

Race-Night.Co.UK

Race Nights and How to run One.

A Race Night is normally supplied as a Professionally Compered event, with a Large Screen, Projector and 8 DVD's each showing a single horse race.

Our DVD's are produced in full colour, and come complete with an English (Not American) commentary.

The races each have 8 horses identified by number only. They are shown at a special race evening or afternoon arranged by your organisation. Your guest's bet on which horse number they think will win using the "Tote" (betting desk). For People fundraising, your profits come from a percentage of the bets, the entrance fee, Race Sponsors, and selling the Owners and Trainers. (Explained on another page)

Each DVD is sealed so that nobody knows which horse will win. One is selected at random by one of the audience after Tote has closed and the betting is complete. The seal is broken and the race shown. That's when the excitement really begins as members cheer on their own horse. It's as simple as that.

HOW TO RUN A FUNDRAISING RACE NIGHT

Your Compere will show a special Introduction Video that explains how the betting works so that every one understands what is going to happen. (Explained on another page)

When the Tote Closes we work out the "Odds" for each horse and display this on the Giant Screen, so every one will know how much they could win.

A member of the Audience is then asked to pick a video at random, your Compere will break the seal, load it, dim the lights and they're off.

Excitement mounts as the audience cheer on their horses.

With the Race over, lights up, and the winners are paid out at the cash desk. After about twenty minutes for the betting to take place on the next race, it's lights down, and we're off again.

WHAT DO WE SUPPLY

When we receive your booking confirmation we send you all the paperwork you will need to run the function.

Master Race Cards, forms and a Poster for you to advertise your event. (You can download other posters from our web site)

If you have never run a Race Night before print out this booklet, and read our FAQ section they will answer many of your questions, as well as providing loads of hints and tips to make your RACE NIGHT the success you hope for.

HOW MUCH CAN YOU RAISE?

What you can raise with just 70 guests attending an 8 race event

BEFORE THE EVENT

Admission Tickets @ £2 each £140

Horse Ownership @ £5 per horse £320

Race Sponsorship (@) £15 per race £120

ON THE NIGHT

30% of Tote Sales @ 50p per ticket £252

(at a £1.00 per ticket and 50% you could make even more)

(Average spend £1.50 race)

50% Auction Last Race @ £30 per horse £129

£952

Total for the evening £952.00

LEGALITY

You should ensure your event falls within the conditions of the Lotteries and amusements act 1976 (Amusements with Prizes) for which no Licence is required

Whilst we are not able to provide Legal Advice the following is our own interpretation:

You include another attraction. E.g. Supper, Bar, Disco, Raffle etc.

(It should be run as a Fish and Chip Supper and Race Night

not, a Race Night with Fish and Chips if you see what I mean).

Proceeds go to your club or charitable cause not private gain.

Advertising is restricted to your own members and premises.

You do not Select or open any Race Video until after all betting for that race is complete.

The main rule seems to be it must be a game of Luck not Skill!

Check the **Department for culture media and sport** <http://www.culture.gov.uk/> web site and search for “Race Nights”

The New Licensing Act does mean that Regulated Entertainment like Bands/Folk Singers Discos/Karaoke and Race Nights do need premises license.

Most venues already have one that includes Films, but if yours does not you will need a "Temporary Event Notice" it's very easy to get, and you can apply to run a Bar and sell alcohol with the same Licence.

A search on the **Department for culture media and sport.** <http://www.culture.gov.uk/> web site for “Regulated Entertainment” will explain all.

HOW TO PLAN YOUR RACE NIGHT

The Venue & Publicity.

You need enough room to allow an informal layout and to ensure people can move about easily, but with a good view of the Video Screen.

Arrange the seating and tables in the room in a Herringbone Fashion, so that only one chair has it's back to the screen.

The Tote and Payout desk should be at the BACK of the room, and you must allow enough space for the Video Projector and Screen at the front.

Planning your Race Card

Your program should list all the races to be run the horses running in each race, and the race Sponsors.

Since only numbers identify the horses in each race, it does not matter which Video is chosen and which names are on the race card.

More importantly for a fund raising event the Race Card is a valuable source of income. Used properly it can cover the cost of your event, and more.

First you can sell the race card on the evening for say 10p to £1 or include it with your admission fee.

Second you can get local firms to sponsor each of the 8 races, for say £15 - £20 or provide the prize for the winning owner in their race. They can have the race named after them e.g. "Fred Bloggs Cup".

Third you can sell the horses to members.

They become the "owners" and their name and choice of horse name are shown on the race card.

If their horse wins the race they win a prize. (Paid for out of the sale of owners or donated from the race sponsor)

Don't forget, the more money you can raise before the event the less you are relying of the Tote Money on the evening.

Setting up the Tote

If you have a Compere he will usually organise all this, but it is important to ensure the betting is handled simply.

You need a table large enough to sell the tickets and you may need a separate payout table for the winning numbered horse.

A percentage (usually 25% or 50%) is taken out of all the bets for your funds.

The remainder is divided equally among those who bet on the winning horse.

As soon as the race is over the payout dividend is announced and displayed on the Big Screen the lucky punters can collect their winnings from the payout desk.

You will need to ensure you have an adequate cash float on the night. For 100 people you should get something like £200.00 but as we always round the payouts to the nearest 50p the only coins you will need are 50p and £1.00 but do get some £5.00 and £10.00 Notes.

Remember --- Sod's Law says "EVERYONE GOES TO THE CASH MACHINE JUST BEFORE A RACE NIGHT"

HOW THE BETTING WORKS

The Compere will sort out all the odds for you and project the results on the big screen , but if you are running a DIY night you will need to understand the next bit.

1. You will need a float of £200 (50p and £1 coins some £5.00 and £10.00 NOTES).
2. Sell the Tote Tickets at 50p/£1.00/£2.00each, the choice is yours - stick to one price throughout the night. (50p or £1.00 seems the norm at present)
3. The Race tickets will all start with a 01 on each race, it makes the Tabulator Forms easy to fill in.

4. After the introduction open the betting on the first race - the Compere should keep the betting flowing - and announce a countdown to the close of the Tote.
5. When all bets have been placed officially close the betting and enter onto the Tabulator Form the closing ticket number on each horse.
6. Before the night you should have decided what percentage of the betting you are paying out. Most race nights pay out between 50% and 75% of the amount staked, the profits going to the charity organisation you are raising funds for.
7. As an example let's say the tickets have been sold at 50p each. A total of 151 tickets have been sold on the race: $151 \times 50p = \text{£}75.50$.
A 75% payout is being made: $\frac{3}{4}$ of $\text{£}75.50 = \text{£}56.62$

No.5 is the favourite = 30 tickets sold; $\text{£}56.62$ divided by 30 = 1.88p No.3 is the outsider = 8 tickets sold; $\text{£}56.62$ divided by 8 = $\text{£}7.07$

For ease of operation the payout on No.5 should be rounded down to $\text{£}1.50p$.
The payout on number 3 should be rounded down to $\text{£}7.00$.

You should always round payments down otherwise you may finish up with less money for your charity than you expected at the end of the evening.

8. You announce the amount being paid out on each winning ticket. Ask all winning ticket holders to go to the payout desk. Some of your stake money should be transferred ready to make it a speedy payout.
9. When all winning tickets have been paid out, open the betting on the next race.

AUCTION RACE

If you have sold all the owners for all the races make the last race of the evening the Auction Race. Sell the chance to be a 'Trainer' for each horse to the highest bidders. The winning trainer of the winning horse in the race receives 50% of the Monies raised during the auction. Your charity fund keeps the rest.

If you want any more information please feel free to call Ken on 01933 315571 or e-mail him at ken@race-night.co.uk

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