



## **Giddyup! Stagecoach West Scotland partners with Ayr Racecourse**

Stagecoach West Scotland today (21 January) announces a partnership with Ayr Racecourse to be the transport provider for its major race meetings in 2020.

As official transport partner, Stagecoach will work closely with Ayr Racecourse to provide easily accessible coach and bus services for all fans travelling to the selected events.

The starting stalls will open for this new partnership on Saturday 18th April when Ayr Racecourse hosts the Coral Scottish Grand National - the most famous and most exciting day of the jumps season in Scotland and one of the top sporting occasions of the year.

Ticket holders for selected race days will be able to travel on a Stagecoach shuttle service available from key locations across West Scotland including Glasgow, Irvine, Kilmarnock, Largs and Hamilton. All journeys include return travel.

**Fraser Smith, Business Development Director at Stagecoach West Scotland,** said: "We are excited to be partnering with Ayr Racecourse starting with one of the biggest sporting events in Scotland.

"Racing goers can take advantage of bus and coach services from key locations in the West of Scotland on our private fleet of buses which will ease the cost of travel while reducing the number of vehicles travelling to the event.

"We are looking forward to the first meet in April and the other race days lined up throughout the year."

**David Brown, Managing Director at Ayr Racecourse**, said: “I am delighted that Stagecoach are on board as our transport partners and as such will be operating return coach travel from various locations throughout the West of Scotland to Ayr Racecourse.

“The Coral Scottish Grand National is the biggest and busiest day of racing in Scotland and it’s crucial that there is a reliable coach service on offer for customers who want to travel to the races without the worry of a long drive.

“Stagecoach’s reputation is second to none and our partnership with them further improves the service we can provide on this special day in the Scottish sporting calendar.”

Last year, tickets for the Scottish Grand National sold out six weeks in advance so book your tickets now. Tickets can be purchased online via [ayr-racecourse.co.uk](http://ayr-racecourse.co.uk).

In addition to being official transport provider, Stagecoach is proud to announce it is the official sponsor of Enclosure 27, Ayr Racecourse’s new admissions venue, located at the centre of the course. Named after the 27 fences in the Coral Scottish Grand National, this is a totally inclusive area with private bars, food outlets, betting facilities and live musical entertainment between races.

**23 January 2020**

**- Ends -**

#### **Notes to Editors**

##### **Stagecoach West Scotland**

Stagecoach West Scotland provides local bus services throughout Ayrshire & Arran, Dumfries & Galloway, Inverclyde and Glasgow. Operating over 400 buses and employing over 1,000 staff, Stagecoach West Scotland is a major employer in the area investing in its people and in the communities in which it operates. Stagecoach West Scotland is an innovative business leading the industry in many technological advancements and works with business partners seeking transport solutions for their own people.

Stagecoach West Scotland’s services play an important role in connecting people to access work, education, health, shopping and leisure running accessible, convenient, safe and sustainable bus services for local communities.

For more information visit: [www.stagecoachbus.com](http://www.stagecoachbus.com) or for the latest updates on Twitter go to @StagecoachWScot

## **Ayr Racecourse**

Scotland's premier and only Grade 1 racecourse Ayr will stage 32 fixtures in 2020 and hosts the jewels in the crown of Scottish racing – the Coral Scottish Grand National Festival in April and the Ayr Gold Cup Festival in September. Attracting crowds of around 100,000 each year Ayr Racecourse is a 5 star VisitScotland tourist attraction. There has been racing in Ayr since 1576 with the first Ayr Gold Cup held in 1804. The racecourse has been on its current site since 1907. For more information visit [www.ayr-racecourse.co.uk](http://www.ayr-racecourse.co.uk)

## **Coral Scottish Grand National**

The Coral Scottish Grand National is the pinnacle of jumps racing in Scotland and is quite simply the nation's most exciting, most famous and most valuable race. Run over 4 miles with a field of up to 30 horses jumping 27 fences the £215,000 race is the highlight of an unforgettable day out. Supported by three valuable Class 1 races the Scottish Champion Hurdle, the Jordan Electrics Ltd Future Champion Chase and the Listed Scotty Brand Chase and also the £100,000 Novices' Championship Handicap Chase this is jumps racing at its very best. But that's not all there is also fantastic entertainment before, during and after racing and it all adds up to make the biggest and best day out in Scottish racing.