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## PRESS RELEASE

**Jockeys and elite racehorses were not the only athletes performing at Saturday's 2,000 Guineas race meeting in Newmarket. The Rowley Mile course also hosted the first public training session of Lesley Graham as she prepares for her '1,400 km in 14 days' cycle challenge.**

On 28<sup>th</sup> June the former Channel 4 Racing Presenter, who is currently Chief Executive of Racing Welfare, will start her cycle ride across France from St Malo to Cannes to raise money for the charity which provides support services to Stud & Stable Staff within British Racing. She will be joined by 12 other supporters, who boast varying degrees of experience in long distance cycling.

Lesley said: *"Most people think I'm absolutely crazy to take on this challenge – particularly as I've never been a keen cyclist and have certainly never covered distances of around 80 miles a day – not even for one day let alone 14!!"*

Racing Welfare is the only charity which supports all of racing's employees, and former employees. With a head office in Newmarket, and regional officers in the other major racing centres, their services are accessible throughout the UK.

When asked why she decided to fundraise in quite such a demanding way, she replied:

*"Since working at Racing Welfare I have been so inspired by the many people who have undertaken incredible challenges to raise money for us; people such as Barney Bamford who hand-cycled his specially adapted wheelchair 105 miles in 5 days between Redcar and Doncaster Racecourses; and Wayne Burton who, despite being paralysed from the chest downwards following a fall at Exeter, undertook a skydive. Both of them raised considerable sums of money for Racing Welfare and if they are willing to make such a commitment, then I certainly should be".*

Lesley is hoping that racegoers will support her in this endeavour. "I have set myself a target of raising at least £50,000 as well as enhancing the profile of Racing Welfare" she said.

Anyone wishing to sponsor Lesley can do so by visiting [www.racingwelfare.co.uk](http://www.racingwelfare.co.uk) to donate on line, or text POSH14 and your amount to 70070 (eg POSH 14 £5).

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