

Press release (February 23, 2010, for immediate release)

With pic

WELCOME TO YORKSHIRE TO SPONSOR STABLES OPEN DAY

Welcome to Yorkshire is to sponsor the popular Middleham Stables Open Day this year.

The ever-popular annual Open Day, which attracts more than 7,000 visitors to Middleham, will be held on Good Friday, April 2.

Gary Verity, the chief executive of Welcome to Yorkshire, which promotes tourism in the county, commented: "Middleham has a long and proud racing heritage and Middleham Stables Open Day is a unique opportunity to visit these legendary stables.

He said: "Welcome to Yorkshire is proud to sponsor this event as not only does the day put Middleham on the map, but it helps raise thousands of pounds for local charities.

"No other county embraces horseracing like Yorkshire. We have the most racecourses, some of the best trainers and jockeys, not to mention a passionate race-going public. I urge everyone who loves racing in Yorkshire and the UK to come and support us on this fabulous day," he added.

Welcome to Yorkshire is sponsoring the Open Day in conjunction with the Northern Echo newspaper.

Judith Brickwood, one of the organisers of the Open Day, said: "We are tremendously grateful to Welcome to Yorkshire for its support, which will help to make this year's Open Day very special indeed. This support also underlines the fact that Middleham is one of the jewels in Yorkshire's tourism crown."

Each year, the successful training yards of Middleham are thrown open to racing enthusiasts. Last year more than 7,000 people attended this popular event and over £16,000 was raised for local charities.

Judith Brickwood explained: "The Open Day provides an opportunity to meet the winners and to talk to the trainers, jockeys and stable hands at this very popular annual event. In addition, there will be a country fair, an art exhibition, trade stands and market stalls. It is a great day for Middleham – and it also raises a tremendous amount of money for charity".

William Hague, MP for Richmond, said: "Middleham is a tremendous success story and fully deserves its reputation as the finest racing centre in the north of England. We have some phenomenally successful trainers and it is wonderful that they open their yards to so many people. This is a very special day in the racing year".

The yards are open to the public on Good Friday from 9.30am – 1.00pm. Free parking is available in Middleham or nearby Leyburn, with bus links between car parks and the outlying stables. Admission is £6 in advance for adults or £7 at the gate. Children under 12 are admitted free.

The Middleham Trainers opening this year are:

James Bethell, Andy Crook, Chris Fairhurst, Micky Hammond, Ben Haslam, Mark Johnston, George Moore, Paul Murphy, Jedd O’Keeffe, Joss Savill, Chris Thornton, Kate Walton, Simon West and John Weymes.

In addition Ann Duffield, whose stables are at Constable Burton, will be opening from 12 noon to 4.30pm.

The Wensleydale Railway is putting on a special early train on the timetable from Leeming Bar to Leyburn for the Stables Open Day on Good Friday. Buses will then run to Middleham. Visit their website www.wensleydalerailway.com for latest information and times and to book tickets

For **all other** enquiries, please call Middleham Key Centre on 01969 624411.

For further information please contact Robert Beaumont of Robert Beaumont Associates on 01423 323139