

NEWS RELEASE

Carlisle Racecourse will get its new National Hunt season off to a flying start next week on the back of a record-breaking summer.

Final figures for the 2010 Flat season show that crowds at the city's Durdar track were up by more than 30 per cent to 43,342 – smashing through the 5,000-average barrier for the first time.

The total represents a rise of more than 10,000 extra punters who watched Flat racing at Cumbria's premier racecourse from May to August.

And the success story is continuing into the new jumps season, which starts on Friday October 8, with all hospitality boxes already sold out for EVERY meeting through to the new year.

John Baker, the racecourse's managing director, said: "It is going to be a very exciting autumn for us. We have got some real quality races coming up over the next few months up to Christmas.

"The track is looking in fantastic condition after a six-week break from the end of what was an incredible Flat season for us. I'm sure the National Hunt season will also be a lot of fun."

The opening jumps meeting on Friday week is the first of six in 2010. The highlights include a Countryside Family Day on Sunday October 31 featuring the Cumberland Chase, which is the richest race at the racecourse with £40,000 of prizemoney.

Other meetings will take place on Thursday October 21 (beer festival plus Peter One Dart Manley and Queen of Darts Anastasia Dobromyslova), Monday November 8 (Weatherby Graduation Chase Day), Sunday November 28 and Sunday December 19 (both family fun days).

The increased crowds for Carlisle's 2010 Flat season meetings included the course's biggest ever for a race meeting of 10,993 on July 3 to see Jools Holland perform after an evening's racing.

The year-on-year increase in attendances of 31.68 per cent includes two additional days of racing this summer. The rise is still 22.75 per cent when comparing the eight like-for-like meetings from 2009 and 2010, from 32,915 to 40,398. That's an average of 5,050 as against 4,114.