



**MEDIA RELEASE 21 MAY 2018**

**ARC ACQUIRES FFOS LAS RACECOURSE**

Arena Racing Company (“ARC”) is delighted to announce the acquisition of Ffos Las Racecourse Limited.

The Carmarthenshire course opened in 2009 and was, at the time, the first new racecourse in Britain in over 80 years.

A flat oval, a mile and a half around, Ffos Las hosts a total of 19 fixtures in 2018, six flat and thirteen jumps. Feature races include the Ladbrokes Welsh Champion Hurdle in October as well as the West Wales National, which takes place during Easter.

Previously, ARC had been engaged in a management contract with Ffos Las Racecourse Limited. Following this deal, however, Ffos Las fully joins the other fifteen horseracing courses in ARC, the largest racecourse group in the UK.

ARC Chief Executive Martin Cruddace said, “We are delighted to welcome Ffos Las Racecourse into ARC, and that Dai Walters will stay on as Honorary Chairman of the racecourse.

“As racecourses face escalating costs, together with uncertainty in retail media rights, we believe scale is now more important than ever. Equally, we will continue to closely consult with horsemen to make sure our expanding business continues to increase the value of the stakeholder experience.”

Dai Walters said, “My association with the creation and delivery of Ffos Las Racecourse is something that I am very proud of, and I will continue to support the further development of the facility by remaining as the Honorary Chairman.”

“Ffos Las has provided a stage for Welsh racing to display their racing excellence and encouraged people to visit this beautiful part of west Wales. The facility has provided employment to the area and boosted the local economy. Ffos Las achieved record attendances in 2017 since opening in 2009.”

“The acquisition by ARC will allow Ffos Las to expand through utilising the knowledge and expertise gained from its other racecourses. They will be able to draw on other fixtures which have always been an issue for us, and provide more non-racing opportunities, through staging large music concerts.”

This is a very exciting new chapter with many opportunities for Ffos Las Racecourse to pursue.”

For more information about Ffos Las Racecourse, please visit [www.ffoslas.co](http://www.ffoslas.co).

**ENDS**

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**NOTES TO EDITORS:**

**About ARC:**

Arena Racing Company (“ARC”) is the largest racecourse operator in the UK. In 2018 ARC Group racecourses will host 552 fixtures with 1.2 million people attending racing at one of ARC’s racecourses each year.

ARC is made up of the following sixteen racecourses: Bath, Brighton, Chepstow, Doncaster, Ffos Las, Fontwell Park, Great Yarmouth, Hereford, Lingfield Park, Newcastle, Royal Windsor, Sedgefield, Southwell, Uttoxeter, Wolverhampton and Worcester.

ARC runs four of the six all-weather racecourses in the UK offering three different types of surface for horses to run on: Polytrack at Lingfield Park, fibresand at Southwell Racecourse and tapeta at Newcastle and Wolverhampton Racecourses – the only tapeta racing surfaces in Europe.

In 2013 ARC pioneered the All-Weather Championships which see horses compete throughout the winter for the chance of qualifying for a £1 million Finals Day on Good Friday at Lingfield Park. This initiative is helping raise the profile and prestige of all-weather racing in Great Britain.

ARC hosts racing at all levels of the sport from Class 7 through to Group 1s. Doncaster Racecourse is home to the world's oldest Classic, the St Leger, run each year in September as part of the four-day St Leger Festival. Feature jumps races include the Grade 1 Fighting Fifth Hurdle at Newcastle Racecourse, the Welsh Grand National at Chepstow Racecourse and Midlands Grand National at Uttoxeter Racecourse.

As well as racing, ARC also operates a hotel at Wolverhampton Racecourse, a hotel, spa resort and golf course at Lingfield Park and The Border Minstrel public house at Newcastle Racecourse in the grounds of Gosforth Park. A new hotel at Doncaster Racecourse is under construction and will open in the summer of 2018.

ARC is a significant shareholder in the horseracing TV channel At The Races which is broadcast on the Sky platform to c.14 million homes, and a JV partner with Racing UK in GBI Racing which sells UK and Irish Racing to betting shop operators around the world.

ARC plays a pivotal role in British Racing. It is a shareholder in British Champions Series and Racecourse Data Company; a signatory to a British Horseracing Authority's and Horsemen's Group Prize Money Agreement; and on the boards of the Racecourse Association ("RCA"), Great British Racing ("GBR") and British Champion Series ("BCS").

In 2015 ARC set up The Racing Partnership. This limited company represents the media rights of the 16 ARC owned-racecourses and the 6 independent racecourses Fakenham, Hexham, Newton Abbot, Plumpton, Ripon and Towcester.

In addition to racecourses ARC owns Newcastle and Sunderland Greyhound Stadia and looks after the media interests of the Greyhound Media Group (“GMG”).

ARC employs 650 permanent staff and engages with 3,500 casual staff for racing and events across its racecourses. Further information about ARC can be found at [www.arenaracingcompany.co.uk](http://www.arenaracingcompany.co.uk).