

Point-to-point

2014
2015
PREVIEW



Byerely Bear in full flight last season. This is one of the horses tipped to do well this years – PAGES 32&33

Join us in the friendly sport of pointing

BY GILL ARMSTRONG
WESSEX POINT TO POINT ASSOCIATION

Variety is the name of the game in the friendly sport of 'pointing'.

There are similarities between pointing and racing 'under Rules' at National Hunt courses such as Cheltenham, Exeter and Wincanton, but below are some FAQs that may help you reach an important decision. That is – come pointing!

What will it cost?

Admission charges vary. £20 per car including all occupants and free parking tends to be average (often with a discount for a single occupant), but some meetings charge per head, often with under 16s free.

That sounds good, but then, we will need to eat and drink



There are racecourses across the West Country – there's bound to be one near you – where you can enjoy point-to-point entertainment most weekends

Bring a picnic and indulge from your car boot. There are no restrictions – bar, of course, the size of your boot. Or, there will be trade stands on course offering a variety of hot and cold food and drinks and often a beer tent.

What shall we wear?

Anything you like. Play it by the weather – you are out in the English countryside, so anything could happen.

What if the weather changes?

You will always have easy access to your car, so pack for all eventualities and you can zip back there and change as necessary.

The dog won't be happy being left at home for our day out in the country. It doesn't seem fair!

Pack the pooch. He will be welcome, provided you keep him on a lead at all times. Bring his water bowl and any other accoutrements Fido requires. He'll have a whale of a time.

How will I know which horse is what?

Buy a racecard (typically £2.50) on arrival and keep an eye on the numberboard prior to each race. All horses listed in the card will not run, so – particularly if you're planning to place a bet – listen for announcements or check out the board.

How do I bet?

It's easy. There will be a row of bookmakers who will have marked up their boards with prices per runner. For example, 20/1 means if you put on £1 and

your horse wins (unlikely, but not impossible) the bookie will give you £20; 1/2 means you will have to hand over £2 to win £1. Watch the horses parade around the paddock, choose one, trot over to the bookies and proffer your chosen amount. Good luck!

Excited now. How can I get more information nearer the time?

Your *Daily Press* will carry a preview on the Friday of meetings taking place that weekend. Also, each of the areas in the South West has a website you can take a look at: Wessex – www.pointing-wessex.co.uk; West Midlands – www.pointingwm.co.uk; Devon & Cornwall – www.p2phorseraces-dc.com

SEASON'S FIXTURES PAGES 28&29
THE CHAMPIONS PAGES 30&31
HORSES TO FOLLOW PAGES 32&33

National point-to-point fixtures 2014-15

NOVEMBER

Sun 30 Nov Black Forest Club, BLACK FOREST LODGE
Cambridge University United Hunts Club, COTTENHAM

DECEMBER

Sun 7 Dec Point-to-Point Owners & Riders Club, BARBURY RACECOURSE
Sat 13 Dec Hursley Hambledon, LARKHILL
Sun 14 Dec Cornwall Hunt Club, WADEBRIDGE
Ratceugh Racing Club, ALNWICK
Sun 28 Dec Cambridgeshire Harriers Hunt Club, COTTENHAM
Mon 29 Dec Hatkaway Club, CHADDESLEY CORBETT

JANUARY

Sun 4 Jan Larkhill Racing Club, LARKHILL
Sun 11 Jan Dunston Harriers, AMPTON
North Cornwall, WADEBRIDGE
Yorkshire Area Point-to-Point Club, SHERIFF HUTTON
Sat 17 Jan Royal Artillery, LARKHILL
Sun 18 Jan Silverton, BLACK FOREST LODGE
West Percy, ALNWICK
Sun 25 Jan Heythrop, COCKLEBARROW
Jedforest, FRIARS HAUGH
Tiverton, CHIPLEY PARK
Waveney Harriers, HIGHAM

FEBRUARY

Sun 1 Feb Cambridgeshire with Enfield Chace, HORSEHEATH
Mid Devon, BLACK FOREST LODGE
South Dorset, MILBORNE ST ANDREW
South Durham Hunt Farmers Club, MORDON
Sat 7 Feb Cambridge University Draghounds, COTTENHAM
Sun 8 Feb Combined Services, LARKHILL
Dumfriesshire & Stewartry, OVERTON
South Midlands Area Club, WHITFIELD
South Wold, BROCKLESBY PARK
Southdown & Eridge, GODSTONE
Sat 14 Feb Western, WADEBRIDGE
Sun 15 Feb Midlands Area Club, THORPE LODGE
Percy, ALNWICK
Sinnington, DUNCOMBE PARK
South Pool Harriers, BUCKFASTLEIGH
Vine & Craven, BARBURY RACECOURSE
Sun 22 Feb Albrighton & Woodland (North), CHADDESLEY CORBETT
Countryside Alliance Club (Wessex), BADBURY RINGS
Curre & Llangibby, HOWICK
East Cornwall, GREAT TRETREW
North Norfolk Harriers, HIGHAM
South East Hunt Club, CHARING
Sat 28 Feb East Devon, BISHOPS COURT
Thurlow, HORSEHEATH

MARCH

Sun 1 Mar Brocklesby, BROCKLESBY PARK
Quantock Staghouads, COTHELSTONE
South Herefordshire, GARNONS
Tynedale, CORBRIDGE
Sat 7 Mar Brecon & Talybont, LLANFRYNACH
Duke of Beaufort's, DIDMARTON
Kingston Blount Racing Club, KINGSTON BLOUNT
Sun 8 Mar Blackmore & Sparkford Vale, CHARLTON HORETHORNE
College Valley & North Northumberland, ALNWICK
Cottesmore, GARTHORPE
Derwent, CHARM PARK
Dulverton Farmers, TREBOROUGH HILL
Mid Surrey Farmers Drag, GODSTONE
Sir W.W. Wynn's, BANGOR-ON-DEE
Suffolk, AMPTON
Sat 14 Mar Crawley & Horsham, PARHAM
Duke of Buccleuch's, FRIARS HAUGH
East Essex, MARKS TEY
New Forest, LARKHILL
Sun 15 Mar Bicester with Whaddon Chase, WHITFIELD
Curre & Llangibby, HOWICK
Dart Vale & Haldon Harriers, BUCKFASTLEIGH
Hampshire, HACKWOOD PARK
Holderness, DALTON PARK
Ross Harriers, GARNONS
Sat 21 Mar Hunworth, HUTTON RUDDY
Lanarkshire & Renfrewshire and Eglinton, OVERTON
V.W.H., SIDDINGTON
Wilton, MILBORNE ST ANDREW
Sun 22 Mar Holcombe, WHITTINGTON
Lamerton, KILWORTHY
Mendip Farmers, STON EASTON
North Ledbury, HEREFORD RACECOURSE
Oakley, BRAFIELD-ON-THE-GREEN
Old Surrey, Burstow & West Kent, PENSHURST
Sat 28 Mar Avon Vale, LARKHILL
Berwickshire, FRIARS HAUGH
Glamorgan, YSTRADOWEN
Puckeridge, HORSEHEATH
Sun 29 Mar Badsworth & Bramham Moor, ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE
Belvoir, GARTHORPE
Cotley, COTLEY
East Cornwall, GREAT TRETREW
Flint & Denbigh, BANGOR-ON-DEE
Leedbury, MAISEMORE PARK
Southdown & Eridge, GODSTONE
APRIL
Sat 4 Apr Ashford Valley Tickham, CHARING

Croome & West Warwickshire, UPTON-UPON-SEVERN

Essex & Suffolk, HIGHAM
Kimbewick, KIMBLE
Ludlow, BITTERLY
Middleton, SHERIFF HUTTON
Monmouthshire, LLANVAPLEY
North Staffordshire, SANDON
Portman, BADBURY RINGS
Spooners & West Dartmoor, CHERRYBROOK
Vale of Lune, WHITTINGTON
Woodland Pytchley, DINGLEY
Mon 6 Apr Cumberland Farmers, DALSTON
East Kent with West Street, ALDINGTON
Four Burrow, TREBUDANNON
North Cotswold, PAXFORD
Old Berkshire, LOCKINGE
South Notts, THORPE LODGE
South Pembrokehire, LYDSTEP
South Shropshire, EYTON-ON-SEVERN
Staintondale, CHARM PARK
Taunton Vale, KINGSTON ST MARY
Vine & Craven, HACKWOOD PARK
Sat 11 Apr Essex, HIGH EASTER
North Warwickshire Hunt Club, MOLLINGTON
Teme Valley, BRAMPTON BRYAN
Ystrad Taf Fechan, YSTRADOWEN
Sun 12 Apr Bedale, HORNBY CASTLE
Cheshire Forest, TABLE
Cotswold, ANDOVERSFORD
Eggesford, UPCOTT CROSS
Morpeth, TRANWELL
Pytchley, GUILSBOROUGH
Tedworth, BARBURY RACECOURSE
Sat 18 Apr Dartmoor, FLETE PARK
Kimbewick, KINGSTON BLOUNT
Llangenor, DUNRAVEN STUD
Old Surrey, Burstow & West Kent, PENSHURST
Worcestershire, CHADDESLEY CORBETT
Sun 19 Apr Atherstone, CLIFTON-ON-DUNSMORE
Braes of Derwent, CORBRIDGE
Cleveland, MORDON
Cotswold Vale Farmers, ANDOVERSFORD
Seavington, LITTLEWINDSOR
West Norfolk, FAKENHAM
Sat 25 Apr Berkeley, WOODFORD
Chiddingfold Leconfield & Cowdray, PARHAM
Fife, BALCORMO MAINS
Quorn, GARTHORPE
Sun 26 Apr Axe Vale, STAFFORD CROSS
Cheshire, TABLE
Farmers Bloodhounds, WHITFIELD
South & West Wilts, LARKHILL

Tivyside & Carmarthenshire, LYDSTEP

York & Ainsty, EASINGWOLD
MAY
Sat 2 May Lauderdale, MOSSHOUSES
Modbury Harriers, FLETE PARK
Pendle Forest & Craven, HESLAKER
Surrey Union, PEPPER HARROW
Tredegar Farmers, LOWER MACHEN
Sun 3 May Devon & Somerset Staghouads, HOLNICOTE
Ferne, DINGLEY
Radnor & West Hereford, COLD HARBOUR
Mon 4 May Banwen Miners, PENTRECLWYDAU
Cattistock, LITTLEWINDSOR
East Sussex & Romney Marsh, ALDINGTON
Enfield Chace with Cambridgeshire Hunt, NORTHAW
North Shropshire, EYTON-ON-SEVERN
Stevenstone, VAUTERHILL
Warwickshire, MOLLINGTON
Zetland, WITTON CASTLE
Sat 9 May Cumberland, ASPATRIA
Kimbewick, KINGSTON BLOUNT
Minehead Harriers and West Somerset, HOLNICOTE
Sun 10 May Blisdale, EASINGWOLD
Four Burrow, TREBUDANNON
Melton Hunt Club, GARTHORPE
Wheatland, CHADDESLEY CORBETT
Weds 13 May Weston & Banwell Harriers, COTHELSTONE
Sat 16 May Clifton-on-Teme, UPPER SAPEY
Fitzwilliam (Milton), DINGLEY
Gelligaer Farmers, LOWER MACHEN
South Durham, MORDON
Sun 17 May Dulverton West, BRATTON DOWN
Golden Valley, BREDWARDINE
Grafton, WHITFIELD
Haydon, HEXHAM
Knutsford Races Club (formerly North West Point-to-Point Club), TABLE
Sun 24 May Berks & Bucks Draghounds & Sandhurst Draghounds, KINGSTON BLOUNT
West Somerset Vale, COTHELSTONE
West Wales Area Club, LYDSTEP
Mon 25 May Albrighton & Woodland (South), CHADDESLEY CORBETT
South Tetcott, UPCOTT CROSS
Sat 30 May North Hereford, HEREFORD RACECOURSE
Sun 31 May Border, HEXHAM
Exmoor, BRATTON DOWN
Meynell & South Staffordshire, GARTHORPE
JUNE
Sat 6 Jun Pembrokeshire, TRECOED
Sun 7 Jun Tiverton Staghouads, BRATTON DOWN
Sat 13 Jun Torrington Farmers, UMBERLEIGH

WESSEX ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

DEVON & CORNWALL ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

WEST MIDLANDS ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

Point-to-point 2014-15

Meet the champions



Devon and Cornwall area champion jockeys Bryony Frost and Robbie Henderson



Devon and Cornwall area champion jockeys Bryony Frost and Robbie Henderson

Devon and Cornwall

Bryony Frost

Age 19
How did you get into point-to-pointing? Through family, and pony racing. Did try show jumping with Nick Skelton, but had more pointers on offer than senior show jumpers.
First winner Top Green at Treborough Hill, in my second season
Best horse ridden so far Have to name five, Wee Fly and Flurin for Ross Oliver, Akkideau for the Barber's and Red Penny and Blackwood for Mum and Dad

Which horse are you looking forward to this season? Our Needlemahaystack, can't wait to see how he goes.
Ambition To keep riding well, meeting new connections, staying safe. When asked about training, Bryony's answer was Haddon finds the horses, apart from the homebred ones, and we train them.

Which other stables do you expect to ride for? John Head, Carol Lawrence, and if I ride well, then people will notice me.

Fav P2P course Has to be Flete Park, always nice weather, good crowd, and good picnic. It's a bit of a slalom course but I enjoy the top and swinging round the bend and down the hill.
Diet/fitness regime Yes I have a personal trainer, he is called Paris Payne and he also trains swimmers in Plymouth. Most of the training is in the gym. I feel 100% fitter and stronger than ever.
Have you got a sponsor? No not yet.
Current day job Riding out and helping train Pointers and National Hunt horses. I also ride out for others when needed.

Favourite leisure activity Rock climbing. We live on the edge of Dartmoor, I had to stop climbing when I injured my thumb last season, but have taken it up again.
Favourite leisure activity Water sports

Robbie Henderson

Age 25
How did you get into point-to-pointing? I loved hunting and did lots of pony club before progressing from there to my first ride under rules in 2007

First winner Sahara Legend at the Warwickshire point-to-point 2008
Best horse ridden so far Ellis-Sile George

Which horse are you looking forward to this season? Hameldown Tor, who is a bit under-rated but is a very good point-to-pointer. Ed (Walker) has a lot of nice horses. I had also better mention dad's team of The Mythologist, Glacial Oscar, King's Wood, who is mother's hack and needs firm ground, and a new horse called Wait 'N'. See from Ireland.

"Dad" of course is Guy Henderson into trains the family pointers near Staplebury, Dorset. Currently chairman of Wincanton racecourse. Guy has recently been appointed to the prestigious position of chief executive of Ascot racecourse and takes up that role early in the New Year.
Ambition To beat Will Biddick, Robbie smiled. More seriously, "to stay fit and enjoy it."

Which stables do you expect to ride for? Ed Walker, dad (Guy Henderson), Marie McGuinness, Keith Cummings, Sally Aher and possibly others.

Favourite point-to-point course I love Bratton Down and some good horses win at Buckfastleigh – both very nice tracks.

Diet/fitness regime Not really, I eat what I want and my weight is fine. I usually limber up with a few days hunting before Christmas.

Have you got a sponsor & if so who is it? None

Current day job Work for Aero Asses Ltd – selling aircraft / aircraft spares based at Exeter airport.
Favourite leisure activity Water sports



Wessex area's leading jockeys, Will Biddick and Megan Nicholls

Wessex

Megan Nicholls

Age 17
How did you get started in point-to-pointing? I've always been connected with my father, Paul S, Ditcher stables and naturally progressed to point-to-pointing via pony racing.

What was your first point-to-point winner? The Stewart Family's Gwanako at the Laikhill Racing Club fixture on 5 January 2014.

Best horse ridden so far? Join Together. We were unbeaten in six races between the flags last season.
Which horse are you looking forward to riding this season? I won't be riding in point-to-points this season but I'm looking forward to seeing five-time winner Current Event back in action.

What is your ambition for (a) this season (b) long term ambition? I'll be riding as a flat race apprentice in 2015 and will be looking to do as well as possible in the longer term, I could potentially look at training horses after we finished riding.

Which stables do you expect to be riding for next season? Probably Michael Bell's Newmarket stable.

What is your favourite point to point course (and why)? Chaddesley Corbett. It's a lovely big course with fair fences where Gwanako and I won the ladies' open at the Lady Dudley Cup meeting, which is one of the season's most prestigious fixtures.

Do you have a diet / fitness regime? Not really, I ride out every day and do as much running as possible. My cousin, Henry Derham, helps me by giving advice when I'm aboard the equidizer.

Have you got a sponsor and if so who is it? Monson International, a recruitment company headed by one of Dad's owners, Ged Mason.

What is your current 'day job'? I ride out every day for Dad but I'll be moving to a flat yard in the next two months.

Have you a favourite leisure activity? I enjoy spending time off with friends, shopping and socialising away from the horses.

Have you a favourite leisure activity? I'm fitting in as much hunting as I can before the point-to-point season starts.

West Midlands champion jockeys, left, Jane Williams and Mark Wall



West Midlands

Mark Wall

Age 41
How did you get started in point-to-pointing? On Mr Max in April 1999

What was your first point-to-point winner? Impenny at Mollington in March 2000

What is the best horse you have ridden so far? Theatre Queen
Which horse are you looking forward to riding this season? Flying guru

What is your ambition To ride 200 winners and train my first winner under Rules – I am in the final stages of applying for my licence

Which stables do you expect to be riding for this season? My own Tim Sage/Kim Smyly

What is your favourite point to point course? Chaddesley Corbett or Didmorton

Do you have a diet / fitness regime? Riding keeps me fit

Have you got a sponsor & if so who is it? None

What is your current 'day job'? I currently work at Stratford Place stud

Have you a favourite leisure activity? Spending time with my daughter

Jane Williams

Age 32
How did you get started in point-to-pointing? On Just Marmalade on February 5, 2000

What was your first point-to-point winner? Just Marmalade at Chaddesley Corbett in May 2000 – race was disqualified

What is the best horse you have ridden so far? Billvoddan

Which horse are you looking forward to riding this season? Grandourgeon

What is your ambition To train my first winner – I have taken over the training side from my mother Diana this year

Which stables do you expect to be riding for this season? My own

What is your favourite point to point course? Chaddesley Corbett or Didmorton

Do you have a diet / fitness regime? None

Have you got a sponsor & if so who is it? None

What is your current 'day job'? Training racehorses

Have you a favourite leisure activity? Country pursuits



The West Country's top three female riders, left to right: Bryony Frost on red Penny, Megan Nicholls on Current Event, and Jane Williams on Swift Counsel. Main picture, top centre: the winner Certain Flight (Will Biddick, No 2) jumps past runner-up Adept Approach (Philip Hall) at the last in the South Dorset men's open at Millborne St. Andrew PICTURES; BRIAN ARMSTRONG

Point-to-point 2014-15

MESEK

Aiteen Thirtythree 10yo bg. Trainer: Kevin Parker

The 10-year-old, looked destined for the top when winning a bumper hurdle race and two chases for Paul Nicholls before achieving a 100% record – four from four – when returning to the pointing field last season. A strong stayer, he is likely to reappear in January seeking the Foxhunter qualification.

The Mythologist 6yo chg. Trainer: Guy and Sophie Henderson

Unbeaten in his two 2014 UK outings after two placed efforts in Ireland. Off the course since March, he has had keyhole surgery to remove two bony growths from a stifle joint, but is 100% and going well in training. Scheduled to reappear before Christmas.

Ask The Weatherman 5yo bg. Trainer: Jack Barber

A £19,000 Doncaster May 2013 purchase, Ask The Weatherman overcame a last fence blunder to win his only race to date at Larkhill in January when trained by Richard Barber. Jockey Will Biddock reported that the 5yo would "come on a ton for the race" and it would be no surprise to see him rapidly progressing through the ranks.

Safferano 8yo bg. Trainer: Stuart Penny

A newcomer to pointing after winning Towcester and Fakenham handicap hurdles from nine outings for Cowbridge trainer Tim Vaughan. Has a similar profile to former Vaughan inmates Quelliac and Latest Trend who have subsequently won eight races between the flags for the Penny stable. Being prepared for December's PPORC or Hursley Hambledon men's open.

Certain Flight 8yo bg. Trainer: Keith and Janet Cummings

A West Country star who took his tally to 12 (including a Huntingdon Hunter Chase) with five 2014 wins. Not disgraced when running well for a long way in the Cheltenham for Alexander. Goes beautifully for three-time champion Will Biddock who looks keen to perform in the coming stages before reappearing in point-to-point embarking on a sub-three mile hunter chase campaign.

Current Event 7yo bg. Trainer: Rose Lorton

The winner of five steeplechases and a hurdle race, Current Event was unbeaten in five completed point-to-points in a five-week period in May and June. He should continue to prove virtually unbeatable in novice riders' races and could help his trainer to a second consecutive Connolly's



Three to follow in the new point-to-point season, which gets under way on Sunday – top to bottom: Ask The Weatherman, Certain Flight, and Byerley Bear, bottom



Aiteen Thirtythree is likely to reappear in January

PICTURES: BRIAN ARMSTRONG

who rarely runs a bad race. She is Champion for four miles at Upcott Cross and beat the useful Bellsini Ron over that trip last April. Her small yard has done extremely well with her and she is always turned out to perfection.

Minella Fifty 6 b g Trainer: Claire Hitch

By the prolific King's Theatre, this rather unfurnished gelding changed hands for a huge sum after winning a maiden at Tralee. After a barren spell with Jonjo O'Neill he found his niche in the shrewd Exmoor yard of Claire Hitch and soon proved Open class. Runs with his tongue tied down, and capable of further improvement.

Granville Taylor

WEST MIDLANDS

Vintage Vixon 7 year old b.m.

Goose Hill Racing stables in Storrages who has worked in racing for 17 years, eight of which were spent at Martin and David Pipe's Ford House stables in Somerset. Tim is in charge of a small friendly team who believe in training horses as individuals and that approach seems to have worked since they started three years ago. The quiet stables around the stables are suitable for initial roadwork before steady work continues on grass banks at the foot of the Mead Hill. The last year they had eight winners, finishing third in the Connollys Red Mills Championship for stables with less than seven horses. Tim has done well with acquisitions from Tim Vaughns stable in the past and went back there to secure Vintage Vixon who ran five times in Irish points and was placed on three occasions before winning her maiden by twenty lengths. She failed to make an impact the following season but the less frenetic environment of this small yard could prove beneficial.

Amron Kris 6-year-old b g

Amron Kris was purchased by Alistair McLeish after winning an Irish Maiden and finishing second when upped in class later in the year. Will be trained and ridden by Redmanley based James Ridley who will be assisted by his mother Heather and girlfriend Jess. They have proved a winning combination in the past and he is expected to make his English debut at one of the early meetings.

Peter Mansell

Minefortyniner 5 year old br. g.

Property developer David Maxwell has owned some good horses in the past but they are now approaching the twilight of their careers so the owner has been restocking Minefortyniner ran three times in Ireland. He finished third on his debut before pulling up when seen out a month later. There was much to like about his 2nd place in an Avraune Maiden in December 2013 and he was purchased by his present connections soon afterwards. The rider is one of the more experienced jockeys on the Point-to-Point circuit, while Stanton (Broadway) trainer Kim Smyly has good winners to runner's ratio. A Maiden success looks a formality and he could progress even further up the ladder.

Grandturgeon 7-year-old gr. g

Did not show much form in five races but has won three out of five has only run twice in the last two seasons and that has to be a cause for concern. Jane Williams has taken over the training of the horse at Enville this year from her mother Diana, but this horse should continue to make his way up the ladder and looks to have the ability to win Ladies Races.

Soixante six 6-year-old gr. g

Had moderate form under Rules before joining Tom Weston's yard at Hindlip. Made an immediate impressive by winning a 2 1/2 Maiden at Barbury Racecourse, but then had the misfortune to be brought down at Howick. Was just behind the leaders and still going well when parting company with his jockey at Siddington. Still young enough to make amends and easily up to winning a Restricted.

Lienosos 8-year-old br g

Won a three mile Hurdle at Taunton earlier this year and had been placed in Chases prior to that for Evan Williams. He is following in the footsteps of other horses that have made the journey from Wales to William and Angela Rucker stable near Droitwich. Horses from this yard are ridden by Mrs Rucker or her daughter Emily and the former is expected to be in the saddle when they make their debut between the flags.

Amron Kris 6-year-old b g

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Peter Mansell



Stunning location perfect to get new season started

maiden and restricted at this course. Another entry, Welsiondruid, is a course specialist and is from leading area trainer Robert Chanin's team, with Wihenharry-metsally who could also go well for the Cummings team and has won with Jockey Matt Hampton on board.

The Black Forest Club host their meeting on Sunday at Black Forest Lodge, Kenton, near Exeter. This is the first of 27 fixtures scheduled for the Devon & Cornwall Area, and the stunning location of this track provides excellent viewing from a natural grandstand. With now seven races on the card attracting a total of 108 entries, competition is bound to be keen, with trainers and jockeys keen to get their first points on the championship tables.

The action kicks off at 12 noon with the 2m at open maiden race for four and five-year-olds, kindly sponsored by Dyson, Quadrance & Strange. Of the 19 entries, flight priority goes to the Keith Cummings stable, with the local favourite, Cheltenham, the favourite.

At Cheltenham, Miss Wild ran well when second at Theudantoon last season and a repeat from the wayley Woodlodge yard ran a good third in a Bumper in the summer.

Next up is The Black Forest Lodge Club members race, sponsored by Mrs Angela Webber. This has attracted plenty of outside raiders including two from the David Brace Welsh team.

Dhobe and Cook Of The Rock. The latter won this race last season and went on to score six wins for the season. Joe The Trucker for trainer Zoe Hammond won his

destroyed the field when winning this race last season by 15 lengths under Tom Ellis. Other entries Double Bank, Gail Force, Golan Way and Silver Token are all rated over 100 which could make this the feature race of the day.

Two divisions of the open maiden follow and suggestions are Itheac and Way Before Dawn. This race is sponsored by J Edwards Sallars. In the second division, Who's Jeff used to be in training with Phillip Hobbs and may take to Pointing, he is owned by David Brace and trained by Amber Griffiths.

Exeter Racecourse sponsor the Intermediate race, which is a qualifier for the Hunter Chase final at Exeter Racecourse on Tuesday 3rd May. The winning horse will be eligible to compete in the Connolly's Red Mills Intermediate Four to Four Championship Final Hunter Chase at 25.00 on Wednesday, April 25. The race is the last of four for when winners at his maiden, but six lengths at Theborough Hill and then battled at Ston Eston on his only other outing last season under Robbie Henderson.

All on course facilities are on offer: hot food, refreshments, bar bookies and course side disabled parking. Entrance is £10 per person, max £30 per car, children free. Dog on leads welcome. Course is located at Kenton, nr Exeter (off A380 – EX6 8HR). For further information check out www.p2phorse races-dc.com



The Mythologist, left, main picture, was unbeaten in his two 2014 UK outings, after two placed efforts in Ireland. Off the course since March, he has had keyhole surgery to remove two bony growths from a stifle joint, but is 100% and going well in training. Above right: Safferano is a newcomer to pointing after winning Towcester and Fakenham handicap hurdles from nine outings for Cowbridge trainer Tim Vaughan. Has a similar profile to former Vaughan inmates, Quelliac and Latest Trend who have subsequently won eight races between the flags for the Penny stable

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