



# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

**Building on the momentum of 2022, 2023 was again a highly successful year that has seen pony racing further establish itself as the junior league of horse racing.**

The 2023 Apprentice Jockeys Champion, Billy Loughnane, and the 2023 Conditional Jockeys Champion, Luca Morgan are both pony racing graduates. Billy Loughnane won the championship in his first season with a licence. Benoit de la Sayette and Harry Davies who came 2nd and 3rd to Billy, are also graduates of pony racing. 23% of current Apprentice jockeys and 45% of current Conditional jockeys who started in pony racing. The Jump Jockeys' Championship 2023/24 looks likely to be won by one of 2 Pony racing graduates, Harry Cobden or Sean Bowen.

As an organisation our continued progress can only be made thanks to the efforts and teamwork of our staff and all those who contribute to our activities on the Racecourses, at the Point to Points, delivering the Academies and the Taster Days. We are also grateful for the contributions made by our sponsors and the investment made by the racing industry in support of our activities.

For the past eleven years Clarissa Daly has been the driving force behind the PRA's development as an organisation, transforming it from the body responsible for overseeing the running of pony racing events to taking the lead on the delivery of the "Pathway into Racing through Pony Racing". Along the way she has steered the sport through the challenges of equine flu in 2019, the disruptions brought about by Covid in 2020 and 2021 and a myriad of issues behind the scenes with her determination and tenacity. Her commitment and dedication to the PRA has enabled us to flourish as an organisation that delivers real and tangible value to horseracing. As she hands over the reins to her successor Fiona Rawson at the start of 2024, I would like to thank her on behalf of the Board, and all those involved in pony racing, for everything she has done for us in more than a decade at the helm.



Simon Claisse

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



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## AND FUNDING PARTNERS



**THE PETER O'SULLEVAN  
CHARITABLE TRUST**

# SIGNING OFF CLARISSA DALY, CEO

I have had the honour of being involved with the PRA since 2012 when entry forms were still being posted to organisers accompanied by a cheque! Over the last 11 years much has changed but the ethos of pony racing has remained the same and one of the most important things I have noticed is the community that is built by the sport. It doesn't matter what anyone goes on to do in their later life, pony racing has brought children and families in to contact with racing. Memories and friendships are created that last a lifetime.

The first challenge I was presented with in 2012 was to develop a scheme for children who don't own a pony to be able to participate. The Academies were developed thanks to the help of Patrick and Julie Scott. Since then over 400 children who didn't own a pony, have had the opportunity to participate in pony racing.

The Pathway into Racing through Pony Racing is now recognised as the riders' route into horse racing. This has demonstrated how collaborative working with organisations across the industry and with proper funding can gain real results. Although we still have two more years of Racing Foundation funding of this Pathway, we were delighted with the independent evaluation of our work over the past three years which included a number of key highlights focussing on our achievements:

- Increased awareness and accessibility of Pony Racing and Horse Racing
- Removing barriers to participation at an early stage although barriers persist around access to ponies and racing opportunities
- Improved knowledge, skills and the confidence to participate in pony racing and consider a career racing
- Expanding the reach for those without a pony with Academy Centres covering the country from Aberdeenshire to Cornwall

The report concluded that the Pathway "funding has added value to what was previously available" and "is broadly and increasingly reaching its key targets". With greater focus on progression and scope to better promote the pathway, including further marketing and outreach, we are confident we can build on the achievements to date and increase provision of opportunities.

We could not have done this without the support of the Racing Foundation and the Levy Board. Nor would anything happen without the fantastic PRA executive team, the 2 Chairmen who guided me (Edward Gillespie and Simon Claisse), the Board members, the parents but most importantly the members. Watching so many young riders overcome nerves, deal with disappointment and celebrate in style – it has been a privilege.

**Clarissa Daly**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Clarissa Daly". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the printed name.

# PRA UPDATE

## STATISTICS FOR 2023

269 Members  
265 Ponies registered

## PONY RACING GRADUATES MAKE UP:

23% of current Apprentice Jockeys  
45% of current Conditional Jockeys

## PRA ALUMNI

Harry Davies **Charlie Bishop** William Cox  
**Tom Marquand** Benoit de la Sayette **Taylor Fisher**  
Tyler Heard **Ethan Jones** Billy Loughnane  
**Alicia Perkins** Hollie Doyle **Alice Stevens**  
Luke Scott **Olivia Tubb** Cam Hardie  
**Rob Hornby** Connor Murtagh **Callum Shephard**  
George Wood **Millie Wonnacott** Bridget Andrews  
**James Bowen** Sean Bowen **Charlie Deutsch**  
Bryony Frost **Jonjo O'Neill Jnr** Sam Twiston Davies  
**Jack Tudor** Charlie Todd **Lorcan Williams**  
Harry Cobden **Connor Brace** Lucy Gardner  
**Stan Sheppard** Freddie Gingell **Finn Lambert**  
**Bruce Lynn**

## CHAMPIONS:

**Billy Loughnane crowned Champion Apprentice 2023**

**Luca Morgan crowned Champion Conditional 2023**

5 of current top 10 in Jump Jockeys Championship are PRA Graduates

Top 3 Jockeys in 2023 Apprentice Championship were PRA Graduates

7 PRA Graduates won the Conditional Jockeys Champions in last 10 years

Felix De Giles – Champion Jump Jockey France 2023

## TRAINERS:

Noel George

Harry Derham

Oilly Murphy

## CLERK OF THE COURSE:

Harry Phipps

## ACADEMY GRADUATES:

4 Graduates currently hold licences to ride

Harry Atkins, Olivia Tubb, Ethan Jones, Ben Colmer

Many more riding as Amateurs and working in racing yards

# RACING

## RACECOURSE SERIES

20 Racecourse Series Fixtures (1 cancelled in advance due to ground conditions)

263 Runners 308 Entries 19 Fixtures.

138 cm (17 Races) 94 Entries 87 Runners  
 148 cm (19 races) 214 Entries 176 Runners  
 42 riders competed in the Series

## POINT-TO-POINT SERIES:

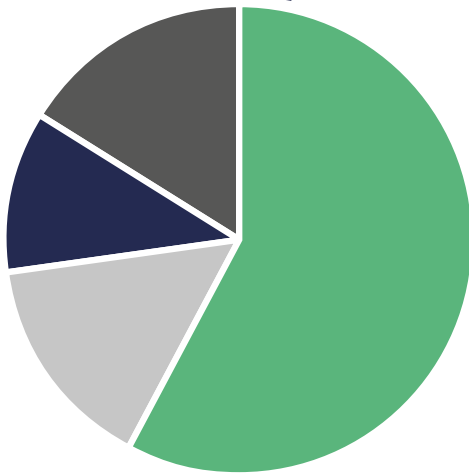
40 Point-to-Point fixtures (50 fixtures scheduled – 10 fixtures lost – 8 due to weather; 2 to circumstances outside the organisers' control)

88 races 42 138cm races 46 148cm races  
 668 entries 325 in 138 cm races 343 in 148 cm races  
 593 runners 296 in 138 cm races 297 in 148 cm races

162 riders competed in the Series; 191 Ponies competed in the series

AWARD	RIDER
<b>Racecourse Series Finals</b>	
138cm	William Pearman
148cm	Mason Paetel
<b>Leading Racecourse Series Rider &amp; Pony Combination</b>	
138cm	Myla Coppins Maesteg Ruth
148cm	Mallow Royale Megan Ridsdale
<b>Rose Bengal Scholarship</b>	
138cm Winner	Eliza McPherson
148cm Winner	Rian Corcoran
<b>RaceTech Best Turned Out</b>	
138cm	Lowan Cruise Mills
148cm	Mason Paetel
<b>Most Widely Travelled</b>	
Overall	Mason Paetel
<b>Leading Rider - PtPPR</b>	
138 cm	Finn Murphy
148 cm	Lowan Cruise Mills

# FINANCES



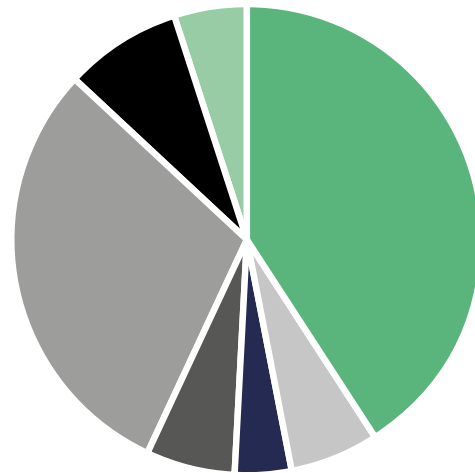
**PRA INCOME 2023**

Racing Foundation Grant - 58%

Other Grants - 15%

Self Funding - 11%

Sponsorship - 16%



**EXPENDITURE 2023**

Academies - 41%

Racecourse Series - 6%

Taster Sessions - 4%

Insurance - 6%

Admin staff - 30%

Website - 8%

Training Days - 5%





## 23 TRAINING DAYS

- 274 children attended
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## 12 UNMOUNTED TASTER DAYS - AT PC RACE DAYS AND PRA TASTER DAYS WITH TRAINING RACES

- 697 children + their families attended. Of these:
  - 242 attended 3 PRA Taster Days with Training Races at Exeter, Nottingham and Warwick racecourses
  - 436 attended 8 Pony Racing Taster Days at Pony Club Race Days held at Ascot, Bangor on Dee, Cheltenham, Haydock, Kelso, Lingfield, Wincanton & Wolverhampton racecourses
  - 19 attended a Taster Day at Saddles Riding Centre, Greater London
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## 18 PRA ACADEMY SCHEMES RUN IN 2023 WITH 84 CHILDREN PARTICIPATING

- 12 venues ran a PRA scheme
  - 87 riders started a course in 2023
  - 72 riders completed a course and rode in their first race
  - 15 are due to race in early 2024 to complete their course
  - In 2023 16.5% of Academy Scheme riders were from ethnic minority groups
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## 37 GRADUATES OF ACADEMIES WERE AWARDED A PLACE ON THE GRADUATE PROGRAMME WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO RIDE IN A SECOND PONY RACE

- Of the 37, 16 raced in 2023 and 21 are racing in 2024
- Of the 16 who raced, 3 self funded a third ride
- 3 now have their own pony and 2 plan to race
- 2 are on the Riding a Dream Academy
- 3 plan to apply to BRS / NHC in 2024/25
- 2 are riding out for a racehorse trainer
- 2 Graduates have been awarded places on the 2024 Tim Dunlop Memorial Scholarship
- In 2023 22% of Academy Graduates were from an ethnic minority group

“

Last Monday was a dream come true. My biggest dream is to become a flat jockey and being given the opportunity to be in a pony racing academy and take part in a race was an incredible experience and I have learnt so much. Having the chance to race at Ascot itself was unbelievable and being able to experience what it's like in the weighing room and getting weighed out and then weighed in again after the race was a real insight of what it's like to be a jockey. The race itself was probably the best thing I've done so far. I'm very thankful to the PRA for giving me this opportunity and for the great teaching I've had at Ghyll Park Equestrian from Sally-Ann Dale. I now hope to take the next step to further my dream.

**RUTH, 15, GHYLL PARK EQUESTRIAN**

*Academy course - rode at Ascot on 03.04.23, Graduate Programme race at Lingfield on 24.10.23 and started on the Riding a Dream Academy course in the autumn of 2023. Ruth plans to start at BRS once she is 16 and has attended an Open Day.*

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“

Thank you very much for a well organised, informative and fun day. Eliza has already asked for a wobble board!

**PARENT, LINGFIELD PARK**

*Eliza applied for an Academy place and is starting an Academy course at Park Lane Stables in January 2024, aiming for Ascot*

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“

We really enjoyed yesterday at the Taster Day. Stayed far longer than we had expected!

**PARENT, WINCANTON**

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“

Thank you so much to you and your team for a really enjoyable and informative day. My two girls particularly loved riding the mechanical horse!

**PARENT, LINGFIELD PARK**

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My daughter is desperate to race! I hadn't realised that they didn't have to be thoroughbred types!

**PARENT, LINGFIELD PARK**

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Informative and interactive for the children. Lots to see. Racing very enjoyable. More days would be great.

**PARENT, BANGOR ON DEE**

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“

Great day, my daughter now wants to race!

**PARENT, ASCOT**

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“

My son really enjoyed yesterday, was really enthusiastic and would like to get involved.

**PARENT, CHELTENHAM**

”

“

It was a wonderful, informative, enjoyable day for us all.

**GRANDMOTHER, NOTTINGHAM**

*Sophia (Granddaughter) was on an Academy course at Almond Equestrian, raced at Bangor on Dee and will race again in 2024 on the Graduate Programme*

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# PRA BOARD MEMBERS

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Lucy Felton

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**POINT-TO-POINT PONY RACING COMMITTEE:**

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**EXECUTIVE:** Lucy Felton

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	Ruth Hurley
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<b>East Anglia:</b>	Gill Duffield
<b>North:</b>	Lesley Walby
<b>South East:</b>	Keely Harrison
<b>Wales:</b>	Sophie Toy

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