

THE X-FACTOR COMES TO CARLISLE

X Factor phenomena Jedward will perform before another record-breaking crowd at Carlisle Racecourse on Sunday (JULY 25) after having shrugged off a serious injury scare.

Edward Grimes, who forms the quaff-haired teenage singing duo with twin brother John, had to undergo surgery after tearing knee ligaments earlier this month when he fell off the stage while appearing at T4 On The Beach.

But it has now been confirmed that Edward has recovered in time to appear at Carlisle in Sunday's post-racing open-air concert alongside fellow X Factor finalists Olly Murs, Jamie Archer and Lucie Jones.

More than 3,300 advance tickets have already been sold for the afternoon meeting, which features seven races from 1.50pm followed by live music from 5.30pm, with a full programme of family entertainment throughout.

John Baker, the racecourse's managing director, said: "We've had a lot of people asking us if Jedward will be coming after what happened to Edward but we've now been told they will definitely be here.

"Everyone seems to want to see Jedward but we've also got Lucie, who is in Les Miserables, and X Factor runner-up Olly, who has his new single coming out, as well as Jamie Afro with the big hair and big voice.

"It should be a great day, with some quality racing and loads of family entertainment throughout the afternoon, including a fairground, stalls and kids' attractions. There's even a race at 1.30pm for mascots in full costume from sports teams and companies from throughout Cumbria before our first horse race."

The feature race is the Stobart Lady Riders' Northern Derby Bowl, with £15,000 prizemoney. A £2,000 Pequignet watch will also go to the winner of the one-and-a-half-mile race for female amateur riders.

Last year's meeting also featured X Factor finalists and drew a crowd of 5,200, which was a record for the racecourse's late July Sunday afternoon meeting.

But John is confident that figure will be broken this Sunday, adding: "It is looking very healthy. We passed last year's advance sales figure of 2,400 about 10 days ago, so we are confident of breaking the 6,000 mark for this meeting for the first time."

The racecourse hosted the biggest crowd in its history earlier this month when nearly 11,000 attended the July 3 meeting featuring live music by Jools Holland and His Rhythm and Blues Orchestra.

Tickets from £12 for adults and £8 for students or OAPs are available for Sunday's Carlisle Live event, which is sponsored by the Stobart Group, on 0844 579 3002 or www.carlisle-races.co.uk.

Admission to the racing is free for under-16s. The concert is also free to under-fours and to all adult racegoers but children aged 4-16 will need to buy a £5 wristband for the concert in advance or on the day. Gates will open for concert-only access at 4pm. They open at 11.50am for racing and the family entertainment, horse hoppers, Punch and Judy, face painting, reptile roadshow.