



Be there...

NOVEMBER 28-DECEMBER 1

Tattersalls December Mares Sale

Once the scene of many a multi-million pound sale, if this year's yearling market is anything to go by and with the likes of Miss Keller and Jacqueline Quest in the catalogue, we could be in for something special.

DECEMBER 1

ROA Awards, Hilton, Park Lane

NGC members are invited to purchase tickets for the ROA/sportingbet.com Horseracing Awards at the reduced price of £75 per person (from an original price of £140). The black tie event includes a champagne reception, three-course meal and awards ceremony followed by dancing and a casino.

DECEMBER 26

King George VI Chase, Kempton Park

Watch our new NGC President in action as he bids to retain his crown aboard Gold Cup and last year's King George winner, Long Run.

JANUARY 1

Dipper Novices' Chase, Cheltenham

What better way to toast the New Year than soaking up the atmosphere at National Hunt HQ.

Register for the NGC at www.the-ngc.co.uk

Social events key to Club's solid growth



Lingfield provided an interesting behind-the-scenes look at life on the racecourse

Some may not have been built in a day but the past month has seen a few additional bricks added to the Next Generation Club framework, a structure that continues to grow in strength and stature.

The announcement of Gold Cup-winning Jockey Sam Waley-Cohen as President of the Club has helped to create interest amongst the wider industry whilst providing the perfect hook for our 'Launch the Future' drinks event hosted at Cavallino Bar last month.

"The favourable boy-girl ratio was not the chief motivating factor for his attendance"

Despite the fact that I managed to squeeze into the line-up alongside our esteemed hosts Nick Luck and Rishi Persad, the event was a huge success and the pull of hearing from the superhuman amateur jockey and entrepreneur Sam Waley-Cohen (that and a few free drinks courtesy of our kind sponsors The Jockey Club and Juddmonte Farms) proved enough to pack the place full of racing's enthusiastic young pretenders.

Last month also saw NGC members take advantage of the kind hospitality provided by Lingfield Park racecourse for one of their premier race days. With free entry and access to a private suite, members not only benefitted from the luxury vantage point for a quality eight-race card but they also enjoyed all the benefits of the racecourse's inaugural Racing and Breeding Day.

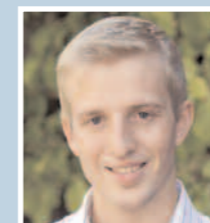
A behind-the-scenes tour of the racecourse kicked off the day followed by a fascinating demonstration from 'Horse Whisperer' Gary Witheford, not to mention a few winners provided by Hot To Trot Racing Club's Sam Hoskins.

Attendees had the chance to socialise with members they had already come across at previous events, a benefit outlined by the

shrewd Tom March. The only colt among a harem of fillies, Tom was one of four of the NGC members interviewed on At The Races. The Cambridge University student who is responsible for founding the university racing club assured me that the favourable boy-girl ratio was not the chief motivating factor for his attendance.

"I think racing is often seen as a sport for men and old people so it's great to be able to get more young people involved and to come to these events and meet like-minded people," he said. "I also went to the Tattersalls sales event a couple of weeks ago and I feel I've made some good contacts."

It seems the benefits of attending a Next Generation Club event are tenfold. No wonder they are so oversubscribed!



Student diary

STEPHEN HEATH Darley Flying Start

As a part of the next generation of thoroughbred enthusiasts, our challenge is very much to highlight the aspects of our sport that make it a rewarding choice for hobbyists and career-minded people alike.

There is no question that our own passion for horseracing is alive and well, but the sport undoubtedly has issues in raising this passion in a large enough number of people which will not only ensure that it continues into the distant future, but that it thrives while doing so.

This issue formed the focus of the annual Darley Flying Start conference at the Keadeen Hotel on the final evening of the Irish phase of the programme. We were asked to come up with 'blue sky' ideas and suggestions for the Darley Irish Oaks of 2012 that might help to attract the crowds that such a relentlessly high-quality race deserves.

Ideas were wide-ranging, and it was a great experience to be a part of an event where a vision of a successful future for horse racing was so central to the wishes of everybody involved.

As young people who love horseracing, we each have an obligation to play our part in its future success, and that can be as simple as making sure that we take as many of our non-racing friends to the races as possible - I am yet to hear of someone who

failed to enjoy themselves on their first visit, win or lose.

While on the Darley Flying Start course, we have also had the pleasure of viewing all of the premier stallions and stud farms in Ireland and the UK. To me, viewing stock of this elite standard highlighted two aspects of the industry that make it a great one to work in. As a fan you get to meet your heroes, whether that is the mares you work with, or the stallions you get to see along the way.

I was lucky enough to meet such luminaries and past greats as Oasis Dream, Pivotal, Manduro, Spinning Queen, and Mail The Desert all in the line of duty. Tranquility Lake, A. P. Indy, Life Is Sweet and Zenyatta also crossed my path while working as a stud hand in the USA. This exemplifies the other great benefit of a career in the horse racing industry - the ability to travel is almost unparalleled.

Travelling the world, whilst working with several of the best equine athletes ever to grace the turf is truly a pleasure.

Working with foals and yearlings is limitlessly rewarding, with any number managing to convince you that they will be the next Frankel. So far, like Frankel's contemporaries, athletic ability in that reckless abundance eludes my past charges, but it is the dream of being involved with something so great that drives us all forward.

Talking Point... What changes or improvements if any would you like to see introduced to British Champions' Day next year?

Martin Kelly, Presenter and journalist



"Champions' Day was such a tremendous success with the planets aligning to provide wonderful weather and the best of our industry proving themselves on track. The closing apprentice handicap was at odds with the rest of the day as familiarity of the horses and jockeys in the feature races was an appealing aspect for racegoers. I would much prefer to see a high-class handicap for professional jockeys which would be a greater pull for punters. More could also be made of the close-circuit TV service.

"One simple idea which I was impressed with while at Flemington for the Melbourne Cup was the use of a bookmakers price board to illustrate prices and price changes. This could be of enormous benefit to racegoers and

something which could also be used on a wider scale during broadcast TV coverage."

Tom Kerr, Racing Post



"Happily Champions' Day was executed so well, and such was the support from trainers and racegoers, that against all the odds it emerged from its year one genesis seemingly fully-rounded and developed.

"If there was any aspect that felt lacking it was the closing race for apprentices: a brilliant event to have on a high-profile card but hardly a fitting finale. Why not put the Long Distance Cup last and let the popular stayers play the final scene? Or, if the organisers dare have their big race overshadowed by a mad dash for the trains, do as the Americans and Emiratis do and put the big race where it ought to be - at the meeting's climax."

James Knight, Odds-compiler, Coral



"It was a great day this year, but I would like to see British Champions' Day raise the bar again and effectively become the Turf World Championships. In order to attract the best international horses it needs more Group 1s, so getting an upgrade for the Champion Spint and Fillies and Mares is vital.

"In terms of increasing the crowd, the prize-money and the buzz of the day, the British Champions' Series team should focus on the aspirational side of the sport and attempt to attract celebrities and big name luxury-goods sponsors as they do in Australia for the Melbourne Cup. Top-class racing mixed with a high profile social event will see British Champions' Day become a fantastic end of season highlight."

Lorna Fowler, Racing UK and Timeform Radio presenter



"Very sadly I was not able to attend the first Champions' Day, but it could not have been given a better write-up by those who did attend.

With any event, tweaking is inevitable but the races were the right conditions and the right prize-money! I know some felt that the apprentice race was out on a limb in terms of quality, but rather than look to revising having an apprentice race, I would make the quality of it better (to Listed or Group status) and put it at the beginning of the card.

UK racing is all about bringing through young jockeys and therefore its right to showcase our emerging talent on the most valuable day in the calendar."