

NEWS RELEASE

TRALEE RACING FESTIVAL

Tuesday 19th - Saturday 23rd of August

5 days of Top Quality Racing, Family Entertainment, Serious Style and Luxury Escapes to be won daily

Former Miss World Rosanna Davison and Mom Diane Davison to judge the Ballygarry House Hotel Mother and Daughter Best Dressed Competition on Wednesday 20th

Lee Bradshaw and Geraldine Beere to judge prestigious Shaws Ladies Day on Thursday 21st

All proceeds from admission on Saturday 23rd of August to be donated to Charity (Injured Jockeys Fund, Friends of Tralee General Hospital and Kerry Hospice)

Wednesday 23rd of July, Tralee, County Kerry. 7pm.

The forthcoming Tralee August Racing Festival, which will run from Tuesday 19th to Saturday 23rd of August, was officially launched at a reception in the luxurious surroundings of the Ballygarry House Hotel & Spa, Tralee, by Kerry Footballer, Killian Young. The launch, which included a complimentary drinks reception, buffet meal and music, was attended by Directors of Ballybeggan Park Race Company, sponsors, Mayor of Tralee, Ted Fitzgerald, local politicians, racing personalities and the media.

General Manager, Ballybeggan Park Race Company, **Timothy Griffin**, outlined the highlights of this year's race meeting which includes top quality racing daily; two best dressed competitions; two on course FREE fashion shows; daily race card competitions featuring five star prizes - plus the chance to meet lots of celebrities including former **Miss World Rosanna Davison** and her Mom Diane, celebrity chef **Lee Bradshaw**, the reigning **Rose** and many more.

The Feature races everyday are the **EUR37,000 Brandon Hotel Handicap Hurdle** on Tuesday 19th; the **EUR52,000 Jimmy Barry Memorial Premier Handicap** on Wednesday 20th; the **EUR45,000 Denny Gold Medal Handicap**

Steeplechase on Thursday 21st; the **EUR52,000 The Kerryman Ruby Stakes** on Friday and the **EUR30,000 Fels Point Hotel Handicap Hurdle** on the last day of the meeting Saturday 23rd of August.

All the meetings are **afternoon starts** with racing commencing at 2.55pm on Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th, and at 2.20pm on Thursday 21st, Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd. **Admission is only €15** and children under 14 are free. There are also competitively priced packages for corporate / group bookings. In conclusion, **Timmy stressed that it is important to note that this year the racing festival is before the Rose of Tralee Festival and not the week afterwards as in many previous years.**

At the launch, Chairman, **Paddy Barry**, took the opportunity to look back at countless highlights of over 60 years of superb horse racing at Ballybeggan Park. He also recalled visits to the course by sporting legends **Lester Piggott and Frankie Dettori**, former Taoisigh Albert Reynolds, Bertie Ahern and some very flamboyantly dressed Sheikhs! To bring everyone down memory lane, as well as showing a slide show of images and photographs dating back to the first meeting in 1946, Paddy also showed a short film taken on the course in the mid 1970's. Lastly Paddy Barry took the opportunity to thank sponsors, supporters and friends of Ballybeggan Park and wished everyone a memorable, successful and enjoyable Tralee Racing Festival 2008.

Fashion has becoming as essential part of the Irish Racing scene over the past number of years, with Ladies Day attracting increased numbers and a lot of glamour to meetings throughout Ireland. This year will be no exception at Tralee Races with two best dressed events and two free on course fashion shows. As part of Ballygarry House Hotel's on -going 50th celebrations they are sponsoring the **Best Dressed Mothers and Daughters Competition on Wednesday 20th** of August. Judged by international celebrities Rosanna and Diane Davison, first prize is an overnight stay in a luxury suite in Ballygarry House, dinner in their award winning restaurant and two special pampering afternoons in their luxury spa.

Shaw's Department Store in the heart of Tralee town have been committed sponsors of their **Shaws's Best Dressed Ladies Competition** at Tralee races for over 10 years. This year the prizes are worth EUR1,500 and the winner will

receive a specially commissioned Killarney Crystal bowl. Judges **Lee Bradshaw and international fashion buyer Geraldine Beere** will be selecting the Best Dressed on the day. **HRI (Horse Racing Ireland) will also be hosting a fabulous free champagne reception** on course that day for everyone who makes the effort to dress up. Simply look out for the Jacob's Creek personnel with the coveted pink bangles to gain admission to the marquee. HRI once again kindly sponsor a champagne goodie bag for all 15 finalists in the Shaw's Best Dressed Ladies competition, so everyone can celebrate the day in style.

Of course if you don't back a winner, or dress to impress!; you could always win a **luxury escape** . . . simply by entering the daily free draws in the race card. On Tuesday **Ashford Castle** and **Private Ireland hotels** are giving away wonderful prizes. On Wednesday, **The Ice House Hotel**, Mayo, is offering a superb mid week spa escape for two nights, including champagne, dinner and spa treatments. On Thursday, one of Ireland's most celebrated and chic hotel's the five star **G Hotel, Galway**, is giving away a two night escape. The G hotel's interiors were designed by Ireland's top milliner, Philip Treacy, so it is appropriate that this is the race card prize on ladies day when many of the best dressed on the course frequently wear his creations. On Friday, the luxurious **Killashee House Hotel** in Kildare are giving away an escape and lastly on Saturday, the **Radisson SAS Limerick** are offering race goers the opportunity to spend some time in their stylish hotel. To enter any of these amazing competitions, simply fill out the entry form in the race card and winners will be announced before the 6th race.

Due to the success of the on course fashion show at the May race meeting, Tralee Race Company in association with **Upfront Model Management** are hosting two fabulous fashion shows on course. **Admission is free to race-goers** and will profile key looks for the new season from local and national boutiques. To get involved or for more information, please contact Louise James on 066 7117704.

To find out more about what's happening everyday during this year's Racing Festival, . . . LOOK out for **Tralee Racing Times**, which will be distributed throughout Kerry and beyond from the end of July. This FREE, full colour glossy magazine also documents some of the historical moments and memories from Ballybeggan Park since racing first commenced there in 1946. The magazine

also features contributions from Timmy Griffin, previous secretary Manager, Pat Crean and Tunney Galvin who was a bookie at the course for almost 50 years.

For more information on the Races contact Timothy Griffin, General Manager, Ballybeggan Park Race Company on 066 7126490. For information on daily activities, best dressed events and fashion shows contact Orla Diffily, Upfront PR on 066 7117704.

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For more information please contact:

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