



HORSE RACING IRELAND

ANNUAL REPORT 2009



HORSE RACING
IRELAND

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MISSION STATEMENT

To develop and promote Ireland as a world centre of excellence for horse racing and breeding.

In identifying its mission statement, Horse Racing Ireland (HRI) has placed emphasis on Ireland's position in both the international horse racing and breeding industries and the quality of the product being offered to the racegoing public.

The continuity of funding necessary to develop strategies to achieve the mission is the key element of the HRI Strategic Plan.

The claim to be a world centre of excellence is a realistic one and the benefits of the strategies pursued to achieve the mission will be reflected in the economic, cultural and social environment of the country.

This mission gives expression to the values and sense of purpose of the organisation.





CEO, BOARD MEMBERS & COMMITTEES OF HRI



BRIAN KAVANAGH

FRANCIS HYLAND

MICHAEL DOYLE

JOHN McSTAY

MICHAEL MURPHY

WILLIAM FLOOD

DENIS BROSANAN

SCHEDULE OF HRI BOARD MEMBERS & SUBSIDIARY BOARDS & HRI APPOINTEES TO OTHER BOARDS

Denis Brosnan	Chairman
John McStay	Vice Chairman Racing Regulatory Body
Bernard Caldwell	Representative of persons employed directly in the industry
Noel Cloake	Representative of persons employed in the industry
Michael Doyle	Racing Regulatory Body representative
William Flood	Racing Regulatory Body representative
Joe Hernon	Breeders representative
Francis Hyland	On-course Bookmakers representative
Noel Meade	Trainers representative
Michael Murphy	Racecourses representative
Jim Nicholson	Representative of persons in the industry in Northern Ireland
Mary O'Connor	Racing Regulatory Body representative
John Power	Owners representative
Roddy Ryan	Racing Regulatory Body representative

APPOINTMENTS & REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

Denis Brosnan *Chairman*
John Power
Roddy Ryan

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Jim Nicholson *Chairman*
Francis Hyland
Liam Madden
Mary O'Connor

BOOKMAKERS COMMITTEE

John Moloney *Chairman*
Bernard Caldwell
Raymond Horan
Mary O'Connor

FAIRYHOUSE COMMITTEE

Pat Byrne *Chairman*
George Mernagh
Michael J Murphy
Noel Meade
Bernard Caldwell
Eamon Duignan
Joe Keeling
Dara Mullen

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Denis Brosnan *Chairman*
John McStay
John Power
Roddy Ryan
Michael Murphy
Brian Kavanagh



NOEL MEADE

JOE HERNON

JOHN POWER

BERNARD CALDWELL

RODDY RYAN

MARY O'CONNOR

NOEL CLOAKE

JIM NICHOLSON

FOAL LEVY COMMITTEE

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Bernard Caldwell
 Roddy Ryan
 Joe Shorthall
 Tim O'Regan
 Joe Foley
 Ignatius Geraghty
 Edmund Loder
 William Flood

FIXTURES COMMITTEE

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Noel Cloake
 Michael Murphy
 Michael Doyle
 Noel Meade
 Sue Phelan
 John Power

HRI RACECOURSES BOARD

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William Flood
 Joe Walsh
 Pat Byrne
 Dave McGrath
 Brian Kavanagh
 Tim Hyde

ITM COMMITTEE

Joe Heron *Chairman*

Joe Osborne
 David O'Loughlin
 Janet Williamson
 Jim Martin

Peter Molony

Joe Foley
 Noel Meade
 John Osborne

LEOPARDSTOWN COMMITTEE

Dave McGrath *Chairman*

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 Tom Taaffe
 John Oxx
 Liam Madden
 David Allman
 Hilary Gormley
 Mary O'Connor

MEDIA RIGHTS COMMITTEE

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Mary O'Connor
 John Power

NAVAN COMMITTEE

William Flood *Chairman*

Noel Cloake
 Janet Williamson
 Michael Cunningham
 Jimmy Owens
 Donal Matthews

PROGRAMMES COMMITTEE

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Noel Cloake
 Joe Heron
 Michael Murphy
 Noel Meade
 William Flood
 John Power

TOTE IRELAND

COMMITTEE

Jim Nicholson *Chairman*

Brian Kavanagh
 Pat Garvey
 Pat Kenny
 Pat Keogh

HRI NOMINATIONS / APPOINTMENTS

CORK

Joe Walsh *Chairman*

Raymond Horan

DUNDALK

Phil Furlong
 Ciaran Kennelly

IRISH EQUINE CENTRE

Joe Heron
 Margaret Davin
 Marcus Swail

PUNCESTOWN

David Mongey *Chairman*

Sandy Persse
 Dick O'Sullivan
 Nyall Speirs

RACE

Bernard Caldwell
 Margaret Davin
 David Wright

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



I am pleased to present the 2009 Annual Report for Horse Racing Ireland. The accounts and associated notes reflect a year in which the full impact of the recession was felt throughout the thoroughbred racing and breeding industry. All the key measures of performance declined by significant percentages ranging from attendances through on-course betting, prize money, ownership and bloodstock sales. Sales have now fallen from €179 million in 2007 to €67.5 million in 2009. This will have significant effects on economic life and employment in rural Ireland and sets back a previously thriving export business, wherein over 6,000 horses annually were exported to over 40 countries worldwide, with a value of more than €200 million.

The Dukes Report published in 2009 emphasised the scale and importance of this industry for the Irish economy, with a gross value in excess of €1.1 billion per annum and almost 16,000 jobs distributed across every county in Ireland.

This economic impact is well understood by the Government and happily they are working with us on solutions for the funding of the industry. All parties are determined to restore a proper basis for long-term planning and development to restore and grow the economic contribution of the Industry to the rural economy and the agricultural sector.

In presenting these accounts, I thank the Minister



and his officials in the Department of Arts Sport and Tourism for their consistent support and advice. I thank all of my colleagues on the Board of Horse Racing Ireland and the Executive Team lead by Brian Kavanagh, along with those who have given generously of their time and expertise on our subsidiary boards and committees. It is an honour

and a privilege to serve as Chairman of such a dedicated Board and Executive Team, whose talents and hard work will be needed to bring us through these difficult times and restore growth and vitality to the sector.

Denis Brosnan



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



The Irish Horse Racing Industry saw a further decline in the sector's key performance indicators in 2009, as the full effects of the recession hit home in all areas of the industry. While we had experienced the beginnings of a down-turn in 2008 with falls in bloodstock sales, attendances and on-course betting, we were still able to maintain record numbers of fixtures, races, runners and owners. All these factors declined in 2009, representing the most difficult year in Irish racing since the inception of HRI in 2001.

Prize money, which is a vital catalyst for economic activity in the industry, driving investment in bloodstock and giving incentives to put horses into training, fell by 12% in 2009 to €52.9 million. Attendances at the 26 racecourses fell by 11% from 1.4 million to 1.2 million. The level of participation in racing dropped for the first time in many years with a 10% decline in the overall number of owners and most worryingly, a 28% reduction in the number of new owners. This fall in participation has knock-on effects throughout the business and we witnessed a decline in bloodstock sales at public auction of 32% to €67.5 million, representing 62% overall from sales of €179 million in 2007.

Ireland has built up an enviable reputation as one of the best countries in the world in which to breed, own, train and sell thoroughbred horses and we will need to work together to maintain that status in the face of growing competition from larger and well-resourced racing nations.

The Dukes Report which was published in 2009 emphatically underlined the contribution of the Industry which amounts to €1.1 billion gross value per annum. The 16,000 jobs in the industry are distributed across rural Ireland and this sustains a unique indigenous skills base which attracts foreign direct investment in the industry and opens up career opportunities for Irish horse people throughout the world. By the end of 2009 however, we estimate that some 1500 jobs have been lost in the sector. At year's end, we also had to announce further cutbacks across all areas of activity including racecourse improvements and capital development projects.

Thoroughbred horse exports of over 6,000 animals, worth in excess of €200 million annually, represent over 10% of Irish livestock output. Despite the recession, buyers from over 40 countries worldwide continue to look to Ireland to buy their horses. In 2009 the top three horses in the world were Irish-bred and

four of the top five were from Irish-bred sires. For an unprecedented 19 consecutive years, an Irish based stallion has been the leading sire in the world. Sea The Stars emerged as the Champion of the World, a horse that was sired, foaled, reared and trained in Kildare, where he is now retired to stud, attracting mares from the world's top breeders to Ireland.

We continue to be the largest producer of thoroughbred foals in Europe and second only to America and Australia in the world.

The racecourse is the proving ground of the thoroughbred and in 2009 Irish trainers, riders and horses continued their long winning streak. We achieved a remarkable nine winners at the Cheltenham Festival in March and on the flat we dominated the major European races.

Irish horses filled the first four places in the English 2,000 Guineas, the first five in the Epsom Derby, a one-two in the Coral Eclipse at the entire field of the Juddmonte International at York. Yeats won a record breaking fourth Ascot Gold Cup. Sea The Stars topped off a remarkable series of six Group One race wins in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe and joined the ranks of the greatest racehorses of all time.

Those successes are the result of many years of investment and development, but we now face the future with some trepidation given continuing threats to funding for the Industry. That fall-off restricts our ability to plan and creates a danger that our best horses and people will again move to other countries which have secure long-term funding mechanisms linked to their betting industries.

We are working closely with Government, emphasising the fact that the Irish betting industry, which turned over €1 billion in 2002, generating €68 million in duty, now turns over approx €4.5 billion and generates only €31 million in duty. While reduced exchequer funding is both unavoidable and understandable in the current climate, it is extraordinary to note that betting in Ireland is effectively tax-free for customers and the rate paid by betting shops is half that in the UK. Betting continues to be actively routed off-shore at an accelerating rate, meaning further loss of revenue to the State. As betting tax is the basis for the funding of Irish horse-racing, the short-fall brought about by the combination of low-tax and off-shore betting has been supplemented by central exchequer funding, which is not acceptable to any of the stakeholders in the current economic

situation. All parties recognise that stability and security needs to be restored so that the industry can regain and sustain its ability to contribute to the overall national welfare.

I would like to pay tribute to the Minister for Arts Sport and Tourism and his officials for their active support

and advice throughout the year. I also thank the staff of HRI and its subsidiaries for their dedication and their perseverance through challenging times. Their skills and experience give us great confidence in the future.

Brian Kavanagh



FINANCE REVIEW

The financial results continue to be satisfactory for 2009.

Within the year, a group surplus of €4.615m arises

primarily due to a decrease in total expenditure for the Group with a reduction in Capital Development Fund Grants payments. In addition to this, other income decreased in 2009.

GROUP INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Turnover for the year was down 16% or €10.5m to €54.8m compared to €65.3m in 2008. The turnover decrease is primarily due to the Tote decreasing by 15% or €7.4m. Income from bookmakers and Betting Exchanges also showed a substantial decrease of 38% or €1.6m. The income from On-Course Bookmakers' betting and Pitch charges is paid back to the relevant racecourses. This amounted to €1.7m in 2009 down from €1.85m the previous year.

The number of fixtures in 2009 has increased by 3 over 2008 or 1% to a figure of 345. 22 of these fixtures were run in Northern Ireland. The numbers of Races run in 2009 decreased by 10 to 2,444 down from 2,454 in 2008.

Complete statistics for Irish Racing are available in the Horse Racing Ireland Fact book 2009 and on the web site www.goracing.ie.

OTHER INCOME

Other income has decreased by €9m or 9% to €89m. There was a decrease in the Horse and Greyhound Racing Fund in 2009 of €6.5m (10.7%) to €54.502m in 2009. Foal Levy contributions were down 14% in 2009. There was a decrease in the number of foals registered in 2009 of 18% (10,167

in 2009 compared to 12,419 in 2008). Registrations Income was down €178k or 5% from the previous year. Other income in the year increased by €2.750m which relates to a grant receivable. Media income increased by €228k in 2009 but interest income dropped by €930k.





PRIZE MONEY

The total prize money of €54m showed a decrease of €7.6m from the prior year total of €61.6m. The number of fixtures in 2009 had increased by 1% from the previous year. The contribution from

owners was down by €2.6m from the prior year. Sponsor contributions decreased by €1.2m and HRI's contribution to prizemoney decreased by €3.8m to €31.4m in 2009.

EXPENDITURE

Other Group Expenditure at €29m was down €10m or 25% from the 2008 figure of €38.9m. The main decrease reflects a reduction of €7.6m in Capital Grants paid to third party Racecourses.

Integrity and Racecourse Services costs decreased by 9.5% or €1m in 2009. This is mainly due to various cost reducing measures put in place in 2009.

Payments made to Racecourses for various programmes increased by 39% to €4.8m in 2009. This was primarily due to an increase in the racecourse improvement scheme. Payments for this scheme commenced during 2008 and it is now a closed scheme.

Grants/Fees paid to Industry Bodies showed little move year on year. Grants paid to RACE, which is the training body for industry employees,

amounted to €600k and grants paid to the Irish Equine Centre totalled €738k. Both of these grants showed no change in 2009.

Distributions made under the Foal Levy Scheme in 2009 decreased by €183k in 2009 to €1.591m. The main third party beneficiaries in 2009 were as in previous years, the Irish Equine Centre and Irish Thoroughbred Breeders Association.

Administration costs have decreased by €761k or 12%. Departmental running costs have decreased in 2009 due to a number of cost reducing exercises as well as a reduction in FRS 17 charges in pension cost.

General Marketing and Promotional costs were down €834k. This is mainly due to a decrease in total activity costs which is primarily due to a reduction in promotional activity.

GROUP CASH FLOW

Group cash flow from operations amounted to an inflow of €0.776m. The net cash inflow from returns on investments and servicing of finance amounted to €0.380m giving a total cash inflow of €1.044m after taxation paid of €112k. The Group had payments to acquire fixed assets totalling €1.1m

in 2009. Net cash inflow before financing totalled €0.383m for 2009. Group Bank loan repayments amounted to €5,508m in the year and bank loans drawn down in the period amounted to €1.900m for capital development programmes. This resulted in a decrease in cash for 2009 of €3,225m.

MARKETING REVIEW

Like many other companies, 2009 proved to be a very challenging period for HRI Marketing in terms of falling attendances, budget cuts and weather conditions. In light of the reduction in funding to the industry announced in Budget 2009, HRI Marketing budget was significantly reduced, these cuts principally coming from the cancellation of a new TV advertising campaign, the 'Go Racing' Ploughing Championship exhibition and our Cheltenham Festival corporate and public relations activity.

With these cuts in mind, the focus of HRI Marketing was to concentrate on maintaining racecourse attendances through our racecourse marketing support scheme while still specifically targeting our key customer segments – socialisers, horse lovers, punters and tourists. From a public relations perspective, the focus was to promote the heroes of the turf by increasing the profiles of our Jockeys & Trainers. A key objective was to maintain awareness of the industry's contribution to Ireland's economy and the 22,000 jobs that the racing industry has created, directly and indirectly, in many rural areas.

Based on the racecourse marketing support strategy, HRI produced a number of radio ads targeted at socialisers, horse lovers/punters and festival goers. These ads were rolled out throughout the year, keeping the profile of Irish racing at a consistent level throughout the regions.

In May 2009 Johnny Murtagh was announced as the first HRI Flat Ambassador and, subsequently in November 2009, Willie Mullins was appointed as HRI National Hunt Ambassador. Their remits were largely the same namely to promote racing to a younger audience, give racegoers an in-depth, behind-the-scenes look at their daily routines which in turn would encourage racecourse attendances. The "Ambassador" concept generated much coverage and moved these two racing stars from the sports sections of all various media to the mainstream social and news channels.

In addition to our existing social media campaigns already in place on our website, Facebook and Twitter, both HRI Ambassadors established a dedicated Facebook page which allowed them to communicate with many racegoers and potential audiences who increasingly use these platforms for information and entertainment purposes. To date, they have both amassed nearly 8000 Facebook followers.

The joint quantitative research project, conducted with our colleagues in Failte Ireland to determine the number of British and overseas visitors attending race meetings in Ireland, was completed in May 2009. As part of the research, a detailed questionnaire was

addressed to overseas visitors at race meetings and 638 interviews were completed in total. Observation studies also recorded the number of Irish attendees to provide a representational context. Over 6000 observation records were made in total. The results were very positive for Irish Racing and Failte Ireland. The key summary and conclusions from the research included:

- Overseas visitors comprised of 9% of total attendees as Irish Race meetings during 2008/2009. This translates to approximately 123,129 attendances from June 2008 to May 2009, with the average overseas racecourse visitor attending 1.8 days of racing during their 9 day trip to Ireland
- Three quarters of overseas visitors come from either the UK (60%) or the USA (14%)
- About 1 in 4 overseas visitors claim attending a race meeting was the primary reason for the trip. Additionally, half of all overseas visitors now state that they are very likely to attend a race meeting during further trips to Ireland
- When average spend is calculated by individual overseas visitors (average: €2,028), the estimated annual expenditure is €130 million

In addition to the research, HRI Marketing continued to work very closely with Failte Ireland to develop on-going training programmes for all racecourse staff on a wide variety of topics, all which are focused on improving the customer experience for racegoers.

In December, the annual HRI Awards were held in the Leopardstown Pavilion. This was the seventh year of the awards which is voted on by the Irish Racing Media to recognise excellence in the sport of Irish horse racing on the national and international stage.

HRI recognised the importance of sponsorship to Irish racing in recent years and in order to protect the historically healthy levels of race sponsorship, HRI Marketing developed a Business-to-Business sponsorship direct mail campaign promoting the many cost-effective benefits race sponsorship can offer companies. This campaign was launched in November/December and was very effective in securing strong sponsorship leads for a variety of racecourses and signed sponsorship contracts.

Overall, HRI Marketing in 2009, in co-operation with our racecourse colleagues, delivered a focused, cost-effective campaign to maintain attendances while targeting our key consumer segments.

TOTE REVIEW 2009

The Tote's performance in 2009 was disappointing. Turnover declined by 15% for the year, primarily due to a decline in attendances, general weak economic conditions and a poor run of weather. Overall revenues declined from €49.2 million to €41.8 million, the adverse conditions particularly affecting on course revenue which declined by €7.5 million.

Betting by Tote Account holders declined by 21%, with a particularly noticeable decline in the value of the average bet amount placed with the Tote. The "Tote Price Promise", which guarantees Account Holders the better of Tote Odds or the Bookmakers' SP, continues to be very popular with the Account customers. The Internet side of the business showed a marginal increase over the previous year.

Betting from third parties such as the UK Tote (and their bookmaker partners), the French Tote (PMU) and

a number of other international Totes (including Totes in the US, Germany, Netherlands and South Africa) totalled €15.0m, which represented growth of 11.9%. This proved to be the one really strong aspect of the business with betting from some of the overseas partners showing significant growth over the period.

Tote Ireland signed a new contract with Scientific Games. Scientific Games won the tender process run to operate and develop the Tote system. This will offer new product opportunity and allow new self vend offerings to be rolled out in 2010 and 2011.

Gross profit for the year decreased to €6.7m from €8.9m. Costs declined by €1.9m with a major pruning in costs in all areas of the business taking effect. This major overhaul in cost reduction is part of an on-going reappraisal of costs, the benefit of which will continue to bear fruit over the coming years.



HRI RACECOURSE DIVISION

2009 was the fourth year of operations for the HRI Racecourse Division (HRI Racecourses Limited) which is responsible for:

- Leopardstown
- Fairyhouse
- Navan
- Tipperary

The racecourses are supported by centralised resources from HRI's headquarters at Ballymany, the Curragh, Co. Kildare – Finance, Strategic Planning and Management, Human Resources, Training and IT.

The Racecourses felt the full effects of the recession as total attendances fell by 9% across the combined tracks (down 10% per meeting average attendance) in line with the national trend. There were losses in all customer types but the revenue effect was most keenly felt in the corporate market for sponsorship and hospitality. Sports club and charity fundraisers, a staple

of raceday hospitality, virtually disappeared.

Despite this, the tracks continued to market themselves aggressively and particularly in Leopardstown and Fairyhouse, to create new events, enhance the raceday experience and increase overall use of the facilities.

There was a determined effort to manage costs across the four courses. The racecourse division has focused on creating lean, sales-oriented teams to pursue all business leads and to be prepared for the upturn.

With 74 fixtures compared to 73 in 2008, HRI Racecourses had 21% of the national total and their combined attendance of 259,400 was also 21% of the national total.

Tote betting across the combined tracks amounted to €9,126,000 while bookmaker turnover came to €34,530,000, showing declines of 15% and 25% respectively.

LEOPARDSTOWN

Leopardstown staged 23 race meetings in 2009, comprised of 8 National Hunt and 15 Flat fixtures, with overall attendances of 140,723 down 10% on 2008.

Tote Betting for the year amounted to €5,034,758 while Bookmaker turnover came to €17,099,157, declines of 15% and 26% respectively.

As with 2008, trading conditions were very difficult in 2009 with Corporate Hospitality business being severely affected by the economic downturn. However, the introduction of innovative “value” hospitality packages for events like the Christmas festival helped to offset this somewhat and proved very popular with customers.

On the race sponsorship front, the most significant developments were the Toshiba sponsorship of the Champion Hurdle and Bord Na Mona taking over sponsorship of the St Stephens Day meeting.

The Summer Evening Racing/Music events received a

major boost when Bulmers was secured as overall series sponsor. As a consequence, more high profile bands were secured and additional investment in building the customer experience was possible. The series was very well received and the final evening meeting in August attracted an attendance of 7,500 for racing followed by “The Saw Doctors” in concert.

For followers of flat racing the highlight of the year was the stunning performance of World Champion racehorse ‘Sea the Stars’ in the Tattersalls Millions Irish Champion Stakes on Saturday 5th September.

Leopardstown Golf made a very satisfactory profit contribution in 2009. Despite the economic downturn, income from Green Fees and the Driving Range held up remarkably well. The affiliation with the ILGU has proven very popular with Lady Golfers and will continue to be of benefit in the forthcoming years. The central and scenic location of Leopardstown Golf Course on the outskirts of Dublin city also proved a real benefit.



FAIRYHOUSE

There were 22 fixtures in Fairyhouse in 2009, comprised of 17 National Hunt and 5 Flat fixtures, six of which were run on re-scheduled dates due to adverse weather. Amongst the higher profile meetings lost was Sunday of the Winter Festival featuring three Grade 1 races. This followed the Saturday of the same meeting where visibility was severely constrained due to heavy fog resulting in very poor attendance. Three meetings were also re-scheduled during the late January/ early February period out of a total of 5 scheduled during those months.

The highlight of the calendar was the annual Easter festival which took place on 12th to 14th April 2009. Attendances for the festival were 28,263 (3 days) v 31,868 (4 days in 2008). The highlight of the meeting, the Powers Whiskey Irish Grand National, was won by Niche Market who was trained in the UK by Bob Buckler and ridden by Harry Skelton on his first ride in Ireland. The Grade 1 Powers Gold Cup, the feature race

on Sunday's card was won by Aran Concerto, trained by Noel Meade and the Ladbrokes Hurdle, the highlight of Easter Tuesday's card, saw the same handler send out Fisher Bridge to secure a notable big race double.

During 2009, Fairyhouse carried out significant improvements to its internal roadways and the main avenues. Once again, Fairyhouse continued to exploit its position as a concert venue playing host to a number of small concerts during the year. The Sunday Market continues to be a key contributor to Fairyhouse attracting very large crowds to the venue every Sunday.

Overall attendances were 61,287, a decrease of 7.5%, which was to be expected given the severe interruptions to the fixture list due to weather. Tote betting amounted to €2,294,500 and bookmaker turnover was €9,016,500 representing a decrease of 17.6% and 27% respectively.

NAVAN

Navan raced 17 times in 2009 comprising of 11 National Hunt (decrease of 1 from 2008) and 6 Flat meetings (an increase of 1 from 2008). Despite the inclement weather Navan fulfilled its full programme of racing. Overall attendances for the year were 37,636 a decrease of 15% on last year. Navan reduced admission prices from €18 to €15 for the winter racing programme and offered more discounted packages for both groups and individuals.

Tote betting amounted to €1,168,000 while bookmaker turnover came to €17,099,157 declines of c. 18% in both categories.

Navan has undergone significant re-structuring and cost cutting during the year without negative impact on its

racing product or customer experience. There have been significant changes in the public areas of the racecourse to improve the overall comfort and seating available to customers. Navan has a loyal customer base and we are actively trying to attract new customers and to cater for the needs of all those that attend.

Navan Golf Course had a difficult trading year in 2009. Green Fees income was hard hit by both the economic downturn and periods of inclement weather. Golf membership also declined. To compensate for loss in the number of full members a number of new style memberships were introduced, some of which proved popular. To compensate for the drop in income a major cost reduction plan was also put in place.

TIPPERARY

In 2009 Tipperary staged 12 of its 13 scheduled cards with a reduction to 2 in the number of mixed cards while there were 5 flat and 5 national hunt cards.

Overall attendances for the year were 19,712 compared to 19,586 in 2008 (12 versus 11 meetings) a decrease in average attendance of 8% on last year.

Tote betting amounted to €625,600 while bookmaker turnover came to €2,232,000 declines of 5% and 35% respectively, averaged per race-meeting.

The featured National Hunt race of the year was won by Go Native who went on to win the Fighting Fifth hurdle and the Christmas hurdle at Kempton before starting favourite for the Champion hurdle.

The racecourse improvement scheme allowed renovation of the self service restaurant and a

refurbishment of the High Chaparral Room. The lorry park and stable yard were also resurfaced with additional drainage installed.

Tipperary Racecourse entered the Guinness Book of Records for the second successive year when 825 people rocked the boat at our South Tipperary Mental Health awareness day in August.

On Easter Sunday the Tipperary Vintage Club ran a very successful vintage rally which raised over €30,000 for South Tipperary Hospice and attracted a crowd of over 3,500.

Tipperary Show continues to thrive and the Scarteen Pony Club has committed to developing the car park area of the racecourse for their benefit and this should hopefully lead to stronger links between the younger generation and the racecourse.

IRISH THOROUGHBRED MARKETING REVIEW

2009 was another challenging year for the global bloodstock industry. In the midst of one of the deepest recessions the country has ever faced, the Irish bloodstock sector was certainly not immune to such economic conditions. In spite of this, people still traded horses and business continued, albeit at a reduced level.

The total value of bloodstock sold at public auction in 2009 fell sharply for the second successive year amounting to a figure 32% lower to that of 2008. A 38% decrease in the number of horses offered for sale was also a contributory factor in the drop of overall turnover. This decrease in the number of horses offered for sale would suggest the recent issue of over-production was sorting itself out.

There were some positives during the sales calendar. The November sale of breeding stock at Goffs experienced a healthy level of trade. This sale has benefited from considerable investment from Indian, Turkish, Moroccan, UK, French and Italian breeders and it has become an important export sale for Irish stud farms. ITM have invested significant resources in developing the Turkish and Indian markets over the past five years, and this investment is now definitely paying off. It is even more important to maintain and develop these markets in the coming years, especially India. Given the size and scale of the country it has great scope and potential to remain an integral importer of Irish bloodstock.

The year began off the back of a very successful 2008 for both Irish racing and breeding. This success for Irish bred and trained horses continued throughout the year. Irish bred horses won 14 of the 26 races run at the 2009 Cheltenham Festival. Overall, Irish bred horses won 45% of the Grade 1 National Hunt races run in Ireland and Britain during the 2008/9 season.

On the flat, success for both Irish bred and trained

horses was even more evident. Three of the top five horses in the World Thoroughbred Rankings were both bred and trained in Ireland. For the second year in succession the World Champion Racehorse was bred and trained in Ireland. The Champion Sea The Stars became one of the greatest racehorses of all time, winning six Group 1 races in succession. These races included the 2,000 Guineas and the Epsom Derby and culminated with a stunning victory in the Prix De L'Arc in Paris. He was expertly handled by John Oxx throughout his career and the association between Sea The Stars and jockey Michael Kinane provided the veteran jockey with a fitting way to bring the curtain down on his marvellous career. Sea The Stars has remained in Ireland and has begun his new career as a stallion at Gilltown Stud, hence we can look forward to his progeny competing in years to come.

Throughout the year the ITM team maintained a busy schedule of market visits. These trips incorporate race sponsorships, government trade missions, bloodstock auctions, and attending racing festivals. The team were active in a number of countries around the world including USA, South Africa, Hong Kong, Japan, the Middle East, Australasia, India, Turkey, Morocco, Eastern Europe, and Mainland Europe. Race sponsorships included key races at Newmarket, York and Salisbury. Involvement with these races enables ITM and representatives of the Irish sales companies to make contact with both existing and new clients of the Irish bloodstock industry at a time when the major Irish bloodstock sales are approaching. ITM also continued its association with Cheltenham Racecourse, sponsoring the 'Ownership Experience'. This association provides ITM a considerable presence at the home of British national hunt racing and it allows ITM direct access to their target market.

On the staffing front, Eamonn Cullen left ITM to take up a similar role in South Africa. He has subsequently been replaced by Caroline Kennedy.



2009 RACING REVIEW

2009 was another year of tremendous success for the Irish racing industry on the racetrack, with nine Irish trained winners at the Cheltenham Festival and continued international domination on the flat, capped by Sea The Stars being crowned the year's World Champion Racehorse. The year was also noticeable for the retirement of jockey Mick Kinane, one of the all-time greats of the weighing room. The profile of the 50-year-old had never been higher thanks to his stunningly successful partnership with Sea The Stars and it was very much a case of him going out at the very top.

On a sadder note, Vincent O'Brien, generally acknowledged as the greatest racehorse trainer of all time, passed away at his home in County Kildare at the age of 92 following a short illness. His achievements in racing are too extensive to list but he will be remembered for his domination of the National Hunt game in the earlier part of his career, followed by his setting up of the world renowned training complex at Ballydoyle and subsequent domination of the Flat racing scene, helping make Ireland the world leader in horse racing that it is today.

The racing year started with Pierse Hurdle in early January which is always one of the most competitive handicap hurdles of the season. The 2009 renewal produced a shock result with the Liz Doyle-trained Penny's Bill running out the 50/1 winner under Sean Flanagan. At the latter end of the month, Thomas O'Leary was the toast of Gowran Park having sent out Priests Leap to win the featured Ellen Construction Thyestes Chase for the second year in succession with Philip Enright again in the saddle. Without doubt the most memorable performance of the month came courtesy of the incomparable Brave Inca, who rolled back the years to gain his second win in the Grade 1 Toshiba Irish Champion Hurdle at Leopardstown. Ridden by Ruby Walsh, the 11-year-old profited from a positive ride to prevail from Muirhead, gaining his

tenth Grade 1 victory for Colm Murphy and sealing his place as one of the legends of Irish hurdling.

One of Ireland's top meetings is always the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup fixture at Leopardstown in February and the feature race saw the Paul Nicholls-trained Neptune Collonges gain compensation for his fall over the same course and distance in the Lexus Chase at Christmas. That formed one half of a Grade 1 double for Ruby Walsh, who had earlier won the Dr P J Moriarty Chase on the Willie Mullins-trained Cooldine. The other Grade 1 on the card, the Deloitte Novice Hurdle, witnessed a dramatic finish with the Willie Mullins-trained Cousin Vinny unseating Patrick Mullins when travelling strongly in a narrow lead at the final flight, leaving the Noel Meade-trained, Paul Carberry-ridden Pandorama to record a ten length success.

At the Cheltenham Festival in March the Irish made an electric start to proceedings, winning four of the six races on the opening day of the festivities. The Noel Meade-trained Go Native got the ball rolling by winning the Supreme Novice Hurdle under Paul Carberry before Forpadydeplasterer took the Arkle Challenge Trophy for Tom Cooper and Barry Geraghty. Enda Bolger saddled a remarkable 1-2-3 in the Glenfarclas Cross Country Chase, which was led home by Garde Champetre and Nina Carberry, while the Irish day was completed in impressive fashion with the wide-margin win of the Willie Mullins-trained Quevega in the concluding David Nicholson Mares' Hurdle under Ruby Walsh.

The Irish continued their domination of the Cheltenham Festival on the second day of the meeting, winning four of the seven races on the card. Ruby Walsh stole the show with a Grade 1 treble, with two of the wins coming for Willie Mullins on Mikael D'Haguenet in the Ballymore Novices' Hurdle and Cooldine in the RSA Chase. Tom Taaffe and Paddy Flood also got on the score sheet with the win of Ninetieth



Minute in the Coral Cup Handicap Hurdle before the Irish haul was topped off with the impressive win of the Philip Fenton-trained Dinguib in the Wetherbys Champion Bumper. The remaining Irish-trained winner at Cheltenham came courtesy of the Charles Byrnes-trained, Davy Russell-ridden Weapon's Amnesty in the Albert Bartlett Novices' Hurdle on Friday.

The Aintree Grand National Festival took centre stage in the opening days of April and the Aintree Hurdle produced a big result for Ireland with the Charles Byrnes-trained Solwhit leading home a memorable Irish one-two. Ridden by Davy Russell, the five-year-old battled gamely to beat the Willie Mullins-trained Fivefourthree by half a length. After the conclusion of Aintree, attentions were quickly returned to more domestic affairs and the featured Powers Whiskey Irish Grand National at Fairyhouse on Easter Monday saw the 33/1 shot Niche Market claiming the spoils for England.

Ruby Walsh stole the show on the opening day of the Punchestown Festival, claiming two of the three Grade 1 events on the card, including the Evening Herald Champion Novice Hurdle on the immensely exciting Hurricane Fly for Willie Mullins. The Punchestown Guinness Gold Cup was the main event on the second day of the Punchestown Festival and it produced a very popular winner in the shape of the Jim Dreaper-trained Notre Pere. Ridden by Andrew Lynch, the eight-year-old forged clear to prevail by thirteen lengths.

Willie Mullins ran riot at Punchestown on the Thursday of the meeting, completing a remarkable four-timer that included both Grade 1 events on the card. His unbelievable run of form continued on the Friday with him saddling a treble, all ridden by Ruby Walsh, the highlight being his 1-2 in the Grade 1 Land Rover Champion Novice Hurdle with Mikael D'Haguenet leading home Cousin Vinny. The other Grade 1 on the card was the Rabobank Champion Hurdle and it witnessed a thrilling finish with the Charles Byrnes-trained Solwhit seeing off the challenge of the Champion Hurdle hero Punjabi by a short-head under Davy Russell.

At the conclusion of another highly-successful Punchestown Festival, An Taoiseach Brian Cowen made the presentation to the 2008/9 National Hunt Champions. Willie Mullins was crowned Champion

Trainer to add to his three previous titles, while Ruby Walsh claimed his seventh Champion Jockey title, his fifth in a row. In the Champion Owner title, J.P. McManus once again prevailed, while Patrick Mullins made it two in a row in the race for the Champion Qualified Rider title, breaking Ted Walsh's post war record for the number of winners ridden by an amateur in a season. Alain Cawley took the Champion Claiming Professional title with 29 wins.

With the National Hunt season just concluded, the Flat season well and truly sprung to life over at Newmarket with John Oxx and Mick Kinane teaming up with the exceptionally well-bred Sea The Stars to win the 2000 Guineas, with three of his four immediate pursuers also being trained in Ireland. The first Irish Classics took place towards the back end of the month and Aidan O'Brien and Johnny Murtagh got off the Classic mark for the season at the Curragh, teaming up with Mastercraftsman to record a wide-margin success in the Boylesports.com Irish 2,000 Guineas. The following day, David Wachman combined with Johnny Murtagh to gain the first Classic win of his career in the Boylesports.com Irish 1,000 Guineas with Again.

In June, Irish-trained horses once again dominated the Epsom Derby. The John Oxx-trained Sea The Stars led home the charge under Mick Kinane to complete the first Newmarket 2000 Guineas/Epsom Derby double since Nashwan in 1989. The next four positions behind the winner were occupied by horses trained by Aidan O'Brien, with Fame And Glory and Seamie Heffernan faring best of the Tipperary contingent.

Over at Royal Ascot, Aidan O'Brien and Johnny Murtagh teamed up with Mastercraftsman in the St James's Palace Stakes to get Ireland off the mark on the opening day of the meeting. Two days later, the remarkable Yeats deservedly earned his place in the history books as one of the best ever stayers by winning his fourth consecutive Ascot Gold Cup. Aidan O'Brien produced the eight-year-old in tremendous form on the day and he never looked in danger of being caught under Johnny Murtagh.

Back on the domestic scene at the Curragh, the Dubai Duty Free Irish Derby had a familiar look to it, with Fame And Glory leading home a Ballydoyle 1-2 under Johnny Murtagh. Murtagh had a straightforward passage through the race, bidding his time



as his pacemakers cut out the donkey work before quickening right away from his rivals in the final furlong to record an easy success.

In mid-July, the 2009 renewal of the Darley Irish Oaks will be remembered for the supreme confidence shown by Jamie Spencer aboard the Michael Bell-trained Sariska, with both horse and rider oozing class as they cruised up to the hard-driven Roses For The Lady before sauntering past with Spencer sitting motionless. Later in July, Aidan O'Brien saddled a 1-2 in the Camas Park & Ashtown House Phoenix Stakes, with Alfred Nobel and Johnny Murtagh leading home Air Chief Marshal under trainer's son, Joseph O'Brien. The Group 1 action in July was concluded with the Aidan O'Brien-trained Rip Van Winkle producing an impressive winning performance in the Sussex Stakes at Glorious Goodwood.

At the back end of the month, the Galway Festival was kicked off in familiar fashion with Dermot Weld making a typically fast start to proceedings, saddling Ghimaar to win the featured Carlton.ie/galwaycity Handicap on the opening day of the festivities. The Tote Galway Mile was the main event on the Tuesday and it was the father and son team of Tony and Danny Mullins who scooped the substantial pot courtesy of the highly-progressive Rock And Roll Kid.

The William Hill Galway Plate is always one of the highlights of the entire Galway Festival and it produced an exciting conclusion with the Colin McBratney-trained Ballyholland emerging on top under Andrew McNamara. The following day, the Arthur Guinness Galway Hurdle was the main attraction and it was the Pat Flynn-trained Bahrain Storm that ran out the shock 20/1 winner under Stephan Gray and the six-year-old was not finished yet, as he turned up at the track again the very next day to win a race on the Flat.

The highlight of August unquestionably came when the John Oxx-trained Sea The Stars cemented his position as one of the best horses in living memory by winning the Juddmonte International at York under Mick Kinane. In the previous number of months, Gary Carroll had rapidly evolved into one of the fastest-rising stars in the Irish weighing room and he announced his arrival onto the international scene in no uncertain terms by riding the Willie Mullins-trained Sesenta to success in the Totesport Ebor also at York.

In the middle part of the month, there was a notable runner in the listed Vincent O'Brien Memorial Ruby Stakes at Killarney with Four Winds providing the Queen and Michael Bell with their first runner at the Co. Kerry track. However, the three-year-old found the Aidan O'Brien-trained Poet just too good on the day. In the second half of the month, the inclement weather produced heavy ground for the final domestic Group 1 of the month, the Moyglare Stud Stakes at the Curragh, and it produced a shock result with the 16/1 shot Termagant running out the authoritative winner for Kevin Prendergast and Declan McDonogh.

Once again, the highlight of September was provided by the imperious Sea The Stars, who produced his best-ever performance to win the Tattersalls Millions Irish Champion Stakes at Leopardstown. Despite having no less than five Aidan O'Brien-trained runners to contend with, including the multiple Group 1-winners Mastercraftsman and Fame And Glory, Mick Kinane was always in cruise control on the eventual winner, taking up the running under hands-and-heels riding and stretching right away to win by 2¹/₂ lengths.

John Oxx and Mick Kinane continued their remarkably successful season with Alandi claiming Group 1 success in the Irish Field St. Leger at the Curragh. The other Group 1 on the card was the Ladbrokes.com Vincent O'Brien National Stakes and it witnessed a highly-promising winning effort from the Kevin Prendergast-trained Kingsfort under Declan McDonogh.

The Listowel Harvest Festival proved to be a great success for all concerned, with high attendances and betting figures, and the featured Guinness Kerry National was the highlight of the week's festivities with the Tony Martin-trained Northern Alliance emerging on top. The eight-year-old profited from a well-judged waiting ride from Ruby Walsh to beat Church Island by a length. Over at Ascot, the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes is always one of the top mile contests in the European racing calendar and it was the Aidan O'Brien-trained Rip Van Winkle that emerged on top.

October couldn't have been kicked off in any better style than with Sea The Stars confirming his position as one of the all-time greats with a scintillating win in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe at Longchamp. Sent off the odds-on favourite, the five-time Group 1-winning three-year-old produced a withering turn of foot to sprint



through the gaps as they opened and pull away from the field in powerful style to prevail by two lengths.

The month ended with the excellent news for the Irish breeding industry in that Sea The Stars would begin his stallion career at the Aga Khan's Gilltown Stud in Co. Kildare in 2010. The decision to stand him in Ireland was an endorsement of the country's place at the top of the thoroughbred horse breeding ranks. November began with the further good news that the famous silks of Sheikh Mohammed would be returning to Ireland following a decision to send twelve yearlings to six different trainers to be trained for the 2010 season.

Prior to this year's renewal of the Paddy Power Gold Cup at Cheltenham, Irish-trained horses had been winless in the race since 1980 but that was all changed courtesy of the Edward O'Grady-trained Tranquil Sea, who turned the highly-competitive handicap chase into a procession. The Grade 1 Dobbins & Madigans at Punchestown Hurdle produced a very impressive winner in the shape of the Charles Byrnes-trained Solwhit. There was another deeply-impressive performance on the card, with the Henry De Bromhead-trained Sizing Europe maintaining his unbeaten record over fences with a scintillating winning performance in the Grade 2 Craddockstown Novice Chase.

The month was wrapped up with Johnny Murtagh being crowned Champion Jockey in Ireland at Dundalk after Pat Smullen tried in vain to overhaul Murtagh's five-winner lead, with the final score being 93-88 in Murtagh's favour. It was a fourth championship for Murtagh but his first for eleven years following previous successes in 1995, 1996 and 1998.

December's racing action kicked off with a rescheduled card at Fairyhouse where the featured Bar One Racing Hatton's Grace Hurdle was won in game fashion by the Tom Mullins-trained Oscar Dan Dan under Davy Russell. However, the horse that was on everyone's lips before and after racing was the Philip Fenton-trained Dunguib, who justified his short price in great style in the Bar One Racing Royal Bond Novice Hurdle. The other Grade 1 on the card was the Bar One Racing Drinmore Novice Chase and it was the Noel Meade-trained Pandorama that landed the odds in authoritative fashion under Davy Condon. There

was further Grade 1 action just a few days later at Punchestown, with the latest renewal of the John Durkan Memorial Punchestown Chase producing a promising winning performance from the Paul Nolan-trained Joncol.

As usual, the Christmas period provided racing fans with a mouth-watering array of action, with Noel Meade-trained, Davy Condon-ridden Go Native gaining a narrow victory in the Christmas Hurdle at Kempton. Back on the domestic scene, the Grade 1 action at Leopardstown kicked off with the Henry De Bromhead-trained Sizing Europe scoring in the Bord Na Mona With Nature Novice Chase. The following day at the Foxrock venue, the Paddy Power Dial-A-Bet Chase took centre stage and it was the Willie Mullins-trained, Paul Townend-ridden Golden Silver that got the better of Tranquil Sea in a thrilling contest.

The penultimate day of the festivities at Leopardstown saw the Noel Meade-trained Pandorama win the featured Knight Frank Novice Chase under Davy Condon, while the following day the Lexus Chase was won by the Paul Nicholls-trained What A Friend. The other Grade 1 on the card was the Leopardstown Golf December Festival Hurdle and it saw the Charles Byrnes-trained Solwhit solidify his position as one of Ireland's leading hurdlers by recording an authoritative two lengths success under Davy Russell.

The seventh annual Irish Horse Racing Awards took place in the Pavilion at Leopardstown Racecourse in December and Sea The Stars beat off all other nominees to win 100% of the votes and another deserving award as the 2009 Horse of The Year. Champion NH Trainer Willie Mullins won the National Hunt Award for the first time, while trainer John Oxx won the Flat Award for his immense achievements with Sea The Stars and Alandi in 2009. The Outstanding Achievement Award was presented to Kevin Prendergast, whilst Derek O' Connor claimed the Point to Point Award for his third time. In addition to the five main categories, jockey Michael Kinane received the biggest ovation of the day when presented with the Contribution to the Industry Award to mark his retirement at the end of a glittering career in which he was a great ambassador for the sport, achieving a phenomenal degree of world-wide success at the very highest level.



AUDITED REPORTS & **GROUP FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

AUDITED REPORTS & GROUP FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MEMBERS AND OTHER INFORMATION

MEMBERS

Mr Denis Brosnan	Chairman
Mr Nicholas Wachman	(Retired 18/12/2009)
Mr John McStay	Vice Chairman
Mr Dermot Cantillon	(Retired 18/12/2009)
Mr Noel Cloake	
Mr Michael Doyle	
Mr William Flood	
Mr Joe Hernon	(Appointed 18/12/2009)
Mr Francis Hyland	
Mr Noel Meade	
Mr Michael Murphy	
Mr James Nicholson	
Ms Mary O'Connor	
Mr John Power	
Mr Bernard Caldwell	
Mr Roderick Ryan	(Appointed 18/12/2009)

REGISTERED OFFICE

Ballymany
The Curragh
Co Kildare

SECRETARY

Mr Raymond Horan

AUDITORS

Comptroller and Auditor General
Dublin Castle
Dublin 2

SOLICITORS

Arthur Cox
Earlsfort Centre
Earlsfort Terrace
Dublin 2

BANKERS

Bank of Ireland
AIB Bank
Ulster Bank
Anglo Irish Bank
KBC Bank Ireland plc

STATEMENT OF MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The members of Horse Racing Ireland are required to prepare financial statements in respect of the financial year ended 31st December 2009, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of Horse Racing Ireland and the group at the end of that year and of the result of the group for the year then ended. In preparing those financial statements, the members of Horse Racing Ireland are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that Horse Racing Ireland and the group will continue in business;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The members of Horse Racing Ireland are responsible for keeping proper books of account, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the group and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with accounting standards generally accepted in Ireland. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of Horse Racing Ireland and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Denis Brosnan,
Chairman
27th July 2010

John McStay,
Vice Chairman
27th July 2010

REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL FOR PRESENTATION TO THE HOUSES OF THE OIREACHTAS

I have audited the financial statements of Horse Racing Ireland for the year ended 31 December 2009 under the Horse and Greyhound Racing Act, 2001.

The financial statements, which have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein, comprise the Statement of Accounting Policies, the Group Income and Expenditure Account, the Group Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses, the Group Balance Sheet, Horse Racing Ireland Balance Sheet, the Group Cash Flow Statement and the related notes.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF HORSE RACING IRELAND AND THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL

Horse Racing Ireland is responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with the Horse and Greyhound Racing Act 2001 and for ensuring the regularity of transactions. Horse Racing Ireland prepares the financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland. The accounting responsibilities of the Members of Horse Racing Ireland are set out in the Statement of Members' Responsibilities.

My responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

I report my opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland. I also report whether in my opinion proper books of account have been kept. In addition, I state whether the financial statements are in agreement with the books of account.

I report any material instance where moneys have not been applied for the purposes intended or where the transactions do not conform to the authorities governing them.

I also report if I have not obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of my audit.

I review whether the Statement on Internal Financial Control reflects Horse Racing Ireland's compliance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies and report any material instance where it does not do so, or if the statement is misleading or inconsistent with other information of which I am aware from my audit of the financial statements. I am not required to consider whether the Statement on Internal Financial Control covers all financial risks and controls, or to form an opinion on the effectiveness of the risk and control procedures.

I read other information contained in the Annual Report, and consider whether it is consistent with the audited financial statements. I consider the implications for my report if I become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements.

BASIS OF AUDIT OPINION

In the exercise of my function as Comptroller and Auditor General, I conducted my audit of the financial statements in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board and by reference to the special considerations which attach to State bodies in

REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL FOR PRESENTATION TO THE HOUSES OF THE OIREACTHAS CONTINUED

relation to their management and operation. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures and regularity of the financial transactions included in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to Horse Racing Ireland's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

I planned and performed my audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations that I considered necessary in order to provide me with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming my opinion I also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

OPINION

In my opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland, of the state of the Group's and Horse Racing Ireland's affairs at 31 December 2009 and of the Group's income and expenditure for the year then ended.

In my opinion, proper books of account have been kept by Horse Racing Ireland. The financial statements are in agreement with the books of account.



John Buckley
Comptroller and Auditor General
29th July 2010

STATEMENT ON INTERNAL FINANCIAL CONTROL FOR HORSE RACING IRELAND FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

On behalf of the Board of HRI, I acknowledge our responsibility for ensuring that a system of internal financial control is operated and maintained.

The internal financial controls are such that they provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions are authorised and properly recorded and that any material errors or irregularities would be detected in a timely period.

The Board has taken steps to ensure an appropriate control environment is in place through

- A clearly defined Management Structure within Horse Racing Ireland and its subsidiaries with clarity on management responsibilities and powers.
- Developing a strong culture of accountability across all levels of the organisation.
- Establishment of formal procedures through various Committee functions to monitor activities and safeguard the assets of all companies within the organisation.
- Establishing procedures for reporting significant control failures and ensuring appropriate corrective action is taken. This includes an active Audit Committee, an Internal Audit function and regular reporting to the Board.

The implementation of a formal process to identify and evaluate organisation business risks is continuing.

The System of Internal Financial Control is built on a framework of

- Regular financial information.
- Administrative procedures including segregation of duties and responsibilities and a system of delegation and accountability.
- An annual budgeting system with the detailed review process by Executives and signed off by the Board.
- Regular reviews by the Board of regular financial reports and key performance activity with performance measured against forecasts.
- Clearly defined Capital Investment control procedures.
- Compliance with purchasing policies and procedures.

Horse Racing Ireland has an outsourced Internal Audit function which operates in accordance with the Framework Code of Best Practice set out in the Code of Practice on the Governance of State Bodies and which reports directly to the Audit Committee and in turn to the Board of HRI. The Internal Audit plans are carried out based on a risk analysis profile of activity and expenditure and the plans are pre approved by the Audit Committee on behalf of the Board. In 2009, three Audit Committee meetings were held and 17 separate reports presented.

For 2009, the head of Internal Audit provided the Board through the Audit Committee with a report on the Internal Audit activity for the year. This report includes the Head of Internal Audit's opinion on the HRI system of Internal Financial Control.

I confirm that in respect of the year to 31st December 2009 the Board conducted a review of the effectiveness of the system of Internal Financial Control.

Denis Brosnan,
Chairman
27th July 2010

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The significant accounting policies adopted by the group are as follows:

BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis, under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice. Financial reporting standards recommended by the recognised accounting bodies have been adopted as they become applicable. The unit of currency in which the financial statements are denominated is the Euro. The financial statements comprise the financial statements of Horse Racing Ireland and its subsidiaries.

BASIS OF CONSOLIDATION

The consolidated financial statements comprise the financial statements of Horse Racing Ireland and all of its subsidiaries made up to coterminous period ends.

TURNOVER

Turnover, which excludes inter group transactions with group subsidiaries, represents tote turnover, revenue from bookmakers' betting and revenue from race meetings and ancillary activities.

FIXED ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION

Fixed Assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation except for land which is stated at cost. Depreciation is provided so as to write-off the cost of the assets over their expected useful lives on the straight-line basis at the following annual rates:

Land	Nil
Buildings	2% to 4%
Plant, equipment and vehicles	7.5% to 33.33%

ACQUISITIONS

On the acquisition of a company or business, fair values reflecting conditions at the date of acquisition are attributed to the identifiable separable assets and liabilities acquired. Fair values of these assets and liabilities are determined by reference to market values, where available, or by reference to the current price at which similar assets could be acquired or similar obligations entered into, or by discounting expected future cash flows to present value, using either market rates or the risk-free rates and risk-adjusted expected future cash flows.

Where the fair value of the consideration paid exceeds the fair value of the identifiable separable assets and liabilities acquired, the difference is treated as purchased goodwill. Where the fair value of the separable net assets acquired exceeds the fair value of the consideration given, the difference is treated as negative goodwill. Negative goodwill is accounted for as indicated below.

GOODWILL

Negative goodwill arising on acquisitions is amortised to the profit and loss account over the year in which the non-monetary assets are realised either through depreciation or sale. Negative goodwill comprises the excess of the fair value of the assets acquired over the consideration.

FINANCIAL ASSETS

Financial assets are stated at cost less provision for any permanent diminution in value.

CONTRIBUTION TO PRIZE MONEY

Contributions to prize money are made by Owners, Sponsors and Horse Racing Ireland.

Contributions to prize money by Horse Racing Ireland are expensed in the period in which they are incurred.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES CONTINUED

The entrance fees, forfeits and sponsorship money for guaranteed value races are applied in funding prizemoney for such races. Where there is a surplus in any guaranteed value race this is used to fund any deficits in other such races at a subsequent time as directed by the Chief Executive of Horse Racing Ireland.

PENSIONS

Horse Racing Ireland has both defined contribution and defined benefit schemes.

Defined Contribution Schemes

Payments to the defined contribution schemes are charged to the Income and Expenditure in the period to which they relate.

Defined Benefit Schemes

For the defined benefit schemes operated by HRI pension scheme assets are measured at fair value. Pension scheme liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method. An excess of scheme liabilities over scheme assets is presented on the balance sheet as a liability.

Actuarial gains and losses arising from changes in actuarial assumptions and from experience surpluses and deficits are recognised in the statement of total recognised gains and losses for the year in which they occur.

The pension charge in the Income and Expenditure Account comprises the current service cost and past service cost plus the difference between the expected return on scheme assets and the interest cost on the scheme liabilities.

LEASED ASSETS

Payments made under operating leases are charged to the income and expenditure account.

The capital cost of assets acquired under Finance Leases is included under tangible assets and written off over the shorter of the lease term or the estimated useful life of the asset. Interest on the remaining lease obligation is charged to the Profit and Loss Account over the period of the lease. This charge is calculated so as to produce a constant periodic rate of charge on the remaining balance of the obligation for each accounting period.

GRANTS AND RACECOURSE IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

(i) Grants paid

Capital development grants paid to racecourses under the capital development programme are accounted for on an accruals basis.

These grants are treated as a deferred credit in the balance sheets of the subsidiary companies and are credited to revenue on the same basis as the related fixed assets are depreciated. However for consolidation, these balances are adjusted in order to reflect the group position.

(ii) Grants received

State revenue grants are credited to revenue on a cash receipts basis.

State capital grants received and receivable are treated as future development reserves in the balance sheet and released to the income and expenditure account based on the estimated useful lives of the assets to which the grants relate.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES CONTINUED

(iii) Racecourse Improvement Schemes

Racecourse improvement grants, primarily to meet health and safety requirements, are charged to the income and expenditure account in the period to which they relate.

Racecourse incentive schemes are based upon racecourses achieving specific criteria and are charged to the income and expenditure account in the period to which they relate.

DEFERRED TAX

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences that have originated but not reversed at the balance sheet date. Provision is made at the rates expected to apply when the timing differences reverse. Timing differences are differences between the company's taxable profits and its results as stated in the financial statements that arise from the inclusion of gains and losses in periods different from those in which they are recognised in the financial statements.

A net deferred asset is regarded as recoverable and recognised only when, on the basis of all available evidence, it can be regarded as more likely than not that there will be suitable taxable profits from which the future reversal of the underlying timing differences can be deducted.

GROUP INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

	Notes	Year Ended 31/12/09 €'000	Year Ended 31/12/08 €'000
TURNOVER			
Tote Ireland turnover		41,795	49,236
Betting and Exchange income		2,601	4,201
Racecourse income		10,368	11,821
TOTAL TURNOVER		54,764	65,258
Winnings paid on bets	3	(34,922)	(40,191)
Operating costs	3	(20,223)	(24,252)
DIRECT COSTS		(55,145)	(64,443)
(Deficit) / Income from Racing		(381)	815
OTHER INCOME			
Allocation from the Horse & Greyhound Racing Fund	4	54,502	61,029
Prize money contributions from Owners and Sponsors	7	22,612	26,392
Foal Levy	5	2,166	2,511
Registrations Income		3,453	3,631
Industry Services Income		644	703
Other Income	6	3,187	437
Industry contributions to Irish Thoroughbred Marketing		177	261
Interest income (net)	11	716	1,646
Media Income		1,209	981
NET INCOME		88,285	98,406
EXPENDITURE			
Contributions to prize money	7	31,388	35,232
Prize money contributions from Owners and Sponsors	7	22,612	26,392
Integrity and Racecourse services	8	9,587	10,592
Racecourse Schemes	12	4,792	3,442
Capital Development Fund grants	12	1,116	8,661
Tote Capital Grant Amortisation	14	14	55
Capital Development Fund interest and expenses	11	466	933
Grants/Fees paid to Industry Bodies	9	2,418	2,401
Foal Levy distribution	5	1,591	1,774
Media Costs		502	502
Horse Racing Ireland administration costs	11	5,708	6,469
Irish Thoroughbred Marketing expenditure		1,280	1,673
General marketing and promotions		1,562	2,396
		83,036	100,522
Other Finance Expense	27	(634)	(84)
Taxation	10	-	(186)
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	11	4,615	(2,386)

The statement of Accounting Policies and Notes 1 to 32 form part of these financial statements

Denis Brosnan,
Chairman
27th July 2010

John McStay,
Vice Chairman
27th July 2010

GROUP STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

	Notes	Year Ended 31/12/09 €'000	Year Ended 31/12/08 €'000
Surplus / (Deficit) for the financial year		4,615	(2,386)
Actuarial gain / (loss) recognised in the pension scheme	27	4,040	(8,637)
Total recognised gain / (loss) for the year		8,655	(11,023)

The statement of Accounting Policies and Notes 1 to 32 form part of these financial statements.

Denis Brosnan,
Chairman
27th July 2010

John McStay,
Vice Chairman
27th July 2010

GROUP BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2009

	Notes	31/12/09 €'000	31/12/08 €'000
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	13	101,703	103,927
Intangible assets	14	41	55
Financial assets	15	3,792	4,206
Negative Goodwill	16	(10,562)	(10,999)
		94,974	97,189
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	17	12,006	11,439
Cash at bank	18	34,109	37,334
		46,115	48,773
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	19	36,251	40,238
		36,251	40,238
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
		9,864	8,535
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			
		104,838	105,724
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due after more than one year	20	11,995	16,410
PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES AND CHARGES			
Pension Liability	27	10,634	14,629
NET ASSETS			
		81,894	73,370
Deferred Capital Grant	24	-	134
FINANCED BY			
Establishment reserve	25	17,193	17,193
Income and expenditure account	26	19,942	15,493
Other reserves	26	42,804	38,594
Total Establishment and Other Reserves		79,939	71,280
Minority interest	28	1,955	1,956
		81,894	73,370

The statement of Accounting Policies and Notes 1 to 32 form part of these financial statements

Denis Brosnan,
Chairman
27th July 2010

John McStay,
Vice Chairman
27th July 2010

HORSE RACING IRELAND BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2009

	Notes	31/12/09 €'000	31/12/08 €'000
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	13	38,202	38,538
Financial assets	15	17,592	16,910
		55,794	55,448
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	17	19,985	17,771
Cash at bank	18	29,452	32,584
		49,437	50,355
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	19	28,868	32,635
		28,868	32,635
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
		20,569	17,720
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			
		76,363	73,168
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due after more than one year	20	10,418	14,185
Pension Liability	27	10,634	14,629
		55,311	44,354
FINANCED BY			
Establishment reserve	25	9,592	9,592
Income and expenditure account	26	21,441	14,694
Other reserves	26	24,278	20,068
		55,311	44,354

The statement of Accounting Policies and Notes 1 to 32 form part of these financial statements.

Denis Brosnan,
Chairman
27th July 2010

John McStay,
Vice Chairman
27th July 2010

GROUP CASHFLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

	Notes	31/12/09 €'000	31/12/08 €'000
Net Cash Inflow / (Outflow) from Operations	29(i)	776	(2,963)
Return on Investments and Servicing of Finance			
Interest Received		725	1,709
Interest Paid		(345)	(758)
Net Cash Inflow from Returns on Investments and Servicing of Finance		380	951
Taxation paid		(112)	(89)
Capital Expenditure and Financial Investment			
Receipts from sale of tangible fixed assets		3	14
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets		(1,077)	(2,845)
Additions to intangible assets		-	(13)
Loans repaid from racecourses and Industry bodies		414	736
Preference shares and minority interests		(1)	80
Net Cash Outflow from Capital Expenditure And Financial Investment		(661)	(2,028)
Net Cash Inflow / (Outflow) before financing	29(ii)	383	(4,129)
Financing			
Bank loan in the period		1,900	8,534
Bank loan repayment		(5,508)	(4,222)
Net Cash (Outflow) / Inflow from Financing		(3,608)	4,312
(Decrease) / Increase in Cash	29 (iii)	(3,225)	183

The statement of Accounting Policies and Notes 1 to 32 form part of these financial statements

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

1. EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

The average number of persons employed by the group at 31 December 2009 is as set out below:

	Year Ended 31/12/09 Number	Year Ended 31/12/08 Number
Permanent staff	156	172
Racegoing staff - part time	302	334
	458	506

2. EMPLOYEE REMUNERATION

The aggregate payroll cost of the employees, excluding pension costs detailed above was as follows:

	Year Ended 31/12/09 €'000	Year Ended 31/12/08 €'000
Wages and salaries	10,158	11,024
Employer's social welfare costs	914	1,025
	11,072	12,049

3. DIRECT COSTS

	Winnings paid on bets		Operating Costs		Total	Total
	Year Ended 31/12/09 €'000	Year Ended 31/12/08 €'000	Year Ended 31/12/09 €'000	Year Ended 31/12/08 €'000	Year Ended 31/12/09 €'000	Year Ended 31/12/08 €'000
Betting collection costs	-	-	339	465	339	465
Tote Ireland	34,922	40,191	7,107	9,109	42,029	49,300
HRI Racecourses Group	-	-	12,777	14,678	12,777	14,678
	34,922	40,191	20,223	24,252	55,145	64,443

4. ALLOCATION FROM HORSE AND GREYHOUND RACING FUND

Horse Racing Ireland was established on 18 December 2001, under the Horse & Greyhound Racing Act 2001. A fund was established for the purpose of giving support to the horse and greyhound racing industry under Section 12 of this Act. This has subsequently been extended under the Horse & Greyhound Regulation 2004 and the Horse and Greyhound Racing Fund Regulations 2009.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009 CONTINUED

5. FOAL LEVY

Under the Irish Horseracing Authority Act 1994, as amended by the Horse and Greyhound Racing (Betting Charges and Levies) Act 1999, Horse Racing Ireland may, with the consent of the Minister for Arts, Sports and Tourism, charge a levy on all thoroughbred foals registered in a stud book.

This levy is collected by Weatherby's on behalf of Horse Racing Ireland, at variable rates and the distribution is based on recommendations from the foal levy committee (as defined in the Act) and finally approved by Horse Racing Ireland.

The total collected in respect of 2009 was €2,166,000.

In addition to the €1.591m expenditure disclosed in the Income and Expenditure account, a further €475,000 was granted to ITM out of the levy collected. This expenditure is included in the Income and Expenditure as ITM expenditure. The distribution of the Foal Levy is as follows;

	Year Ended 31/12/09 €'000	Year Ended 31/12/08 €'000
Breeders' Prizes	88	255
Irish Equine Centre	1,000	1,000
Irish Thoroughbred Breeders Association	450	460
Others	53	59
	1,591	1,774

As at 31 December 2009, Horse Racing Ireland had a balance of €1.347m (2008: €1.247m) relating to the foal levy which is provided for future expenditure on programmes recommended by the Foal Levy Committee and approved by the Board of Horse Racing Ireland. This balance is included within reserves.

6. OTHER INCOME

	Year Ended 31/12/09 €'000	Year Ended 31/12/08 €'000
Goodwill amortisation (Note 16)	437	437
Income from Grant Receivable	2,750	-
	3,187	437

7. CONTRIBUTIONS TO PRIZEMONEY

Group	Year Ended 31/12/09 €'000	Year Ended 31/12/08 €'000
(a) From Sponsors	7,948	9,169
(b) From Owners	14,664	17,223
(c) From Horse Racing Ireland	31,388	35,232
	54,000	61,624

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009 CONTINUED

8. INTEGRITY SERVICES

Under the Irish Horseracing Industry Act 1994, Part III, as amended by the Horse and Greyhound Racing Act 2001, Schedule 6, the Racing Regulatory Body (which comprises the Turf Club and the Irish National Hunt Steeplechase Committee) has responsibility for making and enforcing the Rules of Racing and for providing on-course integrity services. Horse Racing Ireland provides the funding to the Racing Regulatory Body in order to meet the costs of providing such services as laid out in Part III, paragraph 42 of the 1994 Act.

Horse Racing Ireland directly funds Racecourse Services costs for patrol camera, starting stalls and photo finish, which are functions transferred to HRI from the Turf Club under the Horse and Greyhound Racing Act 2001.

The amount paid to the Racing Regulatory Body in 2009 is shown as net of the employer pension contribution of €412,000 (2008: €329,000).

9. GRANTS/FEES TO INDUSTRY BODIES

Grants/fees paid to industry bodies analysed as follows:

	Year Ended 31/12/09 €'000	Year Ended 31/12/08 €'000
Irish Equine Centre	738	738
RACE	600	600
Order of Malta	416	419
Blue Cross	201	202
Vets/Farriers	313	311
Other Industry Bodies	150	131
	2,418	2,401

10. TAXATION

Group	Year Ended 31/12/09 €'000	Year Ended 31/12/08 €'000
Corporation Tax	-	82
Deferred tax movement (Note 23)	-	104
Taxation charge for the year	-	186
Reconciliation of loss at standard rate:		
Loss on ordinary activities before taxation	(1,351)	(2,631)
Loss on ordinary activities before taxation at the standard rate	(169)	(329)
Effect of:		
Non deductible expenses	17	129
Non allowable income	(106)	(95)
Capital allowances in excess of depreciation	155	150
Income taxable at higher rate	107	227
Losses carried forward from previous years	(4)	-
Corporation tax charge for the year	-	82

The activities of Horse Racing Ireland, Irish Thoroughbred Marketing Limited and Tote Ireland Limited are exempt from corporation tax.

A deferred tax asset of €356,000 has not been recognised in the financial statements as there is insufficient evidence that the asset will be recovered in the foreseeable future.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009 CONTINUED

11. SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR

	Year Ended 31/12/09	Year Ended 31/12/08
	€'000	€'000
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year has been arrived at after charging:		
Depreciation	3,298	3,898
Amortisation of intangible assets	14	55
Auditors' remuneration	92	104
Interest payable on loans from banks	-	58
Finance Lease Interest	9	5
Capital development fund interest and expenses	466	933
and after crediting:		
Interest receivable on deposits	651	1,506
Interest receivable on loans	74	203

Horse Racing Ireland Group Board Members Fees and Expenses are as follows:

	2009 €'000 Fees	2009 €'000 Mileage	2008 €'000 Fees	2008 €'000 Mileage
Denis Brosnan	-	3	-	5
Nicholas Wachman	13	1	14	1
John McStay	13	-	14	-
Dermot Cantillon	13	-	14	1
William Flood	13	2	-	-
Dan Kirwan	-	-	14	-
John Moloney	-	-	14	5
Francis Hyland	13	1	14	1
Michael Doyle	13	4	14	5
James Nicholson	13	4	14	5
Michael Murphy	13	3	14	3
Mary O'Connor	13	1	14	1
Noel Meade	13	1	14	2
Bernard Caldwell	13	1	-	-
John Power	-	3	-	5
Noel Cloake	13	1	14	1
	156	25	168	35

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009 CONTINUED

11. SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR (CONTINUED)

Horse Racing Ireland administration costs comprise the followings:

	Year Ended 31/12/09 €'000	Year Ended 31/12/08 €'000
Running costs of departments- Pay and Non- Pay	4,654	4,913
Additional Pension/FRS 17	159	620
Building Running Costs	895	936
	5,708	6,469

The remuneration package of the Chief Executive of Horse Racing Ireland for the year ended 31st December 2009 is as follows:

	€'000	€'000
Basic Salary	191	187
Pension Contributions and other Taxable Benefits	65	61
Long-Term Performance Related Remuneration	57	65
	313	313

12. RACECOURSE SCHEMES AND CAPITAL GRANTS

A) RACECOURSE SCHEMES

	Year Ended 31/12/09 €'000	Year Ended 31/12/08 €'000
Health and Safety Grants/Racecourse Improvement Scheme	2,740	814
Winter Racing	63	91
Sponsorship Incentive Scheme	130	263
Levy and Pitch Fee Payments to Racecourses	1,692	1,846
Tote Percentage Betting Payments	167	428
	4,792	3,442

The payments made under the above Racecourse Schemes relate to third party owned Racecourses only.

B) CAPITAL GRANTS

	Year Ended 31/12/09 €'000	Year Ended 31/12/08 €'000
Capital Development Grants	1,116	8,661

The Board of Horse Racing Ireland established a new capital development scheme in 2003. Under this scheme Horse Racing Ireland provides up to a maximum of 55% funding with the balance being funded by the racecourses. These grants are charged directly to the Income and Expenditure account.

In addition to amounts of €1.116m paid to third party racecourses amounts of €90,000 were paid to Racecourses within HRI Group.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009 CONTINUED

13. TANGIBLE ASSETS

GROUP

GROUP	Land and Buildings €'000	Plant, Equipment, IT Development & Vehicles €'000	Total €'000
Cost			
At 1 January 2009	103,629	30,022	133,651
Additions	120	957	1,077
Disposals	-	(7)	(7)
At 31 December 2009	103,749	30,972	134,721
Aggregate depreciation			
At 1 January 2009	11,696	18,028	29,724
Charge for year	1,314	1,984	3,298
Disposals	-	(4)	(4)
At 31 December 2009	13,010	20,008	33,018
Net book value			
At 31 December 2009	90,739	10,964	101,703
At 31 December 2008	91,933	11,994	103,927

HORSE RACING IRELAND

HORSE RACING IRELAND	Land and Buildings €'000	Plant, Equipment, IT Development & Vehicles €'000	Total €'000
Cost			
At 1 January 2009	36,394	4,742	41,136
Additions	24	358	382
At 31 December 2009	36,418	5,100	41,518
Aggregate depreciation			
At 1 January 2009	810	1,788	2,598
Charge for year	241	477	718
At 31 December 2009	1,051	2,265	3,316
Net book value			
At 31 December 2009	35,367	2,835	38,202
At 31 December 2008	35,584	2,954	38,538

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009 CONTINUED

14. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

GROUP

Capital development grants paid

	31/12/09 €'000	31/12/08 €'000
Paid to the start of the year	45,790	45,777
Payments during the year	-	13
Paid to the end of the year	45,790	45,790

Amortisation of grants paid

Balance at the start of the year	45,735	45,680
Charge for the year	14	55
Balance at the end of the year	45,749	45,735

Net book value

	41	55
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Horse Racing Ireland established a capital development fund to enable a substantial upgrading of racecourse facilities to take place. It provided up to a maximum of 50% funding with the balance being funded by the racecourses. This scheme has now been completed and Horse Racing Ireland's contribution has been funded by way of a 15 year loan. The balance remaining i.e. €41,000 (€55,000:2008) relates to grants paid by Tote Ireland to racecourses not owned by Horse Racing Ireland in order to fund capital developments of Tote buildings at those tracks, amortised over a five year period.

15. FINANCIAL ASSETS

GROUP

	31/12/09 €'000	31/12/08 €'000
Loans to racecourses/industry body	3,791	4,205
Investment in racecourse	1	1
	3,792	4,206

HORSE RACING IRELAND

Loans to subsidiaries	13,749	12,653
Investment in subsidiaries	51	51
Loans to racecourses/industry body	3,791	4,205
Investment in racecourse	1	1
	17,592	16,910

Details of the principal subsidiaries of Horse Racing Ireland and their activities are set out in note 32.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009 CONTINUED

16. GOODWILL

	31/12/09 €'000	31/12/08 €'000
GROUP		
Goodwill arising on Acquisition	(10,999)	(11,436)
Amortised to Profit and Loss account in year	(437)	(437)
Goodwill at the end of the year	(10,562)	(10,999)
Goodwill attributable to non-monetary depreciable assets	(8,463)	(8,463)

17. DEBTORS

Amounts falling due within one year:

	31/12/09 €'000	31/12/08 €'000
GROUP		
Trade debtors	5,942	7,304
Prepayments and accrued income	5,906	4,071
Taxation recoverable	158	64
	12,006	11,439
HORSE RACING IRELAND		
Trade debtors	1,221	2,127
Prepayments and accrued income	4,852	2,849
Amounts due from group companies	13,912	12,795
	19,985	17,771

18. CASH AT BANK

	31/12/09 €'000	31/12/08 €'000
GROUP		
Horse Racing Ireland	29,452	32,584
HRI Racecourses	1,359	1,170
Tote Ireland	3,201	3,574
Irish Thoroughbred Marketing	97	6
	34,109	37,334
HORSE RACING IRELAND	29,452	32,584

The cash balance in Horse Racing Ireland relates primarily to net funds for stakes won but not drawn down at 31 December 2009.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009 CONTINUED

19. CREDITORS

Amounts falling due within one year:

GROUP

	31/12/09 €'000	31/12/08 €'000
Accruals	8,700	8,126
Bank loan (Note 21)	3,429	3,270
Trade creditors	2,626	3,736
Prize money due to racing clients	19,376	23,147
Deferred Income	1,454	1,224
Guaranteed value races prize fund	272	272
Taxation creditors	377	443
Finance Leases (Note 22)	17	20
	36,251	40,238

HORSE RACING IRELAND

Accruals	4,560	4,087
Amounts owed to group companies	263	315
Bank loan (Note 21)	3,429	3,270
Trade creditors	693	1,247
Prize money due to racing clients	19,376	23,147
Guaranteed value races prize fund	272	272
Taxation creditors	275	297
	28,868	32,635

The movement in the Guaranteed Value Races Fund for the relevant period was as follows:

	€'000	€'000
Balance at the start of the year	272	180
Surpluses on Guaranteed Value Races	-	92
Balance at the end of the year	272	272

ANALYSIS OF TAXATION CREDITORS

GROUP

	31/12/09 €'000	31/12/08 €'000
PAYE	189	169
PRSI	140	93
Other taxes	48	181
	377	443

HORSE RACING IRELAND

PAYE	161	170
PRSI	103	86
Other taxes	11	41
	275	297

20. CREDITORS

Amounts falling due after more than one year:

GROUP

	31/12/09 €'000	31/12/08 €'000
Bank loan (Note 21)	10,418	14,185
Deferred Income	1,513	2,145
Finance Leases (Note 22)	64	80
	11,995	16,410

HORSE RACING IRELAND

Bank loan (Note 21)	10,418	14,185
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009 CONTINUED

21. BANK LOANS

	31/12/09 €'000	31/12/08 €'000
GROUP		
Repayable within 1 year	3,429	3,270
Repayable within 2 to 5 years	2,223	5,651
Repayable after 5 years	8,195	8,534
	13,847	17,455
HORSE RACING IRELAND		
Repayable within 1 year	3,429	3,270
Repayable within 2 to 5 years	2,223	5,651
Repayable after 5 years	8,195	8,534
	13,847	17,455

22. FINANCE LEASES

Leasing obligations, net of interest, are due for repayments as follows:

	31/12/09 €'000	31/12/08 €'000
GROUP		
Repayable within 1 year	17	20
Repayable within 2 to 5 years	64	80
	81	100

23. PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES AND CHARGES

	Deferred Taxation €'000	Other Provision €'000	Total €'000
GROUP			
At the beginning of the year	315	1,000	1,315
Released to the profit and loss account	-	(760)	(760)
Unused amounts reversed	-	(240)	(240)
At the end of the year	315	-	315

The deferred tax liability arises where fixed assets are depreciated over a longer period than that over which capital allowances are recognised.

24. DEFERRED CAPITAL GRANT

	31/12/09 €'000	31/12/08 €'000
GROUP		
Paid to the beginning of the year	134	451
Amortised during the year	(134)	(317)
Balance at the end of the year	-	134

The state allocated by way of grant €3.2m in 1999 towards the acquisition of a new Tote System. This amount is being transferred to the Income and Expenditure account over a 10 year period in line with the matching depreciation and finalised in May 2009.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009 CONTINUED

25. ESTABLISHMENT RESERVE

The establishment reserve arose on the transfer of net assets from the Racing Board to the Irish Horseracing Authority on 1 December 1994, and the transfer of net assets of the Irish Horseracing Authority to Horse Racing Ireland on 18 December 2001.

26. MOVEMENT ON RESERVES

	Income and Expenditure Account	Establishment Reserve	Other Reserves*	Total Establishment and Other Reserves
GROUP	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Opening balance at 1 January 2009	15,493	17,193	38,594	71,280
Transfer to Future Development Fund	(170)	-	170	-
Retained Surplus for the year	4,615	-	-	4,615
Minority Interest	4	-	-	4
Actuarial Gain	-	-	4,040	4,040
Closing balance at 31 December 2009	19,942	17,193	42,804	79,939

	Income and Expenditure Account	Establishment Reserve	Other Reserves*	Total Establishment and Other Reserves
HORSE RACING IRELAND	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Opening balance at 1 January 2009	14,694	9,592	20,068	44,354
Transfer to Future Development Fund	(170)	-	170	-
Retained Surplus for the year	6,917	-	-	6,917
Actuarial Gain	-	-	4,040	4,040
Closing balance at 31 December 2009	21,441	9,592	24,278	55,311

*Other Reserves comprises Reserve for Future Development, Revaluation Reserve and Pension Obligations.

The transfer to the Reserve for Future Development in the Group relates to income allocated for future significant development under the capital development programme 2003-2008 and the redevelopment of Leopardstown Racecourse.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009 CONTINUED

27. PENSION COMMITMENTS

Horse Racing Ireland established with effect from 1 May 2007 the Horse Racing Ireland and Racing Regulatory Body Superannuation Scheme 2007. Horse Racing Ireland has established a trust fund for holding contributions made towards benefits to be paid under the Scheme and for the payment of superannuation benefits under the Scheme.

Defined Benefit Scheme (Horse Racing Ireland and Racing Regulatory Body Superannuation Scheme 2007)

- a) On 1 December 1994, the Irish Horseracing Authority took over the operation of the Racing Board's Defined Benefit Pension Scheme for permanent staff. Since 18 December 2001, this scheme continued to operate under HRI until 30 April 2007. On 1 May 2002, at the point of transfer of employees from the Turf Club to Horse Racing Ireland, a deed of Adherence between Horse Racing Ireland, Stewards of the Turf Club and Coyle Hamilton Trustees Limited was put in place allowing Horse Racing Ireland to be an Adhering Body to participate in the Turf Club of Ireland Pension Scheme (the Principal Employer) from that point until 30 April 2007.
- b) By virtue of the "Deed of Adherence", Horse Racing Ireland has covenanted with the Turf Club and the Trustees to be bound by the provision of the scheme set out by the declaration and the rules.
- c) Both of these schemes were closed schemes. The former Racing Board Scheme had 10 active participants and 48 inactive participants at 31 December 2009. There were 30 employees of Horse Racing Ireland in the former Turf Club scheme. The Turf Club Scheme also covers 52 employees involved in Integrity Services.
- d) As at 1 May 2007, the two schemes merged into one scheme, encompassing all the above employees and the rest of the Turf Club employees totalling 159 (2008: 163) members. All pension obligations from both the former Racing Board Scheme and the former Turf Club Scheme are now covered in the new merged scheme. This gave rise to a settlement loss for HRI in 2007. This scheme also covers the employees involved in Integrity Services who are directly funded by HRI under the Irish Horseracing Authority Act 1994, Section 42 and employed by the Turf Club. Liabilities relating to other employees of the Turf Club and the Curragh Racecourse are excluded in calculating the net pension liability disclosed underneath.
- e) Total contributions in this scheme made for the period ended 31 December 2009 were €1,047,000. Future expected contributions in this scheme are €928,000 for the period ended 31 December 2010.

The principal actuarial assumptions for the full scheme used to calculate the retirement liabilities under FRS 17 as at 31 December 2009 (weighted averages) were as follows:

Valuation Method	Projected Unit	
	2009	2008
Discount Rate	5.75%	5.75%
Future pensionable salary increases	3.00%	3.00%
Future pension increases	2.50%	2.50%
Future inflation	2.00%	2.00%
Class		
Equities	7.75%	7.75%
Fixed Interest	4.00%	3.50%
Cash	2.00%	3.50%
Property	6.25%	6.25%
Overall	6.56%	6.72%

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009 CONTINUED

27. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)

The amounts recognised in the profit and loss account before amounts deducted for Curragh / Others are as follows:

	31/12/09 €'000	31/12/08 €'000
Current service cost	(705)	(858)
Interest on obligations	(2,121)	(2,055)
Expected return on scheme assets	1,417	1,963
Contributions by scheme participants	289	305
Total	(1,120)	(645)
Actual return on scheme assets	3,682	(9,448)

The amounts recognised in the balance sheet are as follows:

	31/12/09 €'000	31/12/08 €'000
Present value of wholly or partly funded obligations	(36,265)	(36,717)
Fair value of scheme assets	24,596	20,737
Total Deficit in Plan at end of the year	(11,669)	(15,980)
Curragh Racecourse / Others deficit included in total deficit for the year	(1,035)	(1,351)
Net HRI liability recognised in balance sheet	(10,634)	(14,629)

Changes in the present value of the defined benefit obligation are as follows:

	31/12/09 €'000	31/12/08 €'000
Opening defined benefit obligation	(36,717)	(37,014)
Service cost	(705)	(858)
Interest cost	(2,121)	(2,055)
Actuarial gains / (losses) arising from experience being different than expected	2,119	(353)
Actuarial gain arising from change in liability valuation assumptions	-	2,329
Benefits paid	1,159	1,234
Closing defined benefit obligation	(36,265)	(36,717)

Changes in the fair value of scheme assets are as follows:

	31/12/09 €'000	31/12/08 €'000
Opening fair value of scheme assets	20,737	29,828
Expected return	1,417	1,963
Actuarial gains / (losses)	2,265	(11,411)
Contributions by scheme participants	289	305
Contributions by employer	1,047	1,286
Benefits paid	(1,159)	(1,234)
Closing fair value of scheme assets	24,596	20,737

Analysis of the amount which is recognised in the statement of total recognised gains and losses (STRGL) is as follows:

	31/12/09 €'000	31/12/08 €'000
Curragh / Others actuarial gains / (losses) for the year	344	(798)
HRI actuarial gains / (losses) for the year	4,040	(8,637)
Cumulative actuarial losses recognised in the statement of total recognised gains and losses (for accounting periods ending on or after 22 June 2002).	(7,427)	(11,811)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009 CONTINUED

27. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)

Amounts for the current and previous four periods are as follows:

Year Ended 31 December	2009 €'000	2008 €'000	2007 €'000	2006 €'000	2005 €'000
Defined Benefit Obligation	(36,265)	(36,717)	(37,014)	(38,856)	(35,985)
Fair value of scheme assets	24,596	20,737	29,828	31,486	27,499
Deficit in the Scheme	(11,669)	(15,980)	(7,186)	(7,370)	(8,486)
Net deficit in pension scheme in relation to HRI and Turf Club funded employees of the Horse Racing Ireland and Racing Regulatory Body Superannuation Scheme	(10,634)	(14,629)	(6,576)		
Experience adjustment arising on					
- the scheme liabilities	2,119	(353)	(890)	(358)	134
- the scheme assets	2,265	(11,411)	(3,105)	593	1,479

The pension schemes in 2005-2006 does not include both bodies as the merger date was 1 May 2007 but the deficit for these periods represents the full scheme deficit.

Defined Contribution Scheme/PRSA

- Horse Racing Ireland operates a Defined Contribution Scheme for all employees not in the Defined Benefit Scheme, i.e. 106 employees.
- The pension costs for the period ended 31 December 2009 was €350,000.

28. MINORITY INTEREST

	31/12/09 €'000	31/12/08 €'000
Opening balance	1,956	1,875
Movement in the year	(1)	81
Closing balance	1,955	1,956

Navan Golf Club Plc has a nominal share capital of 1,000 Preference Shares at 6 cent each. There were 676 shares issued and fully paid as at 31 December 2009 and the share premium on these issued shares was €1,973,000. The balance represents negative minority interest of €27,000 in Tipperary Race Company Plc and Minority Interest in Fairyhouse Club Limited of €9,000.

29. (i) RECONCILIATION OF SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR TO NET CASH INFLOW / (OUTFLOW) FROM OPERATIONS

	31/12/09 €'000	31/12/08 €'000
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	5,249	(2,116)
Interest Receivable	(725)	(1,709)
Interest Payable	345	758
Depreciation charges	3,298	3,898
Amortisation of Capital Development Fund grants	14	55
Amortisation of Negative Goodwill	(437)	(437)
Increase in Debtors	(488)	(476)
Decrease in Creditors	(4,757)	(2,055)
(Decrease)/Increase in Provisions	(1,000)	104
Difference between pension charge and contributions	(589)	(668)
Amortisation of deferred capital grants	(134)	(317)
NET CASH INFLOW / (OUTFLOW) FROM OPERATIONS	776	(2,963)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009 CONTINUED

29. (ii) RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENT IN NET FUNDS

	31/12/09 €'000	31/12/08 €'000
(Decrease) / Increase in Cash in the Year	(3,225)	183
Bank Loans in the Year	(1,900)	(8,534)
Repayment of Bank loans	5,508	4,222
Change in Net Funds	383	(4,129)
Opening Net Funds	19,879	24,008
Closing Net Funds	20,262	19,879

29. (iii) ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	31/12/08 €'000	Cash Flows €'000	31/12/09 €'000
Cash at Bank	37,334	(3,225)	34,109
Debt due within 1 year	(3,270)	(159)	(3,429)
Debt due after 1 year	(14,185)	3,767	(10,418)
	19,879	383	20,262

30. CAPITAL AND OTHER COMMITMENTS

Future capital and other expenditure committed by the group but not provided for in these financial statements are as follows:

	31/12/09 €'000	31/12/08 €'000
Commitments	2,517	4,086

31. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

A number of legal cases were pending with a subsidiary of Horse Racing Ireland in relation to tenant property issues. A judgement was received on one significant case on the 29th January 2010 and the Judge found in favour of the subsidiary. The remaining cases are being fully pursued by the Company. The financial effect arising from these cases cannot reasonably be ascertained.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009 CONTINUED

32. PRINCIPAL SUBSIDIARIES

Direct Subsidiaries	% Held	Principal Activities
Tote Ireland Limited	100	Operation of Totalisator at racemeetings, operation of a telebetting service and an internet service
Irish Thoroughbred Marketing Limited	100	Promotion of the Irish Thoroughbred Horse
HRI Racecourses Limited	100	Racecourse Holding Company
Indirect Subsidiaries		
The Leopardstown Club Limited	100	Holding of race meetings and ancillary activities
Navan Races Limited	99.58	Holding of race meetings and ancillary activities
Cork Racecourse Limited	100	Letting of land
The Tipperary Race Company PLC	97.55	Holding of race meetings and ancillary activities
Navan Golf Club PLC	100	Operation of a golf course
Fairyhouse Club Limited	99.94	Holding of race meetings and ancillary activities

All the subsidiary companies are incorporated in the Republic of Ireland with their registered offices at Ballymany, The Curragh, Co. Kildare.

PHOTOGRAPHY DETAILS

All racing photographs used in the HRI annual report 2009 are taken by Healy Racing Photography (HR), Caroline Norris (CN) and Fennells (FE).

PAGE 2

The runners stream past the post at Cork Racecourse. (HR)

PAGE 4

Jockeys and horses getting ready before the start of a race. (HR)

PAGE 5

Top Left - Runners going down to the start at the famous Laytown Strand Races – the only race meeting in Europe that is held on a beach. (HR)

Centre - Quevega (R. Walsh) is well clear of her rivals as she lands the David Nicholson Mares Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival. (HR)

Top Right - An aerial view of the packed enclosures at the Listowel Festival. (HR)

Bottom - Runners file past the stands at Navan. (HR)

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Sea The Stars powers clear of a strong Ballydoyle challenge to land the English Derby at Epsom under Michael Kinane. (CN)

PAGE 9

Top Left - Delighted members of the Goat Racing Syndicate celebrate the thrilling success of the Tom Cooper trained Forpadydeplasterer in the Arkle Trophy at the Cheltenham Festival. (CN)

Centre - Michael Kinane, Ireland's most successful flat Jockey of the last thirty years had a year to remember in 2009 as he landed six Group One races on the John Oxx trained Sea The Stars. A 13-time Irish Champion, he announced his retirement from the saddle after 35 glorious years in 2009. (FE)

Top Right - The packed enclosures at the Galway Summer Festival watch as another race unfolds. (HR)

Bottom - A fine action study of Ruby Walsh as he guides Neptune Collonges over the final fence to win the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Leopardstown. (CN)

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Top Left - Willie Mullins was announced as HRI's 1st National Hunt Ambassador in November, he is joined here by his stable jockeys David Casey, Davy Condon, son Patrick, Katie Walsh, Paul Townend and nephew Emmet. (FE)

Centre - Trainer Pat Flynn and Jockey Stephan Gray celebrate Bahrain Storm winning the Guinness Galway Hurdle. (HR)

Top Right - Go Native and Paul Carberry (pink colours) jumping the last flight on their way to a fine victory in the Supreme Novice Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival. (HR)

Bottom - A driving finish at Clonmel with Moskova (the grey) emerging best to beat Hello Kitty (black cap) and Here Comes Sally (white cap, orange star). (CN)

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The field pass the post in front of a huge crowd as they bask in glorious sunshine at the Galway Summer Festival. (HR)

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Top Left - Jacqueline O'Brien, Vincent's wife pictured at the Celebration Exhibition of Dr O'Brien's life at the Curragh at Leger weekend which was hosted by HRI & The Curragh and all proceeds went to the Irish Horse Welfare Trust. (FE)

Centre - Hurricane Fly and Ruby Walsh stride clear of the opposition to take the Evening Herald Champion Novice Hurdle at the Punchestown Festival. (CN)

Top Right - Tracy Piggot interviewing her father Lester who was over to support the Dr Vincent O'Brien Celebration at the Curragh at Leger weekend. (FE)

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The field break from the stalls at Leopardstown during one of the Summer Bulmers Evenings with the eventual winner (Fictional Account - No 2) in the foreground. (HR)

PAGE 16

The field stream past the stands in the Powers Whiskey Irish Grand National at Fairyhouse on Easter Monday with eventual winner Niche Market (orange with black cross belts) in a prominent position. (HR)

PAGE 19

Left - Pennys Bill and Sean Flanagan (check colours) land the Pierser Hurdle at odds of 50/1 with the favourite Psycho (red colours) back in second place. (CN)

Centre - Cooldine (R. Walsh) and Forpadydeplasterer (B.J. Geraghty) are locked together as they clear the final fence in the Dr P.J. Moriarty Novice Chase

at Leopardstown. Cooldine eventually prevailed by 2 and a half lengths. (CN)

Right - Mikael D'Haguenet in the winners enclosure after taking the Land Rover Champion Novice Hurdle at the Punchestown Festival with Jockey Ruby Walsh chatting to Trainer Willie Mullins (yellow tie) and Owner Richard Ricci. (CN)

PAGE 20

Left - A delighted Harry Skelton is led back into the winners' enclosure after springing a 33/1 surprise aboard the Bob Buckler trained Niche Market in the Powers Whiskey Irish Grand National at Fairyhouse. (CN)

Centre - Mastercraftsman and Johnny Murtagh are well clear of their rivals as they land the Boylesports.com Irish 2000 Guineas at the Curragh. (CN)

Right - Michael Kinane salutes the crowd at Epsom after Sea The Stars had taken the Derby. (CN)

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Left - Jockey Jamie Spencer has a pat for Sariska after Michael Bell's filly had proved a most impressive winner of the Darley Irish Oaks at the Curragh. (CN)

Centre - The mighty Sea The Stars relaxes at home in his stable at Currabeg on the Curragh. (CN)

Right - Alandi and Michael Kinane just get the better of Clowance (Kevin Manning) in The Irish Field St Leger at the Curragh. (CN)

PAGE 22

Left - Champion Apprentice Gary Carroll and Champion Jockey Johnny Murtagh hold aloft their respective trophies after the final day of the 2009 Flat Racing Season at Dundalk. (HR)

Centre - In a driving finish to the Bar One Racing Hatton's Grace Hurdle at Fairyhouse, Oscar Dan Dan (D.N. Russell – orange colours near side) just gets the better of Ninetieth Minute (A.P. McCoy – centre) with Healy's Bar (K.T. Coleman – on the rail) a close up third. (HR)

Right - Golden Silver (P. Townend – red colours) is joined by Tranquil Sea (A.J. McNamara – No 7) at the last fence in the Paddy Power Dial-a-Bet Steeplechase at the Leopardstown Christmas Festival. Golden Silver went on to score by three and a half lengths. (CN)

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