



For immediate release

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British racecourses set up Racecourse Data Company to licence Pre-Race Data

Fifty-seven British racecourses have today announced the formation of Racecourse Data Company (RDC).

The joint venture has been formed by Racecourse Media Group (RMG) and Arena Racing Company (ARC), and nine independent racecourses as shareholders.

RDC has been assigned the PRD (Pre-Race Data) licence for a five-year term from Racing Enterprises Limited (REL). PRD is information on a racecard, such as final fields, owners, trainers, jockeys, weight, colours, draw and ratings.

This enables RDC the right to license PRD to all third parties via a simple and coherent licensing regime. This enhances control of PRD and engenders a consistent approach to licencing via a transparent rate-card utilised across all customers. Weatherbys will continue its role in providing PRD services.

Richard FitzGerald, RMG Chief Executive, and Tony Kelly, ARC Managing Director, said:

“With the valued support of Racing Enterprises Limited, Horsemen’s Group, British Horseracing Authority (BHA), and Racecourse Association, Racecourse Data Company has been formed by 57 British racecourses to enhance the control and licensing of data in the best interests of the sport.

“This move reflects the way in which racecards are now used and the changes in the marketplace, particularly around mobile and online. The overarching aims are to protect official partners, control integrity, lower the risk of piracy and enhance the value of PRD for the industry. It also provides customers with a long-term deal for this significant piece of data.”

Chris McFadden, REL Chairman, said:

“The five-year deal between REL and RDC is good for horseracing, as all the income we receive from licensing the data is invested in the promotion of the sport via Great British Racing. We feel that RDC’s expertise in this area will both improve and protect the data’s value.”

Paul Bittar, Chief Executive of the BHA, said:

“BHA is supportive of the establishment of RDC primarily because of the commercial benefits the centralised licensing of data will bring to the sport. However, it is also another example of the progress the industry can make when we work towards common goals.”

Philip Freedman, Horsemen’s Group Chairman, said:

“Many different parties have been involved in the setting up of RDC, and it shows what can be achieved when the industry works together. The Horsemen’s Group Board supports the principle that a consistent and transparent licensing of data can only benefit racing.”

The RDC board will consist of two representatives each from ARC and RMG.

Ends

Notes to Editors

About RDC

Racecourse Data Company is a JV between Racecourse Media Group (RMG) and Arena Racing Company (ARC), plus nine independent racecourses as shareholders. RDC has been set up to license and control Pre-Race Data (PRD).

The 57 racecourses are: Aintree, Ascot, Ayr, Bangor-on-Dee, Bath, Beverley, Brighton, Carlisle, Cartmel, Catterick, Cheltenham, Chepstow, Chester, Doncaster, Epsom Downs, Exeter, Fakenham, Ffos Las, Fontwell Park, Goodwood, Great Yarmouth, Hamilton Park, Haydock Park, Hexham, Huntingdon, Kelso, Kempton Park, Leicester, Lingfield Park, Ludlow, Market Rasen, Musselburgh, Newbury, Newcastle, Newmarket, Newton Abbot, Nottingham, Perth, Plumpton, Pontefract, Redcar, Ripon, Salisbury, Sandown Park, Sedgefield, Southwell, Stratford, Taunton, Thirsk, Uttoxeter, Warwick, Wetherby, Wincanton, Windsor, Wolverhampton, Worcester and York

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About RMG

RMG is the umbrella organisation for the 34 racecourses which hold an interest in Racing UK TV (Sky 432/Virgin 536), Turf TV (betting shop service) and GBI Racing (international betting shop service). For more information, go to racecoursemediagroup.com.

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About ARC

Arena Racing Company (ARC) is the largest racecourse operator in the UK hosting nearly 40% of the fixture list. Fifteen racecourses make up the group including three of the four all-weather tracks in the UK. Racecourses in the group include Bath, Brighton, Chepstow, Doncaster, Ffos Las, Fontwell Park, Great Yarmouth, Lingfield Park, Newcastle, Royal Windsor, Sedgefield, Southwell, Uttoxeter, Wolverhampton and Worcester.

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About Racing Enterprises Limited

Racing Enterprises Limited (REL) is a joint venture between Britain's racecourses and The Horsemen's Group and is chiefly responsible for the sport's promotion via Great British Racing.