

Arena Leisure PLC - Update re: Doncaster

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Arena Leisure PLC
14 September 2007

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Arena Leisure plc ('Arena')

Doncaster Racecourse

Ladbrokes St Leger Festival

Arena is pleased to announce that the 2007 St Leger Festival has commenced as planned following the 20 month redevelopment programme that encompassed a £34 million investment in Doncaster Racecourse, home to the world's oldest Classic horserace, the Ladbrokes St Leger.

The Festival commenced on Wednesday 12 September and, over the first two days attendances have been in line with expectations.

Ladbrokes are once again the main sponsor for the Festival. The Ladbrokes St Leger will be staged on Saturday 15 September when the largest crowds of the Festival are expected.

The redevelopment has encompassed a new state-of-the-art grandstand with enhanced hospitality facilities, a new stables complex, new conference and exhibition facilities, a modern weighing room, new accommodation blocks for racing professionals and new racing surface on the flat-course.

Planning permission was granted earlier this year for the second phase of the Racecourse's development, namely a combined hotel and residential development incorporating a 120-bedroom four-star hotel, with associated restaurant and bar facilities on the lower floors, and 34 residential apartments on the upper floors. Construction is expected to commence on the second phase at the end of 2007 with completion anticipated for the first half of 2009.

Doncaster Racecourse is operated by a subsidiary of Arena in which Arena owns 81 per cent and Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council owns 19 per cent although,

for the first 30 years of its operation, Arena will receive 92.5 per cent of the subsidiary's profits. The subsidiary holds a 99-year lease over Doncaster Racecourse.

Mark Elliott, Chief Executive of Arena Leisure Plc, commented:

'To have brought the St Leger Festival back to its home in Doncaster as planned is a major achievement.

'The wonderful new facilities are attracting racegoers, sponsors, bookmakers and horses, trainers and jockeys of the highest quality. Doncaster Racecourse can now be classed as a world-class leisure, business and racing venue.'

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