted to set it up as a commercial stud.

"We had a lot of land here, lovely chalk grassland. When I married Andrew, I looked around this place. It was derelict farm buildings. I said, 'I know what to do with this', had it developed into stables quite quickly and put Mark Todd [the world champion eventer] in here for a while. Then we had our base, our fields, the grass, the space, and Simon, Andrew and I decided to turn it into a stud.

"It wasn't very big to start with. You couldn't begin to think where it would end up, but we haven't done it in one big stride, it's evolved over the years."

To complement Watership Down, the Lloyd Webbers bought Kiltinan Castle Stud in County →



Tipperary in 1996. It is used for nurturing young stock and also provides a handy base for mares being sent to stallions at Coolmore and other studs all over Ireland.

BIG BRITISH MOMENTS

The brightest memory so far for the Lloyd Webbers, at least until the beginning of this season, was The Fugue's Royal Ascot success, when the dual Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe winner Treve was among those behind her. "We broke the track record, and no one's got close to it since," Madeleine recalls. "So, it wasn't a fluke or just that Treve wasn't on a good day.

"The Fugue was properly good when it all went right, when we weren't knocked over and there was no tactical issue, or the jockey followed the wrong horse. There were so many ifs and buts in her career, but to do it at Royal Ascot was the highlight of our racing career so far. Andrew and I feel that was the pinnacle – when we were most proud of our team and our horses.

"Royal Ascot is the biggest shop window for British racing. It is fantastic to have a runner there. To be in that Winner's Enclosure was incredible, with the Prince of Wales giving us the trophy.

"It was great being at the Sheema Classic, picking up \$3 million with Dar Re Mi. That was a huge moment, but it was in Dubai and we're all British. All our friends and peers are in this country and The Fugue was British-bred, British-raced, British-trained. It was a big moment for British racing and for us."

But The Fugue was not the first Prince of Wales's Stakes winner bred at Watership Down. That honour goes to Rewilding, who won the 2011 race in the blue colours of Godolphin, he and Dettori edging out So You Think and Ryan Moore in a thrilling finish.

Whether or not they have an interest this year, the Lloyd Webbers can be relied upon to support the Royal Meeting once more. "Andrew would come to Ascot nearly every year, unless there's a show opening or some real reason why he can't get there," Madeleine says. "He loves Royal Ascot. He's been going even before I got married to him – there are pictures of him in the '60s and '70s there. When he first got engaged, when he was 22, he took his then-fiancée and wore a red Tommy Nutter tailcoat with a red top hat. Those were the days!"



LEFT
Lady Lloyd Webber and Dar Re Mi

PHOTOS: SAM CHICK; AMY LANIGAN; SHUTTERSTOCK/REX

AWAY FROM THE TRACK



2018 CHARITABLE ACTIVITY



THE PRINCE'S
COUNTRYSIDE
FUND

OVER

£1.5m

HAS BEEN RAISED FOR THE PRINCE'S COUNTRYSIDE FUND SINCE 2014



ASCOT CONCESSIONAIRES HAVE HELPED TO RAISE

£100,000

THROUGH RETAIL SALES ON COURSE

PARTNERED WITH THE BERKSHIRE
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION PROVIDING

£30,000



OF GRANT FUNDING,
HELPING OVER **4,000** BENEFICIARIES

OVER
£20,000

RAISED FOR THE INJURED
JOCKEYS' FUND VIA ASCOT'S
AMBASSADORS PROGRAMME



£240,000

RAISED VIA THE PROPERTY RACEDAY
FOR CHILDREN'S CHARITIES

OVER
£40,000



RAISED VIA ONSITE CHARITY
BUCKET COLLECTIONS

£45,000

RAISED FOR ASCOT ROUND
TABLE AT THE FIREWORKS
SPECTACULAR RACEDAY

ASCOT RACECOURSE FUNDED THE GET BERKSHIRE
ACTIVE WINTER & SUMMER GAMES ENGAGING OVER

3,000 STUDENTS



170 CHILDREN

PARTICIPATED IN THE RACING TO SCHOOL PROGRAMME

ONSITE MILITARY BUCKET COLLECTIONS
HAVE RAISED OVER

£29,000



WITH OVER **2,500** TICKETS
PROVIDED VIA TICKETS FOR TROOPS



OVER
650

RACEDAY TICKETS
DONATED TO LOCAL
SCHOOLS & CHARITIES

ALL LOCAL EMERGENCY SERVICES
PROVIDED WITH 2 - FOR - 1 RACEDAY TICKETS

SUPPORTERS OF:

- THAMES HOSPICE | SEBASTIAN'S ACTION TRUST | THE WAR HORSE MEMORIAL | THE NOT FORGOTTEN ASSOCIATION | WORLD HORSE WELFARE | GET BERKSHIRE ACTIVE ROA AWARDS



THE PRINCE'S
COUNTRYSIDE
FUND RACEDAY





Royal Ascot Schools Art Competition winners.

ROYAL ASCOT SCHOOLS' ART COMPETITION

Following its success last year, the local schools' art competition was once again launched to 20 primary and secondary schools in the local area. Judging took place last month with over 2,000 online votes recorded, and the winners of each age category were presented with their prizes on Saturday 11th May. The winners will also accompany the jockeys when they are introduced to the crowd on the Saturday of Royal Ascot, to highlight this community project.

THE ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability is an important aspect of our business and we have formed a Sustainability Project Group to support Ascot's strong commitment to operating in a more environmentally thoughtful manner. The Group will create ambitious initiatives across our business, from reducing single-use plastics and food wastage to improving our power and water usage.

2019 plans include further development of our compostable project as well as the launch of a reusable cup programme. During Royal Ascot 2018, the Village Enclosure was designated as a compostable-only packaging area and we will be doing more in this regard during 2019.

By the end of 2020, our aim is to remove all consumer single use plastic from the racecourse and we are introducing reusable cups at Royal Ascot this year. In 2019, through partnership with RECUP, we hope to reduce our single-use plastic consumption significantly.



PLANT BASED MENU

Brand new plant-based menus will be launched at Royal Ascot 2019 as we continue to respond to consumer demand for alternative food and drink. As well as each 'Chef in Residence' creating their own plant-based menus for their respective restaurants, Sarmado Sibley from Raw Love Life has created a range of menus that will be served at eight restaurants including The Lawn Club, The Gallery, The Old Paddock and The Pavilion, as well as all Private Boxes.



ROYAL ASCOT | COLTS AND FILLIES CLUB



THE GENERATION GAME

Ascot's Colts and Fillies Club is helping to safeguard the future of racing

No matter how rich the history of a sport and its institutions, traditions can only flourish if the torch is passed to future generations. Since its launch in 2002, the Ascot Colts and Fillies Club has offered children a unique insight into the world of horse racing, making it more accessible, educational and fun.

WHAT'S INVOLVED?
Membership for young racegoers aged 17 and under currently stands at just under a staggering 20,000. Members can enjoy a

host of raceday benefits, all free of charge, including exclusive entertainment, a dedicated viewing area around the Parade Ring and even get the chance to go on a trip to the start before the race. What's more, there are prizes to be won, special days out and a family discount for Queen Anne Enclosure tickets throughout the year.

One particular treat is the chance to represent the Club at its sponsored race at Ascot, with a number of lucky members choosing the best turned-out horse and presenting the prizes to winning connections.

All new members receive a smart metal membership badge, pen and welcome

booklet. Furthermore, they will be sent regular e-newsletters with all the latest news, events and competitions, plus details of exciting upcoming trips and Ascot's popular family days which, as well as thrilling racing, provide a host of entertainment including treasure hunts, fairground rides, craft activities and magic shows. →

ABOVE
Colts and Fillies Club members with trainer Eve Johnson Houghton in Ascot's Parade Ring

ROYAL ASCOT | COLTS AND FILLIES CLUB

EXCLUSIVE ACCESS

Membership is the perfect opportunity for youngsters to learn more about racing with behind-the-scenes tours of the racecourse, while over the years the Club's participants have enjoyed exclusive visits to several famous trainers' yards, as well as Dalham Hall Stud, the Metropolitan Police Horse Training Establishment and the Royal Mews.

"The youngsters love it," says Jayne McWilliam, Colts and Fillies Club organiser. "The aim of the Club is to introduce racing to the next generation of racegoers by making it fun to be involved while learning more about the sport."

At dedicated family racedays, the emphasis is indeed on fun and excitement, with attractions for old and young alike. Ascot's first such event of 2019 offered a memorable

"THE AIM OF THE CLUB IS TO INTRODUCE RACING TO THE NEXT GENERATION OF RACEGOERS BY MAKING IT FUN TO BE INVOLVED"

mix of top-class racing and free countryside-themed activities for all ages, which included duck herding, ferret racing, dog agility and a range of bygone countryside skills to try. Colts and Fillies Club members were also invited to decorate plant pots and pot up house plants to take home for Mother's Day, and received a free junior racecard containing a wealth of fun facts, puzzles and activities.

More family fun is to be had at the Summer Mile Family Raceday in July, while at the Fireworks Spectacular Family Raceday in November – as well as everything from bungee trampolines to dodgem cars – young racegoers can enjoy free popcorn, drinks and a movie before a magnificent fireworks display. At Ascot's much-loved Christmas Racing Weekend, Father Christmas, Rudolph and friends are set to pay a visit on a day that has in the past



seen pony rides, face painting, jugglers and a Christmas Carol concert – just some of the attractions alongside an exciting card of jump racing.

"We aim to provide a truly memorable experience, particularly for the youngsters," McWilliam added.

There is also something for 18- to 24-year-olds – the Star Card – which provides this particular age group with substantial discounts on racing at Ascot. Star Cards are issued free of charge, allowing cardholders to purchase a half-price ticket on many Ascot racedays. Star Card membership comes with other benefits, subject to availability. For instance, members can purchase a King Edward VII ticket and receive a drink and a racecard for a mere £10 on 12th July, while on QIPCO British Champions Day, Star Card holders can gain free Queen Anne Enclosure admission.

EVE SEEKS NEW PEAK

Perhaps the Colts and Fillies Club's greatest asset is that its members can experience the unique thrill of racehorse ownership thanks to the support of Blewbury trainer Eve Johnson Houghton, who loaned the mare Miss Inga Sock for the last five seasons.

Miss Inga Sock came to the Club as a yearling and was perfectly named by a Club member, having three white socks and one chestnut leg, which was indeed 'missing a sock'. She ran in the Club's name and colours, won five times and was placed on another nine occasions before being retired.

This season, the Club is excited to have a new horse in training with Eve. Miss Matterhorn, a two-year-old bay filly, is a half-sister to Miss Inga Sock by Swiss Spirit out of Support Fund. Eve said: "She is quite racy and the beauty of this is that the kids will hopefully be able to see her right from the beginning and all the way through her career. Having named her, it is lovely for the children to have an attachment to a horse they can follow, and they also get an insight and introduction into racing."

Eve has facilitated numerous stable visits so the youngsters can learn how a racehorse is trained and what happens in a racing yard. "We have the children down



about four or five days a year," she says. "There are about 30 of them each time. I'm very keen to encourage young people to enjoy racing, get into it and see behind the scenes. It is a great thing that Ascot does and I'm very happy to be part of it."

"I have been doing this for about eight years and love every minute. The children love coming here and my head lad [William Reddy] is brilliant with them. They get to look around the yard, jump out of the stalls and run around. We put them in the horse walker and they look at all the feed, the colours, the tack and everything. I just like to get them enjoying racing and interested in it. Ascot's whole ethos towards children is brilliant. We ensure that they have a wonderful time and that their experience is memorable. I love it."

Racing has been in the Johnson Houghton family for generations. Eve – who had a successful career as an amateur jockey, enjoying 20 wins, including twice in the ladies' race at Ascot in July – assisted her father, Fulke, for several years, and was instrumental in sending out big-race winners such as Tout Seul, who took the Group 1 Dewhurst Stakes in 2002. She took over the training licence in 2007.

The operation's privately owned grass gallops extend to more than 200 acres and have been nurtured for generations, while the additional seven-furlong woodchip gallop, covered ride, two horse walkers and equine spa are just the tip of the modern facilities.

LEFT TO RIGHT

Highlights from family racedays at Ascot Racecourse throughout the year; Eve Johnson Houghton with her Queen Anne Stakes winner Accidental Agent

DISCOVER MORE

- For information about Ascot's Colts and Fillies Club, including membership, please visit www.coltsandfillies.co.uk or email coltsandfillies@ascot.co.uk
- Star Card membership details can be found at ascot.co.uk or alternatively, please contact Membership Executive Jayne. mcwilliam@ascot.co.uk or call 0344 346 3621
- If you are interested in becoming an owner with Eve Johnson Houghton or would like details about Eden Racing's partnerships, please do not hesitate to contact the yard on 01235 850480 or email liam@johnsonhoughton.com
- Further information about Eve can be found at www.johnsonhoughton.com and you can follow her on Twitter @johnsonhoughton

A personal touch is fundamental to the business. Eve and her dedicated team are keen that their owners and syndicates get as much pleasure out of the racing experience as possible.

"My current owners are incredibly supportive, and I realise that the owners want to be involved with their horses, so we are a very open yard. We regularly have owners here to see the horses work and we organise regular days for the syndicates to visit," Eve says. "We even have a five-to-follow competition, which proves good fun for the staff and owners alike."

Eden Racing Club and Partnerships, that Eve runs, were formed as an affordable way for people to enjoy the thrills of racehorse ownership with like-minded people. To date Eden Partnerships have enjoyed 48 winners, 56 places and more than £800,000 in prize money.

Last season Eve gained the biggest success of her career, when Accidental Agent landed the Group 1 Queen Anne Stakes, the opening race of the Royal Meeting. The trainer admitted: "I haven't recovered yet – and I don't intend to. I'm still enjoying it. It was a wonderful day and hopefully we can repeat it. His aim this season is to run again in The Queen Anne Stakes."

"Having a Royal Ascot winner is still the pinnacle. I love Royal Ascot – the eyes of the world are on the meeting and it is just brilliant." ◻

SCULPTURES

ANNE CURRY

Anne discovered the power of sculpture while working for a doctorate in Egyptology at Oxford University. "I see in the sculpture of Ancient Egypt the perfect combination of material, line, volume and tension." Clean lines and inner energy are the fundamental principles of her work.

Anne remains fascinated by the development of natural forms and their patterns. The curves, spirals of growth, the unfolding of leaves and flowers, the bursting of seed pods all imply controlled movement, a disciplined and mathematical progression, but all displaying an immense internal energy.

This close observation is at the core of Anne's monumental sculpture, combined with clean lines and pared down detail. The pieces she creates have taken



shape in her mind's eye over a period of months, often years.

Her garden sculptures have been exhibited at Newby Hall in Yorkshire, Levens Hall in Cumbria, Sir Harold Hillier Gardens in Hampshire, Painswick Rococo Gardens in Gloucestershire, Burghley House Sculpture Garden in Lincolnshire, West Lavington Manor in Wiltshire and at the Duin and Kruidberg Estate in Santpoort in the Netherlands.



Anne will have a large abstract work by the Moët Bar in The Royal Enclosure Gardens.

GEOFFREY DASHWOOD

Geoffrey Dashwood was born in Hampshire, England in 1947. At the age of fifteen he won a scholarship to study fine art at Southampton College of Art, but left after a brief period, preferring to study directly from nature.



He worked in varied occupations to support himself and experimented in various art mediums and techniques in his spare time. In the 1980s Dashwood discovered a gift and a passion for sculpture. His earliest works were small, highly realistic studies in the mainstream of traditional English wildlife art and comparable in style to the famous 19th century French Animalier School of Sculpture. Although these early works brought him commercial success, he became increasingly dissatisfied with the constraints of realism and the lack of personal expression the genre afforded him.

Dashwood started to experiment with larger life-size and monumental works and began to eliminate all superfluous details, creating boldly modelled pieces. He refined his sculptures to attain smooth, tactile, pure forms, further enhanced in bronze by the application of coloured and multi-coloured patinas. In these sculptures he combined his own aesthetic ideals, establishing a distinctive style which is now internationally recognized as being quintessentially Dashwood. His affinity for and empathy with birds and his unique ability to express these emotions to others through his sculpture is undisputed. Dashwood's work is exhibited and collected worldwide.

Geoffrey Dashwood will have a 3.5-metre-high Peregrine Falcon at the entrance of The Royal Enclosure Gardens.

HAMISH MACKIE

British wildlife sculptor Hamish Mackie has had the privilege of observing wildlife in many corners of the world at first hand. This close observation, often involving intense research trips and sculpting from life in the field, informs Hamish's whole approach to his work, which resonates with his passion for the natural world.

His bronze wildlife sculptures capture instinctive moments of animal behaviour but are his own interpretation, not merely photographic representations. Hamish manages to convey the inner core, strength and grace of his subject. Largely self-taught, his style is unique - he frequently works in spontaneous, often unrepeatable, fluid gestures with a confidence born from many years of mastering his craft. This assertive handling of his materials, coupled with an acute understanding of anatomy, results in strong, dynamic, 'living' sculptures.

Born in 1973, Hamish Mackie grew up on a livestock farm in Cornwall, England. He attended Radley College and Falmouth School of Art, before going on to study design at Kingston University. He began sculpting full time in 1996.



Hamish has works in public and private collections around the world. His sculptures are cast in bronze or silver as limited editions, each signed, dated and numbered. Each sculpture takes on average four months to be sculpted, moulded and then cast in bronze using the lost wax method. It is a highly skilled, labour-intensive process.

In 2014, Hamish Mackie won a major public art commission - Goodman's Fields Horses for the Berkeley Homes Goodman's Fields development in the City of London - six life and quarter size horses running loose through the pedestrianised plaza. During this year

long project, he collaborated with Lockbund Foundry to create a new foundry big enough for the job that required over a kilometre of steel for the armatures, six tonnes of clay, one tonne of silicone rubber and four tonnes of bronze. The sculptures were unveiled in 2015 to critical acclaim and the following year, won the Public Monuments and Sculptures Association's Marsh Award for Excellence in Public Fountains.

This year Hamish will have three works within the Royal Enclosure Gardens, a two and half metre Ammonite and a pair of life size Fallow Bucks.



JUDY BOYT

Judy Boyt is a sculptor with a passion for the natural world.

Her strong observational initial drawings are translated into sculpture using the 3D metal armatures as the 'drawn line'. This is where the energy, character and spirit of the sculpture starts. She works from the 'inside out' - the dynamics of the skeletal structure, adding the flesh and muscle, to the final skin layer - creating a sculpture that has presence and a soul, capturing the living essence in the final metal cast.

Her largest bronze sculpture, 'Rebellion', (twice life size bronze horse) commissioned by Standard Life, is sited on top of his 100ft tower, East India House Offices, Middlesex Street, City of London. Judy designed and made the world famous Mitsubishi Motors silver trophy for prestigious Badminton Horse Trials.

Judy Boyt will have a maquette of the monumental work that sits outside Newbury Racecourse. Her piece will be at the archway at the bottom of Smokehouse ramp.



NICK BIBBY

Nick Bibby's sculptures are exquisitely observed. Rich with almost imperceptible subtleties; elevating his art from the merely good to that of a true master.

Nick's talent, skill, experience and lifelong dedication to his craft is clearly visible in every piece he sculpts. The 'Bibby' sculptural style, whilst very definitely figurative, is quite unique. Fascinated by both form and detail Nick sculpts with a fluidity and energy that many admire, but few can equal. Simultaneously and apparently effortlessly, combining vivacious energy with a jewel-like attention to detail, resulting in instantly recognizable works of art. In Nick's eyes, all his subjects are enthralling, wonderful and beautiful, and through his sculpture he strives to encapsulate that beauty and wonder for all to see.

Born in County Durham in 1960, Nick was a precocious talent, drawing and painting as soon as he could hold a pencil, or paintbrush. Even in those very

early days, he was drawn towards work in three dimensions. Largely self-taught, Nick has always pursued his own path, constantly pushing himself, seeking new challenges; ever striving towards the unachievable goal of, 'Perfection'.

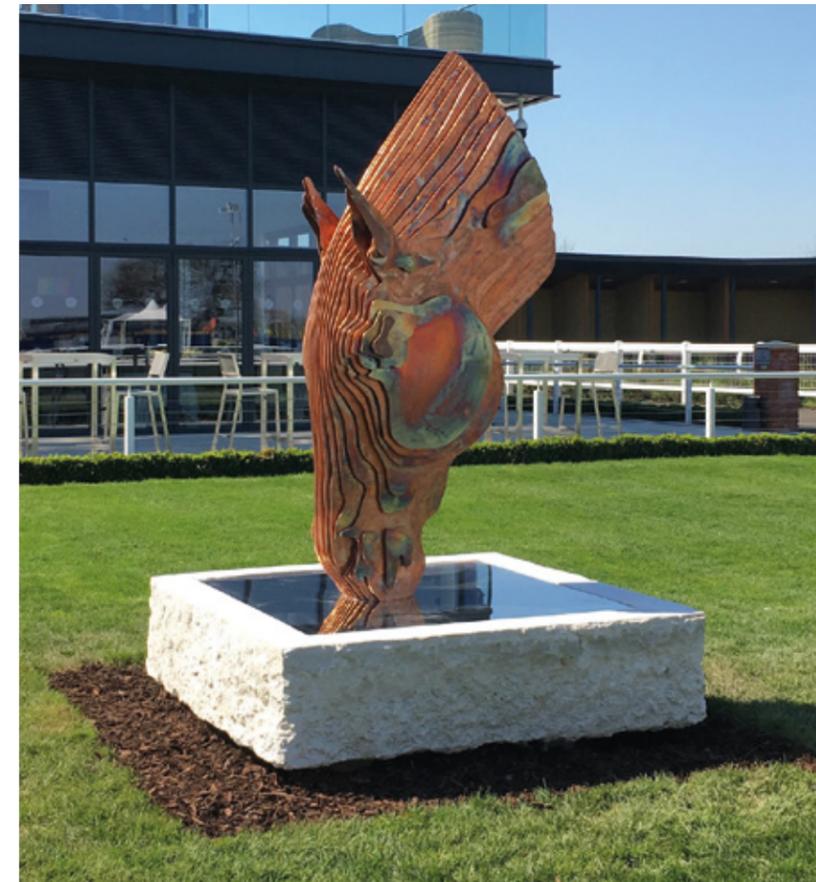
In 1991 Nick produced his first limited edition bronze. A life size Kingfisher, which sold out within a few months, giving him the confidence to move over full time to sculpting and exhibiting bronzes, with his first one-man exhibition, at the world-renowned Wildlife Art Gallery in Lavenham, Suffolk, two years later.

Nick Bibby will have a life size Orangutan sitting at the Royal Enclosure entrance to the Grandstand. He will have a life size grizzly bear head on the Concourse.

TOM HISCOCKS

In the 1980s, Tom Hiscocks was kicking around racing as a pupil assistant - a glorified name for an unpaid stable lad, although it allowed him to ride as an amateur - to Nick Gaselee, Henry Candy and Lord Huntingdon.

An A-level art student prior to arriving in Lambourn, he supplemented his income by drawing people's horses. When he finally made it to Cheltenham as an amateur in the Kim Muir, he turned to John Francome for advice on riding the course. "Whatever you do," said Francome, "if you hit the deck on the far side of the course, stay on the ground and the ambulance will pick you up. Otherwise, it's a long walk home."



After time with Coolmore, a winter job in Australia, working with John Gosden, briefly, at Santa Anita, buying 150 horses to race in South Korea, and then becoming commercial manager at Nottingham, he decided to get a proper job in telecoms. However, in 2008 he had a long, hard look at life and acted upon a friend's suggestion that having always wanted to be an artist, now was the moment. He did a foundation course at the UCL Slade School of Fine Art before enrolling on a three-year BA course in art at Cambridge Art School.

Tom graduated from the Cambridge Art School in June 2013 with a first-class honours degree (Fine Art BA). He won the Dr Supanee Gazeley Fine Art Prize in 2013 for his degree show exhibition.

Nick's works are Free Movement on the Royal Enclosure Lawns and Drinking Horse in the Balmoral Garden.

All works are available to buy through 'Muse. The Sculpture Company'.

Muse is run from Tetbury in Gloucestershire by Justin Gardner who has 25 years' experience in the sculpture business dealing in sculpture around the world. All works are cast here in the UK. Justin will be in attendance throughout the week and can arrange interviews as required.

On site 07828174679 / Office 01285 841609 Email justin@thesculpturecompany.co.uk

BENCHES

The racecourse has selected and commissioned a variety of pieces by recognised and emerging international artists, once again demonstrating their commitment to the world of art, and to enhance the customer experience. Society creatives Amber Le Bon, Isabel Getty and Sabrina Percy were each tasked with decorating one of Ascot's famous trackside viewing lawn benches for racegoers to enjoy. Creating 3D interactive pieces of art, inspired by the surroundings and atmosphere at the Royal Meeting, Sabrina focused on the history and heritage of the Royal Meeting, whilst Amber and Isabel focused on the colourful style and beauty of the iconic event. The three artists' benches will be on display in the Royal Enclosure.



In addition, a one-of-a-kind piece of art, consisting of 25 gold wire sculptures depicting iconic moments of the Royal Meeting, will be on display on the Concourse of the Grandstand throughout this year's Royal Ascot as individual and interactive installations.

Originally created as a single mobile, each of the 25 wire elements tells an evocative story of The Royal Meeting's racing prestige, unparalleled history, diverse offering and timeless sense of style. Sculpted by American artist Elizabeth Berrien, the sculptures

were shot by award winning still life photographer David Gill. The mobile is the sixth annual "Like Nowhere Else" art commission by the racecourse, all of which have combined the elements that make Royal Ascot a unique event in the annual sporting and social calendar. Previous artworks in the series have included a collage of over 200 photos by David Mach, a bespoke tapestry by San Francisco-based embroidery artist Lauren Dicioccio and a handpainted globe by Peter Bellerby & Co.



TAKE HOME TREATS

The Ascot Shop returns to the Royal Meeting for a third year in 2019, enhancing the raceday experience for retail aficionados. Here's what you can find in store

ATTENDING THE ROYAL Meeting is an unforgettable occasion, but having a tangible memento from our shops has proven popular among racegoers in recent years.

With the addition of the Village Enclosure shops, there are now eight sites across the racecourse where you can pick up a souvenir. Each shop is a destination in its own right, but all offer a luxury retail experience. Visit to discover men's, women's and children's fashion, accessories and homeware all with a Royal Ascot theme

– perfect to treat yourself or as a gift.

Ascot has worked alongside global brands including Karen Millen, Links of London, Christy, Christy's London, Tisserand Aromatherapy, Oliver Brown and Milly Green to bring superior pieces to our boutiques. New for 2019, we are delighted to welcome T.M.Lewin and Radley London on board. Radley London's Ascot Racecourse collection features five designs to store raceday essentials, including classic clutch bags, shoulder bags and contemporary circular cross body bags in irresistible shades.

Head to one of our eight sites to source your souvenir, and don't forget to take advantage of our bag drop service so you can really make the most of your day. ◻



TOP TO BOTTOM

The interior of one of the Ascot Shop sites; bags from the new Royal Ascot collection by Radley London

WEAR IT

Alongside its capsule collection of gold, rose gold and sterling silver jewellery featuring a horseshoe motif, Links of London is launching an exclusive range of charms, pins and cufflinks featuring archival Royal Enclosure badges.

Only available at Ascot Racecourse during Royal Ascot week, the badge designs were chosen from the years 1891, 1900, 1919 and 1920, chosen for their striking designs that include gothic fonts and Victorian guilloche engraving.



Find our shops in the Queen Anne Enclosure (Parade Ring Shop, Cedar Tree Shop), Windsor Enclosure (Windsor Enclosure North and South Shops), Royal Enclosure (Gardens Shop, Grandstand Shop) and the Village Enclosure.



OFFICIAL PARTNERS AND SUPPLIERS

OFFICIAL PARTNERS



OFFICIAL SUPPLIERS AND SPONSORS



OFFICIAL SPIRITS



OFFICIAL BOOKMAKER



OFFICIAL TEXTILES



OFFICIAL SPONSOR



OFFICIAL ROYAL ASCOT
MILLINERY SPONSOR



OFFICIAL MIXER



OFFICIAL TROPHIES
AND SILVERWARE



OFFICIAL WINE SUPPLIER



OFFICIAL WATER



TORINO, ITALIA, 1895

OFFICIAL COFFEE



OFFICIAL CHAMPAGNE



PORSCHE

OFFICIAL CAR



OFFICIAL HOSPITALITY



OFFICIAL BEER



ST. JAMES'S PLACE
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

OFFICIAL SPONSOR

PARTNERS AND SUPPLIERS



QIPCO HOLDING, OFFICIAL PARTNER AND SPONSORS OF THE BRITISH CHAMPIONS SERIES

QIPCO Holding are an Official Partner of Ascot and Royal Ascot, sponsors of the King George VI & Queen Elizabeth QIPCO Stakes at Ascot in July and of the QIPCO British Champions Series, culminating on QIPCO British Champions Day at Ascot in October.

For the eighth consecutive year, QIPCO will back the coveted top jockey and top trainer awards at Royal Ascot. Trophies for “QIPCO Royal Ascot Top Trainer” and “QIPCO Royal Ascot Top Jockey” will be presented on the final day of the meeting to the trainer and jockey amassing the most wins during the week, with places counted back in the event of a tie. Last year’s winners were Aidan O’Brien (four winners) and Ryan Moore (five winners).

QIPCO’s sponsorship portfolio also includes that of title sponsor of British Champions Series. The ten-year deal, signed in 2015, with British Champions Series and Ascot is the largest in the history of British racing. This year’s QIPCO British Champions Series began with the QIPCO 2,000 and 1,000 Guineas in May and culminates on QIPCO British Champions Day at Ascot. There are five series race categories; Sprint, Mile, Middle Distance, Long Distance, and Fillies and Mares. Royal Ascot, with all eight Group 1 races designated to their appropriate categories, will play a significant part in the

series once again, along with the King George VI & Queen Elizabeth QIPCO Stakes in July.

QIPCO British Champions Day, Saturday 19th October, is the richest day’s racing in Britain with a record-breaking £4.35million of prize money and is the finale of the British Flat racing season. The day features the £1,300,000 Champion Stakes, the £1,100,000 Queen Elizabeth II Stakes, the £600,000 British Champions Sprint Stakes, the £600,000 British Champions Fillies & Mares Stakes, and the £500,000 British Champions Long Distance Cup - all sponsored by QIPCO. The programme for QIPCO British Champions Day consists of four Group 1 races, a Group 2 and the £250,000 Balmoral Handicap (sponsored by QIPCO), Europe’s most valuable mile handicap.

QIPCO Holding is one of the leading private, family run investment companies in Qatar. Based in Doha, QIPCO has a diverse range of interests, including real estate, construction, oil and gas, trading and services, finance and health. In more recent years QIPCO has made a significant investment in horseracing, not only as sponsors but also as owners and breeders through its subsidiary company, Qatar Racing.

For more information please visit: qipco.com.qa



OFFICIAL PARTNER

Gigaset, a leading name in the telecommunications and consumer electronics sector, was announced as Official Partner of Ascot Racecourse and Royal Ascot back in May 2015. As a premier partner of Ascot Racecourse, the Gigaset brand features throughout Ascot’s programme including Royal Ascot.

Gigaset AG, Munich, is an internationally operating company in the area of communications technology. The company is Europe’s market leader in DECT telephones. The premium supplier is likewise the leader worldwide with around 1,000 employees and sales activities in around 70 countries. Under the name Gigaset pro, the company continues to develop and market innovative business telephony solutions for small and medium-sized enterprises. In the smart home arena, cloud-based security solutions are developed and marketed under the name Gigaset elements. The company also operates in the field of mobile devices, with a focus on smartphones.

Gigaset AG is listed in the Prime Standard of Deutsche Börse and is therefore subject to the highest transparency requirements. Its shares are traded on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange under the symbol GGS (ISIN: DE0005156004).



OFFICIAL PARTNER

Longines is proud to be an Official Partner, as well as the Official Timekeeper and Official Watch of Ascot and Royal Ascot.

Based in Saint-Imier in Switzerland since 1832, the watchmaking company wields expertise steeped in tradition, elegance and performance. With generations of experience as official timekeeper of world championships, and as partner of international sports federations, Longines has built strong and long-lasting relationships in the world of sport over the years.

Known for the elegance of its timepieces, Longines is a member of Swatch Group Ltd, the world’s leading watch manufacturer. The Longines brand, with its winged hourglass emblem, is established in over 150 countries.





OFFICIAL BOOKMAKER

Betfred operates 1630 high street betting shops, the Betfred.com online operation and Totepool. Betfred is delighted to have been appointed as Official Bookmaker of Ascot and Royal Ascot in 2019. Betfred was founded in 1967 when two brothers, Fred and Peter Done opened their first shop in Salford and stood out from their competitors by offering excellent customer service and added value via their unparalleled bonuses. These principles remain at the heart of the business and Betfred look forward to welcoming racegoers to one of their on-course betting shops.



OFFICIAL TECHNOLOGY SUPPLIER
SOUND

Bose believes that innovation begins with exploration. When people within the pro audio industry began coming to Bose with different, more complex problems including complicated acoustic challenges – an entire new division was created, dedicated to solving pro audio problems: Bose Professional. That was more than 40 years ago.

Bose Professional now serves many different markets, delivering great sound in venues all around the world – sports stadiums, arenas, entertainment centres, places of worship, restaurants, schools, retail stores, hotels, and more. Creating incredible experiences is at the heart of pro audio and Bose Professional are committed to living up to a reputation for excellence in delivering high-quality audio solutions.



OFFICIAL TEXTILES

The Christy legacy dates back to 1850, since when they have epitomised exemplary innovation and craftsmanship which has defined British textiles. Christy were privileged enough to manufacture and supply the first terry towel to Queen Victoria over 165 years ago and have since established a reputation for luxury high end textiles. Today Christy enjoys increasing international success, creating stunning collections of towels and bed linen. Jockeys at Royal Ascot will receive personalised Royal Ascot towels and racegoers can purchase Christy products from the Ascot Shop.



OFFICIAL SPONSOR

Since its opening in December 1983, Dubai Duty Free has grown into one of the biggest travel retail operators in the world employing more than 6,100 people and operating some 38,000sqm of retail space at Dubai International Airport and 2,500 sqm at Al Maktoum International. On 29th December, 2018, shortly after celebrating its 35th anniversary, Dubai Duty Free reached a significant milestone when annual turnover exceeded USD 2 billion for the first time.

Dubai Duty Free's support for horseracing in Great Britain and Ireland began in April 1996 with sponsorship of a single race previously supported by the late H.H Sheikh Maktoum bin Rashid Al Maktoum's Gainsborough Stud. The portfolio now comprises title rights to the Dubai Duty Free Spring Trials Meeting at Newbury (April), the Dubai Duty Free Irish Derby at The Curragh (June), the Dubai Duty Free Shergar Cup at Ascot (August) and the Dubai Duty Free International Weekend with the combined total value of races standing at more than GBP 2.4 million.



OFFICIAL ROYAL ASCOT
MILLINERY SPONSOR

Since 1882, Fenwick has been a purveyor of goods of note for shoppers of exceptional taste. Behind their modern outlook, astute product selection, unique collaborations and extraordinary service lies a brilliantly British style and spirit. For more than 130 years Fenwick has been, as their founder described it, a department store to delight the thoughtful woman – a sentiment that continues to hold true today.



OFFICIAL MIXER

In 2005, Fever-Tree co-founders Charles Rolls and Tim Warrillow pioneered the premium mixer category, bringing choice, quality and excitement back into the category. They travelled to the ends of the earth to source the finest ingredients, including quinine from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, ginger from the Ivory Coast, India and Nigeria, and lemons from the slopes of Mount Etna, Sicily.

Fever-Tree is now the world's leading premium mixer, with distribution to over 70 countries worldwide. Fever-Tree was recently voted as the 'No.1 Best Selling' and 'No.1 Top Trending' Tonic Water brand in the Drinks International Annual Brands Report 2019 for the fifth year running.



GARRARD

ESTABLISHED LONDON 1735

OFFICIAL TROPHIES
AND SILVERWARE

The House of Garrard creations have been prized by discerning clients for over 280 years and Garrard has designed and created five key trophies for 2019 - the Gold Cup, the Queen's Vase and the Royal Hunt Cup at Royal Ascot, plus trophies for the King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Stakes and the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes. Garrard has also designed new trophies for winning owners in all Group 1 races at Royal Ascot and supplies the silver snuff boxes awarded to winning owners, trainers and jockeys.



OFFICIAL WINE

Hallgarten & Novum Wines is one of the UK's leading specialist wine merchants, with over 85 years of experience importing wines from producers around the world and supplying the premium on- and off-trade. In 2018, Hallgarten was named Wine Importer of the Year by the International Wine & Spirits Competition and has won the prestigious International Wine Challenge Wine List of the Year Award in 2018, 2016 and 2015. In addition to supplying all wines to Royal Ascot, Hallgarten will be hand-selecting wines for the menus of Michelin-Starred chefs Simon Rogan, Philip Howard and Raymond Blanc OBE in their respective restaurants.



As 'The Original British Bottled Water,' Harrogate is internationally renowned as one of the finest still and sparkling spring waters. Awarded 'Best Sparkling Water in the World,' Harrogate is recognised not only for its exceptional mineral balance and purity, but also for its distinctive, classically British style.

All Harrogate Water products (glass and PET) use at least 50% recycled content. Harrogate's PET plastic bottles are made from more than 50% UK post-consumer content (rPET), the most of any UK bottled water producer and the maximum that can currently be achieved given the limited availability of recycled material.

Harrogate and Ascot are working together to improve recycling across site. Ascot has provided bins specifically for recycling PET plastic bottles. All Harrogate PET bottles collected at Ascot will be recycled and used to produce new bottles, creating a closed loop recycling system. Harrogate Water have launched the 'Incredible Shrinking Bottle Campaign' in partnership with Keep Britain Tidy which encourages consumers to 'Twist It. Cap It. Recycle It' to make their bottle extremely compact and increase recycling on the go. A video can be watched here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luyqEwET_KU

Harrogate Water will also continue to hand out water at the end of most Saturday racedays during the Flat season, as part of a joint responsible drinking strategy to keep racegoers hydrated.



OFFICIAL COFFEE

Steeped in Italian history, Lavazza has been sourcing, roasting and blending to create the highest quality coffees for over 120 years. Today, Lavazza is the favourite and best-selling espresso brand in the world. Lavazza coffees can be enjoyed throughout the racecourse; from creamy lattes to delicious and refreshing flavoured iced coffees and much more.



OFFICIAL CHAMPAGNE

Moët & Chandon has been associated with the equestrian world since 1908 when two three-year-old horses, one named "Moët" and the other "Chandon", belonging to Monsieur Alfred Simon, the House's sales representative in London, finished first in Epsom and Newbury respectively. That same year, "Moët" ran fourth in the Hunt Cup at Ascot and as a result, Alfred Simon referred to it as his "lucky" race.

Moët & Chandon Grand Vintage, Official Champagne of Royal Ascot, is made only in remarkable years and will be available across the racecourse in a variety of formats. For the ultimate luncheon, guests within the Royal Enclosure will enjoy a Moët & Chandon Grand Vintage fine-dining experience catered by Royal Ascot's restaurants whilst enjoying spectacular views across the tracks and beyond.



OFFICIAL SPIRITS

Pernod Ricard has built a unique portfolio of Premium international brands within the UK, one of the broadest of the wine and spirits industry. Visiting a bar at Royal Ascot has never been more exciting and the brand brings an exceptional drinking experience to all racegoers. Pernod Ricard have created the Gin Terrace bar which is in place at Ascot for the entire summer season.



PORSCHE

OFFICIAL CAR

At the same time as the first Porsche took to the street, over 70 years ago, the Stuttgart marque also made its debut on the racetrack. The testing ground of motorsport has seen Porsche consistently push the boundaries of innovation with one goal in mind; the future of the sports car. Building on a record 19 overall wins in the 24 Hours of Le Mans, this year sees Porsche embark on a new, exciting chapter with its debut in the ABB FIA Formula E Championship. And, in the Porsche tradition, lessons learned from motorsport will continue to be shared in the first battery electric Porsche sports car - the Taycan - that also launches later in 2019. Porsche Cars GB is delighted to be Ascot's Official Car Partner. www.porsche.com/uk



OFFICIAL HOSPITALITY

Sodexo are responsible for providing catering operations across the racecourse's 26 annual racedays and further conferences and events throughout the year. As a long-standing partner of Ascot Racecourse, Sodexo moved to a profit-sharing agreement in 2014 and the joint venture was branded "1711 by Ascot", enabling the operation, which has seen significant growth in catering income, to adopt a new customer facing identity of its own. Delivering outstanding hospitality, fine dining and on-site catering, Sodexo are proud to be the official hospitality partner of Ascot Racecourse.



OFFICIAL BEER

Stella Artois® is part of a Belgian brewing tradition dating back to 1366. It is the No. 1 Belgian beer in the world and is present in over 80 countries. Stella Artois is a beautifully balanced, full-flavoured premium lager with a pronounced hoppy bitterness and a crisp, clean and refreshing finish. From the recipe to the nine-step pouring ritual and served in the iconic Chalice, everything about a perfectly poured Stella Artois is considered and curated so the distinctive taste can be savoured. Stella Artois Gluten Free is now available, crafted by expert brew masters who have skilfully removed the gluten to create a Coeliac UK certified gluten free Stella Artois, with the same distinctive taste and clean finish.



ST. JAMES'S PLACE
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

OFFICIAL SPONSOR

At St. James's Place Wealth Management, placing clients at the centre of everything they do is the very essence of their culture. They believe passionately that, only through building trusted, long-term relationships can they deliver truly bespoke advice that meets immediate needs and shapes future aspirations.

FASHION & DRESS CODE



ASCOT LAUNCHED THE EIGHTH ANNUAL ROYAL ASCOT STYLE GUIDE, IN ASSOCIATION WITH CUNARD.

- Royal Ascot is once again at the forefront of fashion and style for the British summer social season
- The 2019 Royal Ascot Style Guide is in association with luxury cruise line Cunard for a second year
- Ascot collaborates with renowned stylist Prue White on the curation of 2019 looks
- Global fashion photographer Luís Monteiro shoots the Style Guide for first time
- Ascot has curated looks from the following designers Emilia Wickstead , Zimmerman, Victoria Beckham , Simone Rocha , Jimmy Choo, Delozo, Erdem, Katya Katya , Suzannah and Mary Katrantzou , with support from milliners including Philip Treacy OBE , Awon Golding , Stephen Jones OBE, Jane Taylor , Edwina Ibbotson and Rachel Trevor Morgan

Ascot Racecourse announced the launch of the eighth annual Royal Ascot Style Guide, in association with luxury cruise brand Cunard earlier this year.

Royal Ascot is the summer event by which all others are measured in terms of style. Featured looks this year include designs from Emilia Wickstead, Zimmerman, Victoria Beckham, Delozo, Simone Rocha, Erdem, Suzannah and Mary Katrantzou. The Royal Ascot Style Guide plays a pivotal role in predicting key trends for the summer season and provides inspiration to racegoers keen to dress in style whilst keeping in-line with the Royal Meeting's famous Dress Code.

Ascot continues to provide outfit suggestions for guests in the Village Enclosure and Windsor Enclosure, along with the Royal Enclosure and Queen Anne Enclosure, after their introduction to the Style Guide last year. These looks include beautiful pieces from luxury designers and leading high street brands such as Karen Millen, Rixo, T.M. Lewin, River Island and H&M. Working closely with experienced stylist Prue White, Ascot has curated looks that will be at the forefront of fashion this summer with world-class fashion photographer Luís Monteiro capturing the looks for all four Royal Ascot Enclosures.

Fenwick stocks a selection of brands featured in the 2019 Style Guide and will once again work with Ascot to curate The Royal Ascot Millinery Collective, back for a fifth season later in the spring. The Royal Ascot Style Guide features millinery from the likes of Philip Treacy OBE, Awon Golding, Stephen Jones OBE, Jane Taylor, Edwina Ibbotson and Rachel Trevor Morgan, all available at Fenwick of Bond Street.



Juliet Slot, Chief Commercial Officer of Ascot Racecourse, commented:

"Fashion and style are an integral part of the Royal Ascot experience for all of our customers. The annual Style Guide provides valuable support and inspiration when deciding what to wear for a day at the Royal Meeting. As the Style Guide enters its eighth year we continue to respond to our customers' requests for fashion-forward looks that work for each of the four Enclosures, ensuring every racegoer enjoys this special occasion with style.

"We are delighted to have worked with Prue White to curate an incredibly strong, and varied, selection of looks that are both representative of Ascot's fashion heritage and provide inspiration for how to wear the key trends for the 2019 summer season. We are equally thrilled to have Cunard involved with our iconic Style Guide for a second year."

THE HISTORY OF FASHION AT ROYAL ASCOT -

KEY DATES:



1700s

Beau Brummell, a close friend of the Prince Regent, who decreed that “men of elegance should wear waisted black coats and white cravats with pantaloons” and this set the tone for the dress code that is still adhered to by men in the Royal Enclosure.

1830s

Queen Victoria’s visit to Royal Ascot saw her arrive in a pretty lace dress with a full bell skirt and shawl. She also started a craze for the porter bonnet, shielding the wearer from male eyes.

1890s

As the dawn of a new century arrived, fashion took on an almost celebratory tone. Skirts were less full, but silhouettes made a greater statement with angular hips and puffed sleeves. Hats were large and full of feathers and adornments.

1900s

One of fashion’s most iconic images; that of Audrey Hepburn in *My Fair Lady* was inspired when costume designer Cecil Beaton saw images of Black Ascot. The 1910 Royal Ascot meeting was in full mourning over the death of King Edward.

1920s

Hemlines were shorter and cuts were smaller in the 1920’s reflecting a post-war generation’s rebellion against old traditions. Pearls and furs were the accessories of the day.

1950s

Christian Dior’s New Look, a small waist and full skirt, was proving popular however it was when the newly crowned Queen Elizabeth and her stylish sister Princess Margaret wore the style at Royal Ascot that it was cemented in history.



1960s

Royal Ascot’s glamorous profile elevated when Italian actress Sophia Loren was photographed in the Royal Enclosure. In modern times some of the biggest names in Hollywood and fashion have attended.



1970s

Trouser suits became more popular following their introduction to the dress code in 1971. Gertrude Shilling the Ascot Mascot delighted press with her extravagant outfits. One year, one of her son, David’s designs outgrew the Shilling’s long-wheel-based Rolls Royce, so the hat had to follow in a van behind.

1980s

Sharp lines and bright colours took centre stage during this decade. With statement hats and pointed heels, there was little room for floaty florals in 1980’s glamour.

2012

Royal Ascot officially launches its Style Guide to racegoers outlining dress code regulations for the Royal Enclosure and Queen Anne Enclosure (formally known as Grandstand).

2017

The jumpsuit is formally accepted in the Royal Enclosure and Queen Anne Enclosure Dress Codes.



THE ROYAL ASCOT - MILLINERY COLLECTIVE 2019

Ascot Racecourse and Fenwick – Royal Ascot's Official Millinery Sponsor – have once again collaborated with some of the world's most exciting milliners to produce an exclusive 10-piece collection: The Royal Ascot Millinery Collective.

The Royal Ascot Millinery Collective features exclusive designs from Awon Golding, Bundle Maclaren, Vivien Sheriff, Merve Bayindir, Philip Treacy OBE, Merve Bayindir, Millinery Jill, Siana Yewdall, Stephen Jones OBE and Layla Leigh.

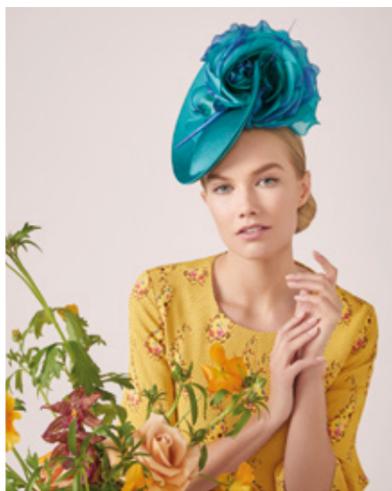
Royal Ascot is a celebration of the best of British fashion and this is reflected each spring in the Royal Ascot Millinery Collective, which provides a platform for established as well as up-and-coming milliners to celebrate innovation and creativity.

To reflect the global support for the Royal Meeting, for the first time ever Ascot has introduced an international designer to the collective. Joining from Australia – a country recognised for its modern, high-quality and diverse range of millinery – is renowned Melbourne-based milliner Millinery Jill.

Juliet Slot, Chief Commercial Officer at Ascot Racecourse, said:

"British millinery is some of the finest in the world and Royal Ascot is proud to support emerging, as well as established, design talent. For 2019, we are excited to introduce an international milliner to the Collective for the first time, recognising the global footprint of our sport and Royal Ascot as an important social occasion."

"The five-day Royal Meeting is a showcase of incredible creativity and our annual Royal Ascot Millinery Collective enables us to shine a light on what is an intrinsic part of racing fashion. For a fourth year, we are delighted to have Fenwick as the Official Royal Ascot Millinery Sponsor. Their valuable support continues to raise the profile of millinery and fashion, helping to guide and inspire racegoers with dressing for the summer season."



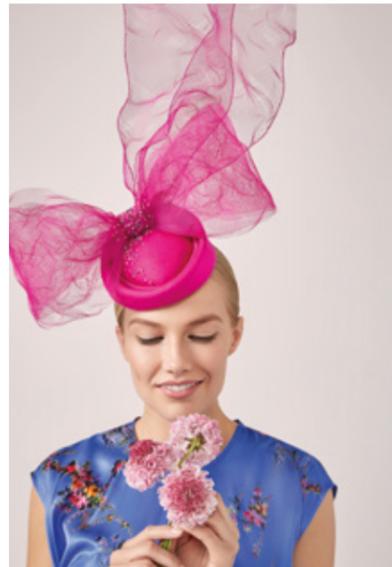
JULIETTE BOTTERILL

"Tie your hair back away from your face, this will elongate your neck and showcase the hat to its full potential. Make the hat the statement of your outfit, don't hold back!"



AWON GOLDING

"I've been lucky enough to be invited to take part in the Royal Ascot Millinery Collective two years in a row. What an honour! My design is inspired by classic millinery with a hint of My Fair Lady glamour."



BUNDLE MACLAREN

"Our Indie design was inspired by the statement bows and bold block colour we saw in London Fashion Week back in September 2018. We could see that this was going to be a big trend for SS19 and came up with several ideas of how this aesthetic could come to life on hats big and small."



VIVIEN SHERIFF

"I am very pleased to be selected for this year's Collective. Royal Ascot is the most prestigious racing event in the racing calendar, and it is fitting that a collective of the UK's celebrated milliners should be called upon to create a collection of bespoke and one-off pieces."



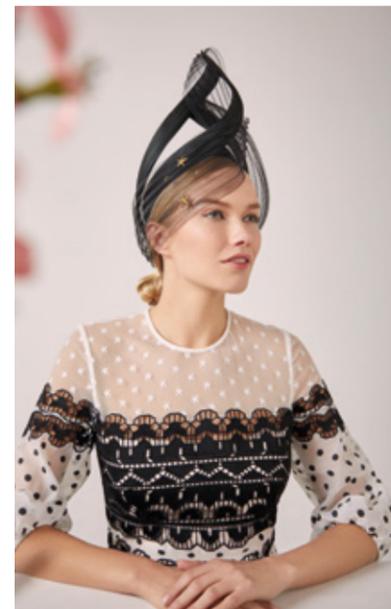
PHILIP TREACY OBE

"This is a handblocked calotte I have been working on since last summer. I designed different versions. It is a lifetime combination of craft and techniques combined with new raw materials. It's an ode to British tradition adapted for contemporary society."



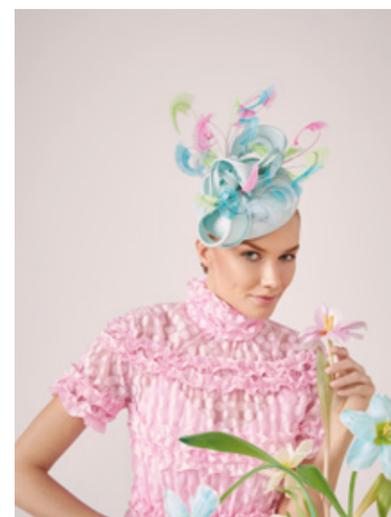
MERVE BAYINDIR

"The design for this piece took about a month. The base colour was very important, and it was hard to get it right. We then had to get the custom leaf cut and colour each leaf before sewing each of them on to a very large base. It is a special hat and like everything special, it took time and intricate detail to make it."



MILLINERY JILL

"In Australia I cannot keep up with orders for hats with bigger brims. They are literally selling within minutes of completion. Also, women's top hats are creating a strong and fashionable silhouette at the racetrack."



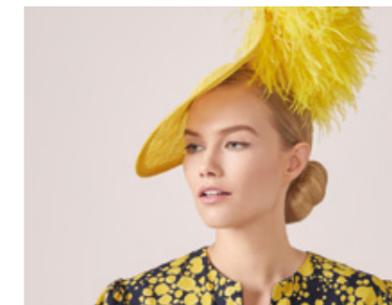
SIANA YEWDALL:

"I always like to advise choosing a hat that makes you feel happy and confident, and if you are happy and comfortable in your hat, you will forget you have it on! The right hat will make you smile!"



STEPHEN JONES OBE

"I have been working with Royal Ascot for many years, with different hats and I was charmed when they invited me to be a part of the Royal Ascot Millinery Collective, as my work had featured frequently on racegoers and publicity materials for Royal Ascot racecourse."



LAYLA LEIGH

"I love the vibrancy of this year's colours and I have carried this through to my hat for the collective, also I am a huge fan of the sequin trend that we will be seeing a lot of, and for my SS19 collection have incorporated this in too."

ROYAL ASCOT - DRESS CODE

Royal Ascot is a unique, stand alone event in the sporting and social calendar and dressing accordingly is part of the experience.

FULL DRESS CODE

The Dress Code set out below is designed to help racegoers to dress appropriately for the occasion. Please note that a different Dress Code applies for each enclosure.

ROYAL ENCLOSURE

LADIES

Ladies are kindly reminded that formal day wear is a requirement in the Royal Enclosure, defined as follows:

Dresses and skirts should be of modest length defined as falling just above the knee or longer.

Dresses and tops should have straps of one inch or greater. Strapless, off the shoulder, halter neck and spaghetti straps are not permitted.

Jackets and pashminas may be worn. Tops and dresses underneath should still comply with the Royal Enclosure Dress Code. Midriffs must be covered.

Trouser suits are welcome. They should be of full-length to the ankle and of matching material and colour.

Jumpsuits are welcome. They should fall below the knee, with regulations matching that for dresses.

Hats should be worn; however a headpiece which has a solid base of 4 inches (10cm) or more in diameter is acceptable as an alternative to a hat.

Ladies are kindly asked to note the following:

Fascinators are not permitted in the Royal Enclosure; neither are headpieces which do not have a base covering a sufficient area of the head (4 inches / 10cm).

GENTLEMEN

Gentlemen are kindly reminded that it is a requirement to wear either black or grey morning dress which must include:

A waistcoat and tie (no cravats or bow ties).

A black or grey top hat.

Black shoes worn with socks.

A gentleman may remove his top hat within a restaurant, a private box, a private club or that facility's terrace, balcony or garden. Hats may also be removed within any enclosed external seating area within the Royal Enclosure Garden. The customisation of top hats (with, for example, coloured ribbons or bands) is not permitted in the Royal Enclosure.

Novelty waistcoats and ties, unless of a patriotic nature (for example your national flag) are not permitted.

CHILDREN

(ADMITTED ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY ONLY)

Girls (aged 10-17) should be dressed in accordance to the Ladies' Dress Code. However they may wear a headpiece or a fascinator as an alternative to a hat, without any size restrictions.

Boys (aged 10-17) should either dress in accordance with the gentlemen's Dress Code or alternatively may wear a dark-coloured lounge suit with a shirt and tie.

OVERSEAS VISITORS

Overseas visitors are welcome to wear the formal National Dress of their country or Service Dress.

SERVING MILITARY PERSONNEL

Serving military personnel are welcome to wear Service Dress or equivalent.



QUEEN ANNE ENCLOSURE

LADIES

Ladies within the Queen Anne Enclosure enclosure are encouraged to dress in a manner as befits a formal occasion.

Ladies are kindly asked to take particular note of the following:

A hat, headpiece or fascinator should be worn at all times.

Strapless dresses and tops are not permitted. Please note our definition of strapless necklines includes off-the-shoulder, Bardot and one shoulder.

Trouser suits must be full-length and jumpsuits should fall below the knee. Both must adhere to the neckline regulations above.

Jackets and pashminas may be worn but dresses and tops underneath should still comply with the Queen Anne Enclosure admission Dress Code.

Midriffs must be covered. Shorts are not permitted.

GENTLEMEN

Gentlemen are required to wear a full-length suit with a collared shirt and tie and kindly asked to take note of the following:

Jackets and trousers should be of matching colour and pattern

A tie should be worn at all times.

Bow ties and cravats are not permitted.

Socks must be worn and should cover the ankle.

Jeans, chinos and trainers are not permitted.

VILLAGE ENCLOSURE

LADIES

Ladies within the Village Enclosure are encouraged to dress in a manner as befits a formal occasion and ladies are kindly asked to take note of the following:

A hat, headpiece or fascinator should be worn at all times.

Strapless dresses and tops are not permitted. Please note our definition of strapless necklines include off-the-shoulder, Bardot and one shoulder.

Trouser suits must be full-length, and jumpsuits should fall below the knee. Both must adhere to the neckline regulations above.

Midriffs must be covered.

Shorts are not permitted.

Please note, the Village Enclosure is largely an outdoor area and ladies should consider their hat size and choice of shoe accordingly. Smaller hats or fascinators and wedges are recommended in place of larger hats or stilettos.

GENTLEMEN

Gentlemen are required to wear a full-length suit with a collared shirt and tie, and kindly asked to take note of the following:

A tie should be worn at all times. Bow ties or cravats may also be worn in the Village Enclosure.

Socks must also be worn and should cover the ankle.

Jeans and trainers are not permitted.



FINE DINING

AT ROYAL ASCOT



8-MICHELIN STAR CHEF LINE-UP COME TOGETHER FOR ROYAL ASCOT 2019



L-R: Executive Chef of Ascot Racecourse Gemma Amor, Eric Lanlard, Ollie Dabbous, Toby Burrowes, Head Chef at Ascot Racecourse Ben Dutton, Simon Rogan, Raymond Blanc OBE and James Tanner.

- Eight Michelin Stars collectively make 2019 the most illustrious Royal Ascot Fine Dining line-up ever
- HIDE's Ollie Dabbous to make his Royal Ascot debut in The Balmoral
- Raymond Blanc OBE returns to play pivotal role
- Simon Rogan returns to the Royal Enclosure Gardens for a second year
- Phil Howard headlines ON 5 once again
- Eric Lanlard makes his debut, presenting Afternoon Tea at Royal Ascot
- James Tanner returns to the Queen Anne Enclosure for a third year

Ascot Racecourse prides itself on tradition as well as innovation and the 'chefs in residence' confirmed for Royal Ascot 2019 perfectly illustrate this with a collective eight Michelin Stars.

As the founder of one of London's most talked about restaurants in recent years - HIDE in Mayfair - **Ollie Dabbous** will make his Royal Ascot debut in The Balmoral, the racecourse's latest restaurant concept. Having opened his first restaurant Dabbous in 2012 to unprecedented critical acclaim, Ollie opened his hotly-anticipated restaurant HIDE in 2018 and was soon awarded its first Michelin Star.

Ollie commented on his culinary debut at the world-famous racecourse: "Royal Ascot is one of the highlights of the British summer. Aside from the racing, the food offering there is gaining an amazing reputation in its own right. It's a stellar line-up this year so I'm very flattered to be asked and excited to be a part of it."



**"IT'S A STELLAR
YEAR THIS YEAR SO
I'M VERY FLATTERED
TO BE ASKED AND TO
BE A PART OF IT."**



Having been praised for his previous stints at Royal Ascot, and winning a Michelin star for his Elystan Street restaurant in 2017, Phil Howard returns to ON 5 - the Queen Anne Enclosure's award-winning restaurant on the fifth floor of the Grandstand. Phil will create a spectacular menu championing the best of British produce, providing a relaxed and contemporary dining experience for racegoers.

Finally, race-goers can pre-book or walk-up on the day to sample Afternoon Tea in the Windsor Greys and 1768 Grill and Tearooms at Royal Ascot by master Pâtissier **Eric Lanlard**, proprietor of London's destination café and cake emporium - Cake Boy. Eric has an international reputation for creating truly stunning sweet treats, and his menu will include 'British strawberry tart Royal', 'Valhrona Peruvian chocolate with yuzu', 'red velvet kiss with crème cheese frosting' and 'violet and raspberry macarons'.



Returning for a second year, Simon Rogan will once again host his restaurant in the Royal Enclosure Gardens and curate the menu served in the Green Yard Restaurant, also in the Royal Enclosure. Following an incredibly successful Royal Ascot week in 2018, Simon went on to be awarded an impressive four stars across his dining portfolio in the 2019 Michelin Guide.

Royal Ascot will also welcome the return of **Raymond Blanc OBE** and **Phil Howard**.

Two Michelin-starred chef Raymond Blanc OBE will once again take up residence in the prestigious Panoramic Restaurant in the Royal Enclosure. Returning to the restaurant for a fourth year, he will be back with a tailored menu and a refined service which promises to be one of the finest gastronomic experiences found at the racecourse.



Speaking about Fine Dining at Royal Ascot in 2019, Jonathan Parker, Director of Food & Beverage at Ascot Racecourse, said: "We are excited to welcome four exceptionally talented and highly respected chef-restauranteurs to the Royal Meeting this year. Ascot is a leading light in racecourse gastronomy and we have an incredible platform to showcase some of the country's top chefs, making a day at Royal Ascot like nowhere else."

"Over the past 300 years, Ascot Racecourse has established itself as a national institution and food and drink plays a huge part. With a reputation of being the highlight summer event in society's calendar, we are constantly evolving and enhancing the experience for racegoers and 2019's Fine Dining really does set the bar high."

"WITH A REPUTATION OF BEING THE HIGHLIGHT SUMMER EVENT IN SOCIETY'S CALENDAR, WE ARE CONSTANTLY EVOLVING AND ENHANCING THE EXPERIENCE FOR RACEGOERS AND 2019'S FINE DINING REALLY DOES SET THE BAR HIGH."



FINDING INSPIRATION

At Royal Ascot, world-class performances from specialists at the peak of their careers is not just confined to the turf; in the racecourse kitchens, masters of their craft are hard at work bringing the best of Fine Dining to visitors. Here's how...

Words by Jessica Bennett

Having worked for 1711 by Ascot (the hospitality partnership between Ascot Racecourse and Sodexo) for many years, chefs Gemma Amor and Ben Dutson are required to invent wonderful, unique dishes for the Royal Meeting year on year. You could forgive them for feeling a sense of hand-wringing dread at the thought of serving food to more than 300,000 people in one week, but nothing could be further from the truth.

"I love the event. It's something I live for every year," enthuses Gemma, 1711 by Ascot Executive Chef. "It just gets better."

It is partly Gemma and Ben's responsibility to make sure the event "just gets better" each year. We found out how they do it.

Gemma Amor



When do you start planning the menu for the Royal Meeting?

Gemma: We are always looking for something new and we like to be the first to do things.

Ben: Planning begins for next year during the current year's Royal Ascot. We go on a daily walk around all areas and make notes on innovations and tweaks – we are always striving to improve.

Ben Dutson



How do you keep coming up with new ideas every year?

Gemma: It's all about looking outside the box and sometimes for classic dishes, but giving them that twist.

Ben: This is the part I enjoy most. We do a lot of research into current insight and trends, and then put our own, very unique, Royal Ascot twist on it. It's a really

ROYAL ASCOT | FOOD AND DRINK

"THIS YEAR WE HAVE WORKED WITH RAYMOND BLANC OBE AND HIS TEAM TO CREATE THE WORLD'S BEST CROQUE-MONSIEUR"

important part of any chef's job, but especially so at such a prestigious global event. There is such a wide variety of restaurants and retail offers at Royal Ascot that we can really have some fun when coming up with all these offers.

What's new for this year?

Gemma: This year we will be working with Fortnum & Mason for our tea. They created our picnics last year, so were keen to do more with us this year. We will be serving our own blend of tea for our Royal Ascot Afternoon Tea. And the Dutamor cheese [created in 2018 by Ben and Gemma, the name 'Dutamor' is a conflation of their surnames] is back and will stay for the whole year.

Ben: Yes, luckily for returning guests, the Dutamor is coming back! We have worked with Raymond Blanc OBE and his team to create the world's best croque-monsieur, which will be available to all Village Enclosure guests. We have a long-standing relationship with Raymond as our chef ambassador at Ascot Racecourse and, as well as his residency in the Panoramic Restaurant, we wanted to bring his world-famous cuisine to a bigger audience. The success of the Village Enclosure over the last two years made it the perfect place!

What dish are you particularly looking forward to serving this year?

Gemma: The peach melba dessert – a nice, classic dish with a Royal Ascot twist.

Ben: There are so many to choose from, but a couple of highlights for me are Wagyu beef tartare with Japanese flavours and a Fine Dining take on the banana split.

Finally, what's your favourite bit of the Royal Meeting?

Ben: It has to be the atmosphere. After months and months of planning, when it finally gets to the opening day, you can feel the electric buzz in the air. My second favourite part is a cold beer on the Saturday evening when everyone's gone home! 🍷



THE BEST OF BLENDS

Fortnum & Mason have been blending the very best tea leaves for more than 300 years.

"From our famous and historic house blends to rare finds from the most exclusive gardens, we tirelessly research, pick, experiment, test, retest and refine to bring out the best of every leaf," explains tea and coffee buyer Angela Pryce.

"We started working on the Royal Ascot tea blend earlier this year. Assam teas are at the heart of it, harvested during the peak second flush in June when the flavour and quality reaches its peak. The Assam region is low lying, with tea estates running along the length of the Brahmaputra River. The soil is fertile and rich, and the teas have a wonderfully malty character. The Sri Lankan tea is sourced from the low-grown region of the island on the southern coast and brings depth. The inclusion of high-grown Darjeeling teas from the Himalayan mountain range lifts the blend, adding flavour and a touch of crispness. The result is malty and rich, with a hint of high-grown flavour.

"Taking food with tea has been a habit in Britain since the 19th century, when the fashion for afternoon tea became established. Tea pairs wonderfully with food. Full-bodied black teas work well when paired with equally strong flavours, such as ham and mustard sandwiches. Medium- to light-bodied teas work well with delicate flavoured sandwiches and pastries."

ASCOT HISTORY



ASCOT STORIES AND OTHER PROMOTIONAL FILMS

Ascot Racecourse has produced a collection of Royal Ascot stories to celebrate the range of activity around the Royal Meeting and the people, past and present, which make it an event like no other.

| | |
|--|---|
| Like Nowhere Else: | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XksNvz1sOtg |
| Royal Enclosure: | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5J3kuQBC450 |
| Queen Anne Enclosure: | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z52HEO-vKEc |
| Village Enclosure: | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SvHTuHz3jYw |
| Royal Ascot 2019 Style Guide: | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nOWtk-aWfYc |
| Making of the Royal Ascot 2019 Campaign: | https://youtu.be/zrpNG8q7lis |
| Women's fashion throughout the years: | https://youtu.be/31gfwR_CFMc |
| Men's fashion throughout the years: | https://youtu.be/xGFalaK2Ux8 |

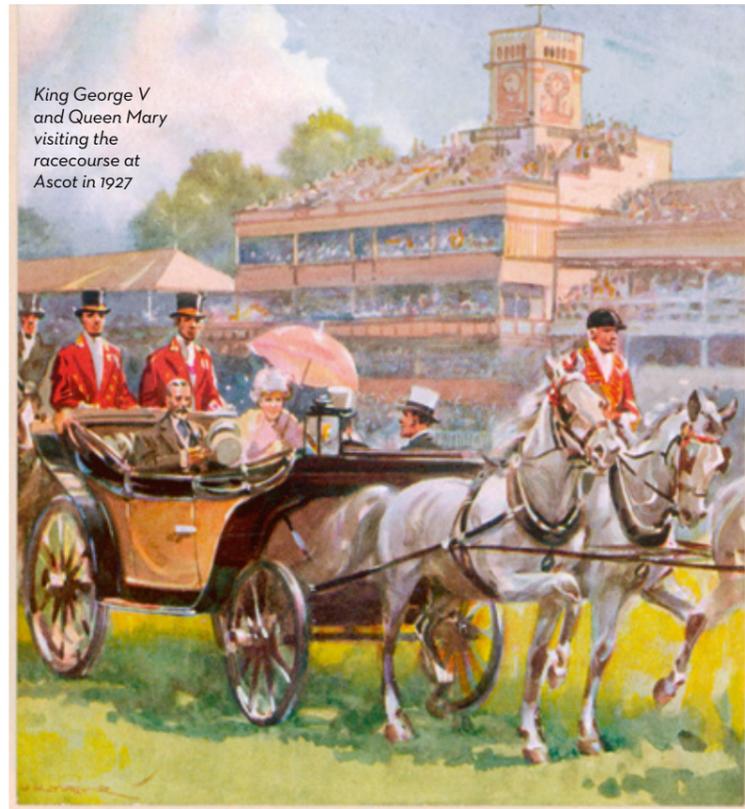
PLUS a selection of shorter edits bringing the stories behind the Royal Meeting to life:

| | |
|---|---|
| The finest thoroughbreds battle it out for one of racing's most prestigious prizes: | https://youtu.be/crZJHZF5PWQ |
| The Bandstand: | https://youtu.be/9GX5lPrawpE |
| Frankie Dettori and his 50 Royal Ascot wins: | https://youtu.be/KPDr7TtfzoY |
| Food Provenance at Royal Ascot: | https://youtu.be/VAYbkHfi8Ec |
| The Making of the Gold Cup: | https://youtu.be/hOK4s_Sf6ic |
| Royal Ascot from the perspective of a jockey: | https://youtu.be/uZjvaWkSOMs |
| Raymond Blanc on excellence in service at Royal Ascot: | https://youtu.be/DGX5xvxalll |
| Menswear in the Royal Enclosure: | https://youtu.be/CfigMyNUjwU |
| The Royal Procession: | https://youtu.be/EPlvKuoFDqk |
| Four-time winner Yeats: | https://youtu.be/1uwc90_jcdQ |
| How to read the Royal Ascot racecard: | https://youtu.be/WrEztb_xnfo |
| Afternoon Tea: | https://youtu.be/MPxl2QTjEtM |
| John Gosden on Royal Ascot: | https://youtu.be/C_Ro35OQTbk |
| Archie Watson on Royal Ascot: | https://youtu.be/p7d2lyAJ3aE |
| Roger Charlton on Royal Ascot: | https://youtu.be/PROSHxCqzVk |
| Oisin Murphy on Royal Ascot: | https://youtu.be/O9yNg-iY798 |

New films will continue to be produced and published in the build up to this year's event.

@Ascot, the racecourse's Twitter handle, has over 113,000 followers and throughout the Royal Meeting it will provide up to date results, news and information along with racing previews, discussion and fashion commentary.

Once again our hashtag will be **#RoyalAscot** during the event.



King George V and Queen Mary visiting the racecourse at Ascot in 1927

A PROCESSION THROUGH TIME

Now a highlight of the Royal Meeting, Terry Redhead looks back at how the Royal Procession came into being

THE ROYAL PROCESSION is the traditional appetiser for those at Royal Ascot to see The Queen and other members of the Royal Family, before feasting on the day's rich menu of top-class racing.

It was in 1711 that Queen Anne drove from Windsor Castle with her entourage for a day's sport ... and Ascot Racecourse was born. Since those 18th century days, 12 monarchs have given their patronage to the annual highlight of the flat season.

The Royal Procession itself dates back to 1825 and King George IV. Then, it was known as the Royal Drive or Royal Parade.

"The King drove up the course in the first coach of four, the Duke of Wellington sitting by his side. There were three other carriages and four, and a phaeton after him and 20 servants in scarlet on horseback. The whole thing looked very splendid," wrote diarist Thomas Creevey in a letter dated 3 June 1825.

Having only taken place on one day before, the Royal Procession was first planned to take place on all days of the 1919 meeting, in celebration of victory in the First World War.

In 1925 Queen Mary commissioned Sir Alfred Munnings to paint her a scene of the Royal Procession. →

ROYAL ASCOT | THE ROYAL PROCESSION



TOP TO BOTTOM
The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh in the Royal Procession in 1977; Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother, and King George VI arriving at Royal Ascot in 1947; The Queen Mother and The Queen in the Royal Procession in 1982



"Two scarlet-coated outriders on white horses were in the lead; next the King's carriage drawn by four greys. For me, the glorious part was the colours of the royal livery, too magnificent to describe," wrote Munnings.

On rare occasions the Royal Procession has not happened. In 1929 King George V was absent with illness, while bad weather on the last two days of the 1964 meeting and the first day of the 1971 meeting saw its cancellation. Our present Queen's first visit to Royal Ascot was in 1945 and she has been there every year since. However, in 1959 The Queen left mid-meeting for a trip to Canada. Finally, in 1970 a General Election on the Thursday and in 2001 the State Opening of Parliament meant no procession.

Even when the new stand was being built and the meeting was transferred to York in 2005, the Royal Procession took place.

One of the most notable processions was on the opening day of the 2002 event when 11 European Royals were guests in recognition of the Golden Jubilee.

Each day of Royal Ascot, The Queen and her guests leave Windsor Castle at 1.35pm and are driven by car to the Ascot Gate of Windsor Great Park, where they transfer to horse-drawn carriages for the drive along the straight mile from which the procession turns under the Grandstand and into the Parade Ring.

There are two breeds of horses, Windsor greys and bays, mainly Cleveland Bays, →



ROYAL ASCOT | THE ROYAL PROCESSION



“THE ROYAL PROCESSION ITSELF DATES BACK TO 1825 AND KING GEORGE IV. THEN, IT WAS KNOWN AS THE ROYAL DRIVE OR ROYAL PARADE”



in the Royal Procession. The horses are trained as carriage horses. They begin at four years old and work for approximately 15 years. Windsor greys are not a breed but are a name applied to a group of horses specially selected for ceremonial duties, according to appearance and temperament. Cleveland Bays are a breed which originated in England in the 17th century and have frequently been close to extinction, but the population is now stronger thanks to passionate breeders and advocates, including The Queen. The horses are named after their colour and the Cleveland district of Yorkshire.

The pomp and ceremony of the Royal Procession is the public's first chance to see The Queen and remains one of the most popular traditions of the institution that is Royal Ascot. ◉

TOP TO BOTTOM

The stars of the Royal Procession - the Windsor greys and Cleveland Bays; The Queen during the Royal Procession in 2015



THE BOWLER HAT AND ASCOT

The wearing of Bowler Hats by the Ascot Stewards is one of the most endearing and defining sights of Ascot, and not just at the Royal Meeting.

Ironically, given that the tradition is now so proudly protected and maintained by the longer serving stewards, the dress instruction was introduced as an attempt to address slipping standards and met with threats of a strike when bought in, in the 1950s.

There are many theories as to why Holkham's gamekeepers first came to wear 'Bowler' or 'Coke' hats, as they were commonly known in Norfolk. The original story is that in August 1849, William Coke, a nephew of the first Earl of Leicester of the second creation, commissioned his hatter James Lock, to design a close-fitting, low crowned hat. William stressed that the hat must

be extra strong; in order to protect his gamekeepers' heads from low hanging branches, while out horse riding. The relationship with horse riding and bowler hats is continued at Ascot.

Having approved the original 'Coke' hat, William started the trend and today the Bowler hat, named after the Bowler brothers who designed the original, is still going strong.

There is no doubt that Holkham's present team of keepers wear the 'Coke' hat with as much pride today. The privilege of wearing a traditional bowler hat is earned after one year's service at Holkham.

ROYAL ASCOT FACTS AND FIGURES

ROYAL ASCOT IN NUMBERS

THE FIRST ROYAL MEETING TOOK PLACE AT ASCOT IN **1768**

BRITAIN'S MOST POPULAR RACE MEETING, WELCOMING

300,000 RACEGOERS

ACROSS FIVE DAYS



THE MOST VALUABLE RACE MEETING IN BRITAIN WITH OVER

£7.33M

IN PRIZE MONEY

FEATURING

8

GROUP ONE RACES &

22

GROUP & LISTED RACES IN TOTAL



APPROXIMATELY 500 HORSES

RUNNING ACROSS FIVE DAYS



APPROXIMATELY



400 HELICOPTERS & 1,000 LIMOS

DESCEND ON ROYAL ASCOT EVERY YEAR

FINE DINING CHEFS HOLD

★ ★ ★ ★ **8** ★ ★ ★ ★

MICHELIN STARS AND 21 AA ROSETTES COLLECTIVELY

THERE ARE

150

FULL-TIME STAFF, WHICH INCREASES BY MORE THAN

6,500

TEMPORARY STAFF DURING ROYAL ASCOT

OVER 8,000 HOURS

OF STAFF TRAINING DELIVERED TO MAINTAIN THE HIGH LEVELS OF CUSTOMER SERVICE EXPECTED BY ROYAL ASCOT ATTENDEES

THERE ARE **3,500 CLEANING SHIFTS** RUNNING ON A

24 HOUR

CYCLE DURING THE WEEK

ROYAL ASCOT 2018 WAS BROADCAST IN **201** TERRITORIES WITH A REACH OF **531 MILLION HOUSEHOLDS WORLDWIDE**

CUMULATIVE ITV AUDIENCE OF **3.25M VIEWERS** IN 2018

27.5 TERRESTRIAL BROADCAST HOURS SHOWN DURING ROYAL ASCOT WEEK (**22 OF WHICH ARE LIVE**)

ALL 30 ROYAL ASCOT RACES BROADCAST LIVE ON ITV AND SKY SPORTS RACING IN 2019



THERE ARE **3,500 CLEANING SHIFTS** RUNNING ON A

24 HOUR

CYCLE DURING THE WEEK

5.1M IMPRESSIONS ON TWITTER OVER THE 5-DAY PERIOD IN 2018

1,338,300 VIDEO VIEWS ACROSS SOCIAL MEDIA IN 2018



37 LIVE MUSIC ACTS TO PERFORM ACROSS FIVE DAYS IN 2019



3 MILES OF BUNTING

173,000 RACECARDS PRINTED



33,500

ITEMS OF TEMPORARY FURNITURE ARE HIRED IN FOR THE ROYAL MEETING

THERE ARE MORE THAN **100** BARS AND FOOD OUTLETS AROUND THE RACECOURSE, AND **210 PRIVATE BOXES**



39 PROFESSIONAL KITCHENS OPERATE DURING ROYAL ASCOT: 25 IN THE GRANDSTAND, PLUS ONE FOR EVERY TWO BOXES

OVER 20,000 FLOWERS AND SHRUBS ARE GROWN AND PLANTED ESPECIALLY FOR ROYAL ASCOT



ASCOT RACECOURSE

IN NUMBERS

THE RACECOURSE

- Ascot Racecourse has been in operation since 1711 when Queen Anne rode out from Windsor Castle and declared this area of East Cote "ideal for horses to gallop at full stretch"
- The two tracks - Flat and Jumps (for Chase & Hurdles) - allow racing all year round
- The first Jumps fixture was in 1965
- Ascot is a right-handed course, slightly in excess of 1 mile, 6 furlongs
- One furlong = 220 yards. Eight furlongs = one mile
- Famed for being a tough course, with a 73-foot climb from the lowest point (Swinley Bottom) to the highest (Winning Post)
- As well as world-class racing, Ascot Racecourse is also used as a movie and TV filming location and as a venue for conferences, banquets, exhibitions, product launches and weddings



ATTENDANCE

- Ascot Racecourse is visited by just under 600,000 people a year, accounting for 10% of all UK racegoers
- It was the first racecourse in Europe to reach the 500,000-racegoer milestone

THE GROUNDS

- 11 grounds staff maintain the track, lawns and grounds year-round and 4 more maintain the plants, shrubs, hedges and trees
- Grass is cut to a regulation 4 inches for Flat racing and 5 inches for Jumps racing
- The Racecourse covers 179 acres which is 724,387sqm
- The reservoirs in the middle of the track collect rain water from the Grandstand roof, and the Winkfield and Heath tunnels, as part of Ascot's Green Policy
- The land on which Ascot Racecourse sits is leased from the Crown Estate, adjacent to Windsor Great Park



THE FACILITIES

- The new Ascot Grandstand was opened in June 2006 by Her Majesty The Queen after an 18-month redevelopment
- The £220m redevelopment was the single biggest investment in British Racing, at the time
- The Racecourse continues to invest in top-class facilities for racegoers, horsemen and horses alike with capital expenditure over the past five years totalling around £25m
- Sodexo Prestige, operating as 1711 by Ascot, has been the catering partner at Ascot since 1998
- More than 78 live music acts perform throughout the year
- 6 permanent restaurants remain in operation throughout the year - ON 5, Panoramic, Parade Ring, Windsor Forest, Pavilion and Trackside

ASCOT - ITS HISTORY AND TRADITIONS

It was Queen Anne who first saw the potential for a racecourse at Ascot, which in those days was called East Cote. Whilst out riding in 1711, she came upon an area of open heath, not far from Windsor Castle, that looked an ideal place for "horses to gallop at full stretch."

The first race meeting ever held at Ascot took place on Saturday, August 11, 1711. Her Majesty's Plate, worth 100 Guineas and open to any horse, mare or gelding over the age of six, was the inaugural event. Each horse was required to carry a weight of 12st and seven runners took part.

This contest bore little resemblance to racing seen at Ascot today. The seven horses were all English Hunters, quite different to the speedy thoroughbreds that race on the Flat now. The race consisted of three separate heats which were four miles long (each heat was about the length of the Grand National), so the winner would have been a horse with tremendous stamina. Sadly, there is no record of the winner of the first Plate.

The racecourse was laid out by William Lowen, who was assisted by a team of helpers; William Erybrown, a carpenter, Benjamin Cluchett, a painter, and John Grape, who prepared the paperwork for racing. The first permanent building was erected in 1793 by George Slingsby, a Windsor builder. It held 1,650 people and was used until 1838.

In 1813, Parliament passed an Act of Enclosure. This Act ensured that Ascot Heath, although the property of the Crown, would be kept and used as a racecourse for the public in the future. Racing at Ascot was now secure.

The precise origin of the Royal Meeting is unclear. It was an event that evolved, perhaps, rather than was introduced at a specific time, but the first four-day meeting took place in 1768. Arguably, the meeting as we know it today started to take shape with the introduction of the Gold Cup in 1807.

Gold Cup Day is the third day of Royal Ascot. Although you won't find it in any marketing or promotional literature, Thursday is colloquially known as Ladies' Day.

The term Ladies' Day seems to have been first used in 1823, when an anonymous poet described the Thursday of the Royal Meeting as "Ladies' Day, when the women, like angels, look sweetly divine." In the formative years, Thursday was certainly the dominant day in terms of the racing, attracting the largest crowds and, it must be assumed from the emergence of the term, more ladies!

Almost every racecourse markets a Ladies' Day now but the great charm of the original is that it has not been manufactured. It is the public, not the racecourse, who call it Ladies' Day.

The Gold Cup is Ascot's oldest surviving race, and the winning owners receive a gold trophy which becomes their property. Trophies to keep are only awarded for ten races at the Royal Meeting, the others being the Queen's Vase, inaugurated in 1838 to commemorate Queen Victoria's accession, the Royal Hunt Cup (1843) and the remaining Group 1 races.



It was at around the time of the first running of the Gold Cup that the roots of today's traditional Royal Enclosure dress code emerged. Beau Brummell, a close friend of the Prince Regent, decreed that men of elegance should wear waisted black coats and white cravats with pantaloons. Over the years, this has evolved into the wearing of morning suits and equally formal clothes for ladies, who must wear hats.

Although a Royal Stand dates back to the 1790s, the Royal Enclosure that current regulars are used to at Ascot was conceived in 1822 when King George IV commissioned a two-storey stand to be built with a surrounding lawn. Access was by invitation of the King. In 1825, the Royal Procession as an annual tradition began. The King, leading four other coaches with members of the Royal party, drove up the centre of the racecourse in front of the crowds and this has continued to the present day.

The administration of Ascot has always been handled by a representative appointed by the Monarch. The racecourse was run on behalf of the Sovereign by the Master of the Royal Buckhounds up until 1901 when Lord Churchill was appointed as the first official Representative of His Majesty, a post held today by Johnny Weatherby (as Her Majesty's Representative).





In 1913, when the Ascot Authority was established by an Act of Parliament, His Majesty's Representative became Senior Trustee of the Authority with the Clerk of the Course acting as Secretary. Today, as Ascot Authority (Holdings) Limited, Ascot has a formal board sitting under the three Trustee structure.

In 1955, the rules of divorce were relaxed and divorcees were able to enter the Royal Enclosure. However, a redevelopment of the Enclosure shortly before this had added the new Queen's Lawn, which was by invitation and the Court rules governing divorce still applied.

Ascot's first major redevelopment came to fruition in 1954, with the relocation of the straight mile north to allow more space behind the stands. This was the second such move and even this time around, they didn't go quite far enough as

the track was moved a further 42 metres north as part of the 2005 redevelopment. Prior to the second move, the straight track cut right through the existing Number One Car Park into the current site of Heatherwood Hospital.

The Queen Elizabeth II Grandstand, built by Wimpey, was erected between the 1960 and 1961 Royal Meeting and the Members' Stand went up between Royal Ascot 1963 and 1964.

The Car Parks at Ascot almost certainly play more part in the event than at any other venue – they are far from merely functional with lavish picnics, including butlers, candelabra and silver service not uncommon, especially in Number One and Two Car Parks. In 2006, a Country Life survey found that Royal Ascot is the South of England's most popular picnic spot and the most popular sporting occasion at which to picnic in the country.

Although Ascot likes to think it runs Number One Car Park, it is far from uncommon for berths in this sought after spot to be passed down formally from generation to generation. There is currently a waiting list of 400 names.

Ascot's much loved tradition of "singing around the bandstand" or "community singing" began in the 1970s under the stewardship of Lady Beaumont, wife of the then Clerk of the Course, Captain Sir Nicholas Beaumont. The now unmissable sing song of British favourites and flag waving after racing was an immediate success with thousands of racegoers staying on and making it an integral part of their day. Now, traditional singing is listed as part of the day's formal proceedings in the racecard and song books and flags are handed round.

2002 saw plenty of change to the established pattern at Royal Ascot as the meeting expanded to five days to mark The Queen's Golden Jubilee. In addition, one race name



was changed as the newly promoted Cork & Orrery Stakes became the Golden Jubilee Stakes (renamed the Diamond Jubilee Stakes in 2012).

The racecourse closed for redevelopment in September 2004 – with the Finale Meeting ending with singing around the bandstand, the only time this has been done outside Royal Ascot.

The 2005 Royal Meeting was staged in York, providing the city with its biggest ever sporting event. The city, region and racecourse threw themselves into the extravaganza, which saw expansion into the Knavesmire so as to accommodate circa 50,000 people each day.

Royal Ascot at York took place with a Royal Enclosure and Royal Procession every day. The bell used to instruct jockeys to mount at Ascot travelled up along with the Brown Jack statue commemorating the Ascot legend. The "Greencoats," who form the ceremonial guard for The Queen at Royal Ascot, came to York. Their garb rather speaks for itself and it is rumoured that the original velvet uniforms were made from material left over from curtains in Windsor Castle.

Historically, Ascot Racecourse redevelops every 50 years or so, once a generation, and throughout considerable changes the Royal Meeting has maintained its position as a much loved event at the heart of the national sporting and social calendar. Ascot's traditions remain as strong, strictly observed and loved now as they ever were, whilst the racing goes from strength to strength (Group 1 races have increased from three

in 1999 to eight, with the addition of the Commonwealth Cup in 2015).

The new Ascot was officially reopened by The Queen, on time and to its £220 million budget, on 20th June, 2006.

The modern era immediately had a new equine legend in Yeats, who won an unprecedented four Gold Cups before retiring in 2009. A statue to commemorate his achievements now stands in the Parade Ring.

2011 saw Ascot celebrate its tercentenary and 2012 was another exciting landmark occasion for the racecourse as the Royal Meeting played its part in The Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. On the track, the great Frankel won the Queen Anne Stakes and Black Caviar made her only appearance outside Australia, winning the Diamond Jubilee Stakes.

There was a Royal winner in 2012 when Estimate won the Queen's Vase. That horse went on to provoke scenes of unbridled joy from the crowd when winning the following year's Gold Cup.

Estimate's jockey in 2012 was Ryan Moore, who broke another record at Royal Ascot in 2015 with nine winners across the week.

In 2016, The Queen's success continued with Dartmouth winning the Hardwicke Stakes.



In 2017, The Village Enclosure was opened, the first new enclosure for 100 years, and last year, prize money topped £7 million for the first time.

THE QUEEN AND ROYAL ASCOT

When the Diamond Jubilee Royal Ascot of 2012 was lit up by Estimate's win in the Queen's Vase, who would have thought that 12 months later, The Queen's filly would be back to etch her name onto the greatest Ascot roll of honour by winning the Gold Cup.

That emotional moment was the highlight of a memorable week and thousands of racegoers cheered from the moment winning jockey Ryan Moore saluted the Royal Box to the presentation of the trophy to The Queen, which she received from her son, The Duke of York.

Estimate provided The Queen's 22nd Royal Ascot winner. Her 23rd winner came in 2016 when Olivier Peslier rode Dartmouth in the Hardwicke Stakes.

The last few years have been something of a golden period for The Queen as an owner as, in addition to Estimate's double, her Carlton House was second to the great former Australian-trained So You Think in the 2012 Prince of Wales's Stakes.

The Queen's previous Royal Ascot winner had come on the final day of the 2008 meeting when Free Agent came from a seemingly impossible position to win the Chesham Stakes, ending a blank period stretching back to 1999.

The Queen's involvement with racing began in 1952 and her first winner, Monaveen, owned jointly with her mother, won a humble Fontwell jumps race.

Upon the death of her father, King George VI, The Queen inherited the Royal string of Flat horses, which at the time were mainly trained by Cecil Boyd-Rochford and Noel Murless. It didn't take long for her first top horse to come along.



Aureole, by the great Hyperion, was second to Pinza in the 1953 Derby and he must rank as one of The Queen's best horses, with victories in the 1954 King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Stakes and Hardwicke Stakes. Aureole went on to be champion sire in Britain.

The Queen's first Royal Ascot success came when Choir Boy landed the 1953 Royal Hunt Cup, one of 11 successes during the 1950s, with others including 1957 Ribblesdale Stakes winner Almeria, who went on to finish second in the King George, and Pall Mall, who took the 1957 New Stakes en route to victory in the 2,000 Guineas the following year.

The 1960s were a quieter time for the Royal thoroughbreds, although Aiming High landed the 1961 Coronation Stakes and Hopeful Venture the 1968 Hardwicke Stakes.

But The Queen's racing fortunes returned in the 1970s, helped by the brilliant Dick Hern-trained filly Highclere, who won the 1,000 Guineas and French Oaks in 1974 before finishing second to Dahlia in that year's King George.

As Silver Jubilee celebrations were being held throughout the land in 1977, a filly came along that would ensure a year of tremendous success for the Royal colours, with Dunfermline winning both the Oaks and St Leger.

THE QUEEN'S ROYAL ASCOT WINNERS

| YEAR | RACE | HORSE | JOCKEY |
|------|--------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1953 | Royal Hunt Cup | CHOIR BOY | D Smith |
| 1954 | Hardwicke Stakes | AUREOLE | E Smith |
| | Rous Memorial Stakes | LANDAU | Sir Gordon Richards |
| 1955 | King George V Stakes | JARDINIERE | D Smith |
| 1956 | Royal Hunt Cup | ALEXANDER | W H Carr |
| 1957 | Ribblesdale Stakes | ALMERIA | W H Carr |
| | New Stakes | PALL MALL | W H Carr |
| 1958 | Rous Memorial Stakes | SNOW CAT | E Smith |
| | King Edward VII Stakes | RESTORATION | W H Carr |
| 1959 | St James's Palace Stakes | ABOVE SUSPICION | W H Carr |
| | King Edward VII Stakes | PINDARI | L Piggott |
| 1961 | Coronation Stakes | AIMING HIGH | L Piggott |
| 1968 | Hardwicke Stakes | HOPEFUL VENTURE | A Barclay |
| 1970 | Ascot Stakes | MAGNA CARTA | G Lewis |
| 1979 | Queen's Vase | BUTTRESS | W Carson |
| | Ribblesdale Stakes | EXPANSIVE | W Carson |
| 1992 | Royal Hunt Cup | COLOUR SERGEANT | D Harrison |
| 1995 | Ribblesdale Stakes | PHANTOM GOLD | F Dettori |
| 1999 | Duke of Edinburgh Stakes | BLUEPRINT | G Stevens |
| 2008 | Chesham Stakes | FREE AGENT | R Hughes |
| 2012 | Queen's Vase | ESTIMATE | R Moore |
| 2013 | Gold Cup | ESTIMATE | R Moore |
| 2016 | Hardwicke Stakes | DARTMOUTH | O Peslier |

ASCOT RACECOURSE

KEY DATES

Summer, 1711

It was Queen Anne who first saw the potential for a race-course at Ascot, which in those days was called East Cote. Whilst out riding she came upon an area of open heath, not far from Windsor Castle, that looked an ideal place for "horses to gallop at full stretch."

June, 1711

Charles, Duke of Somerset instructed Sir William Wyndham, Master of the Royal Buckhounds, to have the open heath cleared of scrub and gorse in preparation for a race meeting.

11 August 1711

The first race meeting ever held at Ascot took place. Her Majesty's Plate, worth 100 guineas and open to any horse, mare or gelding over the age of six, was the inaugural event. Each horse was required to carry a weight of 12st and seven runners took part.

September 17, 1711

The success of Her Majesty's Plate in August meant the second meeting followed soon after in September.

July 31, 1727

John Cheny published a prototype form book, which evolved into the Racing Calendar, recording the conditions of each race and the prize.

1744

The Yeoman Prickers were formed. Employed by the Master of the Buckhounds, their distinctive livery of forest green coats with gold facings are worn today by the Ascot Greencoats, who attend Royal Ascot each year.

1752

The popularity of attending the racing at Ascot was becoming apparent in social circles, prompting the Duke of Bedford to write that when arriving in London 'I could find no soul to dine or sup with'.

1762

The first use of racing colours was introduced, although it wasn't mandatory for another two decades.

1768

The first four-day meeting took place.

1773

James Weatherby, Keeper of the Match Book (the book of records for match races), was authorised by the Jockey Club to publish a racing calendar. James Weatherby began a family firm, still in existence today. Weatherbys are the secretariat of horse racing in Britain.

June, 1791

The Oatlands Stakes was run at Ascot – an important landmark race as it was the first handicap race, where the weights of the runners were adjusted according to their form to give them, in theory, equal chances.

1793

The first permanent building was erected by George Slingsby, a Windsor builder. It held 1,650 people and was used until 1838.

1807

The inaugural running of the Gold Cup for three-year-olds and upwards. It is significant that the first Gold Cup was won by a three-year-old, this was an event designed to attract horses bred to compete much younger than had been the case the previous century. In the modern era, three-year-olds do not run in the race.

1813

Parliament passed an Act of Enclosure. This Act ensured that Ascot Heath, although the property of the Crown, would be kept and used as a racecourse for the public in the future. Racing at Ascot was now secure. The Master of the Buckhounds continued to manage the races and the racecourse – just as it was more than 100 years before.

1820

George III died and the Prince Regent ascended the throne as George IV. He immediately ordered alterations to be made to the Royal Stand by John Nash. Nash's alterations did not satisfy the King and so, in 1822, Nash designed a brand new Royal Stand, erected in just five weeks.

1822

The Royal Enclosure was born when King George IV commissioned a two-storey stand to be built with a surrounding lawn. Access was by invitation of the King where he entertained his friends in style.

1825

King George IV's greatest legacy to Royal Ascot was the Royal Procession. The King leading four other coaches with members of the Royal party drove up the Straight Mile in front of the crowds. A diarist of the day commented; 'the whole thing looked very splendid'.

1837

Turf on the track was relaid by the Clerk of the Course, William Hibburd, to improve the ground. Rails and posts were constructed along the track.

1838

Queen Victoria made her first visit to Ascot as Sovereign. To mark her first visit, the Queen inaugurated a new race over one and a half miles, known today as the Queen's Vase (now two miles).

1838

Horses were numbered in the racecard.

July, 1838

A decision was made to construct a new stand between the betting stand and the Royal Stand. The new stand took 10 months to build and was warmly welcomed when it opened on May 20, 1839. The lower half of the stand could hold about 3,000 people and contained a betting hall.

1839

For the first time at Ascot, the judge hoisted the number of the winner onto a large blackboard, thus putting an end to the disputes as to which horse had won.

1856

The railway was brought to Ascot with the opening of the Staines to Wokingham line.

1861 (approx)

Racing in the mid-19th century was becoming more professional with Ascot appointing its first official Clerk of the Scales, James Manning (whose family stayed in the post until 1970, latterly working for the Jockey Club).

1861

Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria, died and Queen Victoria did not return to Ascot again.

1862

A new race at the meeting was named after Prince Albert: The Prince of Wales's Stakes.

1863

Prince Albert, eldest son and second child of Victoria and Albert, known as Bertie, attended his first Ascot meeting aged 21 and continued to lend his support to the Royal Meeting with enthusiasm. He restored the Royal Procession and revived the custom of inviting overseas visitors to Ascot.

1873

Ascot witnessed the first victory for the riding phenomenon Fred Archer. Over 14 years, he rode 80 winners at the racecourse.

1896

The Grandstand had a clock tower erected.

1901

Racing at Ascot took place in sombre mood to mark the death of Queen Victoria. Prince Albert ascended the throne as King Edward VII.

1901

The role of Master of the Buckhounds was disbanded and a new role created, that of the King's representative. The first man to undertake this role was Viscount Churchill.

1901

All three stands in the Royal Enclosure were demolished under the instruction of King Edward VII and two new stands were built between September, 1901 and May, 1902. The total cost was £28,350.

1902

A third stand was built at a cost of £27,636. This stand included lifts, the first to be installed on a British racecourse. In order to have the work completed by May, 1902, some 500 men were employed on the task, working day and night shifts.

1908

The 'Five Shilling Stand' was built – later known as the Silver Ring Stand at a cost of £30,000.

1912

Racegoers began to arrive by car and for the first time, motor cars were allowed to park on the Heath.

1913

The Ascot Authority was established by an Act of Parliament. His Majesty's Representative became Senior Trustee of the Authority with the Clerk of the Course acting as Secretary.

1926

The Royal Enclosure buildings were extended and a new Iron Stand was erected. Ascot began to install a new watering system, with the facility to dispense around two million gallons of water onto the turf.

1929

The Tote building was constructed (still standing today, beside the Pre-Parade Ring). The designs had been agreed by the Racecourse Betting Control Board (RBCB), the authority overseeing wagering at this time.

1936

George V died and was succeeded by his eldest son, who became Edward VIII. The new King was a keen follower of horseracing but he never attended the Royal Meeting as reigning monarch. By the end of the year Edward VIII had abdicated in order to marry Wallis Simpson.

1937

George VI & Queen Elizabeth attend their first Ascot race meeting.

1940

Racing at Ascot cancelled. The racecourse was commandeered by the army, the Grandstand providing accommodation for gunners of the Royal Artillery.

15 May 1943

Racing at Ascot resumed, with an eight-race card.

May 21, 1945

Ascot staged its first post-war fixture and the 19-year-old Princess Elizabeth attended for the first time.

1946

Major Crocker Bulteel was appointed as the Clerk of the Course, regarded as 'the outstanding racing administrator of his day.' The Duke of Norfolk was appointed as the King's Representative.

1946

The Ascot fixture list extended to include racing in July, September and October.

1953

Queen Elizabeth II crowned on June 2 (ascended the throne on February 6, 1952).

1955

The rules of divorce were relaxed and divorcees were able to enter the Royal Enclosure. However, a redevelopment of the Enclosure shortly before this had added the new Queen's Lawn. Entrance was by invitation only and the Court rules governing divorce still applied.

June 13, 1961

The Grandstand was demolished and the Queen Elizabeth II Stand was built. It took 11 months to build, with 550 workers at a cost of £1 million. The stand represented a state-of-the-art facility at the time, accommodated 13,000 people and had 280 private boxes.

1975

The BBC outside-broadcast staff picketed and there was no television coverage.

April, 1998

Lord Hartington, Her Majesty's Representative, revealed that changes to the racecourse were being contemplated.

2001

In order to facilitate the redevelopment, Ascot incorporated as Ascot Authority (Holdings) Limited, the most significant milestone in its structure since the 1913 Act of Parliament.

2002

Plans were announced to redevelop Ascot Racecourse. The existing Queen Elizabeth II stand was to be replaced and the course realigned. The Golden Jubilee was celebrated. Royal Ascot extended from four to five days.

September, 2004

Ascot held its last meeting with the old facilities. Demolition of the stand began and the redevelopment programme commenced.

June, 2005

Royal Ascot was staged at York Racecourse.

June, 2006

The new Ascot stand was opened on time and on budget.

June, 2009

Yeats won his fourth Gold Cup, beating Sagaro's record, set in the 1970s.

2011

Ascot celebrated its Tercentenary.

June, 2012

The country celebrates The Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The Golden Jubilee Stakes becomes The Diamond Jubilee Stakes and is won by Black Caviar.

2010 to 2012

Frankel, officially the greatest horse since ratings began, makes five appearances at Ascot, winning at two, three and four. He retired unbeaten with 14 wins.

2012

Style Guides for the Royal and Queen Anne Enclosures are introduced.

2013

Channel 4 Television covered Royal Ascot for the first time with the highlight of the week being Estimate's victory for The Queen in the Gold Cup.

2014

In the Grandstand, the new "On 5" Restaurant was opened.

2015

The world class Parade Ring Restaurant was renovated.

June, 2015

Following an extensive review of the European sprinting programme, a new Group 1 six furlong race, the Commonwealth Cup, is added to the Royal Ascot programme.

June, 2015

Frankel Statue unveiled by The Queen.

April, 2016

Her Majesty The Queen celebrates her 90th Birthday.

2016

Renaming of Ascot public Enclosures and New Unsaddling Enclosure is unveiled.

January, 2017

The Queen's Vase is promoted to Group 2 status.

2017

The new Village Enclosure opens and the jumpsuit is introduced to the Royal Enclosure dress code.

ITV Racing becomes the host broadcaster.

2018

Prize money at Royal Ascot exceeds £7m for the first time.

Royal Ascot introduces Style Guides for the Village and Windsor Enclosures.

2019

Queen's Vase reverts to a five-day closing race and is run for £225,000, an increase of £25,000.

RACE HISTORIES

& CONDITIONS

The Queen Anne Stakes (Group 1)

One Mile, Four Year Olds & Upwards

Founded in 1840, the Queen Anne Stakes commemorates the monarch who established racing at Ascot in 1711. Run as the Trial Stakes until 1929, the Queen Anne Stakes was first awarded Group 3 status in 1971, becoming Group 2 in 1984. The race, attracting Europe's top older milers, achieved the highest three-year average rating of any Group 2 race in Britain from 1999 to 2002 according to the then International Classifications and was elevated to Group 1 status accordingly in 2003. At that time, it moved from the traditional opening race on the card to the fourth race. However, in 2008 it reverted to its traditional slot, opening the meeting.

The Coventry Stakes (Group 2)

Six furlongs, Two Year Olds

First run in 1890, the race was named after the ninth Earl of Coventry, Master of the Buckhounds between 1886 and 1892. This is the first Group contest of the year for juveniles. Many top class horses win this race before going on to achieve greatness and, in 2004, the race was promoted to Group 2 status.

The King's Stand Stakes (Group 1)

Five furlongs, Three Year Olds & Upwards

A Stand Plate was first run on the round course in 1837, becoming the Royal Stand Plate in 1858. The race was re-named the Queen's Stand Plate in 1860 for two-year-olds, over the sprint distance of four furlongs, finally becoming the King's Stand Plate in 1901. Today the race remains a sprint, although now run over the minimum trip of five furlongs for three-year-olds and upwards. In 2008 it was promoted to Group 1.

The St James's Palace Stakes (Group 1)

Old mile, Three Year Old Colts

Named after the Tudor Royal residence, the inaugural running of the St James's Palace Stakes in 1834 was a walkover for the Derby winner Plenipotentiary. This race features the best male milers from the Classic generation, often attracting horses that have run in the English, French and Irish 2,000 Guineas.

The Ascot Stakes (Handicap)

Two miles, four furlongs, Four Year Olds & Upwards

First run in 1839, the Ascot Stakes is run over two-and-a-half miles. Like the Gold Cup and Queen Alexandra Stakes, this race provides a thorough test of stamina. It is one of just four races at the Royal Meeting in which the field passes the winning post twice. The race attracts horses that have run in the early season staying handicaps, most notably the Chester Cup.

The Wolferton Stakes (Listed)

One mile, two furlongs, Four Year Olds & Upwards

First run in 2002 as part of the five-day Royal Ascot meeting to celebrate The Queen's Golden Jubilee, this is a Listed race over 10 furlongs for four-year-olds and upwards, having been a Listed Handicap until 2017.

The Queen Mary Stakes (Group 2)

Five furlongs, Two Year Old Fillies

Named after the consort of King George V, this race was first run in 1921. It is the first major race of the season exclusively for two-year-old fillies, The Queen Mary Stakes is run over the minimum distance of five furlongs and provides a useful opportunity to assess their ability and potential to perform at Group 1 level. It was promoted to Group 2 status in 2004.

The Queen's Vase (Group 2)

One mile, six furlongs, Three Year Olds

Promoted to Group Two in 2017, the race was named to honour Queen Victoria and first run in 1838. This race became the King's Vase in 1903 and reverted to its original name of the Queen's Vase on the succession of Queen Elizabeth II. Run over a-mile-and-three-quarters, this contest provides a test of stamina for three-year-olds and winners of this race often go on to compete in the Gold Cup in future years. Estimate completed the double in 2012 / 2013. This year prize money increases to £225,000.

The Prince of Wales's Stakes (Group 1)

One mile, two furlongs, Four Year Olds & Upwards

The Prince of Wales's Stakes, first run at Royal Ascot in 1862, is named after the son of Queen Victoria (later to become King Edward VII). Originally staged over a mile and five furlongs, the race often attracted horses that had participated in the Classics. There was no Prince of Wales's Stakes from 1946 until 1968, a year before the current Prince of Wales's investiture in 1969, when the distance changed to one mile and two furlongs. In 2000, The Prince of Wales's Stakes was upgraded to Group 1 status and restricted to four-year-olds and upwards.

The Duke of Cambridge Stakes (Group 2)

One mile, Four Year Olds & Upwards Fillies & Mares

Until 2013 run as the Windsor Forest Stakes, this race was a new addition to the Royal Meeting in 2004 and part of an industry-wide initiative to encourage connections of the leading Classic generation fillies from the previous year to keep their stars in training. Run over the straight mile course, it is open only to fillies and mares aged four or over. As a Group 2 race, Group 1 winners carry a penalty, so the option of the Group 1 Queen Anne Stakes, where no penalties are carried, is still open to the very best fillies.

The Royal Hunt Cup (Heritage Handicap)

One mile, Three Year Olds & Upwards

The Royal Hunt Cup always provides one of the greatest spectacles of the Royal Meeting as a maximum field thunders up Ascot's straight mile course for one of the biggest betting races of the season. First run in 1843, it was originally staged over seven furlongs and 155 yards. The current distance of a mile was established in 1955 when the straight course was re-aligned as part of the previous redevelopment.

The Windsor Castle Stakes (Listed)

Five furlongs, Two Year Olds

First run in 1839 over the straight mile course, this race was originally designed to attract three-year-old colts and fillies that had competed in the early season Classics. It is now run over the minimum distance of five furlongs and restricted to two-year-olds.

The Norfolk Stakes (Group 2)

Five furlongs, Two Year Olds

First run in 1843, this race was formerly known as the New Stakes and staged over a distance of just under four furlongs. It was renamed after the Duke of Norfolk, Her Majesty's Representative at Ascot between 1945 and 1972, in 1973. For two-year-olds, it was promoted to Group 2 status in 2006.

The Hampton Court Stakes (Group 3)

One mile, two furlongs, Three Year Olds

The Tercentenary Stakes became the new name for the Hampton Court Stakes in 2011, when the racecourse celebrated 300 years since its inauguration. It was also promoted from Listed to Group 3 in tandem. The race was originally part of the Saturday Heath Day card, under the title of the New Stakes, and joined Royal Ascot as part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations in 2002. This 10-furlong event is restricted to three-year-olds and reverted back to being the Hampton Court Stakes in 2017.

The Ribblesdale Stakes (Group 2)

One mile, four furlongs, Three Year Old Fillies

This race, mirroring the Oaks, is named after the fourth Baron Ribblesdale, Master of the Buckhounds between 1892 and 1895. First run in 1919, this race was originally staged over a mile for three and four-year-olds. It is now restricted to Classic generation fillies and run over the longer distance of a mile and a half.

The Gold Cup (Group 1)

Two miles, four furlongs, Four Year Olds & Upwards

Founded in 1807, the Gold Cup (which, contrary to popular opinion is not called the "Ascot Gold Cup") is the oldest and one of the most prestigious races at Royal Ascot. Staged over the marathon trip of two-and-a-half miles, the race is a stiff test of stamina and attracts the very best staying horses in Europe. Many horses have distinguished themselves with dual Gold Cup wins, enhancing the race's reputation as a specialists' event. Sagaro won three times in the 1970s but Yeats did

better still, becoming a four-time winner in 2009. The Queen's Estimate won the 2013 Gold Cup, providing her with her 22nd Royal Ascot winner.

The Britannia Stakes (Heritage Handicap)

One mile, Three Year Old Colts & Geldings

First run in 1928 over the straight mile of the Royal Hunt Cup course and run under similar conditions today. Open to three-year-old colts and geldings only, the Britannia is almost as popular these days as the Royal Hunt Cup.

The King George V Stakes (Handicap)

One mile, four furlongs, Three Year Olds

Like the Duke of Edinburgh Stakes, this is a Handicap for middle distance performers, staged over one and a half miles. The inaugural running was in July 1946, as part of the first fixture staged at the racecourse after the Royal Meeting, before the race was transferred to Royal Ascot in 1948. It is for three-year-olds.

The Albany Stakes (Group 3)

Six furlongs, Two Year Old Fillies

This race was first run in 2002 as the Henry Carnarvon Stakes, honouring The Queen's late racing manager, and proved so successful that it was promoted to Group 3 status in 2005. Restricted to two-year-old fillies, the six-furlong event provides one of the first opportunities of the season for promising types to prove their ability and go on to harbour Guineas aspirations.

The King Edward VII Stakes (Group 2)

One mile, four furlongs, Three Year Old Colts & Geldings

Formerly known, and still colloquially referred to as the Ascot Derby, this race was inaugurated in 1834 and regularly featured horses of both sexes that had competed in the middle-distance Classics. First run as the King Edward VII Stakes in 1926 and now restricted to three-year-old colts and geldings, it still attracts horses that have competed in the Derby.

The Commonwealth Cup (Group 1)

Six furlongs, Three Year Olds

The Commonwealth Cup was a completely new race in 2015 and joined the King's Stand Stakes and Diamond Jubilee Stakes to become the third Group 1 sprint at Royal Ascot. The race, run over six furlongs, is restricted to three-year-olds and was put in place as a Europe-wide measure to create a better Pattern for young sprinters and improve the quality of sprint races across the continent. Several races in the run up to the Commonwealth Cup were promoted in tandem, including the Commonwealth Cup Trial at Ascot, in April to Group 3.

The Coronation Stakes (Group 1)

Old mile, Three Year Old Fillies

First run in 1840, the Coronation Stakes was founded to commemorate the crowning of Queen Victoria in 1838. This

mile event is the fillies' equivalent of the St James's Palace Stakes and attracts horses that have run in the English, Irish and French 1,000 Guineas.

The Sandringham Stakes (Handicap)

Old mile, Three Year Old Fillies

Originally registered as the Fern Hill Stakes, this race was part of the traditional Heath Day card on the Saturday after Royal Ascot. It was renamed the Sandringham Stakes, after the royal residence, as part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations in 2002. This is a competitive Handicap over a mile, limited to three-year-old fillies only.

The Duke of Edinburgh Stakes (Handicap)

One mile, four furlongs, Three Year Olds & Upwards

Originally the Bessborough Stakes, named after the fifth Earl of Bessborough, who was Master of the Buckhounds between 1848 and 1866, the race was renamed the Duke Of Edinburgh Stakes in 1999. First run in 1914 as a five-furlong event for two-year-olds, it has now evolved into a middle distance Handicap for three-year-olds and upward.

The Chesham Stakes (Listed)

Seven furlongs, Two Year Olds

Named after the third Baron Chesham, who was the last Master of the Buckhounds from 1900 to 1901. First run in 1919, the Chesham Stakes replaced the first leg of the Triennial Stakes, which had been run over five furlongs for two-year-olds. Now a Listed contest, the race takes place over the longer distance of seven furlongs.

The Jersey Stakes (Group 3)

Seven furlongs, Three Year Olds

The Jersey Stakes replaced the second leg of the Triennial Stakes in 1919. Named after the fourth Earl of Jersey, who was the Master of the Buckhounds between 1782 and 1783, this specialist seven-furlong contest is framed for three-year-olds who have yet to win a Group 1 or Group 2 race, but have often competed at that level, including in the Guineas.

The Hardwicke Stakes (Group 2)

One mile, four furlongs, Four Year Olds & Upwards

Named after the fifth Earl of Hardwicke, Master of the Buckhounds between 1874 and 1879, the race was first run in 1879. The Group 2 contest continues to attract the best older middle distance horses today, and is often an informative guide to the King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Stakes (sponsored by QIPCO) in July. It is run with no Group 1 or 2 winners' penalties as a quasi Group 1 race with regular Group One rated horses competing.

The Diamond Jubilee Stakes (Group 1)

Six furlongs, Four Year Olds & Upwards

Formerly known as the Cork and Orrery Stakes, Royal Ascot's most prestigious sprint was given a new name - the Golden Jubilee Stakes - and elevated to Group 1 status to celebrate The Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002. Ten years later, it assumed the mantle of Diamond Jubilee Stakes. First run in 1868, this six-furlong contest was originally named after Lord Cork, another Master of the Buckhounds. In 2015, it became a race for four-year-olds and upwards, as the three-year-olds now have the Commonwealth Cup option.

The Wokingham Stakes (Heritage Handicap)

Six furlongs, Three Year Olds & Upwards

The inaugural running of the Wokingham took place in 1813, making this race the oldest Handicap at Royal Ascot. This famous sprint is named after the market town seven miles from Ascot Racecourse, and the first dual winner was appropriately also named Wokingham (1881 and 1882). Over the years, the race has developed a reputation as a fiercely competitive handicap and one of the major betting heats of the season.

The Queen Alexandra Stakes (Conditions)

Two miles, six furlongs, Four Year Olds & Upwards

Run over the marathon trip of two-and-three-quarter miles, the Queen Alexandra Stakes is not only the longest race of the meeting, but also the longest contest run under Flat racing rules. Named after the consort of King Edward VII, the race was first run in 1864 as the Alexandra Plate over three miles. It will always be associated with Brown Jack, arguably Royal Ascot's greatest equine legend, who won this race on six consecutive occasions between 1929 and 1934. The Queen Alexandra Stakes always closes the meeting and although, or perhaps because of its extreme distance in a time when so much emphasis is on speed, it has become a national institution and is affectionately supported by regulars.



DID YOU KNOW...?

Since Queen Anne founded Ascot Racecourse back in 1711, a further 11 monarchs have acceded to the British throne.

Mrs Gertrude Shilling was undeniably the premier indefatigable sartorial dame of Ascot (nicknamed The Ascot Mascot), but she has met with competition from all over the world, including in 1976 when Australia's Dame Edna Everage, alias Barry Humphries, attended with a four foot Sydney Opera House perched on "her" head. Following the successes of Choisir, Takeover Target, Miss Andretti, Scenic Blast and Black Caviar on the track, Royal Ascot is as much an institution in Australia as at home these days, but back then Dame Edna said to the assembled press that she: "wasn't aware it was a racing event until the other day. I always thought it was an exhibition of gas water heaters!"

Viscount Churchill was appointed as the first sovereign's representative at Ascot in 1901. He is reputed to have taken personal charge of vetting applications for entrance into the Royal Enclosure, sorting letters into three baskets marked 'Certainly' 'Perhaps' and 'Certainly Not.' Viscount Churchill loved this task and became notorious for recognising faces in the Royal Enclosure and challenging those who should not be there. For this purpose he was granted special access to the Divorce Registry, as those on it were not permitted access to the Royal Enclosure.

Many people were sympathetic to the Ascot Authority in June, 1964, after the Royal Meeting had to be curtailed due to severe rain, thus blighting the opening of the new Royal Enclosure Stand. None more so than the old lady who sent the Authority £1 because she was so distressed to hear of the course's bad luck. The Duke of Norfolk, Her Majesty's Representative at the time, responded with equal magnanimity, thanking the lady and inviting her to a day's racing.

In the days before actors were allowed in the Royal Enclosure, King Edward VII asked the actor Charles Hawtrey if he would be seeing him at Royal Ascot. Hawtrey explained that rules prevented it, whereupon the King took it upon himself personally to send Hawtrey the necessary badge. When Ascot came, Hawtrey entered the Enclosure to the great surprise of Lord Churchill, His Majesty's Representative at Ascot, who said: "I don't remember sending you a badge." Hawtrey explained that this was not surprising as he hadn't - "King Edward did!"

It is said that when Queen Anne was in residence at Windsor Castle, she imported a large quantity of green velour material from France, in which she dressed her "Yeoman Prickers," who were armed with pikes to move people out of the way at the races! That particular practice doesn't sit comfortably with the modern day customer service ethic but the outfits are remembered with today's "Greencoats", the ceremonial guard for The Queen at Ascot, wearing the livery.

In the early 1920s, Lord Lonsdale drove every day from his rented house adjoining the Winkfield Road crossing, up the High Street to the racecourse entrance with outriders, drivers and footmen, all wearing his distinctive yellow livery. The proceedings were so grand that critics claimed he was trying to rival the Royal Procession.

The Duke of Norfolk must have been dismayed to read in The Times and The Telegraph on April 27, 1971 that Ascot would permit 'hot pants' in the Royal Enclosure! The next day he corrected the misinformation in no uncertain terms.

Back in 1954, The Queen had a famous Royal Ascot triumph with the brilliant Aureole, who had suffered a minor eye injury a few days before the Meeting. When visiting the paddock just before the race, The Queen asked her jockey, Eph Smith, who wore a hearing-aid, whether he would win. The reply came: "Well, Ma'am, we are rather handicapped. The horse is blind in one eye and I'm deaf!"

King Edward VII's mother, Queen Victoria, was known to have frowned upon her son's general and unparalleled enthusiasm for good living and, of course, racing, but on his accession in 1901, the new King closed the Royal Stand completely for the Royal Meeting due to the death of his mother and requested that all those who attended within the Royal Enclosure wear black.

Due to the knock on effects of the General Election, the 2001 Royal Procession was restricted to two days as the horses and carriages were required to convey The Queen to Westminster for the State Opening of Parliament on the Wednesday and had to be in place for a practice on Tuesday. The Royal Party, including The Queen, came by car on both days and arrived in time for racing.

Sir John Crocker Bulteel was Clerk of the Course from 1946 until his death in 1956. A figure of great importance in the history of Ascot Racecourse, Sir John Crocker Bulteel was known as an outstanding racing administrator but it was his love of racing that he is most famous for. It is due mainly to the dedication of Sir John that today Ascot stages more than just the Royal Meeting. The King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Stakes, initially run as the Festival of Britain Stakes, was his brainchild. The race was first run in 1951 and did more than any other race to change the face of top-level racing in this country and, ultimately, the world. It promoted the cause of international inter-age competition and more often than not, its winner is the seasonal champion.

During the foot and mouth outbreak in 2001, the management suggested that ladies bear in mind the precautionary foot and mouth disinfectant mats on all entrances to the racecourse when considering their footwear. Not everyone listened which made for some interesting pictures in the likes of "Hello" and "Harpers" that year!

In 1964, Trelawny was to bid for a third consecutive Ascot Stakes/Queen Alexandra Stakes double. He was beaten in the Ascot Stakes but would have walked over in the Queen Alexandra on Friday had the meeting not been abandoned due to waterlogging. This is the answer to a question which appeared in the Racing Post Christmas quiz in 2001 and resulted in numerous calls to all departments at the racecourse!

In 2005, Ascot auctioned some 300 lots of memorabilia associated with the old stand. The auction raised £389,965 with Racing Welfare the primary beneficiary with the bulk of this coming from a bid of £280,000 for the wrought cast iron entranceway from the track to the Winners' Enclosure, purchased by leading owner Bill Gredley. The crowd fell silent as the bid just kept going up and up from an original reserve of just £20,000 - £30,000!

Jockeys at Ascot are called to mount by a bell in the parade ring and, unique to Ascot, a bell is also rung as the horses swing into the straight for races run on the round course.

A familiar sight at Royal Ascot is the arrival of horse-drawn carriages along the High Street, to the sound of hunting horns. These carriages belong to members of the country's carriage clubs, who stable their horses during racing whilst they enjoy their club facilities on course prior to departure.

MEDIA & RACING CONTACTS

Nick Smith
Director of Racing and Communications
07771 791449
nick.smith@ascot.co.uk

Ashley Morton-Hunte
Corporate and Racing Communications Manager
07803 007997
ashley.morton-hunte@ascot.co.uk

Chris Stickels,
Head of Racing and Clerk of the Course
07970 621440
chris.stickels@ascot.co.uk

Olivia Hills
Owners & Trainers Manager
07717 516066
olivia.hills@ascot.co.uk

Sarah Maxwell
Production Manager
07817 124002
sarah.maxwell@ascot.co.uk

Alexandra Bertram
Consumer PR Manager
07890 630608
alexandra.bertram@ascot.co.uk

ACCREDITATION & MEDIA SERVICES

- For press facilities information & accreditation enquiries please email pr@ascot.co.uk
- A press office number will be provided on site in all media facilities for general editorial enquiries during the week of Royal Ascot
- For photographs please contact Getty Images: 0800 376 7977
- During Royal Ascot, Racenews are contracted to provide up to the minute press releases to the press rooms, to broadcasters, to public notice boards on site and to their email database
- Complimentary catering is provided in all media facilities

