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Tregaron Trotting Club

Last updated: 24 January 2008

One of Tregaron's claims to fame is its annual Festival of Harness Racing. The event which attracts racegoers from across the UK was started in 1980 by the Tregaron Trotting Club. Here's a little of the history.

Article by Tregaron Trotting Club:

"There has always been a strong association between Tregaron and Trotting. However it was the dream of a few Tregaron enthusiasts to establish not just an ordinary race meeting but a meeting that would put Tregaron on the map. A meeting that would strive to give the best and get the best.

Thus the Tregaron Trotting Club was first formed in 1980 as 'Deri Llanio Harness Racing Committee', and it was on Deri Llanio fields near Llanddewi Brefi that the first meeting was held on July 29th 1980.

By August 1984, the club was creating history. The Cardis, renowned for the reluctance to part with money, were now offering the first £1,000 harness race in Wales. The winner on that historic day - Mouintain Hero - was bred in Tregaron by the committee's first secretary Gareth Lloyd Davies.

Sadly, Gareth did not live to see the fruition of the dream of any owner - to win Tregaron. It was however fitting that the winner was presented with the Gareth Lloyd Davies Memorial Trophy. This perpetual trophy is now presented to the winner of the Welsh Classic, the finest accolade.

More than twenty years later and the club continues to create history. In 2002, we staged the first 3-day harness race meeting in the UK with prize money in excess of £25,000. Such money attracts the best and when they come to Tregaron they get the best.

Back in 1984, it was with great foresight that three fields were transformed to what is by now universally accepted as the best grass track in the UK. It is with astonishment that many newcomers arrive at Dolrychain - unable to believe that such a track exists in the middle of the Welsh hills.

Indeed those hills provide the backdrop to one of the most famous arenas in Wales. They encompass the unique atmosphere created and are witness to the finest performances any racegoer would wish to see."

Trotting at Tregaron in 2008

A race meeting will be held on 10 May 2008.

The main three day event this yearis held on 21-23 August

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2008.

Article by Tregaron Trotting Club.

- **Harness Racing photo gallery**

your comments

John Trimmer from Dunstable
I am researching the early horse-course races in England and Wales. Is there anyearly history of trotting racing in Wales?The Welsh cattle drovers used to race their horses at Barnet Fair north of Londonin the 1700's. The fair was established in1588.
Sun Feb 7 18:51:31 2010

Morfydd Price from Luton
Its a regular fixture on our calendar. The atmosphere is fantastic - the trotters used to pace round the fields of Dolfawr as the conclusion to Pontrhydfendigaid Show, and the following week, we'd have Dolrychain. Sadly these local races died out, but the 3 day festival more than makes up for it!
Fri May 8 13:57:13 2009

Rebecca Arnold.
In 2005 Day Dreamer won the final and in 2006 Meadowbranch Frank won the final!
Tue Feb 6 12:59:20 2007

Rebecca Arnold from Newtownards
I enjoyed the racing most of all especially because my horse came second I also thought all of the people that where there where really nice people!! I can't wait to go back next year!
Thu Jan 18 16:05:41 2007

Ian Kirsch, St Albans, Herts
Great day out but we had to leave before the final. Who won the Welsh Classic final?
Tue Aug 29 10:58:03 2006

Gareth Dowse Aberystwyth
Never miss it. We won it 1993 with Extra Spring who raced with only one eye.Lost his left eye in a accident as a yearling
Wed Feb 15 00:02:28 2006

This site is now closed and cannot accept new comments.

Tregaron Races Photo Gallery

Last updated: 30 August 2007

Click through a slideshow of photos taken by Irfon Bennett at the Tregaron Races in August 2007. If you've got a photo to add, please email us at **wales.mid@bbc.co.uk**.

- **Read about the history of the races...**

Tregaron Trotting Races August 1 2007

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

your comments

Debbie from Darlaston
my husband & I have been going to the races for the last 5 years or more. It's a lovely day out. We own a caravan which is just a mile up the road, so we have a lovely walk down the country lanes. There is plenty to look round on stalls, not just the horses racing, but obviously that is the most exciting and you can obviously have a bet too. The village near by has 3 pubs, red lion / black lion/ Tieffi which all sell food and which Red & black lion have rooms let too. Great day out (but nice weather is best obviously like any day at the races!!)
Thu Oct 22 20:05:39 2009

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- **Check out this slideshow from 2005's races...**

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