



## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS 2023

This renewal reminder is only for members who receive 'paper' copies of the club magazine.

The membership rate is maintained at £12 for a further year notwithstanding the cost increases re printing and postage seen in 2022.

Please send any cheques (payable to North & Midlands Racing Club) to Helen Goodwill, Membership Secretary, 124 Lindsell Rd, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 5NZ.

If you pay by bankers order please ensure the sum is set at £12 and also keep the club updated if either your postal and/or e-mail addresses have altered.

Any 'paper' non-renewals will automatically be added to the online mailing list where we have a current e mail address.

## CHELTENHAM/AINTREE PREVIEW EVENTS IN 2023

Thanks to all who filled in the recent 'club events' survey which included a question about whether or not members wanted NMRC to arrange an event in the North West.

I am pleased to say that there were sufficient positive responses to make this viable at a smaller venue and details of the Cheltenham event are included on Page 4.

For members living outside the North West we have also included some possible options for members to consider in Birmingham and also at Hexham.

Provided that the club's Cheltenham Preview is well supported we shall also look at putting on an Aintree Preview at the same venue.

**Davy Russell's** career is reviewed by Harold Heys after his temporary retirement in December – see pages 11/12.



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2** Competition News & PTP Update with Andy White
- 3** Members New Year's 'Racing Resolutions'
- 4** NMRC's Cheltenham Preview Night
- 5** Weatherbys Cheltenham Guide (plus discount info)
- 6** Mel Rowley (re-scheduled) stable visit
- 7-9** Gordon Armistead's Racing Diary
- 9** News from Catterick Racecourse
- 10** Alex Bird Tipping Challenge 2023
- 11/12** Davy Russell nearly retires by Harold Heys
- 14/15** Go Racing In Yorkshire news from Charlotte Russell
- 16/18** Keith Johnson is 'under the spotlight' By B.Goodwill

# COMPETITION NEWS

## 59's DRAW RESULTS UPDATE

The latest '59's' winner is as follows:

**December 3rd – 23 – Ray Squire (Bury)**  
**January 7th – 18 – Chris Watson (Stockport)**

Your £50 prizes will be sent out shortly.

The winning number is determined by the 'bonus ball' drawn in the UK Lottery on the first Saturday of the month.

Thanks to all who continue to support the draw.

All numbers are currently allocated.

## SATURDAY NAPS+ COMPETITION 2022/23

Congratulations to **Jim Aitkenhead** who receives a £70 prize for winning Round 1 of this winter's competition. **Maureen Dawson** finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place and wins a £30 prize.

The early leaders in Round 2 after 3 weeks are as follows:

Liz O'Donoghue 56.7pts  
Alan Spencer 32.7pts  
Jim Aitkenhead 27.4pts

The provisional Round 2/3 'feature' races will be:

Jan 28<sup>th</sup> – Doncaster – Skybet Chase  
Feb 4<sup>th</sup> - Sandown – Heroes Handicap Hurdle  
Feb 11<sup>th</sup> – Newbury – 'Betfair' Handicap Hurdle  
Feb 18<sup>th</sup> – Haydock – Grand National Trial  
Feb 25<sup>th</sup> - Newcastle – Eider Chase  
March 4<sup>th</sup> – Newbury – Greatwood Gold Cup  
March 11<sup>th</sup> - Sandown – Imperial Cup  
March 18<sup>th</sup> - Uttoxeter – Midlands Grand National  
March 25<sup>th</sup> – To Be Advised

If there are any changes to these 'feature races' entrants will be informed in due course.

## POINT TO POINT NEWS By Andy White

The point-to-point season is now in full swing and last year's top trainer Tom Ellis and his team made a fantastic start. On New Year's Eve team Ellis had a six a timer at the Thurlow Hunt meeting in Cambridgeshire. The winners were shared between his wife Gina Andrews with three, Jack Andrews riding a double and Ellie Holder.

The following week the Ellis team went north from their midlands base to Northumberland having a double at the West Percy Hunt meeting at Alnwick with Whosmydaddy and Latenightrumble both ridden by Jack Andrews.

A bright sunny and dry day welcomed the crowds to Mick Easterby's Sheriff Hutton yard for the first Yorkshire meeting of the season on Sunday 15 January, the Yorkshire Area Point-to-Point club.

Gina Andrews rode a double for the powerful Ellis team with wins on the odds-on favourite Dubai Quest in the Ladies open and Big City Roller in the concluding 2-mile 4-furlong maiden. Dubai Quest who finished fourth behind three Irish trained rivals at last year's Cheltenham foxhunters will no doubt be aimed at the big meetings again this year.

It was John Dawson who claimed the riding honours on the day with a treble. He won both divisions of the conditions race riding the ex-Donald McCain trained Mount Mews for Lucy Hughes, wife of champion jockey Brian and Tom Cody for Cherry Coward. He completed his treble on odds-on favourite Black Op in the men's open for trainer Emma Clark.

Other winners on the day were the Steff Easterby trained Fascinating Rhythm ridden by Will Easterby in the restricted and Legostar ridden by Henry Crow winning the maiden for Joe O'Shea.

Pricing the admission at £10 per person and with plenty of entries resulted in an attendance that many National Hunt courses would have been delighted with. The meeting also continued to donate all profits to the Yorkshire air ambulance.

Yorkshire area meetings continue with fixtures at Duncombe Park, Helmsley on Sunday 5 February, at Askham Bryan College near York on Sunday 19 February and over towards the Coast at Charm Park near Scarborough on Sunday 5 March.

Forthcoming Midlands area meetings are at Bangor-on-Dee on Sunday 12 March and Tabley near Knutsford on Sunday 23 April.

As always you can find details of point to point news and forthcoming meetings at [www.pointtopoint.co.uk](http://www.pointtopoint.co.uk)

# New Year's (Racing) Resolutions for 2023

We asked a number of our members for their 'racing related' resolutions for 2023. These could be either personal or relating to the sport as a whole, the latter being more of a wish list.

**Judith Bradley writes:** 'Most of all, I would like to see quality rather than quantity - less racing but more competitive fields. I'd also like to see real jumpers in jump races, not Flat racing failures. I would also like for jump racers to keep winning the Flat races like The Cesarewitch. For racegoers, I would like to see more value for money., and maybe discounted tickets for those buying for several days at the same course (whether at the same meeting or not). What we want is for more people to enjoy going to the races'

**Charles Rear says:** 'Never back a Tim Easterby or Gary Moore-trained horse that is drifting in the market! I know that I should not but every now and then I do and once it paid off!'

**Phil Evans writes:** On a personal note I must attend more 'reciprocals' linked to my annual members badge. As far as the sport is concerned I would like to see more use of modern technology. For instance whips could be fitted with sensors to check how many times 'used' and then checked as part of the weighing in process. Jockey's helmets could also be fitted with a listening device so they can react better to the starters instructions thus reducing false starts and placing less reliance on the 'flag man' if a recall is required. Another thing the sport should do is cut down the number of long-distance races with 'Grand National' in the name. It seems that every county in the UK & Eire has such a race nowadays. Besides Aintree, Ayr, Chepstow & Fairyhouse I would not allow any other tracks to use the term 'Grand National' in the race name – maybe the name 'Grand National Trial' could be used instead?

**Leslie Buckley (via Facebook):** My late husband said we should try and visit every racecourse. I've crossed a few off myself and I would like to complete the list.

**Gordon Armistead says:** There are any number of things that racing could do better but for this. an easy one. All horses to be in the parade ring five minutes before the jockeys mount signal with the horses number displayed on the horse not on the arm of the attendant

**Les Taylor's resolutions are:** Write to Cheltenham and ask it to remove everything which is obstructing the view of the second last hurdle. Write to Doncaster and ask it to chainsaw the forest obstructing the view of the back straight. Write to Ludlow and ask it to re-route the track in front of the wood which obstructs the turn into the home straight.

**Mike Campbell writes:** (1) I enjoy reading sports related books and the aim is to get rid of those books which have been read and are now gathering dust. Someone else can enjoy them. (2) Witness a common-sense approach by the lawmakers in the racing industry. Plenty of own goals like the 'new' whip rules and the farce of 'low sun' procedures to name but two. (3) Visit one of the Irish premier National Hunt meetings, like Leopardstown in February. Maybe not this year but in the near future.

**David Byrne says:** (1 ) To find a bookie who would give me odds for a dead heat at Cheltenham festival 2023  
(2) To find a racecourse which does something different to attract spectators at a reasonable cost.

**John Boswell's list includes:** I have a number of wishes for the future of Racing (none of which are likely to be met in the foreseeable future !). (1) Cheaper admission to racecourses. (2) Banish the whip completely  
(3) Find a way to make Irish racing more competitive to break the Mullins/Elliot stranglehold. (4) Restrict the number of declarations per stable for races such as the Grand National to say maximum of 3 to allow the smaller stables to participate-it is ridiculous to allow stables to have 8-10 runners in one race. (5) Stop the nonsensical "no cash" rule at races-introduced re Covid but seems to be here to stay-I find it annoying to have to use a card to pay for a race card or drink.

## NMRC A.G.M. MINUTES NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

Thanks to all who took part in this year's online AGM on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January. As we now have a more diverse regional membership this 'online' format is likely to stay in place for future years so that all of our members have an equal chance of joining in the meeting wherever they live.

Minutes of the meeting are now available online on the club website at <https://the-nrc.weebly.com> From the home page select 'more' from the menu and then 'AGM Minutes' where you can download the pdf document. For copies of the club accounts please e mail [info@northernracingclub.com](mailto:info@northernracingclub.com)

## **NMRC's CHELTENHAM PREVIEW NIGHT – WED MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup> (7.45 PM START) THE TETLEYS CLUB, LONG LANE, WARRINGTON WA2 8PU**

After more than 2 years absence (due to the pandemic) we are back with a **live** Cheltenham preview event in 2023! If you live within easy reach of Warrington we hope you can join us. As Star Sports are no longer able to sponsor the event we have moved location this year to somewhere more affordable!

**Andy Gibson** (author of the Cheltenham Trail website and annual) & **Paul Ferguson** (author of the Weatherbys Cheltenham Guide and also Weatherbys Jumps Annual) will be on the panel which will be chaired by our own **Gordon Armistead**.

A further panel guest may be added in due course if ticket sales allow. Updates will be posted on the club website at [www.northernracingclub.com](http://www.northernracingclub.com) and social media

**Admission will be £8pp** (If pre-booked) with all those having reserved places going into a free draw for a bottle of malt whisky. Those booking 4+ places will also be seated on a reserved table as near to the stage as possible. To book places please contact Phil Evans ([info@northernracingclub.com](mailto:info@northernracingclub.com) or text 07858 034694). **Unreserved places should also be available on the night at £10pp** – for latest details please visit the club website (details as above).

The venue has a capacity of 140 places and a decent sized car park.



## **MIDLANDS AREA CHELTENHAM PREVIEW NIGHT**

Our good friend Chris Pitt has sent through details of an event he is chairing in Birmingham on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm**. This is not an NMRC event but one which should appeal to members in the area.

Besides Chris, the panel will include Racing TV's Sam Turner ('Robin Goodfellow' of the Daily Mail) and ATR/BBC Radio pundit Charlie Poste (former Welsh Grand National-winning jockey).

The venue is: Our Lady of Lourdes Club 222 Trittford Road Yardley Wood Birmingham B13 0EU  
The nearest train station is Yardley Wood, a 3-minute walk from the club.

Cost is £10pp and includes a light buffet! To reserve places, contact Adam McSharry, 07875 093021 or [adammcsharry@gmail.com](mailto:adammcsharry@gmail.com)

# WEATHERBYS CHELTENHAM GUIDE 2023



We are delighted to share details of this year's edition of the guide (which is produced by Paul Ferguson and Weatherbys) and will also cover many of the Aintree Festival Races. Paul has again arranged a discount for NMRC members with full details as below:

At the checkout use **Promo Code NWRC23** which will give £4 off print copy, digital or the bundle of both, via Weatherbys Shop website:

<https://weatherbysshop.co.uk/collections/cheltenham-festival-2023>

**The Weatherbys 2023 Cheltenham Festival Betting Guide is now in its 24th year.** Written (in the main) and edited by Paul Ferguson, it includes guest authors such as: Racing TV's Jess Stafford - Breeding Angles. Racing TV's Graham Cunningham - Big Talking Points. Daily Mail and Racing TV pundit Sam Turner - Daily Tips. Freelance Journalist Rory

Delargy - Banker Or Bust & Racing TV's Donn McClean - the Irish View

All 28 races previewed, including an easy to refer to Key Trends box, with all the facts & figures required. Plus, 12 races are covered from Aintree's Grand National meeting and much more.

Also, read about Paul Ferguson's *Spring Horses To Follow*, in the style of his successful annual publication, *Jumpers To Follow*. Last year's dozen horses to follow included County Hurdle winner State Man, Arkle winner Edwardstone and Brown Advisory winner L'Homme Presse.

Available to pre-order now, the Cheltenham Festival Betting Guide will be published in late February and in association with Fitzdares: <https://weatherbysshop.co.uk/collections/cheltenham-festival-2023>

You can also win a copy of the guide by entering our competition on page

## NEWS FROM HEXHAM RACECOURSE

Wednesday 8th March 2023

Cheltenham Festival Preview Night

Tynedale Farmer Function Suite, Hexham Mart, NE46 3SG

A night full of banter from our informative panel - Andrew Thornton, Gordon Brown, Rebecca Menzies, Danny McMenamin & Ian Hamilton.

Tickets £12.00 can be purchased by contacting the office on 01434 606881.

## MEL ROWLEY – STABLE VISIT – THURSDAY MARCH 23RD

The October 2022 stable visit was cancelled at the request of the trainer and has now been re-scheduled for Thursday morning March 23rd when there is also racing at Ludlow in the afternoon.

This will be NMRC's first stable visit of the year. The yard is located at Morville, Nr Bridgenorth in Shropshire. We expect to arrive mid-morning (time TBC) and will depart in good time to visit Ludlow racecourse for their afternoon meeting.

Mel had her first full season in 2021-22 and sent out 14 winners. Some stars from last season include: *Wishing & Hoping*, *My Bobby Dazzler*, *Ginger Du Val* & *Latitude*.

*Wishing And Hoping* (pictured below) has recently won the very valuable Veteran's Chase at Sandown in early January.



Husband Phil Rowley is the named point-to-point trainer in the yard and will be best remembered for winning the 2019 Cheltenham Hunter Chase with *Hazel Hill*, as well as being champion point to point trainer in 2018.

Phil was originally a sheep farmer and Mel involved in dressage and hunter chasing albeit both are now much more focussed upon their training careers.

To reserve places(s) please contact Dave Bates (details below) who will send out final details a week before the visit. We also like to leave a donation for the stable staff and will collect £5pp on the day from those adults attending.

Dave Bates (Stable Visits) 01925 574140 [bates270@btinternet.com](mailto:bates270@btinternet.com)

# GORDON ARMISTEAD'S RACING DIARY

## **Saturday December 3<sup>rd</sup> Aintree**

Probably no National clues in the Becher chase as the first three will all struggle to make the cut come April. Ashtown Lad and Gesskille would also both have doubts about getting the extra mile.

Last year's National winner almost assured he will have top weight next time around by putting in an impressive display in the Many Clouds. Being against Ahoy Senor after Wetherby and Chantry House because he is untrustworthy it enabled me to get some cash out of Noble Yates at last. Whether he is a Gold Cup horse we will see. Dasher Drasher seemed to get the trip on his first attempt at three miles plus and tries every time. Ahoy Senor has it to prove now.

Two-mile novice hurdle winner Strong Leader looked useful giving away the penalty but probably didn't beat much. Brave Seasca took the step up to two and a half miles in his stride as he bolted up in the handicap chase. He will have to step into graded company again later in the season.

## **Friday December 9<sup>th</sup> Cheltenham**

Goods sorts in the two-mile novice's hurdle. Attacca made all and found plenty when challenged. He will stay further and is decent. Runner up Master Chewy now has five places and a fall from six outings and I would want to see him win before being sure about him. Third home Gentle Slopes looks a stayer and was out speeded here but will win over hurdles before making a chaser.

If Nicky Henderson has a Grand National horse this season it is surely Dusart. He was somehow favourite for the three-mile handicap hurdle despite looking very tubby and just had a wander round.

## **Tuesday December 27<sup>th</sup> Leopardstown**

Back in the summer when I saw Zanndabad beaten at odds on at La Croise Laroche I commented that he would be off to the sales in the Aga Khan's autumn clear out. I didn't expect him to make €240K or see him juvenile hurdling. He ran O K in seventh but didn't look a winner waiting to happen. Winner Tekao was fitter than when I saw him beaten at Navan but this was a lesser race. He was put in as favourite for the Boodles at Cheltenham which seems bizarre as most of the possible runners have no official rating. Third home Goody Two Shoes will be winning before long.

The first Grade 1 of the day was the two-mile chase. Favourite Chacun Pour Soi didn't look great beforehand while stable mate Blue Lord has certainly improved physically since I last saw him. In a truly run race a mistake two out finished Chacun Pour Soi while Blue Lord swept into the lead coming to the last. He went right away from Captain Guinness who has at last learned to run a proper race instead of pulling too hard. The winner will be in the mix for the Champion Chase but still has ground to make up with Edwardstone let alone Energumene.

Facile Vega made it six from six in the two-mile novice hurdle Grade 1 without looking that great. He was sweaty beforehand as well and Il Etais Temps is no superstar but some decent maiden hurdle winners were well seen off.

Having won the first five races Willie Mullins had just the eight in the Paddy Power Handicap Chase which was as open as you could get. None made the first ten to end the chance of him going through the card as Real Steel came back to life two and a half years after giving Brian Hughes a great ride in the Cheltenham Gold Cup.

Fact to File took the two-mile four bumper to make it six for the day for Mullins without looking anything special.

## **Wednesday December 28<sup>th</sup> Leopardstown**

A few nice chasing sorts in the four-year-old two-mile four maiden hurdle. The supposed Mullins second string Ho My Lord was backed off the boards from 18/1 into 5/2 before departing at the second flight. The other short priced ones in the betting filled the places with the De Bromhead runner Deep Cove staying on strongly from the last to catch the favourite Lot of Joy with Firm Footings staying on at the one pace in third. The winner and third would have been suited by a stronger pace and both will get further. The runner up who was placed in a Norwegian Oaks can go for a mare's race. The one I liked in the paddock was Built by Ballymore who was not given a hard time at any stage. Sixth home Canal End a 50/1 shot will be placed to win races.

The Grade 1 Three Mile Hurdle saw Home on the Lee racing with far more enthusiasm and winning going away. What exactly it amounted too is open to question. Runner Up Ashdale Bob always runs his race but doesn't stay the trip or win races. Third home Meet and Greet was beaten further by The Nice Guy over this trip as a novice and fourth Flooring Porter didn't race with his usual enthusiasm. The other short priced runners in the betting Bob Olinger and Zanahiyr ran no sort of race. The staying hurdlers look a poor lot at present.

No A Plus Tard in the Savills Chase and Conflated looked the winner from a long way out. He did it well but it will be a poor Gold Cup if he was to win. Kemboy ran his race in second. French Dynamite didn't stay while Galvin who was in a mess beforehand ran very poorly.

Just how Maxxum lost on his first run for Gordon Elliot off a rating of 99 I don't know. After going up seventeen pounds after winning his next run he went up another eighteen for his stroll round here in the Pertemps Qualifier. No doubt the English handicapper will have him higher still for the final. National winner Minella Times has shown no life since his Aintree win and was again poor here off his hurdle rating of just 122. Ile Atlantique just found enough to win the bumper for Willie Mullins but won't be qualified for the championship races having already run over hurdles in France. His stable mate Castlebawn North who hadn't run in points was paddock pick but pulled too hard and faded to fourth.

#### **Thursday December 29<sup>th</sup> Leopardstown**

Future chasers with good bumper form in the two four maiden hurdle. Good Land made all and was in no danger from the home turn. Useful. Behind him Tag Man who won a bumper at the Punchestown festival ran a good race. Of the Mullins joint favourites Embassy Gardens made a bad mistake at halfway while Madmansgame the biggest horse I have seen in a very long time will surely be better for a run and won't be seen at his best until he jumps fences.

The three-mile Grade 1 novice chase was an unsatisfactory race. Gaillard Du Mesnil won on his seventh effort over fences beating another in Churchstonewarrior who hadn't won a chase. The third is one from eight over fences. The winner will no doubt head for the National Hunt Chase but his future will be in handicaps while his rating looks high enough that he might struggle in them. The horse I really fancied to make a top novice chaser this season Three Stripes Lite hadn't jumped well on his first two starts and didn't again here before his fatal fall two out.

The Matheson Hurdle saw State Man continue his progression towards the Champion Hurdle in beating Vauban. Both will be back here in February to take on Honeysuckle before heading to Cheltenham. State Man is a big sort who looks more a chaser and this told us little more about him. Sharjah made a bad mistake early on and Pied Piper just walked home evidently with a problem.

A decent bumper went to Facile Mode for Tom Mullins on debut and no doubt he will be on the market. It didn't look championship bumper form.

#### **Friday December 30<sup>th</sup> Haydock**

The two penalised runners in the novice hurdle had it between them from a long way out. War Soldier was always doing enough to hold the far from straightforward Matata. They will go into mid-level handicaps. The handicapper badly penalised Jungle Jack for beating an odds on shot who ran poorly at a previous meeting here. He will no doubt do the same for the horse that beat Jungle Jack here in the two-mile three handicap hurdle Fine Casting.

#### **Sunday January 1<sup>st</sup> Cheltenham**

Not for the first time this was a better card than some of the bigger Autumn meetings here.

A good two four maiden hurdle went to Weveallbeencaught who had chased home Hermes Allen here in November. He still needs to strengthen up but is going the right way. The runner up Rock My Way was a big price coming from his Irish point win in October but must be useful as the pair were well clear. Gentle Slopes was well beaten and appeared not to get home but was subsequently reported lame.

Not a good renewal of the Dipper Novices Chase and no L'Homme Presse this year. The winner The Real Whacker who had won a very poor novice chase here in November was the outsider but set off to test his rival's stamina and jumping and found then all out. Monmiral lacks some scope for this game while Thunder Rock who has somehow been given a rating on 150 just looked pace less.

The two-mile four handicap chase looked wide open. The stiffer track than in November suited Midnight River who won it well. Having taken 20/1 Nassalam the night before and seeing him shorten to 8/1 I was hopeful but he lacked the pace and just stayed on for third.

I hope they call time with Lostintranslation as he didn't look the horse he used to be in the parade ring and never went a stride in the race.

A good field for the Relkeel Hurdle and Marie's Rock continued the roll of victories from last season. She isn't straightforward pulling hard and racing with her head in the air but at the end of races she puts it in. There is no way Honeysuckle will go for the mare's hurdle at Cheltenham so she is a worthy favourite. Having chased home Noble Yates at Aintree Dasher Drasher again finished second back over hurdles. He just fines this class of race beyond him. This appeared to show the limitations of First Steet and Knappers Hill.

#### **Saturday January 14<sup>th</sup> Warwick**



Just four in the £40K two-mile handicap chase and the novice Haddex Des Obeaux made all and was in no danger from a long way out. Quite what it amounted too is the question. Runner up Galop De Chasse dropped out at halfway and just plodded on while third Tine Lucki is just getting disappointing after getting himself badly handicapped. That said front running two-mile handicappers usually do well but he wouldn't want the handicapper to over react.

Galia Des Liteaux is a big strong mare and the jumping was much better than at Kempton. She took the three-mile grade 2 novice chase comfortably and obviously likes heavy ground. The runner up Complete Unknown will have to go back into handicaps and his mark of 142 is fair enough.

Plenty of chasing sorts in the Leamington Novices Grade 2 Hurdle. Grey Dawning looked sleeker than when beaten at odds on in his first run of the season at Aintree. He just outstayed his two closest rivals Ginny's Destiny and Knowsley Road from the last. He will get three miles but I doubt he is good enough for an Albert Bartlett. The placed pair should make novice chasers next season and Knowsley Road looked the sort who would improve physically for another year.

I am not sure the rule of needing to have run six times over fences before being qualified for the Grand National was meant to keep out a ten-year-old who has won a Welsh National and a Classic Chase. That is how it stands at present for Iwilldoit and he has about a month before the weights come out for the sixth run. He hasn't stood too much racing in the past and would probably need a soft ground National. Runner up Mr Incredible looked a total rogue last season pulling himself up mid race after refusing to start previously. Noble Yates's old owner Paul Byrne must have seen something to take a risk with him and transfer him to Willie Mullins. This looked a minimum trip for him with Aintree the aim if he makes the cut.

## NEWS FROM CATTERICK RACECOURSE

### Go racing for less this winter at Catterick Racecourse!

Thanks to the winter season discount at Catterick Racecourse, admission prices from 2nd January to 31st March are discounted with admission to the Course Enclosure held at £5 per person, while Grandstand & Paddock admission prices are reduced to £15 at the gates on the day and £12 when you book at least 48 hours in advance. Visit <https://www.catterickbridge.co.uk/Racing/Buy-Tickets> or call the racecourse office on 01748 811478 to get your tickets.



### A date for your diary: Countryside Ladies' Day at Catterick Racecourse on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March

Offering the opportunity to showcase winter fashions, Countryside Ladies' Day takes place on the final meeting of Catterick's National Hunt season, on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Alongside thrilling Jump racing action, racegoers are invited to take part in fashion competitions including Best Dressed Lady and Best Accessory.

This year, the Best Dressed Lady competition has been kindly sponsored by the Black Bull Inn, Moulton, and Catterick's Jumps Season Best Dressed Lady will win a two-course meal for two people and a bottle of wine. While the Best Accessory competition winner will receive a £20 voucher to spend at Millbry Hill, either online or in store, plus a bottle of champagne thanks to Millbry Hill Country Store. Remember to book at least 48 hours in advance to save on your admission!

# 'ALEX BIRD' TIPPING CHALLENGE 2023

The Alex Bird Trophy, the competition to find the North & Midlands Racing Club Champion Tipster for 2023, gets underway at the Cheltenham Festival. Mark Banks will again run the competition assisted by Mike Wheater. Please note that entrants must enter all four rounds to qualify for the seasonal competition – if anyone is on holiday for any round a substitute may be appointed!

The format of the competition again covers all races on each day of the first two meetings at Cheltenham & Aintree with Round 3 covering the 'last' four days at Royal Ascot. For Round 4, all four days will be covered from the St Leger festival at Doncaster in early September.

1. The points scored will be based on the winner and placed horses (2nd/3rd/4th depending on number of runners) with potential bonus points added based on the starting price of the winning horse. Precise scoring details are set out in the full rules (available from Mark/Michael or online at <https://the-nrc.weebly.com/clubcompetitions.html> ).
2. The overall winner, and therefore the 'Alex Bird' Champion Tipster, will be decided on the total for all 4 rounds and receives the coveted Alex Bird trophy for a period of 12 months.
3. Any entrants who are on holiday for a full round may nominate a substitute to send entries on their behalf.
4. Entry Fees in 2023 are the same as last year, namely £10 for all 4 rounds. All entry fees are added to the prize fund.
5. As previously, entrants may submit up to two entries, as long as all are marked as 'Entry 1' 'Entry 2' and will be scored separately.
6. Cash prizes will now be awarded to the overall winner and the winner of the four rounds. The overall winner's prize is guaranteed as a minimum of £100 with the four round prizes guaranteed as a minimum of £50 with the actual prizes confirmed once the number of entries is known. In 2022, due to the volume of entries, additional prizes for runners up were available. If the level of entries permits, these will again be awarded in 2023. NB: All cash prizes are remitted to the winners by direct bank payments.

We hope the 2023 competition will appeal to both loyal contestants and new participants alike. We look forward to your entries and wish everyone the best of good tipping fortune.

---

## ALEX BIRD COMPETITION 2023 – ENTRY FORM

Name..... Address.....

Phone/E Mail.....

Please return to North & Midlands Racing Club at 53 Dalebrook Rd, Sale, Greater Manchester M33 3LB. Please also enclose your entry fee of £10 per entry (cheques payable to North & Midlands Racing Club please). Please enclose a SAE if you require a paper copy of the rules. To make an online banking payment of your entry fee please Email [info@northernracingclub.com](mailto:info@northernracingclub.com) for further details. You will then receive an e-mailed copy of the rules for 2023.

# Retirement? Well, not just yet says Davy

By HAROLD HEYS

DAVY RUSSELL timed his pre-Christmas retirement, after more than 20 years in the saddle, to perfection. A last ride on a hot favourite for Gordon Elliott at the little Thurles course in Tipperary in the heart of Ireland, watched by his family and hundreds of his enthusiastic fans. The horse, Liberty Dance, owned by his great supporter Tim O'Driscoll, duly obliged and Davy slid off to tell everyone: "That's it!"

Three weeks later, when Davy might have put on a few pounds while relaxing on his farm in Youghal near Cork, perhaps with pipe and slippers, and smiling to himself at the thought that, after the horror accident that had ruled him out of racing for most of 2021, he had eased through his comeback unscathed ...

However, as Robert Burns memorably wrote, "the best-laid plans of mice and men go off' astray." Elliot's top rider Jack Kennedy, had fallen from Top Bandit at Naas and had broken a leg for the fifth time.

Davy Russell didn't hesitate when the trainer rang asking him to fill in for a few weeks.

Explaining his decision to dig out his racing boots again in his blog for Star Sports, Russell wrote: "Retirement was going great but Jack's spill changed everything. These things are never good, and if it had happened, let's say, two or three months later, there would have been no decision to make.

"There are so many young talented riders in Gordon's stables and their days will come for sure. It's just a bit early for some of the more high-profile horses and I'm happy to help.

"A lot of people have asked whether I'll now be at Cheltenham, will I go to Aintree? I'm simply filling in for Jack and when he's ready to return, I'll step away again. I'm there to help a team that has always had my back."

Davy might never have retired if Navan hadn't been drenched in heavy rain over the weekend before Christmas. On December, 18, a Sunday, he was getting just a little anxious about riding another winner. He had decided that his next win would be his last. But for the previous month the 43-year-old had notched up just a couple of wins.

It's a quiet time for jumps racing and the heady days of a Grand National double on Tiger Roll, a Gold Cup on Lord Windermere, and a string of Grade 1 races, including a Grand Steeple-Chase de Paris, were behind him and he was still feeling the effects of the broken neck a few months earlier.

So it was with little enthusiasm that he lined up a day's racing at Navan, north of Dublin that Sunday. And then came the rain; lots of it – and the meeting was called off.

It looked as though his illustrious career would tail off into the snow, ice, rain and abandoned meetings of the New Year. Then he got a call from Elliott to replace Denis O'Regan on a fancied hurdler down south at Thurles.

Just about every racing enthusiast knows now that Davy Russell won the mares novice hurdle on warm favourite Liberty Dance, cheered on by a big crowd that had picked up the beat of the jungle drums. He slid off, smiling broadly, and immediately announced his retirement.

He said: "You always wonder after a bad fall whether you still have it. I wanted to come back riding because recovery would've been an awful lot more difficult unless I had a goal." And he wanted to go out on a winner.



Davy Russell on Tiger Roll after one of their Grand National wins. *Photo: Edward Whitaker*



Gordon Elliott paid a warm tribute to Russell: "Davy has been a legend of the sport. The bigger the day, the better he was. He has been consistently brilliant and has been a massive part of my success and a big part of our team."

- Davy Russell was three times Champion Jockey in Ireland and won 1,579 races in Britain and Ireland making him the ninth most successful jump jockey of all time. What will he miss most – "The cheque at the end of the month," he grinned.

- And his own personal highlight over the two decades? Russell says: "I'll never forget my first winner as a professional and I'll never forget my last but it's hard to get away from Tiger Roll." That first professional win, by the way, was at Sedgfield on November 12, 2002 on Inn Antique.

- He was leading rider at Cheltenham in 2018 with four wins and, since riding his first Festival winner aboard Native Jack in the 2006 cross-country race, has bagged at least one winner

14 times in the 16 festivals at which he competed. He rode 58 Grade 1 winners.

(Above) Liberty Dance and Russell are led in after their Thurles win.

## WELL DONE JEFF SADIK! BY PHIL EVANS

Members may recall that in issue 370 of *Racin'* I did an interview with Jeff Sadik about the 15-year anniversary of the sad loss of his son (Gus) and the fact that there is still a race named after him every August at Cartmel.

Jeff has continued to train his small string of horses from his stable near Worcester and has largely been 'picking up crumbs from the giants table' with his long-priced outsiders sometimes picking up place money in small field events.



However, Jeff saddled his first winner since 2014 recently and it was on the flat that he enjoyed his recent success (previous flat winner was in 2010). *Bawaader* was the winning horse and followed up his 7/2 win with a 7/4 win a week later.

Whilst he has trained around 50 winners in his career, times have been tougher for Jeff since his son died.

On a personal note Jeff has also suffered from health issues in recent times. "I've been carrying on because the horses

have been my therapy. I always get out of bed because I have something to look forward to".

"In regards to all the medication I've taken over the years, horses are doing a far better job on me. I have my wife, but apart from her the horses are the only other thing really."

He said: "I've come through it and am clear, but I have a check-up every three months. It's so far so good, but our lives have been terrible for the last few years. However, after winning at Kempton I'm over the moon and up in the clouds."

# NMRC'S NEW YEAR BOOK COMPETITION

This time the winner will receive a copy of the **Weatherbys 2023 Cheltenham & Aintree guide**.

Entrants need to work out which nine UK or Irish racecourses are indicated by the photos below. It's a bit like catchphrase so 'say what you see' to find the answers.

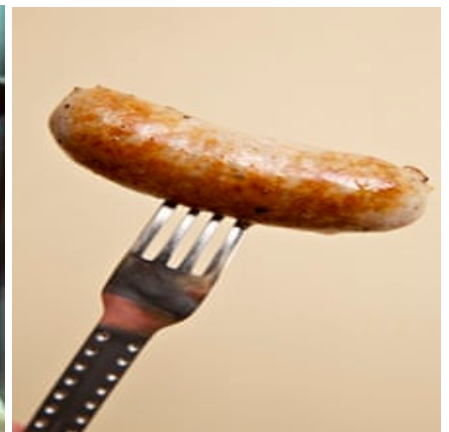
Once you have your answers, please e mail to [info@northernracingclub.com](mailto:info@northernracingclub.com) or post to NMRC at 53 Dalebrook Rd, Sale, M33 3LB. Don't forget to add your name/address! Closing date for entries will be Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February. If there is more than one all correct entry than a draw will be made to determine the winner.



1



2



3



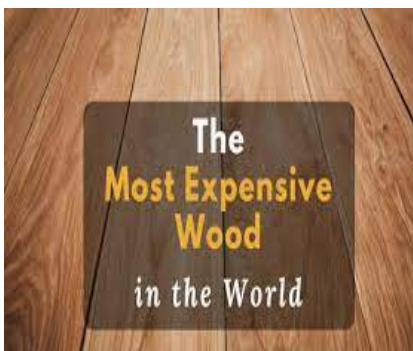
4



5



6



7



8



9

# Go Racing In Yorkshire New Year Update By Charlotte Russell

## Go Racing In Yorkshire Annual Awards

Yorkshire achievements were celebrated at the Go Racing In Yorkshire Annual Awards, sponsored by the Tote and held at York Racecourse in December. The ceremony started with a presentation to John Sexton to mark his retirement as Chairman of Go Racing In Yorkshire after nine years in the role. Others to collect awards on the day were;

Leading Jump Trainer in Yorkshire – Dan Skelton  
Leading Jump Jockey in Yorkshire – Brian Hughes  
Go Racing In Yorkshire Futures Stars Apprentice Champion – Ryan Sexton  
Leading Flat Trainer in Yorkshire – Tim Easterby  
Leading Flat Jockey in Yorkshire – Danny Tudhope  
Yorkshire Horse of the Year – Highfield Princess  
Milestone Awards – Mark & Charlie Johnston for training 5,000 winners  
Brian Hughes for riding 1,500 winners  
Ruth Carr for training her 500<sup>th</sup> winner  
Paul Midgley for training his 500<sup>th</sup> winner  
Kevin Stott for riding his 500<sup>th</sup> winner

A gallery of pictures from the awards can be found on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.5668429853233685&type=3>. Videos of the acceptance speeches can also be found on our YouTube channel [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj8g6Alskz5yFMK-a\\_dvAdg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj8g6Alskz5yFMK-a_dvAdg)

## Jumping Action In Yorkshire



Grand National at Catterick.  
*Picture credit: Hannah Ali*

Jump racing continues to provide the sporting action across Yorkshire and Bushypark put in a splendid jumping round to take the Vickers.Bet North Yorkshire Grand National at Catterick in January. Trained close to the course by Phil Kirby, the nine-year-old gelding showed a return to form when finishing second at Newcastle only five days earlier and justified favouritism to win by three and a half lengths. Bushypark ridden by Tommy Downson puts in a splendid jumping display to win the North Yorkshire

Brian Hughes rode his 100<sup>th</sup> Wetherby racecourse winner on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January. Partnering Richmond Lake for Donald McCain, the pair won comfortably to reach this significant number. This is the eighth course

where Brian has achieved a century or more and the next to tick off his list is Carlisle, where he sits on 99 winners at the time of writing. We think he is the first jockey to reach this score at Wetherby but please tell us if you know otherwise!



Jonjo Sanderson presents a memento to Brian Hughes after riding his 100<sup>th</sup> Wetherby winner  
*Photo credit: Official Photographers*

There's more jumping action to look forward to over the next couple of months with 6 meetings scheduled for Doncaster, including the Virgin Bet Grimthorpe chase in early March and racing on St Patrick's Day. Catterick have four meetings and finish the jump season on Wednesday, March 8 with their Countryside Ladies Day. The William Hill Towton

Novices' Chase is the feature meeting at Wetherby on Saturday, February 4 and bag a hat for their themed "Wear A Hat Day" at the end of March which raises awareness for Brain Tumour Research.

## Go Racing In Yorkshire Season Ticket

If you are a regular visitor to Yorkshire's tracks then the Go Racing In Yorkshire season ticket is just what you need! The season ticket gives Grandstand & Paddock access to all of Yorkshire's 188 scheduled fixtures, including York's Ebor meeting and St Leger Saturday at Doncaster. The season ticket is on sale now and valid from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, but hurry – tickets are limited and must be booked before 1<sup>st</sup> March. You can book online <https://goracing.co.uk/product/season-ticket/> or to request a booking form please contact Charlotte Russell by email [charlotte.russell@goracing.co.uk](mailto:charlotte.russell@goracing.co.uk) or call 01937 580051.

## Flat Fun To Look Forward To

The flat season is only around the corner, beginning at Doncaster on 1<sup>st</sup> April. We're delighted that the Sky Bet Sunday Series returns to Yorkshire with a new fixture at Beverley on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June, then back to Pontefract on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June. You can find all of the Yorkshire fixtures on our website and can download them straight to your device <https://goracing.co.uk/fixtures/>.

## 2 Blokes Go Racing In Yorkshire

The Yorkshire courses received rave reviews from '2 Blokes Who Go Racing'. Cheg and Leg, two self-confessed "ordinary" racing fans have been heading up and down the country reviewing racecourses just for fun and while they've still got a number to tick off the list, including Ripon, they have been very complimentary of the Yorkshire Racing Experience. To quote directly from their Wetherby review in November, "If Carlsberg did racecourses....they still probably wouldn't be as good as Yorkshire do them." Naturally we are delighted with their comments and you can read more on their website <https://2blokesgoracing.com/>.

## KEITH JOHNSON (BOOKMAKER) UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT WITH BRIAN GOODWILL

### WHAT FIRST GOT YOU INTERESTED IN HORSE RACING?



It was not so much an interest in horse racing as an interest in numbers. As a child I was quite good at arithmetic, and I was fascinated by fractions and percentages even before starting school. My Aunty had a local pub and I used to go there on a Saturday morning and stock up the beer bottle shelves for which I received the princely sum of 6d a week. Some weeks if I was very quiet and hid in the back room then I got to stay after opening time. I observed that the customers were placing bets in the local betting shop and then watching the racing on a small black and white television. Many of them could not calculate their returns and so I did this for them, the pleasures of 2/6 each way doubles pre calculators. This led to three things, firstly I got a lot of compliments and who does not like flattery, secondly the occasional present when someone had a "touch" and thirdly the realisation that more money was going across the road than was coming back. With the knowledge that the punter normally came off second best I started to take small bets myself which all went well until I learned another lesson, the risk of having "bar ones" books when I went all in on Sonny Liston to beat Cassius Clay.

Only 8 years old and skint for the first time.

### HOW DID YOU BECOME A BOOKMAKER?

After leaving school I tried to get some racecourse pitches but at the time it was not possible to buy or sell pitches and the system of dead man's shoes was in operation. The waiting list for Tattersalls pitches was in the region of 40 years !!! This meant that I had to get a "proper job" making use of my numeracy skills whilst in tandem I spent all my free time operating as a bookmaker at point to points, some minor rings on the racecourse, and predominantly at harness racing meetings throughout the North of England and Scotland. Whilst it was frustrating at the time in hindsight serving such an apprenticeship was a good thing as I learned a lot, including how much I still had to learn. The best advice that I received was from the late great Pat Whelan who advised me to buy all the form guides that I could and when I had amassed enough of them to make a bonfire and set fire to them. Form and results averaged out but odds were all that mattered. If a horse was 6-4 and a bookmaker consistently laid 13-8 then they would go broke, but should they manage to lay it at 11-8 then they would end up rich. When buying and selling was introduced in 1998, I was very much involved at the auctions, and I acquired a viable pitch portfolio funded by a combination of selling my shares from the day job. reselling some of the pitches at a profit and borrowing £750k from the banks.

### YOUR BEST AND WORST DAYS ON COURSE?

The worst day by far remains the day that Don't Push It won the Grand National. It was at a time when the off-course offices still hedged on course. The horse had been 25-1 early in the day but the weight of public money meant that the offices wanted to reduce the SP. In the last few minutes before the off knowing that i had the value I laid it to "the Firms" at 16-1, 14-1, 12-1, 10-1 and even 8-1, it was returned at 10-1. I must have looked pretty miserable after the race as I was asked by a journalist how bad it had been. Fearing a severe telling off from "she who must be obeyed" I answered that the race had cost me 14 1/2p an inch which was how it was reported in the Racing Post. Another lesson learned - "You cannot eat value"

As you get older the definition of a good day on course changes, you wake up one day and realise that the days will run out before the money. Knowing that a good day nowadays is one where the weather was clement, the racing was interesting, the customers were both pleasant and knowledgeable about the rules of betting, all the equipment worked as intended particularly the Wi Fi for networking and that after 40+ years Christine has eventually provided sandwiches with a different filling to ham and cheese.

From a financial point of view two races went very well. The first was the 1990 Oaks when after having endured a disaster of a week I removed my brain and sent my whole team backing Salsabil with every bookmaker on the hill at Epsom. Not to be advocated and I am not proud of it but on this occasion, it worked, many times since it has failed me.

From a bookmaking perspective seeing Fiona Needham get Last Option up the hill at Cheltenham in 2002 was quite pleasing for both me and my bank manager.



## **WHEN WE ARE ALL GONE HOW DO YOU SEE THE BETTING RING IN 2053?**

All the moves over recent years has resulted in the reduction of colour and buzz from the ring. Racecourses prefer to have everything standardised, sanitised and cashless. None of this helps to get people racing. In the 20+ years that I have been doing this full-time turnover for midweek fixtures has dropped by over 80%, and I cannot see it recovering. The position is much different for the Festivals and Feature Days. Business has dipped for some of these days, but others have held up well. Punters enjoy the race day experience of these type of days, and they like to bet, and when they win, they like to be paid in cash so that they can treat their friends, at least when they are allowed to buy drinks with cash.

Come 2053 there will be very few bookmakers on normal days except maybe for Bryan Hazell who by then will be on retirement plan XYZ, I do not expect that the numbers will change much for the Festivals although more of bookmakers may be situated away from the established betting rings. i.e. more to where the punters are.

## **HAS TURNOVER RETURNED TO PRE-COVID LEVELS?**

Overall, business is not back to pre-Covid. perhaps overall 20% down. When Covid restrictions were lifted in Summer / Autumn 2021 business was actually busier than pre-Covid but that proved to be a false dawn and during 2022 business has dropped below that level. Again, this is with the exception of some of the Festival and feature days which have generally held up. The number of bets taken each day has fallen significantly but encouragingly there has been a slight increase in the average bet size which has eased the pain somewhat. The best 20% of the days have suffered the least but the majority of what were already poor, marginally or unviable, days have one backwards even more. The vast majority of days are no longer viable, but some have to be worked to maintain teams for the better days.

In 2022 despite having a spread of type of pitches over 70% of my net profits came from just 23 day's work.

## **APART FROM SAYING DON'T, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO ANYONE BECOMING AN ON-COURSE BOOKIE?**

On busy days when the weather is nice, and the equipment works then there is not a better job in the World. The vast majority of customers are like old friends and win or lose it is a pleasure to be outside and enjoying the racing in the company of likeminded people. On quiet days it is frustrating and can be boring, and when technology fails as is often the case it can become very stressful. There is still good money to be made and with the right pitches a bookmaker can still get a reasonable return on capital. However, it is vital that any prospective new on course bookie seeks the advice of a seasoned, and sound minded bookmaker, most do not seek such advice and many that do then ignore the advice that they are given. Without some ground rules and or without some good pitches it is almost impossible to make it pay. The biggest mistake that novice bookmakers make is to work a pitch on too many days, less is more at this game.



My advice would include - First and foremost, do not give up the day job, relying totally on bookmaking may help focus the mind but it will not help fill the waistline. Then buy the best pitches that you can afford and plan to do no more than 40 days per annum. whilst you serve your apprenticeship. Concentrate exclusively on Summer Saturdays and Festivals. Do not do any mid weeks and do not think of bookmaking at any NH fixtures apart from perhaps Cheltenham, Aintree and Cartmel.

## **WHY IS A PITCH SO IMPORTANT?**

As the saying goes location, location, location and it applies more to on course bookmaking than to any other business. More than any aspect of bookmaking most lay people, and even some bookmakers, struggle to comprehend just how much difference there is between pitches even in the same ring. At some courses many pitches can be bought for £100 or even less whilst other pitches might cost £200000 or more but there is a very good reason for this. At many courses

pitches only, a few feet apart can have very different levels of business and bookmakers will sometimes pay or try to pay substantial sums just to move up one position.

### **WHAT CAN THE BHA DO BETTER?**

For people to be attracted to going racing then the racing experience has to be worth the customers investment in time and money. The complaints that we hear most regularly are with regard to the admission prices, particularly on the ordinary days, the quality and price of the food on offer, lack of toilets on the busy days, cashless admission only and small fields which limit the betting opportunities.

It is widely accepted that there is too much racing but the proposal to reduce some cards to 6 races is not the answer. That will put off customers from attending as the cost per race will rise. Racegoers expect 7 races, and it would be better to cull some meetings particularly the less well attended fixtures. It is also important to hold racing when people are able to attend. Back in the day there were many meetings on Bank Holidays many of my age had their first experience of racing along with their parents on a Bank Holiday. Now there are much fewer Bank Holiday fixtures to the extent that this year when the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January was a Bank Holiday, the fixtures were jumping at Ayr and Plumpton and All-Weather flat fixtures at Newcastle and Lingfield. An opportunity missed.

Certain races and certain types of races always attract small fields. The racegoers would rather have a different race with more runners, but this is resisted by the powers that be. A reduction in the conditions and number of early closing races might also help. There are numerous examples of days when several meetings are scheduled only a few miles apart and then other days when there is not a meeting for 100+ miles. Not all of this is rocket science !!!

### **ANY THOUGHTS ON RETIREMENT?**

I don't think that I will ever totally retire but it has to be accepted that my faculties are in decline, and I am attempting to pass on some of the work to others. The problem that I have is that everyone wants to do the fun stuff on the racecourse, but no one wants to do the boring paperwork and form filling so that is left to me. I am now past my sell by date and consequently I am more concerned about the next generation. The way that the midweek business continues to decline I cannot see the betting ring providing full time employment for anyone for much longer, however good their pitches are.

### **APART FROM THE OBVIOUS ADVICE OF BETTING TO YOUR POCKET WHAT WOULD BE ADVICE THAT YOU GIVE TO ANY BUDDING PUNTERS?**

DO NOT CHASE. This applies equally to punters and to bookmakers. Everyone understands the sense of this, but it is hard not to see red when luck turns against you.

As bookmakers have the advantage on the busy days the reverse applies to punters. The best value is to be found on days when bookmaker numbers almost exceed that of punters, the best odds will often be found where business is the quietest and the best betting opportunities for punters are to be found over the jumps.

### **FINALLY, ONE THAT YOU MUST HAVE BEEN ASKED BEFORE. HAVE YOU EVER RIDDEN A BIKE?**

I am told that the legendary Stephen Little used to travel by bike to some fixtures, but I have personally never seen a bookmaker on a bike. That does not mean that all bookmakers make it pay quite the contrary. I would estimate that less than 50% of novice bookmakers survive their first year in the ring and when they disappear, they tend to do it without any fanfare, and so it is only when someone says have you seen so and so that you realise that they have gone.

## **NMRC MEMBER'S FINAL FAREWELL – R.I.P.**

The club was sorry to learn of the passing of **Tony Coleman** late last year. Tony lived in Swindon and was previously involved in running the Cheltenham & Three Counties Racing Club. He was also an active member of NMRC and would join club events whenever he could as well as regularly entering club competitions.

In December we also lost **Brian James** from Warrington. His son Phil recalled 'My Dad was a keen racing fan and he had been a member of the club for at least 40 years. As a young lad I remember him having a share in a club horse called Juliet Bravo, trained by Jack Berry. He later had a share in another club horse called Blade of Fortune trained by Francis Lee. We went everywhere with Dad whilst he followed the horses... great memories!' Brian was also a regular visitor to stable visits and loved entering club competitions.

## **NEWS FROM CARTMEL**

**Thursday 9th March** at Cartmel Racecourse Grandstand - Cheltenham Preview evening, from 6.30pm.

Our panel is headed up by John Sexton and he is joined by

James Moffatt  
Charlotte Jones  
Craig Thompson from William Hill

We will be serving a great buffet on to each table, to allow for maximum Cheltenham chat and the bar will be open.

For further information please contact Cartmel Racecourse.

### **N & M RACING CLUB COMMITTEE/OFFICIALS 2023/24**

---

Phil Evans	Chairman & Satnaps	0161 973 5921	info@northernracingclub.com
Helen Goodwill	Membership & HH Comp	0161 928 0213	cheshirecherry@hotmail.co.uk
Ken Unsworth	Newsletter Production	0151 526 9107	ken_unsworth@yahoo.co.uk
Dave Bates	Stable Visits	01925 574140	bates270@btinternet.com
Richard Mattinson	Treasurer	01772 322095	rmattinson@virginmedia.com
Michael Wheeler	Alex Bird Competition	07367 903903	mikewheater.nmrc@outlook.com
Mark Banks	Alex Bird Competition	07745895779	zafonic93@gmail.com
Gordon Armistead	Racecourse Reporter	01257255782	gpa.shlab@btinternet.com
Andy White	Yorkshire Area & P.T.P.		andy.white21@outlook.com
Judith Bradley	Social Media		j_bradley_uk@yahoo.co.uk
Angela White			angelawhite55@outlook.com
Charles Rear			charlesworear@gmail.com
Kieran Rowbottom	Hon President	01606 46765	kieranrobot07@gmail.com

*Next copy deadline for Racin' will be Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March*