



After Dark **ESCAPE** Spa, Limerick

at the launch of Limerick Racecourse's 4 day Christmas racing festival...
 by Catriona Tierney 



LAST WEEK there was plenty of fun and frolics to be found at the Crescent Shopping Centre in Dooradoyle as it played host the official launch of Limerick Racecourse's 4 day Christmas Racing festival with a difference. The launch certainly turned heads at the busy shopping centre with "Racing from Limerick to Cheltenham" the theme of the evening as some stars of the turf turned out to show their support and raise funds for **Red House**, Limerick which is a non-profit organisation providing a specialised treatment programme for people who have suicidal thoughts or who participate in self-harming behaviours and the Injured Jockeys Fund. Jockeys Andrew McNamara, Ken Whelan, Brian O'Connell and Derek O' Connor all got into the spirit of the occasion and rode the race horse simulator to Cheltenham along with members of the public who tried their luck. Other highlights of the launch included face-painting for the kids, a monster raffle draw, mince pies and mulled wine as local trainers and visitors to the centre gathered to enjoy some festive fun and entertainment. "We are delighted to support **Red House** and the Injured Jockeys Fund and would like to thank the jockeys and trainers for their support, without whom the racing industry would falter. We are looking forward to welcoming patrons to the races this festive season for our 10th year of Christmas Racing at Greenmount Park, we have some great value deals so check out our website for some offers", Russell Ferris, General Manager of Limerick Racecourse said at the Charity Event. "The Injured Jockey Fund are delighted to be part of the great event and funds raised this evening will go up for the benefit of jockeys/apprentices injured either in races or in the schooling of horses," Seamus Gibbons from The Turf Club said. Marion Long from **Red House**, Limerick was also delighted with the fundraiser "Many thanks to all at Limerick Racecourse for organising the event, **Red House** are grateful for the support and funds raised" she said. The message at the launch night meanwhile was clear, with the festive racing only weeks away, Limerick Racecourse has something for everyone this Christmas. Highlights include a Hats and Heels Ladies Day on Wednesday December 28 with a top prize sponsored by Shiseido and 2nd Prize by Joli Accessories, a Family Fun Day on December 29 with a puppet show, pony rides, face-painting and much more. (Children under 16 years can enjoy FREE Admission to the races on all 4 days of the festival) plus some great packages available throughout the festival....

Pictured at the racing festival launch were:

- 1: Brian O'Connell, Andrew McNamara, Michael Hourigan, Val O'Connell and Ken Whelan.
- 2: Sarah O'Donovan, Marion Long, **Red House**, Seamus Gibbons and Neasa Lehane.
- 3: Conor Fitzgerald, Andrew McNamara, Brian O'Connell, Ken Whelan, Mary Fitzgerald and Ross Whelan.
- 4: Russell Ferris and Karen Shanahan, Limerick Racecourse.

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