



A JOCKEY CLUB RACECOURSE

NEWS RELEASE

BIGGEST JUMP RACING DAY OF THE YEAR IS NEXT

CARLISLE Racecourse hosts its major jump racing occasion of the year on Sunday 1 November.

It is Countryside Day at the Cumbrian racetrack, featuring the richest race in the calendar – the sixth annual £40,000 Coors Cumberland Chase.

Families will pack the enclosures and will be entertained by falconry displays, terrier racing, a hound trail, duck and geese herding, an exhibition by Dumfriesshire Greyhound Rescue and many other attractions.

The major race – run over three and a quarter miles – is always a competitive affair, and will be targeted by the major training yards in the north especially.

Set to shoulder top weight is this year's Eider Chase winner Merigo, trained across the border at Ecclefechan by Andrew Parker and owned by Ray Green.

The highest quality race of the day is the £20,000 Colin Parker Memorial Intermediate Chase – which is in memory of Andrew Parker's father Colin and is sponsored every year by Ray Green.

The two-and-a-half mile race has been won by northern-based stars in the last three seasons – Cheltenham Festival winner Tidal Bay, L'Antartique which went on to claim the Paddy Power Gold Cup at Cheltenham after his Carlisle triumph, and Monet's Garden who has won half of his career races for Cumbrian trainer Nicky Richards.

Carlisle Racecourse's managing director John Baker said: "Countryside Day is a tremendous advert for the sport of jump racing, and the races are a showcase of racing talent in the north of England and Scotland.

"As well as great quality racing, there will be lots for families to see and do with the entertainments that we are laying on."

2009/2010 jump racing season

Sunday 1 November - Countryside Day
Monday 9 November - Graduation Chase Day
Sunday 29 November - Ye Olde Medieval Day
Sunday 20 December - Christmas Countdown Day

Wednesday 10 February - Afternoon racing
Monday 22 February - Afternoon racing
Thursday 11 March - Afternoon racing
Sunday 21 March - Sporting Champions family day
Friday 26 March - Afternoon racing
'Easter Saturday' 3 April - Easter family fun day

Sunday 1 November

Entrance gates open at 11am. The first race is at 1pm, with the finale at 4.20pm.

Admission: Premier Enclosure is £18 and Grandstand & Paddock is £12. Seniors pay £8 in the Grandstand & Paddock. Accompanied under 16s are admitted free of charge. Official programmes are £2.50. Further information is available at www.carlisle-races.co.uk, while tickets can be ordered on 0844 579 3002.

ENDS 400 words

For further information, please contact:

John Baker, managing director, at Carlisle Racecourse on 01228 554700 or by emailing john.baker@jockeyclubracecourses.com

23 October 2009