

## Racing Together Community Day – summary of activity



### Key Facts

- Racing Together Community Day is an annual day around which racing businesses – such as racecourses, charities and major stakeholders – are encouraged to volunteer their time to participate in events which benefit their local communities. In doing so it provides racing charities and businesses across Britain with an opportunity and focus to engage with their local area and build lasting relationships with those that share the communities in which they operate.
- Activity ranged from hands-on work, such as the volunteering at Age UK Camden in London, to supporting Riding for the Disabled's work in Cheltenham. Careers days; environment clean-ups; fundraising and a Racing to School education day were just a few of the other events organised across the country
- Ripon Racecourse kick-started the initiative in late March, participating in a local area 'tidy up' ahead of the first fixture for the season. Beverley and York announced events to take place later in the year, which include the Big Beverley Charity Racenight in June and the York's volunteering at West Bank Park, Holgate in November.

### Case Studies

#### **Ascot Racecourse**

Ascot held a Food Bank Drive from 7th - 11th May to assist local people who are at a time of crisis. A Donation Station was set up at the High Street Reception Entrance for employees and local residents. Ascot encouraged racegoers and staff members to bring along a few of the requested items including tins, rice and pasta and toiletries. Ascot will deliver items to the participating foodbanks: Windsor Foodshare, Woodley Foodbank; FoodShare Maidenhead Foodbank; Readifood, Reading; West Berks Foodbank; Bracknell Foodbank; Wokingham Foodbank; Crowthorne Foodbank & Slough Foodbank.



## **Newbury and Windsor Racecourses**

Newbury hosted a community walk around the course, followed by tea and cake in The Lodge afterwards, in support of Daisy's Dream and West Berkshire Mencap. The team at Royal Windsor plan to host fundraising activity based on an equiciser competition during racing on 27<sup>th</sup> May in aid of Thames Hospice.

## **Yorkshire Racing**

Go Racing in Yorkshire organised a litter pick around Langton Wold Gallops in Malton alongside the local council. The team was made up of staff from Wetherby Racecourse, Catterick Racecourse, William Hill staff and Raceday presenter Adele Mulrennan. Trainer Julie Camacho and jockey Kieran Schofield joined in after finishing morning stables.

## **Newmarket**

As part of the day, Jockey Club Estates organised a litter pick across the town. A team met at 1pm on the Severals (including BRS, Racing Welfare, Discover Newmarket and Mr James Fanshawe) and litter picked along the Yellow Brick Road to George Lambton Playing Fields and Skate Park. A second team met by the July Racecourse/Devils Dyke (where people park to walk their dogs) and litter picked along the Dyke. The Lycetts team helped out with some painting at the British Racing School and members of the Thoroughbred Breeders Association office team helped out with a leaflet drop promoting Palace House's upcoming community events around the town.

## **Scottish Racing**

Ayr continue to work closely with partner charity Ayrshire Cancer Support to fundraise, provide practical support and to aid their brand awareness. Hamilton Park is working on the South Lanarkshire Countryside Rangers conservation project. Musselburgh continue to support Musselburgh Grammar School and hosted pupils and staff for workshops to support their employability needs. Perth took to the flowerbeds in preparation for 'Perth in Bloom'. Scottish Racing is baking and selling cakes for the charity, Headway, who ran the Charity Tearoom at Kelso Racecourse on 8th May.

## **Further quotes:**

Margo Payne, Mayor of Newbury:

"Newbury Racecourse is very much part of our Community and it was wonderful to see children from the Rocking Horse Nursery join with residents and Racecourse staff in walking the course to raise money for two very worthy local charities, Daisy's Dream and West Berks Mencap. Clearly an enjoyable community effort despite some torrential downpours!"

Keith Inkster, William Hill:

"It was great to be the first bookmaker to be involved in this initiative and there were a high number of volunteers from the William Hill family getting stuck in. It was also nice to build relationships with good people from across the local racecourses and more importantly help to tidy up a lovely part of Yorkshire."