

Musselburgh goes flat out for record crowd on Ladies Day



It's still seven months away but tickets for Scotland's most popular racing event, Musselburgh Ladies Day, have gone on sale as the course announces a packed 2012 fixture list featuring 15 flat and 9 jump meetings.

With capacity increased to 9000 the East Lothian track will create a modern day attendance record if Ladies Day on 15 June 2012 repeats the success of the last six years and again sells out.

Highlights of the winter jumps season includes the now traditional New Year's Day meeting on 1 January and the John Smith's Scottish Cheltenham Trials (5 February), which is firmly positioned on the racing calendar as a tester for the Cheltenham Festival proper.

Musselburgh also confirmed Easter Saturday will become a permanent fixture and, sitting alongside the course's popular Easter Sunday Family Day, the aim is to establish an Easter racing festival which attracts both seasoned and social race goers.

The course is having to partly self-fund the meeting but has set its sights on offering up to £100,000 prize money on Musselburgh Gold Cup Day, and with two races to be featured on Channel 4 and the only other flat meeting on all-weather, the Easter Saturday date is sure to attract some of the country's leading trainers and jockeys.

Musselburgh Racecourse general manager Bill Farnsworth said: "Our hope is to make Musselburgh Gold Cup Day on Easter Saturday and our Easter Sunday Family Day a weekend racing festival which becomes firmly associated with Musselburgh and is an annual highlight.

After the flat season starts at Doncaster with the Lincoln meeting there is a bit of a lull before the Guineas Festival at Newmarket and we feel we can give racing fans a quality meeting which goes some way to filling that gap."

Musselburgh is looking to build on the success of its Edinburgh Cup Day, which again will be run on Derby Day (2

June) and Bill Farnsworth is keen to secure a sponsor for Scotland's second richest flat race.

Rebranded as "Scotland's Premier Race Day" to reflect the quality of the entries and trainers in attendance, the long-term objective is to establish the Edinburgh Cup as a £100,000 race.

Musselburgh Racecourse commercial manager Karen Taylor said: "The Edinburgh Cup meeting has proved a great success and in addition to maintaining the quality of racing on offer we also plan to make the day more stylish and appealing to our female audiences.

With both Ladies Day and the Edinburgh Cup taking place in June we can really stake a claim to be offering substance and style in equal measures at Musselburgh next summer."

For full details of Musselburgh's fixture list and seasonal highlights and to book Ladies Day tickets [please visit their website.](#)