



# To the Point

*Excellent equestrian credentials put  
Lincolnshire at the forefront*

Photographs: Courtesy of Lincolnshire Echo

DISTANT MEMORY HEADS FOR THE WINNING POST IN THE FIRST POINT TO POINT RACE AT THE NEW NORTH CARLTON RACECOURSE



**T**he past eighteen months have seen some exciting developments on the Lincolnshire equestrian scene.

The first point-to-point events were held at the Lincolnshire Showground on the newly launched North Carlton racecourse.

And the Lincolnshire three-day event horse trials continued to grow, drawing in both local and well known international names to the county.

Lincolnshire Showground revealed its new 1.3 mile point to point track in 2008, boasting eight fences, one ditch and state of the art weighing and changing facilities. "The North Carlton racecourse is the first new point-to-point course in the UK for about forty years and a very exciting development for us," says Wendy Rose, a member of the point-to-point committee.

Since its unveiling, two successful events have been held, the Burton point-to-point and Blankney point-to-point. Sally Mountjoy, secretary of the North Carlton management committee, described how the course "is the newest in the area and was very well received by the jockeys, owners and trainers".

Hugo Cobham, honorary secretary of the Blankney point-to-point, also described how well-received the first event was last year, saying, "There was good ground for racing and the course rode very well. We attracted a good number of runners and hope that this will be exceeded in the future as more people hear about the course."

As the course's reputation continues to grow within the national and international equestrian scene, plans for further development of the course are underway, with more fences, ditches and hospitality facilities being planned.

It has also been an exciting time for the Lincolnshire horse trials, the world class three-day-event held annually at the

Showground.

For 2009, there was fine weather, over 700 competitors and many famous names taking part.

"We had an excellent weekend – high competitor levels; no accidents; the best weather we've had since the event started in the early 1980s and good visitor numbers," said the show director, Charles Hood.

The three-day-event is quite unusual in that each day focuses on a particular class, rather than individual events, with pre-novice classes taking place on one day, and novice and intermediate classes taking place on others, giving visitors the chance to see all events, such as dressage and show jumping, each day.

The 2009 event lured in exciting players from the equestrian world, including Olympic riders William Fox Pitt and Sharon Hunt, as well as the New Zealand double gold medallist Mark Todd and event winner in his class, Oliver Townend.

The event is also a showcase for local riders and right behind Oliver Townend in second place in the novice section was Lincolnshire rider Gina Ruck of Tealby, a previous gold medal winner for Britain at pony level, who also came seventh in the under-21s Young Riders Section.

Other ranked performances from Lincolnshire riders included:

- Up-and-coming rider Alex Postolowsky of Market Rasen, who has overcome injuries to do well recently. She won her open novice section and followed that up with five other top ten slots.
- Rosalind Canter of Louth achieved a third and a fourth in the pre-novice sections.
- Deborah Doyle of North Scarle, who came fourth in one of the novice classes.
- From nearby Newark, Ian Bennett and Matthew Wright each won themselves a first place in the pre-novice sections.

Pony trials also took place during the event and selectors for the British team were out watching riders on the Saturday.

This continued success has led to many new plans for 2010, including the prospect of a Craft fair to be run alongside the event, to attract even more interest and visitors to the event and to the county.

The impact of these events, combined with brand new facilities, and the county's flat, free-draining ground is resulting in Lincolnshire fast becoming a national player in competitive equine events.

#### Key dates in the Lincolnshire equestrian calendar:

- Blankney Point to Point at the Lincolnshire Showground – 28th February
- Burton Point to Point at the Lincolnshire Showground – 31st January
- Horse trials at the Lincolnshire Showground – 19th-21st March

Lincolnshire  
Events Centre  
@ the showground



RIDERS AT THE 2009 HORSE TRIALS, ONE OF THE EARLIEST IN THE SEASON WHICH ATTRACTS MANY WORLD CLASS INTERNATIONAL NAMES ALONGSIDE LOCAL LINCOLNSHIRE RIDERS

