

For immediate release

PRESS RELEASE

Racing Welfare launches 2014 Best Turned Out Series at Taunton racecourse

On Tuesday 28th January, Taunton racecourse will host the first of this year's 'EPDS Racing Welfare' Best Turned Out (BTO) competitions to be held at racecourses around the UK in support of racing staff.

The Best Turned Out series, sponsored by EPDS Racing for the third year running, aims to highlight the hard work and dedication shown by working staff in preparing their horses for a day at the races.

The competition kicks off at Taunton with the 2.10 EPDS Racing Welfare BTO Series 2014 Novices' Hurdle on 28th January. The groom who leads up the horse judged best turned out will receive £50 first prize, plus an 'EPDS-Racing Welfare BTO series' gilet. Points will then be allocated to the groom's yard and a league table will run until the finale which at Huntingdon on Peterborough Chase Day, 7th December. The winning yard will receive a trophy and £1,000 to be shared between the staff. To help prevent a tie the judges in each of the series races will award 15 points for a BTO, 10 for second best and 5 for third.

Lesley Graham, Racing Welfare's Chief Executive said *"We are really looking forward to the third year of the series and I am very grateful to EPDS for their continuing sponsorship. This has the double benefit of recognising the hard work put in by grooms and highlighting Racing Welfare's crucial work in support of racing staff."*

Chief Executive of Taunton Racecourse, Bob Young, is delighted to be involved in the launch of the 2014 series and hopes it will raise awareness of Racing Welfare to Taunton's racegoing public. *"We are delighted to welcome Racing Welfare to Taunton" he said. "It will help raise local awareness of the Charity's great work in supporting racing staff across the UK. I wish all the grooms competing in the 2.10 the very best of luck!"*

John Powell, Managing Director of EPDS Racing, is pleased and proud to be sponsoring this series once again. *"The Club is committed to supporting Racing Welfare."* he said. *"Last year's series (won by Jonjo O'Neill's yard) was extremely exciting and I am sure this year will be equally competitive".*

ENDS...

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Notes to editors:

Series Dates:

- 28th January – Taunton
- 25th February – Catterick
- 31st March – Plumpton
- 14th April – Hexham
- 6th May – Fakenham
- 6th June – Market Rasen
- 29th July – Worcester
- 29th August – Bangor-On-Dee
- 4th September – Sedgefield
- 9th October – Exeter
- 27th November – Uttoxeter
- 7th December – Huntingdon (Finale)

Racing Welfare is a UK-wide charity whose headquarters are in Newmarket. It serves the needs of racing personnel from the beginning of their careers through to retirement. The wide range of help provided includes provision of affordable housing, mentoring schemes for young workers, advice for those coping with illness and disabilities; through to specialist counselling and support at times of need or personal crisis.

EPDS Racing aims to make the excitement of racehorse ownership more accessible and is particularly keen to encourage then next generation of racegoers to get involved, offering discounts to younger members. The club was formed, and is run, on the basis of providing a natural environment for its horses while in training and a guaranteed re-homing policy at the end of their racing career.