

## PRESS RELEASE

### 25 JANUARY 2007

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#### Train to Gain goes to the races

##### **Race day shows importance of form**

Train to Gain sponsored a Fit for Business race day at Huntingdon Race Course on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2007, using race names to get across its key messages with the 'Better People Better Business Novices' Hurdles' and the 'Are you Fit for Business Handicap Steeple Chase'.

The guest of honour at the event was Peter Cullis, former professional jockey who enjoyed 30 years in the saddle, rode at Huntingdon many times, finished 9th in the Grand National in 1973 and started as an **Apprentice Jockey** at the age of 11.

Also attending the event were key personnel from the Learning and Skills Council and The Consultancy Home Counties Ltd, which acts as a skills broker, and major employers from the East of England region.

Train to Gain helps businesses get the training they need to succeed, from Skills for Life and first NVQ Level 2 (equivalent to five good GCSEs) to a huge range of Apprenticeships.

Over 1,000 businesses and 4,000 employees in the East of England have already started to benefit from the insight, advice and support available from Train to Gain since it was launched in 2006.

**Laurie Kay, Regional Director of Skills**, who presented the winner of the 15:00 with their prize, says 'If you run a business you'll know how critical it is to have all your people properly trained. Train to Gain is a new service that helps businesses identify how training can help them win more often'.

##### Don't let a lack of skills be a handicap

Skills gaps cost a typical 50-employee business £165,000 in lost revenue each year, according to the National Audit Office.

- Train to Gain can help identify the skills your business needs.

- It can then pinpoint the right training and agree a tailored training package.
- Finally Train to Gain can help with funding for training and can review the success of the programme.

Train to Gain is the easiest way to help businesses ensure they get the training they need to succeed. More information can be found at [www.traintogain.gov.uk](http://www.traintogain.gov.uk) or by calling 0800 387 326.

### **Notes to Editors**

For media enquiries please contact Elsa Cheshire on 01473 288700.

1. Train to Gain was launched nationally in September 2006 with the vision that by 2010, young people and adults in England will have the knowledge and skills that match the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce.
2. It is currently being rolled out across the East of England, including Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.
3. The service is administered by The Learning and Skills Council and delivered by The East of England Brokerage Consortium and The Consultancy Home Counties Ltd.

