

KINGSCLERE

PARK HOUSE STABLES



WINTER MAGAZINE 2020



DEJAME PASO, part of a strong team of juveniles this year

Front cover: KAMEKO stretching for the line in the 2,000 Guineas

Back cover: A jubilant Oisin Murphy on ALCOHOL FREE after the Cheveley Park

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INTRODUCTION AMB

2020 has been a year that so many will want to forget, as COVID-19 has had such a devastating effect on the world as a whole. At the time of writing, however, there does seem to be some genuine cause for optimism that there might be an end to this global pandemic relatively soon, and a return to life as we knew it twelve months ago looks a distinct possibility by the start of the 2021 turf season. The muted applause and masked celebrations of this season will be a thing of the past and dreaming of a packed Chester racecourse in May and the colour and excitement of a busy Royal meeting will help the winter months seem a little shorter than normal!

In these difficult circumstances it is a huge credit to all involved that racing has been allowed to continue after its delayed resumption and whilst it was not the season we had anticipated in many ways, by and large it was a hugely rewarding one for the Park House team. With a shortened season and reduced prize money as a direct result of COVID it is difficult to draw comparisons with previous years but it was a great achievement by everyone to pass the hundred winner mark and to secure a top four finish in the trainers' championship.

The obvious highlights were the performances of our three year olds in this summer's classics. Kameko winning the 2,000 Guineas, Khalifa Sat finishing second in the Derby and Berkshire Rocco filling the same spot in the St Leger were fantastic results. Tactical providing us with a royal winner at the Royal meeting and Alcohol Free winning the Cheveley Park for Jeff Smith also provided some really special memories. To see the jockeys' championship being fought out by two former Kingsclere apprentices in Oisin Murphy and William Buick was another thrill for anyone involved with the yard.

Away from the track, it was with great sadness that we learned of the tragic death of Alan Rae Smith in October. Alan had been a friend for many years and was a huge supporter of Kingsclere, initially through his parents' horses such as Distant Prospect and latterly as a member of the Kingsclere Racing Club. Alan would often accompany David and Johnny to the races and was an avid supporter of Club events, showing a particularly strong hand on the golf days! His easy going and affable nature, combined with a great sense of humour and fun, endeared him to everyone who had the great fortune to spend time with him. Alan will be sadly missed by us all and our sincerest sympathies are with Sarah, Lottie, Ella, Ned and Josh at this difficult time.



Toby Balding scoops his first pony race victory at Lingfield

In memory of Alan, we have created the 'Alan Rae Smith Trophy'. This will be awarded annually to the person that is judged (by my mother) to have achieved most with their ex-Kingsclere trained racehorse. This may be in any discipline such as polo, dressage, hunting, showing or just becoming a special riding horse. The Rae Smith family were particularly keen on supporting the retraining of racehorses, as shown with Cesarewitch winner Distant Prospect, co-owned by David and Johnny with John and Pauline Gale who have been instrumental in retraining him to have such a happy second career. ■

SEASON REVIEW

by Tessa Hetherington

2020 will endure in the memories of all who experienced it as the year when the world became gripped by a global pandemic, leading to tragic losses for many and restrictions on daily life for all. For us at Park House, however, 2020 will also be remembered as the year that **Kameko** won the fastest ever 2,000 Guineas and became Kingsclere's first Classic winner since Casual Look took the Oaks in 2003. His victory would have been a huge thrill in any year but, coming as it did in the first week of racing after a ten week hiatus and when there was little else to celebrate, it provided a major boost to all connected with the horse and the yard.

Having won the first ever British Group 1 staged on the all-weather when the 2019 Futurity Trophy was switched to Newcastle due to waterlogging at Doncaster, Kameko again entered the record books as the winner of the first ever British Classic to be staged behind closed doors. His racing career continued to be shaped by forces outside his control as, in this strangest of years, he had to go straight from the Guineas to try his hand at a mile and a half in the Derby. In an oddly run race his stamina was tested beyond its limits yet he still finished a very creditable fourth, before suffering an agonisingly troubled passage when trapped on the rail back at a mile in the Sussex Stakes. The extended ten furlongs on the Knavesmire in the Juddmonte International had the potential to be his ideal trip, but after making eye-catching progress in the eighth furlong he then weakened, confirming that it was the mile at which he was strongest. In any normal year that confirmation would

probably have been obtained in the Dante in May – before the Derby and when the bulk of the season lay ahead of him – but in this topsy-turvy season it was not until the latter part of August that we solved this conundrum, with unsuitable Autumn ground fast approaching.

It was, therefore, a relief when Kameko returned to winning ways back at a mile in the Joel Stakes at Newmarket in September. Officially a Group 2, the race attracted a Group 1 level field with seasoned stars Benbatl and Regal Reality amongst the opposition, and Kameko had to carry a 5lb penalty for his Guineas win. Having hit a flat spot when the tempo first increased, he then surged clear under regular partner Oisin Murphy to record a decisive win, and one that confirmed him as a truly top-class performer.

The prospect of heavy ground for British Champions Day meant that Kameko swerved the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes and instead headed to Keeneland for the Breeders Cup Mile in November, for which he was sent off favourite. Drawn on the inside rail on a sharp track, he had to go hard early in order to keep his position and ultimately faded in the final stages, finishing seventh but not beaten far at the end of a long and busy season.

A career at stud now beckons for this wonderful horse, and we have no doubt that he will excel in this next chapter of his life just as he excelled on the track. Blessed not only with exceptional talent but also with exceptional soundness and temperament, his love for life and his work was uplifting for all those around him. He will be much missed by all of us, and particularly by his devoted groom Marie Perrault, regular rider Taffy Cheshire and Head Lad Kevin Hunt. We are so grateful to Sheikh Fahad and the Qatar Racing team for sending Kameko to Park House, and we all look forward to welcoming his progeny back here in years to come.

Having won the first colts' Classic of the year, we then managed to field the runner up in the next two, which is a noteworthy achievement (outside the boundaries of Ballydoyle, at least...) **Khalifa Sat** ran a terrific race in the Derby, using his high cruising speed to keep tabs on runaway winner Serpentine and repelling all other challengers. Winner of the Listed Cocked Hat Stakes at Goodwood en route to Epsom, Khalifa Sat unfortunately picked up an injury after the Derby but he is well on the mend and, being from the first crop of Free Eagle who excelled as a four year old, there is every reason to believe that



KAMEKO surges clear of Benbatl and others in the Group 2 Joel Stakes at Newmarket



BERKSHIRE ROCCO almost wins the St Leger!

the best is yet to come from Ahmad Al Shaikh's handsome colt.

Second to English King in the Lingfield Derby Trial, **Berkshire Rocco** missed the Derby in favour of a trip to Royal Ascot for the Group 2 Queen's Vase, in which he found only subsequent Irish Derby winner Santiago too good. He ran another solid race when fourth in the Group 2 Great Voltigeur at York, before stepping back up to a mile and six furlongs for the St Leger at Doncaster in September. Sent off at odds of 16/1 in a strong field, he raced up with the pace throughout, forging clear under Andrea Atzeni to lead before the two furlong pole and rallying when headed in the final furlong, only to go down by a neck to Galileo Chrome in the final strides. It was an agonisingly close defeat but a truly gallant performance by a tremendously likeable horse who wears his heart on his sleeve and never runs a bad race. The shouts of his owner Paul Spickett and groom and regular rider Claudia Metaireau could be heard above the television commentary and he gave them both, and all at the yard, a day to remember. Having run so many good races in defeat this season it was great to see him get his head in front on his final start of the year in the Listed Noel Murless Stakes at Ascot under Oisin Murphy, and we look forward to seeing what he can achieve on the track next year.

It hasn't only been the three year olds who have flown the flag for the yard this season. King Power's aptly named **Happy Power** has provided happy days in each of the past two seasons, but he has progressed to a new level this year. Having placed in his first three starts of the season he then beat a small but classy field in a conditions event at Salisbury in August. He took the Group 3 Supreme Stakes at Goodwood later the same month and completed his hat-trick with victory in the Group 2 Challenge Stakes at Newmarket in October, relishing the soft ground and cruising clear under regular pilot Silvestre de Sousa. Not disgraced in the Group 1 British Champions Sprint at

Ascot in October, he has just returned from a mini-break at Far Westfield Farm to prepare for an exciting five year old campaign.

All three of Happy Power's victories came over seven furlongs but during the same period **Spanish Mission** provided us with highlights over staying trips. A winner of the Group 3 Bahrain Trophy at Newmarket and the Jockey Club Derby Invitational at Belmont in the USA when with David Simcock, Spanish Mission only joined us in August. He settled in quickly and made light work of the Listed Chester Stakes on his first start for the yard, skipping clear under Jamie Spencer over the mile and six furlongs trip. His next assignment, the Group 2 Doncaster Cup, was his first

in excess of two miles but he handled the trip with ease and scored a comfortable victory under William Buick. A line can be drawn through his last start of the year, where he encountered an unsuitably soft surface in the Long Distance Cup on British Champions Day. A delight to have on the yard and a highly progressive stayer, he should be a major threat in all the big staying races next year for owners Team Valor and Gary Barber. In that respect he will take



Doncaster Cup winner SPANISH MISSION is a top-class stayer

over the baton from **Dashing Willoughby**, who defeated Spanish Mission when winning the Group 3 Henry II Stakes at Sandown in July. Last year's Royal Ascot hero was also the winner of the Listed Buckhounds Stakes on his first start this season, and finished a creditable fourth in the Group 2 Lonsdale Cup at York in August before entering quarantine for Australia in September. Now racing for new owners Go Bloodstock Ltd but with Mick and Janice Mariscotti retaining an interest, Dasher was below par in both the Caulfield Cup and the Melbourne Cup, but he had been on the go since the (English) Spring and it appears the long journey down under had taken its toll. He has now joined top Australian trainer Chris Waller and we hope that a well-earned rest sees him back to his best.

Another to have been sold to race on abroad having made his mark at Stakes level for the yard is **Berlin Tango**, who won the Group 3 Classic Trial (held this year at Kempton rather than Sandown) before placing in the Group 3 Hampton Court Stakes at Royal Ascot. He is now in Hong Kong where he should continue to do well. **Bangkok** won last year's Classic Trial and was the runaway winner of the Winter Derby Trial at Lingfield at the start of this year but, having finished third in the Winter Derby itself, he failed to shine (though was not disgraced) in two Group 1s on the turf this summer. A splint was found to be causing him some aggravation and, after a period of rest, he seemed back to his best when travelling to the Bahrain International Trophy in November, having sparkled in his final piece of work at Kempton. Ultimately he was perhaps feeling too well, and the lack of a prep run caused him to run rather free during the early stages of the race before getting tired. He should be a different proposition next time, and will stay on the go with a range of potential foreign and all-weather targets on his radar.

Another who will continue to run over the winter is **Johnny Drama**, who has been a revelation in recent weeks since switching to artificial surfaces. Given a wind operation after two lacklustre efforts in the early part of the summer, he made an encouraging reappearance at York in October but could not build on that at Doncaster on his next start. In November he made his all-weather debut at Kempton at the grand age of five and won a Class 2 Handicap with ease, able to open up his huge stride on the polytrack surface and power clear under Silvestre de Sousa. It was a similar story when he returned to the same track a fortnight later, annexing another Class 2 contest in similarly impressive style. He completed the hat-trick at Southwell at the end of the month, handling the fibresand surface well and defeating Group performer and odds-on favourite Raymond Tusk by five lengths despite a 10lb disadvantage at the weights, and then made it a four timer with victory in the Listed Wild Flower Stakes back at Kempton. A joy to watch on the track but a horror to deal with in the stable, his victories are beginning to make amends for his savaging of various members of the staff team over the past eighteen months, and the manner of his wins suggests there is plenty more to come from this lovable rogue.

Shine So Bright is another member of the King Power squad who has shown aptitude for the all-weather. Last year's Group 2 City Of York Stakes winner placed in the Listed Surrey Stakes and Group 3 Hackwood Stakes on the turf over the summer and has gone close in conditions races at both Chelmsford and Lingfield this autumn. He remains unexposed on artificial surfaces and could be one for the All-Weather Championships next spring.

This winter will not only be about the all-weather now that we have a few jumpers in our midst! Kingsclere Racing Club's **Ranch Hand** had run well in three big fourteen

furlong handicaps this term, including when sixth in the Ebor, and had also placed in the Group 3 John Smiths Silver Cup over the same trip. He made his first attempt at two miles in the Listed Rose Bowl Stakes at Newmarket in September and posted a career best effort, staying on well to beat a small but quality field and adding some valuable black type to the pedigrees of his female relatives at Kingsclere Stud. A big, strong horse with a long stride and high cruising speed, he has all the attributes to excel over obstacles and Andrew was keen to test this theory. Ranch Hand sparkled in his schooling sessions under jockey Page Fuller, who had ridden out for us throughout lockdown, and duly justified odds-on favouritism on his hurdling debut at Exeter, jumping the last four lengths clear before idling in front and eventually holding on by half a length. Things did not go his way at Haydock next time out as he tired in heavy ground after running a little free in the early stages, but hopefully he can get back on track next time. Richard Wilmot-Smith's homebred **Diocletian** is another who has



NATURAL HISTORY scored twice this term before placing at Group level

embarked upon a hurdling campaign this winter, having placed in the Old Borough Cup and the Listed Chester Stakes on the flat this summer. He made an encouraging debut when fourth at Taunton but his over-enthusiasm for his new pursuit meant he tired quickly next time out at Newbury. He should settle better over time and will be eligible for handicap hurdle races after another start.

Another who may be seen over hurdles this winter is **Natural History**, who returned from just over two years off the track to win a Class 3 handicap at Chester under David Probert in September before following up at Class 2 level at Goodwood in October under Oisin Murphy, handling the heavy ground well to win going away from a strong field. He looked to face a tough task at the weights in the Group 3 St Simon Stakes at Newbury later the same month but progressed again to finish second, finding only the classy Euchen Glen too good. He headed to the Tattersalls October Horses In Training Sale with a new official rating of 101 and made many shortlists, eventually selling to Gary Moore, whose hurdling star Goshen he had beaten at Goodwood.



FOXTROT LADY gained a deserved Stakes victory in the Sceptre Stakes

Pursuing alternative careers of a different sort will be a number of mares who contributed to our stellar season but have now retired to stud. **Foxtrot Lady** had been Listed placed at two and had placed at that level a further five times in the following three seasons, alongside four wins in handicap and conditions company. She very much deserved a Stakes win but a strong renewal of the Group 3 Sceptre Fillies' Stakes at Doncaster seemed an unlikely setting for it, and she started the race at odds of 18/1. Given a beautiful ride by Frankie Dettori who produced her late up the stands rail, she put up a career best performance to win comfortably and in a manner reminiscent of her half-sister Dancing Star, who won the race in 2018. She now joins Dancing Star at owner-breeder Jeff Smith's Littleton Stud and, as an outstanding physical specimen who was both sound and tough, should make a wonderful broodmare.

George Strawbridge's homebred **Shailene** was a Listed winner in Italy and Group placed in Germany last year and, whilst she did not add to her win tally this term, she ran with credit on several occasions, most notably when second in the mile and six furlong handicap at the Qatar Goodwood Festival. A deep-bodied, scopey mare from a lovely family, she was sold at the Tattersalls December Mare Sales and will head to Japan for her breeding career. Also owned and bred by Mr Strawbridge, **Look Around** was a Listed winner at two and had placed a further five times at Stakes level, including when third in the Group 3 Hoppings Stakes at Newcastle and the Group 3 Valiant Stakes at Ascot this term. By Kingman and out of a Group 3 winner, she has been retained by her owner to continue the family line. **Be More** was bred by Mr Strawbridge but bought by Cayton Park Stud midway through her three year old campaign. Whilst our attempts to secure some black type for her fell short, she has retired to stud as a four time winner, including at Class 2 level at Sandown this July, and was also fourth in the Listed James Seymour Stakes at Newmarket in October. By the exceptional Shamardal, she is a full-sister to Britannia winner Born In Bombay and a

half-sister to Group 3 winner Sparkling Beam and has the physical substance to become a good producer.

Despite these retirements we have a strong team of older fillies for next year. King Power Racing's **Chil Chil**, a three-time winner last year, ran well on all five of her starts this year, winning a Class 2 Handicap at Ascot in August. Now rated 93, she is ready for the step up to Stakes company next year. **Bounce The Blues** was already a Listed winner in Ireland when recruited by Barbara Keller but she has continued to progress in her two starts since joining the yard, finishing third to Foxtrot Lady in the Group 3 Sceptre Stakes and then runner-up to 1,000 Guineas second Cloak Of Spirits in the Listed Rosemary Stakes at Newmarket. A lightly raced three year old, she is a very exciting prospect for next season. **Tribal Craft**, owned and bred by Jeff Smith, won at Class 3 level over a mile and a half at Kempton in July and has gone agonisingly close to getting black type twice this autumn, finishing fourth in the Listed Beckford Stakes over a mile and six furlongs at Bath in October and filling the same slot in the Listed Floodlit Stakes over a mile and a half back at Kempton in November. She stays in training and will run over the winter in her quest to augment her pedigree page. **Quickstep Lady** was placed on her first three starts this term before running out the facile winner of a seven furlong novice event at Goodwood in August. She faced a tougher task in a Class 2 handicap over six furlongs at Newmarket when out of the handicap but was beaten just a head. A return to seven furlongs or further should see her continue to progress next term and, as a half-sister to Dancing Star and Foxtrot Lady, we can expect her to do better as she matures.



STONE OF DESTINY was a hugely popular winner of the Portland Handicap

King Power's **Fox Chairman** did not add to his tally this year but put up some good performances when third in the Listed Gala Stakes at Sandown and runner up in the Group 2 York Stakes at York and the Group 3 Winter Hill Stakes at Windsor. He has now been gelded and is enjoying a break before returning next year. **Alounak**, a new recruit

this year, has also been gelded after a disappointing year. His second in the Group 2 Hardwicke Stakes at Royal Ascot was an indication of his true ability and hopefully gelding will make him a more tractable ride in his races. **Fox Tal** has also been below par on the track this year and he too has been gelded in the hope that this will rekindle the form that saw him go close in 2019's Champion Stakes.

Morando will be eight next year but still retains plenty of ability, as his placings in the Listed Stand Cup, Group 3 Geoffrey Freer Stakes and Group 2 British Champions Long Distance Cup show. He ran flat in the Group 1 Grosser Preis von Bayern on his last start of the year and is now having a well-deserved break. **Symbolize** is another who is enjoying some grass, having been gelded after a solid season which saw him place four times, including in the Group 3 Jersey Stakes at Royal Ascot and the Group 3 Hungerford Stakes at Newbury. Tough and tenacious, he should do well as a four year old.

In addition to notable Stakes performances we have also claimed two of the major handicaps this term. **Coltrane** had looked almost totally devoid of ability early in the spring but proved a revelation on the track, finishing second over a mile and a half on debut before winning his maiden at Chepstow in July and following up on handicap debut over fourteen furlongs at Newmarket in August. He faced a much deeper field in the Melrose handicap over the same trip at York later that month but continued to show impressive progression, surging clear under Oisin Murphy in the final furlong to win by four lengths and providing a real thrill for all connections, including regular rider Jonno Balding. His final start of the year in the Cesarewitch posed another step up in both trip and challenge, and ultimately it proved too much at this stage of his development, though he was not helped by a wide draw and ran very well in the circumstances. By Mastercraftsman and related to some smart stayers and hurdlers, he should give owners Mick and Janice Mariscotti plenty of fun in big staying handicaps next year and could yet make his mark in Stakes company.

The marvellous **Stone Of Destiny** is one of those immediately likeable horses who goes about his daily routine with a happy disposition and the minimum of fuss. He has, however, proven tricky to win with despite his obvious ability, his victory in last year's Shergar Cup Sprint being his only win in twenty two starts for the yard by the time he headed to this year's Portland Handicap at Doncaster. Things seemed destined not to go his way once again when he was slow out of the gates and then keen in behind the pack but, given a patient ride by Silvestre de Sousa, he flew home up the stands rail to win going away from a competitive field. The good gallop over the extended five furlongs at Doncaster suited him well and he can win another big one next term when conditions are right.

Bell Rock took us close to another big handicap victory when third in the Cambridgeshire at Newmarket in

September, despite meeting plenty of trouble in running in the final furlong. An impressive winner at the same track on his only start at two, he had not been right during his three year old campaign but bounced back this year, winning a Class 2 handicap on reappearance at Newmarket in June before finishing sixth in the Royal Hunt Cup over a mile at Royal Ascot and third in the big ten furlong handicap at Goodwood in July. Now rated 103, he is well capable of scoring at Stakes level for owners Jim and Fitri Hay but should also be able to bag a valuable handicap or two next term.

Opera Gift had always shown ability at home but had struggled with soundness early on and did not make his debut until a mature three year old in September of this year. He shaped well over ten furlongs at Goodwood, galloping on into fourth in the style of a horse who would improve for a longer trip. This proved to be the case as he duly won his maiden under Rob Hornby over a mile and a half at Pontefract on his next start before following



COLTRANE made tremendous progress throughout this season

up at Yarmouth under David Probert on handicap debut. Fielded at Class 2 level at Doncaster on his latest start, he stayed the mile and six furlongs trip well and battled gallantly to the winning line but ultimately found one similarly progressive rival too good. The first three finished some fifteen lengths clear of the rest of the field and Opera Gift should have plenty to offer in big staying handicaps next term, particularly as he has now been gelded which will help him to stay lighter as he continues to develop. Another who could well make his mark in similar company is **Cadeau D'Or**, a big, scopey horse with a huge stride and high cruising speed. Limited to one start last term, he returned from a setback to place in all three of his starts this year, beaten only a short neck on reappearance over ten furlongs at Salisbury and by less than a length over a mile and a half at Ascot. He is still a raw, slightly unfurnished horse and a winter in the paddocks should see him continue to mature and progress.

Others to have been knocking at the door this term but at shorter trips include **Kings Lynn**, who won the big median auction juvenile race at Doncaster last year on just

his second start. His reappearance this year was delayed by a setback but the standard of his homework going into a novice back at Doncaster in August had been excellent and our high hopes for him were reflected in his short odds. We were disappointed when he finished second, but less so when the winner, Starman, went on to score decisively at Listed level next time out. Kings Lynn then went off favourite in the Ayr Silver Cup, but raced prominently in the big field and did too much in the early stages of the race, eventually finishing mid division. Returning to Doncaster for another Class 2 handicap in October, he ran a blinder after an awkward start and was beaten just a neck, closing down the winner who has subsequently won again and been Listed placed. The fastest horse on our gallops this year, Kings Lynn has been gelded during his winter break and is well capable of scoring a big prize next year.

Grove Ferry is another who deserves a big win, having been placed on four of his five starts this term, all at Class 3 level. A dual winner as a juvenile for Martin and Valerie Slade, he ran his best race on his latest start when finishing runner up over seven furlongs at Doncaster to Tomfre, who has since won again at Class 2 level. Currently enjoying some time off in the paddocks, he showed admiral versatility this year and should add to his tally next season. **Rodin** notched up two wins this term, at Southwell in February and at Lingfield in June, and has been runner up on four further occasions in 2020, proving steadily progressive throughout the season. Now gelded, he has had a decent holiday and should give the Pink Hat Partnership plenty more fun next year. **Kitzbuhel** has been another consistent performer this year and deserved to shed his maiden tag, which he did in style over a mile and a half at Southwell in November. A gorgeous colt with heaps of presence, he remains on a handy mark and should continue to progress.

With a shrunken turf season and a global recession taking hold, we approached the Tattersalls October Horses In Training Sale with some trepidation but, just as with the yearling sales that preceded it, the market held up remarkably well and our draft achieved good results in the main. It was headed by the lovely **Mon Choix**, who recorded two wide margin handicap victories over a mile in the summer before posting a career best effort when runner up at Kempton in October. A scopey and sound horse, his aptitude for quick ground and artificial surfaces made him popular with foreign purchasers and he fetched 185,000gns for his owner Mr Al Thani. Unraced at two, **Sidereale** was placed on all of his seven starts bar his debut this year and won on quick ground at Salisbury. An attractive son of Galileo with a progressive profile, he too sold well and will continue his career in Australia, alongside **Berkshire Savvy** who provided owner Paul Spickett with a win at Windsor in July and advertised his staying credentials with an excellent second over the extended fifteen furlongs at Newbury shortly before the sale.

Punctuation had won his maiden in February by some eleven lengths and had posted some good efforts in handicap company over staying trips. A firm favourite in the yard due to his striking looks and wonderful temperament, he will likely next be seen over hurdles having been bought by National Hunt trainer Charlie Longsdon, though there are plenty here who will be keen to take him on when he retires from racing! Others to sell in October included Chepstow winner **Damage Control**, who has joined Gordon Elliott's yard, and winning stayers **Machios** and **Rick Blaine**, who are also likely to continue their racing over obstacles. Sprinters **Never Dark** and **Spanish Angel**, who both added to the Park House tally this season, are now with Iain Jardine and Ruth Carr respectively, whilst the admirably consistent **Wild Hero**, a winner at Leicester and placed on of all his five starts this year, has headed to Bahrain.

Table Mountain gave the Kingsclere Racing Club some fun days this year, placing on her first three starts of the year before running away with the Brown Jack Handicap at Ascot under regular pilot Raul da Silva. She was not disgraced at Listed level back at the Berkshire track on her final start of the season and, as a confirmed stayer with a good pedigree, was an attractive proposition at the sales for purchasers Chapel Stud, who will send her to National Hunt trainer Tom Symonds before she joins their broodmare band. Whilst injury has sadly halted the promising racing career of KRC filly Sneaky Peek, **Inclyne** will continue to fly the flag for the Club, having won at Newmarket in June and placed three times subsequently. We are hopeful that a wind operation will rejuvenate **Spirit Warning**, who was a star last year but has struggled this term. He is on a very attractive mark if we can get him back to his best.

A similar intervention has certainly helped **Horn Of Plenty**, who had been placed in three middle distance novices earlier in the year but was struggling to translate her obvious ability to a win on the track. She had no difficulty in doing this on her reappearance in November, however, making short work of a competitive field over a mile and a half at Wolverhampton. By Golden Horn and from a good family, she should be able to add further to her scorecard before she heads to stud. **Arctic Vega** won well at Kempton on debut in February but then rather lost his way. He is making good progress following a setback and we look forward to his return to the track soon. The same is true of talented performers **Group One Power** and **Papa Power**, who won early in the year but had their seasons curtailed by injury.

TWO YEAR OLDS

At the time Kameko won the Guineas at the start of June, our second Group 1 winner of the season was yet to do a piece of fast work. **Alcohol Free**, purchased by Jeff Smith as a foal, did not come into the yard until the end of April this year and, although always a good mover, presented



ALCOHOL FREE with adoring fans Oisin Murphy and groom Zoe Daniels after winning the Cheveley Park

as a rather light and buzzy filly. Happily, she soon struck up an excellent partnership with rider Cassia Cooper, who was tremendously patient with her and did a fantastic job in teaching her to relax. When we did begin to ask her to quicken, it became clear that she had plenty of ability, but her slightly fizzy nature and the fact that most of our two year old fillies were rather late developers meant that she did much of her faster work on her own. She therefore made her debut over six furlongs at Newbury in August as a particularly inexperienced debutant and was slow out of the stalls and obviously green in the early stages. Once Oisin settled her into a rhythm, however, her natural speed kicked in and she surged clear to win going away from the field and in a good time. Stepped up in class in the Group 3 Dick Poole Stakes at Salisbury she ran another great race, just touched off by Happy Romance, who had five previous starts to Alcohol Free's one and who had already won the Weatherbys Super Sprint and the big York sales race.

In the Group 1 Cheveley Park Stakes, Alcohol Free faced not only Happy Romance but also Albany and Duchess of Cambridge heroine Dandalla and impressive Lowther winner Miss Amulet, with whom she had 11lb to find on ratings. Having broken well, Oisin was careful not to interfere with Alcohol Free's natural rhythm and she was quickly in the lead before showing great gumption to repel all challengers, finding all the way to the line. We were all delighted with her performance, which was made particularly special by the fact that she carried the colours of Jeff Smith, who has been a major owner and supporter of the yard for several decades.

Alcohol Free came out of the race well and is currently enjoying a holiday at Jeff's Littleton Stud. Her main early season target next year will be the 1,000 Guineas – although she is by crack sprinter No Nay Never and her dam and granddam did not win beyond seven furlongs, her half-brother Alexander James was a Listed winner over nine furlongs and the manner of her races to date suggests she may well get the mile. If she does not, there are a host

of targets for her over shorter trips, and we are excited to see what she can achieve at three.

We were blessed with a very strong team of juveniles this year, with the colts headed by H.M. The Queen's homebred **Tactical**. Third on debut in a good Newmarket novice in early June, he then provided a major highlight during Royal Ascot when taking the Listed Windsor Castle Stakes under James Doyle. He followed up in the Group 2 July Stakes at Newmarket, handling the softer surface well under William Buick. The ground was too soft for him in the Group 1 Prix Morny at Deauville in August, though he was far from disgraced in fifth having been denied a clear run. Routed back to Newmarket for a very strong renewal of the Group 1 Middle Park Stakes, Tactical ran well again to finish fourth behind Supremacy. He had another try at soft ground in the Group 1 Dewhurst but failed to travel in the race, and is now enjoying a well-deserved break at the Royal Studs. Although his damside is replete with good two year olds, his sire Toronado excelled at three and Tactical has the physical scope to do even better next year. He might well head for the Greenham as his seasonal debut.

Youth Spirit also hails from a family of good two year olds and added further black type to his dam's produce record, winning well at Newmarket on his second start before finishing second to Battleground in the Group 2 Vintage Stakes at the Qatar Goodwood Festival. A setback curtailed his season but he is back cantering and looks tremendous. As a son of Camelot he ought to continue to progress and he is a fine prospect for owner Ahmad Al Shaikh. King Power Racing's **Fivethousandtoone** had a delayed start to his season but his homework could not



FIVETHOUSANDTOONE is likely to start in a Guineas trial in the Spring

have been more impressive and we fully expected him to win on debut at Windsor in August. Unfortunately he was slow out of the stalls and, with his speed curbed by the unseasonably soft ground, could not quite catch Bahrain Pride – but that horse went on to win the Listed Two Year Old Trophy at Ripon on his next start. Fivethousandtoone was also a winner next time out, turning a Newcastle novice into a procession and scoring by four lengths under Silvestre De Sousa, before showing his class when second

in the Group 2 Mill Reef Stakes at Newbury. Forced back onto soft ground for his final start of the season in the Group 1 Dewhurst, he raced prominently but could not sustain his effort over seven furlongs in testing conditions. An ebullient colt, he has been kept ticking over during the winter and is likely to tackle a Guineas trial in the Spring.

The Goffs Orby yearling sale has been a happy hunting ground for me and Andrew in recent years – we purchased Khalifa Sat and Berkshire Rocco there in 2018, and last year came home with two good ones in Recovery Run and Oo De Lally. **Recovery Run** had always looked to have a bit of class at home and ran well on debut when second at Kempton before filling the same spot but in closer order at Chelmsford. He put this experience to good use when getting off the mark over a mile at Sandown in August, beating an expensive Galileo colt in Lone Eagle. Placed in a Class 2 at Kempton on his handicap debut, he went one better at the same level at Ayr, relishing the good to soft



OO DE LALLY sprang a 125/1 surprise at Newbury!

ground. He went in to the Group 3 Zetland Stakes with an official rating of 88 and ran a blinder, appreciating the step up to ten furlongs and making smooth progress from the rear to finish second to old adversary Lone Eagle, who had since won twice. Now rated 107, Recovery Run is a lovely prospect for middle distances next year and is likely to start out in a Derby trial.

The regular ride of Toby Balding during lockdown, **Oo De Lally** had done a better job than Recovery Run of keeping a low profile on the gallops and did the same on debut at Ascot when he beat just one home. His work improved significantly following that run but it was nevertheless a pleasant surprise when he put up a very professional display to win at Newbury under David Probert on his second start, defying odds of 125/1! He went on to prove that this was no fluke when winning impressively at Kempton under a penalty next time out, and he should give owner Jonathan Palmer-Brown plenty of fun next year. He has been kept in light training over the winter and could tackle one of the valuable three year old races in Saudi Arabia or Qatar in February.

Mystery Smiles was bought by Alastair Donald for King Power Racing at the delayed Goffs UK Breeze-Up Sale

in July and quickly justified his purchase, winning well on debut at Windsor at the end of the same month before following up in a Class 2 Conditions event at Chester. Third in both the Group 2 Gimcrack Stakes at York and the Group 3 Sirenia Stakes at Kempton, he has the makings of a top sprinter/miler next year and could start off in something like the Group 3 Craven Stakes.

The trio who complete our top ten Timeform rated juveniles this year are all maidens, but have proven themselves as classy performers despite that. **King Vega** is a gorgeous son of Lope De Vega and has always found everything very easy at home. He was just touched off at Sandown on debut by a more experienced rival (who has since won again at Class 2 level) and then filled the same spot in the Group 3 Solario Stakes at the same course. Primed for the Group 1 Vertem Futurity Trophy at Doncaster at the end of the season, he was undone by the heavy ground and failed to show his true form. He should be a different proposition back on a decent surface next term and, once he has shed his maiden tag, seems sure to make his mark in stakes company. The same is true of **Roscioli**, a son of first season sire Territories who was purchased privately by Phil Fox in midsummer and quickly made an impression at home. He was green on debut at Sandown when finishing third and duly improved when runner-up in a good maiden at Newmarket, the first pair well clear of the rest. We ran him next in the Group 3 Horris Hill Stakes at Newbury and unfortunately the heavy ground dented his speed, though he stayed on gamely in very testing conditions to finish mid division. **Imperial Force** was one of the earliest to come to hand amongst our juvenile squad and ran a huge race to be second on debut in a hot Newmarket maiden. He confirmed that promise when third in the Group 2 Norfolk Stakes at Royal Ascot next time out, but then ran disappointingly at Haydock in July and at Doncaster in September. His homework suggested his mind was not on the job and so he has been gelded which should help him focus.

Gentle giant **Henrik** already has two wins to his name with the prospect of plenty more to come. He won at Chepstow under William Cox on his second start and then ran to within a length and a half of subsequent Group 3 Acomb and Group 1 Criterium de Saint-Cloud winner Gear Up when second at York. A pulled muscle caused a hiatus in his racing and he needed his reappearance run at Chelmsford in October, but with that under his belt he flew home under a penalty at Newcastle, winning a Novice Auction Stakes over seven furlongs by almost seven lengths. He has the physical scope to do better at three and is one of a strong team for the Park House Partnership, who had another dual winning juvenile in **Classic Lord**. Bought at the Baden-Baden yearling sale, Classic Lord won well over a mile at Goodwood on his second start before going into many notebooks when following up at Pontefract under William Carver. We thought the soft ground and step



THE KODI KID won at Bath and is a lovely prospect

up to ten furlongs at York would suit him well on handicap debut, but he ran very poorly. It was too bad to be true and, by Lord Of England and from a good German family, he should do well next year. The PHP's third juvenile winner came in the shape of **The Kodi Kid**, who behaved more like Billy The Kid in his early training and so was gelded before he got as far as the track. A reformed character, he was second on his first two starts before winning well on quick ground at Bath under Oisin Murphy. Scopey and versatile, he is a lovely prospect.

King Power's **Star Caliber**, a son of Golden Horn, has a huge stride and put this to good use when winning a Class 2 maiden at Goodwood in impressive style on debut. He has the makings of a useful middle distance performer next year. The same is true of the sizeable **Juan De Montalban**, who also won impressively at Goodwood for owners Mick and Janice Mariscotti. He is rivaled in size by the gorgeous **Napper Tandy**, who was a later developer but made great progress this autumn and very nearly won on debut at Lingfield. He duly went one better at Kempton next time out, staying on under David Probert to finish well clear of the rest, and should give owner-breeders Tony Anderson and Tim Wixted some good days next year.

Round Six was impressive when winning for M M Stables at Kempton on his second start and added to his tally on handicap debut at Newcastle. A handsome horse with a great temperament, he sold well at the Autumn Horses In Training Sale, along with **Night On Earth**, who was another dual winner for the same connections. Fellow sprinter **Politics** won easily at Sandown on his second career start and was not disgraced at Listed level at York in August before sustaining a niggle which cut short his season. **Dejame Paso** is a son of first season sire The Gurkha and, having been very unlucky at Sandown on his second start, gained much deserved recompense at Lingfield next time out, winning well under David Probert.

Jim and Fitri Hay sent us three juvenile colts this season and all three have won. **Bonnyrigg** was first off the mark, scoring at Newmarket in June under James Doyle, whilst **Calcutta Cup** won a Chester nursery in August.

Bought at the Arqana sale in Deauville, he headed back to France for the Arqana sales race in October and ran very well to finish fifth. He should hold his own in good mile handicaps next year. The Hays' third winner was **Skibo Castle** who showed tenacity to win in heavy ground at Windsor in October under Josh Bryan. All three horses have been gelded and given a good holiday in the paddocks, alongside Sandown winner **Knight Salute** and Kempton victor **May Night**.

With the exception of Alcohol Free, our juvenile fillies were a late developing bunch, but there are some lovely prospects amongst them. **Nebulosa** had always shown ability at home and progressed with each of three starts, scoring at Newmarket in October for owner-breeder Kirsten Rausing. She should do well over middle distances next year. **Auria** is from a family we know well, being a half-sister to Beat The Bank and Chil Chil, and she shaped with plenty of promise on debut at Newmarket in October when taking on the colts in heavy ground. Her next run came in a hot fillies' novice at Kempton but she made light work of the field, quickening well under Rob Hornby to win by two lengths. She is an exciting prospect for next year. **Achelois** and **Florence Street** have put



SKIBO CASTLE dug deep to win at Windsor under Joshua Bryan

in very encouraging performances in defeat, whilst pint-sized **Damned Elusive**, a homebred half-sister to Table Mountain, is progressing and should do well over further next term. **Secret Shadow** is bred to appreciate a trip and ran extremely well on her debut over a mile at Lingfield earlier this month, initially outpaced but running on strongly to finish second.

There are plenty of promising maidens amongst the boys as well, with my long list of 'ones to watch' including **Scampi**, **Flyin' High**, **Discomatic**, **Lorca**, **Landing System**, **Golden Crusader**, **Regal Vega**, **Rival**, **Wallem**, **Abrag** and **Melody Of Life**, and there will be many others, like Coltrane and Table Mountain this year, who have shown little at two but will flourish next term. Exciting times indeed! ■

THE SEASON IN NUMBERS

1st January 2020 – 3rd December 2020

	WINS	RUNS	SR	2NDS	3RDS	4THS	WIN £	TOTAL £
UK	107	711	15	97	95	82	1,235,752	2,096,430
FOREIGN	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	22,245
TOTALS	107	720	15	97	95	82	1,235,752	2,118,675

MONTH BY MONTH

MONTH	WINS	RUNS	SR
January	5	25	20
February	8	26	31
March	0	8	0
April	0	0	0
May	0	0	0
June	20	131	15
July	15	128	12
August	21	116	18
September	18	134	13
October	11	91	12
November	7	41	17

GROUP BY GROUP

	WINS	RUNS	SR
2yo	34	179	19
3yo	46	297	16
4yo+	27	244	11
TURF	71	501	14
AW	36	219	16
5-7f	41	235	17
8f+	66	485	14

TOP TEN EARNERS

1	Kameko	£243,423
2	Alcohol Free	£135,028
3	Berkshire Rocco	£132,066
4	Khalifa Sat	£126,814
5	Happy Power	£108,236
6	Spanish Mission	£64,366
7	Johnny Drama	£61,482
8	Tactical	£59,169
9	Coltrane	£51,983
10	Dashing Willoughby	£42,902



ALCOHOL FREE was our highest rated juvenile

TOP TEN JOCKEYS

		WINS	RUNS	SR
1	Oisin Murphy	44	198	22
2	David Probert	19	161	12
3	Silvestre De Sousa	18	89	20
4	Rob Hornby	9	91	10
5	William Buick	3	14	21
5	William Carver	3	31	10
7	James Doyle	2	5	40
7	Raul Da Silva	2	15	13
7	Joshua Bryan	2	32	6

TOP TEN TRACKS

		WINS	RUNS	SR
1	Kempton (AW)	18	92	20
2	Newmarket (R.Mile)	11	54	20
2	Windsor	11	37	30
4	Goodwood	8	36	22
5	Lingfield (AW)	7	36	19
6	Sandown	6	42	14
7	Ascot	4	54	7
7	Chester	4	20	20
7	Newcastle (AW)	4	9	44
7	Southwell	4	17	24

TOP TEN TIMEFORM (2yo)

1	Alcohol Free	112p
2	Fivethousandtoone	111p
3	Tactical	105
4	Recovery Run	104
5	Mystery Smiles	101
5	Youth Spirit	101
7	King Vega	98
8	Roscioli	96
9	Oo De Lally	95
10	Imperial Force	94

TOP TEN TIMEFORM (3yo+)

1	Kameko	129
2	Berkshire Rocco	122
3	Dashing Willoughby	120
3	Fox Chairman	120
5	Happy Power	119
6	Spanish Mission	118
6	Bangkok	118
6	Fox Tal	118
9	Berlin Tango	116
9	Morando	116

BUSY BEES – MOST RUNS

Rodin	10
Sea Sculpture	10
Good Birthday	9
Never Dark	9
Tribal Craft	9
Berkshire Savvy	8
Bronze River	8
Fox Shinji	8
Johnny Drama	8
Mon Choix	8
Punctuation	8
Spirit Warning	8



RODIN enjoying a break after ten runs this year



AWARDS



There were plenty of great performances amongst our staff team during the latter part of the season, but the four selected to receive Spillers 'Employee Of The Month' awards are:

Claudia Metaireau – for all her work as groom and regular rider of Listed winner and St Leger second Berkshire Rocco.

Ryan Gradwell – for looking after Melrose winner Coltrane, for his efficient work in the New Barn and for helping with yard cleaning and painting this autumn.

Nathan Rose – for looking after recent winner Auria, for coping with some absolute horrors in the saddle for much of the year(!) and for helping with cleaning and painting this autumn.

Drew Wilkinson – for looking after winners The Kodi Kid, Elham Valley and Youth Spirit and for her excellent work as regular rider of dual winner and Group placed Natural History.

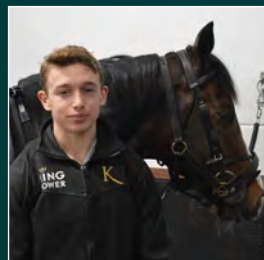
Many congratulations to the winners, who receive £100 and a bottle of Spillers prosecco, and many thanks to Spillers for continuing to support this valuable initiative.



Claudia Metaireau



Ryan Gradwell



Nathan Rose



Drew Wilkinson

THE 2020 **12** TO FOLLOW

COMPETITION

A runaway winner this year! Mrs B had helped select Dashing Willoughby, Bronze River, Henrik and The Kodi Kid at the sales and her faith in them was duly repaid in points. Her religious attendance on the gallops has also proved fruitful, although it seems that her work-watching companions Mac and Boris were rather less attentive.... Congratulations to all the prize winners and many thanks to all who took part.

The prize money is divided as follows:-

1st £759 2nd £345 3rd £207 4th £69 Last place £10

1	EMMA BALDING (A)	272
2	CASSIA COOPER	237
3	JAMIE MACKINNON	223

4	Nathan Cheshire	220	31	Stuart Mcphee	178	57	Angela Cheshire (B)	153
4	Sam Geake	220	32	David E. Gay	176	57	Georgie Ducker/Ryan	153
6	Anderson King	212	33	Anna Lisa Balding	175	60	Jonno Balding	152
7	Nigel Walker (B)	207	33	Gary Boon	175	60	Jeremy Carey	152
8	Angela Cheshire (C)	204	33	Leanne Masterton	175	62	I.A. Balding	151
9	Angela Cheshire (A)	203	36	Ray Horne	174	63	Andrew Balding	149
10	Angela Cheshire (D)	202	37	Charlie King	173	64	Ray Horne (C)	146
10	Martin Slade	202	38	Clare Balding	172	64	Liam Mungovan (A)	146
12	M A Bettaney (B)	199	38	Jamie Richards	172	64	Valerie Slade	146
12	Charlie Measures	199	40	Lisa Pearce	171	64	Clive Stansby	146
12	Marie Perrault	199	41	John Smith	170	68	Flora Balding	143
15	Phil Rodgers	197	42	Sue Gay	169	68	Lois Day	143
16	Missy & Bety Clarke	196	42	Tessa Hetherington (B)	169	70	R. Wilmot-Smith/E. Baldwin	142
17	Toby Balding	195	44	Stephen Woolley (B)	168	70	Liam Mungovan (B)	142
17	Tessa Hetherington (A)	195	45	Stuart Friend	166	72	Anne Soul (B)	140
17	Ray Vickery	195	45	John Knight	166	72	Bob Humphries (A)	138
20	Fred Larson	193	47	April Rafferty	165	74	Rupert Hetherington	137
20	James Stafford	193	48	Gerry Rafferty (C)	163	75	Gerry Rafferty (A)	136
20	Becci Thompson	193	48	Charlie Richards (A)	163	76	Diana Magalhaes	134
23	Simon Humphries (B)	189	50	Angus Mcphee	161	77	Roger Michaelson	133
24	Ben Corke	188	51	Sally Phipps Hornby	158	77	Julia Reardon Smith	133
24	John Soul	188	52	Tessa Hetherington (C)	156	79	Jack Osborne	132
26	Bradley Harris	186	52	Nigel Walker (A)	156	80	Paul Spickett (A)	130
27	Will Carver	182	54	Angela Cheshire (E)	154	81	Charlotte Clarke	129
27	Sally Jinks	182	54	James Rimmer	154	82	Mina Mcphee	128
27	Charlie Richards (B)	182	54	Paul & Lisa Spickett	154	82	Liam Mungovan (C)	128
30	Gary Richards	181	57	G. Bounds/A. Johnson (B)	153	82	Felicity Simpson	128

85 Batt Dillon	127	104 Laurence Jinks	112	122 Stephen Woolley (A)	92
85 Ray Horne (B)	127	104 Michael Payton	112	124 Flora Hetherington	91
85 Stephanie Smith	127	106 Bob Humphries (B)	111	124 Shannon James	91
88 Richard Dangar	126	106 David King	111	126 Jenny Arlington	90
88 Bryan Jennick	126	108 Barry Hale	110	127 John (Paddy) Fearne	84
90 M.A. Bettanley (A)	125	109 Des Oates	109	128 Emma Balding (B)	83
90 Janice Friend	125	110 Laura Spickett	108	129 Matthew & Emily Slade	82
92 A. Johnson/G. Bounds (A)	124	111 Rex Paris (B)	107	130 Yasmin Rudkin	77
92 Gallop Rob	124	112 Pip Elson	105	131 Paul Spickett (B)	76
94 Jonathan Palmer-Brown	123	113 Terry Friend	103	132 D.F. Powell (B)	74
95 Martyn Needham	120	114 Avril Elson	102	132 Jon Rea	74
96 Simon Humphries (A)	119	114 Scott Mcjarrow	102	134 Gerry Rafferty (B)	71
96 D.F. Powell (A)	119	116 Carl Conroy	01	135 Suzanne Woolley	69
98 Barney Bonner	117	117 Ray Horne (A)	98	136 Sue Watson	64
98 Rachael Holmes	117	117 Anne Soul (A)	98	137 Mac & Boris	51
98 Rex Paris (A)	117	119 Joshua Rudkin	94	138 Alysoun Carey	50
101 Alice Arnold	116	120 Werner Aeberhard	93	139 Michael Fowler	45
102 Bob Humphries (C)	114	120 Des Fenton	93		
102 Sharon Woolley	114	122 John Gale	92		



HAPPY POWER

TOP SCORING HORSES

HAPPY POWER	48
RECOVERY RUN	46
JOHNNY DRAMA	42
BERKSHIRE ROCCO	37
COLTRANE	37



RECOVERY RUN

SELECTIONS OF THE LEADERS

Emma Balding (A)		Cassia Cooper		Jamie Mackinnon	
Dashing Willoughby	25	Nate The Great	5	Kameko	27
Fox Chairman	21	Chil Chil	21	Alounak	8
Berkshire Rocco	37	Happy Power	48	Fox Chairman	21
Berlin Tango	17	Kameko	27	Quickstep Lady	30
Bronze River	17	Ranch Hand	25	Papa Power	0
Grove Ferry	20	Berkshire Rocco	37	Group One Power	2
Kameko	27	Berlin Tango	17	Shine So Bright	22
Bright Devil	10	Dance At Night	0	Tactical	29
Henrik	30	Spirit Mixer	0	Fivethousandtoone	24
The Kodi Kid	22	Knight Salute	16	Marine	0
Recovery Run	46	Alcohol Free	30	Recovery Run	46
Rushmore	0	Calcutta Cup	11	King Vega	14

A NEW LIFE FOR KAMEKO

Pieter Van Zyl - Stud Manager, Tweenhills Stud

Kameko arrived at Tweenhills Stud on a wet and windy night on the 11th November after a long journey from America. He settled into his new home very easily and took everything in with great interest. He had a few relaxing days after he arrived to recover from his long journey, during which we took him for hand walks around the farm to show him his new surroundings. He has the most beautiful temperament and takes life in his stride. He is not easily upset and is just a pleasure to work with.

Tweenhills Stud held their annual stallion show at Longholes Stud in Newmarket during the Tattersalls December Sales – these are the major sales for foals and mares so a lot of breeders are in Newmarket at this time. Kameko was paraded to breeders so that they could assess him and inspect his conformation to help them decide on their mating plans for their mares. It is a great way to advertise him and attract as many quality mares to him as possible. He showed himself off beautifully and was extremely popular, so we at Tweenhills are excited about the mares that will come and visit him this coming breeding season.

The breeding season does not start until mid-February, to prevent foals being born before 1st January which is the day all racehorses officially turn a year older (the gestation period in horses is eleven months). For the next few weeks we will just let him settle in and get used to his new routine. We are slowly increasing his exercise to keep him relatively fit for the breeding season. At the moment he walks for an hour in the morning and half an hour in the afternoon, with some turnout in the stallion paddocks as long as the weather is not too bad. By the New Year he will be walking for an hour in the morning and an hour in the afternoon and will also be lunged for fifteen minutes, as well as being turned out in our all-weather paddocks. We have already changed Kameko's feeding regime onto a stallion plan as changes in diet can take at least ninety days to take

effect. He gets slightly less hard feed than he did when in full training as a racehorse but we monitor his condition all the time and adjust his feeds as needed. His feed contains carnitine which improves sperm motility, a balanced ratio of omega 3 and 6 fatty acids which help with sperm quality and quantity, plus extra vitamin E and selenium which help create an ideal environment for sperm production and function.

In January we will start introducing Kameko to mares. We will teach him how to tease mares first before we let him cover a mare. Teasing involves bringing a stallion close to a mare in order to detect whether the mare is in season from her responses to the

stallion. It is very important that Kameko has a good first experience covering - we don't want him to get kicked or fall over and hurt himself as that could make him reluctant to cover mares going forward. The first mare that we introduce to him needs to be well in season and with a good temperament so she will stand quietly for him while he finds his feet and balance on top of her. The more mares he covers, the more he will grow in confidence and the easier he will find it. Stallions can get stiff in their backs and hamstrings after their first few covers as they are using muscles that they have not previously used so we get the physiotherapist in to give them a rub down to relieve any soreness. Hopefully after that it should be plain sailing and he will settle into his new career.

Once the breeding season is up and running, Kameko may cover up to four mares each day. He will still be hand walked for an hour each morning and we will also put him on the horse-walker

for fifteen minutes before each cover, to get the blood flowing and his muscles warmed up. He will also be turned out for an hour or two each morning between covers.

Once the breeding season is over, all that is left is to wait for his new babies to be born and to grow and mature into beautiful athletes that will set the track alight like their father did. ■



KINGSCLERE AND KING POWER

As many of you will have noted from our very smart team jackets, we gained a new yard sponsor this year in the form of King Power. The Srivaddhanaprabha family and their King Power team have had horses with us since 2017 and have been major supporters of the yard as owners. We are delighted that this association has now developed into sponsorship of the yard, and the Kingsclere apprentices.

The Kingsclere apprentices have had a good year in difficult circumstances. Joshua Bryan rode another ten winners this year and is only one win away from losing his

claim and turning professional. A gifted horseman and very strong in a finish, Josh intends to retain his links with the yard and will continue to ride out for us regularly. Fellow 3lb claimer William Cox added another seven wins to his total and continues to be an asset to the team both at home and on the track, whilst William Carver had a very productive season with thirteen wins and is getting close to reducing his claim from 5lb to 3lb. Marie Perrault made the news this year as devoted groom of Kameko rather than as an apprentice, but she had a great spin on Never Dark in the big apprentice race at York's Ebor meeting, whilst the newest members of the squad, Bradley Harris and Callum Hutchinson, wasted little time in getting off the mark under rules. Bradley piloted Mark Usher's Bird To Love to win at Lingfield on 6 October, whilst Callum Hutchinson secured his first win just a fortnight later when winning on Calvinist for Kevin Frost at Newcastle, and has notched up three more victories since. The team will soon be joined by Jack Osborne who passed his apprentice course at the National Horseracing College with flying colours.

Many thanks to King Power for their generous sponsorship and continued support of the yard and our young jockeys – we hope that the King Power and Kingsclere logos will continue to be seen regularly in winner's enclosures next year! ■



Kingsclere Racing Club

Despite not being able to attend gallop mornings and race meetings for much of the season, we have still managed to have plenty of fun through the year, with regular tipster competitions, zoom chats and lots of action on the racecourse!

Ranch Hand ran with credit both at Royal Ascot and in the Ebor, before landing a deserved success in Listed company at Newmarket, since when he has successfully embarked on a hurdling career. Table Mountain was the surprise package of the season, improving 21lbs and winning a handicap at Ascot's King George meeting in great style, while Inclyne and Irish Tweed were also on the scoresheet.

There is a very youthful look to the Club next year, with 10 two year olds amongst our 19-strong equine team, including a half-brother to Side Glance, a half-sister to Elm Park, and the first foal of the useful Make Music, who was a six-time winner for the yard.

It was wonderful to get everyone together, albeit online, for our End of Season Quiz in November, hosted by Club patron Clare Balding, but we are all very much



RANCH HAND won on his hurdling debut under Page Fuller

looking forward to when we are able to meet up again in person and hopefully we will be able to enjoy much of our Club social diary during what promises to be a busy 2021. ■

ABDUL MUSA ADAM: THE JOURNEY

by ROS WYNNE-JONES

Visitors to Park House Stables may know Abdul Musa Adam, a rider and groom with a shy smile seen working in the yard or out exercising the horses. But few people will know the extraordinary story of his 3,000-mile journey from Darfur in Africa to the Downs near Kingsclere. For the past three years, Abdul has been piecing together the details of his incredible life for our book, *The Journey*, which has been published during lockdown.

Abdul was only seven years old when he set out from Darfur. It wasn't a journey he had planned to take – he loved his life in Sudan, where like most young boys he looked after the family's animals, including their horses. But his home had been burned down by the Janjaweed militias fighting in Sudan's civil war in an attack in which his whole family were murdered. His journey would take seven years, before he was pulled out of the underside of a lorry that had stopped off the M4 near Swindon – a journey that would ultimately lead to Park House Stables.

Abdul's family were nomads, and he was up at their encampment when four jeeps armed with rocket launchers and full of men carrying Kalashnikovs, pulled up. "We knew immediately they were Janjaweed," Abdul remembers. Abdul's father told him and his younger brother, Yusuf, to quickly round up all the animals and herd them out into the thick forest outside the encampment. Moments later, they heard the sound of the helicopters begin their barrage. Plumes of smoke began to rise on the horizon.

All of his family died that day at the encampment and there were only four survivors from the entire village – Abdul and Yusuf and two neighbours, Aboud and Zeinab. They set off together on a six-day walk through the burning desert heat to Chad, where Aboud had heard there was help for Darfuris escaping the Janjaweed. This was 2004, and Abdul's first experience of being a refugee in a strange land.

The refugee camp in Chad was worse than death, so after a few months, Aboud climbed on to a smuggler's lorry with Abdul and headed for Colonel Gaddafi's Libya to look for work. There, during the Libyan uprising, Abdul was arrested and tortured despite still being only a child. If it hadn't been for the kindness of a prison doctor, he would have died.

During the chaos of the civil war, Abdul escaped on a boat to France, and from there he made it to England clinging to the underside of a lorry, aged just 15. A 'kind' smuggler, Walid, had helped him get under the wheel axle and given him gloves to hold on and a bar of chocolate. As Abdul explains, "I had nothing to lose". He had been living rough in France, preyed on in parks, and at one point sleeping in a rubbish bin.



"There was just enough space to hide, if I folded my body up. I could balance using my hands and feet on top of the wheel arches," Abdul remembers. "Walid told me to hold on tight to the metal – that was why he had given me the gloves."

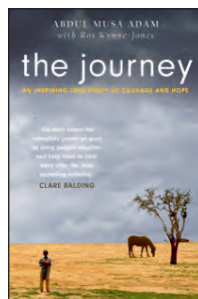
A few hours later, Abdul was discovered by security guards with dogs at a lorry park near Swindon. He was fostered and found a new family,

but he still struggled with PTSD and negotiating life as a refugee. At various points, he ended up navigating the hostel system in England.

Abdul's survival is a story of small miracles, alongside the great tragedy and horror he has experienced. One of those miracles is that his lorry stopped in Wiltshire, a place so connected to horses there are figures carved into the chalk. Because he was so withdrawn and suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, he was offered a place at Greatwood – a charity near Marlborough that works with retired racehorses – and it was there he was able to reconnect with his past. Like many Darfuris who ride as early as they can walk, Abdul has an affinity with horses which came to light at Greatwood. "When I am with horses, I feel like I am home," Abdul told me the first day I met him. "I feel as if I am with my family."

He left Greatwood with enough basic qualifications to take up a placement with Nikki Evans Racing at Penbiddle Farm in Wales. From there he went on to the National Racing College to train to become a rider and groom. He was nominated for a Young Achiever Award at Pride of Sport in 2016 and won not only the award but the praise of his hero Frankie Dettori.

Now, every day, he proudly rides out at Park House Stables, where Anna-Lisa mentors him along with Sportsguide's Philip Brannan, and where he is supported by hostel manager Charlotte Clarke and the rest of the Park House family. There, he continues to grow in strength and confidence with each day.



Last autumn, Abdul became a British Citizen, with dozens of others from across the globe. On the way to the ceremony in Swindon, we learned the news that 39 people had died, trapped inside a refrigerated lorry. Each one must have been as terrified as Abdul when he climbed under a truck.

As Lord Alf Dubs, who escaped the Nazis as a child on one of the Kindertransport evacuations in 1939, writes in the foreword to Abdul's book: "No two refugee stories are the same. But there are themes that are common to all of them, the most striking of which, counterintuitive as it may sound, is luck."

The Journey by Abdul Musa Adam is £8.99 from bookshops, online retailers and mirrorbooks.co.uk ■

STAFF NEWS

We are sad to report that Liam Mungovan, who has been here since 2017 (firstly as Pupil Assistant and then as Head Lad) is leaving us at the end of this year to broaden his experience elsewhere. A gifted horseman with sound judgment and a keen interest in racing, he has been a lynchpin of the team throughout his tenure and will be much missed. We wish him the very best in his future endeavours. His role as Head Lad of the Blond Me and Kameko barns will be filled by Natalie Lloyd-

Beavis, who has a wealth of experience having worked for several top trainers before training on her own account for over ten years. We look forward to welcoming her and her partner Andy into the team. Our gallopman Tim Fewster has also moved on to pastures new recently, swapping the turf of the Kingsclere Downs for the turf of the pitch at Brighton & Hove Albion! He too will be much missed but we are joined in his stead by Vinnie Hickey, who has plenty of racing and stud experience both here and abroad. ■

HEROIC ANIMALS by Clare Balding

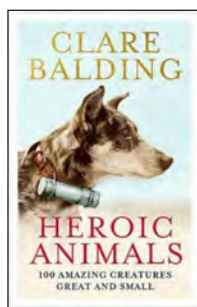
I managed to keep myself occupied in what should have been an Olympic and Paralympic year by writing a book that I hope will be the perfect Christmas present.

Heroic Animals is a collection of 100 stories about animals who have impressed, entertained and enlightened us. In some cases, they have changed the course of history.

Racing is well represented with Aldaniti, Arkle, Red Rum and Secretariat all included. For lovers of other equestrian sports, there are also chapters on Mark Todd's brilliant eventer Charisma, who won two Olympic gold medals, Valegro, king of the dancing horses and my choice from show-jumping was the brilliant Milton who was at his peak during my teenage years.

As for dogs, there are guide dogs, hearing dogs, bomb disposal dogs, therapy dogs and dogs who can detect cancer. Over and over again, they have proved themselves man's best friend.

The book covers a huge range of animals including pigeons who flew vital messages during the First and Second World Wars, a giraffe who walked the length of



France to Paris where she sparked a fashion craze, a hippo who travelled the length of southern Africa, a dog who found his way home over two and half thousand miles across America and an African grey parrot who could identify colours, shapes and answer questions with a huge range of vocabulary.

In each instance, the story of the animal in question allowed me a chance to see an era or a culture through their eyes. It's a fun and different way of looking at history and the experience left me in awe of the varied capabilities of different species as well as their kindness and patience. Some you will recognise and remember - like Sefton who survived being bombed by the IRA or Christian the lion who was bought at Harrods and released into the wild. Others - like Stoffel the Houdini honey badger who can escape from any enclosure, or Hoover the talking seal - will be a delightful surprise.

It's a book that will suit any age group and is available in all good bookshops. If you are ordering multiple copies as presents and would like a dedicated, signed bookplate, please let Anna Lisa know and I'll happily oblige. ■

YEARLINGS FOR SALE

We had a productive time at the yearling sales this year, coming away with plenty of promising youngsters for decent value. We have some shares available in the following horses:

Chestnut colt, Galileo Gold ex Fondled (Selkirk)
– 50% share available at £16,000 (plus VAT)*

Grey colt, Gutaifan ex Findhorn Magic (Kyllachy)
– 25% share available at £5,250 (plus VAT)*

Chestnut filly, Havana Gold ex King's Siren (King's Best)
– 25% share available at £6,000 (plus VAT)*



For more details please see our website (www.kingsclere.com) or email tessa@kingsclere.com

*These prices are correct as at 1 December and will increase with ongoing keep and training costs.

