

Racin'



Issue 399

June/July 2026

McCain's Milestone at Bangor



A bitter sweet weekend for the McCain yard. Having reached the 250 wins record at his local track on May 16th the trainer had also suffered the loss of his mother Beryl earlier in the day. The final chapter of the 'Red Rum' era.

EDITOR'S NOTES – EARLY SUMMER 2026

The observant readers will note this is issue 399 of Racin' Magazine and that means that, next time, Issue 400 will be the final NMRC magazine in this format.

The current plan is to replace the current magazine with a shortform monthly newsletter which will focus mainly on club activities rather than the wider world of racing.

However, with the support of the regular contributors, we hope to maintain many of the regular features such as The Racing Diary & Point To Point reviews. These articles will be published directly onto the club website.

Should members have any additional suggestions as to what could be shared in the monthly newsletters please feel free to contact the club at info@northernracingclub.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2/3** Competition News & Results
- 3/12** Racing Diary – Gordon Armistead
- 12/13** PTP News – Andy White
- 14** Go Racing In Yorkshire – Charlotte Russell
- 15** News From Catterick
- 16** Alex Bird Competition – Round 2 & 3 Winners
- 17** Heritage Handicaps Competition entry form
- 18** NMRC Committee & WhatsApp link



I have decided to donate £75 of the prize money from my recent Satnaps win to run a 'free to enter' World Cup Competition for the full members of NMRC.

Entrants must select two teams in each group and two to win the overall tournament. In addition entrants need to select one player who will be top goal scorer, leading assists player and most bookings in the tournament. FIFA records will be used in these categories.

Completely different? Yes – but hopefully a bit of fun outside the world of racing! See page 2 for more details.

COMPETITION NEWS

'ITV 7' 'FREE TO ENTER' COMPETITION

Our latest winners are:

Aintree Festival	William Mitchell
	David Durham
April	Donna Turnbull

The Aintree competition finished in a dead heat!

- William, David & Donna – please contact the club at info@northernracingclub.com to claim your prizes.

If you haven't yet joined this free to enter competition the details are as follows:

Essentially we have set up a 'mini league' which members can join via the ITV 7 website.
<https://itv7.itv.com/>

All you have to do is click on the 'leagues' option on the ITV 7 home page then select 'join a league'.

The league name is NMRC and the entry code is 1Z2PX4

Members can join straight away and are eligible for our monthly prizes and any extra 'festival' prizes when the website maintains additional league tables. Your entries are then scored via the ITV 7 website and you can track progress via the NMRC Mini League.

For all entrants there will also be a yearly competition in 2026 with the winner receiving the 'Burgess Cup' named in memory of former life members Martin & Jennifer Burgess.

NMRC's 59's Draw

Our latest winners in the monthly draw are as below:

April 4th 2026 – 48 – Andy White
May 2nd 2026 – 19 – Juliet Mercer

We currently have a few numbers available – it costs £1pm to join the draw (payable quarterly or yearly) with a £50 monthly prize on offer.

The winning number is the 'Lotto' Bonus Ball number drawn on the first Saturday of the month.

Whilst our June draw will not be affected, from July onwards there will be two Lotto draws made each Wednesday/Saturday. At the moment I have decided to use the first draw result only and keep the prize at £50 – however if draw members would prefer two £25 prizes instead from July onwards, please drop me a line. The majority decision to prevail.

For further details please contact Phil Evans via email at info@northernracingclub.com

FREE TO ENTER 2026 WORD CUP COMPETITION

Competition open to all 'Full Members' with selections to be made as follows:

1. For each of the initial 12 groups select two teams (1st gets 2pts, 2nd gets 1pt).
2. For whole tournament select 2 teams (winner gets 5pts, other finalist 3pts, Other semi-finalists 1pt).
3. Most tournament goals (1 player) - (winner 3pts, runner up 1pt)
4. Most tournament assists (1 player) - (winner 3pts, runner up 1pt)
5. Most yellow cards (1 player) - (winner 3pts, runner up 1pt)

Re 3,4,5 any ties - all will get same points.

Winner is entrant with most points. Winner £50 and runner up £25.

Plus Tie break - time of first goal in the final.

Entries by 10th June.

E mail entries to info@northernracingclub.com or post to 53 Dalebrook Rd, SALE, Greater Manchester M33 3LB

Please remember to quote you Full Membership number when entering

Saturday Naps Winter Tipping Challenge

Congratulations to Phil Evans who with a fine double on Scottish Grand National Day claimed the win in the 2025-2026 Saturday Naps Tipping Challenge with a score of 134 points.

Runner up was Mike Wheater on 131.34 points with Linda Boswell 127.72 points and Helen Goodwill 125.37 in third and fourth respectively.

Phil also claimed the Round four prize from runner up Alan Spencer.

With 69 entrants this year, the prize fund was £690.

The prizes for each of the four rounds were £60 for the winner and £30 for the runner up.

Round 1 Winner - Debbie Kirkwood - Runner-up - Paul Halliwell

Round 2 Winner - Simon Clark - Runner-up - Helen Goodwill

Round 3 Winner - Andy White - Runner-up – Jason Sandland

Round 4 Winner - Phil Evans - Runner-up - Alan Spencer

Overall Competition prizes

Winner - Phil Evans - £140

Second - Mike Wheater - £90

Third - Linda Boswell - £60

Fourth - Helen Goodwill - £40

Thanks to everyone who entered, and we will be back with another SatNaps competition in the Autumn.

GORDON ARMISTEAD'S RACING DIARY

Saturday April 4th Haydock

First Candidate was long odds on for the two-mile mare's maiden hurdle and won like one. Runner up Atlantic City might be up to winning a modest handicap but the rest will be very lucky to find a race.

Not many secrets from the handicapper in the two-mile challenger handicap final. Winner Dance and Glance back on better ground ran out a good winner. He could come back for the Swinton. Many of the others are probably up as high in the ratings as their ability warrants. It was a surprise to see Ice in the Veins sent off favourite. He won two small field races in the autumn but has been poor since and didn't get involved here.

The staying hurdle final had some improvers in it. Walden was niggled before leaving the back straight but the further he went the better he was. Sneaking up the rails to lead before the last he was always holding runner up Blue Carpet. Harry Skelton seemed to think he had the race won as he cruised up on Blue Carpet and probably didn't see the winner until too late. Both horses should pay to follow.

The middle-distance veteran's final was a cracking race with few you could rule out. With cheek pieces on for the first time Harry Cobden sent Outlaw Peter too the front from the start. His fellow pace setter Fugitif was sent for home turning in but Cobden closed the gap at the third last where Fugitif departed and he only had to jump the last two to collect. He might struggle again back out of veteran's races. Genois came from well off the pace to take second. He has never been the most straightforward but has become more consistent. He has only been tried at three miles once in a normal chase which didn't go well but had two good runs over three miles in Punchestown bank races. He looks like a step up in trip would suit.

Largy Go took the three-mile novice handicap hurdle but had to survive a stewards as he hung into the rail badly hampering runner up Mighty Fleur. Jonjo Jr tried his best to keep him straight and hopefully it was only greenness

that caused the problem. He cost £305K after his point win and was the standout in the parade ring. I imagine he will be chasing sooner rather than later.

Thursday April 9th Aintree

The placed horses came here from the Triumph but it was the much fresher Mange Tout who came out on top in the Anniversary Hurdle. She had only run once since I saw her at Fairyhouse in November and had strengthened up over the winter. At the DRF she was a length behind Selma De Vary after pulling hard on the heavy ground. She settled better today to beat her old rival by three parts of a length. It won't be easy for either next season. The other placed horses from the Triumph were well beaten. Minella Study made an early mistake and was in trouble very early on. Maestro Conti had chances three out but found nothing from there. Both are better than they showed here. Third here Indian River was well beaten at Cheltenham but caught the eye in the parade ring. Winston Junior from the Fred Winter also disappointed.

Lulamba was 1/2 for the Manifesto but looked very light in condition and you were taking it for granted his jumping would be better over the longer trip. With some good front runners in the race he was going to be tested and he wasn't up to it. A mistake at the first down the back was followed by a worst one and Nico de Bonville was on the floor. He will have plenty to prove next season. Winner Koktail Divin back from three miles at Cheltenham is an excellent jumper and led three out for a good win. He will have to step up again in open company but his jumping will be an asset. Blueking d'Oroux's jumping was better today in second and he will go into handicaps over three miles. Mambonumberfive had a chance two out but for a horse that looked like he would be suited by the trip he faded away. Perhaps he simply wasn't good enough,

The Bowl fell apart as a race. Spillane's Tower was never going and burst a blood vessel. Pic D'Orhy made a really bad mistake a mile out and Impaire Et Passe fell two out when looking the winner. Protektorat has been well placed this season but is on the downgrade which left Jango Baie to win easily. He had a hard race at Cheltenham and was below his best and a mistake at the last showed he had not much left.

A good renewal of the Foxhunters but the remarkable Barton Snow won easily. I ran through his previous form in the Cheltenham review. He is the best progeny of the Yorkshire Cup winner Snow Sky who hasn't set the world on fire as a sire. Decent mare Sixandahalf and Wrestlinwithrae winner of the Grand National Timber Stakes at Butlers Cabin are the only previous ones of note. It would be interesting to see how he went in open company. My each way on Lets Go Champ was landed in second but any hope of a win was soon put to rest.

The second, third, fourth, and fifth from the Champion Hurdle all stepped up a place in the Aintree Hurdle. Brighterdaysahead kicked the third last out of the ground but it made no difference. The New Lion's mistake at the last also made no difference. The winner goes over fences next season while it will be interesting what Harry Cobden makes of The New Lion.

Few got into the Red Rum. Two improvers fought out the finish in Ryan's Rocket and Highlands Legacy with the latter's mistake at the last tipping the balance. Both should go on next season. Back in fifth Wonleg back after a winter break should find something in Ireland over the summer.

Nothing really leapt out of the paddock before the Nickel Coin Mare's Bumper but no doubt there will be plenty of hurdle winners coming out of it. The third home Fairy Park was a much bigger sort than most and she might be the pick of them over jumps probably at two and half miles.

Friday April 10th Aintree

Wellington Arch took the two-mile four handicap hurdle for the second year running off a stone higher rating despite not jumping that well. He obviously likes this time of year and while he is in form at trip to Punchestown would seem likely. Favour and Fortune in third may have been unlucky as the saddle slipped at the last. My old friend Jazzy Matty again showed the difference between hurdles and fences. Racing from seventeen pounds below his chase mark he could only finish fifth and maybe the trip was too far as well. Emid'io Pepe's form in France was just ordinary but he will surely be found a race by the Skeltons after a good debut for the stable.

The Mildmay had a tragic end with Gold Dancer suffering a fatal injury. He had jumped for fun until the last going head-to-head with Regent's Stroll until seeing off his rival after the second last. Regent's Stroll appeared to be found out for stamina but after being closed down by the third and fourth he went away from them again. He will be in handicaps next season. Salver had a hard race at Cheltenham and wasn't at his best in third.

The Top Novice Hurdle wasn't the best with Sober Glory running well below form and that was obvious from about the second hurdle. He never went with any zest. Baron Noir could have picked up the slack but his jumping went to pieces. He looks a chaser. Winner Storming George won a handicap off 125 on his previous start and while he stepped up on that he will not be going in against the best in open company next season. Sinnatra in second pulled even with a hood on. He looks a chaser but needs to settle. Irish challenger Starting Fifteen was disappointing but his stable is well out of form.

Another Cheltenham winner well below form was Heart Wood and again it was obvious from early on as Darragh O'Keefe was chasing him along before a mile had passed. Solness ran a super race forcing the pace and got the trip well but was just run out of it by Grey Dawning back down in trip. The winner will evidently stick to this trip after another go at the Betfair Chase. Gidleigh Park tried to go with Solness early on but was soon back peddling. He was always seen as a potential stayer as a novice hurdler and three miles ridden with much more restraint could be the way to go. What he is being asked to do at the moment isn't working.

The standing starts for the races over the National fences were hopeless again and the starter seemed to change his mind twice before the Topham with several runners being on the back foot when he said go.

Will The Wise became the first winner for quite a while who may be able to step up to the National next season having already won over three miles. Runner up Ile Atlantique has never really lived up to the hype he had as a novice hurdler and this was the best run of his career. Whether he can follow up elsewhere we shall see.

It was my first time to see Il Est Francais who at his best would have been something to see over the fences. Unfortunately at only eight he appears to have completely gone at the game. Another who seems on the same trajectory at the same age is Croke Park. A dual Grade 1 winning novice chaser last season he started this season OK but has gone backwards very quickly.

A second Cheltenham Grade 1 winner was beaten in the Sefton and again looked in trouble early on. Johnny's Jury was being shoved along with just under two circuits left but kept on and eventually got involved. He never looked like winning but ran O K in third without being as good as he was in the Albert Bartlett. Zeus Power who was running on at the end of the Turners stepped up in trip and proved suited to it. His jumping wasn't the best and we will see how he manages in open company next year. He is the best jumper by Germany's Melbourne Cup winner Protectionist. Runner up Catchintsavo stepped up for the extra distance and should make a chaser. His third to Soldier in Milan and King Rasko Grey in his bumper looks excellent now. Kripticjim and Mondouï'boy both failed to stay as they had in the Albert Bartlett.

Laafi kept on well to take the CJ's / Amateur two-mile handicap hurdle under top weight after some consistent efforts. Fifth home Captain Ryan Matt just faded on the run in and could be interesting at Punchestown. Four-year-old Pourquoi Pas Papa in fourth was never nearer and should do well in handicaps next season. The other runner who came from the Fred Winter The Mighty Celt was again given no chance being held up in last. The winner was later disqualified under the whip rules. If you are going to have the rules it should be applicable on the day and not several days later. As is the case for a disqualification for interference an appeal can be launched if the stewards have aired in their judgement.

Saturday April 11th Aintree

The Maghull Novice Chase was a very ordinary affair with 50/1 shot Mirabad taking it easily. The handicapper gave him seventeen pounds for this and he will struggle in handicaps. Salvador Mundi has not lived up to his initial promise and his jumping was average here. Be Aware needs to settle and his handicap mark is plenty high enough. Mighty Bandit has had his mark raised considerably for winning a couple of noncompetitive races and wasn't up to this. Kala Conti might have won if she had stood up but she had made mistakes from the off and she finds fences hard work.

Back over hurdles and with blinkers on Wade Out bolted up in the three-mile handicap hurdle. It will be interesting how far he can progress next season now chasing has been shelved. Whether it was the weight rise or just coming here from Cheltenham Supremely West never got into it and just ran on at one pace for fourth. Another I will be looking for at Punchestown is Quantum Quest who ran well enough on his return from a break.

The Turners at Cheltenham looked a good race and the three that came on here for the race of the same name didn't let the form down. Bossman Jack is a super looking beast and ran out a good winner. A mistake at the last at Cheltenham might have cost him third place and he reverse with stable mate Soldier Reeves. Bossman Jack looks a chaser. Ballyfad stepped back up after a no show at Cheltenham, He too will go over fences. Montemares could have been better off in the two miler as he looks more speed than stamina. Scorpio Rising stepping up from handicaps wasn't good enough here but he too looks a chaser.

Mr Hope Street had two promising runs early in the season before a poor effort at Sandown. He had to be tough here to get the better of Lookaway in a real battle from the last for the Freebooter Handicap Chase. He still has to improve his jumping if he is to step up again. Lookaway will get another hike for this but he has always been a trier. The handicapper seems to have Konfusion after his good season.

After many of the Cheltenham winners had been beaten Home By The Lee showed them how to do it in the Liverpool Hurdle winning easier than he did there. He will evidently head to Auteuil. Take No Chances has run her best races at three miles and back up in trip was doing her best work at the end. Honesty Policy was again found wanting in third while Jingko Blue didn't get home. Hewick just isn't up to this class anymore and retirement would be a good call.

After the Foxhunters and the Topham it was hard to see the fences taking such an active role in the National with more fallers than in the rest of the decade in total. A top-class performance from I Am Maximus. He was far from straightforward as a young horse at Nicky Hendersons and it took the Mullins camp a good while to work him out. His new rating has him just behind Gaelic Warrior and Fact to File. Iroko was well enough placed for much of the race but lost ground from two out before running on again. He looked hard work and some headgear will certainly be on in the future. The Racing Post close up says Jordans was held up in the rear. To my eye he had to be nudged along to stay in touch for the first circuit. Some of the commentators talked like he would have won if he had been held onto until the last but that is just conjecture and we will never know.

My own fancy Monty's Star was perfectly placed for the whole race until coming back over the Anchor Bridge crossing. He just didn't get home and walked across the line.

Hopefully the runners in the bumper will do better than the 2025 runners. Apart from Cocktail Brut and Storming George they haven't done a great deal. Cheltenham third Bass Hunter was another from the festival to disappoint here but there were some who should go on. The winner Forthfactor was also one of the standouts on the parade ring along with his stable mate Risky Obsession. Ben Pauling had four in the race and the one I liked best was fourth home Merry Away followed by Rices Pool. I had seen the Mullins trained runner up Look Me win a four-runner race at Fairyhouse which told us nothing but he showed he is alright here. The four-year-old Merlin Allen who won here in the autumn was always up with the pace and was just run out of second. He should certainly be alright next season.

Wednesday April 15th Haydock

Rearranged from Cheltenham. Le Beau Madrik spreadeagled the field in the two-mile five novice hurdle returning to form after pulling up at Kelso. His jumping was only average and I imagine he will be in handicap hurdles next season.

White Noise came here after winning the Mare's Novice at the Festival but never looked like following up in the two-mile five listed hurdle despite finishing second. Dream Shadow turned the tables on White Noise from Warwick on slightly better terms over a slightly longer trip. White Noise has now been beaten both times over further than two miles. The winner will evidently go chasing.

Riskintheground was down nine pounds after running on soft ground over the winter. He had barely beaten a horse in those runs but returned to form to take the two-mile four Silver Trophy Handicap Chase for the second time. Runner up Zurich may well be kept busy over the summer and find races at the Irish summer festivals. The six pound rise for Outlaw Peter for winning the veterans final proved too much back amongst younger rivals.

Two in the two-mile five handicap hurdle after wind ops. George's Lad ran away with it while Huffin An A Puffin who was paddock pick never got involved. A big rise will be in store for the winner. The placed horses Le Pinsonniere and Below The Radar both filled positions they are quite happy with. Cheek pieces made no difference to Royal Infantry who remains a disappointing animal.

Holokea dropped in class ran out a good winner of the three-mile four handicap chase. He can be a force in regional nationals next season. Nothing behind him could be recommended for the future and favourite Ki Woo was desperately one paced.

Grand Geste has had a good season but ran like he was passed his best in the three-mile handicap chase. Hopefully a summers rest will do him good. Iron Bridge who has been one to avoid recovered from a bad mistake at the last in the back straight to take it.

Thursday April 23rd Warwick

Non-runners abounded. The ground was probably on the firm side of good before the wind and sun had its say as the day went on.

The two three maiden hurdle was moderate and favourite Mr Finch made all and ran out a good winner. He had already had three goes before this without looking anything special. He was paddock pick looking a chaser and with his mark of 109 could be one for novice handicap chases in the autumn. Runner up Testing Patience is another who has had a few goes. He should find a maiden hurdle if kept going into the spring and summer. Third placed Lightfingered Jack has not progressed from his debut at Aintree in the autumn.

The mare's challenger chase final transferred from Cheltenham was badly hit by non-runners and that left the Skelton runner Theonewedreamof with a fairly simple chance and she won easily. She will take a big hit for this but this was worth £26K to the winner. Nothing behind showed much for the future.

The three-mile mare's challenger hurdle final also went to the Skeltons with Service Minimum and again she won easily. Already up eleven pounds for her previous success she will likely go up the same again. Again nothing behind looked anything to follow.

Killycarn was an even money shot for the two three handicap hurdle even with top weight but was in trouble a long way out with a poorish display of jumping. The winner Midnight View was hard to find.

An alert about disruption on the main London to Scotland train line meant we had to leave before the second last and reroute via Liverpool to get home and it ended up being a very long day. I am not sure we missed anything in the bumper in which half the sixteen declared failed to turn up.

Saturday April 25th Navan

Starting Punchestown week a bit early with an excellent card at Navan.

The five-furlong apprentice handicap had sixteen runners but only two mattered from about half way. Sporting Hero broke fast nabbed the rail and made all to continue the good form of the Durkan yard. Favourite An Laochmor was drawn wide and chased forlornly but could not get near him. The third and fourth Polar Bear and Poweracclaim can win similar events in the next few weeks.

Only two had been out from the eight in the two-year-old maiden of just under six furlongs. The Aidan O'Brien favourite West of Eden looked fit enough but was beaten at halfway. The winner Tribeca looked ready but unlike many of the Amo Racing Irish two-year-olds was very weak in the market. He was helped by runner up Barrow Boy not getting a clear run and jockey Gary Carroll got a two-day ban after barging out to get his run. The third Arizona Raider came on from his first run but the time of this race wasn't great and I am not sure it was anything special.

Royal Ascot winning two-year-old Charles Darwin appeared for the first time since then in the listed sprint. He is a big lump of a horse and looked like he would come on for the outing. He also got very warm in the parade ring but it was a very hot day. He was just better than the opposition making all and just doing enough to win. He will be back to Ascot with maybe another run before then. Runner up Silk Braid was about paddock pick and rewarded my 14/1 each way. She came from off the pace on only her second run and can win at this level and maybe go a bit further.

Ledger winner Scandinavia looks the sort who will only do what he is asked and had to be ridden out to take the one mile six listed race cosily. He will improve plenty for the outing, The two horses that had run this season Dallas Star and Emit tried to make their fitness count but were just outclassed. Ledger fifth Carmers will come on for the run and looks the sort to stay long distances.

The Group race on the card was a mile and a quarter race for three-year-old fillies. Winner Thundering On was a maiden (although Group 3 placed) and stepped up to take the race bursting clear a furlong out. She didn't look the most robust animal so might need time between her races. Runner up Emmeleeia didn't take the eye in the parade ring either and after racing in second was no match for the winner. The best of the three Ballydoyle finishers was Bloom who tried to make all and just stayed on. The other two were Minerva who is untrustworthy and Ice Dancer who looked fit and was paddock pick but trailed in last showing signs of being in season.

A real mixed bunch in the three-year-old one mile two auction maiden and the odds-on Latin American came from off a strong pace to win easily. Runner up Genchev was in need of the outing. It's never too early to look for prospective hurdlers and the Gavin Cromwell trained and Jimmy Fyffe owned Magnus Serrator looked like one in the parade ring and ran well to finish fourth. One to look out for in handicaps after his third run here is seventh placed Santa Bravado who looked a nice sort.

Two big field handicaps finished the card, The Joseph O'Brien trained Obscenity landed some nice bets when running away with the ten-furlong race. The next four home all finished in a heap and will win races in their turn. In the mile five race fitness told as Kool One just got up on the line for my winner on the day. Sixth placed Kikori who went on my tracker last October at Gowran was up five furlongs in trip here. She stayed the trip all right but got no sort of run and she can win a similar handicap.

Sunday April 26th Meath Foxhounds and Tara Harriers Point to Point Fairyhouse

I have been meaning to get to an Irish point for a while. This one is held at Fairyhouse racecourse on the infield of the main track. Ten euros for admission with five for a racecard. The best view was from a bank in the centre of the course. That meant crossing a supposedly electric fence which kept the sheep that graze the area from wandering. Just a fair crowd which included a few licenced trainers including Gavin Cromwell. Unlike in the UK they are allowed to run horses in points and Cian Collins had one runner today. There has been a change at the top of the point trainers table this season. Sam Curling is on course to beat the record for winners in a season after several seasons of Colin Bowe being in charge. Both had runners here today but it was Denis Murphy with two winners and a second who had the best of the day. The top riders had all gone to one of the other two meetings and it was the leader of the under 21 years of age table Shane Cotter who rode the double for Murphy. The course is tight and all the fences are jumped three times in the races. The last fence was very close to the finish and caused problems all afternoon. Six races were scheduled but two were divided on declaration and there were plenty of runners in all the races.

The vast majority of races are for maidens and the best of the winners and runner ups head to the boutique sales usually held in conjunction with the big jumps festivals and make big prices. The other winners and a large

proportion of the also rans head to the normal sales. While the big prices make the headlines many are sold at a fraction of the price they made at the stores sales just twelve months before.

We were told before the meeting by a regular that this was not a fixture that future stars are sent too and he was probably right.

First up was the Mare's four-year-old maiden and winner Whentheshinshines a half-sister to The Real Whacker came from off the pace to lead at the last. She could go to Henry de Bromhead's stable next season as she is owned by some of the syndicate that owned Put The Kettle On. We had the first of several last fence fallers on the afternoon as favourite True Affinity came down.

The four-year-old gelding's race was divided. Division 1 went to Power On Demand on his second start. He went on to the sales at Punchestown on the Thursday where he was led out unsold at €95K but was bought after the sale for €90K. Division 2 winner Moltenblue was also entered in the sales but was a late withdrawal. He too was having his second run here having fallen on his debut.

The five-year-old gelding's race was also divided. Johnjoes Lad favourite for the first division was having his third start and won easily by five lengths. Another winning at the third attempt was Two Grand Sweeney in division two. Both winners and the two runners up Lama Des Bambous and Staple Flight are in the sales at Doncaster in May. The record-breaking Winged Leader who won his thirty seventh point in March was entered in the novice rider's race but didn't turn out. Winner Tumuch an ex-Gordon Elliot runner took it by twenty lengths. His jockey Tadhg Stafford rode at the last like it was a close race and was lucky to get away with it. This was the only non-maiden race and the ex-track horses included Fifty Ball who won for Gary Moore over hurdles, and Carmarthen a five- and six-furlong sprinter for Jack Channon and Linda Perrett.

The five-year-old and upwards mare's maiden was by far the slowest race on the afternoon. Again the winner Princess Aveen and runner up That Old Chestnut will be off to Doncaster.

The final race was an unplaced maiden for horses that had run at least twice without placing. There were lots of P's in the form of the runners including the winner Uptoyourselves who was the joint biggest priced runner at 10/1 in a field of sixteen. The 222% overround book was just the biggest of the day and the bookies weren't taking many chances. Uptoyourselves too will be off to Doncaster.

Monday April 27th Naas

It was an evening with just the two races over further than six furlongs.

The one of the six in the two-year-old filly's six-furlong maiden that had run Aedhmar looked on edge and was sweaty. The rest all looked like they would come on for the run. Aedhmar tried to make her experience count leading until inside the final furlong. The Aidan O'Brien runner Victorious from the family of Minding and Tuesday looked clueless early on but just after the furlong marker it all clicked and she scooted passed the leader to win comfortably. It will be one more run before Royal Ascot. Favourite was the Ger Lyons Juddmonte owned Livenka who missed the break and had to come around the field. She was running on well in third and will certainly win her maiden.

Keke winner of the all aged six-furlong handicap had got into the habit of missing the break. Tonight he didn't and the race was soon over as he got the nearside rail and was never challenged. Favourite Indigo Dream was best of the rest in second and will win one of these soon.

The second two-year-old race was a median auction race of five furlongs and Force Noir who had finished second on debut won as he pleased. The rest of the field looked moderate in the parade ring and none showed any promise.

Sixteen in the listed five-furlong race and it was the three-year-old Mission Central who ran out a ready winner for Aidan O'Brien. He had the run of the race getting a clear run up the favoured stand rail. Gelded after his first run at two I saw him easily win his maiden last season before he won a Grade 2. He was well beaten in his three five-furlong races but looks a much stronger horse this season. No doubt he will be stepped up in class and we will see how he gets on.

Having had two decent priced winners the O'Brien favourite in the mile three-year-old Premier Handicap was well beaten. Trojan Warrior duelled with ex Polish runner Felix Guido for the lead and both fell away. Chris Hayes on Bobby McGee obviously wanted to be up there but after a furlong when he saw the leaders going to fast he dropped off and came with a run as they faded. In the end he just held on from Jamestown who he had also beaten three weeks previously. Trained by Noel Meade the Irishracing.com site was quick with the headline Good Enough for Meade and Bobby McGee.

The field for the ten-furlong filly's maiden wasn't the best. Winner Glyfada was paddock pick and looked to be winning easily a furlong out but Arrietty came with a sustained run to make it interesting. The runner up was having her sixth start and has a rating of 77 so the classic entries of the pair look optimistic.

Tuesday April 28th Punchestown

The Albert Bartlett Triple Crown Series has certainly encouraged UK trainers to have runners here but for the first time the locals took the prize with Powerful for Jessie Harrington. He lives up to his name being a big animal and he looks a future chaser but he is flat bred (the dam is a half-sister to Derby winner Motivator) which would be a concern. Best of the UK brigade was Olly Murphy's Daylatedollarshort who should also jump a fence and could go up to three miles.

I liked Kalix Delabarriere when I saw him win his maiden hurdle but he followed up with a last of sixteen and two pulled ups. He bounced back to win at Fairyhouse last time and followed up quite easily here in the two-mile handicap hurdle under seven-pound claimer Sean Cleary-Farrell. He will be chasing next season. His jockey who was only days old when his father also named Sean was killed in a fall at Galway in 2003 is improving all the time. Runner up I'm Slippy had some good form in the autumn and might be one for a handicap later in the spring. Eachtothierown was given an easy time of it leading the Grade 1 two-mile hurdle and nothing got to him landing the race by four lengths. He is another that will be over fences next season. The two-mile novice hurdlers in Ireland were well seen off at Cheltenham and don't look the greatest. The much touted El Cairo came with a challenge turning in but faded quickly to fourth. Blake and Le Labo came from the back but had too much to do in second and third. Skylight Hustle who looked good a Christmas was never a factor.

Kitzbuhel ran like he had had enough for the season in the three-mile Grade 1 Novice Chase never going with much enthusiasm. Winner Western Fold started his chase career winning last May beating another runner here in Oscars Brother. I thought he was a two and a half miler but he stayed well here. He might be hard to place next season but has collected over £300K this time around. Fleur in the Park showed his Grade 1 win at Fairyhouse wasn't a fluke in second. Nowwhatdoyouthink for owner/trainer Ray Hackett ran a stormer in third and hopefully the handicapper wont over react. He goes to the horses in training sale and should make a few bob there. July Flower, Predators Gold and Kappa Jy Pyke didn't look to get the trip.

A good-looking bunch in the Goffs Defender Sales Bumper with the winner Abbeyglen being the standout. He beat the two Willie Mullins runners Altesse Du Luy and Tacograph. The race is a bit hit and miss for future hurdlers so we will see what they do.

Il Etait Temps survived one mistake to take the Two-Mile Champion Chase with ease from Marine Nationale who appeared to run his race. They were well clear of Energumene who finished his career in third. Majborough didn't pull today, jumped pretty straight and didn't make any bad mistakes. He ran just a nothing sort of race and faded from three out.

The lookers from the paddock were the ones involved in the finish of the maiden bumper with the Mullins first string Delamotte coming from well off the pace to win going away. Teofil a flat bred for Jim Bolger was second with the Charles Byrnes Bunker Buster in third. The latter was last early on and made his ground up very quickly under an inexperienced rider before running out of steam close home.

Wednesday April 29th Punchestown

Wide margin winners were the order of the day kicking off with Jacovec Canyon in the Adare conditional jockeys handicap hurdle final. He was a hard one to find but it was eleven lengths back to the White/ Hobbs top weight Aguellid. He was well clear himself in second and looks to be an improver who should pay his way next season. It was a one two for trainer Ross O'Sullivan in the two-mile four Auction Series Final with Raise You Up beating De Jour En Jour. The winner will probably go chasing while the runner up who is still a maiden should win a hurdle maybe over three miles. Favourite Vitorio Piel was dropping back from three miles and will be better back up in trip.

The winners of one two-mile four hurdle is often won by a decent performer. I am not sure this was the best renewal as Quinta Do Lago became a rare four-year-old winner. He could well be tried on the flat. Riskaway travelled like the winner for most of the way but was very one paced in the straight fading to fourth. He looks a staying chaser. Favourite Bunting is becoming a very disappointing performer.

The staying novice hurdle race at the DRF took a big knock in the Albert Bartlett and that race also took a knock here as Le Frimeur gave Harry Derham his first Grade 1. Coming from a Newbury novice he was always prominent before leading two out and running out a clear winner. The mare Zanoosh who was on a six timer came to challenge before the last but was soon seen off. He evidently goes chasing next season and could be anything. The Albert Bartlett second and third Fruit De Mer and The Passing Wife were twenty lengths behind.

A turn up in the Champion Bumper as Cheltenham ninth With Nolimit getting the better of the winner there The Mourne Rambler. Boycetown fourth at Cheltenham was a couple of lengths nearer to The Mourne Rambler here in third. Best of the Mullins runners was Dromard in fourth who was given plenty to do by Patrick and I would guess he would wont another go at the ride. As a whole they were a decent looking bunch who should do well over jumps.

The second easy winner of the day was Nouvotic in the two-mile four handicap chase. He made all on his first run since October and was never really challenged. The Galway Plate could be a target and he might just scrape in at the bottom of the weights. Riann and Jesse Evans returning from their winter breaks ran well in fourth and fifth and the run should have tuned them up for a summer campaign.

No doubt about the easiest winner of the day as Gaelic Warrior just ambled away from Fact To File in the Gold Cup. It just looked no effort as he became the first Cheltenham winner to win here since Sizing John in 2016. Still only eight he is without doubt the best jumper around. Inothewayurthinkin again showed little and the excuse list must have run out after this.

Another big margin winner in the Grade 3 Mare's Bumper with Even Tho coasting in by sixteen lengths with Jody Townend barely moving. She is the obvious favourite for the Mares Novice Hurdle next season. She was followed home by Cheltenham November winner Celestial Tune with three-time winner in Coole Café third. The Mullins first string Glens Anthem pulled early on and was done for turning in.

Thursday April 30th Punchestown

A turnup in the winners of one two-mile novice hurdle with the Willie Mullins second string Beauvallon winning at 28/1. He had readily won his maiden after looking very average on the flat in France. He will have a flat rating somewhere in the 70's so could go that way before handicapping next jump season. The runner up Immediate Effect bounced back from an awful run at Naas. Favourite Colcannon looked like he had got his act together over hurdles when winning at Fairyhouse but pulled too hard here. Gameball back after the winter off finished third and could go up in trip. Paul Townend stuck with Leader D'Allier after a poor run at Fairyhouse but he again clocked out tamely here.

As usual a super race for the La Touche over the banks and Busselton retained his crown in a three-way run for the line. He isn't much to look at and is an awful walker but no doubt he will be here again next year. It is probably the end of the line for fourteen-year-old Vital Island who led for much of the way on his twenty third go over the course.

A super ride from Donagh Meyler in the three-mile handicap hurdle to bring Blue Mosque from last threading his way through the twenty-five-runner field to land my nap of the day. The Big Clubman on only his fifth hurdle start ran an excellent race in second and will win staying handicaps in the new season. Duke Silver was ridden much closer to the pace than at Cheltenham and Aintree and was able to be competitive as a result finishing third. Seaniecon again lost ground at a crucial time in the race having been well placed before getting going again too late. Cheek pieces made no difference and he looks one to avoid.

The two-mile handicap chase is a great spectacle and produced an easy win for Come Walk With Me. Owner / trainer Eddie Cawley can go months without a win and then have three or four close together and the winner was following up from Fairyhouse. He also saddled the third here with Don't Go Yet who also won recently. The winner will be in the high 140's after this and we will see how high he can get.

Dramatic stuff in the two-mile novice Grade 1 Chase as Kopek Des Bordes crashed out at the second last. He appeared to simply not put his feet down after clearing the fence. Salvador Mundi picked up the pieces. This seasons two-mile novice chasers will have a lot to prove when stepping into open company next season.

Bob Ollinger went off into retirement in the best possible fashion in winning the Grade 1 stayer's hurdle. Coming from last to first he went passed his owner mate Teahupoo at the last and held off the late challenge from Jimmy Du Seuil. Eleven wins including five Grade 1's he was given a super reception. Runner up Jimmy Du Seuil proved he stayed the trip to open up possibilities for him next season. Favourite Teahupoo blinkered for the first time held every chance and just wasn't good enough. He looked so good at Christmas and he will no doubt be campaigned along the same lines next season but he is getting older and perhaps we have seen the best of him. Kawaboomga stepping up in grade and trip is a super looking beast who will go chasing. He appeared not to get this trip. Three festivals appeared too much for Honestly Policy who was beaten with a mile left.

The winner's bumper was run at a crawl and the result should be taken with a pinch of salt. The winner Adaboy Mushy did well to win coming from last and only being sixth with a furlong left. The best lookers were Outofafrika, Bon Bon Fizz, and Soul Asylum.

Friday May 1st Punchestown

It's On The Line was going for the four timer in the Champion Hunter Chase but was just run out of it by last season's Cheltenham winner Wonderwall. The pair and third home Panda Boy had been behind Barton Snow at Cheltenham and it was a pity that horse didn't come over for a try at the treble.

Dinoblue popped in one of her mistakes at the third last but recovered to easily take the Grade 2 Mares Chase. She is just far better than the other mares around at the moment. Only By Night paid for trying to put it up to the winner and Spindleberry who was outpaced early stayed on to beat her for second.

Funiculi Funicula took three goes to win his beginner's chase but stepping into handicap company ran away with the two-mile four novice handicap. He could be named the winner on the home turn if he jumped the last two fences. He would be the sort for the Paddy Power but Willie Mullins rarely sends one over for that. Runner up Norn Iron for Harry Derham could well be one for that race having improved for going up to two and a half. Spread Boss Ted in third can go up in trip.

While he was a fair way below his Cheltenham form King Rasko Grey took the two-mile four Grade 1 Novice Hurdle. He was given a fright by the maiden four-year-old Lord Byron who was a real handful in the preliminaries. King Rasko Grey will probably go chasing. The runner up is ex Ballydoyle and looks like a flat horse. He should have no trouble winning a maiden but his antics beforehand would be a worry. Third home Kiely's Place looks like a staying chaser in the making.

Lossiemouth had no trouble in following up in the Champion Hurdle. For some reason the bookmakers made Golden Ace third best in the without the favourite market behind the nutter Anzadam and the returning William Munny who was far from wound up for his return. She usually runs her race and did again chasing home the winner but clear of the rest. Wilful in third will be out of handicaps next season but the UK graded hurdles will be fair targets for him. Barry Connell always talks up his horses and has said William Munny will be a Champion Hurdle horse. As I said he wasn't fit enough here after a year off to get a real handle on his ability but he is already eight years old.

The two-mile two maiden bumper last year produced Soldier in Milan and King Rasko Grey and the first two this year looked like they could be really decent as well. Largy Star and Premier Division were eighteen lengths clear of the pack. Largy Star won two points and has already run over hurdles. Here he made most but was headed in the final furlong before fighting back. His jumping was poor in his hurdle run but hopefully that can be improved. He will be best over staying trips as will Premier Division who finished third to The Mourne Rambler at Christmas on his previous run. The second that day Cityofblindlites started favourite here but was been nearly ninety lengths and is obviously better than he showed here. There will be race to be won with the third and fourth Holly's Thunder and Gonewild.

Saturday May 2nd Punchestown

Last year in the three-mile seven handicap chase Danny Mullins took the winner Shanbally Kid around the outside of the track solo and bolted in. This year quite a few took that route and the winner Uncle Pat had it won three out and only had to jump the last two. It was his first win in nine chase starts and he will take a big rise in the ratings so could struggle next season. His stable mate Fishery Lane who followed him home hasn't won a chase but has improved for the step up to extreme distances although his jumping could be better.

The betting had been going well on the trip but the luck was out today. The first set back was in the three-mile handicap chase. The Nicky Henderson runner As The Fella Says took it up turning in and was two lengths clear over the second last. He jumped the fence perfectly but took half a stride and tripped up. He seemed to have it won but the way the actual winner Barry Lyndon came from fifth at the second last to win cosily it might have been close. Runner up Argento Boy was hampered when As The Fella Says and will no doubt be in the top Irish staying handicaps next season. Momtregard pulled out of the Scottish National and Bet 365 because of the fast ground ran his race here in third.

A turn up in the Mare's Champion Hurdle with Wodhooh only finishing third. She made or disputed it all the way but found nothing from the last. Jack Kennedy jumped off immediately after the line so it's possible she was feeling something. The winner Place De La Nation has been improving all season but I fancy both Wodhooh and Jade De Grugy were below their best.

Willie Mullins had eight of the twelve in the Champion Four-Year-old Hurdle but didn't make the first two or have the best looker of the field. Saratoga stepped up from the Fred Winter and leading just after the second last ran out a ready winner from Cork maiden winner Bartholomew. Like all four-year-olds he will find it hard next season. The best of the Mullins runners here were Macho Man and the filly Charme De Faust. Both have some size about them and look more chasers than hurdlers. Triumph Hurdle winner Apolon De Charnie barely went a stride and was eased some way out. The best looker of the field was Matin Midi Et Soir finished eighth on his Irish debut and his first run since September. I saw him run last May at Auteuil when he was beaten in a graded race. He has progressed physically since then and should certainly make a chaser.

The second bit of bad luck came in the two four handicap hurdle when Fierce Handy was completely taken out when Thisistheway came down two out. I have doubted Hello Neighbour's resolution but he battled the finish out well to get the better of Kopeck De Mee. Talk was of him going chasing which was a surprise to me. Kopeck De Mee was the talking horse of last year's Cheltenham festival. He has been up and down since then with a second place at Aintree before a dreadful outing over fences early this season. There are races to be won with him and he looks a chaser.

The final bumper was for horses making their rules debut. The winner Crystasia made all before forging clear on the home bend and going right away to win by twelve lengths. Impossible to know what he beat but he is obviously useful and was one of the better-looking ones. Of those in the pack Runningtostandstil and Market Square were nice sorts and will benefit for the run.

Saturday May 9th Haydock

All the field was still in contention turning in for the three-mile handicap hurdle. Matty's Getaway ran a fair race on his return from a winter break here four weeks ago. Stepped up in trip he took it up between the last two and held the renewed challenge of the pacesetter Eagle Fang. He evidently will go chasing. Eagle Fang up a harsh two pounds for getting beaten eight and a half lengths at Aintree ran another super race. Favourite Tranquil Sea was short enough on his form and never looked likely to be involved just staying on late for fourth.

A competitive field for the Swinton and a big priced winner in Moon Chime. Warmed up on the all-weather after a winter break he just collared Laafi after the last. Third home Dance and Glance came from off the pace today and was hampered on the run in. Philip Byrnes picked up a two-day holiday on Laafi to add to his three days on Eagle Fang both for careless riding. Favourite again was a Skelton runner in Tellherthename. Supposedly a future star when at Ben Pauling's he has also been at the O'Neill's where he was beaten at odds-on on his final run for that yard. He dropped himself out down the back straight here and looks an animal to avoid.

All shapes and sizes in the bumper. The winner St Gabriel for the Henderson yard looked like he would come on for the run but was still good enough to win. He appears to be the first British runner by German Group 3 winner Devastar who has had a couple of winners in France where he stands. Runner up Running Happy was paddock pick and was giving a penalty away. Back in seventh beaten fifty lengths was Sevenkingsmustdie who cost £425K as a yearling.

My rule of always backing against odds on shots in handicaps came good again as 4/5 shot Barbury Boy finished fourth in the 1m 3f three-year-old handicap. Salkadan was the Skelton's first flat winner and unlike their earlier hurdle runners drifted to a nice 9/1. He will no doubt be over hurdles before the summer is out.

The main flat race of the day the Spring Trophy saw an easy win for Lake Forest. He is small and didn't look great but was far too good for an average enough field especially as main rival Ten Bob Tony ran no sort of race.

POINT TO POINT NEWS - YORKSHIRE MEETINGS REVIEWED – MAY 2026 BY ANDY WHITE

MIDDLETON HUNT AT SHERIFF HUTTON

Top honours at the second Sheriff Hutton meeting of the season on Easter Saturday went to CHARLES CLARK who won the feature 4mile GRIMTHORPE GOLD CUP Open race for the second year. This time it was his SAM MAGEE under Joe Wright, a winner by a wide margin 15 lengths from Thomas Easterby on MOROZOV COCKTAIL.

Joe Wright completed a double with his own WOTTER TROTTER winning the maiden.

Tom Easterby won the opening Members race with ALBERTS BACK for his uncle Mick Easterby.

Jockey/Trainer combinations won the other three races as Will Brown with ISOCRATE, George Atkinson with SPORTS MAGIC and Jack Teal with ITSYOURCALL were the successful combinations.

BEDALE HUNT AT HORNBY CASTLE

On Grand National Day, the annual Bedale Hunt fixture was held at Hornby Castle.

Highlights were a win in the opening conditions race for IMPERIAL IMP for Bella Sowery and ridden by John Dawson. George Atkinson continued his good form as his DRIVEONDONN won the Intermediate race and Thomas Easterby also in form won with LARGY SHARK for brother William.

Just four runners in the Ladies Open as favourite Killer Clown won for Daisy White and just three runners in the Men's open as Tom Easterby completed a double on Charles Clarks TAG MAN.

DERWENT HUNT AT CHARM PARK

In a meeting moved forward from its usual end of season slot, the Derwent Hunt held their 'SCARBOROUGH RACES' meeting on Saturday 18 April.

LINE EM UP won for the fourth time this season winning the condition race for jockey/trainer Dale Peters. The combination went on to win the Paxton's Heart of All England Hunter chase at Hexham in early May.

Felix Foster continued his good form as GUSTAVO GOODWAY won the mixed open by 4 lengths with joint favourites MOROZOV COCKTAIL again runner up and Gina Andrews TIGERBYTHETAIL a further 4 lengths back under Molly Legg.

ZETLAND HUNT AT WITTON CASTLE

The May Day Bank Holiday meeting concluded the Yorkshire Area season which saw trainer Charles Clark achieve his first treble. He won both Open races; TAG MAN won the ladies Open under Lucy Brown and SAM MAGEE the Men's open under Joe Wright. He had already won the Conditions race when Felix Foster rode EMIR SACRE to victory.

Felix Foster won the opening conditions race as his own NEPHIN BEG for a double on the day. Joe Wright too claimed a double when riding WILLIELLE in the closing Maiden race, one of three in the race trained by Jack Teal.

YORKSHIRE AREA LEADING RIDERS

Thomas Easterby kept his Yorkshire area leading male rider title after another fine season with Felix Foster claiming the men's novice title thanks to his final day double piping George Atkinson.

Olivia Rogers after riding her first winner at Charm Park in March went on win both the Yorkshire area Lady Rider and Lady Novice rider titles.

MY POINT-TO-POINT HORSE OF THE SEASON

There can only be one horse to fill this category, and it is Joe O'Shea's BARTON SNOW. When I saw it win the ladies open at Sheriff Hutton in January by 40 lengths, I thought that it was one to give Joe a repeat win in the Aintree Foxhunters.

The horse went one better winning the Princess Royal Challenge cup at the Cheltenham festival before then completing the big race double romping home in the Aintree Foxhunters, both given fine rides by Henry Crow.

A fantastic double for the team and a super horse unbeaten in six Hunter Chases and three wins and one second in its four point-to-point outings.

Editor's Note: British racing has thrown up a firewall between itself and the risk of the spreading equine influenza outbreak shutting down the sport by cancelling hunter chases from Wednesday May 20th onwards.

The cancellation will impact Stratford's prestigious hunter chase evening on May 29, which marks the final major raceday of the point-to-point season, with participants expressing frustration at what they perceive to be a "snap decision" by the BHA.

The governing body is seeking to isolate the sport from cross-contamination between horses from licensed yards, where animals are required to have vaccinations, and unlicensed stables and other equine facilities. As such, as well as cancelling hunter chases, the BHA has suspended other equine activities at tracks with only horses from licensed premises allowed on racecourses as part of heightened biosecurity measures.

The restriction of access to horses outside of licensed yards could potentially impact the royal procession at Royal Ascot next month. However, the BHA said it was "working with Ascot to replicate the biosecurity measures of a licensed premises to enable the royal procession to go ahead without any increased risk".

Go Racing In Yorkshire Update

As we hit May, all of our nine courses are now underway with their flat seasons. Redcar's slightly delayed start to their season was to ensure that they could complete their Weighing Room innovations in time and they have been very well received, especially by the female jockeys. You can read more [here](#).

York have also been working hard on their facilities during their closed period and racegoers will see a new presentation podium, plus a permanent band stand on the Veuve Clicquote Lawyn and refurbishment of the fourth floor of the Knavesmire. Find out more about the racegoer experience [here](#).

In addition prize money has increased by over £400,000 to £12.5m over the season. Read how that is [distributed](#).

Go Racing In Yorkshire Futures Stars Apprentice Series, supported by White Rose Saddlery

After two rounds and three races, the leaderboard is starting to take shape. With a victory at Doncaster and a third place at Ripon, Connor Whiteley is currently in the lead with 24 points.

Hot on his heels is Ethan Tindall, who landed the race at Ripon and was also placed at Doncaster.

Read the reports [here](#).

Keeping It In The Family

To celebrate National Siblings, we had a chat with the training duo Tony Coyle and Kaine Wood, who train four brothers. Having a close connection with Norton Grove Stud, where the mare, Velvet Jaguar is stabled, the four horses, each with a different sire, share some traits but also have some big differences. Read on to find out [more](#).

Looking Ahead

The Go Racing In Yorkshire Summer Festival, sponsored by Sky Bet, will be upon us before we know it! Starting at Pontefract on Friday 17th July and running through to York on Saturday 25th July, there will be racing at eight different racecourses. Keep an eye on our [website](#) to find out more about the week and the different events taking place.

Have you always dreamed of owning a racehorse? Why not consider shared ownership? Joining a UK racing club or syndicate can give you the ownership experience while sharing the cost and fun! Racing clubs, syndicates and micro share ownership are increasingly growing in popularity and make racehorse ownership affordable. A share in a racehorse also makes a great gift for the horseracing fan. We've put together a list of horse racing syndicates and clubs with horses trained in Yorkshire, so have a look through and decided which one you are going to join.

<https://goracing.co.uk/syndicate/>



SUMMER RACING, LOCAL BEER AND LIVE MUSIC SET FOR CATTERICK BEER FESTIVAL RACEDAY



An afternoon of racing, local beer, live music and family entertainment is set to return to Catterick Racecourse on Saturday 30 May for the ever-popular Catterick Beer Festival Raceday.

Now firmly established as one of the most popular fixtures of the racecourse's Flat season, the event – held in partnership with Pennine Brewing Co – promises an action-packed day of thrilling live racing, award-winning local ales and ciders, live music and free family entertainment.

Returning for its eighth year, Beer Festival Raceday has become a firm favourite with racegoers. Visitors will be able to enjoy a specially selected range of ales and ciders from local independent brewery Pennine Brewing Co throughout the afternoon, while a competitive seven-race card gets underway at 1.55pm. Live band The Black Marcs will perform during the afternoon, with the final race due off at 5.17pm.

The racecourse will remain open until 6.30pm, giving visitors plenty of time to enjoy the music, social atmosphere and beer festival experience after racing concludes.

Debbie Clayton, from Pennine Brewing Co, said:

“We’re really looking forward to being part of raceday and bringing a taste of Pennine Brewing Co to racegoers. We’ll have around a dozen beers available on the day, ranging from traditional ales to lighter golden beers and seasonal specials.

“There’s something special about good racing, live music and proper Yorkshire beer all coming together in one place, and we’re delighted to be involved for another year on what will be a fantastic day.”

The raceday also offers plenty for families, with a host of free children’s attractions in the Course Enclosure - all included with admission. Young racegoers can enjoy the Jungle Run assault course, Meltdown inflatable sweeper game, bouncy castle and soft play area throughout the afternoon.

Emma Stevenson, General Commercial Manager at Catterick Racecourse, said:

“We’re proud to continue our partnership with Pennine Brewing Co this year for what promises to be another superb day out – there’s something on offer for everyone to enjoy at this raceday, from the racing action to the live music and beer festival, and free children’s entertainment.”

Gates open at 11.30am.

Tickets will be available at the gates on the day, but those looking for the best value are encouraged to book in advance and save on admission, or take advantage of the new Horseshoe Package, which includes entry to the Grandstand & Paddock Enclosure, the Dish of the Day from the Horseshoe Café Bar and a racecard for just £28. Advance booking and group discounts (for groups of 10 or more) are available until midnight on Thursday 28 May. Under-18s go free when accompanied by an adult, while concessions are available for students, over-65s and military personnel.

Tickets and further information are available from Catterick Racecourse online at www.catterickbridge.co.uk or by calling the Racecourse Office on 01748 811478.

ALEX BIRD COMPETITION 2026

ROUND 2 (AINTREE) RESULT

Round 2 of the Alex Bird Competition delivered a dramatic finish, with **Michelle Davis** snatching victory in the final race of the weekend. **Mike Campbell** pushed her all the way but ultimately had to settle for second place. The battle behind them was equally competitive. **James Banks** secured a well-earned third place, followed by **Eddie Carson and Frank Turley**, who finished in a tie for fourth and shared the final prizemoney. In the overall standings for the Alex Bird Trophy, we now have a new leader: Jack Gibson moves to the top of the table after another consistent performance.

ROUND 3 (CHESTER) RESULT

It was congratulations to **Frank Turley**, who emerged as the Round 3 winner after a dramatic, seesawing contest that wasn't settled until the final race. Patagonia Girl's late surge proved the decisive moment, lifting Frank back to the summit just when he needed it most.

Steve Mansfield, who had taken command after Race 6, was forced to settle for 2nd when Nightsinwhitesatin finished unplaced. **Les Taylor** swept into 3rd thanks to the winner, while **David Allman** the early pacesetter after Respond's victory in Race 1 held on for 4th and the final prizemoney position.

Looking ahead, attention now turns to Round 4, which begins next month at Royal Ascot, running from **Tuesday, June 16th through to Saturday, June 20th**

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HERITAGE HANDICAPS CHALLENGE 2026

The Heritage Handicap Competition is back for another season, a challenge for all NMRC Full Members. It will run throughout the main flat season starting on Saturday 6th June (Derby Day) and ending at Ascot in October on Champions Day.

This year the races chosen by the organiser (Helen Goodwill) will be the highest profile handicap race in UK each Saturday and Helen will e mail/text details to the entrants each week.

Entrants can select three horses which they think will win or be placed in the nominated race. Points will be awarded as per the Tote dividend (win and place) with the exception of 'world pool' races where SP's will be used to score the 4th placed horse if no Tote dividend is given. The number of places scoring points is to be determined by the number of runners in the race, using the normal each way rules. If you select more than one placed horse, you will score the points gained from all of them. A league table will be compiled with the total points scored.

To add a bit of extra skill, those who successfully pick the first two home of any eligible race will go into another 'Exacta' league. This will be run separately from the main league. If all three selections finish in the first three places entrants will also receive a 100% bonus on the published Tote Exacta dividend.

The prize money will be allocated as follows: 80% of the entry fees will go into the main competition with 20% being given to the winner of the exacta league. If nobody selects an exacta throughout the whole season, the prize money for that league will be given to the Injured Jockeys Fund. The number of prizes available will be advised once the number of entries is known.

It costs £10 to enter with all entry fees added to the prize fund. New for 2026 – each Full Member is now allowed to enter TWO teams. If you wish to send entry fee electronically please e mail cheshirecherry@hotmail.co.uk for details. To enter by post please complete the slip below. Full members who have not yet used their 'e-voucher' can also request entry using the voucher by contacting Helen Goodwill directly – please quote your membership number when entering.

Selections are accepted via text, email, WhatsApp or answer phone. Each initial entry will be acknowledged and an entry number allocated. If entrants also require a paper copy of the rules please send a SAE with the entry form - internet entrants will receive confirmation via e mail.

The competition is open to all full members. Associate members can also upgrade to full membership should they wish to join in the competition. Contact Helen Goodwill for details.

'Default Entry Rule' for 2026: In the past, if an entrant failed to send in an entry (due to holidays etc) a default entry was used being the first three horses in the betting. For 2026 entrants are again asked to select three numbers (from 1-36) plus a 'reserve' number which will be used as a default entry should a 'regular' entry not be received. For the sake of clarity, if you selected number 36 and there were only 18 runners your default pick would be the nearest valid number – in this example number 18. Please include your 'default numbers' on the form below or advise Helen directly if you have already entered 'online'.

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HERITAGE HANDICAPS ENTRY FORM 2026

Please accept this entry for the 2026 Competition. I am enclosing entry fee of £10 per entry (payable to North & Midlands Racing Club). Alternatively, please tick here to use your 2026 'e voucher'. I enclose SAE for paper copy of the rules.

Name (1).....(2).....

Address.....

Phone/Mobile.....Email.....

Full membership number(s).....

(1) My three 'default entry' numbers are.....Reserve number.....

(2) My three 'default entry' numbers are.....Reserve number.....

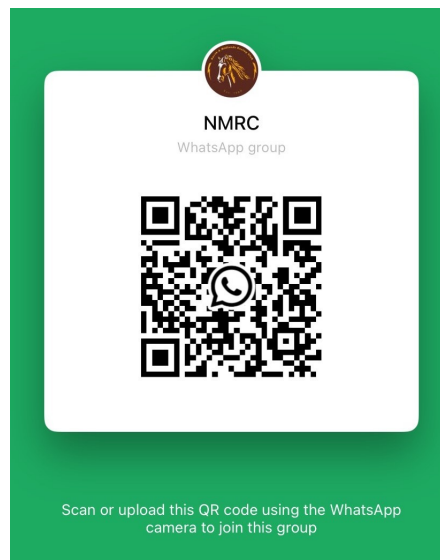
Please return to Helen Goodwill, North & Midlands Racing Club, 124 Lindsell Rd, Altrincham, Cheshire. WA14 5NZ.

NMRC 2026 COMMITTEE

Phil Evans	Chairman
Helen Goodwill	Membership & HH Comp
Ken Unsworth	Magazine printing
Dave Bates	Stable Visits
Richard Mattinson	Hon Treasurer
Mark Banks	Alex Bird Competition
Gordon Armistead	Racecourse Reporter
Andy White	Satnaps & Yorkshire P.T.P.
Keith Dodd	WhatsApp Group
Judith Bradley	Social Media
Michael Wheeler	General Assistant
Charles Rear	General Assistant
Kieran Rowbottom	Hon Club President

Please direct all emails to info@northernracingclub.com and general postal correspondence to NMRC at 53 Dalebrook Rd, Sale, Greater Manchester M33 3LB. Competition entries and membership subscriptions can still be sent directly to those names on the competition entry forms and membership renewals forms etc.

NMRC WhatsApp Group – Not everyone uses Facebook so this group will compliment/add to the information shared there. Keith Dodd has already started adding content and you can join the group by scanning the QR code on the below:



Next copy deadline for Racin' is Monday 27th July