

Community

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2024



MUSSELBURGH
RACECOURSE

SINCE 1816

WELCOME From Bill Farnsworth, Racecourse Director

Dear Neighbour,

Autumn is in full flow here at Musselburgh Racecourse. The leaves have all turned and are rapidly falling, keeping our hardworking grounds team busy with their rakes and leaf blowers. As the weather turns colder and the nights draw in, we come closer to the end of another stellar flat season, so it seems fitting to take a moment to reflect on our runners and some of their many achievements as well as our community activities.

Our season got off to one of the worst starts in Musselburgh history, with unprecedented rainfall forcing us to abandon our ever-popular Easter Saturday fixture. This meant fans didn't get a chance to see their Adam Nicol trained favourite Wise Eagle try to retain his 2023 Queen's Cup trophy. He's stepped up in class this year, with varying degrees of success, but a nice Class 1 place in York over a similar distance means he may well have another crack at the Queen's Cup next Easter.

In June, while the rest of the world was watching to see if City Of Troy could redeem himself in the Derby, we had an Edinburgh Cup fixture full of fast and furious races taking place in Musselburgh, and this time it was the turn of the fillies! The Edinburgh Gin Queen of Scots Fillies Race threw up a couple of very nice types to add to your racebooks. Roger Varian's Jabaara improved on her last run to win the 7f race, with Silvestre De Sousa in the saddle. She's since gone on to win a Listed Race at Carlisle, placed second in the Group 1 Falmouth Stakes at Newmarket (a place which was dramatically demoted from a win under huge controversy!) and take another second at Glorious Goodwood! George Boughey's 3yo Soprano stayed on best in the final furlong to take third place but really showed her class three weeks later, winning the Sandringham Stakes at Royal Ascot, both under young superstar Billy Loughnane. A trip across to Deauville also proved fruitful in August where she easily won the Group 3 Prix de Lieurey.



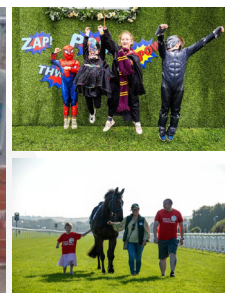
In July, we were proud to support the Honest Toun Festival. At our Luca's Ice Cream Family Day, we welcomed this year's Honest Lads and Lass who took centre-stage and presented their gifted race. As part of the festival week, the racecourse was the venue for the Honest Toun Family Day that saw over 4,000 local people attend.

Off the track, in August, we were once again thrilled to be the final leg and finishing point of the Edinburgh 10K and Half Marathon again. There was a huge support from locals plus family and friends of those competing. Well done to all those who not only completed their race but who raised great sums for all the different charities.

In September, we partnered with our lovely friends at The Edinburgh Children's Hospital Charity for our Superhero Family Day, where many young Spider-Mans, Supergirls, and Batmans came together for a day full of fun and excitement. These daring young heroes and their families helped raise a total of £1,600 on the day, with the racecourse donating £1 for every little superhero in attendance.



Thank you everyone who donated, your support is making a real difference to the charities real-life superheroes – the children and families courageously facing their toughest battles in hospital. This year to date, we are thrilled to have donated £34,434 worth of complimentary tickets to local charities and fundraising groups.



We are also thrilled to announce that as we move towards achieving Net Carbon Zero and becoming a more sustainable business, we are proud to report that we have been awarded the Bronze Green Tourism Award. This recognition reflects our ongoing efforts to improve not only our operations but also those of our suppliers and contractors. We remain dedicated to challenging ourselves to enhance our practices as we strive to become a greener company.

Once again, thank you for your support. From everyone at Musselburgh Racecourse, we wish you a merry Christmas and a very happy New Year!

Bill Farnsworth,
Racecourse Director

DIGITAL NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP

Scan the QR code below to sign-up to our Musselburgh Neighbourhood mailing list which will provide the latest information regarding events at Musselburgh Racecourse.

GET IN TOUCH

We hope you find this newsletter informative and helpful but if you have any questions or suggestions, we would love to hear from you.

Please email:
community@musselburgh-racecourse.co.uk



OFFICE CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

Please note, we are closed 23rd to 26th December and re-opening 9am Friday 27th December.

ENTERTAINMENT

We are conscious that our biggest days have an impact on local residents and visitors to Musselburgh. With most of these racedays taking place between April and September, we have detailed some of the key dates between now and Easter and key timings so you're aware.

On our Sensational 6 Raceday's, we provide a range of entertainment dependent on the raceday and the crowd type attending.

New Year's Day in partnership with Virgin Bet Wednesday 1st January 2025

- Site build from Friday 27th December
- Music and entertainment from 10:30 – 17:00 across the site.

Bet365 Scottish Cheltenham Trials Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd February 2025

- Music and entertainment from 11:30 – 18:00 across the site. (Sunday only)

Virgin Bet Easter Saturday Raceday featuring the Queen's Cup – Saturday 19th April 2025

- Site build from Monday 14th April
- Music and entertainment from 11:30 – 19:00 on Loretto Lawn.
- Funfair and kids' activities from 11:30 – 19:30 on Linkfield Lawn.

| | Date | Fixture |
|------------------|---------------|--|
| January | Wed 1 | New Year's Day Raceday in partnership with Virgin Bet |
| | Fri 3 | Virgin Bet January Jumps Raceday |
| February | Sat 1 | The bet365 Scottish Cheltenham Trials Raceday |
| | Sun 2 | The bet365 Scottish Cheltenham Trials Raceday |
| | Sun 16 | The Farmers Raceday |
| March | Fri 21 | Go North Jumps Raceday |
| April | Wed 2 | Start of the Flat Season Raceday |
| | Sun 13 | The Sky Bet Sunday Series Raceday |
| | Sat 19 | The Virgin Bet Easter Saturday Raceday featuring The Queen's Cup |
| May | Fri 2 | Afternoon Racing |
| June | Sat 7 | The Edinburgh Cup Raceday in partnership with Edinburgh Gin |
| July | Tue 1 | The Alan Steel Asset Management Raceday |
| | Tue 22 | Luca's Ice Cream Family Raceday |
| August | Fri 1 | The 90's Friday Night at the Races |
| | Fri 8 | Ladies Day 2025 |
| | Tue 26 | The Racing TV Raceday |
| | Wed 27 | The Portobello Cup Raceday |
| September | Sat 13 | The Oktoberfest Raceday |
| | Sun 14 | The Racing TV Raceday |
| October | Wed 1 | The Racing TV Raceday |
| | Mon 13 | Afternoon Racing |
| November | Wed 5 | Scottish Flat Season Finale Raceday |
| | Fri 28 | The Start of the Jumps Raceday |
| December | Mon 8 | The Festive Jumps Raceday |
| | Mon 22 | Christmas Jumper Raceday |

Sensational Racedays (the biggest and best of Musselburgh Racecourse)



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Zander Voy - Groundsman

I have been a groundsman at Musselburgh for a little over 2 years now and can often be seen out working on the course with my dog Bailey. Growing up with ex-racehorses fuelled my dream of becoming a jump jockey, and I was lucky enough to ride nearly 800 times with 48 winners over 5 years.

My journey began 15 years ago at Musselburgh's Cheltenham Trials meeting, where I rode my first winner on Stobe. Stobes' owner gifted him to me when he retired, and I still have him now at the fine age of 20. I was forced to call it time in the saddle due to injuries. After returning from a broken back, I shattered my foot in a freak accident riding out for Mark Johnston so that was the end of that!

Now, I'm very proud to work with a team of very knowledgeable groundsmen. We aim every meeting to make sure our equine athletes have a well-presented course and safe racing surface. As an animal lover and someone who is well aware this isn't a risk-free sport, I love the fact we all as a grounds team leave no stone unturned when it comes to minimising that risk as much as possible for both horses and jockeys!

MUSSELBURGH
RACECOURSE

Virgin BET

NEW YEAR'S DAY RACEMEETING
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH VIRGIN BET

Secure your ticket now to **SAVE!**
musselburgh-racecourse.co.uk

Responsible Gambling: www.gamblingaware.org

THE HORSE COMES FIRST

Horse welfare has always been of paramount importance to everyone at Musselburgh Racecourse, and now, more than ever, we want to highlight this to the general public by reaching out and welcoming you behind the scenes. Our team have put together an informative video to give you some insight into how loved & looked after every horse is on a raceday. This has been endorsed by the RCA and is available to watch by scanning the QR code. Our team of experienced and dedicated ground staff ensures that horsemen, stable staff, jockeys, owners and trainers can be confident in running their horses at Musselburgh. Knowing that every effort has been made to provide the best possible racing surface for their horses.

