



Be there...

JUNE 4

The Derby, Epsom

The most famous horse race in the world could have a royal winner this year.

JUNE 14-18

Royal Ascot

Royal wedding fever may have died down but luckily Royal Ascot hasn't. Five days of first-class racing, fancy outfits and a festival atmosphere to rival any royal jamboree.

JUNE 29

Young bloodstock staff networking evening, Windsor races

The summer season at Windsor is under way and what better way to spend a Monday night than watching quality racing whilst sipping a local cider on the banks of the Thames?

JULY 9

July Cup, Newmarket

If you missed Ascot then Flat racing's HQ provides a second chance to see some of the world's international super sprinters before they jet home for the summer.

JULY 26-30

Glorious Goodwood

It's what summer racing is all about provided we don't get a repeat of the monsoon of 2009. Garden party atmosphere and top-class racing – a winning combination.

Lara Pocock, European Bloodstock News

"To encourage more young people to go racing I would like to see all under-21s be admitted for free, as well as more discounted tickets available for the under 30s, including annual members badges. I would also like to see an improvement in the quality of racecourse catering: hot snacks in the winter, such as soups, would be perfect."



Oliver Cole, Assistant Trainer

"In terms of the racecourses, I think there should be a dramatic decrease in entry fees for racegoers and ideally free entry for under-20s to encourage younger people to go racing. Providing better facilities for the owners is also an area that desperately needs to be addressed. "On the racing front I think there should be



Frankelly awesome



A great day at the Guinness; next stop Jeremy Nosedá's Newmarket stable on June 25

Frankel's outstanding performance in the 2,000 Guineas provided an ideal backdrop for the Next Generation Club to make their mark with the second event of the year.

A pre-racing picnic hosted by committee members saw 40 young racing enthusiasts from the length and breadth of the country unite to enjoy an incredible day's racing with comparably impressive refreshments.

Racegoers from as far afield as Cumbria and Bristol attended, although likely in anticipation of the former rather than the latter (with no disrespect to the committee's commendable catering skills).

The day provided an excellent chance to expand the already growing network of young racing fans attached to the Next Generation Club and the informal setting allowed for plenty of discussion about the ensuing action. With a

Talking Point...

If you could introduce one change or initiative to British racing, bar increasing prize-money, what would it be?

more encouragement to keep older horses in training and better opportunities for three-year-old fillies, especially in the sprint areas where you always have to take on the older fillies. Breeders should also be consulted on what is needed in the programme to boost British bloodstock."

Ed Quigley, Racing Post

"Rightly or wrongly the focal point of the jumps season is Cheltenham. Almost everything is trained with Cheltenham in mind and what you cannot deny is that it brings massive anticipation and excitement, with all roads leading to the climax at Prestbury Park. "I think that would be something the Flat calendar could do with, for example one huge Royal Ascot meeting in August or September, because the scattergun approach of class Flat meetings throughout the summer dilutes the



buzz. There is no real end-of-season focal point."

John Maxse, Communications Consultant

"Racing is getting better at promoting itself and Racing For Change has been invaluable in spreading awareness of the sport to a wider audience. He added: "I think it is important to stimulate and develop interest in our sport. If we can do that with Shalfleet hosting the Next Generation Club, then that has got to be a positive."

The visit will include a chance to see some of the team's two-year-olds put through their faster paces on the gallops, a full tour of the yard and 'Q&A' session with the Classic-winning trainer. In keeping with training establishment protocol, breakfast will be served at Shalfleet before departing for a day at the races. This news is no doubt greatly welcomed by last month's stand-in NGC catering team! With the buck passed on the refreshment front, it leaves the pressure only on our tipsters to uphold the increasingly high standards. To join the Next Generation Club and apply for a place at any of our free events, please visit www.the-ngc.co.uk and sign up for free.



daunting precedent set by the big-priced winners enjoyed at the Newbury raceday, our committee tipster, Sam Hoskins, enlisted the back-up of fellow member Matt Coleman to run through the card. Three winners later, the formidable duo managed to uphold the increasingly impressive record set at Next Generation Club events!

In addition to witnessing the breathtaking performance of Frankel in the feature race, the steady passage of money from the bookies to the champagne bar kept most occupied throughout the afternoon before a return to the car park to reflect on the day and polish off any neglected sandwiches.

The event would not have been possible without the kind sponsorship from Jockey Club Racecourses and Newmarket Racecourses, who continue to show their support for the work carried out by the Next Generation Club.

Newmarket has played host to two of the committee events and will provide the location



Form study with the NGC's Sam Hoskins

of the next date for the diary on June 25, when leading trainer Jeremy Nosedá has kindly offered to host a group at his Shalfleet House Stables. Undoubtedly set to be one of the highlights of the NGC schedule of events, Nosedá describes the visit as "a chance to give members a real behind-the-scenes insight into how a racing yard works."

He added: "I think it is important to stimulate and develop interest in our sport. If we can do that with Shalfleet hosting the Next Generation Club, then that has got to be a positive."

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Q&A



OLI BELL, former Racing UK presenter now working for Sydney's Sky Channel

Tell us a bit about your background...

I started working in racing straight from school, aged 18, in 2005. I decided against university because strangely there were no courses that allowed me to read the Racing Post in the morning and watch racing in the afternoon. I was Editorial Assistant at Racing UK and after a few years started presenting the live racing. In 2010, Sky Racing in Australia offered me the role as international host and I have been in Sydney since then.

What has surprised you most about the Australian racing industry?

I was really taken aback by the quantity. If people think that there is too much racing in England it pales into insignificance in comparison to Australia. For example, the first Saturday in May there were 14 scheduled meetings across Australia. That's purely thoroughbred racing; harness racing and greyhound racing are also very big. Unsurprisingly I'm of the opinion that there is too much racing, but you have only to look at pool betting figures to realise that there is a demand for it.

Is there a big difference in the way racing is presented to the public?

Yes, having experienced the biggest 'carnivals' of racing I have to admit that the promotion of these events is very good.

There is a slightly different attitude towards racing, which makes it easier to sell, and by that I mean that racing is on practically 24 hours a day in most pubs with a TAB betting system in place. I think that is used to a degree as an easy angle for the UK to take as to why we are behind. Every paper, glossy magazine, radio and TV station will include something that revolves around racing.

I may have a slightly clouded judgment because I arrived in Australia when So You Think was dominating the headlines, to be followed by Black Caviar. As we all know, promotion of racing is far easier when champions race.

There are, however, signs that racing in Australia does need some changes to attract the new generation.

How does the racecourse experience at big meetings compare to the UK?

Having been brought up on English racing I'm probably biased but I think the on-course experience outweighs Australian racing. You feel more involved in the action in the UK, you can get up close to the horses, you can hear the hooves rattling and most courses have good public viewing areas.

At Randwick, for example, it's a very claustrophobic racecourse, where you never feel that involved in the horse. There are a few reasons for this: a 40/45-minute gap between races, which means the racegoer can easily switch off, and unless you are lucky enough to be in the mounting yard (parade ring) or in a corporate marquee you can feel a bit removed from the horses. In England there's a good balance between respecting the connections and the animal, and allowing the racegoer access to the sport.

Are there lessons that British racing can learn from Australia?

One point I would make is that in Australia most of the work is done on the track. There are track-work interviews regularly broadcast after the morning work with the trainers and jockeys, which gives the fan an up-to-date report on how the horses are working. There is a more secretive feel towards this at home.

Also, there are 'barrier trials' for horses who are either about to make their racecourse debuts or returning from 'spells' off the track. This is essentially racing in work against horses from different yards and are invariably run over about 800m. You could have a horse in a trial that is never asked a serious question or is held up behind horses to teach it a new way of racing so they are very much for educational purposes for horse, trainer and jockey. There are no punishments if a horse isn't 'trying' but they are still a helpful tool for punters.

What have you enjoyed most in your time working over there?

Witnessing a different approach to racing and broadcasting, seeing So You Think and Black Caviar live, and meeting the last five winners of Miss Australia – a definite highlight!