

Racecourses support Racing Together Give & Gain Day 2017

- 15 racecourses will take part in volunteering activity as part of Give & Gain initiative
 - Activity co-ordinated by the RCA and Racing Together
- Racecourses deliver help and support throughout the year in the 60 communities where they operate

Racecourses will once again come together tomorrow (Friday 12 May) to take part in **Racing Together's Give & Gain Day** – a day of national employee volunteering. It is the third year running that racecourses have joined forces to contribute to the day and this year a record number of tracks will be taking part.

15 racecourses have pledged time and man power to volunteering efforts either on or around 12 May. Fakenham and Lingfield Park have already donated valuable time to local causes in the run up to the day. Fakenham directors and staff gave up time to litter pick in the town and Lingfield Park helped to tidy up the train station near the racecourse.

Racing Together is the umbrella brand for the sport's wide-ranging community engagement activities, involving charities and commercial organisations. The education charity Racing to School is leading the initiative and is committed to supporting and highlighting racing as a force for good. Racecourses are at the heart of this work, delivering help and support to 60 communities in which they operate.

The Give & Gain concept, sponsored by Waitrose, is organised and managed by **Business In The Community** and highlights the importance of employee volunteering as a foundation stone of a responsible business strategy.

The charity Active Communities Network will be involved in this day through bringing a group of Year 9 pupils from a South London School to the BHA office in High Holborn for a Careers and activity day. Representatives from several racing bodies will contribute to the structured day, which will include a section on the disciplinary procedure and how the sport is refereed.

Stephen Atkin, Racecourse Association Chief Executive, said:

“It's fantastic to see so many racecourses donate time from their busy schedules to help out a wide range of excellent causes.

“Racecourses have really stepped up their community engagement work in the last couple of years and this is helping to futureproof the sport by engaging with the next generation of racegoers and potential participants.”

Bill Farnsworth, Chief Executive of Musselburgh Racecourse, said:

“Engaging with the local community forms a core part of our business and we are delighted to support Racing Together’s Give & Gain Day once more. Education outreach remains our key focus for 2017 and so this is an ideal chance for our team to work with Musselburgh Grammar School to support their employability needs.”

John Blake, CEO Racing to School, said:

“Give & Gain is a great concept that inspires and acknowledges employee volunteering nationwide. Racing shows year-round willingness and enthusiasm to support communities in different ways and the Racing Together Give & Gain Day on May 12th is a focus for the sport to be creative in working together to help others.”

Racing Together’s Give & Gain Day 2017 racecourse activities include:

Aintree – hosting 74 children from Kensington Primary School for careers talks and a tour around the course to learn about the history of the Grand National

Ascot – donating items to local charities including spare Royal Ascot picnic blankets

Beverley – litter picking on the Westwood land alongside the racecourse

Catterick – litter picking on the area opposite the racecourse

Chelmsford City – volunteering at Sanctus, a local shelter and soup kitchen for the homeless

Chester – hosting a Racing to School Day and promoting their CSR programme, Chester 1,000, which has seen racecourse staff donate 1,000 hours between them to help local charities

Exeter – activity to be confirmed in July/August

Fakenham – litter picking in the town (already taken place)

Lingfield – tidying up the local train station (already taken place)

Market Rasen – hosting a Racing to School Day

Musselburgh – working with Musselburgh Grammar School to host pupils and staff for workshops to support their employability needs

Pontefract – litter picking and on-going maintenance work with the local council in Pontefract Park

Sedgefield – volunteering to help out at Rebecca Menzies’ yard

Wincanton - Working with the Local Council to plan an event later in the year

York – organising their own Give & Gain Day after the Flat season, last year York supported Friends of Chapman’s Pond by volunteering to enhance the ponds surrounding areas