

**WE ARE  
MACMILLAN.  
CANCER SUPPORT**



**York**  
RACECOURSE

ERNEST COOPER  
& MACMILLAN  
RIDE OF THEIR LIVES

at

YORK RACECOURSE

on

SATURDAY 13th JUNE 2026

Timeline;

Applications by Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2025

Riding Skills and Equisizer Test at NHC – day tbc end of May/early June

Fitness Test and Course Walk – day tbc early June

The Stewards of The British Horseracing Authority have granted exemptions from the effects of Rule 204 (ii)(6) for this race as it is being run outside the Rules of Racing therefore it will not count for any purpose on the horse's career record.

### Race Conditions

- 1 mile 1 furlong Flat Race
- Maximum field of 12
- Minimum weight to be carried 11st 7lbs, maximum weight 12st
- For horses 3 years old and upwards, currently in training, who must have run at least 3 times under the recognised Rules of Racing
- Entry Fee – Riders pledge to raise at least £4,000 to be donated to Macmillan Cancer Support.
- The rider will only be eligible to ride if they pass both their Riding and Fitness Assessment Courses as outlined below.
- The Charity Race is run outside the ‘Rules of Racing’ and will take place 1 hour before the first flat race race of the afternoon at approximately 1pm.

### Rules

Application form to be signed by a licensed trainer to say they will vouch for your competence in the saddle, allow you to ride out, and assist in sourcing an appropriate horse for you to ride in the race.

Twelve riders will be chosen and notified with two reserves. The places are offered at the discretion of York Racecourse after consultation with your named trainer, the aim being to deliver a safe race and raise donations for Macmillan Cancer Support. York Racecourse’s decision on the selected twelve is final.

Successful riders are required to meet the sponsorship targets listed below. York Racecourse reserves the right to withdraw a rider’s place if it feels that the rider is not able to raise the target sponsorship for Macmillan Cancer Support. Their place will be offered to a reserve rider.

### Forfeit Stages for Sponsorship

Riders pledge to raise at least £4,000 sponsorship to be banked with Macmillan Cancer Support or on justgiving.com in the following stages:

- A minimum of £1,000 by 1<sup>st</sup> February 2025
- A minimum of a further £1,000 by 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025
- A minimum of a further £1,000 by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025
- A minimum of a further £1,000 by 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025

### Compulsory Requirements

- Minimum age of rider 18 years. Maximum age of rider 70 years. Ages as on raceday.
- Riders are to wear skullcaps and body protectors as under the Rules of Racing, and which conform to the following minimum standard;

Body Protector – Level 2, EN 13158 2018 or Level 3

Helmet – PAS 015 2011 or 2012

Whips must not be carried.

- All riders who are confirmed to ride in the race must ensure they participate in and pass a one-day Riding Skills and Fitness Assessment course at the National Horseracing College or the British Racing School, whichever is most geographically appropriate. The course is designed to assess a rider's competence and fitness and prepare them for the experience of riding in a race. The date for NHC will be advised on notification of successful application and will be funded by York Racecourse. **Any rider who fails either course will not be allowed to ride in the race, and the decision of the Jockey Coach/Assessor is final.**
- All riders should be responsible for their own insurance. It is recommended that you become a member of the Amateur Jockeys Association, which will, on payment of your subscription, give you worldwide riding out insurance, as part of the membership benefits. However, please note it does not cover you for riding in the race itself. Full details are on the AJA website;  
<https://www.amateurjockeys.org.uk/membership/>  
Chief Executive AJA: (For all enquiries: **01684 218354** or **07789 935399**)  
Mrs Sarah Oliver e-mail: [sph.oliver@btinternet.com](mailto:sph.oliver@btinternet.com)

Personal Accident cover for the race may be arranged on an individual basis by contacting Max Johnson on 07788 138634 or 1904 217455

- **On acceptance into the race, it is the riders' responsibility to source a horse in training suitable for the race and make all necessary arrangements for the day of the race.**
- All horses must be currently in training with a licensed trainer and vaccinated in accordance with Rule 35 of the Rules of Racing. Each Horse must be accompanied by an up-to-date Horse Passport and EI vaccinations must conform with current BHA protocols.
- York Racecourse will have the final decision on all applicants' eligibility to ride in the Macmillan Ride of Their Lives.
- Each declared runner will be entitled to six complimentary Owners' badges for the owner of the horse, and lunches. In addition, the rider will receive four badges to include themselves and their supporters. Any further badges for family and friends should be purchased in the normal way.

Following your race, all riders and their three guests will be invited to a private box with a celebratory glass of Champagne to celebrate your achievement. This will be followed by a 3 course lunch with wine.

Successful applicants will also receive the following;

- A prize for the rider who raises the most sponsorship money.
- Mementoes to all jockeys and a prize for the winner.
- Branded jackets.
- A member of the Macmillan fundraising team will be on hand throughout for practical help and support.
- Invitation to a social event to be specified at a later date, for each rider and a guest, to celebrate their achievement



**ERNEST COOPER & MACMILLAN  
'Ride of Their Lives'**

**York Racecourse**

**Saturday 13th June 2026**

**Application Form**

(Please also enclose a photo that may be used for promotional purposes if  
your application is successful)

Rider's Name.....

Rider's Age on June 13<sup>th</sup> 2026.....

Address.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Telephone Number.....

Email.....

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

1. I have voluntarily accepted the risk of death or injury to me or damage to my property which may be caused arising out of or in connection with my participating in the race. I accept these risks and take part in the race at my own risk.
2. I am physically and mentally competent to take part in the race. I will not participate whilst under the influence of alcohol, drugs (prescribed or otherwise) or substances which may impair my ability to take part.
3. I will comply with the rules and regulations of York Racecourse as notified to me and I will comply with the instructions and directions given by the organisers and any other representative of York Racecourse at all times.
4. I shall have adequate personal accident insurance in place.
5. I understand that I shall be liable for any loss or liability suffered by York as a result of my error, default, act or omission.
6. I agree that York shall not be liable for any loss, damage, claims, costs, expenses, injury or demands suffered directly or indirectly by me as a consequence of my participation in the race or the event provided that nothing shall exclude York's liability for personal injury or death caused by its own negligence.
7. York may take photographs and/or video footage of me during the race and the event and may use such photographs or footage for promotional, marketing and publicity purposes in any media worldwide without notice or payment.
8. All personal information that you supply to York will be recorded, used and protected by York, as described in York's privacy policy, a copy of which can be seen at [www.yorkracecourse.co.uk](http://www.yorkracecourse.co.uk) and in accordance with applicable data protection legislation.

I confirm that I have read, understood and agree to the above terms and conditions of participation

Signed:

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Print name:

.....

Date:

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Rider's Biography (i.e. past riding experience, occupation - details may be included in the racecard - use a separate sheet if necessary)

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Maximum of 200 words why you would like to take part in the race (use a separate sheet if necessary)

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Examples of ideas you may have for money raising, and any previous experience of gaining sponsorship

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Donation target.....

Current weight.....

(Weight to be carried - 11st 7lbs including saddle, etc and dressed to ride)

Intended mount/source of mount.....

If successful in my application to ride in the Macmillan Ride of their Lives at York Racecourse on Saturday 14th June 2025 I agree to pledge a minimum sponsorship of £4,000 to donate to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Signed.....

Date.....

I, the undersigned licensed Racehorse Trainer, vouch for the suitability of the applicant to apply to ride in the 2026 Macmillan Race of their Lives. I will allow them to ride out and will assist in sourcing a suitable mount for the race.

Signed .....

Date.....

Applications to be returned by to;

Anthea Leigh  
York Racecourse  
The Racecourse  
York  
YO23 1EX

or by email to: [anthea.leigh@yorkracecourse.co.uk](mailto:anthea.leigh@yorkracecourse.co.uk) (mobile 07837 559861)