

Royal County of Berkshire Show to host spectacular new show jumping series

The Royal County of Berkshire Show (19th-20th September 2009) is to provide the climax for a new national show jumping series for identifying and assessing both potential and existing British team competitors.

The competition will be one of the highlights of the action in the main arena during the show where top class show jumping has been a popular attraction for both spectators and competitors for a number of years.

Funded jointly by the BSJA Business Partnership and the eight county show venues hosting the classes, the series has a purse of £60,000 prize fund.

In addition to the prize fund available there is also the bonus of £45,000 worth of Rider Ranking Points to the eight highest placed competitors on the overall league table that sits behind the series that starts in May (21-23) at Devon County Show and culminates at the Newbury Showground in September.

The series is set to attract some of the country's top horse and rider combinations providing a fantastic platform to showcase British show jumping at its best.

The course will be built at 1.50m to a specific requirement, enabling selectors to obtain a clear picture of competitors with the ability to represent Great Britain on the international stage.

Clare Whitaker, chairman of the Performance Development Committee at British Show Jumping said: "The series will very much have the emphasis on encouraging double clears over courses aligned with those they may encounter in Europe.

"This can only be seen as a tremendous step forward for our sport and I'm thrilled that we have been able to implement it so early on in my taking over the helm of Performance Development.

"Not only will this assist at a senior level, but we also hope it will enable our young riders to progress up the senior ranks".

Pat Parsons, chairman of the Royal County of Berkshire Show's Light Horse Committee said: "We are delighted to be hosting the final leg of this important new show jumping series. Show jumping is always a popular draw for visitors to the show and the culmination of a competition of this stature will add extra excitement. We have some brilliant riders in this area who will no doubt be cheered on by local supporters in a fantastic grand finale to the series."

Maria Clayton, Head of Communication at the BSJA said: "The Royal County of Berkshire Show is one of the county shows leading the way in providing a superb

environment to showcase our sport. We cannot convey enough thanks to the team at Newbury not only for supporting it, but also for the assistance and enthusiasm they have shown throughout its formation.”

Notes to editors:

The Newbury & District Agricultural Society will be celebrating its milestone 100th anniversary over the weekend of 19th and 20th September. The Royal County of Berkshire Show is one of the top ten County Shows in the country and the Society's centennial anniversary promises to make 2009 even bigger.

Organisers of the two-day agricultural and country show, the last big outdoor show of the season, are placing the emphasis on food, specifically local produce, helping to educate the public on how agriculture contributes towards the local community.

Supporting this initiative is the John Lewis Partnership. Chairman, Charlie Mayfield is the 2009 President of the. The Chairman of the Newbury Agricultural Society in its 100th year is Simon Carter.

Joining the Society at the Royal County of Berkshire Show in its milestone 100th year is the Royal Navy, who is celebrating 100 years of naval aviation with its programme FlyNavy100. It will be the star attraction in the show's main ring, in addition to all the usual attractions including top-flight show jumping and the Livestock Champions parade.

There are some attractive discounts on tickets bought in advance, plus fast track entrance into the Show. Tickets can be purchased online at www.berkshireshow.co.uk or by telephone from The Corn Exchange, Newbury on 01635 522733. Other local outlets will be selling tickets from the end of July, details can be found at www.berkshireshow.co.uk. Schedules, for those wishing to compete, will be available from 1st June, simply send an A5 SAE with 49 pence postage to NDAS, Newbury Showground, Priors Court, Hermitage, Thatcham, Berks RG18 9QZ or see the website for free, downloadable copies.

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