

TV presenter Lizzie Jelfs claims 2024 Markel Magnolia Cup

Lizzie Jelfs, an Australia-based TV presenter who specialises in horseracing, was victorious in the 2024 Markel Magnolia Cup.

British-born Jelfs, who has been riding out for Newmarket trainer Harry Eustace in preparation for the five-and-a-half-furlong charity race, partnered successfully with her mount Reins Reigns Rains.

Since its inception, the Markel Magnolia Cup has raised £2.4 million for charitable causes. This year, the Markel Magnolia Cup supports My Sisters' House, a West Sussex women's centre focussed on welfare and wellbeing, reducing risk of domestic abuse and supporting recovery.

Jelfs said: "Amazing experience! A big thank you to Harry Eustace - he provided me with a wonderful horse. I was just the passenger on board and enjoyed every experience. They were a great group of girls – so lovely, we've all got together and had a great time. Our thoughts are with Amy [Moring] who had a tumble at the start, but I'm sure she will be fighting fit.

"The charity aspect of this is really important to me. It's a local charity supporting women. This race brings together different women from all walks of life, and I think it's important to show that you can do anything at any old age. I've got two kids, I'm probably the oldest in this field, I've never ridden in a race, but I thought, why not, give it a go. It's been a great experience.

"I loved the sport from a very young age. I've always loved horses; I'm not from a racing background but had the full support of my family behind me to be part of racing, and I've had an incredible journey. I went to Australia with the support of Charlie Egerton at the age of 19 – my parents still blame him for me never coming back – but I've had a great career, I've had wonderful experiences through David Hayes. I now work in broadcast, and I cannot believe I have ridden the Magnolia Cup winner. It's coming back to Australia!

"I was out of the saddle for 10 years, and I knew what a big task it was to come back. It took a lot of fitness before I actually got on a racehorse about eight weeks ago. I jumped back on board, and I thought, well, why did I not do this sooner? I've been on a really big personal growth journey, and this really tops it all off.

"About a hundred people told me, do not miss the start, and I missed the start! I've never done a flag start before and everyone knew where they were. I took my medicine, jumped off, gave him a little squeeze, and I listened to George Baker. I let him roll down the hill and I could see a few were really kicking on, and I thought, I can't, I just have to sit here, otherwise he won't have anything left, then I just screamed at him! He was like, oh my goodness, who is this screaming Aussie banshee on my back? And that was it - the rest is him. He was amazing."

Runner-up Aamilah Aswat, a Riding A Dream Academy graduate, said: “There is so much anticipation but, once you go, it is so fast and much better than I thought it would be. You can't believe how fast you are going and then it is over.

“I did think I might get there at one point. All the training was definitely worth it.

“This is just the start. I want to hopefully go into Jump racing and become a professional jockey. I am working for Kim Bailey.”

-ENDS-

For editorial enquiries please contact:

Emma Chamings, Goodwood Racecourse Press Office; emma@jsccomms.co.uk

About Goodwood Racecourse

[Goodwood Racecourse](#) is steeped in horseracing history dating back to 1802 when the 3rd Duke of Richmond introduced the sport. Significant moments within horseracing's history have taken place at Goodwood Racecourse. Lord George Bentinck commissioned the first ever horsebox to take his horse in secret from Goodwood to Doncaster to win the 1836 St leger. In 1952, Goodwood became the first British racecourse to provide racegoers with live commentary. It was also at Goodwood that Her Majesty The Queen has her last winner with her horse Love Affair.

There are 19 fixtures that take place across the season from May – October. One of the highlights of the flat racing season takes place at Goodwood Racecourse, the [Qatar Goodwood Festival](#). Once described by King Edward VII as ‘a garden party with racing tacked on,’ the world-famous five-day festival - affectionately known as ‘Glorious Goodwood’ - sees many of the world's greatest horses battle it out for honours. Thousands of people flock to the world's most beautiful racecourse to enjoy top class racing and entertainment.

Tickets, dining and hospitality are on sale for the Qatar Goodwood Festival, which takes place from 30 July to 3 August. Visit Goodwood.com or call 01243 755055 to find out more.

About Goodwood

[Goodwood Estate](#) is England's greatest sporting estate set in 11,000 acres of beautiful West Sussex countryside. Seat of the Dukes of Richmond since 1697, it is renowned for creating exceptional experiences and world-class sporting events, as well as hosting some of the largest and most anticipated occasions in the British social calendar: Festival of Speed, Qatar Goodwood Festival, Goodwood Revival and Goodwoof.

Alongside Goodwood's rich history sits an estate-wide culture of protecting and promoting sustainability, creativity, and the environment. The diverse portfolio of businesses includes one of the largest lowland organic farms in Europe; a famous Battle of Britain airfield and aerodrome; a

racecourse; a historic motor circuit; two golf courses; one of the oldest cricket grounds in the country; The Kennels members' clubhouse; ten-bedroom luxury retreat, Hound Lodge; self-catering holiday cottages, The Pheantry, Peach Tree and Crab Apple; Goodwood Hotel and Health Club; the Goodwood Education Centre; the award-winning sustainable restaurant Farmer, Butcher, Chef and, of course, Goodwood House.