



Fairyhouse Club Limited, Ratoath, Co.Meath
Tel: 01-8256167 | Fax: 01-8256051
Email: info@fairyhouseracecourse.ie | www.fairyhouseracecourse.ie

Press Release

Tuesday 21 March 2006

Fairyhouse Easter Festival Launched Today

The **FAIRYHOUSE EASTER FESTIVAL** gets underway on Sunday April 16 next with the 135th running of the €250,000 Powers Whiskey Irish Grand National on Easter Monday April 17, the highlight of the three-day meeting.

The €100,000 Powers Gold Cup takes centre stage on the opening day while The €30,000 Menolly Homes Handicap Hurdle, upped in prize money by €30,000 from last year, makes up the three most valuable races of the Festival. Over €1 million in total prize money will be played for over the 23 scheduled races.

Dick Sheil, Fairyhouse General Manager, said: “The Powers Whiskey Irish Grand National is the most valuable jumps race in Ireland and the highlight of the year at Fairyhouse and I am very grateful for the kind support of Irish Distillers Limited, Menolly Homes and all our loyal sponsors over the Easter Festival.”

Brendan Buckley, Marketing Controller, Irish Distillers, said “The sponsorship of the Powers Whiskey Irish Grand National is a key part of our annual marketing program. Much like Powers Whiskey itself, this prestigious race captures the elemental quality and tradition of Irish National Hunt Racing and indeed Irish sporting life. We look forward to a great day’s racing on the 17th April and I wish all racegoers an enjoyable and successful day”

This year the Menolly Homes Handicap Hurdle on Tuesday April 18 is worth €130,000 and **Seamus Ross their Managing Director**, is looking forward to the day: "To be involved in such a successful sponsorship with Fairyhouse is an honour and I hope it continues to grow like this well into the future. It will always be the intention of the Menolly Group to keep close links with sports that are an integral part of Irish heritage. Like horse racing our recent Meath GAA sponsorship are the fruits of these beliefs and is something that I trust will work out as well as our involvement with Fairyhouse's Easter Festival."

The racing scene has long been synonymous with stylish and elegant fashion. This year, Marks & Spencer are delighted to join Powers Whiskey in the search for the best dressed lady at the Powers Whiskey Irish Grand National. The winner of the Powers Whiskey/M&S Best Dressed Lady, who will be hand picked by Ireland's premier fashionista, Pamela Flood, will win a €1,000 voucher to spend as she desires at her favourite Marks & Spencer store. There will also be prizes for second and third place as well as spot prizes handed out to deserving ensembles on the day.

James Hathaway of Marks & Spencer said, "This Spring sees one of our most fashion forward collections ever, inspired by catwalk trends and designs from our own in-house team. The dress is the key piece for Spring Summer wardrobes and M&S have great designs and colours to choose from. We also have a fantastic collection of chic accessories, including bold bags and colourful jewellery, to ensure our shoppers stand out from the crowd at all this season's premier race meetings."

For Further Information

Dick Sheil, Manager, Fairyhouse, Ph: 01 8256167

Mary FitzGerald, PR consultant, Fairyhouse Racecourse, Ph:01-4321 560

Tamarisk Doyle, PR Manager, HRI, Ph: 045 842841, Mob: 0872936357

Images from the photocall and additional information available with race programme, history of the National, Former Winners, Profiles, etc.

Please contact tdoyle@hri.ie or call 045 842841 and we will forward on.

FAIRYHOUSE 3-DAY EASTER FESTIVAL 2006

-Sunday/Monday/Tuesday April 16, 17 & 18th -

Sunday April 16

POWERS GOLD CUP DAY featuring Family Fun Day

Time	Race	Trip	€
2.15	Ryans Cleaning Services Beginners Chase	2m6f	17,000
2.45	EBF Mares Novice Hurdle Championship Final	2m4f	52,000
3.15	POWERS GOLD CUP NOVICE CHASE	2m4f	100,000
3.50	Rathbarry & Glenview Studs Festival Novice Hurdle	2m4f	48,000
4.20	tote.ie Novice Handicap Hurdle	2m	22,500
4.50	Navan Shopping Centre Maiden Hurdle	2m	14,000
5.20	Fairyhouse Members Flat Race	2m	16,000

Easter Monday April 17

POWERS WHISKEY IRISH GRAND NATIONAL DAY

Time	Race	Trip	€
2.05	Winners Hurdle	2m	29,000
2.35	Sherry Fitzgerald Hurdle	2m4f	20,000
3.10	Joe Molloy Bookmakers Hurdle	2m4f	31,000
3.50	POWERS WHISKEY IRISH GRAND NATIONAL	3m5f	250,000
4.30	McGarrell Reilly Homes Handicap Hurdle	2m6f	34,000
5.05	Stanley Macadam Novice Chase	2m1f	24,000
5.40	Novice Handicap Chase	2m4f	19,000
6.10	Gigginstown House Stud Pt-Pt Championship Flat Race	2m2f	20,000

Tuesday April 18

MENOLLY HOMES HURDLE DAY

Time	Race	Trip	€
2.15	Weatherbys Ireland GSB Hurdle	2m4f	29,000
2.45	Dunboyne Castle Hotel & Spa Novice Hurdle (Grade 2)	2m	60,000
3.15	MENOLLY HOMES HANDICAP HURDLE	2m	130,000
3.50	Handicap Chase	2m1f	16,500
4.25	Emerald Racing Handicap Chase	2m1f	15,000
4.55	Bet@Blue Square Dan Moore Memorial Handicap Chase	2m1f	70,000
5.25	Joseph R O'Reilly Memorial Cup	3m1f	13,000
5.55	Kilbrew Recuperation & Nursing Care Flat Race	2m	13,000

POWERS WHISKEY IRISH GRAND NATIONAL HALL OF FAME

2005 NUMBERSIXVALVERDE	9, 10-1 O.B.P Carroll, M Brassil, R Walsh, 9/1
2004 GRANIT D'ESTRUUVAL	10, 10-0 W.J. Gott, F Murphy, B P Harding 33/1
2003 TIMBERA	9 10-12 Mrs J M Breen, D T Hughes, J Culloty 11/1
2002 THE BUNNY BOILER	8, 9-9 Usual Suspects Syndicate, N Meade, R Geraghty 12/1
2001 DAVIDS LAD	7,10-0, Eddie Joe's Racing Syndicate, A J Martin, T J Murphy 10/1
2000 COMMANCHE COURT	7, 11-4, D F Desmond, T M Walsh, R Walsh 14/1
1999 GLEBE LAD	7, 10-0, T B Conroy, M J O'Brien, T P Rudd 8/1cf
1998 BOBBYJO	8, 11-3, Robert Burke, T Carberry, P Carberry 8/1
1997 MUDAHIM	11, 10-3, In Touch Racing Club, Mrs J Pitman, J F Titley 13/2
1996 FEATHERED GALE	9, 10-0, M O'Connor/E P King, A L T Moore, F Woods 8/1
1995 FLASHING STEEL	10, 12-0, Charles J Haughey, J E Mulhern, J Osborne 9/1
1994 SON OF WAR	8, 10-10, Mrs Vera O'Brien, P McCreery, F Woods 12/1
1993 EBONY JANE	8, 10-7, James Lynch, F Flood, C F Swan 6/1
1992 VANTON	8, 10-11, Noel McCabe, M J O'Brien, J Titley 13/2
1991 OMERTA	11,10-9, Mrs E McMorro, M C Pipe(GB)Mr A Maguire 6/1
1990 DESERT ORCHID	11, 12-0, R Burrige, D Elsworth (GB) R Dunwoody 1/1f
1989 MAID OF MONEY	7, 11-6, Mrs H A McCormack, J Fowler, A Powell 10/1
1988 PERRIS VALLEY	7, 10-0, M W Smurfit, D Weld, B Sheridan 12/1
1987 BRITTANY BOY	8, 10-10, J Glynn, K C Hitchmough, T Taaffe 14/1
1986 INSURE	8, 9-7, P Hughes, P Hughes, M Flynn 16/1
1985 RHYME N' REASON	6, 10-6, Miss J E Reed, D Murray-Smith (GB), G Bradley 6/1
1984 BENTOM BOY	9, 9-9, T Dorrian, W E Rooney, Mrs A Ferris 33/1
1983 BIT OF A SKITE	7, 9-7, J P McManus, E O'Grady, T J Ryan 7/1
1982 KING SPRUCE	8, 10-2, R Carrier, M J O'Brien, G Newman 20/1
1981 LUSKA	7, 9-9, J Brophy, P Mullins, T V Finn 11/1
1980 DALETTA	7, 11-4, Mrs F Watson, G St J Williams, J P Harty 11/1
1979 TIED COTTAGE	11, 10-12, A Robinson, D L Moore, A Robinson 13/2
1978 BROWN LAD	12, 12-2, Mrs P Burrell, J Dreaper, G Dowd 5/1
1977 BILLYCAN	7, 10-0, V Kilkenny, A Maxwell, M Morris 8/1
1976 BROWN LAD	10, 12-2, Mrs P Burrell, J Dreaper, T. Carberry 7/2f
1975 BROWN LAD	9, 10-5, Mrs P Burrell, J Dreaper, T Carberry 6/4f
1974 COLEBRIDGE	10, 11-12, Mrs P Burrell, J Dreaper, E. Wright 11/5f
1973 TARTAN ACE	6, 9-7, Mrs S Graham. T Costello, J Cullen 10/1
1972 DIM WIT	7, 10-13, J J O'Neill, P Mullins, M Curran 15/2
1971 KINGS SPRITE	9, 9-13, R McIlhagga, G Wells, A L Moore 7/1
1970 GAROUPE	6, 9-9, Mrs F Williams, F Flood, C Finnegan 10/1
1969 SWEET DREAMS	8,9-10, Mrs P Meehan, K Bell, R Coonan 10/1
1968 HERRING GULL	6, 11-6, Mrs G Wilson, P Mullins, J Crowley 5/2
1967 VULPINE	6, 11-6, T Nicholson, P Mullins, M Curran 7/1f
1966 FLYING BOLT	7, 12-7, Mrs T Wilkinson, T Dreaper, P Taaffe 8/11f
1965 SPLASH	7,10-13, A Craigie, T Dreaper, P Woods 6/4f
1964 ARKLE	7,12-0, Anne Duchess of Westminster, T Dreaper, P Taaffe 1/2f
1963 LAST LINK	7, 9-9, Al Craigie, T Dreaper, P Woods 7/1
1962 KERFORD	8, 10-3, F Stafford T Dreaper, L McLoughlin 9/1
1961 FORTRIA	9, 9-12, G. Ansley, T Dreaper, P Taaffe 17/2
1960 OLYMPIA	6, 9-11, Lord Donoghmore, T Dreaper, T Taaffe 6/1

POWERS GOLD CUP HALL OF FAME

YEAR	HORSE	AGE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	SP	RAN
2005	LIKE A BUTTERFLY	11	A P McCoy	C Roche	7/2f	13
2004	HI CLOY	7	T J Murphy	M Hourigan	7/1	6
2003	THARI	6	P Carberry	N Meade	6/1	3
2002	BIG-AND-BOLD	6	R Walsh	G Lyons	7/1	11
2001	SACKVILLE	8	D J Casey	F Crowley	4/6f	9
2000	NATIVE UPMANSHIP	7	C O'Dwyer	A Moore	5/4f	5
1999	RINCE RI	6	R Walsh	T Walsh	9/2	14
1998	DELPHI LODGE	8	T Treacy	T Taaffe	9/1	11
1997	DORANS PRIDE	8	R Dunwoody	M Hourigan	4/7f	6
1996	LOVE THE LORD	6	T Treacy	D O'Connell	9/1	5
1995	STRONG PLATINUM	7	C O'Dwyer	P Burke	7/2	9
1994	MERRY GALE	6	K O'Brien	J Dreaper	8/15f	3
1993	HOW'S THE BOSS	7	M Dwyer	J Brassil	7/4f	6

MENOLLY HOMES HANDICAP HURDLE HALL OF FAME

YEAR	HORSE	AGE / WEIGHT	JOCKEY	TRAINER	SP	RAN
2005	BONS TEMPS ROULER	6 9-10	P A Carberry	A Moore	20/1	19
2004	MACS JOY	5 11-0	B J Geraghty	J Harrington	7/2f	27
2003	HIGH PROSPECT	5 10-0	N Williamson	P Nolan	5/1f	18
2002	ANXIOUS MOMENTS	7 9-8	D J Casey	C Swan	8/1	20
2001	MASALARIAN	6 9-0	D J Howard	A Moore	8/1	22
2000	KILLULTAGH STORM	6 9-8	D J Casey	W Mullins	10/1	21
1999	SHE'S OUR MARE	6 10-2	D J Casey	A J Martin	12/1	16
1998	TOTAL SUCCESS	6 9-2	F Berry	T Walsh	10/1	10
1997	KHAYRAWANI	5 10-5	C O'Dwyer	C Roche	7/4f	9
1996	MYSTICAL CITY	6 10-8	D J Casey	W Mullins	6/1	10
1995	KING WAH GLORY	6 10-11	C O'Dwyer	P Burke	9/2	15
1994	JUPITER JIMMY	5 10-11	C O'Brien	J Kiely	7/1	15
1993	SHARP INVITE	6 10-10	B Sheridan	W Mullins	16/1	15

POWERS WHISKEY IRISH GRAND NATIONAL GOING LAST 6 YEARS

2000 - April 24	2001- May 6	2002 - April 1	2003 - April 21	2004 - April 12	2005 - March 28
GOOD-YIELDING	GOOD	GOOD-YIELDING	GOOD	GOOD	SOFT

HOW THE GRAND NATIONAL TOP-WEIGHT HAS PERFORMED IN RECENT YEARS

- Charlie Haughey's Flashing Steel in 1995, trained by his son-in-law John Mulhern, was the last horse to carry top-weight of 12 stone to victory
- Desert Orchid 1990 (12 stone), Brown Lad 1976 / 1978 (12-2), Flying Bolt 1966 (12-7) and the legendary Arkle 1964 (12 stone) were the only other horses to carry 12 stone or more to victory in the last forty years.

2005	LE COUDRAY	Pulled Up
2004	ARTIC JACK	Pulled Up
2003	DAVIDS LAD	4th
2002	COMMANCHE COURT	Pulled Up
2001	COMMANCHE COURT	5th
2000	BOBBYJO	Pulled Up
1999	PAPILLON	10th
1998	PAPILLON	2nd
1997	THE GREY MONK	3rd
1996	FLASHING STEEL	Pulled Up
1995	FLASHING STEEL	1st
1994	DEEP BRAMBLE	Pulled Up
1993	RUSHING WILD	Pulled Up

AGE OF IRISH GRAND NATIONAL WINNER SINCE 1962

- Seven-year olds have the best record in the Irish Grand National. Brown Lad in 1978 was the last 12-year-old to land the Easter Monday spectacle in that time

<i>6-Y-O</i>	<i>7-Y-O</i>	<i>8-Y-O</i>	<i>9-Y-O</i>	<i>10-Y-O</i>	<i>11-Y-O</i>	<i>12-Y-O</i>
5	14	9	6	4	4	1