

Update For Annual Badgeholders

Dear Annual Badgeholder,

Following the positive step that racing has now returned, albeit in a rather alien environment of “behind closed doors,” I wanted to update you on the latest news from York Racecourse.

Before doing that, we continue to send our very best to you and those important to you, hoping that all remain fit and well. I am pleased to continue to report that everyone at the Racecourse continues to be in positive spirits, albeit most of the team (including Debbie Shirt) remaining on furlough until July.

As per my previous update we now have the dates for our behind closed doors racedays in July (9th, 18th, 19th, 25th and 26th). The BHA are in the process of confirming the race programme for all the rescheduled July dates and we will post these on our website once confirmed. York Racecourse dates will include all our normal July Group and Listed races. In addition the Al Basti Equiworld Dante and Tattersalls Musidora will be run on the Thursday 9th July. Always attractive for smart middle distance three year olds both connections and the BHA feel there is still a race planning need for these important races for top quality horses, despite the fact they will be run after Epsom in this most unusual of years.

Though to be staged a week later than scheduled, the John Smith’s Cup as well as the John Smith’s Silver Cup and City Walls Stakes will be the highlights of Saturday 18th July, with the William Hill Summer Stakes providing the pattern highlight of that Sunday. The following weekend the Group 2 Sky Bet York Stakes and Listed European Breeder’s Fund Lyric Stakes will be the feature contests of Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th July, respectively.

The wider cards promise competitive handicaps and interesting juvenile races as the sport seeks to make up for lost time.

All our July racedays are set to be covered, at least in part, by ITV Racing. In addition, we have arranged with Racing TV for all York Annual Badgeholders to have the ability to follow all the action on Racing TV for free. To take advantage of the special complimentary day pass simply call 0113 859 1477 (standard rate number), then confirm your York Badge details and quote the relevant code on the relevant day –

09/07/2020 – Y0907

18/07/2020 – Y1807 19/07/2020 – Y1907

25/07/2020 – Y2507 26/07/2020 – Y2607

This will enable you to have access to the channel from the time you call until midnight.

For the weekend meetings simply ask to be kept connected for both days. Don't worry if you are not very tech-savvy, the team at Racing TV will be happy to run you through the whole set up process and suggest solutions to wrinkles, such as for users of the Virgin viewing platform.

Please could I ask for your help in spreading the word about fixtures held "behind closed doors" at York Racecourse – to comply with Government and Public Health England requirements these must be strictly "not for the public" events. In order to meet the Government's rules around avoiding mass gatherings and maintaining social distancing, we have been instructed that this applies to even our closest supporters. The message we are sending to the wider world, as endorsed by the North Yorkshire Police is clear, "behind closed doors" racedays are not appropriate to attend for anyone bar those who are working, even outside the venue. As a racing supporter you might be asked by others what the situation is, please tell them that given the police advice we will be required to obscure key views of the racing action, to close the car parks and we will not be providing catering, on-course commentary, big screens, nor toilets. Frankly, and I never thought I'd utter this sentiment, you are far better off staying at home to watch on the television.

If national guidelines were to be changed by July 9th, please rest assured you are in our plans and we will let you know.

As the Welcome to Yorkshire Ebor Festival remains on its original dates and still lies well over two months away, we think there is still a little period of grace before needing to make any decisions. York Racecourse will respond to any updated advice from either Government or the BHA. We would very much like to be in the position to welcome you to this meeting but we will just have to see what the national guidance is regarding matters such as mass gatherings and social distancing nearer the time. We will keep you posted and keep our website updated with any change to the latest information.

As there is now live action in the UK, I would like to draw your attention to the promotions being run by the relaunched Tote, notably their "Ten to Follow" competition, [click here](#).

For now, thank you again for your continued support. We will endeavour to keep our website updated with any further news.

James Brennan
Head of Marketing and Sponsorship