

Thank you for your continuing support of York Racecourse, I do hope you enjoyed the seven racedays, to date.

As we look forward to one of the handicap highlights of the British Racing calendar, the 63rd running of the John Smith's Cup this Saturday; it is also a time to reflect on what we have seen so far on the Knavesmire and whether those star horses might return in August.

The Dante Festival once again highlighted genuine equine talent. Desert Crown becoming the twelfth colt to land the York/Epsom double, with many commentators agreeing that Emily Upjohn was an unlucky second in the Oaks after her Tattersalls Musidora success. On Friday, Stradivarius was his usual self at York, recording a sixth consecutive win here at Group Two level. All three of these stars are entered for their respective Group race targets at the Sky Bet Ebor Festival.

Elsewhere, the May racedays introduced us to juvenile talents such as Bradsell (the Coventry winner), Maria Bramwell (third in the Queen Mary), with Walbank (placed in the Norfolk) or three-year-old filly Heredia progressing from the Sunday Series to win the Sandringham. Their relevant targets remain contests such as the Al Basti Equiworld Gimcrack or Sky Bet Lowther.

Viewed as whole the entries for August promise some fantastic action and support the investment into the sport of £6 million over those four days alone, Please remember to book your complimentary place at the Sky Bet Preview Evening on Tuesday 16 August, we can look forward to an entertaining evening with a nice supper and some insight towards finding a winner. Please email debbie.shirt@yorkracecourse.co.uk to book a seat. To keep up to date on running plans, please check the "Horses are coming" page on our website.

The wider entertainment in August will feature the York Gin Ebor Fashion Lawn, the live draw for the Sky Bet Ebor and the continuance of the Ebor Community Fund. The latter will see 22 Yorkshire charities and community groups each linked to a runner in Britain's richest flat handicap. The winner receiving a £20,000 award to a specific project. More details including how you can propose a contender will appear on the website later in the month.

We are pleased that the refreshed Champagne Pavilion seems to have rediscovered its role as an enjoyable place to meet up with friends who might not have an Annual Badge. A range of champagnes, cocktails and premium beers are now served.

Thank you for playing your part in the fantastic fundraising effort that was Macmillan Charity Raceday. At the time of writing the sum raised is approaching £500,000 with the book open for late donations.

An important part of the work of the team is to be active in support of key issues for racing and wider society. Many of you will have been part of the celebration of Racing With Pride in June. Issues such as equine welfare and environmental sustainability are also very important, so I thought I'd share some behind the scenes videos that highlight the work of vets, stablestaff and the facilities team in these matters. Please keep an eye on the screens during racing or simply follow the link to view them on the website:

[- Behind The Scenes | York Racecourse](#)

The balance of July offers four chances to come racing with valuable Pattern contests on each of the racedays. Of course, Music Showcase Weekend offers the additional action from the live stage as Madness return on Friday evening 22 July, with Sugababes on debut the following day. As with all our activity, their commercial success allows us to invest in prize money and the experience of racing at York, so please spread the word.

For those unable to join us on Friday or Saturday, the feature races will be shown on ITV1 with all fourteen contests on Racing TV; a digital racecard will be available on the eve of the meetings, from the website.

Thank you again for your support, I look forward to seeing you over the balance of the season.

With best wishes

Debbie Shirt

Secretary to the Annual Badgeholders