

PRESS RELEASE:

Rabobank Ireland to sponsor Punchestown Champion Hurdle

Tuesday 3 February 2009: Rabobank Ireland today announced that it is changing its title sponsorship of the Punchestown Champion Hurdle, from ACCBank to Rabobank, to reflect the overall activities of Rabobank in Ireland. The race will now be called the Rabobank Champion Hurdle and will be the feature event at the Punchestown National Hunt Festival on Friday 1 May 2009.

The new title sponsorship was announced earlier today, Tuesday 3 February. Commenting on the new title sponsorship, Chief Executive of Rabobank, Mr. Rob Hartog, said Rabobank was very pleased to be associated with such a prestigious race in the racing calendar.

“This sponsorship works well for us as it aligns Rabobank’s strength in the food and agri sectors, and our objective to grow our business in this area, with one of the most significant events in Irish racing,” Mr Hartog said.

Speaking on behalf of the Punchestown National Hunt Festival Committee, Dick O’Sullivan, said, “We are delighted to welcome Rabobank on board as the title sponsor of the Rabobank Champion Hurdle and we look forward to working together to make this race a huge success.”

-ENDS-

For further information, please contact:
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Tuesday 3 February 2009

Editor's Notes:

The Rabobank Group operates three businesses in Ireland, Rabobank Ireland plc, RaboDirect and ACCBank.

Rabobank Ireland plc operates in the Corporate Banking market focused on the Food and Agri sector. It is part of Rabobank Group, the world's leading food and agri bank and has been trading in Ireland since 1994.

RaboDirect has been operating in Ireland since May 2005 and is Europe's largest dedicated online bank. It offers a "no nonsense" approach to money and banking, offering on demand and term deposit savings products for retail and business savers. Investors are also offered access to top rated managed funds online.

ACCBank is a business bank focussed on the SME and Agri sectors. The bank offers Banking, Asset Finance and Wealth Management services.

The Rabobank Champion Hurdle at Punchestown has a prestigious roll of honour including Istabraq, Moscow Flyer and Brave Inca. The full roll of Honour is listed below:

1999 Istabraq
2000 Grimes
2001 Moscow Flyer
2002 Davenport Millennium
2003 Quazar
2004 Hardy Eustace
2005 Brave Inca
2006 Macs Joy
2007 Silent Oscar
2008 Punjabi

The five day Irish National Hunt Festival takes place at Punchestown from Tuesday 28th April to Saturday 2nd May 2009.

Thanks

For further information on the Punchestown National Hunt Festival, one can contact the race office at +353-45-897704, info@punchestown.com or log onto www.punchestown.com