





NEWMARKET

The Rowley Mile | The July Course

Jockey Club Racecourses

## 2015 is a hugely exciting year for Newmarket

*Amy Starkey, Regional Director, Jockey Club Racecourses*

What a year 2015 is going to be for the town of Newmarket, its people, its horse racing and breeding businesses and its tourism. We are marking three and a half centuries of horse racing history, heritage and culture – for it was in 1665 that the Articles for what has become known as the Newmarket Town Plate were published, the longest-running horse race in the town that is the 'Home of Racing'.

We have already seen the launch of Discover Newmarket, the tourism initiative aimed at attracting thousands more visitors to Newmarket. Discover Newmarket is the community project set up to organise exclusive days out and tours around the town and West Suffolk, showcasing the globally recognised headquarters of thoroughbred breeding, horse racing and training, and promoting the area's history, culture and unique attractions. ([www.discovernewmarket.co.uk](http://www.discovernewmarket.co.uk))

After a brilliant 2014, with seven-year high attendance at the QIPCO Guineas Festival and crowds coming racing well up on the previous 12 months, we have just announced the creation of a fantastic new festival meeting in the autumn.

The Dubai Future Champions Festival, on Friday 9th and Saturday 10th October, is quite simply the highest-class racing for young horses anywhere in the world, attracting the very best equine talent and offering more than £2 million in prize money. Positioned in the calendar to coincide with Tattersalls sales the Festival is an illustration of the horse racing and breeding industries in Newmarket working together for the common good.

The second day of the Festival includes the Betfred Cesarewitch, the only horse race run across two counties, Cambridgeshire into Suffolk, and with a history as long as that of Aintree Racecourse's Grand National.

The QIPCO Guineas Festival, held on Saturday 2nd May and Sunday 3rd May, is truly a unique sporting occasion featuring the first two Classic races of the British horse racing year, the QIPCO 1000 and 2000 Guineas. Racing fans travel from far and wide to soak up the electric atmosphere just ahead of the May Day Bank Holiday, when Europe's finest horses descend on The Rowley Mile. We are delighted the QIPCO 2000 Guineas has regained its position as the top race for three-year-old horses anywhere in the world, which once again highlights the iconic status of Britain's first Classic of the season with its home in Newmarket.

The QIPCO Guineas Festival is a huge event ... but not the most popular in Newmarket, for the crowds flock to the picturesque July Course. The three days of the Moët & Chandon July Festival is many people's favourite race meeting of year – East Anglia's own 'Royal Ascot,' with the English garden party atmosphere loved by the thousands who attend.

The 29th series of Adnams Newmarket Nights offers concerts aplenty. Kylie sold out in record time, but there is still a superb selection of concerts to choose; so visit <http://newmarket.thejockeyclub.co.uk> to find out more about the music, the racing and why a day or evening out at Newmarket Racecourses is so enjoyable.

### NEWMARKET EQUINE HOSPITAL

Newmarket Equine Hospital (NEH) is a centre of equine veterinary excellence situated on the outskirts of Newmarket with over 30 veterinary surgeons providing veterinary care to racehorse trainers, stud farms, and sport and leisure horses in the surrounding area. The hospital offers state-of-the-art surgical, diagnostic and imaging facilities with a team of world renowned veterinary experts. We strive to offer the best possible veterinary care for all horses.

Contact: Ambulatory office: 01638 782000 — Referrals office: 01638 782020

Website: [www.newmarketequinehospital.com](http://www.newmarketequinehospital.com)

## Lord Farnham's chesnut racehorse Conductor at Newmarket with jockey up by George Stubbs (1773)

*One of the boys who worked for Lord March took down a fowling-piece and said, 'Now, Jack, I'll shoot you'. As he spoke, he pulled the trigger... Clarke, was shot on the left side of his face, the middle half of which immediately became as frightful a wound as perhaps was ever beheld... The left cheek bone, eye, and other parts were shattered past hope: ... His sufferings were so incessant, his groans so terrifying, and the wounds (by which the inside of the head was made visible) had been so bloody, raw, and torn, being at the same time most frightfully spread all round with gun-powder... The left eye was lost, the appearance of the bones was disfigured, and the deep stain of the gun-powder remained. (The Life of Thomas Holcroft, written by Himself. Published in 1816.)*

Reading this description in 2013 of the accident to the jockey Jack Clarke was a second Eureka! moment for David Oldrey. Having already deduced, in connection with the late Judy Egerton's catalogue raisonné of George Stubbs, that this was very probably Lord Farnham's best horse Conductor, here was further evidence. Originally sold as 'Horse with jockey up' in 1949 it was then described as 'Lord Farnham's chesnut colt at Newmarket' when sold again in 1974. Given the extraordinary way Stubbs has painted the peak of the cap over the left eye, reading about the accident confirmed to David Oldrey that this jockey was Clarke, which would lead to the identity of his mount as Conductor. Further evidence is provided by the unusual choice of the judge's box on the Round Course, the only Stubbs portrait positioned there. Conductor's biggest win had come in the King's Plate on 15<sup>th</sup> April 1773 contested over this course, so finishing just opposite the present July Course stands.

The painting is a private loan to the Museum and has been newly hung in gallery 1.

Tim Cox  
Trustee, National Horseracing Museum

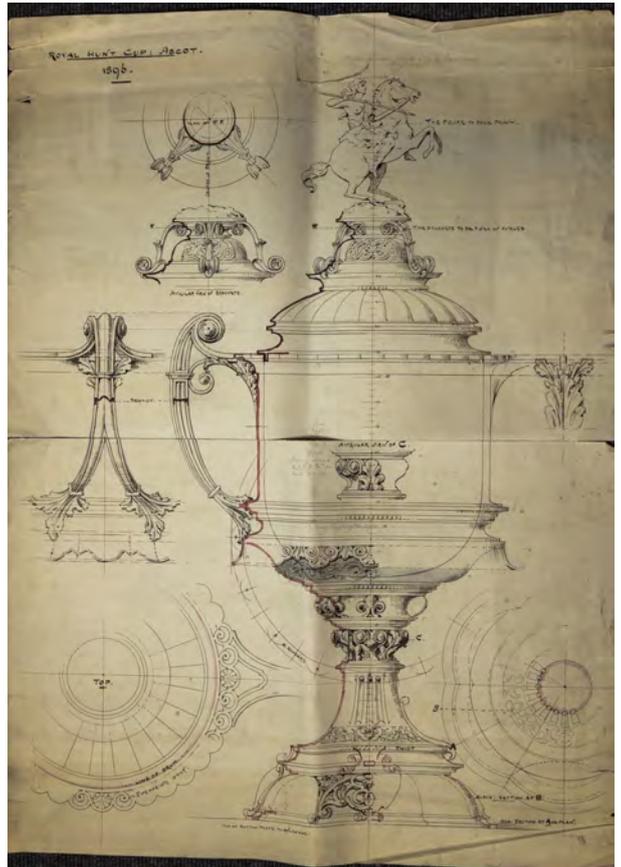


# Museum Acquisitions Supported by The Friends

At the Graham Budd Sporting Memorabilia auction last autumn the Museum curatorial team spotted two items of particular interest and the Friends have generously helped the Museum acquire these. The Committee also wanted to acknowledge the long term contribution of the late Maureen Hills to the Friends, and it was decided that the significant donation from the collection at her memorial service would go towards an appropriate acquisition for the Museum Collection in Maureen's memory.

The first of the two items that caught our eye was wonderfully unique and a perfect item to dedicate to Maureen. It is a fine and rare Late-Victorian ladies fan with printed portraits of the Derby winners between 1857 and 1872 (shown on the cover). It even has the details of the winner's pedigree, owner and jockey with a central panel portraying a Derby finish. Pertinently it features the 1863 Derby winner Macaroni, trained at Palace House Stables by Jem Godding. The fan is in very good condition and has been mounted and framed very professionally.

The second item from the auction is not quite so spectacular in itself, but the Museum has a very specific and important purpose in mind for it. It is the original design drawing for the trophy for the Royal Hunt Cup at Ascot in 1896. The scale drawing, over two sheets, is in pen and ink with designer's annotations visible. After some minor conservation work, the plan is to place it in-between two sheets of glass so that a high resolution digital image can be taken. This image will be significantly enlarged to form the backdrop of the main trophy display case in the Sporting Glory gallery of the new Museum.



The actual trophy itself would have ended up on Lord Rosebery's sideboard as his horse Quarrel, ridden by James Fagan, won the race. Wouldn't it be fantastic to trace its whereabouts and borrow it.

Alan Grundy  
Assistant curator

Michael (left) and Richard Hills (right) with the Victorian ladies fan, which will be accessioned into the Museum's Collection in memory of their mother, Maureen.

# Friends Events for 2015



## WEATHERBYS

### **A Private Visit of Weatherbys — Tuesday 12th May**

Weatherbys has been in business since 1770 and is responsible for racing administration (under Contract to the BHA), and also runs the Thoroughbred Breeding Registry (“General Stud Book”) in Britain and Ireland.

We will leave Newmarket at 8.45am. On arrival there will be tea/coffee and an introductory talk before a tour of all the departments, including Racing services and operations and Bloodstock. After lunch we will depart at 2.30pm. £45 per person (includes transport and lunch). Places are limited.

### **A talk on Charles II by Charles FitzRoy (author of Return of the King: the Restoration of Charles II), — Tuesday 14th April, 7pm in the Coffee Room, Jockey Club Rooms**

Lord Charles FitzRoy grew up at Euston Hall and is a direct descendant of Charles II and Barbara Villiers, Duchess of Cleveland. He read history at Cambridge and now runs the successful travel firm Fine Art Travel, specialising in cultural tours of Italy. £15 per person.

### **Ladies Lunch—Friday 12th June**

Our popular summer gathering at Palace House Mews and this year there will be the opportunity to visit the new site. £20 per person; please email [friends@nhrm.co.uk](mailto:friends@nhrm.co.uk) for further details.

**To book these events please complete and return the booking form by 31 March.**

### **Frankel Bronze Auction**

Philip Blacker’s wonderful sculpture was bought by John Deer and raised £38,500 for the National Horseracing Museum. Many thanks to Philip for his generosity in donating his work.

Friends may be interested in a series of temporary exhibitions at Wolfson College, Cambridge.

A rotating exhibition of 36 exceptional works by 15 Royal Academicians. The show is accompanied by the display of a significant and unique collection of pottery by colleagues and students of the renowned British potter, Bernard Leach CBE, which has been recently donated to the College by Dr Harry Bradshaw and his wife Dr Norma Bubier.

The exhibition, on display in the Combination Room and the Lee Hall, is open to the public on Saturday and Sunday afternoons from 2pm to 4pm, from 31 January to 19 December 2015. Please call 01223 335900 in advance of your visit to avoid disappointment. Further information: [www.wolfson.cam.ac.uk/fine-arts](http://www.wolfson.cam.ac.uk/fine-arts)

### **Katherine Stewart**

We would like to welcome our new Chair of the Friends Committee. Katherine came to live in Newmarket in the late 80s after her marriage to Alec Stewart and has been a Director of Newmarket Racecourses since 2011.

## **National Science and Engineering Week 2014 - Our Challenge: Getting children interested in science under the guise of learning about horse racing**

### **Our solution: Marvellous Materials!**

Drawing inspiration from the National Curriculum we developed a workshop style activity which explored the range of materials used in racing and the specific properties which made them suitable for one use and unsuitable for another.

Children moved between six work stations; three self-led activities and three supervised, led by staff and volunteers from our retired and local Polish community. This format offered a range of learning styles and gave the children opportunities to apply new and existing knowledge and also use their problem solving skills.

Sorting through materials used in racing they had to work out which were natural and which were man-made, they also had to explore the inside of a racing saddle and discover how everyday materials (such as wool and carpet) are used in its construction. They even had the use of a digital microscope to examine the texture and appearance of different materials in close up... including their hands!

On the silks activity table they investigated the differences between natural silks and polyester fabric, the light reflective properties of the different coloured fabric and, through a little experimental chromatography, considered the importance of colour fastness. At the 'Safety First' work station children discussed the importance of safety equipment in relation to horse riding, and experimented with different materials which could be useful in a riding helmet, with a crash-test plasticine head!

The level of interest from our local schools was good with positive feedback including the following comments from teachers: "What surprised me most was how well resourced, prepared and engaging the activities were. The children really enjoyed it." "How engaged the children were at each station. A great experience for them all." "The experiment surprised me when all colours burst into other colours." (Child, Year 5 with reference to chromatography)

Building on our experience during Science and Engineering Week we have been busy organising and running other educational activities and workshops.

For National Science Week 2015 (18 – 20 March) we are holding Key Stage 2 workshops on "Straight from the Horse's Mouth"- fun hands-on comparative anatomy. For more information contact Gabrielle Bell on 01638 667333 ext 10 or email: Gabrielle@nhrm.co.uk

Briony Jackson  
Science Learning and Participation Officer

**Notice is given that the 29th Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the National Horseracing Museum will be held at the Mews, Palace House, Palace Street, Newmarket on Tuesday 24th March 2015 at 4.00 pm for the following purposes:**

- To receive a report from the committee
- To receive the annual accounts (a copy will be available at the meeting)
- To re-appoint members of the committee
- To appoint new members of the committee
- To consider any proposal of which due notice has been given

If you have any queries or points you wish to raise please inform the Secretary by writing to the Friends of the National Horseracing Museum, 99 High Street, Newmarket, Suffolk, CB8 8JH or by emailing: friends@nhrm.co.uk

## Philip Blacker

Interviewed by Graham Snelling, Curator



Philip Blacker was born in 1949 and was educated in Dorset. On leaving school he became a steeple-chase jockey and rode professionally for 13 years, being placed in the Grand National on several occasions and riding 340 winners. It was during this time that Philip developed his latent enthusiasm for sculpture. Under the

guidance of Margot Dent, a former pupil of John Skeaping, he devoted as much time to sculpture as he could spare from his riding. His first three editions, all racing bronzes based on The Grand National, sold out quickly and in 1982 he retired from the saddle to concentrate full time on sculpture.

### ***What inspired you to go into racing?***

I come from a military family and my father was an amateur rider. My boyhood ambition was to be a professional Jump Jockey and I wanted to make a living out of it. My first win as an amateur was on my father's horse Aberdonian at Windsor on 16 November, 1968.

### ***Was there anyone that influenced you in racing?***

Stan Mellor was a very good trainer. I worked for him for six years and these were my best and most enjoyable times in the saddle. I knew him as a jockey and then as a trainer and respected his opinion. He was old school with modern ways and was prepared to experiment, but was still a yard traditionalist. Everyone knew where they stood with him. In some ways he was before his time when it came to training methods.

### ***What was your most memorable race?***

There are two; the Triumph Hurdle in 1979 on Pollardstown at Cheltenham and the Whitbread Gold Cup in 1980 on Royal Mail at Sandown. I won both races. I have to also recall my ride at Ludlow in 1982. I was due to ride Royal Mail in the 1982 Grand National and the day before I had a ride in the big race at Ludlow, but came down at the last hurdle and cracked my shoulder blade. As I was unable to ride Royal Mail, Bob Davies came in for the ride only to fall at Becher's.

### ***Did you have a favourite racecourse?***

It would have to be Newbury, you knew the best horse would win on this course.

### ***What do you think of Sunday racing?***

Of course it did not affect me as I had retired before this came in, but I think it is a good thing for racing. The sport had to move with the times. Other sports were already ahead of the game. If racing is to be ever popular it needs to be watched by maximum audiences which means on their day off!

### ***What would your advice be to anyone entering racing as a career?***

Stay focused. When I look back I could have done a lot better. When you are in your twenties you do not appreciate your career can be so short. You need to keep your drive and appreciate what you are doing.

### ***If you could pick out the best trainer in your time who would it be?***

Fred Winter and Michael Dickinson — two very good trainers.

### ***How did your career as an artist begin?***

I felt I had a talent and when I was with Stan Mellor he was very supportive. In 1973 I was driving to Devon & Exeter racecourse in the company of racehorse owner and sculptor Margot Dent. I expressed an interest in her work and she invited me down to her studio. From there I went to the Royal Veterinary College for lectures on anatomy. I am now fortunate to be doing something I enjoy. I am so glad I got through life without ever having to get a proper job. Being a jockey was fun, and this is fun. I'm chuffed to be able to make a living out of it.



# Friends Calendar of Events

Talk: No Foot No Horse – 19 March, Palace House Mews, 7-9pm (Museum event £5)

Friends AGM – Tuesday 24 March

Weatherbys Private Tour – Tuesday 12 May

Talk on Charles II by Charles FitzRoy – Tuesday 14th April

Ladies Lunch – Friday 12 June

Fittocks Stud Drinks Party – Wednesday 1 July (Museum Fundraising event)

Newmarket Open Day – Sunday 20 September

Friends Quiz with Mike Cattermole – Autumn date to be announced



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