



ROYAL ASCOT

Tuesday 19th - Saturday 23rd June 2018



MEDIA GUIDE

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WELCOME TO ROYAL ASCOT

FROM HER MAJESTY'S REPRESENTATIVE



Welcome to Royal Ascot. A unique spectacle of sport, style and pageantry. It is the pinnacle of Flat Racing, drawing competitors, racegoers and attention from around the world. Once again, ITV are broadcasting all

our 30 races live, and for the second year, there will be live coverage each day in America from NBC. Globally, viewers in some 175 nations will be watching this wonderful event.

Every day at 2.00 p.m. the four-carriage Royal Procession will enter the racecourse from Windsor Great Park, making its way along the home straight in front of the grandstand, before arriving in the Parade Ring. In a really exciting year for the Royal Family, we very much look forward to welcoming members here, as we have done for over 200 years. Her Majesty the Queen will present trophies for two races this week; Thursday's Gold Cup and Saturday's Diamond Jubilee Stakes. As a racehorse owner, the Queen has had 23 winners at Royal Ascot and it is always a huge thrill when Her Majesty's colours are in action.

This year's Royal Meeting provides a record £7.3m in prize money, an increase of 10% on 2017. Our eight championship Group 1 races are each worth a minimum of £500,000. We would not be able to do this without our Official Partners, QIPCO and Gigaset and our Official Timekeepers, Longines. May I take this opportunity to thank them, alongside all our Official Suppliers, for their continuing generous support.

Last year we introduced several innovations to the Royal Ascot experience, headlined by the opening of The Village Enclosure on the inside of the racecourse, the first new enclosure in over 100 years. Well-attended and

enthusiastically received, The Village Enclosure returns for 2018, providing the same warm, lively atmosphere.

We also launched the Ascot Shop last year, and now there is an additional outlet on the Royal Enclosure lawns. Offering a range of Ascot-branded products alongside those of our Official Licensees, the shop provides a great opportunity for souvenirs and elegant accessories.

Royal Ascot has always led on sartorial style and the shop's merchandise includes scarves, ties, waistcoats and hats. Regency England's Beau Brummell was largely responsible for the dress codes we still have today, but perhaps not many gentlemen now spend the five hours a day he took to dress, or follow his advice to polish their boots with champagne!

As part of Ascot's programme of constantly improving, there are several new restaurants across the racecourse this year, and we are thrilled to have Scottish Chef of the Year, Adam Handling, with us, along with Michelin-starred Raymond Blanc, Phil Howard and Simon Rogan.

Horses have been racing across the turf at Ascot for more than 300 years and this week will certainly witness more heroic sport of the highest quality within beautiful surroundings. However you choose to enjoy your visit to the Royal Meeting, all the team here at Ascot Racecourse would like to offer you their warmest welcome.

I hope you have a wonderful time with us.

Johnny Weatherby
Her Majesty's Representative

ROYAL ASCOT | VISITOR INFORMATION

NEED TO KNOW

Make sure you get the most out of your visit by finding out the 'what, where and when' of the Royal Meeting

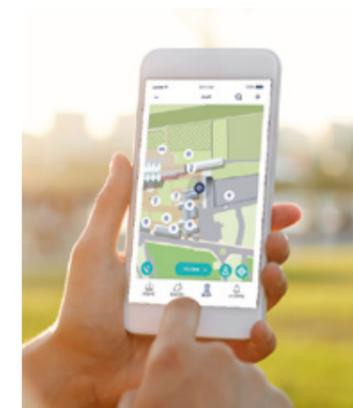


About

Royal Ascot is Britain's most valuable race meeting, attracting many of the world's finest racehorses. For more than 300 years Ascot Racecourse has been at the heart of the British sporting and social calendar. The Royal Meeting promises five days of world-class racing, high fashion, pageantry and fine dining as the racecourse welcomes more than 300,000 visitors from across the globe – a truly remarkable occasion.

Royal Ascot online

WiFi is free around the racecourse. Log in to follow us on Twitter @Ascot, on Instagram @ascotraceracecourse, 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.



ORDER OF THE DAY

9:00AM

Gates to car and coach parks open

10:30AM

Racecourse gates open

2:00PM

Royal Procession

2:30PM

First race

5:35PM

Last race

After racing entertainment

Royal Enclosure and Queen Anne Enclosure Bandstand singing

Village Enclosure (Thu-Sat) Live music

Windsor Enclosure DJ (Tue-Wed) Live music (Thu-Sat)

9:00PM

Car and coach parks close



RACING AT ROYAL ASCOT

RECORD PRIZE MONEY OF £13.45 MILLION AT ASCOT IN 2018

An increase to prize money across Ascot's 25 racedays (excluding the industry-owned QIPCO British Champions Day) was announced earlier this year. This represents an increase of £1.2 million, 10% up on the 2017 figure of £12.2 million.

Royal Ascot will be worth over £7 million for the first time at £7,305,000 (2017: £6,665,000, +10%) whilst the King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Stakes (Sponsored by QIPCO) in July is up £100,000 to £1,250,000, the most the race has ever been run for.

No race at Royal Ascot will be run for less than £90,000 (2017: £80,000) and Group One prize money now begins at £500,000 (2017: £400,000).

Executive Contribution to prize money in 2018 is £7,100,000 (2017: £6,500,000, +9%).

Nick Smith, Director of Racing at Ascot Racecourse, said: "Our total prize money this year is over £13 million for the first time, with Royal Ascot well over £7 million, which are important milestones.

"Royal Ascot prize money has increased 62% since 2012 (£4.5 million), with the annual programme having increased 46% in that period (2012: £9.3 million). This has been important in terms of maintaining the international appeal of Royal Ascot and the King George and in terms of appropriately funding the rapid development of the racing programme in recent years, headlined by the inauguration of the Group One Commonwealth Cup in 2015 and the elevation of the Queen's Vase to Group Two last year, both with excellent results."

Guy Henderson, Chief Executive at Ascot Racecourse, said: "Under our statutory racing trust, all of Ascot's returns are invested for the benefit of horsemen, our racegoers and off course followers, both in the UK and internationally.

"In order to continue to attract the best horses to run at Ascot, and with the Royal Meeting a shop window for international investment in British racing, it is important that we offer as competitive prize money as we can, particularly at the high end.

"It is therefore pleasing to be able to announce, through balanced progress, that Ascot is able to offer record prize money alongside our other investments and continuing to reduce our Grandstand debt on schedule."

ORDER OF RUNNING CHANGES FOR ROYAL ASCOT

Minor order of running changes have been made for 2018, following the EPC's confirmation of race planning changes in Britain related to Listed Handicaps.

"No race at Royal Ascot will be run for less than £90,000."

Royal Ascot has staged two Listed Handicaps in recent years - The Wolferton and Sandringham.

Following consultation through the BHA Flat Pattern Committee, the Wolferton now becomes a straight Listed race and the Sandringham becomes a regular handicap.

The Wolferton as a non-handicap moves to Tuesday from Saturday, in order to maximise the distance between it and the Listed Gala Stakes at Sandown in its new form. The Windsor Castle Stakes moves to Saturday in reverse.

The Sandringham Handicap moves from Wednesday to Friday. This race is now, effectively, a fillies' Britannia and will be run as race five on the card. This brings into line the feature handicaps on each day being run as race five, arguably the most betting friendly position for such races.

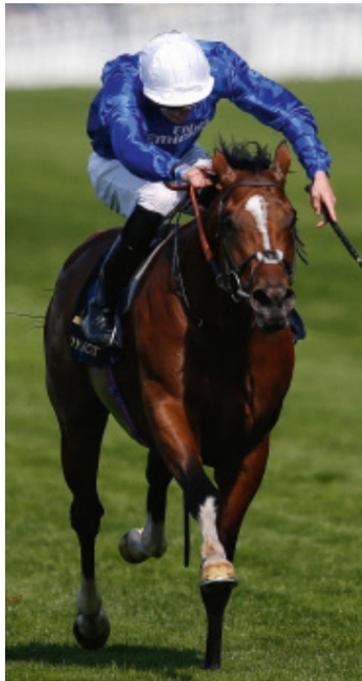
The Queen's Vase moves in reverse from Friday to Wednesday, when no Village (infield) Enclosure operates. This is considered to be a more suitable environment for the three-year-olds, without a crowd where the stalls are positioned.

These changes have also enabled the racecourse to generally better balance the straight / round programmes on each day, whilst not making fundamental changes to the programme:

2018 (Straight : Round): 3:3, 4:2, 2:4, 3:3 and 4:2.
2017 (Straight : Round): 4:2, 5:1, 2:4, 2:4, and 3:3.

RESERVES AT ROYAL ASCOT

Reserves will be declared at the 48-hour stage for all Royal Ascot eligible handicaps. Up to three reserves can replace non-runners any time up to 9am the day before the race. Eligible races are the Royal Hunt Cup, the Britannia, the King George V, the Wokingham and the Duke of Edinburgh handicaps.



ONE FOR THE AGES

Sparkling performances, benchmark wins and a showpiece thriller – Royal Ascot 2017 hit the heights

IT NEVER FAILS to produce heart-pounding, once-in-a-lifetime moments. In another meeting for the ages, Royal Ascot 2017 will live long in the memory of those who witnessed it. Amid the vibrant fashion kaleidoscope, Royal Blue was the predominant colour in the Winners' Enclosure on the first of a mesmerising five days, where almost £7 million in prize money was on offer.

Godolphin's silks were carried to victory in three of the opening six races. Ribchester may have meandered off a straight line, but the queues of bettors were true and long for a pay-out when the 11-10 favourite broke the track record in the opening Queen Anne Stakes, sparking a 124-1 treble for Sheikh Mohammed's operation.

The sun-kissed ground produced another course record when Rajasinghe broke the six-furlong track record for two-year-olds in the Coventry Stakes, before American trainer Wesley Ward's flying filly Lady Aurelia ran out a dominant Royal Ascot winner for the second year running. She scorched home in a little over 57 seconds to land an ultra-strong renewal of the King's Stand Stakes by three lengths from the 2016 winner Profitable, supplementing her Queen Mary Stakes victory the previous year.

Ward was the first US-based trainer to achieve a winner at the iconic meeting in 2009 and Lady Aurelia's win under John Velasquez gave the Washington State handler an eighth Royal Ascot success. "Royal Ascot is what I live for – it's the focal point of my year," said Ward. "Lady Aurelia is a true champion. This is a Group 1 featuring the fastest sprinters in the world, and to duplicate last year – she's a once-in-a-lifetime horse." Ward later recorded a ninth success when Con Te Partiro won the Sandringham Stakes.

Historic and momentous performances continued unabated. In an enthralling St James's Palace Stakes, the first two home in the 2,000 Guineas locked horns again and this time, the Richard Hannon-trained Barney Roy overcame his Newmarket conqueror as the odds-on Churchill, who had also won the Irish Guineas, could only finish fourth to James Doyle's mount. Godolphin capped a splendid afternoon when the Charlie Appleby-trained Sound And Silence pipped stablemate Roussel in the Windsor Castle Stakes.

A truly global meeting saw a French-trained double on day two, with André Fabre's Le Brivido and Jean-Claude Rouget's Qemah taking the Jersey Stakes and Duke Of Cambridge Stakes respectively, but soon after it was Ireland dancing for joy. Former King George →

ABOVE

Royal Blue was the winning colour in three of the six opening races last year

ROYAL ASCOT | 2017 REVIEW

winner Highland Reel stayed on resolutely under a fine ride from Ryan Moore to beat Decorated Knight, ridden by Andrea Atzeni, in the Prince Of Wales's Stakes. Trainer Aidan O'Brien and the Coolmore team were just getting started.

With the eyes of the fashion and racing worlds fixed firmly on day three, wins for both Coolmore and Godolphin in the shape of Sioux Nation (Norfolk) and Benbatl (Hampton Court) were just the appetiser. The iconic Gold Cup produced a thriller. To race over two-and-a-half miles and then have the first two separated by a few inches tells its own story, but Big Orange's brave front-running defeat of 2016 winner and favourite Order Of St George raised the roof and gave Doyle the second of two massive wins.

Moore finished the meeting as the top jockey for a seventh time in eight years and O'Brien as the top trainer, the pair gaining plenty of compensation for the Gold Cup near miss as Winter and Caravaggio provided a Commonwealth Cup and Coronation Stakes Group 1 treble.

September impressively took the Chesham Stakes for the duo to start the final day, yet after such an incredible week, perhaps the best was saved until last. Popular sprinter The Tin Man, powered



home in the Diamond Jubilee Stakes under Tom Queally to secure a notable Ascot Group 1 double. The roar from the 75,000-strong crowd was loud and heartfelt, and the celebrations lasted long after the last chorus of *Land Of Hope And Glory* around the Bandstand. ◦

TOP TO BOTTOM

James Doyle riding Big Orange (right) led all the way to win The Gold Cup in 2017; Tom Queally riding The Tin Man took The Diamond Jubilee Stakes last year





ROYAL ASCOT 2018
ORDER OF RUNNING AND PRIZE MONEY

TUESDAY 20TH JUNE 2017

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)	£400,000	The King's Stand Stakes (Group 1)	£500,000
The St James's Palace Stakes (Group 1)	£400,000	The St James's Palace Stakes (Group 1)	£500,000
The Ascot Stakes (Handicap)	£80,000	The Ascot Stakes (Handicap)	£90,000
The Windsor Castle Stakes (Listed)	£80,000	The Wolferton Stakes (Listed)	£100,000

TUESDAY 19TH JUNE 2018

WEDNESDAY 21ST JUNE 2017

The Jersey Stakes (Group 3)	£90,000	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 Duke of Cambridge Stakes (Group 2)	£175,000	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 Royal Hunt Cup (Heritage Handicap)	£175,000	The Royal Hunt Cup (Heritage Handicap)	£175,000
The Sandringham Stakes (Listed) (Handicap)	£80,000	The Jersey Stakes (Group 3)	£90,000

WEDNESDAY 20TH JUNE 2018

THURSDAY 22ND JUNE 2017

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)	£400,000	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

THURSDAY 21ST JUNE 2018

FRIDAY 23RD JUNE 2017

The Albany Stakes (Group 3)	£80,000	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)	£400,000	The Commonwealth Cup (Group 1)	£500,000
The Coronation Stakes (Group 1)	£400,000	The Coronation Stakes (Group 1)	£500,000
The Queen's Vase (Group 2)	£150,000	The Sandringham Stakes (Handicap)	£90,000
The Duke of Edinburgh Stakes (Handicap)	£80,000	The Duke of Edinburgh Stakes (Handicap)	£90,000

FRIDAY 22ND JUNE 2018

SATURDAY 24TH JUNE 2017

The Chesham Stakes (Listed)	£80,000	The Chesham Stakes (Listed)	£90,000
The Wolferton Rated Stakes (Listed Handicap)	£80,000	The Hardwicke Stakes (Group 2)	£225,000
The Hardwicke Stakes (Group 2)	£225,000	The Windsor Castle Stakes (Listed)	£90,000
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)	£80,000	The Queen Alexandra Stakes (Conditions)	£90,000
TOTAL	£6,665,000	TOTAL	£7,305,000

SATURDAY 23RD JUNE 2018

Full race conditions can be found on pages 83 - 85.

FOUR OVERSEAS COUNTRIES SET TO BE REPRESENTED IN 2018

Once again Royal Ascot was a cosmopolitan affair in 2017, with the headline act a second win at the Royal Meeting for the Wesley Ward-trained, Lady Aurelia.



LADY AURELIA wins the 2017 King's Stand Stakes.

Having scorched the Ascot turf over the minimum distance of five furlongs in the Queen Mary as a two-year-old in 2016, if anything she was even more impressive dispatching her rivals in the all-aged King's Stand Stakes on this occasion.

Lady Aurelia is owned by Stonestreet Farm and partners, with Barbara Banke at the helm.

Wesley Ward also made history at the meeting when winning the Sandringham with Con Te Partiro, a first handicap winner for the USA at Royal Ascot and a ninth overall success for the trainer.

A record 14 runners from the USA took part over the week, appropriately enough with the meeting carried extensively by NBC for the first time.

The Royal Meeting welcomed Todd Pletcher, Graham Motion, Mark Casse - returning after his ground-breaking win with Tepin in the 2016 Queen Anne - and, for the first time, Bill Mott.

Also talking of firsts, Ascot saw a first runner from Argentina in the King George in July, with South American champion, Sixties Song, in the line-up in a race which was ultimately won by Enable, who of course went on to win the Arc too.

Sixties Song joins a long list of recent champions from all over the world who, whilst ultimately unsuccessful, contributed to Ascot's reputation as the ultimate stage for equine flag bearers from far and wide. Like A Shin Hikari (Japan), Able Friend (Hong Kong), Treve (France) and Animal Kingdom (USA), he was a star in his homeland who took up the challenge and added so much international lustre to racing at Ascot.

Since the turn of the Millennium there have been 10 winners at Royal Ascot from America, two from Hong Kong, six from Australia - including Choisir twice and the



REDKIRK WARRIOR wins the 2017 Newmarket Handicap.

great Black Caviar in 2012 - and numerous horses have made it to the Winners' Enclosure from all around Europe.

Hopes will be high in Australia of a further winner in 2018, with Redkirk Warrior (David and Ben Hayes and Tom Dabernig), who is entered in the King's Stand Stakes and Diamond Jubilee Stakes. Frankie Dettori has been booked for the seven-year-old, who has already won two Group 1 contests in 2018, following up his success in the five-furlong Black Caviar Lightning at Flemington in February by taking the Newmarket Handicap over a furlong further at the same venue on March 10th under top weight.

American sprinters Bucchero (Tim Glyshaw), and the aforementioned Lady Aurelia and Bound For Nowhere (both Wesley Ward), are also amongst the possibles for the King's Stand and Diamond Jubilee Stakes.

Gidu (Todd Pletcher), a son of Frankel who runs in the famous colours of Zayat Stables, which were carried to US Triple Crown glory in 2015 by American Pharoah, leads America's bid for the Commonwealth Cup and he could be joined by Beckford (Brendan Walsh).

Perhaps most excitingly of all is the Bill Mott trained Yoshida, who will represent WinStar Farm (and partners, including China Horse Club), whose Justify will be seeking Triple Crown glory just days before the former lines up in the Queen Anne Stakes.

On the back of his recent win in the Grade One Turf Classic on the Kentucky Derby undercard, Jose Ortiz has been booked to ride Yoshida. He will also ride Bucchero at Ascot.

NEW TROPHIES

This year, for the first time, all Group One winning owners will be given trophies to keep, alongside the already permanently awarded trophies; the Gold Cup, the Royal Hunt Cup and the Queen's Vase.

The traditional perpetual trophies which are an important piece of Ascot history, will continue to be presented.

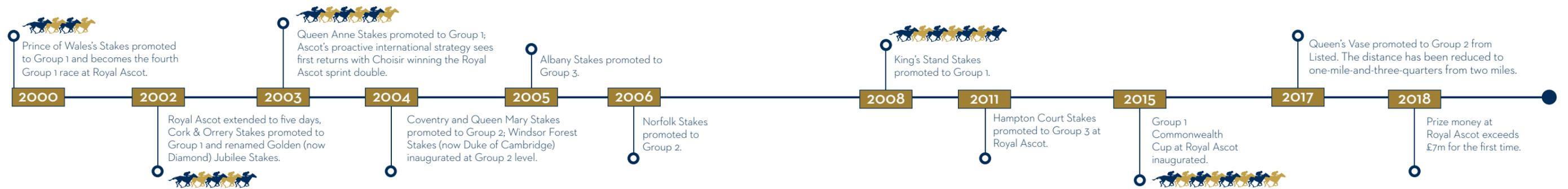
Every year, new ways to celebrate winners at Royal Ascot are considered, and this expands on the relatively new commemorative strawberry dishes presented to winning breeders.



Concept drawings of the new Garrard trophies.



ROYAL ASCOT'S RACE PROGRAMME MILESTONES SINCE 2000



THE WEATHERBYS HAMILTON STAYERS' MILLION



The WH Stayers' Million is a prize of £1 million that will be awarded to the connections of a horse that having won one of four recognised prep races in May - Longines Sagaro Stakes (Ascot), Boodles Diamond Ormonde Stakes (Chester), Yorkshire Cup (York) or the Matchbook Henry II Stakes (Sandown Park) - then goes on to win the Gold Cup at Royal Ascot in June, the Qatar Goodwood Cup at the Qatar Goodwood Festival in July and the Weatherbys Hamilton Lonsdale Cup at York's Welcome to Yorkshire Ebor Festival in August.

The £1 million would be split as follows between the following connections: 70% to the owner, 7.50% to the trainer, 7.50% to the stable staff, 7.50% to the breeder and 7.50% to the jockey (split 1/3rd per race if there is a different jockey in the three principal races).

THE PRELIMINARY RACES

The four preliminary races all took place at intervals in May and were recognised preparatory races for the season's feature staying races:

- i) The Longines Sagaro Stakes: Ascot, Group 3, 2 miles, 4 year olds and up 2nd May 2018. Several winners of the Longines Sagaro Stakes have won the Gold Cup in the same season, the most recent being Estimate in 2013.

WINNER: **TORCEDOR**

- ii) The Boodles Diamond Ormonde Stakes: Chester, Group 3, 1 mile 5 furlongs, 4 year olds and up.

10th May 2018 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. In recent years it has been won by leading stayers such as Brown Panther and Dartmouth.

WINNER: **IDAHO**

- iii) The MansionBet Yorkshire Cup: York, Group 2, 1 mile 6 furlongs, 4 year olds and up.

18th May 2018 First run in 1927, it takes place during York's Dante Festival and its winners include legendary horses 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.

WINNER: **STRADIVARIUS**

- iv) The Matchbook Henry II Stakes: Sandown Park, Group 3, 2 miles, 4 year olds and up.

24th May 2018 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.

WINNER: **MAGIC CIRCLE**

THE MAIN EVENTS

- i) Gold Cup at Royal Ascot: Ascot, Group 1, Two miles four furlongs, 4 year olds and up.
21st June 2018 England's most prestigious race for Stayers is the centrepiece of the Royal Meeting.

- ii) The Qatar Goodwood Cup: Goodwood, Group 1, Two miles, 3 year olds and up.
31st July 2018 First run in 1808, a year after the Gold Cup at Royal Ascot, it is a natural progression for the winner of that race.

- iii) The Weatherbys Hamilton Lonsdale Cup: York, Group 2, Two miles, 3 year olds and up.
24th August 2018 Weatherbys Hamilton has sponsored the Lonsdale Cup since 2013 and it is run during the Welcome to Yorkshire Ebor Festival.

THE RECORDS

Although the records do not give us a previous winner of the Gold Cup at Royal Ascot, Goodwood Cup and Lonsdale Cup in the same season, they do show a number that have won both the Gold Cup and the Goodwood Cup and would presumably have been given the chance of winning the Lonsdale Cup if the bonus had been in existence. These include Le Moss (1979 & 1980), Ardross (1981), Gildoran (1984), Sadeem (1988), Double Trigger (1995) and Yeats (2006 & 2008).

In 1995 Double Trigger won two of the preliminary races - the Sagaro and Henry II Stakes and finished third in The Yorkshire Cup.

Further Flight (1992) notched up the Goodwood Cup/Lonsdale Cup double but pride of place goes to Persian Punch in 2001 who 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 have all won two out of three of the Gold Cup at Royal Ascot, Goodwood Cup and Lonsdale Cup treble but not in the same year.

FOUR BREEDERS' CUP CHALLENGE RACES TO BE HELD AT ROYAL ASCOT IN 2018



Ryan Moore and HIGHLAND REEL win the Prince of Wales's Stakes (June 21, 2017).

Winners of Prince of Wales's Stakes, Queen Anne Stakes, Norfolk Stakes and Diamond Jubilee Stakes to earn Automatic Berths into 2018 World Championships.

In its continuing international expansion of the Breeders' Cup Challenge series, the Breeders' Cup, in conjunction with Ascot Racecourse, announced that winners of this year's Prince of Wales's Stakes (G1), Queen Anne Stakes (G1) Norfolk Stakes (G2) and Diamond Jubilee Stakes (G1) at the Royal Ascot meeting, will be awarded automatic "Win and You're In" berths into the 2018 Breeders' Cup World Championships at Churchill Downs.

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

The Breeders' Cup Challenge is an international series of more than 80 graded/group stakes races whose winners receive automatic starting positions and fees paid into a corresponding race of the Breeders' Cup World Championships, which will be run at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Kentucky on Friday, November 2 and Saturday, November 3.

The Breeders' Cup Challenge races at the 2018 Royal Ascot meeting are as follows:

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 20, 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 21, for 2-year-old males and fillies at five furlongs. The winner will receive a free berth into the new Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf Sprint, which will be run at 5 1/2 furlongs.

The Diamond Jubilee Stakes, June 23, 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 28, 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.

"There is nothing quite like the excellence, tradition and prestige of the Royal Ascot meeting, and we are so proud and delighted that the Prince of Wales's Stakes, Queen Anne, Norfolk and the Diamond Jubilee will be a part of the 2018 Breeders' Cup Challenge series as we continue to encourage international participation for the World Championships," said Craig Fravel, Breeders' Cup President and CEO. "We thank our partners at Ascot for working with us in accomplishing this goal, and look forward to the outstanding coverage from the NBC Sports Group of these fixtures, and extensive coverage of the Royal Ascot races in June.

"We're delighted to be participating in the Breeders' Cup 'Win & You're In' programme with races from Royal Ascot for the first time," said Nick Smith, Ascot Director of Racing and Communications. "These are pivotal race meetings in our respective jurisdictions and natural targets for the very best racehorses in the world. It's particularly pleasing to be involved from the start with the development of the new Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf Sprint. It'll provide an excellent new opportunity for European juveniles.

"Recent years have seen numerous Ascot winners successful at the Breeders' Cup, and it was wonderful to see Tepin perform the feat in reverse in 2015/16, especially being our first year of the hugely important NBC arrangement."



WORLD HORSE RACING

WORLD HORSE RACING LAUNCHES THE ULTIMATE DIGITAL RACING FAN EXPERIENCE

Iconic global racing festivals join forces to create a major new online platform for racing fans.

A new media company dedicated to telling the story of international thoroughbred horse racing launched last month.

World Horse Racing will give fans exclusive access to the thrills, glamour and culture of one of the world's most enthralling sports.

This new media brand is unique in being powered by four racing festivals – Ascot and Goodwood Racecourses in the UK, Breeders' Cup in the USA, and Australia's Victoria Racing Club.

Launching across the major social networks, World Horse Racing's fresh approach to the sport aims to earn the respect of hardcore fans and attract sports enthusiasts who have yet to explore horse racing.

World Horse Racing will focus on racing's athletes and personalities – human and equine – along with the festivals that stage the greatest of sporting spectacles.

The authority and access afforded by its global network of founding partners will allow World Horse Racing to bring fans closer to the sport's stars, and offer new treatments of international thoroughbred horse racing.

World Horse Racing will also connect the sport's stars with its fans by providing a platform for the very best in user generated content.

Coverage will be free to access on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube, along with an existing network of over a million who follow founding partner pages.

"We already know horse racing is one of the most popular sports in the world," said Ascot's Chief Commercial Officer, Juliet Slot, "but we felt there was real potential to tell our stories to a much wider audience. World Horse Racing gives us the perfect platform to reach a new generation of fans and give a compelling and engaging story. All four of us have so many fascinating tales to tell and it's these 'Wow, I never knew that' pieces of content that we're looking to celebrate."

Breeders' Cup CMO Bryan Pettigrew said: "Breeders' Cup continues to forge relationships and collaborate with international racing leaders to move the Thoroughbred industry forward. WHR is a prime example of the whole being greater than the sum of its parts. We anticipate a great partnership with Ascot, Flemington and Goodwood in promoting our sport on a global platform."

"Horse Racing has always had the most incredible stories that sit behind the sport," said Goodwood's MD, Adam Waterworth, "and World Horse Racing will tell those stories to a new and wider audience. In recent years the sport has become increasingly global, and so it seems the perfect time for a collection of the world's most important festivals to launch a new platform that will enrich the existing fans experience through some real behind the scenes and previously unseen content, as well as introduce racing to a new audience by focusing on the horses, the people, and the sport."

Neil Wilson, CEO of The Victoria Racing Club, said: "We're excited to join with Goodwood, Ascot and Breeders' Cup to showcase the best of horseracing around the world. This is an opportunity to broaden our reach and engage with racing fans globally by highlighting our spectacular race days including the four days of the world-renowned Melbourne Cup Carnival, our events, our equine and human athletes and the people behind it all, to new and existing audiences. World Horse Racing is a must-follow destination for fans seeking original and exclusive stories on and off the track."

World Horse Racing's social media will be produced and managed by Engage Digital Partners, which has a team of 80 staff in UK and India with on-ground presence in the Middle East, USA, Argentina and Australia.



CUSTOMERS INVITED TO "BET WITH ASCOT"

Unveiled last month was the new, on course customer facing brand identity for AscotBet - Bet With Ascot.

Bet With Ascot will be run in partnership with Totepool, who will continue to interface with betting shops (Tote Direct) and bookmakers' websites and streaming services for the joint venture.

Bet With Ascot will first be available to on course customers on Friday, 13th July.

AscotBet will remain the trading name of the company (Ascot Racecourse Betting & Gaming Ltd) and be the interface for overseas contracts.

Also announced today are the bets and logos Bet With Ascot will initially offer, including the new "Survivor" bet which is being launched at this year's Royal Meeting.

The Survivor bet is a knockout bet, where customers try and pick the winner for each race to be the last man standing. In the case of more than one winner, a dividend would be declared based on the number of winners.

Alastair Warwick, Chief Operating Officer at Ascot and Managing Director of AscotBet, looked forward to the July launch:

"This is a significant step towards the exciting date of 13th July. We are very proud of what we hope will be seen as a welcoming, clear, customer friendly overarching on course message - Bet With Ascot.

"Our core bet types, logos, and the marketing messages behind them follow the same principles. Specifically, for clarity, where possible we have aligned with BritBet - the First Two and First Three, for example.

"The Survivor bet is a new bet which Totepool are unveiling today and will run at Royal Ascot. Later in the year, we will introduce other initiatives tailored to specific race meetings and audiences, the most obvious opportunities being at the Dubai Duty Free Shergar Cup team event.

"In time, we intend to contribute returns from our pool betting arm into our wider CSR programme, to develop in due course into the Ascot Foundation.

"I'd like to thank our colleagues at Totepool for their input and expertise, and we look forward to continuing our flourishing relationship into the launch phase."

Phil Siers, Managing Director at Totepool, added:

"We are delighted to be launching the Bet With Ascot brand with Ascot. The scope for our partnership venture on course and through our international network is considerable and provides exciting opportunities."



2018 GOFFS LONDON SALE

GIVEN A NEW LOOK AT THE SAME ADDRESS

The 2018 Goffs London Sale in association with QIPCO will once again take place on the eve of Royal Ascot, Monday, 18 June 2018. The sale like no other, proffers buyers from around globe the rare and unique opportunity to buy into top quality breeding stock and horses-in-training, many of whom hold entries at the Royal Meeting, therefore allowing purchasers to buy a Royal Ascot runner and see it run under their own name and in their own colours.



This year will mark the fifth anniversary of the sale and will see a change of venue for the 2018 renewal, albeit at the same address, on the greenfield Perks Field site in Kensington Palace Gardens while renovations take place at the Orangery.

Henry Beeby, Group Chief Executive of Goffs said: "We have been thrilled with how the sale has developed and grown since 2014 with numerous success stories to come out of it, but we are always looking to improve and refine it each year. As we prepare for the fifth sale, the new site will allow us to create something bespoke and as a shop window on the eve of the most global race meeting in the world, we want to provide a spectacular experience for those who attend whether they are a new or existing buyer.

Our vision has always been to attract new investment into the sport and to be able to purchase a thoroughbred on the eve of Royal Ascot and see it run the same week in your name and in your own colours is something quite

unique and very attractive. We are indebted to the BHA for their ongoing assistance in this connection. Now that the Flat season is in full swing, we are actively following possible entries and will shortly announce some exciting potential sale toppers.

Once again, we would like to thank our title sponsor QIPCO for their continuous commitment to the sale along with our partners, Selfridges, Chateau Leoube, Select Mobile, and JetSmarter. Guests can continue to expect an experience like no other."

David Redvers on behalf of QIPCO and Sheikh Fahad Al Thani added: "As we always believed it would, the Goffs London Sale has established itself as a key event in the season and the perfect way to start Royal Ascot week. It is bringing new investors into the sport by providing them with the opportunity to own a Royal Ascot runner. As title sponsors, we are delighted with how the sale has developed and we very much look forward to this year's renewal."

Frankel fever lit up the inaugural London Sale in 2014 as a mare in foal to Frankel with a foal by him at foot sold for £1,150,000. The same sale saw a European top price of £1.3 million for Cappella Sansevero who finished a close second in the Coventry Stakes the following day. The 2016 renewal was topped by Irish 1000 Guineas winner Jet Setting who also sold for a European high of £1.3 million, while last year the Classic placed Lockheed topped the sale when bought for £900,000 to go to Hong Kong, again the highest price of the year in Europe.

The Goffs London Sale has sold the highest priced horses in training and recorded the highest HIT average in the UK in each of the past four years. Graduates of the sale include Australian Group 1 winner Pornichet, Classic winner Harbour Law and Saudi Arabian Group 1 winner Smoking Sun as well as Stakes winners such as Realtra, Jet Setting, Madam Dancealot and Mirage.



THE ROAD TO QIPCO BRITISH CHAMPIONS DAY



KEY | SP RACE TYPE SPRINT | MI RACE TYPE MILE | MD RACE TYPE MIDDLE DISTANCE | LD RACE TYPE LONG DISTANCE | FM RACE TYPE FILLIES & MARES

VISIT: BRITISHCHAMPIONSERIES.COM

THE BELL ÉPOQUE

Big Orange's Gold Cup victory brought joyous scenes from the Bell family, and their love affair with racing grows ever stronger

Words by Tony Stafford Photography by Simon Finlay



The bells; the bells. I'm sure the doom-laden phrase taken from the classic 1939 film *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* stays with anyone who hears it. It certainly resonates for me. When Gold Cup Day at the 2017 Royal Ascot meeting is remembered far into the future, the Bells or even 'the Bells, the Bells' will always strike a chord thanks to Big Orange's epic win.

A TALE OF TWO BROTHERS

Two brothers, sons of an itinerant Master of Foxhounds, who were born within just over a year of each other almost 60 years ago, have had disparate lives. Uncannily, though, their separate paths have had many similarities, culminating in their coalescence on the manicured Berkshire lawns on that memorable Thursday last June.

Rupert, the elder sibling, and brother Michael both loved horse racing, but a childhood fall put Rupert off riding horses, leaving Michael to pursue the riding and, eventually, his successful training career. The lads went into the Army, but Rupert, after initial forays into acting, had ambitions to become a broadcaster.

"The trouble with my ever trying to go on the stage," he said, "is I couldn't sing, couldn't dance and possibly most importantly, couldn't act!"

There is always a crucial moment in a family's fortunes and it is rarely a predictable happening. Capt. Bell senior, some years later, had the good luck and probably foresight to acquire a filly, Pass The Peace, who went into training with Paul Cole in Berkshire. At the time Cole was one of the up-and-coming training tyros, soon to win the Derby with Generous (1991) and, more than a decade later, the Gold Cup with Mr Dinos (2003).

Pass The Peace had been accompanied to the yard by Michael Bell, Cole's assistant, who, once he left the Army, always wanted

to ride and be in racing. No doubt Pass The Peace's career was helped along with a fair degree of filial care and attention, with the result that Cole developed the filly to win the 1988 Group 1 Cheveley Park Stakes – one of four victories from five starts at age two.

At the end of that season, Michael was sufficiently emboldened to go it alone and took over the rental of Fitzroy House stables in the centre of Newmarket. He sent out his father's star filly immediately to win Newbury's Fred Darling Stakes, a victory that put her in the forefront of the 1989 Classic picture.

Sadly, she was only fifth to joint second-favourite Musical Bliss in the 1,000 Guineas. Indeed, the Fred Darling was the last of her winning days. She does, though, have an indelible part in the family's story as Rupert recalled: "With the money Sheikh Mohammed gave father for her, he was able to buy the stables and Mike's been there ever since."

So now, in his 30th season as a trainer, situated almost slap bang in the middle of Newmarket High Street, Michael has one single distinction. He is the only active English-born trainer to have won all three of the Derby, the Oaks and the Gold Cup. Sir Michael Stoute is the nearest non-qualifier, born and raised in Barbados, while both Aidan O'Brien and Saeed bin Suroor, the other still-training pair with the distinction, are obviously from overseas.

Maybe it was completing that rare achievement which prompted the hysteria on the day. Michael, for the most part, kept it sensible, as befits one of Her Majesty's principal trainers – it wouldn't do, would it, to go mad in such company? But there were no such restraints on Rupert, covering the meeting for Royal Ascot TV as he has every day for 20 years, bar that of his father's funeral, and the year when it transferred to York for Ascot's rebuilding.

Rupert Bell has an icon-like status in his main weekday job on TalkSport, →

LEFT

The Bells (l-r: Rupert, Oli and Michael) at the Fitzroy House stables in Newmarket

providing wise words and commentaries on golf, Wimbledon tennis and racing, where his encounters with people such as Alan Brazil and Mick Quinn are always entertaining. He was broadcasting the station's Gold Cup commentary live when Big Orange struck for home, but ominously, the apparently invincible favourite Order Of St George was in hot pursuit. As they turned the corner, for anyone in the crowd not previously concentrating on the race amid all the extraneous clamour of the day, the Ascot bell, prophetically, rang out.

All the way up the straight, James Doyle on the giant, strikingly handsome Big Orange kept discovering hitherto hidden resources within his partner. Order Of St George and his jockey Ryan Moore would surely catch him before the finish, the experts felt, but Big Orange held on gallantly, thrillingly, by a short-head.

"I made a complete fool of myself," Rupert recalled, "screaming him home with little regard for impartiality [no Peter O'Sullivan, he], the word 'unbelievable' playing a major part. So much so, I earned the first award of my 40 years as a broadcaster for the 'most biased commentary of the year'."

A second more cherished and serious accolade followed in December: Journalist of the Year from the British Equestrian Federation, which capped his many years' fine work in the wider horse world.

Rupert participated in the early success, with a share in the smart filly Fair Titania in Michael's first season, but only now has he felt ready to go again, this time with a share in the 2018 two-year-old Heatherdown, of which, in true ownership mode, he said: "He shows promise."

TALENT ON TELEVISION

The two branches of Bells have kept pace in many ways, not least in terms of family. Each has had two marriages, with three children from their first and one from the second.

Rupert's son, Oli, is now 30 and one of the most recognisable faces on British television. He started as a very young trainee producer with Racing UK, quickly moving in front of the cameras as a main presenter for the channel. A two-year stint in Australia followed before the call to return in a bigger role at the mother ship.

Luck comes into most abrupt career enhancements and it was Oli's good



Michael Bell receives The Gold Cup from The Queen following Big Orange's win in 2017

"AIDAN O'BRIEN, M.V. MAGNIER AND J.P. MAGNIER ALL CAME UP TO OFFER CONGRATULATIONS ... THEY HAVE REAL CLASS"

fortune that when ITV took over the coverage of mainstream horse racing from Channel 4, they wanted to invigorate their team. Oli Bell, along with fellow Australia-oriented Francesca Cumani, fitted the more glamorous prototype needed for the new stable.

With his tall, athletic good looks, ready smile and ease of delivery, Oli was a natural from the start. If there is a danger lurking behind such comets in the unforgiving world of television, his innate fluency of delivery could possibly lead to complacency, you might think. But so far, so good.

Oli's story is one of independence from his father and his parallel family for much of his early years. If Rupert was unable to act, his son clearly showed some promise and, indeed, as he said: "I won an acting

scholarship to Oundle. Then again, mum was an acting coach."

Playing sports and backing horses were his main interests at school, but somewhere the uncanny, off-track parental influence led to a similar career path to his father's.

So there they were at Ascot, Rupert in his dual role as Royal Ascot TV presenter as well as commentator on TalkSport, and Oli, one of the team presenting ITV Racing in its first year's coverage of the Royal Meeting.

As Rupert's decibels soared to greet the Gredley colours on their way to glory, Oli's bodily mechanics went haywire as he careered wildly on the course in full view of the cameras as the last of the horses went by the post. "That was embarrassing for me, too. Good job he'd won and not been caught!"

Some might have struggled to 'career' at all on the Ascot track, but Oli, a man of many parts, helped subsidise his time in Australia by being paid to play football. He was going over the Sydney Harbour Bridge one day and thought he'd like to find a local team. He discovered North Sydney FC, one league below top pro status, and expected to make one of the lowest of the 11 teams they regularly fielded.

"When I went to training for the first time, I ran around a bit and was soon elevated a few levels. By the end of the first month, I was up near the seconds →



and eventually managed to score five and then seven goals in the two seasons when I got my chance as a second-string striker in the first 11. The money, while not great, was helpful and the experience showed me I wasn't too bad an athlete, either."

Any unsuspecting media types without a playing background should steer clear if invited to play in any charity football match against Oli as, by all accounts, he's a tough competitor. He did appreciate, though, the sportsmanship of the beaten Coolmore team. "Aidan O'Brien, M.V. and J.P. Magnier all came up to offer congratulations. That made the result even more special and showed they have real class."

THE BELLS CONTINUE

For his part, Michael has always been philosophical about his career, but usually remained optimistic. Now, according to Rupert: "He's as happy as he has ever been" and "with his eye firmly back on the ball".

With around 95 horses in his conveniently situated yard, with easy access behind to the gallops, and a two-minute walk from the front door to the post office and Newmarket High Street, no wonder he is content.

Clare, Michael's wife, and their three-and-a-half year old daughter Emily, who loves to go out to see the horses, have also enjoyed the revival. Michael's first marriage's break-up came much later than his brother's, but it naturally affected the day-to-day training.

Motivator's Derby and Sariska's Oaks had come and gone before the fracture. Now, after three decades with a licence, Michael is enjoying a revived outlook on racing and training and is especially delighted that one of the children from his first marriage has become an important cog in the operation.

Nick Bell, 21 – "he's always been Nick Bell, never Nick," says his father – was the archetypal trainer's son, even in his much younger days. He knew the form book from back to front and which end of a horse to put his money on. It must have helped that he always had his father's encouragement and support, which sometimes even extended to some initial 'tapping-up' of prospective owners before dad came in for the kill.

Latterly, Nick has been successful at picking out future winners from sales catalogues in his own right, thereby developing useful personal clients. His star is set as the future incumbent of Fitzroy House.

Nick is now assistant trainer, and his newly stretched-out, willowy look reflects how much physical effort he puts into the role, often riding at the head of the string out onto the gallops. Like all the Bells, he's in it for the long haul. As with the other three, success for him is easy to predict.

Nick's experience of the memorable day was perhaps the most prosaic of the four. While Michael went off to the trophy presentation and a handshake from Her Majesty, the assistant had to shrug off the euphoria of the moment to saddle Ronald R, their Bill Gredley-owned runner in the following Britannia Handicap. Ronald R almost did his part, too, failing by only half a length after a strong late run to complete a 101-1 double for the team.

It would perhaps be over optimistic to expect another day like the crowning of Big Orange, but even if there is not, you can be sure none of the quartet will ever forget where he was just before 4.30pm on Thursday 22 June 2017. ◻

ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT

The Bell quartet: Michael, Rupert, Nick and Oli



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 last year, the Flat Course Pop-Up irrigation system underwent a £150,000 overhaul. All 300 of the pop ups around the track were replaced and a new filter system fitted to the pump station.

Last year, together with the Injured Jockeys Fund (IJF), Ascot unveiled 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."

CHRIS STICKELS

CLERK OF THE COURSE

Thirteen may traditionally be an unlucky number, but not for the man who will be enjoying his 13th year as Clerk of the Course in 2018 for the world's most exciting race meeting

“Originally, I worked on the family farm in Kent. We always had an interest in racing – my parents both worked in the industry and I did a bit of part-time work in the weighing room at Arena courses about 25 years ago. Then I got the role as a groundsman, and then head groundsman at Folkestone Racecourse, before training to become a Clerk of the Course in 2001. I acted as Clerk of the Course for Folkestone, Lingfield and Windsor for several years until 2005, when I came to Ascot.

“This will be my 13th Royal Ascot and I am responsible for an excellent team of 19 full-time staff: 11 groundsmen, four gardeners, one mechanic, a stable manager, an owners' and trainers' manager and a racing executive. Contractors are brought in for racing and casual ground staff brought in for the summer months.

“The best part of the job is running a successful meeting with everyone going home happy. It is a real thrill if you can put on a successful Royal Ascot and you are happy with what you've done. There is a lot of organisation and preparation, so it is really satisfying.



“The worst part of the job is when you have any equine or human injuries on the track. The other challenging part of my role is when the weather does not work out as forecast.

“Every year is slightly different. We start preparing months in advance. In March, we consider what we will do to the track, in terms of fertilising it and aerating it, mapping out a programme,

and you must adapt slightly to the vagaries of the weather. This year, we've had slower growth and in such circumstances we consider using different types of fertiliser to get the grass growing as we would like. The key is in the preparation and attention to detail.

“If things are going according to plan in the build-up, it is all about tweaking and monitoring

the racing conditions the closer you get to the Royal Meeting, and then reacting accordingly.

“I am looking to produce a fast, safe surface for flat racing. On the first day of Royal Ascot last year, we had three Group 1 races and there was tail wind, which isn't that common. With perfect track conditions and the best horses in the world, it did not surprise me that three track records were set.

“My favourite Ascot moments change as the years go by. Initially, it was Yeats' fourth Gold Cup in 2009, then when Frankel won the Queen Anne and blew apart the rest of the field – that was amazing. That was topped by Estimate winning the Gold Cup for The Queen – a memorable occasion.

“As Royal Ascot approaches, you certainly get nervous, as ideally you want everything to be perfect. Very rarely does everything go exactly according to plan, however, and you know that around the corner the next challenge will present itself. The racing is so important, the prize money is so big and everyone is here, so it would be odd if I wasn't nervous – but I really enjoy it. It is a great thrill and a privilege to be involved.”



BROADCASTERS AT ROYAL ASCOT

Royal Ascot 2018 will be broadcast in 175 territories with a reach of 650 million households through Ascot's media rights arrangements with Pitch International and Racecourse Media Group (RMG).



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

The Opening Show preview programme will be shown daily at 10am along with daytime coverage starting at 1.30pm.

Usually all races are shown on ITV1, however as it is a World Cup year, there have been some scheduling changes.

	ROYAL ASCOT
Tuesday 19 June	Royal Ascot: The Opening Show 0930-1030 ITV4
	Royal Ascot: Live Racing
	1330-1525 ITV1 & 1520-1800 ITV4
Wednesday 20 June	Royal Ascot: The Opening Show 0930-1030 ITV4
	Royal Ascot: Live Racing
	1330-1800 ITV1
Thursday 21 June	Royal Ascot: The Opening Show 0930-1030 ITV4
	Royal Ascot: Live Racing
	1330-1800 ITV4
Friday 22 June	Royal Ascot: The Opening Show 0930-1030 ITV4
	Royal Ascot: Live Racing
	1330-1525 ITV4 & 1520-1800 ITV1
Saturday 23 June	Royal Ascot: The Opening Show 0930-1030 ITV4
	Royal Ascot: Live Racing
	1330-1525 ITV4 & 1520-1800 ITV1



This year, for the first time ever, NBC will televise the Saturday of Royal Ascot live on the NBC main channel from 9:00am-1:00pm ET. From Tuesday to Friday, NBCSN will present 4.5 hours of live daily coverage of the Royal Meeting to American audiences. All coverage will be streamed simultaneously on the NBC Sports app and NBCSports.com. Additionally, NBC's TODAY Show will provide live look-ins of the Royal Procession during event week.

Nick Luck returns to host five days of coverage and this year will be joined by TODAY Show correspondent Dylan Dryer for the Friday and Saturday telecasts. Dylan will conduct live hits into Friday's TODAY Show broadcast, and work alongside Nick Luck throughout NBC's Ascot shows. With an additional set position on the front-side of the track, and two added roving cameras, Nick and Dylan will provide comprehensive coverage of this singular racecourse, supplementing the primary ITV host coverage throughout the week.



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.

RACING UK

Racing UK (Sky 426, Virgin 536 and 411 (ROI), Freeview and YouView 261, racinguk.com)

The channel is live on-air at Ascot from 9am until 6pm for each of the five days, beginning with the Mark Your Card programme, which sets viewers up for the day with a mix of features, interviews and race previews.

The presentation team is set to be led by Lydia Hislop, Stewart Machin, Tom Stanley, Chris Dixon and Ruby Walsh, with Dave Nevison bringing you the latest from the betting ring.

After racing, they will be analysing all the top-class action with the help of touch-screen technology, in the Royal Ascot Replay programme.



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



NEW AT ROYAL ASCOT

On 7th March, Ambassadors and Members of the Commonwealth High Commissions were hosted at St James's Palace to celebrate the fourth annual renewal of the Commonwealth Cup.

At our Sagaro Stakes Raceday in May, Commonwealth High Commissioners were hosted at a reception and buffet lunch and given a behind the scenes tour with our famous Bowler Hat Stewards.

The fifth race of the card was run as the 'Celebrating the Commonwealth Paradise Stakes' to mark the occasion.

On Friday of the Royal Meeting, Commonwealth High Commissioners will be welcomed once again for the latest renewal of the Commonwealth Cup.

Throughout Royal Ascot, 31 bespoke looks from The Commonwealth Fashion Exchange will be exhibited in the Queen Anne Enclosure and Royal Enclosure.

The Commonwealth Fashion Exchange, in partnership with Swarovski, The Woolmark Company and MATCHESFASHION.COM, launched at a reception at Buckingham Palace during London Fashion Week in February.



A selection of the outfits created through the Fashion Exchange on display at Buckingham Palace.



The project showcases a wealth of fashion talent from across The Commonwealth's 53 countries, where designers and artisans collaborated to create bespoke womenswear looks to illustrate the power and potential in partnerships and global co-design.

The Commonwealth Fashion Exchange brings the values of the modern-day Commonwealth - women's empowerment, ethical production and supply chains, innovation, economic growth and poverty reduction - to life through the globally appealing medium of fashion.

Selected design talent includes major names such as Karen Walker representing New Zealand, Behno representing India, and Burberry and Stella McCartney representing the UK.



2017 CHARITABLE ACTIVITY

£380,000 WAS
RAISED FOR THE PRINCE'S
COUNTRYSIDE FUND IN 2017

BRINGING THE THREE
YEAR TOTAL TO
£1.1 MILLION

OVER
£20,000
RAISED

FOR THE INJURED JOCKEYS
FUND VIA ASCOT'S
AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME

OVER
£6,000
RAISED

VIA DONATED
PRIZES AT CHARITY
AUCTIONS

PARTNERED WITH THE
BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION PROVIDING
£30,000
OF GRANT FUNDING PA

OVER
£46,000
RAISED
VIA ONSITE CHARITY
BUCKET COLLECTIONS

**SUPPORTERS OF THE
ROA AWARDS, HERDS
FOR HOSPICES, THE
NOT FORGOTTEN
ASSOCIATION,
THE CHELSEA
PENSIONERS
& THE ASCOT
ROUNABOUT WAR
HORSE MEMORIAL**

600

RACEDAY TICKETS
DONATED TO
LOCAL SCHOOLS
& CHARITIES

1,500

BRANDED ITEMS
DONATED TO
LOCAL CHILDREN'S
CHARITIES

£41,000
RAISED

FOR THE ABF SOLDIERS' CHARITY

£40,000

DONATED TO
LOCAL & RACING
CHARITIES

£100,000 DONATED TO THE GRENFELL TOWER DISASTER FUND

£320,000

RAISED VIA THE PROPERTY RACEDAY
FOR CHILDREN'S CHARITIES

RACES GIVEN TO LOCAL CHARITY/COMMUNITY:

**THE BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION** CLARENCE
HOUSE STEEPLE CHASE

THE ASCOT UNITED FC
NOVICES' HANDICAP
STEEPLE CHASE

THE RACING WELFARE
HANDICAP HURDLE



ROYAL ASCOT 2018 CHARITABLE PROJECTS



WAR HORSE MEMORIAL

Ascot Racecourse is supporting the War Horse Memorial project led by Alan Carr MBE which will see a bronze horse erected on the Heatherwood Roundabout. This will be the first memorial dedicated exclusively to the millions of UK, Commonwealth and Allied horses, mules and donkeys lost during The Great War. The principal beneficiaries will be the Household Cavalry Foundation and Mane Chance Sanctuary.

Other charities, including Brooke and World Horse Welfare and more locally, the Blue Acre Horse Rescue, will also benefit. The racecourse has donated several artefacts which were blessed at a church service, attended by veterans' families, in April, and will be buried in a time capsule next to the Memorial below the horse's bowed head. A plaque is being erected on the racecourse land, cut into Car Park 1 so passers by can read about the statue. The statue will be unveiled on 8th June.

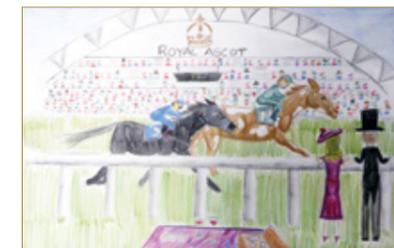


The War Horse sculpture which will be displayed on the Heatherwood roundabout.

ASCOT SCHOOLS ART COMPETITION

This year sees the launch of the Ascot Schools Art Competition. The competition is a community project giving children and schools in the local area the opportunity to have their artwork displayed in the Ascot Heath Tunnel, providing a colourful walkway for both Royal Ascot visitors and local residents.

Pupils aged 4-11 from 12 local schools were invited to submit their artwork, which had to incorporate the theme "A Celebration of Royal Ascot". The chosen entries will be displayed in the Heath tunnel ahead of Royal Ascot. Ascot staff and Ryan Moore judged the winning artwork.



A selection of entries for the Ascot Schools Art Competition.

SCULPTURES



work is recognised and collected all over the world.

Adam won the David Shepherd Wildlife Artist of the Year in 2010 and was elected a Member of the Society of Wildlife Artists in 2011.



"Nature is a wonder and a joy to observe, and it is through my sculpture that I endeavour to connect further with wildlife and capture the character of my subject. While I'm sculpting I feel I'm engaging with the spirit of the animal, sensing its subtle movement and suggestion in body language.

"For me, nature and sculpture are the perfect marriage. I see repetition in form, line, mass and detail throughout the natural world, sculpted over time but in perfect harmony. Conscious of these patterns, the concept for a sculpture becomes active in my mind and only when the composition, balance and emotion is clear do I begin to sculpt. I want to portray the simplicity of form, smooth flowing lines, natural rhythm and in doing so, free the eye to engage in the detail.

Nature is my passion and my constant distraction."

Adam exhibits "Cache Prize" this year.

CHARLIE LANGTON

Charlie Langton is an internationally renowned Equine Sculptor who has sculpted some of the top race horses in the racing world. He has works at many major racing venues including the stunning Yeats at Ascot, which was unveiled by Her Majesty The Queen in 2011, and the 'Mare & Foal' at Newmarket which was commissioned to mark the 90th birthday of Her Majesty The Queen in 2016.

Charlie will be exhibiting a life size sculpture of Treve at Royal Ascot this

year. Treve was unbeaten in four races in 2013, including the Prix de Diane, Prix Vermeille, and she won the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe twice in her career.

Charlie has had the privilege to work with many top horses, many of which from the Coolmore Stud, including Sadler's Wells, Montjeu, Galileo, Giant's Causeway and Fastnet Rock and, of course the beautiful Yeats, winner of the Ascot Gold Cup four times in succession, which is displayed at the Ascot Royal Enclosure.



ADAM BINDER

Adam lives and works in the Cotswold's where the bountiful and diverse environment provides endless resource for his inspiration.

One of Britain's leading wildlife sculptors, Adam has a signature fluid style of simple lines and flowing forms depicting both movement and emotion that beautifully captures the essence of his subjects. Working primarily in Bronze with earthy rich patinas, Adam's

CHARLES ELLIOTT

Young British Sculptor Charles Elliott works from his studio in Berkhamsted Hertfordshire, producing a wide range of handmade British luxury Sculptures. With his experienced team, using traditional and modern metal manipulating techniques, they are able to create large intricate pieces.

24-year-old Charles and his wife Abbe, have designed and created a range of equestrian sculptures using zinc finished mild steel. Their new equestrian range was inspired by his wife's love of horses and uses a progressive bright zinc galvanise finish, to protect from any rusting and corrosion.



Each of Elliott's sculptures are completely unique and can be seen online at www.elliottoflondon.co.uk.

Alongside travelling the world jumping her string of horses professionally, Abbe has a lot of input into the design and building process of the equestrian pieces.

Charles says "I would speak to Abbe 2-3 times a day whilst working on my equestrian sculptures, to ask her about details of muscle layouts and conformation, whilst looking through piles of close ups of horses in motion. She is very critical of my work and a perfectionist when it comes to the horses, metal or real life!"

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.

She is also a painter and has exhibited with the Royal Institute of Painters in Watercolours. A passionate gardener, she is profoundly struck by the mathematical rules which underpin the process of growth in the natural world. Fascinated by plant development, she recorded her vegetable garden in a series of paintings for a solo exhibition, "Le Potager", in Paris, in 1998.

At the same time, Anne began to explore sculpture. In 1989, she started studying with Rosemary Barnett, until recently Head of the Frink School of Figurative Sculpture.

She was quickly recognised as an accomplished portrait sculptor at home and abroad: her high-profile commissions have included the busts of Roy Jenkins, Michael Heseltine, and John Major, for the House of Commons collection of leading statesmen.

After working for several years on the human figure, Anne has once again found inspiration in nature and embarked on a new journey of discovery in her beloved garden. Captivated by life unfurling and developing in the form of flower buds, leaves and seed pods, she strives to translate this extraordinary process into stone, or, on a monumental scale, into bronze or resin.



HAMISH MACKIE

Through his work as a sculptor Hamish Mackie has had the privilege of observing wildlife in many corners of the world at first hand. This allows him to bring his passion for the natural world into his sculptures.

Largely self-taught, Hamish's style is unique; his work captures the inner core, strength, and grace of the subject. His sculptures are his own interpretation, and not a photographic representation of the subject. Through his close observation and his expressive manipulation of the materials, Hamish is able to capture an instinctive moment of animal behaviour.

Born in 1973, Hamish Mackie grew up on a livestock farm in Cornwall, England. He developed a love of wildlife at an early age. After Radley College, Falmouth School of Art and studying design at Kingston University, Hamish began sculpting full time in 1996, thus turning his passions into a career.

In 2007 Hamish built a studio in Oxfordshire, where he now lives and works with his wife Laura and their three daughters. Hamish has travelled to Antarctica, the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, Africa, United Arab Emirates, Australia and India to study his subjects and he often writes about these trips on his blog.



In 2014, Hamish Mackie won a major public art commission 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 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.



GILL PARKER

In May 1983 Gill took her first bronzes to London where they were bought by Garrards and Asprey.

Early support and encouragement from the Sladmore Gallery led to her first one women show in November 1984. Since then she has become a leader in the field of equine and wildlife sculpture. With many major commissions to her name including the life size bronze Motivator at Ascot Racecourse. Gill's sculpture is eagerly sought by art collectors around the world and is in many public and private collections.

Gill lives and works in a beautiful part of rural Gloucestershire, along with a various assortment of animals. Gill also breeds and shows American Quarter Horses with which she has won numerous European and National championships.



SIMON GUDGEON

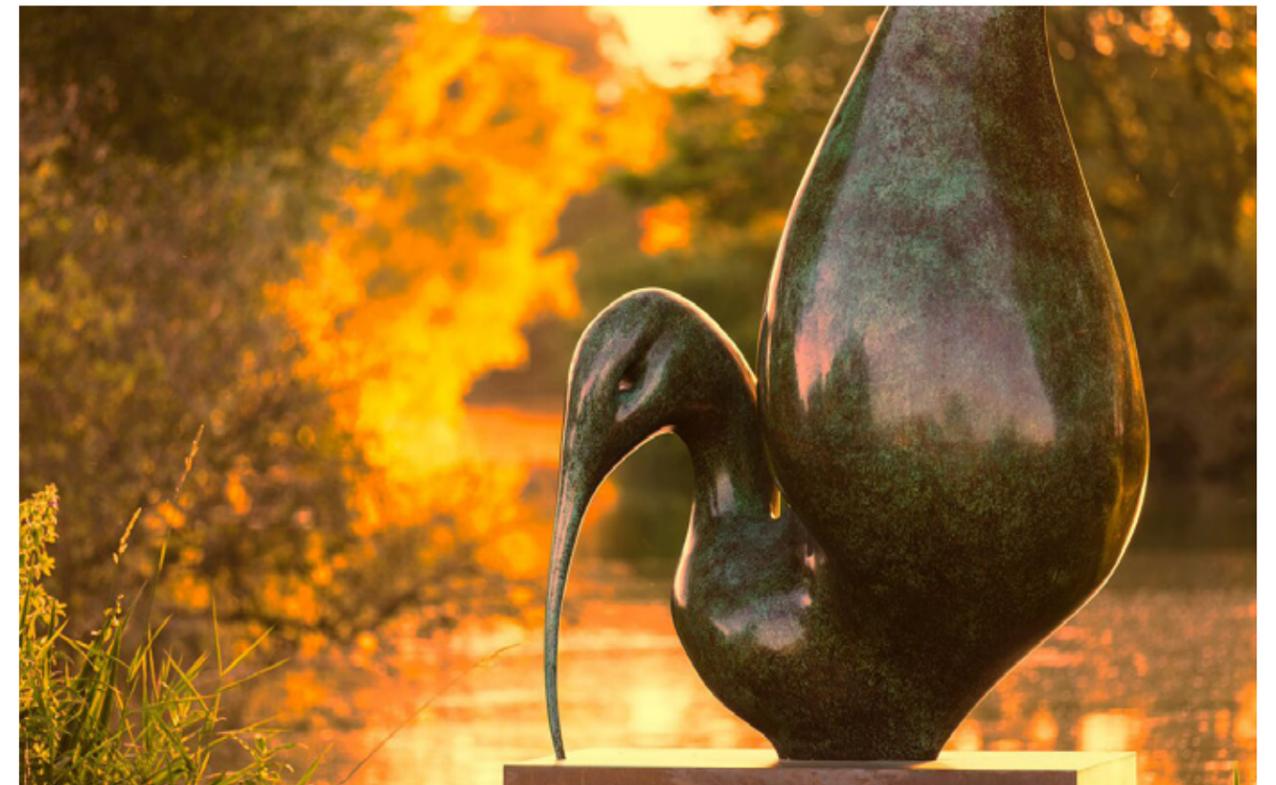
One of Britain's leading contemporary sculptors, Simon Gudgeon has a signature smooth style that marvelously concentrates spirit and nature. His minimalist, semi-abstract forms depict both the movement and emotion of a moment captured with a visual harmony that is very much his own.

Born in Yorkshire in 1958, Gudgeon 'lived deep in the countryside on the family farm, learning the essential arts of observation, evaluation and interpretation of how animals and birds behave, both with each other and man'. An impulse purchase of artist's clay at the age of 40 led him into his new career as a sculptor, responding to what lay closest to his heart: the natural world.

Since then Gudgeon has attained worldwide recognition, with exhibitions in London, New York, San Diego, Paris and the Netherlands. His works are featured in important private collections abroad and in the United Kingdom, including those of His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, TRH The Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall, TRH The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, The Duke of Bedford and The Duke of Northumberland.

Gudgeon sculpts primarily in bronze, marble and granite and occasionally in glass or stainless steel. Trips to Africa, Asia and Australasia have enabled Gudgeon to broaden his subject matter and experiment with a variety of styles and methods. His pared-down approach to sculpture embodies the flowing line of the skeleton, turning it into 'something abstract, taking away more and more information, but ... maintaining the inherent tactile core, so the form is still identifiable'. Using the smallest of details, such as the arching of a neck, he suggests rather than depicts a bird or mammal.

In 2009, Gudgeon's sculpture Isis was installed in Hyde Park, London, the first such installation there for over 50 years.





EDWARD WAITES

Edward Waites was born in 1988 in Suffolk. Completely self-taught, Edward has dedicated himself to his craft since leaving school and despite his young age his distinctive sculpture has already earned him international recognition and acclaim.

His collection comprises of animals and wildlife and is shaped by his passion for the vitality, energy and grace of his subjects. The sculptures feature in distinguished public, corporate and private collections around the world, including several royal collections.

Peppermill is a life-size equine sculpture. He is the son of Burggraaf, ridden by John Whitaker in Olympic, World and European Championship Teams and winner of several Grand Prix's.

ANDREW LACEY

Andrew Lacey is an artist and independent scholar who single-handedly creates captivating, timeless bronze sculptures and innovative artworks from his studio-foundry in rural Devon. His visionary approach and technical veracity ensure his status as one of the most exciting sculptors working in the UK today.

Andrew's particular approach to making involves a rigorous and constantly evolving investigation of the intrinsic nature of bronze, which has been influenced by ongoing academic, scientific, historic and archaeological study. This fascination with materials, combined with the capacity to cast everything personally - and therefore to intercept the creative process at any stage - affords him an artistic manner which is spontaneous, experimental and highly focused.

Years spent intensively researching the Old Masters has given Andrew a unique and richly-layered expertise which flows throughout his practice. Bold, hand-hewn sculptures in plaster and expertly cast bronzes are synonymous with his output: each compelling form celebrates the physical world which surrounds us - alongside that which is more ethereal - powerfully connecting the viewer to both.

Classical mythology, poetry and folklore also inform the work, and Andrew's sculptures are tributes to these resonant moments. Equine profiles, human torsos and out-stretched wings are important reference points and recurring motifs throughout. Within each familiar form, however, areas are often left incomplete; a clever technique, which allows space for the eye - and, of course, the imagination - to interpret the rest.



ROYAL ASCOT | SHOPPING

THE COLLECTION

After a successful inaugural year in 2017, this year the Ascot Shop returns to Royal Ascot with even more exclusive ranges to offer racegoers

Photography by James de Ara



HOME

Clockwise from top left

- Fine bone china mugs, £11-14
- Trio of reed diffusers, £25
- Christy Royal Ascot towel 2018, £25
- Double oven gloves, £18
- Christy waxed back cushion, £30
- Christy waxed back picnic rug, £75
- Trio of candles, £19
- Set of four napkins, £15
- Milly Green travel sweets, £4
- Milly Green tea caddy, £10
- Milly Green tin of biscuits, £10



MEN'S ACCESSORIES

Clockwise from top left

- Christys' London Panama hats, From £109
- Executive pen, £7
- Oliver Brown fine silk ties, £65
- Links of London tie pin, £60



WOMEN'S WEAR

Clockwise from top left
 Karen Millen plunge blazer and tailored trousers, £225 and £150
 Karen Millen peplum hem lace dress, £299
 Merino wool scarves, £45
 Karen Millen embroidered georgette dress, £299
 Karen Millen satin strap pencil dress, £190



LUXURY LEATHER

Clockwise from top left
 Tote bag, £220
 Cosmetic case, £99
 A5 journal, £55
 iPhone case, £39
 Keyring, £15
 A6 jotter pad, £39
 Wash bag, £119

JEWELLERY

Clockwise from top left
 Links of London double luck necklaces, From £120
 Links of London double luck horseshoe rings,
 From £170
 Links of London double luck earrings, From £85
 Links of London double luck bracelets, From £110



ASCOT SHOP

Visitors to this year's Royal Meeting will have even more opportunities to indulge in some retail therapy as three new outlets join the flagship Cedar Tree Shop in the Queen Anne Enclosure, the Parade Ring Shop and the Windsor Enclosure Shop. Two new outlets are launching in the Royal Enclosure and 2018 will also see an additional outlet in the Windsor Enclosure. Once again, each outlet will have an individual atmosphere, from boutique store to traditional high street, but all share the feeling of luxury and sense of occasion.

ON-THE-DAY ESSENTIALS

The Ascot Shop outlets in the Windsor Enclosure are the perfect place to pick up those Royal Meeting must-haves you may have forgotten. Here's our top four to enhance your day

Christy brushed stripe throw
 Enjoy your picnic in style with this gorgeously soft striped throw from Christy - no Ascot picnic is complete without it £55



Hand fan Mimic the racegoers of yesteryear and keep yourself cool with this elegant fan £15

Cooler seat Save trips to and from the bar with this cooler seat - it keeps your drinks fresh while also allowing you a refreshing break from standing £18



Ballet pumps Take a break from the stilettos and slip into something more comfortable with these soft, supple and foldable pumps £10



OFFICIAL PARTNERS AND SUPPLIERS

OFFICIAL PARTNERS
 **QIPCO** **Gigaset**

LONGINES®

BEEFEATER
LONDON

OFFICIAL SPIRITS

CHAMPAGNE
BOLLINGER
MAISON FONDÉE EN 1829

OFFICIAL CHAMPAGNE

Christy
ENGLAND

OFFICIAL TEXTILES



OFFICIAL SPONSOR

Fenwick

OFFICIAL ROYAL ASCOT
 MILLINERY SPONSOR



GARRARD

ESTABLISHED LONDON 1735
 OFFICIAL TROPHIES
 AND SILVERWARE

HALLGARTEN
 & NOVUM WINES

OFFICIAL WINE SUPPLIER

HARROGATE
 SPRING WATER

OFFICIAL WATER

LAVAZZA

OFFICIAL COFFEE



PORSCHE

OFFICIAL CAR

PRESTIGE
 VENUES & EVENTS **sodexo**

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 Stakes at Ascot in July and of the QIPCO British Champions Series, culminating on QIPCO British Champions Day at Ascot in October.

For the seventh 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 (6 winners) and Ryan Moore (6 winners).

QIPCO British Champions Day, Saturday 20th October, is the richest day's racing in Britain at £4.3 million.

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 also sponsor the British Champions Series which began with the QIPCO 2,000 and 1,000 Guineas in Spring and culminates on QIPCO British Champions Day.

There are five series race categories. Four categories are by race distance - Middle Distance, Mile, Sprint and Long Distance, and a separate Fillies and Mares category also operates. 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 Stakes (sponsored by QIPCO) in July.

QIPCO Holding is a private, family run investment company and one of the leading investment companies in Qatar. Its portfolio of interests includes horseracing, via its subsidiary companies, Qatar Bloodstock and Qatar Racing.



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 has recently upgraded to become an Official Partner of Ascot, alongside QIPCO and Gigaset and therefore they have more permanent branding around the racecourse than previously.

The Longines' chronometer will be in position close to the winning post along with an elegant clock in the parade ring throughout the year. Race times appear on ITV, Racing UK and Ascot TV. The winning connections of any horse which breaks a track record at Ascot throughout the flat season will be presented with Longines watches.





CHAMPAGNE
BOLLINGER
MAISON FONDÉE EN 1829

OFFICIAL CHAMPAGNE

Champagne Bollinger, the Official Champagne of Royal Ascot is one of the few remaining family owned and independently run Champagne houses and has held a Royal Warrant longer than any other Champagne House. The Royal Warrant was first awarded by Queen Victoria in 1884, following a period where Her Majesty enjoyed drinking Bollinger in the Royal Enclosure at Royal Ascot, a space exclusively reserved for the Royal Family and their guests. To this day Bollinger is still served in the Royal Enclosure and a range of Champagne Bollinger is available across the Racecourse in small and large formats. Guests can also experience the magnificence of Bollinger with the pairings of Bollinger's prestige cuvees including La Grande Année 2007 in the most prestigious of Royal Ascot restaurants, catered for by Raymond Blanc and Phil Howard with Champagne Bollinger included as part of the ultimate fine dining experiences.



Christy
ENGLAND

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

Founded in 1983, Dubai Duty Free has grown into one of the biggest travel retail operators in the world with sales turnover of US\$1.85 billion in 2016. Now employing over 5,900 people, the operation has consistently raised the benchmark for airport retailing as it continues to grow. Dubai Duty Free supports the Dubai Duty Free Shergar Cup in August and have been associated with Ascot since the Shergar Cup's inception in 2000.



Fenwick

OFFICIAL ROYAL ASCOT
MILLINERY SPONSOR

With its family-owned roots dating back to 1882, the variety of occasion wear at stylish department store Fenwick make it the perfect destination for Royal Ascot millinery. Featuring fashion, beauty, accessories, homeware, food, personal shopping and spa services, the store's ten branches across England are uniquely British.



OFFICIAL MIXER

Fever-Tree is the world's leading supplier of premium carbonated mixers. Launching in 2005, Fever-Tree pioneered the concept of using naturally sourced ingredients to create a premium mixer to partner premium spirits with co-founders Charles Rolls and Tim Warrillow travelling as far afield as the Democratic Republic of Congo and Ivory Coast to source the finest ingredients. Available in over 60 countries, the product range continues to win international acclaim and now includes a range of flavoured Tonic Waters, Ginger Beer, Ginger Ales and Cola, all of which will be available at the distinctive Fever-Tree bars across the site.



GARRARD

ESTABLISHED LONDON 1735

OFFICIAL TROPHIES
AND SILVERWARE

Garrard creations have been prized by discerning clients for over 280 years. They have designed and created five key trophies for 2018 - 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. In addition, for the first time this year Garrard has designed new trophies for winning owners in all Group 1 races.



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 2017, Hallgarten was named European Merchant of the Year by the Sommelier Wine Awards and has won the prestigious International Wine Challenge Wine List of the Year Award in both 2016 and 2015. In addition to supplying all wines to Royal Ascot, Hallgarten will be hand-selecting wines for the menus 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. Harrogate water is available across the site.

Harrogate and Ascot have also been working together on improving recycling across site, having recently secured a five-year renewal of the sponsorship agreement. Together, they will be working on this sustainability project for the longer term.

All Harrogate Water products will now use 50% UK post-consumer recycled plastic 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 Water have launched the 'Incredible Shrinking Bottle Campaign' 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

Ascot has installed a number of Harrogate Water branded bins, specifically for recycling water bottles.

Harrogate Water will be continuing to give away water at the end of most Saturday racedays during the Flat season, as part of a responsible drinking strategy and additionally a team of litter pickers will collect and recycle any empty bottles left on the High Street.



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.

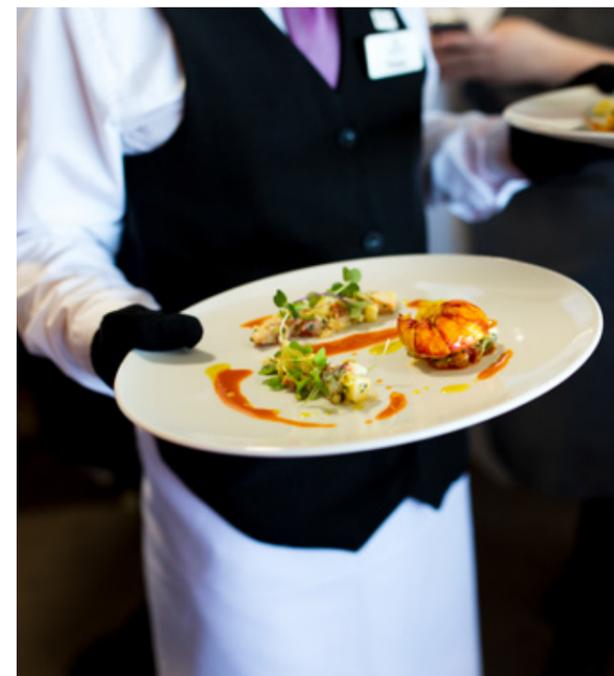


OFFICIAL SPIRITS

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 than it is in 2018; bringing an exceptional drinking experience to all racegoers. Pernod Ricard have created the Juniper Garden Gin Bar which is in situ for the whole of summer season.



"1711 by Ascot" the new name for Ascot's Hospitality Business Partnership with Sodexo, delivering outstanding hospitality, fine dining and on-site catering. Following the move in 2014 to a profit sharing arrangement between Ascot Racecourse and Sodexo, from the previous conventional concession model, the partners are now delighted to announce that the joint venture has been rebranded "1711 by Ascot." This enables the operation, which has seen significant growth in catering income, to adopt a new customer facing identity of its own. 1711 by Ascot is responsible for providing catering operations across the racecourse's 26 annual racedays and further conferences and events at the venue throughout the year.



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 bottom filtered, blonde pilsner. It is thirst quenching with a malty middle and crisp finish delivering a full flavour and a hint of bitterness. Stella Artois is best enjoyed served between three and five degrees Celsius and should be served in the unique Stella Artois Chalice according to the Nine-Step Pouring Ritual to guarantee a perfect experience of this gold standard lager. Stella Artois is available across the site.



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 seventh annual Royal Ascot Style Guide at the Ritz, in association with Cunard.

- Royal Ascot is once again at the forefront of fashion and style for the British summer season
- The 2018 Royal Ascot Style Guide is in association with luxury cruise line Cunard
- Ascot again collaborates with renowned stylist and photographer Damian Foxe on the curation of 2018 looks
- Ascot officially introduces Style Guides for two more enclosures - The Village and the Windsor Enclosure
- Ascot works with designers including Zimmerman, Roksanda Ilincic, Emilia Wickstead, ESCADA, Suzannah and Mother of Pearl to curate the 2018 looks, with support from milliners including Philip Treacy, Sarah Cant, Stephen Jones and Awon Golding

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

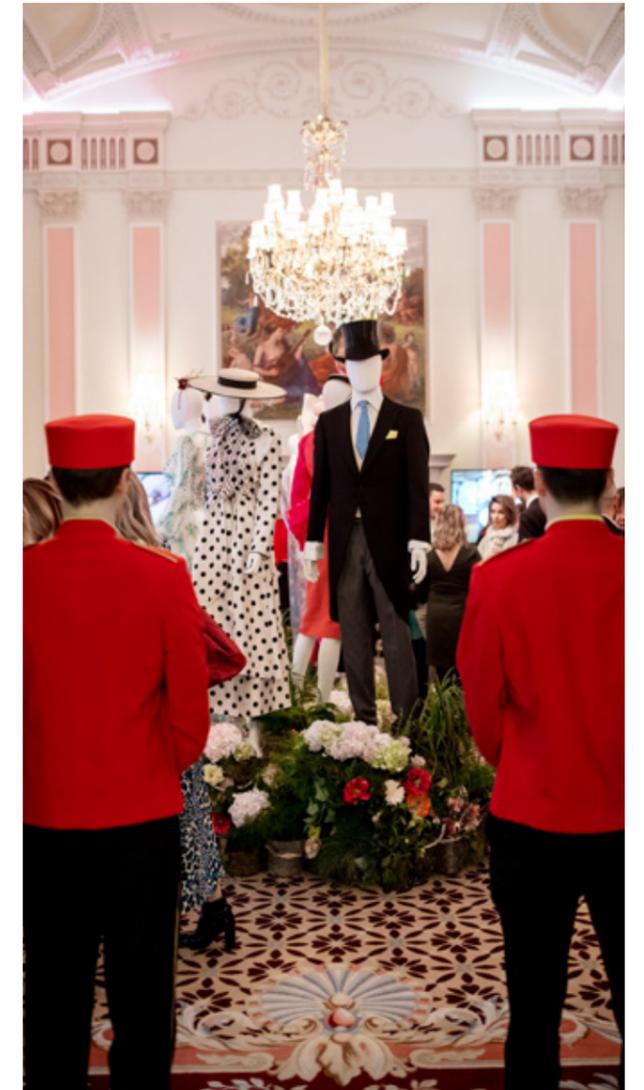
Royal Ascot is the summer event by which all others are measured in terms of style. Featured looks this year include designs from Zimmerman, Roksanda Ilincic, Emilia Wickstead, Suzannah and Mother of Pearl.

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.

Having previously covered just the Royal Enclosure and Queen Anne Enclosure, this season Royal Ascot officially introduces further two Style Guides to offer guidance for racegoers in the newly launched Village Enclosure and provide outfit suggestions for guests in the Windsor Enclosure. The exciting developments to the Style Guide include pieces from luxury designers alongside key looks from leading high street retailers such as Coast, ASOS, Karen Millen, Topshop, River Island and H&M.

Working closely with renowned stylist and photographer Damian Foxe, Ascot has curated looks that will be at the forefront of fashion this June.

Fenwick stock a selection of brands included in the Style Guide and have worked with Ascot to curate The Royal Ascot Millinery Collective, back for a fourth season this year. The Royal Ascot Style Guide features millinery from the likes of Stephen Jones, Philip Treacy and Vivien Sheriff, all available at Fenwick. 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. The introduction of style suggestions for the Village and Windsor Enclosures responds to the ever-growing demand from our customers 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 Damian Foxe once again to curate an incredibly strong selection of looks that are both representative of Ascot's fashion heritage and provide inspiration for how to wear the key trends for the summer season. We are equally thrilled to have Cunard involved with this year's Style Guide, they are a wonderful brand for Ascot to be associated with and we look forward to a strong and successful working relationship with them.”

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 dress-code and the Queen Anne Enclosure dress code is extended to the new Village Enclosure.



THE ROYAL ASCOT - MILLINERY COLLECTIVE 2018

Royal Ascot and Fenwick has collaborated with eight of the UK's most exciting milliners to produce an exclusive eight-piece collection: The Royal Ascot Millinery Collective.

The Royal Ascot Millinery Collective features exclusive pieces from Awon Golding, Alexandra Harper, Jess Collett, Stephen Jones, Philip Treacy, Rachel Trevor-Morgan, Monique Lee and Cara Meehan.

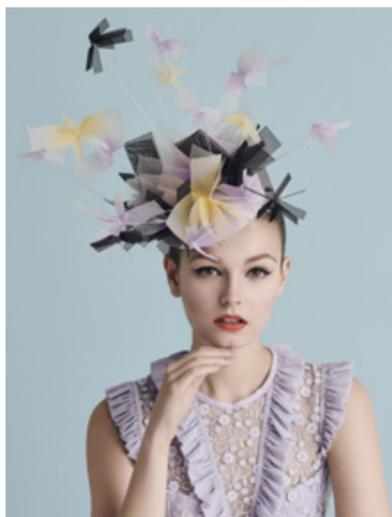
Royal Ascot and Millinery go hand-in-hand and the Royal Ascot Millinery Collective provides a platform to celebrate the best of British-based hatters. Each milliner has a strong relationship with Royal Ascot and a clear brand identity, accumulating beautifully in this collection. The ongoing sponsorship from Fenwick further projects the campaign thanks to the exceptionally-curated designer fashion and world-class millinery that this British institute is recognised for.

The contrast between the hats is complemented by a dramatic and elegant colour palette, with each design representing the milliner's unique handwriting and signature styles.

Juliet Slot, Chief Commercial Officer at Ascot Racecourse said, "It fills me with great joy to not only work with some of Britain's most exciting milliners, but to see such beautiful and contemporary designs as part of this season's Royal Ascot collective. Millinery is intrinsic to Royal Ascot and we are delighted to provide a platform once again for some of the most captivating milliners, whose designs inspire and delight racegoers around the world. We are delighted to have the enduring support from Fenwick, whose expertise has helped leverage this important campaign for both Ascot and Britain's millinery industry."

Mia Fenwick, Brand and Marketing Director, Fenwick said, "We are proud to partner with Royal Ascot, once again, to curate the 2018 Royal Ascot Millinery Collective. Championing the finest global millinery talent, from the emerging to the established, Fenwick showcases the

diversity of craftsmanship and intricacy of design that exists in millinery today.



AWON GOLDING

'My design gives florals a bold graphic treatment melding modern techniques with traditional artistry. Each flower is handmade from heat-soldered crinoline to create delicate spring blooms for the 21st century, perfect for the modern woman.'

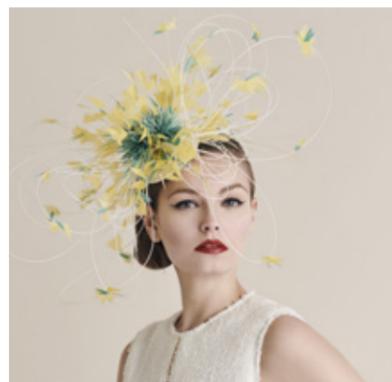
Royal Ascot embodies the tradition, glamour and history of the relationship between racing and millinery. It's hugely important to us milliners as it's a chance to showcase innovation and skill on a preeminent platform while the world's eyes are on us."

ALEXANDRA HARPER

'In the prettiest, iced-lilac hue, the piece includes hand-made blooms with just enough sparkle to cascade across an asymmetric lilac base and branch across the hat in a shimmering spray. Intensely feminine, strikingly unique, this piece makes the ultimate race-day statement.'



For me, Royal Ascot is the epitome of the British Summer. It's the chance to enjoy the spectacular summer weather (hopefully!) in such an elegant way - stunning fashion and millinery, the very best champagne, our royal family, world-class horse racing and tradition!



JESS COLLETT

'I wanted to design a piece that carries all the wild elegance that Royal Ascot inspires. I imagined walking through a fantasy garden and when out the other side I found myself wearing a hat that captured the way that garden made me feel, other worldly.'

Royal Ascot is so quintessentially British. I love that racegoers are really encouraged to make an effort to be stylish. As a milliner, there is no better place to enjoy the visual feast of headwear on display.'



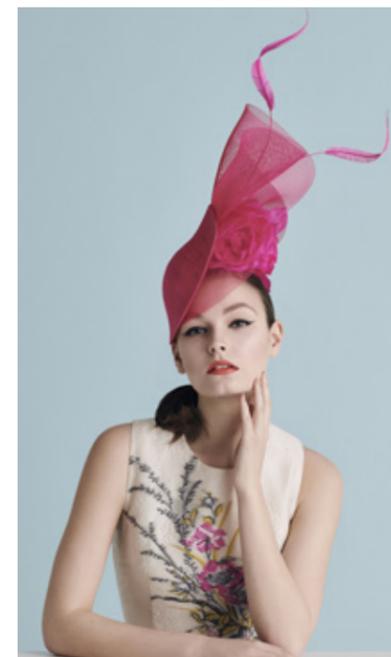
STEPHEN JONES

This exuberant hat celebrates the high point of the Millinery year, with delicate straw and dramatic ostrich and tulle spines. I believe that a hat for Royal Ascot has to be glorious and extravagant. It's the one week of the year that you can truly shine and express yourself through what you're wearing'

PHILIP TREACY

'In the prettiest, iced-lilac hue, the piece includes hand-made blooms with just enough sparkle to cascade across an asymmetric lilac base and branch across the hat in a shimmering spray. Intensely feminine, strikingly unique, this piece makes the ultimate race-day statement.'

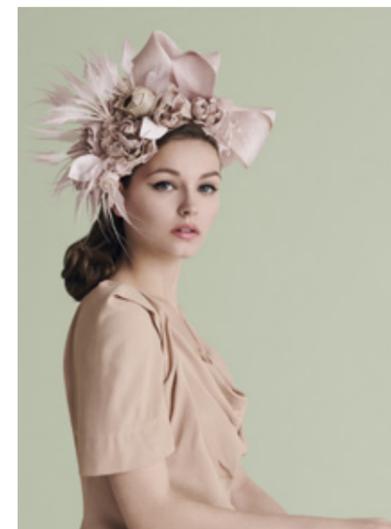
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RACHEL TREVOR-MORGAN

'My design is a soft floral headpiece reminiscent of English summer gardens with a quintessential British elegance. This hat oozes femininity. It is a statement piece with an elegant silhouette made in dusky pinks and smoky tones offset with sharp fanned feathers.'

I cannot overstate how important Royal Ascot is to the milliners. It's so exciting to see so many women really going to town on their outfits and especially their hats. It's such a special occasion attending Royal Ascot and a great excuse to really make a statement.'



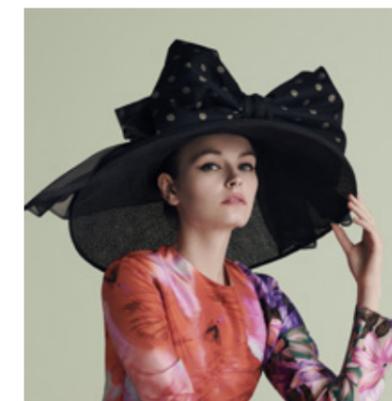
MONIQUE LEE

'The Frank Gehry Wave hat is a tribute to a great architect whom I admire for his vision and sensitivity to materials and forms. The hat is designed to take the wearer to explore the positive and negative spaces which I am always fascinated with, similar to an experience of walking into a great architectural space. The dome shaped brim with its sharp and minimal lines creates breathing space and sense of shelter around the face. The hat is decorated with layers of see-through fine silk organza and Japanese hand-dyed cotton fabric in shades of black and white, which create movement and shadows while the wearer walks to make a statement.'



CARA MEEHAN

'Ascot is a very special place; I get a magical feeling every time I step through the big iron gates during Royal Ascot week. My hat for the millinery collective was inspired by the timeless elegance of the Royal Enclosure in a luxurious French Navy Blue which I predict will be the colour of the season.'



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.

Jackets and pashminas may be worn but dresses and tops underneath should still comply with the Royal Enclosure dress code.

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

Jumpsuits are welcome. They should be of full-length to the ankle, 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:

Strapless, off the shoulder, one shoulder, halter neck, bardot and spaghetti straps are not permitted.

Midriffs must be covered.

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).

A black or grey top hat.

Black shoes.

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.

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.

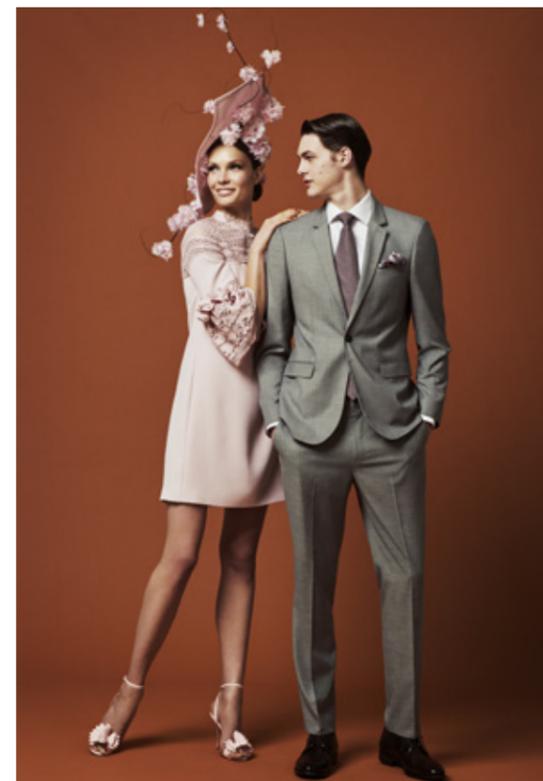
Boys (aged 10-17) should either dress in accordance with the gentlemen's dress code or alternatively may wear a dark-coloured lounge suit with a shirt and tie.

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.



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 or sheer strap dresses and tops are not permitted. Please note our definition of strapless includes off the shoulder, bardot style and one shoulder dresses.

Trouser suits and jumpsuits must be full-length and worn with a top that adheres to the guidelines 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 jacket, full-length trousers, collared shirt and tie.

Jeans and trainers are not permitted.

Bow ties and cravats are not permitted.

Socks must also be worn and should cover the ankle.



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 or sheer strap dresses and tops are not permitted. Please note our definition of strapless includes off the shoulder, bardot style and one shoulder dresses.

Trouser suits and jumpsuits must be full-length and worn with a top that adheres to the guidelines above (i.e. strapless or sheer strap tops are not permitted).

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 jacket and trousers of the same colour and pattern with a shirt and tie. Socks must also be worn and should cover the ankle.

Gentlemen are kindly asked to wear a tie at all times and to note that bow ties and cravats are not allowed.

Trainers are not permitted.

FINE DINING

AT ROYAL ASCOT



FINE DINING AT ROYAL ASCOT

CONTINUES TO DIVERSIFY AND DELIGHT

- Raymond Blanc OBE, Phil Howard and James Tanner to return to play key roles
- Adam Handling and Simon Rogan to make Royal Ascot debuts
- A new 'Royal Ascot Afternoon Tea' with Claire Clark will launch
- Four new Fine Dining restaurants - The Balmoral, The Windsor Forest, The Furlong Restaurant and The Gallery
- Five Michelin stars and a Bib Gourmand boost the 2018 line-up

Ascot Racecourse prides itself on tradition as well as innovation and the Fine Dining concepts at the Royal Meeting in June perfectly illustrate this.

This year, three of the nation's most respected chefs are returning; Raymond Blanc OBE, Phil Howard and James Tanner. They will be joined by Adam Handling and Simon Rogan, both of whom will make their Royal Ascot debuts. A new 'Royal Ascot Afternoon Tea' designed by Ascot's in-house culinary team, led by Executive Chef Gemma Amor and Head Chef Ben Dutson, and celebrated pastry chef Claire Clark will also be introduced to the Parade Ring Restaurant.

Two Michelin-starred chef **Raymond Blanc OBE** celebrates five years at Ascot this year, having most recently taken up residence in the prestigious Panoramic Restaurant in the Royal Enclosure. There for a third year, he will be back with a tailored menu and a refined service which promises to be one of the finest gastronomic experiences at the Royal Meeting. A bright and spacious restaurant for 120 guests, the Panoramic boasts uninterrupted views of the racing and the Royal Procession from its private balcony and terrace.



Speaking about his work with Ascot Racecourse, Raymond Blanc OBE says; "I am honoured to return to Royal Ascot for a fifth year with a fresh new menu. The standard and expectations will be higher than ever and my team and I will continue to evolve and deliver. We have been hard at work on our menu and look forward to welcoming our guests soon."

"I AM HONoured TO RETURN TO ROYAL ASCOT FOR A FIFTH YEAR WITH A FRESH NEW MENU."



Having been praised for his previous stints at Royal Ascot and winning a Michelin star for his Elystan Street restaurant in 2017, having previously received two stars at The Square, **Phil Howard** returns to On5 - the Queen Anne Enclosure's award-winning restaurant on the fifth floor of the Grandstand. For his third year in residence, Phil will create a spectacular menu championing the best of British produce, providing a relaxed and contemporary dining experience for racegoers. Also in the Queen Anne Enclosure, **James Tanner** will return for a second year presenting his Queen Anne Kitchen - a seated gastro experience - as well as an 'on-the-go' food concept The Burger Kitchen.

Adam Handling of Frog by Adam Handling and The Frog E1 makes his Royal Ascot debut at The Balmoral – a brand new restaurant concept for this year’s Royal Meeting. Recipient of a Bib Gourmand in 2017, Handling promises to bring his creative flair and modern execution to the table. Diners will be surprised and delighted by the ingenuity of his cooking techniques and flavour combinations.

Adam Handling says, “I am excited to be debuting at Royal Ascot this year, presenting an innovative concept that combines the traditional values of Royal Ascot with a more contemporary, relaxed fine dining style of service to the Royal Enclosure Gardens. Classic summer dishes have been reimagined in a playful way.”



experience in hospitality of more than 40 years and who share a mutual appreciation for high-end patisserie, have conceptualised a decadent menu in celebration of the afternoon tradition that is held dear at Royal Ascot. Classic in style with a fresh twist, it comprises a selection of delicate sandwiches, handmade scones and cakes paired with fragrant loose-leaf teas and Champagne Bollinger.

Brand new for this year, Adam Handling’s The Balmoral is inspired by a summer in the Scottish Highlands and celebrates the best of British food with fresh Scottish seafood, Royal Estate beef and locally-sourced cheese featuring on the menu. Benefitting from an enviable trackside location, The Balmoral has spectacular views down the finishing straight and a spacious outside viewing deck. Diners have the flexibility to create their own dining experience by choosing from an array of chef stations or ordering from the a la carte menu.

Announcing his presence at Royal Ascot shortly after relaunching Roganic in London, two-Michelin star chef **Simon Rogan’s** high level of skill and extensive experience in Fine Dining are the perfect recipe for discerning racegoers. Praised as being a culinary leader and champion for impeccable standards, he promises to deliver a memorable experience for Royal Enclosure guests.

In addition to this year’s impressive line-up, Ascot’s Executive Chef **Gemma Amor** and Head Chef **Ben Dutson** are delighted to introduce a new ‘Royal Ascot Afternoon Tea’ menu to the Parade Ring Restaurant, designed in collaboration with celebrated pastry chef **Claire Clark**. The dynamic duo, who have a combined



With a new concept for 2018, The Windsor Forest will re-open this year as one of the most exclusive restaurants in the Royal Enclosure. Seating just 45 guests and with prime views over the Winning Post, it will be characterised by the highest degree of personalised service. Diners can enjoy a relaxed a la carte menu all day with total flexibility to tailor their food choices to their personal taste and preferred timings.

The Gallery is another new restaurant joining the 2018 line-up offering fine food in a relaxed and social environment within the Queen Anne Enclosure. With outside seating just metres from the track, it is the perfect spot to soak up the electric atmosphere as the horses gallop towards the Winning Post.

Finally, the well-known Furlong Club in the Queen Anne Enclosure will be revitalised for 2018. New light and airy lounge areas provide guests with a space to retreat to, with a mixture of grazing and seated menu concepts available.

Speaking about Fine Dining at Ascot Racecourse this year, Jonathan Parker, Director of Food & Beverage at Ascot Racecourse, said;

“We are excited to welcome five exceptionally talented and highly respected chef-restaurateurs to Royal Ascot 2018 and to finally reveal our exciting new Fine Dining concepts. Following in-depth analysis of our customer feedback and extensive research, we are implementing these changes in response to what our guests want from their experience as well as inspiring them with new ideas. Our insight has shown that there is a strong preference for interactive chef stations, social feasting and tapas style menus that provide flexibility whilst

still affording guests the convenience of allocated seating. We’re excited by the new concepts for this year and look forward to seeing the reactions from our diners.

“Over the past 300 years, Ascot Racecourse has established itself as a national institution and food and drink serves a huge part of that. With the reputation of being the most important event in society’s calendar, we are constantly evolving and enhancing the experience for visitors, setting the standards high.”





The fine dining experience at Royal Ascot has expanded, with four new restaurants opening this year. Hannah Walker sampled the delights

A DELICIOUS DISPLAY



AN INVITATION TO the Royal Ascot fine dining launch, held in a stunning double-fronted box located in the main grandstand of Ascot Racecourse, is too tempting to pass up. Here, we were served a three-course luncheon cooked by Raymond Blanc OBE, James Tanner, Gemma Amor, Ben Dutson and Adam Handling.

The Michelin star chefs are responsible for the fine dining experience for all five days of this year's Royal Meeting, where four new restaurants will be in operation and fall under their radar – The Balmoral, The Windsor Forest, The Furlong Restaurant and The Gallery.

On arrival, Bollinger champagne flowed and trays of canapés by James Tanner danced between guests. Rocking his signature Burger Kitchen concept, the mini burgers with smoked Applewood and streaky bacon were a highlight. Cornish →



crab salad en croute, king prawn caesar and summer vegetable risotto were additional canapés that provided a substantial bite for that 11 o'clock moment and whet our appetites ready for the main event.

On the menu, each of the three courses was prepared by a different chef: Gemma and Ben Dutson for the amuse-bouche, which was an artichoke espuma with a Bombay granola, two Michelin-starred chef Raymond Blanc OBE created the starter, with Adam Handling responsible for the main course and dessert. The menu was set when we visited, but dietary requirements were considered and besides, when the food is this tempting, a choice between dishes would be far too difficult to make.

THE OPENING NUMBER

Raymond prepared the lobster à la plancha starter, served with Jersey Royal potato salad and red pepper essence. This dish was sublime and his passion and attention to detail was evident in each individual serving.

As front of house, the Frenchman told me that he first visited Royal Ascot as a guest of Her Majesty The Queen Mother in 1978 and was dazzled by the beauty of the event and the ladies' attire. His inaugural experience coincided with an era that showcased shoulder pads and large hats. The latter became a fixation and Raymond went home to design a new 'hot plate' to enhance the look, taste and delivery of food.

When speaking with the acclaimed chef, his zest for food oozed from every pore. He proudly discussed the Raymond Blanc Service Academy, where 2,000 recruits undertake training with the master chef to ensure that food presentation is at the forefront of the fine dining experience. My starter was delicately handled and repositioned by the gusto guru, along with the vegetables. While his hands were at work, his dulcet tones explained the need to present food like an artist presents a painting. As I found out, Raymond is not too keen on gravy being poured over one's food and with a quick flick of his wrist, the free-flowing gravy was quickly represented through an individual pouring pot of mouth-watering liquid. →



FINE DINING RESTAURANTS

Raymond Blanc OBE will reside in the prestigious **Panoramic Restaurant** in the Royal Enclosure. There for a third year, he will operate a tailored menu and a refined service which promises to be one of the finest gastronomic experiences at the Royal Meeting. A bright and spacious restaurant for 120 guests, the Panoramic boasts uninterrupted views of the racing and the Royal Procession from its private balcony and terrace.

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The Gallery is another new restaurant offering exquisite food in a relaxed and social environment within the Queen Anne Enclosure.

Finally, **The Furlong Club**, in the Queen Anne Enclosure, will be revitalised for 2018 with a refurbished lounge area to complement the mixture of grazing and seated menu concepts available.



THE STAR FROM SCOTLAND

Making his Royal Ascot debut, Scottish Chef of the Year and recipient of a Bib Gourmand in 2017, Adam Handling presented two beautiful dishes packed with flavour. With a strong focus on regionality and responsible sourcing of ingredients, Adam's Beef Wellington, tatties, neeps and wilted greens was the dish of the day. Diners were truly surprised and delighted by the ingenuity of his cooking techniques and flavour combinations.

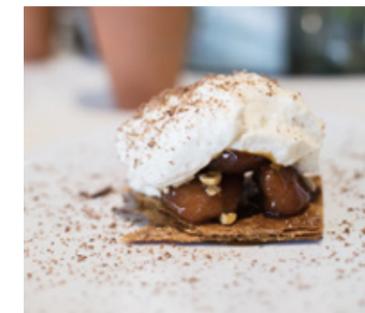
Beef can run the risk of being tough and overcooked, but this was far from it and the injection of a spicy haggis-lined pastry was truly inspiring. Haggis is a great source of iron, fibre and carbohydrate, and took the dish to another level. It was seriously impressive, and I vowed, there and then, never to shy away from Scotland's national dish again!

During courses, guests took advantage of the tips provided by an Injured Jockeys' Fund representative and nipped out on to the balcony to watch the live action.

THE GRAND FINALE

Adam's pudding – caramelised apple, vanilla and peanut – was beautifully presented with a mix of cream and ice cream. Dessert was a serious injection of sugar and complemented the other courses beautifully.

Cheese and afternoon tea rounded the day off; an array of delicate sandwiches, handmade scones and cakes, paired with fragrant loose-leaf teas and Bollinger Champagne. The old-school cheese trolley was a highlight and must have contained a dozen varieties – needless to say, I didn't need to eat that evening!



Those who enjoy fine wines are well catered for – each course was paired with a bespoke wine, starting with Bollinger Special Cuvée upon arrival. The lobster starter was accompanied by a French Chardonnay, Meursault Premier Cru, the beef by Brunello Di Montalcino, Italy, and the desserts by the sweet and fruity Riesling 'Cordon Cut' Mount Horrocks, Australia. Coffee is courtesy of Lavazza and Twinings tea.

The quality of service is also exemplary – staff are trained at the Raymond Blanc Service Academy – and absolutely contributed to making the whole experience a truly memorable one.

Each day of Royal Ascot is a truly remarkable occasion, from the arrival of the Royal Procession to communal singing around the bandstand after the last race. So, if you're planning to embrace an English sporting event this summer, up your game and book a fine dining experience. ◻

To book, or for further information on fine dining at Royal Ascot, please call 0844 346 3000 or visit ascot.co.uk

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.

Royal Ascot, a place Like Nowhere Else:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NymETk-KE8M>

Explore The Royal Enclosure:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZM8fIFHQvVQ>

Explore The Queen Anne Enclosure:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NSphXm9YUZs>

Explore The Windsor Enclosure:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQ1ZiYZiSYg>

Explore The Village Enclosure:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NSphXm9YUZs>

2018 Royal Ascot Style Guide:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wgIJT-M-Qp0>

Royal Ascot 2018 campaign:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LRTF2wl-oFo>

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/VAYbkHf18Ec>

Women's fashion over the years:

<https://youtu.be/FOuzW2fbSoY>

Men's fashion over the years:

<https://youtu.be/RljuXzTS-HQ>

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

Sea of Champagne:

<https://youtu.be/XuSe7vS-uLg>

Afternoon Tea:

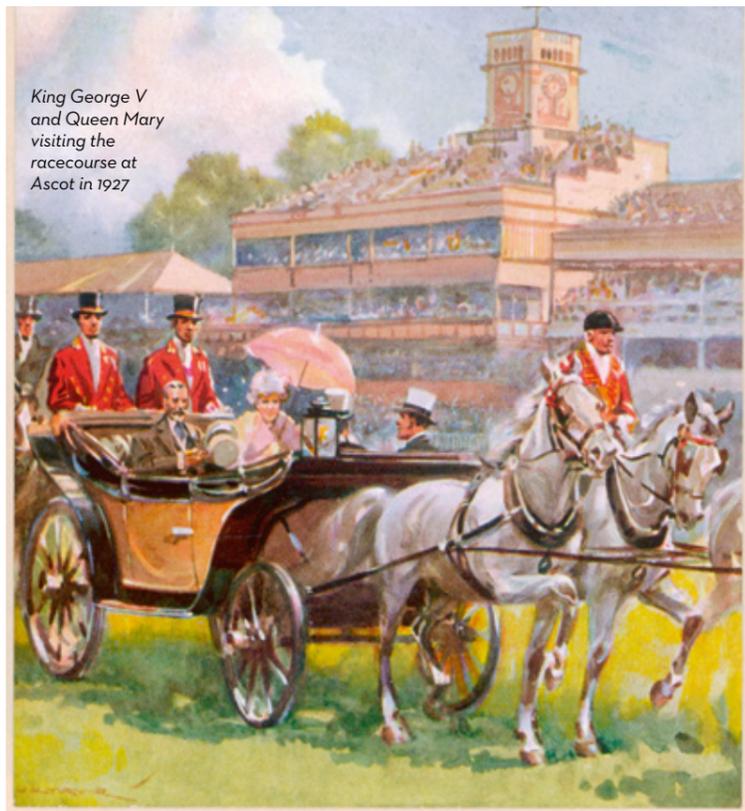
<https://youtu.be/MPxl2QTjEtM>

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 100,000 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.

ASCOT
HISTORY



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

AN OVERVIEW

The first Royal Meeting took place at Ascot in **1768**

*Britain's most popular race meeting, welcoming **300,000** racegoers across five days*

70,000 racegoers attend Thursday's Gold Cup Day

*The most valuable race meeting in Britain with over **£7.3m** in prize money*

Features **8** Group One races and **19** Group races in total

*Broadcast in approximately **175** countries around the globe with a reach of **650** million households*

Approximately **400** helicopters and **1,000** limos arrive at Royal Ascot every year

5 Michelin stars and **13** AA Rosettes combined

There are **163** full-time staff, which increases by more than **6,500** temporary staff during Royal Ascot

*Over **2,000** hours of staff training delivered to maintain the high levels of customer service expected*

There are **3,500** cleaning shifts running on a 24-hour cycle during the week

26,000 items of temporary furniture are hired in for the Royal Meeting

25,000 people signed into Ascot's free Wi-Fi at the Royal Meeting last year

*More than **12** million user engagements expected across Ascot's social media channels*

30,000 people downloaded the free Ascot app in 2017

33 live music acts perform across the five days

173,000 racecards printed

509 horses ran across five days last year

22.5 hours of live television coverage on ITV

3 miles of bunting

330 chefs, **12** restaurants, **17** private dining facilities and **208** private boxes

39 professional kitchens operate during Royal Ascot

Over **13,000** flowers and shrubs are grown and planted at 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
- In 2017, Ascot Racecourse recycled 379 tonnes of waste diverted from landfill

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 this year, prize money tops £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 last year 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 racecourse 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.

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.

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 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 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 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 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 Pavilion Stakes 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 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 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 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.

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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
- There will be press conferences after every race in the lawn level media centre
- Complimentary catering is provided in all media facilities

