**Horse Chat – Learn the Lingo:**

Racing is full of words you might not have heard before, so here are a few tips to help you learn your bits from your bridles and your sprinters from your stayers.

If you hear something and can't find it in our Glossary, why don’t you send us a message on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram and we’ll tell you what it means.

**Age**Did you know that all racehorses in Europe have their birthdays on 1st January? All racehorses turn a year older on New Year’s Day.

**Amateur**A non-professional jockey who does not receive any money for riding in a race.

**At the post**When all the horses have arrived at the start before a race, they are said to be ‘at   
the post’.

**Blanket Finish**When the horses finish so close together at the winning post you could put a blanket across them. The Judge (whose job it is to decide who comes first, second third etc) will then look at a photo taken at the winning post to decide which horse has finished in front.

**Classic**Group of historic major races for three-year-old horses in the Flat season. In Britain the five Classics are the 2,000 Guineas, the 1,000 Guineas, the Oaks, the Derby and the St Leger.

**Colours (silks)**Jacket ('silks') worn by jockey to see which horse you’re supporting. The colours represent the owner of the horse, the colours worn by each jockey are shown in the racecard. **Dead-heat**  
A tie between two or more horses for first place, or for one of the other finishing positions. A dead-heat will be called by the judge after looking at the photo finish from the winning line.  
  
**Flat racing**  
Racing without jumps. Races are run over a minimum distance of 5 furlongs up to a maximum of 2 miles and 6 furlongs.

**Furlong**  
220 yards or 200 meters (one eighth of a mile). The numbered posts on the side of racecourses count the furlongs back from the winning post.

**Gallop**  
This is the top speed a horse moves at. A horse goes from a walk to a trot and then into a gallop. A horse gallops in a race. A bit like a human goes from walking to jogging and running.  
  
**Going**  
The going describes the condition of the surface the horses are racing on. Most of the time they race on grass and the going will change depending on how nice the weather has been. For example, if there has been lots of rain the ground is likely to be soft or heavy. If it has been really sunny and warm and the ground has dried out, it is described as firm.

**Nose**   
The smallest official distance a horse can win by – the same time it take for a bee to flap its wings.

**Paddock**  
The part of the racecourse where horses are paraded before the race and often includes the Winner's Enclosure where horses return after winning the race.  
  
**Photo finish**  
In a close race, where the placings cannot be easily decided, the result is made by the judge after examination of a special photograph taken by a camera at the winning post.

**Racing Groom**  
The person responsible for the care and exercise of racehorses at a trainer’s yard.

**Racecard**  
Programme for the day's racing, showing the times of the races, the names of the horses running and riders for each race.

**Sprinter**A horse that specialises in running over the shortest distances (five and six furlongs) on the Flat.

**Starter**The person who starts a horse race.

**Starting Stalls**  
Metal gates which the horses are put into before the start of a Flat race. Once all the horses are in the starting stalls the Starter will press a button and all the gates will open at the same time – this means that no horse gets a head start.

**Stayer**  
A horse that specialises in racing over long distances (two miles and above) in Flat races.

**Stewards' Enquiry**A meeting held by the stewards (the people in charge of a raceday – they decide   
if any rules have been broken) to see if jockeys or trainers have done anything wrong in a race.

**Trainer**The person who helps look after the horse and prepares it for the race.

**Under starters orders**This is what the commentator says the moment a race is about to begin. Once the horses are in the stalls for a Flat race, or have lined up at the start for a Jumps race, they are said to be ‘under starter’s orders’.