

Musselburgh staff keen to provide a great course for next weekend

Ground Staff On Form To Provide Optimum Conditions for Musselburgh's bet365 Scottish Cheltenham Trials Weekend

Ground staff at Musselburgh are pulling out all the stops to provide optimum conditions for the track's bet365 Scottish Cheltenham Trials Weekend on 2 and 3 February.

With such changeable and unseasonal dry weather the East Lothian track has put a number of measures in place to ensure its premier jumps meeting of the season is a success.

Clerk of the Course, Harriet Graham, said: "Owners and trainers can be assured we are working really hard to counter the challenging weather conditions and to provide the best ground possible for our key meetings next weekend.

"At Musselburgh we have only had 2mm of rain this year so have continued with a watering programme throughout January. With temperatures forecast to rise over this weekend we will water 10mm today and on Saturday and then as the temperature drops next week we will cover the entire course with fleece and frost covers.

"All chase fences and hurdles have been moved on to fresh ground and our excellent ground staff are doing our utmost stay one step ahead of the changeable weather conditions we are encountering."

With more than £240,000 in prize money over the Saturday and Sunday jumps racing festival, the East Lothian course is

expected strong fields from the leading UK and Irish yards to be in the mix before entries close on Monday.