



THE PRINCE'S  
COUNTRYSIDE  
FUND RACEDAY



**THE PRINCE'S COUNTRYSIDE FUND CELEBRATES HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES BIRTHDAY AT ASCOT**

On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November, racegoers enjoyed the fourth renewal of The Prince's Countryside Fund Raceday at Ascot, attended by TRH The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall.

Celebrating his recent 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, HRH, The Prince of Wales met supporters, ambassadors and beneficiaries of his Countryside Fund throughout the day. As part of the celebrations, HRH unveiled a magnificent bronze horse statue by Nic Fiddian-Green in the Pre-Parade Ring entitled, "Into the Wind", as well as cutting a beautifully detailed celebration cake kindly made by Fiona Cairns.

Initial estimates suggest that over the last four years over £1.3m will have been raised for the Fund, making the Ascot event the biggest fundraiser in The Prince's Countryside Fund calendar. The monies will go towards their practical work in securing a brighter future for farms and rural communities across the UK.

The event saw a full day of jumps racing and featured The Prince's Countryside Fund Charity Race, an opportunity for amateur jockeys to take on the challenge of riding on the Ascot turf.

Rosie Margaron won the race with Caribbean Spring, trained by her father George Margaron. Caribbean Spring ran well from start to finish, having made a good start, with Samantha Hills, riding Strategic Heights, closing behind her in second.

Between them, the eleven riders have raised in excess of £25,000 through sponsorship with the money raised helping The Fund continue its vital work.

Lord Curry of Kirkharle, Chairman of The Prince's Countryside Fund, said:

"Friday's event was immensely successful. Not only did we raise a fantastic amount for the charity, but we also had the opportunity to share with racegoers and the wider racing community the valuable work we are doing to help secure a sustainable future for British

farming and the countryside. We are incredibly grateful to the sponsors and visitors who supported the event and the team at Ascot for putting on such a memorable day.”

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

“We are proud to support this invaluable charity, which was set up in 2010 by HRH The Prince of Wales to help secure a brighter future for those in need in rural Britain. In its short history, the Fund has provided some £9 million to 225 projects, helping rural communities across the UK.”

Thanks go to race sponsors Waitrose & Partners, Coutts, Davidstow, The David Brownlow Charitable Foundation, Tindle Newspapers, M&S Food, and The Royal Ascot Racing Club for helping to make the day such a huge success once again.

**ENDS**

**For further information and images, please contact:**

Ashley Morton-Hunte, Corporate and Racing Communications Manager, Ascot Racecourse:  
Email: [Ashley.Morton-Hunte@ascot.co.uk](mailto:Ashley.Morton-Hunte@ascot.co.uk); Tel: 01344 878508

Lucy Smith, Corporate Partnerships Manager, The Prince’s Countryside Fund  
Email: Lucy [Smith@bitc.org.uk](mailto:Smith@bitc.org.uk); Tel 0771 4684711

Ellie Jesson, Comms Manager, The Prince’s Countryside Fund (Away until 28<sup>th</sup> Nov)  
Email: [Ellie.Jesson@bitc.org.uk](mailto:Ellie.Jesson@bitc.org.uk); Tel: 0789 1058178

**Notes to Editors:**

Nic Fiddian-Green, the mastermind behind the “**Into the Wind**”, is renowned for the monumental size of his works and his obsession with the horse as a sculptural subject. His fixation began after visiting the ancient marble carving of the head of Selene, a remarkable sculpture of a wild snarling horse and since that day he has passionately sculpted his own interpretations of the horse head.

This bronze statue depicts a horse being ridden face on into a strong wind, nose down, ears back, proud and powerful. It is 12ft high and weighs 1.5 tonnes.

Fiddian-Green produces his works in his studio in Surrey or Perugia, Italy. He sculpts in clay or plaster which is then cast in bronze and has also created pieces in copper, beaten lead and more recently, in precious materials such as gold, silver, jade, lapis and stone and marble.

Established by HRH The Prince of Wales in 2010, **The Prince's Countryside Fund** aims to enhance the prospects of family farm businesses and the quality of rural life. We believe that the British countryside is our most valuable natural asset and its contribution to our everyday life cannot be underestimated.

To help support and secure the future of the countryside the Fund:

- Provides more than £1.1m each year in grant funding to projects across the UK thanks to support from our partners, events and donations
- Celebrates and promotes the value of the countryside
- Leads projects to strengthen farm businesses, such as The Prince's Farm Resilience Programme
- Commissions research into issues affecting farming families and rural communities
- Brings together individuals and businesses to help tackle current challenges
- Helps communities in crisis through our Emergency Fund

To find out more about the work of the Fund visit [www.princescountrysidefund.org.uk](http://www.princescountrysidefund.org.uk)

### **Charity Race Riders:**

Beccy Green – Business development manager for Racing UK and previously worked at Ascot Racecourse

Camilla Swift – Supplements editor for The Spectator

Emily Baxendale – Founder and creative director at Emily-London milliners

Hetta Stevens – Runs her own pre-training, breaking-in, rest and rehabilitation yard

Kiah Adams – Works full time for trainer Patrick Chamings

Maurice McCarthy – Runs Green Waste Management Ltd and charity race stalwart

Nicholas Collins – General manager of family business Martin Collins Enterprises, supplier of synthetic surfaces

Patrick Chesters – Head of Gaming at Chester and Bangor-on-Dee racecourses

Rosie Margaron – Amateur jockey and daughter of trainer George Margaron

Rosie Tapner – British fashion model and student at Oxford Brookes University

Samantha Hills – Senior client manager for Racing Breaks and daughter of Derby-winning jockey Michael Hills