

The **BIG** Partnership

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New role...at races for Laura Marsden

Laura's a face at the Races

A LESMAHAGOW lass has beaten stiff competition from hundreds of applicants to be crowned one of the faces of Hamilton Races.

Laura Marden (21) was one of eight people selected to win 'Faces at the Races' at Hamilton Park for the start of the 2009 season.

And as an added bonus Laura, a student nurse at the University of the West of Scotland, will also receive a special gift pack containing fake bake goodies, an Esporta guest pass for the duration of the racing season and a photography session.

All this thanks to a chance meeting in early April when Laura and friend Chloe Dewsnape, from Newmains, were on a night out at Hamilton Palace.

Laura said: "We went out one Thursday night and were standing on the edge of the dancefloor when someone from the racecourse asked to come and take a look. I found out on the Wednesday I had won and was delighted when I found out Chloe got through as well. "I'm quite excited by the whole thing and also very flattered. It's a great opportunity for me.

"Being a full time student means whatever money I can get is brilliant."

The overall winner of 'Faces of the Races' will be handed an additional £100 cash prize at the end of the racing season.

Hamilton Park commercial manager Ashley Moon said: "We were very impressed with the large response from a high number of quality candidates for these coveted positions, but we could only pick eight of them.

"Working at the racecourse will provide them with a great opportunity to gain invaluable experience with one of Scotland's leading sporting venues.

"They are as excited as we are about the new season getting underway and I'm sure they will make us proud."