

Grand Racing Tours presents

Three Countries, Unlimited Fun



A Real Horseman's Tour

Because we are, first and foremost, a tour for those who love horses and horseracing/breeding, we do things a little differently. Little things, based on experience, that make all the difference. Things that perhaps only a horseperson would notice. For instance, we visit Newmarket after Royal Ascot, at a time when everyone there is far less stressed and much more willing to spend quality time with us. We also stay there a few extra days to immerse ourselves in the unique culture of the town, a town devoted to the Thoroughbred.

The tour is based around three of most prestigious French, English and Irish race meetings; the Prix de Diane meeting at Chantilly, Royal Ascot and the Irish Derby meeting, but also includes an eye-watering number of leading studs, stables, racing museums etc.

We also spoil ourselves with plenty of sightseeing, but for us *"the horses come first"*.

As Geoff remarks, *"This is not a hit and run tour where you'll come back with lots of pics and too few memories. We take the time to immerse ourselves in the culture of French, British and Irish racing and breeding. Our aim is to make this the trip of your lifetime"*.

We look forward to your company.

Geoff & Kristen

www.GrandRacingTours.com

Three Countries, Unlimited Fun

Grand Racing Tours- 2025 Itinerary

Day			Travel	Activities	OVERNIGHT	
1	Wednesday	11/6/2025		Meet at Paris hotel. Welcome Dinner in evening	Paris	F R A N C E
2	Thursday	12/6/2025	Coach	Transfer to Chantilly	Chantilly area	
3	Friday	13/6/2025	Coach	Stable visits, Chateaux de Chantilly, Great Stables and Horseracing Museum	Chantilly area	
4	Saturday	14/6/2025	Coach		Chantilly area	
5	Sunday	15/6/2025	Coach	Prix de Diane @ Chantilly Racecourse	Chantilly area	
6	Monday	16/6/2025	Eurostar to London	Non-France people join us at hotel. Drinks in evening	CENTRAL LONDON	E N G L A N D
7	Tuesday	17/6/2025	Coach to Ascot	Royal Ascot Day 1 King Charles III Stakes	CENTRAL LONDON	
8	Wednesday	18/6/2025		FREE AT LEISURE	CENTRAL LONDON	
9	Thursday	19/6/2025	Coach to Ascot	Royal Ascot Day 3 Gold Cup day	CENTRAL LONDON	
10	Friday	20/6/2025		FREE AT LEISURE	CENTRAL LONDON	
11	Saturday	21/6/2025	Coach to Ascot	Royal Ascot Day 5 Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Stakes day	CENTRAL LONDON	
12	Sunday	22/6/2025	Coach- Transfer to Newmarket	Via Cambridge, Ely Cathedral, explore Newmarket town	WHITE HART HOTEL, NEWMARKET	
13	Monday	23/6/2025	Coach	Warren Hill gallops each morning, stud and stable visits, plus National Stud, Horseracing Museum, Tattersalls Sales complex	WHITE HART HOTEL, NEWMARKET	
14	Tuesday	24/6/2025	Coach		WHITE HART HOTEL, NEWMARKET	
15	Wednesday	25/6/2025	Coach		WHITE HART HOTEL, NEWMARKET	
16	Thursday	26/6/2025	Coach	Race meeting Newmarket	WHITE HART HOTEL, NEWMARKET	
17	Friday	27/6/2025	Coach to airport, fly to Dublin, transfer to Naas	Explore Naas, settle in	LAWLORS of NAAS	I R E L A N D
18	Saturday	28/6/2025	Coach	Stable visit, Irish National Stud & Japanese Gardens, Racing @ The Curragh	LAWLORS of NAAS	
19	Sunday	29/6/2025	Coach	IRISH DERBY @ The Curragh	LAWLORS of NAAS	
20	Monday	30/6/2025	Coach	Rock of Cashel, Cahir Castle, Leading Studs including Coolmore, Norelands, Ballylinch.	Hotel Clonmel area	
21	Tuesday	1/7/2025	Coach		ARLINGTON HOTEL, DUBLIN	
22	Wednesday	2/7/2025		Trinity College/Book of Kells, Guinness Storehouse. Farewell Dinner is the Celtic Experience at the Arlington Hotel. Official end of tour.	ARLINGTON HOTEL, DUBLIN	L E G
	Thursday	3/7/2025	Depart for home or do more private travel			

Before and After

You may want to do private travel before or after the tour. Just arrange your schedule to meet up on either June 11 in Paris or June 16 in London, depending on the legs you are doing. We can book the same hotel for you for these extra days.

How to Book

June 2025 may seem a long way off but time flies plus we need to have the tour locked in by the end of this year. That way people can plan with confidence and also get the best prices on airfares. **So, please make contact with Geoff or Kristen asap**

Payment Schedule

We are asking for a fully refundable \$250 deposit by end of July 2024 (or whenever you opt in after that) followed by another refundable deposit of 30% by Jan 31, 2025. Balance will be due and total becomes non-refundable mid-March.

Places and Races

Chantilly, France is just a little north of Paris and is the principal racehorse training area of France. Horses are trained in a vast expanse of forest through which many kilometres of tracks wind. More than 100 trainers are based in the Chantilly training centre that boasts 1,900 hectares of training grounds. The biggest yards house more than 100 horses and some have up to 250. Some 2,500 horses are trained every day on the many different tracks at Chantilly.

The Chantilly racecourse must be one of the most beautiful in the world. It boasts the [Great Stables](#) (pic below) as a backdrop. An architectural masterpiece of the 18th century, the Great Stables were built by the architect Jean Aubert for Louis-Henri de Bourbon, 7th prince of Condé. This veritable palace for horses, built from 1719 to 1735, recently celebrated its three hundredth birthday! The Great Stables is home to the [Living Museum of the Horse](#), which presents the relationship between humans and horses since the beginning of civilization. A veritable show stables, where passion for horses mingles with equestrian arts, this building is home to an Equestrian troop that stages original creations all year round, much to the delight of young and old alike.

We will visit both the Great Stables and the Living Museum of the Horse.



[The Chateau de Chantilly](#). A stone's throw from the track is the Chateau de Chantilly which has been renovated, restored and refurbished over the last 20 years. It contains containing the second-largest collection of paintings in France after the Louvre, including works by Raphael, and more than 45,000 books. This short [video](#) will give you some idea. The original décor is inspired by exoticism, as explained in this [video](#).

Yes, we visit the Chateau too.



The Prix de Diane or French Oaks, Europe's premier staying test for three-year-old fillies, is held each year at Chantilly over 2100m in June. Six horses have done the Prix de Diane/Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe double with Treve the most recent in 2013. The great filly was subsequently a dual Arc winner and was successful in her Prix de Diane by four lengths in record time at just start three. We were fortunate enough to be there to witness this remarkable achievement.

Here's this year's [promo](#) which gives you some idea. Yes, there are supermodels and movie stars but there are also families having a picnic on the grass. It's a day for everyone at arguably the world's most beautiful racecourse.



Royal Ascot, England

Royal Ascot or the 'Royal Meeting' as it is called, is five consecutive days of racing at Ascot racecourse in Berkshire. The course is owned by HM The King, who attends each day.

The Monarch arrives each day in the first of three horse-drawn carriages and this spectacle itself is worth the price of admission. Our Queen Anne Enclosure includes the Parade Ring access so we are only metres away from the King as he arrives.

In 2013 the Queen's horse Estimate won the Gold Cup resulting in the most animated visage Her Majesty had displayed in many years, a cheerful sight for Australian Monarchists and Republicans alike.

We met Estimate at Sir Michael Stoute's yard after seeing her win The Queen's Vase over 3200m at Royal Ascot in 2012 at only her third race start as a 3yo.

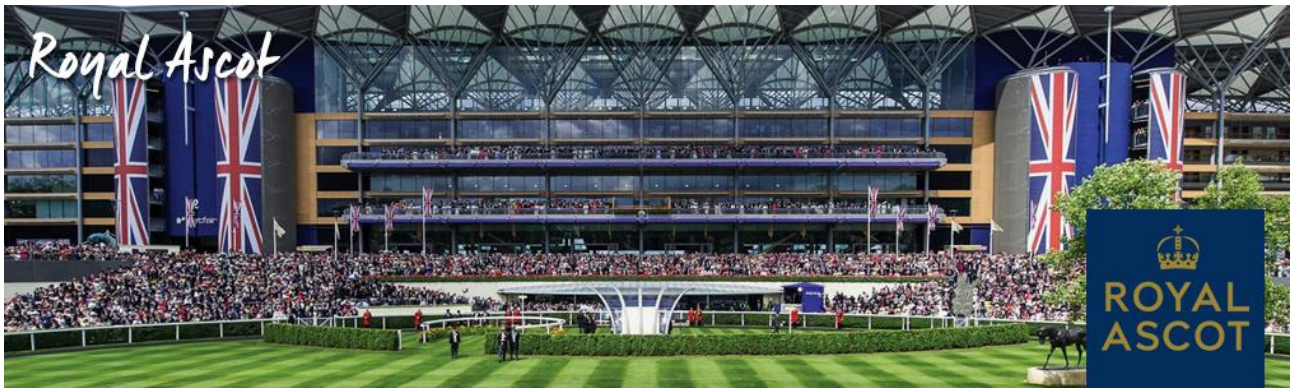


Second pic shows 2012 tourist Joe Janiak, owner/trainer of the immortal Takeover Target, giving Estimate a congratulatory pat at Sir Michael Stoute's yard in Newmarket.

Q. Do I have to hire a Top Hat and Morning Suit to attend Royal Ascot.

A. No, you don't.

Here's why- Our Queen Anne Enclosure entry tickets give us unfettered access to the Parade Ring area (see pic below) and the Queen Anne lawn on the track side of the grandstand. We have great views of His Majesty arriving, the horses parading and the races right to the winning post. The 'top hat thing' is for Members and their guests who have access to the upper floors of the grandstand. But, to see HM arrive and the horses parade they must come downstairs and mix with us, not the other way around.



If you want to do the 'top hat thing' as a non-Member you may buy yourself a very expensive (\$1600 to \$8000 per person) lunch in one of the restaurants upstairs or if you have connections (eg racing journalist, race club Chairman) it's possible to qualify via a vetting process that involves the Australian High Commission (and ASIO no doubt).

Men will have to hire a morning suit and top hat and if you are a horseman you'll probably spend most of your time with us downstairs where our ticket costs about \$200 (included in tour of course).

Re food: There are numerous food kiosks and bars in the Queen Anne section serving high quality food and drink. You won't go hungry. There are also several restaurants in this section but again they are not cheap. The buffet meal in the Lawn Club for instance is about \$1300 per person. If you'd like to attend one of the numerous restaurants just let Geoff know and he'll arrange ticketing.

Queen Anne entry dress code is a regular suit and tie for men and a fashionable, suitably modest frock and hat for women.

Major Races

The Anne Stakes is a Group 1 flat horse race that is open to thoroughbreds aged four years or older. It is run at Royal Ascot over 1 mile (1,609 metres), The race was created in 1840, and for the first part of its history it was called the Trial Stakes. In its original form it was contested by horses aged three or older. The title was changed in 1930 to commemorate Queen Anne, the monarch who established racing at Ascot in the early 18th century.

When the current system of race grading was introduced in 1971, the Queen Anne Stakes was classed at Group 3 level, and it was subsequently promoted to Group 2 in 1984. It was given Group 1 status in 2003, and simultaneously the minimum age was raised to four. It is presently the first race on the opening day of the Royal Ascot meeting. In 2015 we saw Frankel win in arguably the greatest performance of a thoroughbred ever, although Secretariat fans might argue that point.

King Charles III Stakes, (previously The King's Stand Stakes), is a Group 1 flat horse race that is open to thoroughbreds aged three years or older. It is run at Royal Ascot over 5 furlongs (1,006 metres), and it is also on Day 1, the Tuesday.

The event was created because of bad weather at Royal Ascot in 1860. Heavy rain made it impossible to run the Royal Stand Plate over its usual distance of 2 miles, and so it was shortened to the only raceable part of the course, 5 furlongs. The amended race was titled the Queen's Stand Plate, and in time it became the most important sprint at the Royal meeting. During its early years the event was open to horses aged two or older. Its name was changed to the King's Stand Stakes in 1901, following the death of Queen Victoria and the accession of King Edward VII.

The current system of race grading was introduced in 1971, and the King's Stand Stakes was given Group 1 status in 1973. It was downgraded to Group 2 level in 1988 so that another event, the Haydock Sprint Cup, could be promoted.

The King's Stand Stakes/King Charles III Stakes became part of a new international race series, the Global Sprint Challenge, in 2005. It consequently featured a number of high-quality contenders from overseas, and it regained Group 1 status in 2008. It is now the fourth leg of the series, preceded by the KrisFlyer International Sprint and followed by the Golden Jubilee Stakes. It is presently run on the opening day of the Royal Ascot meeting.

Many Australian horses have won the Kings Stand Stakes including the great Takeover Target (pictured below), trained by 2012 tour participant Joe Janiak, in 2006.

If you come with us, remind Geoff to tell you the Joe Janiak meets The Queen story. It's a classic.



The remarkable Takeover Target who raced in both the King's Stand and Golden Jubilee Stakes for three years running, 2006-2008, recording a win, two seconds, a third and two fourths.

The Prince of Wales's Stakes is a Group 1 flat horse race that is open to thoroughbreds aged four years or older. It is run at Royal Ascot over 1 mile and 2 furlongs (2,012 metres),

The event was established in 1862, and it was named after the then Prince of Wales, the future King Edward VII. The original version was contested over 1 mile and 5 furlongs, and it was restricted to horses aged three. This format continued until 1939.

When racing resumed after World War II the Prince of Wales's Stakes was initially absent – there was no Prince of Wales at that time. The event was restored to the calendar in 1968, one year before the investiture of Prince Charles. The distance of the new version was set at 1 mile and 2 furlongs, and it was now open to horses aged three or older.

The current system of race grading was introduced in 1971, and the Prince of Wales's Stakes was subsequently classed at Group 2 level. It was promoted to Group 1 status in 2000, and simultaneously its minimum age was raised to four. It is presently contested on the second day of the five-day Royal Ascot meeting.



Australia's So You Think, 2012 Prince of Wales Stakes winner

The Gold Cup is a Group 1 flat horse race that is open to thoroughbreds aged four years or older. It is run at Ascot over 2 miles and 4 furlongs (4,023 metres)

It is Britain's most prestigious event for stayers. It is traditionally held on day three of the Royal Ascot meeting, which is known colloquially (but not officially) as Ladies' Day. Contrary to popular belief the actual title of the race does not include the word "Ascot".

The amazing Yeats won 4 consecutive Gold Cups. The Queen unveiled his oversized statue in the Parade Ring at Royal Ascot in 2011. Yeats now stands at Coolmore Ireland.

The Queen herself owned the winner of the 2013 Gold Cup, Estimate, trained by Sir Michael Stoute. We were lucky enough to meet Estimate at Sir Michael's yard in Newmarket in 2012.

The Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Stakes is a Group 1 flat horse race in Great Britain which is open to thoroughbreds aged three years or older. It is run over 6 furlongs (1,207 metres) on the Saturday.

The event was established in 1868, and it was originally called the All-Aged Stakes. Its title was changed to the Cork and Orrery Stakes in 1926, in honour of the 9th Earl of Cork, who had served as the Master of the Buckhounds in the 19th century.

When the current system of race grading was introduced in 1971, the Cork and Orrery Stakes was classed at Group 3 level. It was promoted to Group 2 status in 1998.

The race was renamed to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II in 2002. From this point it held Group 1 status. In 2012 the race was named the Diamond Jubilee Stakes, to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and in 2022 it was again renamed to the Platinum Jubilee Stakes, to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. In 2023 the race was given its present title, to honour the memory of the Queen and retain the connection with the three jubilees celebrated since 2002.

The Platinum Jubilee Stakes became part of a new international race series, the Global Sprint Challenge, in 2005. It has consequently featured a number of high-quality contenders from overseas. It is now the fifth leg of the series, preceded by the King Charles III Stakes and followed by the July Cup. It is presently run on the final day of the Royal Ascot meeting.

Australia's Starspangledbanner won the 2010 Golden Jubilee Stakes. In 2011 Star Witness ran a creditable third, backing up from a fine second in the King's Stand 5 days earlier. Both are now a leading sires in Australia.

Newmarket, England- 400 years of horseracing

Newmarket, a small town in Suffolk, has been considered "Headquarters" of horse racing since the sport blossomed under Royal patronage during the 17th Century. King James 1 was the first to discover that the flat land in the area was ideal for galloping horses, and the tradition was carried on by his grandson Charles 1. It was Charles, the "Merry Monarch" who made Newmarket truly fashionable. He used to move his court there from London, so that at times the town was capital of England in all but name.

The first recorded race was in 1622, when a horse belonging to Lord Salisbury beat one of the Marquess of Buckingham's for a stake of £100, then an enormous sum. But there were horses there long before that, for Queen Bodicea's Iceni tribe used the heath to tune up their war chariots before battles with the Roman invaders who built the road that runs through the town and into East Anglia. She also built the famous landmark Devils Dyke that runs between the Rowley Mile and July courses.

The world's oldest surviving race and the most sought-after win amongst Newmarket locals, The Newmarket Town Plate, over three mile and six furlongs (6000m), was first run in 1666.

In 2011 the Town Plate was won by Newmarket trainer and town councillor John Berry, riding his own horse Kadouchski. John is a great host and dinner companion and we will catch up with him again in 2025.



John and 'Kadou' ride to victory in The Town Plate 2011

Today Newmarket is not just headquarters of racing in Britain, but arguably in the world, with facilities second to none. There are 2800 acres of heath and woodland devoted to racing and training horses, including 40 miles of turf gallops, 17 miles of artificial gallops and 30 miles of traffic-free walking tracks.

The other facilities include 2 public equine swimming pools, two top class veterinary practices and a state-of-the-art research centre.

Europe's biggest horse auction house, Tattersalls (founded 1766), is based in Newmarket, bringing a wonderful cosmopolitan atmosphere to the town in the autumn, when buyers from all over the world come to bid.

A century ago the auctioneers used to sell horses in the High Street, outside the Jockey Club Rooms, but now business is conducted in a handsome domed arena, where bids are translated into yen, dollars and euros on the flickering number board.

There won't be a sale when we are there but they always very kindly let us walk around and even 'play auctioneer'.



The historic Tattersalls sales ring in Newmarket.



Watch out, there are Aussies loose in the building

Studs surround Newmarket, where some of the world's best stallions and most desirable broodmares are based. Many a champion has been born and raised in Newmarket. We will visit several.

At "Headquarters" there are two racetracks, the Rowley Mile for the autumn and spring racing and the July course for the summer. There are top-class contests at both venues: The 1000 and 2000 Guineas; The Champions Stakes; The July Cup; The Middle Park and Cheveley Park Stakes and The Dewhurst.

The Curragh, Ireland

Few sights encapsulate the essence of County Kildare more than that of horses pounding across the springy open plains of the Curragh, crisp clouds of breath puffing out into the early morning air. The horse – 'capall' in Irish – has been an intrinsic part of life in the county for thousands of years and today this landscape of deep-green pastures comprises the heart of Ireland's world-famous bloodstock and racing industries.

Legends recall how the irrepressible warrior Fionn mac Cumhaill, or Finn MacCool, was headquartered on the Hill of Allen from where he served as huntsman to King Cormac; 300 of his hounds are identified by name in the Ossianic Cycle. A Royal pack of hounds would certainly not have looked out of place when the Celts gathered to race their chariots on the Curragh plains during the annual Aenach Lífé fair in ancient times.

The Annals tell of Connairé Mór attending the fair with four chariots before he was killed in 60 AD. Indeed, racing constituted such an integral part of the fair that many chroniclers called it "Curragh of the Races."

It was perhaps small wonder that St Bridget thus made sure her cloak enveloped the entirety of the Curragh plains when the King of Leinster promised to entrust her with any land that fell within its shadow.

The kings of old all rode horses. Cormac mac Cuilennáin, the saintly king of Munster, broke his neck falling from a horse at the battle of Bellaghmoon near Castledermot in 908 AD. The victor of that clash was Cerball mac Muirecáin, the last King of Leinster to reside at Naas. Cerball was regarded as "a skilful horseman" but he was fated to die a slow, lingering death when, riding past a noisy blacksmith's forge in Kildare town, his horse reared and flung the monarch upon his own lance.

Anglo-Norman families such as FitzGerald, de Bermingham and de Riddlesford also brought their love of the horse to Kildare, having achieved much of their conquest by the grace of their superior steeds. In 1260, a Franciscan scholar lamented that the people of Ireland were 'more addicted to games and hunting than to labour'

The huntsman's horn echoed across the county during the 16th century when the powerful Gearóid Óg FitzGerald, 9th Earl of Kildare, set off with his staghounds in pursuit of hare, marten and deer. The ghost of his son, the 'Wizard Earl', is said to roam the land between Kilkea Castle and the ringfort at Mullaghmast every seven years, clad on a silver-shod

white charger. Horses often dictated the fate of war. Richard Marshall, Strongbow's grandson, was fatally wounded while riding a horse in battle at the Curragh in 1234. Over three hundred years later, John Hewson, Governor of Dublin under Oliver Cromwell, led an army of 2000 foot-soldiers and 1,000 horses to seize all the Royalist strongholds in County Kildare. Jacobite cavalry likewise convened on the Curragh in the lead up to their inglorious defeat at the battle of the Boyne.

However, horses as a sport also continued to be of paramount importance. In 1682, the Curragh was considered the place to go for 'all the nobility and gentry of the kingdom that either pretend to love, or delight in, hawking, hunting, or racing.' That same year, another Lord Kildare established a new horse race upon the 'excellent course' and offered up 'a plate of about 40 pounds a year' to the winner.

The Curragh soon became Ireland's answer to Newmarket with both public and private race meetings.

There are stories told from the very first race that took place on the Curragh around the 1700's, which was recorded by Cherney's racing calendar in 1727.

The Irish Derby is a Group 1 flat horse race that is open to three-year-old thoroughbred colts and fillies. It is run at the Curragh over 1 mile and 4 furlongs (2,414 metres), and it is scheduled to take place each year in late June or early July. It is the Irish version of the English Derby.

The earliest version of the race was called the O'Darby Stakes. This was established in 1817, but it was discontinued after the 1824 running. It was succeeded in 1848 by the Curragh Derby, but this was again short-lived.

The modern Irish Derby was created by the 3rd Earl of Howth, the 3rd Marquess of Drogheda and the 3rd Earl of Charlemont, and it was first run in 1866. Its distance was initially set at 1 mile and 6 furlongs, and this was cut to its present length in 1872.

In 1907 the Irish Derby was won by that year's English Derby winner, Orby. But it was not until 1962 that the Irish version became the major international race that it is now. This was brought about by Joe McGrath, a founder of the Irish Hospitals' Sweepstake. McGrath combined the race with the sweepstake, and it became known as the Irish Sweeps Derby. The prize money was substantially increased, and the event began to regularly attract the winners of the English Derby. In 1964 Santa Claus became the first horse to win the double since Orby. Several more have followed, and the most recent to win both races was High Chaparral (pictured), sire of Australian Champion So You Think, in 2002.



High Chaparral

In 2011 we saw Ballydoyle trainer Aiden O'Brien record a remarkable trifecta when Treasure Beach beat two other Ballydoyle runners. It was O'Brien's ninth Derby success.

Geoff observed that Aiden then delayed the presentation ceremony near the winning post while he congratulated the strappers of the second and third horses in the parade ring some 100m away.

"Now that's the sort of man I'd want training my horses; a man who puts his staff and horses above personal glory", thought Geoff, as if he could afford him. In Australia, Chris Waller most reminds Geoff of the humility he saw that day at the Curragh. He can't afford Chris Waller either.

Studs, Stables and Museums- just some of the places that we will visit. More TBA as confirmed.

ENGLAND

National Stud, Newmarket

The National Stud is owned by the Jockey Club.

From its 500 acres site on the outskirts of Newmarket, England the National Stud aims to facilitate three main objectives for the good of the Thoroughbred Breeding Industry.

- Provide a comprehensive range of services of the highest quality to the Thoroughbred breeding industry at affordable prices. These include stallion services, seasonal and permanent boarding, foaling, sales preparation and spelling facilities.
- Its internationally renowned training facilities give young people entering the Thoroughbred breeding industry top class training opportunities. It also provides a selection of shorter courses for individuals wishing to increase their skills base.
- Through public tours, it aims to be an accessible “shop window” helping to raise peoples’ interest and knowledge of the industry.

History

Newmarket has not always been the home of the National Stud. Its origins date back to 1916 when Colonel Hall Walker (later Lord Wavertree) presented his Thoroughbred stallions, mares, yearlings, foals and horses in training to the British Government and the nation as a gift on the condition that they bought his land at Tully, Co Kildare, Ireland.

The original aim was to found a British National Stud that would supply high quality lightweight horses for the Cavalry. However, given the changing nature of 20th Century warfare and its increasing levels of mechanization, there was a declining need for these horses. It was at this point that the raison d’être of the National Stud changed from a military one to one of breeding high quality Thoroughbreds.

Further change arose when in 1943, the Irish Government purchased the land and buildings of Tully and the National Stud moved to Sandley Stud in Dorset and a stud at West Grinstead in Sussex.

In 1963 the newly established Levy Board was directed to run the Stud and five hundred acres in Newmarket was leased from the Jockey Club. Peter Burrell was responsible for the layout of yards around the stud as they are today. These stable blocks were named mainly after Jockey Club members well known in the 19th Century racing world, with two blocks being named after the key individuals that have been responsible in the establishment of the National Stud: Wavertree and Burrell.

1973 saw Paul Mellon’s brilliant Mill Reef retire to the National Stud to begin a hugely successful career as a stallion. During this time he sired two Derby winners – Shirley Heights and Reference Point. Today a statue of him stands in front of the Stallion Unit.

In addition to usual stud activities in the mid 1970’s public tours of the stud began. A decade later, the stud’s full-time education and training programs started and continue to be extremely well respected. These courses represent the main access for stud staff into the industry.

In April 2008 the Jockey Club acquired the National Stud.

The stud aims to preserve the heritage of Thoroughbred breeding as well as providing excellent training opportunities and public access to the stud for many years to come.



Dalham Hall- part of [Darley Europe](#)

Dalham Hall Stud, set in the heart of the beautiful Newmarket countryside, has been at the heart of Sheikh Mohammed's thoroughbred operation since it was purchased from the late the Hon. Jim Philipps in 1981 and has been home to leading stallions such as Great Nephew, Dubai Millennium and Dubawi ever since.

Dalham Hall Stud was the first of the 12 studs in Newmarket which now form part of the Darley organisation. Among the ten mares that came with Dalham Hall's purchase in 1981 was Oh So Fair, at that time carrying Oh So Sharp - winner of the fillies Triple Crown in 1985.

The Stallion Unit was also purchased in 1981. During the Second World War, the stud was requisitioned by the Army and today's stallion boxes were utilised as soldiers' billets and the characteristic stove chimneys can still be seen.

The stallion yard has remained largely unchanged since then. While the dimensions of the boxes, measuring 14' square, remain unchanged from Sir Alec Black's time, the interiors have been greatly upgraded and are now lined with American oak. The crescent shaped range of the timber stallion boxes look out onto a spacious lawn.

Lord Milford, who had purchased the stud back in 1942, stood his homebred Honeyway at Dalham Hall Stud. He was essentially a sprinter winning 16 races spread over five seasons, including the July Cup and the Champion stakes. He was a double rig and proved infertile when he first came to stud, but two years later he resumed covering when his services were offered free of charge. He thereafter excelled as a progenitor. To a mating with Sybil's Niece (winner of the Queen Mary Stakes), he sired Great Nephew, who was destined to occupy his box at Dalham Hall Stud when he retired to stud.

When Sheikh Mohammed took over Dalham Hall Stud, Great Nephew was part of the package. He was by then in his dotage, but lived another 5 years to enjoy his retirement, dying in 1986. He is buried at the stud alongside his own sire Honeyway, plus Ajdal, Reference Point, Shareef Dancer, Dubai Millennium, Polish Precedent, Machiavellian, Singspiel, Mark of Esteem and Lammtarra.

The stud is the current home of many top sires including the aging but still serving [Dubawi](#) plus [Too Darn Hot](#) (sire of Broadsiding), Derby winner [Masar](#) and many others.



[Lanwades Stud](#), Newmarket

We first visited Lanwades in 2023 and were blown away with the hospitality of owner Ms Kirsten Rausing. Not only that, but the stud is also a testament to her many years of commitment to breeding quality thoroughbreds she has undertaken. Of course that culminated in her filly Alpinista, trained by Sir Mark Prescott, winning the Prix de L'Arc de Triomphe in 2022, but there have been many more winners of top races and I'm confident in saying when they write the books on thoroughbred breeding in 50 years' time there will be a chapter on Ms Rausing's efforts.

Ms Rausing has kindly offered us the opportunity to visit again in 2025.



Alpinista by Frankel



Ms Rausing and foal



The National Horse Racing Museum, Newmarket

The National Horseracing Museum occupies part of the buildings that were known as the Subscription Rooms that were a focal point of Newmarket and consequently are steeped in history.



In the middle of the nineteenth century, the betting men would meet at the Subscription Rooms after racing. Beneath the lovely **lantern window**, still in the ceiling of Gallery 1, and amidst columns and plaster reminiscent of the Regency period, heavy gamblers like George Payne, Sir Joseph Hawley and the reckless Marquess of Hastings wagered on forthcoming events. Outside the doors of the Rooms a large crowd would wait eager to learn from the emerging members which horses were being backed.

As the betting on horses became more widespread, with bookmakers displaying their lists in saloon bars and cigar shops and the introduction of overnight telegraph, the importance of the Subscription Rooms diminished. Eventually the betting was discontinued, and the Rooms became a social club, which enjoyed great popularity amongst the racing fraternity. As the racing business became more demanding on the time of racing professionals the support for the Rooms steadily declined until the Rooms closed at the end of 1981.

Major David Swannell, a prominent and highly respected Jockey Club Handicapper, had long envisaged setting up a national museum for racing and the empty Rooms building was an ideal opportunity. Accordingly Major Swannell enlisted the help of Lord Howard de Walden, David Oldrey, Mrs Dana Brudenell-Bruce, Leslie Harrison together with others who were as generous with their contributions to badly needed funds, as they were with their time. As a result of their combined efforts the National Horseracing Museum was established to encourage the preservation of items of historic and scientific interest connected with horseracing. Her Majesty the Queen officially opened the Museum on 30th April 1983

The museum houses a unique collection of racing memorabilia and art.



IRELAND

Irish National Stud

The lands around Tully have been associated with the breeding of horses since about 1300, when it is likely that warhorses were bred here for the Knights of Malta.

However, the first record of the setting up of a stud farm is in 1900, when the lands were purchased from a local farmer, James Fay, by Colonel William Hall-Walker, who later became Lord Wavertree.

As 'Willie' Walker approached middle age, he turned his attention to the owning and breeding of racehorses, quickly turning the farm at Tully into one of the best studs in Europe at the time.

He succeeded in building up a collection of foundation mares that had tremendous influence on racing. In the ten year period of 1904 - 1914 there were seven classic winners bred at Tully including **Minoru** (Derby and 2000 Guineas), **Prince Palatine** (St. Leger and Ascot Gold Cup) and **Cherry Lass** (Oaks and 1,000 Guineas).

During this period Colonel Hall Walker also decided to have a Japanese Garden built on a boggy site near Tully House. An eminent Japanese landscape gardener Tassa Eida, assisted by an army of local labourers, laid out the Garden.

In 1916, Colonel Hall Walker presented his Stud to the British Government for the purpose of founding a British National Stud. Under the guidance of its first director, Sir Henry Greer, the National Stud continued to maintain the high standard of bloodstock production set by its predecessor. Such great horses as **Blandford**, **Big Game** and **Sun Chariot** were bred here at this time.

In 1943, the newly formed Irish Government took over the land and buildings at an agreed valuation. In 1945 the Irish National Stud Company Ltd. was formed and it officially took over the running of the Stud on 31st August 1946.

Since then it has continued to expand and develop and is now a source of national pride and an international tourist attraction.

The Stud

The stud stands several top commercial stallions including leading European sire Invincible Spirit (pictured below), sire of Australia's sire sensation I Am Invincible.



Invincible Spirit

It also boards mares, provides a foaling service and conducts a world-renowned Thoroughbred Breeding course. A plaque commemorates the birth of Sea the Stars at the stud. Sea the Stars stands at the Aga Khan's Giltown stud and is a magnificent individual. In Geoff's opinion, the best he has seen. See if you agree when we visit Giltown.

The Japanese Gardens at the Irish National Stud

The Japanese Gardens at Tully were created between the years 1906-1910. Devised by Colonel William Hall-Walker (later Lord Wavertree), a wealthy Scotsman of a famous brewery family and laid out by the Japanese Mr Eida and his son Minoru.

The Gardens, planned to symbolise the 'Life of Man', are now of international renown and are acclaimed as the finest Japanese Gardens in Europe.

The gardens at the stud are a living monument to the meeting of Eastern and Western cultures in a Western setting. The symbolism of life the garden portrays traces the journey of a soul from Oblivion to Eternity and the human experience of its embodiment as it journeys by paths of its own choice through life. Typical ambitions toward education, marriage, or a contemplative or carefree life, achievement, happy old age and a gateway to Eternity are portrayed. Furthermore as an example of Japanese Gardening of its period, it is perfect - a Japanese Garden with a hint of Anglicisation about it, precisely the type of garden being made in Japan at that time.



Coolmore, Ireland

Coolmore Stud, in Fethard, South Tipperary in Ireland, is the world's largest breeding operation of thoroughbred racehorses. It was established in 1975.

It was originally a relatively small farm dedicated to general agriculture but came into the Vigers family in 1945 when a training operation was established there. It was inherited by Tim Vigers, a famous fighter pilot in the Battle of Britain and in the Far East. Having left the Air Force, he firstly joined Goffs bloodstock auctioneers before setting up his own bloodstock agency in 1951. He moved to Coolmore in 1968 and began transforming it into the well-known stud farm it is today.

Vigers went into partnership with his friend Vincent O'Brien, a leading racehorse trainer, and Robert Sangster, the Vernons pools magnate. He later sold his interest to O'Brien and his son-in-law, John Magnier. Eventually, Magnier became sole owner, and built the farm into a multi-national, multi-billion-dollar operation. The original farm is now known as Coolmore Ireland, and has three other branches—Ashford Stud, which operates as Coolmore America, near Versailles, Kentucky; Coolmore Australia, near Jerrys Plains in the Hunter Valley of New South Wales; and Coolmore National Hunt (or Castle Hyde Stud) in Ireland, which specialises in breeding for National Hunt (jumps) racing. Coolmore has many "shuttle stallions" that cover mares in either Ireland or Kentucky in the northern breeding season and are transported to Argentina and Australia for the southern breeding season.

In 2004, Sadler's Wells, the world's leading sire with 74 Group 1 winners became Champion Sire for a remarkable 14th time, smashing Highflyer's record which was set way back in 1798. But Sadler's Wells is just one of the many reasons

why this farm, in Tipperary, is the Home of Champions. Champion Sire Galileo and proven Group 1 sires like Camelot and Fastnet Rock have been joined more recently by potential champion sires Caravaggio and his son No Nay Never.



Gilltown Stud

Gilltown is the Aga Khan's public stud in Ireland where the sire Sea the Stars (pictured below winning one of his 6 Group 1s), is to be found. The area is steeped in history and reflects the lore of the past. Gilltown and the adjoining Sallymount are the sites of two ancient forts dating back, respectively, to Neolithic and Viking times. In the 12th century, they were part of a very large land holding which Dermot McMurrough, King of Leinster, presented to the Cistercian monks of Baltinglass Abbey. The monks were displaced in the 16th century when Henry VIII, who had declared himself head of the Church in Ireland, enacted legislation in parliament suppressing the monasteries. By the end of the century Gilltown had passed into the possession of the Borrowes family who had received a baronetage. Charles I. Borrowes' descendants lived at Gilltown into the twentieth century.

Gilltown assumed a new role when it became a stud farm, first under Captain RB Brassey and then Viscount Furness. When the late Aga Khan acquired the farm, he retained the services of its then stud manager Georges Smithwick and after his death, Smithwick's widow. Great attention is paid to the overall care and upkeep of these studs. Today Gilltown, Sallymount and Sheshoon are nature sanctuaries with a great variety of wildlife, flowers and rare mature trees. The Aga Khan thinks of these properties as part of Ireland's national heritage and a legacy for future generations. Geoff believes it to be one of the most beautiful horse properties he has visited.

The stud now stands Born To Sea, Sea The Stars (pic below, yellow silks) and Harzand. It previously stood Geoff's favourite Dalakhani (retired) and Azamour.





Arc winner Dalakhani at Gilttown, 2011 tour.

Kildangan Stud

Kildangan is HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum's Ireland-based breeding centre.

Stallions at Kildangan include- Brazen Beau, Helmet, Dawn Approach, Exceed and Excel and Teofilo. The main house is in the centre of the farm, and has its own helipad on the front lawn. The front of the house has views that lead to the Wicklow mountains.

It's a huge place. So big, we will best drive from paddock to foaling barn to stallion stable etc in our bus as to walk it would take all day.



Ballylinch Stud -home of Lope de Vega and burial place of The Tetrarch



Norelands Stud - breathtakingly beautiful and where we met Verry Ellegant in 2023



Sandringham (pending confirmation)



Sandringham is the much-loved country retreat of His Majesty The King and has been the private home of four generations of British monarchs since 1862. The house, set in 24 hectares of stunning gardens, is perhaps the most famous stately home in Norfolk and is at the heart of the 8,000-hectare Sandringham Estate, 240 hectares of which make up the woodland and heath of the Country Park, open to the public free of charge every day of the year.

"Dear old Sandringham, the place I love better than anywhere in the world." (King George V)

The Estate is a thriving mixed landscape, including the tidal mudflats of the Wash, woodland and wetland, arable, livestock and fruit farms, and commercial and residential properties; it is managed to a high standard and sustainably with the aims always of being financially self-sufficient and of providing a place of enjoyment not only for The Royal Family but also for the many thousands of visitors who come to see the House, Museum and Gardens or just to enjoy the Country Park.

Sandringham Estate is perhaps best known for the [apples](#) and [apple juice](#) produced in the orchards planted by King George V, but it also includes arable farmland growing wheat, rye and barley, conifer and broadleaf woodland, and organic vegetables and soft fruit. Estate products include:

- apple juice from the [Royal Fruit Farms](#), which is now available for purchase online
- blackcurrants grown for processing into cordial
- timber which is processed in the [Sawmill](#) and turned into gates, fencing and garden buildings
- cut flowers, shrubs and herbs grown in the Estate's glasshouses and sold at the [Visitor Centre](#)
- vegetables being grown on a trial plot in the old Walled Garden and used in the [Visitor Centre Restaurant](#)

The Royal Stud at Sandringham

The Royal Stud was established at Sandringham in 1886 by Edward, Prince of Wales and soon became highly influential in the development of the national thoroughbred bloodstock. The mare Perdita II produced two of racing's legends: Persimmon won the St Leger and the Derby in 1896, and Diamond Jubilee won the 1900 Triple Crown. The Prince of Wales ploughed the prize money from his winning horses into the Estate, particularly the vast walled kitchen gardens.

Her Majesty The Queen takes a particular interest in bloodstock breeding and has been rewarded by considerable success on the racecourse. The stallion standing at Sandringham is Royal Applause (co-owned), who appropriately spends his days in luxurious paddocks that have been developed in the old Walled Garden.



Founded in the 16th Century, The Royal Stud is the oldest thoroughbred stud in the world and has played an intrinsic role in the development of the thoroughbred. 98% of thoroughbreds descend from Eclipse, who was bred by The Royal Stud and born in Windsor Great Park on the day of the total eclipse in 1764.

The Royal Stud suffered several dispersals during its history, but Queen Victoria re-formed the Royal Stud at Hampton Court in 1851, where the present Queen's weanlings were raised, with the policy of selling all progeny. In 1888 Sainfoin and Memoir went through the ring, two years later Sainfoin winning The Derby and Memoir winning both The Oaks and the St Leger. At the 1900 sale Memoir's yearling sister was sold to Baron Hirsch for the record sum of 5,500gns – named La Flèche, she went on to win the One Thousand Guineas, Oaks and St Leger and would have won The Derby, in which she was beaten narrowly, but for poor jockeyship.

King Edward VII was responsible for moving The Royal Studs to Sandringham in Norfolk and founded the Sandringham Stud in 1886, when still Prince of Wales. One of his great foundation mares was Perdita II, who produced the top class racehorse and sire Florizel II; Derby and St Leger winner Persimmon, whose statue is pictured above; and Diamond Jubilee, who won the 1900 Triple Crown. The Prince ploughed the prize money from his winning horses into the Estate, particularly the vast walled kitchen gardens, which are now the stallion paddocks.

The Sandringham Stud Book, 1887-1917, on display in the museum at Sandringham, was hand-written by Queen Alexandra and compiled by her as a biographical record of the horses and mares associated with the Sandringham Stud. An inscription on one of the pages refers to King Edward VII's filly, Witch of the Air, who won the Spring Plate at Kempton Park on 6th May 1910, the day of the King's death. In his final moments he gained solace from the result.

In the last century, the Studs have housed a succession of successful stallions including Persimmon, Aureole and Shirley Heights. The Queen inherited The Royal Studs in 1952 and currently maintains a band of primarily Flat racing mares. Amongst numerous winners bred by The Queen are seven Group One winners, including the Classic winners Pall Mall, Carrozza, Highclere and Dunfermline.

The Royal Studs now incorporates Sandringham Stud and Friar Marcus Stud (on the Sandringham Estate in Norfolk) as well as Polhampton Lodge Stud, near Newbury, and are managed by Joe Grimwade LVO. Currently standing at Sandringham Stud is Royal Applause (co-owned). The Stud has excellent facilities and grazing covering 300 acres for visiting mares and those belonging to His Majesty the King.

The Sights to Savour

London

London is one giant sightseeing experience and you'll be spoilt for choice so it's best to give some thought as to what you want to see most and devise a plan. Some suggestions-

- **Buckingham Palace** and the changing of the guard <https://changing-guard.com/dates-buckingham-palace.html> is a must and either before or after that there is The Queens gift shop, just around the corner.
- **The Queens Gallery** displays some of Her Majesty's private collection of artworks. <https://www.royalcollection.org.uk/visit/the-queens-gallery-buckingham-palace>
- **The Royal Mews** houses HM's carriages including the very impressive Gold Coach and the wedding landau used recently in the Marriage of Prince Harry. A few horses are often in residence. <https://www.royalcollection.org.uk/whatson/event/906451/Ascot-Landau-carriage-at-the-Royal-Mews>



- **The British Museum** <http://www.britishmuseum.org/> will satisfy any ancient history buff.
- At **The Natural History Museum** you might spot a distant ancestor and the odd dinosaur. <http://www.nhm.ac.uk/>
- If more modern science is your interest try the **Science Museum** <https://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/>
- A walk around **Harrods** is an education in indulgence. I guarantee you that you will buy at least something while there, no matter how resolutely you tell yourself 'No, I can't afford it' before you go in. A little something from the Food Hall perhaps? The fruit is exquisite. <https://www.harrods.com/en-gb>
- **The Tate Modern** art gallery houses the national collection of British art from 1900 to the present day and international modern and contemporary art. <https://www.tate.org.uk/visit/tate-modern>
- **The London Eye** is a Ferris wheel on steroids. It's located on the banks of the Thames, very near the Tate Modern. Not for the faint-hearted. <https://www.londoneye.com/>
- **London Shows** London and Broadway (New York) are the world's major stage show locations. If you are a theatregoer you'll find one to suit. <https://www.londonboxoffice.co.uk/all-london-shows>
- **Madame Tussauds Waxworks** The closest you may ever get to royalty, movie stars etc <https://www.madametussauds.com/london/en>
- **Tower of London** Prison, castle, royal safe for the Crown Jewels, a must see. <https://www.hrp.org.uk/tower-of-london/>
- **Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament** <https://www.londonhut.com/d/big-ben>
- **The Shard** The Shard comprises 26 floors of high specification office space, three floors of restaurants, the 19-floor five-star Shangri-La Hotel, 13 floors of residential apartments and London's highest public viewing gallery. Each level benefits from brilliantly clear low-iron floor-to-ceiling glazing which floods the floors with natural daylight and provides some of the best views of London. <https://www.the-shard.com/>
- **London Cabs** are unique. Even if it's just around the block for the experience, make sure you catch a cab at some point. Every driver must possess 'The Knowledge', a series of tests that must be passed by all black cab drivers before they can get a licence to work in the capital. Cabbies must study some 320 routes and 25,000 streets and get to know them all by heart. They also memorise roughly 20,000 landmarks and places of public interest, from tourist destinations to museums, parks, churches, theatres and schools. The process typically takes between two and four years to complete and has been described as like having an atlas of London implanted into your brain. They aren't always black though nowadays. In 2012 we spotted this guy in his Black Caviar cab.



The 'Black Cabiar'

Cambridge and Ely Cathedral

We'll call into historic Cambridge and Ely after we leave Duxford. They are on our way to Newmarket and both well worth a look around.



Ireland

Blarney Woollen Mills -we'll visit their Dove Hill store, just down the road from our hotel in Clonmel.

Cahir Castle- One of Ireland's oldest and best-preserved castles.

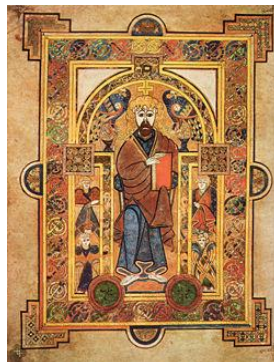


The Rock of Cashel is Ireland's most visited ancient site. It's huge, it's complex, it's iconic and there is nothing like it anywhere else in the world. The Rock of Cashel (Carraig Phádraig), more formally St. Patrick's Rock, is also known as the Cashel of the Kings. It is reputedly the site of the conversion of Aengus the King of Munster by St. Patrick in the 5th century AD. Long before the Norman invasion The Rock of Cashel was the seat of the High Kings of Munster, although there is little structural evidence of their time here. Most of the buildings on the current site date from the 12th and 13th centuries when the rock was gifted to the Church. The buildings represent both Hiberno-Romanesque and Germanic influences in their architecture. To quote from the WIKI entry "The complex has a character of its own, unique and native, and is one of the most remarkable collections of Celtic art and

medieval architecture to be found anywhere in Europe.” The Rock is the setting of the fictional “Sister Fidelma Mysteries”, medieval whodunits from Peter Tremayne. <https://www.cashel.ie/rock-of-cashel/> and <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/queen-elizabeth-II/8526023/Queen-visits-Irelands-Rock-of-Cashel.html>



Trinity College, Dublin and the Book of Kells Trinity College Dublin is recognised internationally as Ireland’s premier university and as one of the world’s leading research-intensive universities. Founded in 1592 on the general pattern of the ancient colleges at Oxford and Cambridge, it is the oldest university in Ireland and one of the older universities of Western Europe. Students benefit from a scholar teacher model where they have the opportunity of being taught by world-leading experts in their field. Trinity College Dublin’s 47 acre campus is situated in the centre of Ireland’s capital city, where cobbled squares, historic buildings and playing fields stand alongside state-of-the-art facilities such as the Science Gallery, the nanoscience research centre (CRANN), the Long Room Hub Institute for Arts and Humanities, the Biomedical Sciences Institute, and The Lir Academy for Dramatic Art. Its Library contains 5 million volumes and an extensive collection of manuscripts, the most famous being the Book of Kells. <https://www.tcd.ie/>



The People

Lissa Oliver- Journalist, Ireland



Lissa is an award winning horseracing journalist and novelist and has written several novels including a wonderful trilogy of horseracing thrillers - *Gala Day*, *Chantilly Dawns* and *Sainte Bastien*. Because she liked the name, Geoff's horse Quartzite gets a role in *Sainte Bastien*.

Born in London, she has lived in Kildare, Ireland, since 1988 and writes for *The Irish Field*, *International Thoroughbred*, *European Bloodstock News*, *Trainer Magazine*, and Australian magazines *Racetrack* and *Track To Track*, among many others. She is an Executive Officer of the Irish Writers' Union and serves on the Board of Directors of the Irish Copyright Licensing Association.

During The Queen's historic visit to Ireland in 2011 Lissa was asked to be a commentator for Irish TV on HM's visit to the National Stud.

Lissa lives with her husband and large menagerie of pets that include Brenda the dog, Gary the bullock and Leitmotif, a retired racehorse.

A Message from Lissa:

"It was a real pleasure to meet the first of Geoff's tour groups in 2011 then subsequent tour groups and get swept along with their fun and enthusiasm. I am green with envy at the places they visit and people they meet and I am always made to feel so welcome among the bunch of seemingly close friends. Turned out they only meet on the trip! I count myself so lucky to share some of their adventures and introduce them to my Irish racing friends, who look forward to their visit, and I can't wait to do the same for the 2025 group".

Lissa has been a great help with stud and stable visits for us in Ireland. We will also bump into her at Royal Ascot as she always attends. She'll give us a quick orientation tour before she gets to her day job, inspecting the horses, interviewing trainers/owners/jockeys etc so that she can write her excellent contributions in *Racing Post* etc.

John Berry, trainer, Newmarket



John grew up in the Scottish Borders and developed a keen interest in horses from a young age through his parents' love of racing and breeding. He rode as an amateur over jumps and, following stints as a track rider in Australia, and with trainers Andy Turnell and Luca Cumani, started training in Newmarket in 1996.

John is also a regular guest on *At The Races* and a columnist for *Thoroughbred Daily News*, *Winning Post* (Australia) and *Al Adiyat* (Dubai).

John enjoys huge respect in Newmarket and was Mayor of Newmarket in 2015-16.

A Message from John:

I am delighted to hear that Geoff Richardson will be bringing a tour party to Newmarket in 2025. Geoff's Royal Ascot tours have always been a big success. They always feature a great bunch of people, enjoying the best that Newmarket and British racing have to offer, thanks to well-planned itineraries. I would imagine that the 2025 tour will be similarly successful, and I look forward to catching up with Geoff and his group when they are here.

Your Hosts

Geoff Richardson, Bellingen NSW



Geoff is a retired businessman with a lifelong interest in horseracing and breeding. His varied career has seen him work as an Industrial Chemist, schoolteacher, leathergoods manufacturer and latterly Organic food retailer.

He is married to Carolyn, has three children and four wonderful grandchildren. Geoff and Carolyn recently retired to Bellingen, NSW.

Geoff has owned shares in several horses including Quartzite, Medieval and Khamsin Warrior.

Kristen Manning, Melbourne VIC



I'm delighted to announce that Kristen Manning has agreed to co-host the 2025 tour.

For those who don't know, Kristen is a Melbourne-based freelance journalist, pedigree analyst and passionate racehorse owner and breeder.

An award winner for print, internet and photographic journalism, she has written three books, *Fields of Omagh*, *Prince Of Penzance* and more recently, *The Gauch*.

Like Geoff she is a real 'people person' and is very much looking forward to sharing the adventure that will be our tour of France, England and Ireland next year.

Contact Geoff at

geoff@grandracingtours.com or 0408 206 225

www.GrandRacingTours.com

