



PRESS RELEASE

**2010 RACECOURSE OF THE YEAR
AWARD:**

7 UP FOR CHELTENHAM

**PLUS MAIDEN WINS FOR HEXHAM AND
WINDSOR**

For immediate release, 6 December 2010

Cheltenham Racecourse is in seventh heaven after being voted 2010 Racecourse of the Year by members of The Racegoers Club yet again after picking up the award each year since York took the crown in 2003.

The Racegoers Club awards mean much to the winning racecourses, as the Club's 5,000-strong membership is widely recognised as being the heart of British racegoing with its members going racing on average 31 times per year.

York finished second in the overall vote with Ascot filling third spot.

The most notable achievements in the regional awards are those of Hexham (Best Small Racecourse in the 'Scotland & North East' area), and Windsor (Best Small Racecourse in the South East), both picking up Racegoers Club awards for the first time.

Other changes from the 2009 results saw Wetherby wrestle the Best Small Racecourse in the North award back from Ripon, and Wincanton do likewise to Ffos Las to regain the Best Small Racecourse in the South West crown. Ascot, Best Racecourse in the South East in 2008, snatched their crown back from Sandown after a narrow victory over the Esher track and Goodwood.

Ayr, York, Chester, Market Rasen, Cheltenham, Stratford-on-Avon and Newbury all retained awards they held from last year.

The full list of regional awards is as follows:

Scotland & North East:	Racecourse of the Year	AYR
	Best Small Racecourse	HEXHAM
North:	Racecourse of the Year	YORK
	Best Small Racecourse	WETHERBY
North Midlands:	Racecourse of the Year	CHESTER
	Best Small Racecourse	MARKET RASEN
South Midlands & East Anglia	Racecourse of the Year	CHELTENHAM
	Best Small Racecourse	STRATFORD
South West:	Racecourse of the Year	NEWBURY
	Best Small Racecourse	WINCANTON
South East:	Racecourse of the Year	ASCOT
	Best Small Racecourse	WINDSOR

Edward Gillespie, Managing Director at Cheltenham Racecourse commented, "I am delighted for the team here at Cheltenham who all go that last yard to deliver an experience which we believe is second to none, and no award means more than this one that comes from racegoers themselves. With so many great initiatives being introduced through Racing for Change across the country, we shall need to work even harder through 2011 to retain the title."

The Club recently announced substantial increases to its concession scheme, with a minimum discount of £3 across the board and almost half of all courses now offering between £4 and £6 off admission, plus two discounts worth £10 each, including one of the summer highlights, King George Day at Ascot.

With three horses in training for the current jumps season with Nicky Henderson, Philip Hobbs and Donald McCain, the Club's syndicates along with the improved concession scheme look set to contribute more racecourse visits than ever from Club members this winter.

The cost for 2011 is just £25 single membership or £40 double membership.

For more information contact The Racegoers Club's Chairman John Phillips on 01344 625912 or at john.phillips@racecourseassociation.co.uk, or visit www.racegoersclub.co.uk.

Notes to Editors:

The Racegoers Club

- Racegoers Club was founded in 1968
- The Racegoers Club has been managed by the Racecourse Association Ltd since 1999
- Supported by all British Racecourses, the Club offers discounted admission of a minimum £3, rising to £10, at 1,330 fixtures in 2011
- The Racegoers Club has 5,000 members
- Membership is £25 for single membership or £40 for double membership
- The Club hosts social events for members at events such as the Cheltenham Festival, Betfair Chase Day at Haydock Park and Variety Club Day at Sandown Park
- Club racehorse syndicate horses in recent years have been trained by Paul Nicholls, Nicky Henderson, David Pipe, Donald McCain, Nigel Twiston Davies, Ferdy Murphy, Philip Hobbs, Henry Cecil, Alan King, Brian Meehan, Dandy Nicholls, Mick Channon and Mark Johnston