

Fakenham forges closer working relationship with Tote



Fakenham Racecourse [FRC] has signed up to a closer working relationship with Tote, which will bring real benefits to the racecourse. The Tote has an exclusive license to operate pool betting in the UK and is represented at every racecourse in the country, as well as an extensive distribution network through other high street bookmakers and on-line betting firms. It is also the only organisation that returns all of its profits to racing, by way of sponsorship and other contributions.

The new betting partnership between Tote and FRC will see direct improvements for racegoers, most noticeably the relocation of the Tote Bookmaker's shop from its old outdoor site to a new indoor facility previously occupied by Tote Credit. This will allow racegoers to make their betting selections in comfort as opposed to battling with the elements.

David Hunter comments: "I view this closer working relationship with great enthusiasm as a benefit to both parties. We already enjoy a good relationship with Tote, and this new arrangement can only strengthen that. The Tote is the biggest race sponsor at FRC and their support is crucial to a good race day."

Introducing 18/24

Young Person Annual Membership at Fakenham Racecourse



David Hunter is delighted to announce that as from October 2009 Fakenham Racecourse will be offering a 'Young Person Annual Membership', which will be available to adults aged between 18 and 24. This new membership will be called 18/24 and in order to accommodate 17 year olds at Fakenham race meetings, the free entrance for accompanied children has been increased from 16 to 17 years of age.

The cost of membership for 18/24 is £45 per adult and will include entrance to all Fakenham National Hunt race meetings [which equates to 10 days of racing in the 2009/10 season running from the end of October to the end of May], full use of the Members Enclosure and all facilities, a designated 18/24 car parking area in the centre of the course opposite the Prince of Wales Stand which can be used for picnicking, and a renamed 18/24 Bar in the Members Enclosure [non-exclusive and open to anyone using the Members Enclosure], which will have a fully licensed cash bar, snack foods, limited seating and large flat screen TV. Pleasingly, there will be no dress code.

David explains the membership regulations, saying: "Each member of 18/24 will be issued with a hard plastic membership card that will have the 18/24 logo on it [see above], the member's name, date of birth, membership number and photograph. The card will be shown to the gateperson upon arrival at the racecourse, who will then issue a day members badge.

"The principle method of communicating with the 18/24 membership will be by email or text. Therefore, it is an obligatory requirement for membership to provide an email address and mobile phone number. Anyone interested in becoming a member, please email info@fakenhamracecourse.co.uk for an application form."

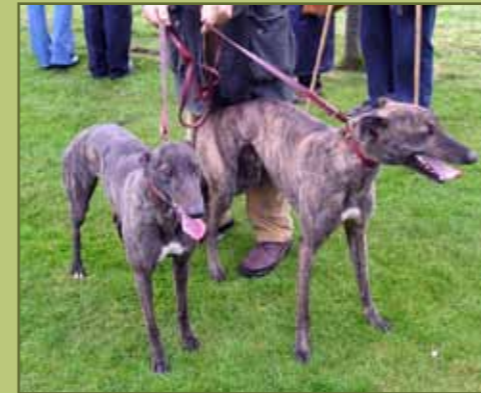
18/24 memberships are strictly non-transferable and will not entitle the holder entrance to any reciprocal race meeting at other racecourses or The West Norfolk point to point.

'A Norfolk Picnic' arrives at the Racecourse

Foodies - look out for a treat this coming season. What was previously a bookmakers building on the racecourse is being refurbished as 'A Norfolk Picnic' a food outlet that will be stocked with the finest local produce with which to make a picnic or take home to the family. The enterprise is supplied by four companies - Sarah Pettegree will contribute her sumptuous Bray's Cottage Pork Pies, Elli Betts her renowned Ferndale cheeses and Drove Orchards their apples and apple juices. Also available to take home from 'A Norfolk Picnic' is locally reared pork from Perfick Pork in Great Ryburgh. 'A Norfolk Picnic' is destined to be a shop window for local food producers, so be sure to treat yourself.

Greyhound Lure Coursing returns to Fakenham Racecourse on 27th September

Following on from the successful Greyhound Lure Coursing meeting at FRC in June when, despite the appalling weather (it rained all day), the event drew both competitors and crowds, the experience will be repeated on 27th September.



Since the Hunting Bill was introduced four years ago, traditional greyhound coursing has been illegal, and many coursing greyhounds have been unable to run.

Lure coursing is similar to hare coursing, with the lure (an artificial hare) taking the place of the real thing. Coursing helps to preserve and develop the skills which have been bred into greyhounds over thousands of years. It's exciting, it's good fun, and it's a good way to keep the dogs and their trainers fit. The dogs get the thrill of the chase, the owners the ribbons and trophies.

On 27th September there will be six races or stakes – five for greyhounds and one for whippets, with each stake being contested by eight dogs. The dogs run two at a time over a furlong in a series of knock-out heats. Each greyhound stake will have prize money of £350, the whippet stake £200. Dogs will be coming from as far away as Birmingham and Manchester.

David Hunter commented: "The day we had in June was tremendous fun; it had a really professional feel to it with a full PA system, commentary, race cards, a bookmaker, bar, food outlets and trade stands. It really captured the imagination of the racing fraternity, and as a consequence, we are working with the Kimberley & Wymondham Greyhound Club to make it a regular early summer and autumn event."

Spotlight on Don Cantillon



Don Cantillon, whose rich brogue points to his Irish roots, runs his very successful training business, Hackness Stables in Newmarket, with the help of his small staff of three or four.

Don, a dual licence holder, has spent his life with horses, progressing from childhood riding to a successful amateur career in point-to-point, where he became a well-known face on the East Anglian circuit in his adopted country. He has been involved with the big names in training, spending a long time in Newmarket with Harry Thompson-Jones, a legend in the racing world, and Don viewed the progression to the establishment of his own enterprise as the obvious step.

Hackness Stables can accommodate ten or eleven horses at any one time, and although Don trains for other owners, most of the current crop belong to him. In the course of his time as a trainer, he has trained hundreds of successful racehorses and had many winners.

Recently, Don set up the first phase of Don Cantillon Racing, a syndicate of members with a love of horseracing. For a percentage payment up-front, the members then share, pro rata, an interest in four horses; these horses have already had four wins. For anybody interested in joining Don's scheme, phase two with a different four horses is coming on line in the near future.

Don enters his horses for race meetings all over the country, but is a regular visitor to Fakenham. He comments:

“ You find people from all walks of life at Fakenham, including the farming community and the hunting and point-to-point crowd. It gives the place such a unique, friendly atmosphere. ”

STOP PRESS! STOP PRESS! STOP PRESS!

In August, the British Paralympic Dressage team, to whom David Hunter is Chef d'Equipe and Performance Manager, competed at the European Paralympic Dressage Championships held at Kristiansand in Norway. The squad of six riders was highly successful, retaining Team Gold Medal, six individual Gold, two Silver and two Bronze medals. This represents the best haul of medals yet by the British riders.



Mongolian Rally

Vicky Holt, who visitors will be used to seeing behind the reception desk at the racecourse, took unpaid leave this summer to enter the Mongolian Rally to raise money for the Christina Nobel Children's Foundation. Her team left Goodwood Racecourse on 18th July in a Nissan Micra to drive through France, Belgium, Germany, the Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary, Romania, Moldova, Kazakhstan and Russia to their final destination, Mongolia – a total of 7,500 miles. On the way, they encountered stunning scenery, friendly people, policemen who could be bribed with furry dice and a packet of cigarettes and those who just wanted to introduce themselves. Border crossings proved to be a challenge, with the longest taking eight hours! Vicky and the other rally participants visited the charity's Ger Village in Ulaanbaatar, where the children entertained them with a little show and fun and games. On crossing the finishing line on 15th August, all the teams donated their cars and all their usable equipment to the Charity or needy families. Vicky and her co-driver raised over £1,000 for the Children's Foundation – Brilliant!



A river crossing - one of the many hazards en route

2009/2010 Race meetings

2009			First race (subject to change)
Friday	23rd October		2.00pm
Tuesday	17th November		1.00pm
Monday	30th November		12.50pm
2010			
New Year's Day	1st January		12.30pm
Monday	18th January		12.50pm
Friday	19th February	Charity Race 1st National Hunt Race	12.00pm 1.30pm
Friday	19th March		2.15pm
Easter Monday	5th April		2.05pm
Sunday	25th April	Point-to-Point	2.00pm
Tuesday	4th May		2.20pm
Sunday	23rd May		2.20pm
Friday	22nd October		2.00pm
Tuesday	16th November		1.00pm
Sunday	12th December		12.35pm

The venue of preferred choice in North Norfolk

The venue of preferred choice in North Norfolk

Racecourse Roundup

Snippets from the Racecourse

Changes on the 'Ground'

After 25 years at Fakenham Racecourse, most of those spent as Head Groundsman, Martin Griffiths has taken well-earned retirement to pursue other interests, which include working his smallholding and investigating ways of adapting to renewable energy sources. He goes with our best wishes for a fulfilling retirement.

Paul Moore, who has been a member of the ground staff for some years, rose to the challenge, taking over the reins from Martin mid-season. Completing the Groundstaff team are Matt King, Nigel Curson and Jamie Attew who joined them in June.



From left to right, Jamie Attew, Matt King, Paul Moore (Head Groundsman) and Nigel Curson, with their splendid assortment of sporting dogs.

In addition, Simon Tarrant-Gibbs who served three years as a member of the Ground staff, has fulfilled his life-long ambition to become a firefighter. Simon began his training with the London Fire Brigade in December last year, and became a fully-fledged firefighter this Spring. Simon is now fully embraced into Green Watch at Ealing, West London.

Birthday wishes to ..

John Tuck, who has been Raceday Stable Manager for nigh on twenty years, on his 80th birthday. He celebrated his birthday in style on 30th August with a private lunch for family and friends in the Prince of Wales Stand.



John Tuck and his wife.

A busy summer at Fakenham Racecourse

The spring and summer months have been full of activity at the racecourse, despite there being no racing fixtures. The Caravan site has been particularly busy, with income up 20% on budget year to date. This is the result of a weak pound against the euro which saw many more people choosing to take their holidays in the UK, with the warm, dry summer we have experienced in the east of England playing its part. Fakenham's exceptional caravan site figures have been reflected across the county's tourism sector. Good news all round!

The Prince of Wales stand has been buzzing with celebrations, weddings, seminars and meetings, with more to come in the autumn, and FRC's extensive grounds have also been well-used. The Racecourse welcomed a group of Cubs for an activity weekend in July and numerous rallies have taken place, some of which brought established visitors, others coming here for the first time.

Rallies at the Racecourse

This year's **Mini Rally** went extremely well and the beautiful weather helped to encourage a bumper attendance. The organisers held a successful Quiz Night in the Prince of Wales Stand as part of the festivities.



The Fenlanders Harley Davidson Club Rally was again a success story, this year sporting a much improved marquee and sound and light show.



Dates for the diary

18th – 20th September 2009
Greentrees Rally

10th October 2009, 7pm for 7.30pm
The Lady Taverners Grand Race Night
Prince of Wales Stand
Tickets £45 [champagne and canapé reception, 3-course dinner and coffee]
Tickets available from Mrs Janie Coppin-Gardner 01328 738024

17th and 18th December 2009
Christmas Party Nights - ideal for staff parties and club outings.
Minimum number 6.
3-course Christmas Fare and Dancing to Amp and Decs. £22.50 per person.
Booking essential from
rita@fakenhamracecourse.co.uk or telephone 01328 862388 extension 22.

Key Racecourse Staff

Sam Bullard	[Chairman]
David Lyles	[Vice Chairman]
David Hunter	[Chief Executive and Clerk of the Course]
Vivien Pope	[Company Secretary]
Rita Gibbs	[Hospitality and Events Executive]
Paul Moore	[Head Groundsman]
Amanda Hamilton	[Caravan Site Administrators/ Receptionists]
Vicky Holt	[Receptionists]
Trudi Moulton	[Race Day Organiser]
Gary Eldridge	[Caretaker]

Fakenham Auto Club staged its **Car-Nival at FRC** on 23rd August, when it hosted a large classic car and vintage truck show, accompanied by display stands of major car suppliers, barbecue and bar, music, stalls, prize draw and tombola. The Car-Nival marked the 10th Anniversary of the Fakenham Auto Club, raising well over £3,000 for its chosen charity for 2009 – the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Special Care Baby Appeal.



On Course

The Newsletter of Fakenham Racecourse

FRC weathering the storm of levy cuts

Forward planning and good management is ensuring that Fakenham Racecourse [FRC] is weathering the storm of a double whammy – a general drop in income within the industry that is a direct result of the economic recession, and the resultant unwelcome if expected cut in prize monies that is likely to occur across the industry.



After much debate, cuts of up to five per cent in prize money across UK race meetings are expected to be pushed through by the Levy Board despite heavy opposition. Falling income from bookmakers – down from £115 million in 2008 to a forecast of £94.1 million in 2009 - are making this unwanted development inevitable.

Where exactly the axe will fall is still to be finalised, but a warning has been issued from racing's key organisations that they are ready to fight against prize money cuts of as much as £6 million planned for next year. How successful these protests will be remains to be seen.

It is too early to say with certainty that FRC's prize money will be maintained throughout 2010, but it will certainly be kept at current levels for at least the months of January, February and March. The racecourse will be doing its utmost to ensure that its visitors continue to enjoy a good days racing. From October 2009 to May 2010, Fakenham will continue, weather permitting, to host ten meetings.

Chief Executive and Clerk of the Course, David Hunter comments:

"I am delighted that we have maintained a balanced and well structured fixture list. We have a very full programme, which is good news for our visitors. It is vital that all our meetings are attractive, not only to racegoers, but to owners and riders; and that

means exciting racing with good financial returns for the winning owners.

"This has always happened in the past and has made Fakenham one of the most popular small racecourses in the country; the directors have no intention of damaging that proud track record. We are working in difficult times, and no doubt there will be hard decisions to make. However, I feel the racecourse is well positioned to face these challenges.

"Whatever the outcome, FRC will continue to provide good value sporting entertainment for our dedicated racegoers and the professionals whose support is crucial. In a nutshell, we will weather the storm."

Cool Roxy goes for new record

Cool Roxy, one of Fakenham's favourite runners, is making a bid for his 12th win at the racecourse on 23rd October. Should he achieve his goal, it would be a proud day for owners Mr and Mrs Alan Blackmore, who last year were presented with his winner's trophy by the Princess Royal. Keep your eye on the press!



Cool Roxy, photograph courtesy of Peter Higby

Calling all retired East Anglian Point to Point Jockeys

Fakenham's long established charity race, which is run at the February Countryside Counts Raceday, is set to take a slight change for next year. It is planned to restrict the jockey entries to retired East Anglian point to point riders. So to all those retired jockeys who thought their racing days were done - here is your chance to saddle up and ride one more time! For further information and to register your interest please contact David Hunter at Fakenham Racecourse or email david@fakenhamracecourse.co.uk

Racing News

Meeting dates
Race meetings
Corporate hospitality

Business

Conferences & seminars
Exhibitions & events
Training
Business meetings
Corporate hospitality

Family

Weddings & special occasion parties

Leisure

Caravan, camping, & motorhomes
Hostel accommodation:
riders, cyclists, walkers & birdwatchers

Special Interest

Club/group facilities

Contents:

- Page 2 and 3
 - Fakenham forges closer working relationship with Tote
 - Introducing 18/24
 - A Norfolk Picnic arrives at the Racecourse
 - Greyhound Lure Coursing returns to Fakenham Racecourse
 - Spotlight on ..
 - Successful Mongolian Rally

- Page 4
 - 2009/2010 Race Meetings
 - Changes on the 'Ground'
 - Birthday Wishes to ..
 - A busy summer at Fakenham Racecourse
 - Dates for the Diary
 - Key Racecourse Staff