

KINGSCLERE

PARK HOUSE STABLES



SUMMER MAGAZINE 2018



Above: Some of the management team enjoying a day out at Royal Ascot

Front cover: MAKE MUSIC surges to her sixth career victory, at Haydock under Jason Watson

Back cover: Some of our hardworking staff team!

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INTRODUCTION

As we continue to swelter in what has been an unusually hot and dry summer there seems to be little time to reflect, but happily there is time to enthuse about what I genuinely feel could be a momentous second half of the flat racing season. We are lucky to have some fantastic older horses campaigning for us and some high achieving three-year-olds who have exceeded expectations but, without a shadow of doubt (in the trainer's mind at least), the stable strength lies in the highly talented team of two-year-olds, of which more than three quarters have yet to see the racecourse. I hope I am writing with as much enthusiasm about them in the winter edition of this magazine!

Our ultimate goal is to improve on the previous season and we are currently ahead of last year in terms of the number of winners. We have a little work to do on the prize-money front (although the £1 million milestone was reached last month) but there are many, many juicy prices still to play for!

In a summer of World Cup football, balmy evenings and endless barbecues I have realized how lucky I am to be surrounded by people who care as much about the horses and results of the Kingsclere team as I do, and I feel so lucky to have assembled such a magnificent management team to help take Park House to where it should be in the trainers' standing. Nigel Walker (assistant trainer) Tessa Hetherington (racing manager) Kevin Hunt, Ross Burdon, Dylan Holley and Maddy O'Meara (yard managers), Angie Cheshire (colour room and ground staff coordinator), Simon Humphries and Leanne Masterton (travel), Lindy Rees (office), Rob Bettaney (gallops) and Eugene Cullen (farrier) are the people who make this place function on a daily basis. As a group their attention to detail and efficiency is why we are able to achieve the results we do and I would like to thank them for all their hard work and largely unrecognized contribution behind-the-scenes. I hope very much that we can keep this special team together for the seasons to come.

2018 has so far yet to provide a standout racing moment for the yard and it has been a year of highs and some fairly deep lows. On the negative side of things I'm sorry to report the death of some good friends to the yard and all associated with it. Audrey Hill was a long time owner (her first horse at Kingsclere was in 1986) and a great friend to us. Although Audrey was in her 90s her death has still prompted a tear or two from us lucky enough to have known her. Her special horse Pay Homage (who raced for almost ten seasons) is fondly remembered by many of the staff at Kingsclere, and Audrey will be too. John Matthias was another person with a long association with Kingsclere. An apprentice to IAB in the 70s, 'Jockey John' became the yard's number one rider through the 80s and rode numerous Group 1 winners for Kingsclere. A supreme horseman, John was also a lovely, quiet and hugely respected person who will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

How John would have loved riding work on some of the two year olds we are lucky enough to have in training at the moment!

THE SEASON SO FAR

by Tessa Hetherington

Park House's 2018 got off to a strong start on the all-weather, but winter's stubborn refusal to end meant that many of the turf horses took longer than expected to bloom in the spring. The month of May was notably quiet on the winners front and it would be glib to suggest that there were not rumblings of concern within the camp, but there were enough horses running well in defeat to suggest that the tide would turn, and turn it duly did, with no less than twenty winners in June. July continued in a similarly strong vein, and although this year's Qatar Goodwood Festival has not provided the obvious headlines for this piece that it did last year, it featured a number of highly creditable performances, continuing the excellent run of form of the Park House horses. With our exciting squad of two year olds yet to really get rolling and some highly progressive individuals amongst the older ranks, there is every hope that the best of the season is yet to come.

FOUR YEAR OLDS AND OLDER HORSES

King Power Racing's **Beat The Bank** had a near perfect three year old campaign and kicked off his four year old season at the highest level in the Group 1 Lockinge Stakes at Newbury. Like many of our horses at the time, however, he appeared to need the run and finished rather tamely. His work at home stepped up a gear after the race, and he was in excellent form when heading to Ascot for the Queen Anne Stakes. The Berkshire course had been the venue of his only two defeats last year but he put to bed any fears that he did not handle the track by running an absolute blinder. Trapped behind a wall of horses for most of the final furlong before bursting through in the final strides to finish an agonisingly close fifth, many (including his jockey Jim Crowley) believed he would have taken the race had he got a clear run. He returned to Ascot the following month and, despite again meeting trouble in running, showed great courage to forge through a narrow gap and take the Group 2 Summer Mile in good style under Oisin Murphy. The stars seemed to be aligning for the Group 1 Sussex Stakes at Goodwood, always his mid-season target, but this year the fairytale belonged to the great old warrior Lightning Spear, with Beat The Bank finishing fifth. Whilst the lack of early pace in the race was far from ideal for

him, there were no real excuses and it was seemingly just not his day. Happily he has come out of the race in good form and we are confident that there is a Group 1 prize out there with his name on it, whether in the UK or abroad. His next target is likely to be the Group 2 Celebration Mile, back at Goodwood later this month.

Horseplay's three year old season had begun with great promise but finished rather flat with some minor niggles interrupting her mid-season training. She looked to have left those well behind her this spring and so it proved when she kicked off her season with a career-best run in the Group 2 Middleton Stakes at York, finding only the Ribblesdale winner Coronet too good over a trip that was probably on the short side of ideal. Stepped up to a mile and a half on her next start and with her York form boosted by Coronet's narrow defeat in the Group 1 Prix de Saint Cloud, Horseplay went one better to land the Group 2 Lancashire Oaks at Haydock, just holding on in a prolonged duel with Pinnacle Stakes winner God Given. Still lightly raced and proven at ten and twelve furlongs, Cliveden Stud's lovely daughter of Cape Cross is likely to step back up to Group 1 company next time with options including the Yorkshire Oaks, the Prix Jean Romanet and the Grosser Preis von Baden.

Kingsclere Racing Club's **Brorocco** almost became our third Group 2 winner of the season, going down by just a neck in the Group 2 Sky Bet York Stakes at York. This was his first run in Group company since contesting the Solario Stakes on his second career start some three years previously. Since that time he had developed into a very



Connections of **BEAT THE BANK** after his brave win in the Group 2 Summer Mile at Ascot



A happy team after HORSEPLAY wins the Group 2 Lancashire Oaks

classy handicapper, placing three times in Class 2 contests this year following his wins in the City and Suburban and Dubai Duty Free handicaps last term. When the trainer announced at the breakfast table that he was 'fed up of that horse hitting trouble in big handicaps' and was going to aim him at a Group 2 there were a few raised eyebrows (including from his Racing Manager) but, despite Brorocco being significantly wrong at the weights with all his rivals, the coup very nearly came off. Having added further valuable black type to the pages of his mother and sisters, Brorocco confirmed that this was no fluke by going close again the following week in the Group 3 Rose Of Lancaster Stakes at Haydock.

Duretto only ran three times last year due to a mid-season injury but showed his class in all of those runs, placing third in the Ormonde Stakes at Chester, winning the Listed Stand Cup at Haydock and finishing an encouraging fifth in the Long Distance Cup on British Champions Day. This year he managed only fifth in the Ormonde Stakes on his reappearance but came on significantly for that run. We had always thought he preferred cut in the ground but with none of that around this summer we had to bite the bullet and run him on a quicker surface in the Listed Grand Cup at York over fourteen furlongs. He handled the surface well and ran a cracking race, finishing just a length third to Marmelo. The form was quickly boosted with Marmelo scoring at Group 2 level in France on his next start, but despite this Duretto was the clear outsider in the betting when he lined up for the Group 2 Princess Of Wales' Arqana Racing Club Stakes, run over twelve furlongs at Newmarket's July meeting. Once again he defied his odds, going down by just a neck to Best Solution and Mirage Dancer, both of whom have franked the form since. His versatility in trip and going now confirmed, he is the ideal candidate for an Australian raid this autumn, with the Group 1 Caulfield Cup his principal aim.

Potentially joining Duretto on his jaunt to the Southern Hemisphere is Qatar Racing's Frankel colt **Count Octave**. Although he began his four year old campaign with just one win (in a Wolverhampton novice) to his name, his

seconds behind Stradivarius and Call To Mind and his good sixth in a very strong St Leger had marked him out as a very classy performer. He kicked off this year with a win in a twelve furlong novice back at Wolverhampton when odds-on favourite and rated 111, in the process rather advertising the flaws in the extension of the novice system to older horses. His third in the Group 2 Jockey Club Stakes at Newmarket showed that he needs significantly further than twelve furlongs at that sort of level, and he also failed to show his true ability when a well-held fifth to Stradivarius over fourteen furlongs in the Yorkshire Cup. Stepped up to two miles five and a half furlongs in the Queen Alexandra Stakes at Royal Ascot he ran a tremendously brave race to finish a close third to Pallasator. A strong galloper with a wonderful temperament, he looks the ideal horse for the Melbourne Cup and is likely to head for either the Geoffrey Freer Stakes or the Lonsdale Cup next, aiming to cement his place in the 'race that stops a nation'.

Fellow stayer **Scotland** was plagued by injuries in the past three seasons, but the seven year old seems a much more robust horse now and showed that he retained plenty of ability with a good fifth in the Group 1 Ascot Gold Cup over two and a half miles at the Royal meeting and a close third in the Group 3 John Smith's Silver Cup over fourteen furlongs at York. Dropping back to twelve furlongs in the Group 3 Glorious Stakes at Goodwood proved a backwards step and he is now likely to head for the Ebor.

Likely to join Scotland in the Ebor field is **Montaly**, last year's Chester Cup and Lonsdale Cup winner. Life was always going to be tougher for him this year and he has failed to shine in three starts so far this term, but he has now dropped to a mark that makes handicaps a feasible option and the Ebor should suit him well, following which he may have a tilt at the Cesarewitch. The Cesarewitch is also on the agenda for our winning hurdler **Night Of Glory**, who ran respectably in the Chester Plate and in a Class 3 handicap at the same track when he was a little unlucky in running. He had a mid-season holiday whilst the ground was so firm but is now back in training under regular rider Jonno Balding and on a very handy mark.

Cleonte, another stayer purchased by King Power Racing last year, had shown vastly improved form this year and his victory in the Shergar Cup Stayers' race was well deserved. The Cesarewitch is likely to be his main aim now. The yard's staying division is now sadly lacking the familiar face of **Haines**, who has been retired after picking up a tendon injury in his final start at Chelmsford. The winner of seven races on the all-weather for the yard and a great character, he is much missed by us all and particularly by jockey Rob Hornby, in whose early career he played a major part. Star filly **Elbereth** was retired in the spring after another good international effort in Qatar. The winner of five races including the Nottinghamshire Oaks and Group placed in the UK, Turkey and Italy, she won over £320,000 in prizemoney. She is now in foal to Australia



CLEONTE wins well at the Shergar Cup under Scandinavian jockey Per-Anders Graberg

and, as a beautiful scopey mare, should produce a cracking youngster.

Returning to join the staying squad is **Emperor Napoleon**, whose 2017 season was limited to one start due to injury. He is back cantering and hopefully will be ready to resume his highly promising career towards the end of the turf season. **Genetics** had looked a very bright prospect as a two year old, winning his maiden at Newbury in great style and beating some highly talented horses in the process. He never really fired last year but the reason for this was far from obvious. In the end we resorted to gelding and a holiday at Chris and Clairey Bonner's and this seems to have done the trick, as he has only been out of the first four once in seven starts this term. He is the winner of three of his last four, the latest an impressive 12 length victory in the Shergar Cup Challenge, having only got into the race as second reserve some hours before race time. All three of those wins have come over twelve furlongs but the manner of them suggests he will stay a fair bit further, which opens up plenty of options for him going forward.

Morando made an eye-catching debut for the yard when third in the Group 3 Gordon Richards Stakes at Sandown, running on to within one and a quarter lengths of subsequent Hardwicke winner and King George VI second Crystal Ocean despite having been boxed in for much of the penultimate furlong. He has failed to build on that in two subsequent starts but the quick ground has not been in his favour and he was not beaten far in the Listed Gala Stakes back at Sandown last time.

Pivoine joined the yard at the same time as Morando but the trajectory of his season has been rather different. The standard of his homework meant we had high hopes for him but his first two runs were very disappointing. Thankfully swapping cheek-pieces for a visor helped him show his true ability on the track and he ran away with a Class 3 Handicap over ten furlongs at

Sandown. The winning distance was six lengths but could easily have been much more, and the handicapper duly raised him a hefty 10lbs for that effort. Despite this he ran well to be fourth in a better race back at Sandown before being one of a number of hard luck stories for us at Goodwood, his finishing effort frustratingly delayed by getting stuck on the rail until it was too late. He would surely have gone close without hitting trouble and should be back to winning ways soon.

Twin Star was another who seemed a magnet for trouble, almost getting knocked off his feet in the closing stages of a Class 3 Handicap over eleven and a half furlongs at Windsor. A consistent performer with a great temperament, he ran another good race at the Shergar Cup and fully deserves to get his head in front soon. **Contango** put in a bold effort at last year's Shergar Cup, just losing out in the Classic after winning his first three starts. He needed his reappearance run at Epsom but probably ran a career best on his second start when third in the Class 2 Jorvik Handicap at York behind two highly progressive horses. The stiff finish at Pontefract rather found him out on his next start and the ground was plenty quick enough for him back at York last time. He remains a lovely prospect and, if all of his Kennet Valley Thoroughbreds owners pray to the rain gods, hopefully he will be out again before too long!

The lovely mare **Make Music** had been highly progressive in the last two seasons but seemed to hit a flat spot this Spring and, already in foal to Passing Glance, it looked like the stud paddocks might be calling her name. She must have got wind of this suggestion as no sooner had it been discussed she bolted up in a Class 4 Handicap over seven furlongs at Lingfield in June under Jason Watson before scoring again for the same pilot in a Class 2 contest at Haydock the following month, a career best and her first victory away from the Surrey track. She then ran in a Listed race at Chester in an attempt to secure some black type but was unable to adopt her preferred front-running tactics there and has now retired, enjoying the sunshine in



GENETICS sweeps to the first of three victories so far this season

a paddock with Kingsclere super-mare Averami and hoping to follow in her footsteps as a mother.

Make Music won six races on the track but was also a hugely useful horse at home, capable of leading the best sprinters and milers on the gallops. We have lost her services in that regard but we retain those of the marvellous **Intransigent**, who barely ever misses a work morning and leads everything from gawky two year olds to Beat The Bank. He retains all his enthusiasm at home but it was beginning to look like he had fallen out of love with the racecourse. His last two efforts at Chester, however, have suggested that the spark is still there and hopefully we can win with him in this his eighth year on the track.

The sizeable **Zwayyan** returned from his winter holidays looking more like a ponderous heavyweight hunter than a racehorse, but was transformed once he started faster work and is another very handy lead horse in the string. He ran very well at Nottingham on his second start for the yard and in the Shergar Cup Mile on his latest start. He will benefit from a bit more cut in the ground and should translate his excellent homework to a win on the track before long.

Group 3 winning juvenile **South Seas** had a frustrating season last year but has flourished at home as a four year old. He has a tendency to miss the break out of the stalls and seems to be a magnet for trouble in running so he is yet to score this term, but he must have gone into more notebooks than most other horses in training on his four starts in big handicaps. It is surely only a matter of time before the things fall right for him and he lands a big prize. **Isomer** was also a good two year old and he too has returned to form this year, following up an excellent third in a big handicap at the Craven meeting with a facile win at Class 3 level at Chelmsford under Joshua Bryan. He has the ability to win a big handicap but, like South Seas, will benefit from some rain.

At the speediest end of the spectrum, plans for last year's Ayr Gold Cup winner **Donjuan Triumph** have been stymied by the prolonged heatwave affecting Europe. With two forays on the all-weather in early 2018 confirming his dislike for synthetic surfaces, the mudlark son of Dream Ahead was unable to run between his second in the Listed King Richard II Stakes at Leicester at the end of April and the Group 2 Lennox Stakes at Goodwood on 31 July, when weekend downpours rendered the ground genuinely good for the first time in months. Keeping a lid on a fully fit and potentially buzzy sprinter for that long is no mean feat and it is testament to Andrew's training regime and the excellent relationship between the horse and his regular rider Taffy Cheshire that Donjuan headed to Goodwood in such great form. The clear outsider in a strong field, Donjuan was given a clever ride by Oisin Murphy, making the running and setting testing early fractions which found out those who chased him in the early stages before steadying the pace to get a breather into the horse for a



PERFECT ANGEL fetched £400,000 at the inaugural Goodwood Sale

final kick. He finished fourth, beaten only half a length – a tremendous effort on ground that was still quicker than his optimum. He is likely to return to Goodwood for the Group 3 Supreme Stakes at the end of August.

Last year's Sussex Stakes hero **Here Comes When** is also at his best on soft ground so he too has been denied his preferred conditions for some time. Too keen on his reappearance run in the Group 2 Bet365 Mile at Sandown, he then found the ground too quick in the Listed Ganton Stakes at York in June and again in the Lennox Stakes, although he might have finished a bit closer with a clearer run. **Absolutely So** is another who wants cut in the ground and so has failed to shine in his two starts this season, but he is in good form at home and should be raring to go when (if) the rain comes, failing which there is a valuable handicap on the all-weather at Chelmsford in early September which could suit. Fellow sprinter **Straight Right** has not been on the track since his scintillating victory at Newcastle in February, having required surgery to remove a bone chip in one of his knees, but he is back cantering and we hope to have him ready for the Group 2 Park Stakes at Doncaster in September.

Jeff Smith's Stewards Cup heroine **Dancing Star** was given an extended break after almost coming down in the Diamond Jubilee Stakes at Royal Ascot last year and, like many of her family, she appears to be improving with age. Only narrowly touched off on reappearance in a Conditions race at Haydock in May, her next run in the Listed Cecil Frail Stakes at the same track may have come too soon. She bounced back from that with good runs in the Listed Cathedral Stakes at Salisbury and the Group 3 Summer Stakes at York before heading to Goodwood. Although she would have got into the Stewards' Cup connections were not keen to run her against her younger sister Foxtrot Lady and so she stepped up to 7 furlongs for the first time in her career to contest the Group 3 Oak Tree Stakes. This proved an inspired move as she ran a tremendous race and was desperately unlucky not to win, blocked twice from making her run at a critical stage. Whilst obviously frustrating, the fact that she stayed the longer trip well opens up more options for her going forward and she should secure a Pattern class win before the season is out.

Mildmay Stud's **Perfect Angel** also hit the headlines at Goodwood, but in the sale ring rather than on the track. Having failed to get in foal in the spring, she had returned to full work but her racecourse reappearance had been delayed by the lack of her preferred soft ground. She was then selected as the first lot in the inaugural Goodwood Sale, a boutique sale held in the parade ring after racing on the Wednesday of the Goodwood Festival. By fashionable sire Dark Angel and already with black type to her name thanks to her placed efforts in the Mill Reef, Rockingham and Hackwood Stakes, Perfect Angel's pedigree had been given a timely boost by the victory of her two year old full sister Angel's Hideaway in the Group 3 Princess Margaret Stakes at Ascot just five days before the sale. She proved very popular in the sale ring and eventually sold for £400,000, a nice return on the 17,000 guineas she had cost as a yearling!

Poet's Vanity failed to build on her juvenile Group 3 win last year and took a while to come to hand this year, but her second in a Class 2 Conditions Stakes at Haydock in July was much more encouraging. A line can be drawn through her most recent start at Newmarket where she became very worked up in the stalls. She is moving well at home and hopefully can build on her Haydock performance in the coming weeks. Despite our best efforts **St Mary's** steadfastly refused to get in foal this spring, but the upside is that we have the rest of the year to race her. Her second over two miles at Chester last month extended her excellent record at the track and suggests that she will add to her four career wins before heading to stud. Fellow Kingsclere Racing Club filly **Hidden Steps** has already gone that way, having been sold at the Tattersalls July Sale following her good second in a Class 3 Fillies' Handicap at Chester in June. From the wonderful family of Passing Glance and by Footstepsinthesand, who is gaining a good reputation as a broodmare sire, she was bought on behalf of Yeomanstown Stud in Ireland. Her contemporary and frequent field companion **Highland Pass** is also destined for broodmare duties next year, with half-brothers Elm Park and Brorocco giving her an attractive pedigree page, but her recent performances suggests that she should be able to add another win or two to her race record before the year is out.

Another daughter of Passing Glance, **Lorelina** seems, like many by her sire, to be getting better with age. Now five, she needed the run on her reappearance at Epsom but ran well there on her second start, finishing fifth in the big ten furlong Class 2 Handicap on Derby day. She stepped up to twelve furlongs for the first time on her next start, at Chester, and duly won well off a mark of 83. Since then we have been waiting for better ground, and if she gets it genuinely soft she may well improve again – the form of her final start of last season, when she was beaten a head by subsequent Group 3 winner Precious Ramotswe, suggests there is more to come from Tony Anderson's athletic mare.

Belle Meade was another who performed well at Epsom's Derby meeting, finishing fourth in the Class 2 Handicap over seven furlongs on Oaks day. She was too keen in the early stages at York on her latest start but she has been settling much better at home of late and, dropped in grade at Sandown last time, duly trounced her rivals by seven lengths. Barbara Keller's **Wingingit** can also be a bit of a hothead (it is perhaps no coincidence that both she and Belle Meade are chestnut fillies), requiring careful handling at home and for everything to go her way on the racecourse. She was unlucky not to win at Listed level at Pontefract in June but has thrown her toys out of the pram on her latest two starts. Hopefully we can get her back on track as she is a lovely, scopey filly with plenty of talent.

Sir Alex Ferguson's **Hairdryer** has not been the easiest horse to keep sound but he has heaps of ability, as he showed when cruising to victory under Oisin Murphy over ten furlongs at Lingfield in July on his first start in six months. The win provided a much-needed fillip for his owner who is making an excellent recovery from a brain haemorrhage. Thurloe Thoroughbreds' hugely likeable **Intimate Art** was another to win on return from a lengthy layoff, also scoring at Lingfield but over seven and a half furlongs and in the hands of Rob Hornby. He has since been sold to race in Dubai. Fellow sprinter-miler **Berkshire Boy** is talented and finally seemed to be leaving his wayward juvenile days behind. He won well over seven furlongs at Chepstow under Jason Watson in June but since then seems to have suffered something of a mental relapse, virtually refusing to exit the stalls on his last two starts. I am not sure we will



FOXTROT LADY becomes the fourth Kingsclere-trained winner of the valuable six furlong handicap at the July meeting since 2006

ever really understand what goes on in his head but we will endeavour to iron out these latest crinkles as he could easily win again this year if in the right frame of mind.

THREE YEAR OLDS

This year's three year olds are headed by a trio of talented fillies. Jeff Smith's homebred **Foxtrot Lady** had shown plenty of ability as a two year old, placing on four of her five starts including in the Listed Totepool Trophy at Redcar. She was bridesmaid again on her first two runs this season, getting stuck in the mud at Salisbury on reappearance and then running into the talented Equilateral at Doncaster, but went one better at Chester in May, showing a great attitude to win well under Jason Watson, who is having a phenomenal second season in the saddle. Stepped up in grade to Class 3 level at Carlisle, the pair made short work of a valuable fillies' handicap. This sharp progression led to obvious comparisons with her half-sister Dancing Star, and she headed to York next to contest the big Class 2 sprint handicap in which Dancing Star had been narrowly beaten on her path to the Stewards Cup. A little short of room in the closing stages, Foxtrot Lady ran well to be fifth. She then headed to Newmarket, continuing to follow in the footsteps of her sister, and this time everything went to plan as, just like Dancing Star, she showed all her tenacity in beating a large and competitive field under David Probert. By the time the Stewards Cup came around she was a short-priced favourite for the race and, having broken well from the stalls and travelling sweetly during the early stages, it looked like the dream result might be on. Ultimately it was not to be, with Foxtrot Lady getting clipped from behind and losing a shoe in the penultimate furlong which briefly checked her momentum, but she ran a characteristically brave race to be sixth behind top weight Gifted Master, ridden by her sometime pilot Jason Watson! A Listed race at Pontefract is next on her agenda.

Unlike Foxtrot Lady, **Maid Up** had not shown much on the track at two, having been well held over a mile at Kempton and Newbury. She thrived over the winter but was understandably the outsider in a competitive seven furlong maiden at Newmarket's Craven meeting on reappearance. Initially outpaced, she defied her odds of



MAID UP has been highly progressive this year



CROSSING THE LINE gets carried right at Chester but justice prevails in the stewards' room

100/1 to finish third, running on in the manner of a filly who would only improve for a step up in trip. The punters didn't miss her next time at Chepstow where she was sent off a short-priced favourite over ten furlongs, but after looking uneasy on the downhill stretch she had plenty to do and the winning post came too soon. She duly made amends next time at Doncaster, winning a Class 5 Fillies' Handicap in good style under Rob Hornby, who has ridden her on all her starts this year, and on stepping up to twelve furlongs won a Class 4 at Ascot and then a Class 3 at Goodwood, taking her official rating to 86. Clearly highly progressive, it was nevertheless a bold move by her trainer and owner-breeders Brightwalton Stud to put her in the Group 2 Lillie Langtry Stakes at Goodwood, but she more than justified their faith, relishing the step up to fourteen furlongs and only just going down to the exciting Pilaster in a photo finish. This was a fantastic effort from a filly whose first win only two months previously had come off a mark of 69, and she looks to have a very bright future. Now rated 105, she is likely to head for the Group 3 March Stakes over the same course and distance as the Lillie Langtry.

Homebred by George Strawbridge, **Shailene** had always looked a smart filly at home and she duly won on debut over ten furlongs at Lingfield before running a blinder to be fourth in the Cheshire Oaks behind subsequent Ribblesdale winner Magic Wand and Oaks winner Forever Together, handling the tight track surprisingly well for a lengthy filly having only her second start. Dropped back into novice company at Chelmsford for her third run she was unfortunate to run into Pilaster, who has since won the Lillie Langtry and may be supplemented for the St Leger, but she did not miss when returned to the Essex track in June, winning by six lengths in the hands of William Cox. She then made the long trip to Scotland worthwhile by finishing third in the Listed Glasgow Stakes at Hamilton, staying the twelve furlongs well and picking up some valuable black type. She will go to York next for the Listed Galtres Stakes.

Crossing The Line was bought by Sheikh Juma as a yearling and was a good two year old, winning on debut at Newmarket and running well in the Dick Poole Stakes at Salisbury. She was beaten a head on reappearance in a Lingfield novice over six furlongs but went one better over seven furlongs at the track on her next outing. Switched into handicap company at Chelmsford, she was narrowly defeated by a progressive filly (subsequently Listed placed) but gained a well-deserved Class 2 victory in the stewards' room at Chester, having been carried right in the closing stages when coming to win her race. She will probably also head to York, for the seven furlongs fillies' handicap.

Another to score at Chester is Paul Spickett's Sir Percy gelding **Berkshire Royal**, who has been a revelation this year. He had always caught the eye in his early work as a two year old but struggled on the track, seemingly too immature physically to do himself justice. A winter holiday in the paddocks did him the world of good and this year his form figures read 1124122, with two wins over nine and a half furlongs at Wolverhampton under Jason Watson and success over the extended mile and a half at Chester under Franny Norton. A really likeable horse who is taking his racing really well, he remains well treated by the handicapper and should add to his tally again soon. Paul Spickett has another exciting prospect in **Berkshire Blue** who, having required plenty of time to develop, made a pleasing debut at Goodwood in June before romping away with a twelve furlong novice at Wolverhampton in July, the winning margin an eased-down eleven lengths. The manner of that victory justified throwing him in at the deep end in the Group 3 Bahrain Trophy at Newmarket's July meeting, but he was rather keen in the early stages there. He still showed signs of greenness at Ascot on his latest start but this did not prevent him winning the Shergar Cup Classic in the hands of top Hong Kong jockey Joao Moreira, completing a memorable treble for the team. He should continue to progress and could target the Melrose handicap at York next.

Racing is full of ups and downs and Paul Spickett's good fortune with Berkshire Royal and Berkshire Blue was very sadly matched by the loss of his **Berkshire Spirit**, who suffered a heart attack at Epsom in July. A gorgeous son of Mastercraftsman, he was a gentle giant who was much loved by Paul and his family and by many at Park House including his devoted lad Geoff Rigby. In a terrible coincidence a similar fate was also met by **Luna Eclipse** at Chelmsford in May, cutting short a hugely promising career for Sheikh Juma's talented sprinter. In both cases the horses were fit and well and had shown no signs that anything might be amiss, making their demise shocking as well as very sad.

On a happier note, we were delighted to welcome **Stone Of Destiny** to the yard at the start of this season, having been bought privately by King Power Racing out of the yard of David Simcock, for whom he had won a brace of all-weather novices. He blew his chance in the Listed Carnarvon Stakes at Newbury on reappearance by pulling hard in the early stages, which caught us by surprise as he is very laid back at home. It seems likely that this was just due to freshness after a break as he settled well on his next start, in the Group 1 Commonwealth Cup over six furlongs at Royal Ascot, and ran a terrific race to finish fourth despite missing the break. He was again slow out of the stalls at York on his next start and gave himself an impossible task over the minimum trip. He broke better in the Group 2 King George Stakes at Goodwood on his latest start and ran reasonably well, but this seemed to confirm that he is



BERKSHIRE BLUE completes a treble at the Shergar Cup under 'Magic Man' Joao Moreira

best at six furlongs and he is likely to head to Newmarket for the Listed Hopeful Stakes next.

Whitefountainfairy had run a career best when a close second to Billesdon Brook in the Group 3 Prestige Stakes at Goodwood last year and that form received a significant early season boost when that filly won the 1,000 Guineas. Whitefountainfairy justified favouritism when winning a seven furlong Lingfield novice the following week under Jason Watson, but was too free over a mile in the Group 1 Coronation Stakes at Royal Ascot. She settled better back over seven furlongs with a hood on in a handicap at Newmarket but her finishing effort was disappointing there. We are confident that she remains a talented filly and hopefully we can get things right with her in the coming weeks.

Mick and Janice Mariscotti's **Lord Vetinari** had shown promise in defeat in novice company at two and three and although rather all at sea when pitched into a Class 3 on his first handicap start, he duly won down in grade at Goodwood under a canny front-running ride from Joshua Bryan. Proving that this was no fluke, the pair followed up



LORD VETINARI and Joshua Bryan cruise to victory at Chester

in good style in an apprentice handicap at Chester in June from a 5lb higher mark. Lord Vetinari returned to Chester last month but, having lost an early battle for the lead, finished rather tamely. He was unusually tired after the race and we can probably put a line through that effort as it seems he was not quite right. He has bounced back at home and remains a bright prospect. Also by Lethal Force, **Lethal Steps** joined us briefly from Ireland and finished a very good fourth in the Listed Henry Cecil Stakes at Newmarket's July meeting before selling for 300,000 gns at Tattersalls the next day.

Another Chester apprentice handicap went the way of Joshua Bryan in July as he piloted King Power Racing's **Chai Chai** to victory, also over the extended seven furlongs. Chai Chai had looked a winner in waiting on all of his three previous starts this term so it was gratifying to see him get his head in front. He caught the eye in the Class 2 Handicap over seven furlongs at Goodwood last week, making a strong late run after being squeezed back on leaving the stalls and again mid race, and a big handicap could well be within his grasp this year. In the same ownership, **Rux Ruxx** looked to be on a handy opening mark and she has placed in all three of her handicap starts this term, winning well over seven furlongs at Lingfield under Oisin Murphy on her penultimate start and bumping into a well-handicapped rival when runner up over the same course and distance the following week.

The exciting sprinter **Danzan**, a dual winner on the All Weather in the first two months of the year, unfortunately missed the All Weather Championships due to injury and is midway through a lengthy rehabilitation process, but he is going the right way and we hope to have him back for an All Weather campaign in the autumn. Dual juvenile winner **Golden Salute** is another talented sprinter who has been unlucky with niggles this year but she is back on the move and should be out before the end of the turf season. **Perfect Illusion** won the first two starts of his career in early 2018 in the manner of a good horse, both over twelve furlongs on the All-Weather at Lingfield, but did not cope well with the step up to Pattern level in the Chester Vase and Cocked Hat. His run in the King George V Handicap at Royal Ascot suggested that he would benefit

from a step up in trip and he ran well in a competitive Class 2 Handicap over fourteen furlongs last time out. A horse who is likely to be better with cut in the ground, he has been gelded during the prolonged heatwave and this should help him settle better at home and in his races.

Urban Aspect did not run at two having suffered a setback when showing great promise but, as a big leggy colt, the enforced period of rest probably did him the world of good. He has fulfilled that early promise this year, winning well over seven furlongs at Chester on his second start under David Probert before providing an easy victory for jockey William Cox over the extended mile at Nottingham. By the exciting young sire Cityscape and a half-brother to the highly progressive Look My Way, he should continue to improve and we will look for something rather better for him next time.

Richard Wilmot-Smith's **Diocletian** had always looked the most lovely horse and showed promise in his three starts as a juvenile. He is one of Camelot's first crop – a group which has flourished as three year olds. Placed in a twelve furlong Class 5 Handicap at Brighton on his reappearance, he then headed to Doncaster for a Class 2 Handicap over fourteen and a half furlongs in which he was 4lb out of the handicap, but he relished the soft



CHAI CHAI was another easy winner on the Roodee

ground and galloped strongly to the line, securing a decisive victory under young (and light!) jockey Duran Fentiman. Unfortunately he picked up a pelvic injury in his next start at Haydock but should make a full recovery and will be a force to be reckoned with in staying handicaps with cut in the ground.

King Lud impressed when fourth in the Wood Ditton at Newmarket's Craven meeting on debut and has been admirably consistent since, placing in his next five runs including in Class 3 Handicaps at Newbury (over twelve furlongs) and Chester (over fourteen and a half). He hated the artificial surface at Chelmsford on his latest start and must surely get his nose in front soon. Another to run well at the Craven meeting was Qatar Racing's **Fortune's Pearl**, who finished second to Mildenerger in the Listed Feilden Stakes, the pair some six lengths clear of subsequent Group 1 winner Kew Gardens in third. He has since been sold privately to go to Hong Kong.

Flintrock was a slow developer last year but showed great promise when third in heavy ground at Salisbury on debut and duly got off the mark on his next start at Bath, this time on ground officially firm! Ridden by regular home rider Joshua Bryan in all his starts, he was down the field



URBAN ASPECT has won two of his first three starts and is an exciting prospect

at Haydock on his third start but a niggles came to light after that run and, whilst he will once again require some patience, he is a nice prospect for big staying handicaps on his return to the track. H.M. The Queen's **Natural History** is a smartly bred son of Nathaniel and showed real promise on his first two starts, placing at Leicester last year over a mile and again back at the track over twelve furlongs on reappearance. With soft ground in short supply after that we ran him on the all-weather at Newcastle but he failed to fire. He should get back on track once the ground eases and is the type to continue improving with racing.

Michael Payton's **Dream Catching** has shown rather mixed form since his encouraging debut at Lingfield in April, which is surprising for a horse who is incredibly straightforward and consistent at home. Nevertheless his second at Newbury under William Carver on his penultimate start suggests he is well capable of winning off his current mark, the winner of that contest having won again since. Will Carver's regular ride is **Duration**, who has taken the full duration to get the hang of things. He showed definite improvement on his latest start, however, when an unlucky fourth at Wolverhampton and hopefully when stepped up to two miles he can give his regular jockey (and his unofficial owners the junior Baldings) a win before too long.

Jim and Fitri Hay's lovely **Dixieland Diva** had made an eye-catching debut last year when second at Newmarket but had been plagued by niggles since. She seems much more robust now and made an encouraging reappearance when fourth at Lingfield in July. She should come on significantly for that run, her first in just over a year, and is a filly to watch. George Strawbridge's **Ocala** built on her promising juvenile form when second to the smart Sheikh Reika at Newmarket's Craven meeting on reappearance, with the very smart Maid Up in third! Unfortunately she sustained a stress fracture after that run but she is back

cantering and should be ready to return to the racecourse fairly soon. By Nathaniel and out of the Park House-trained Night Carnation, who was Group 1 placed at four, she should have plenty of improvement left. **Must Be Magic** is another lovely filly who has had her fair share of setbacks but her fifth at Epsom on reappearance in April now looks like very smart form and she is one to note when she resumes her racing.

Sir Roger Buckley's **Pilgrim Soul** has been placed on all bar one of her seven starts but is, frustratingly, still a maiden. There was plenty to like about her second over twelve furlongs at Newmarket last time out and she should shed her maiden tag soon, quite possibly over a slightly longer trip. **Kabrit** is another to have repeatedly hit the crossbar, despite working at home like a horse significantly ahead of his mark. A son of Mastercraftsman, he will do better with some give in the ground and, having been busy this term, is due to be gelded and given a mid-season break. **Bacacarat** has also been unlucky not to win, having been placed in his last five starts. The half-brother to Donjuan Triumphant, he is not the greatest mover but



DIOCLETIAN was hugely impressive when winning at Doncaster from 4lb out of the handicap

he has a big heart and plenty of ability, so that elusive victory must come before long.

Another who spent a frustrating length of time as a maiden was **Rebel Streak**, who had some very smart form in defeat but seemed unable to get his head in front. The combination of blinkers and an entry in the July Sales seemed to do the trick, however, as he won comfortably at Windsor over six furlongs in June, before running well in a much better race over the minimum trip at Newmarket. The ground was just too quick for him at Bath, but he won well again at Leicester under David Probert on his latest start and remains in excellent form. Castle Down Racing's **Dawn Dancer** was another who took a while to shed his maiden tag despite running consistently well this year, but he got off the mark in good style over ten furlongs at Doncaster in June and the form of that win is working out well.



DAWN DANCER got off the mark in good style at Doncaster under William Buick

The German-bred **Zatorius** took a long time to come in his coat after the harsh winter but he has run well in his four starts this year at progressively longer trips. He will step up to twelve furlongs next time and will be a much better horse with some juice in the ground. **Soldier To Follow** is also from a German family and he too has been inconvenienced by the lengthy dry spell. His juvenile form is smart and hopefully he can recapture that once we get some genuinely good ground. **Lopito** has come fourth on all three of his starts this year but has shown promise each time and should improve on these placings when stepped up in trip and on better ground, whilst Kennet Valley Thoroughbred's **White Turf** is another who has been knocking at the door and is improving with his racing.

The beautifully bred **Aiya** was very progressive on the All Weather at the start of the year, winning twice, before placing in two good turf handicaps over twelve furlongs. Unfortunately he picked up a knock in the latter of these but should be back before the end of the turf season. Kingsclere Racing Club's **Seasearch** was another to notch up a brace of wins on the All Weather before placing over fourteen furlongs on heavy ground at Salisbury. He too picked up an injury after that but like **Aiya** should be back on track soon.

Juvenile winner **Macaque** has caused us some headaches this year as, after a promising reappearance at Wolverhampton, he began to get very keen in his races. With the hood applied he looked to be going the right way when second to the progressive Gossip Column at Chester in June and when third at Epsom in July, but the drop back to the extended mile at Epsom on his latest start did not yield the result we expected. Luckily he is taking his racing very well so we should manage to get it right with him before too long! **Master Of Wine** was an impressive winner at Epsom in April and ran very well in defeat at Doncaster in June before selling privately to race in Australia, whilst Highclere Racing's delightful **Pak Choi** was sold at Tattersalls in July, having won at Kempton in the spring.

Cliveden Stud's **Exeat** had impressed in her early work this spring and, having been all at sea at Newbury

on debut, has run well twice at Chelmsford, placing third on both occasions behind some smart opposition. She looks to be on a very attractive mark and will now target handicaps over a mile. **Private Cashier** also looked a well handicapped filly and went agonisingly close at Epsom on her latest start. Unfortunately she picked up an injury there so will need a bit of time before capitalising on her handy rating. **Angel Islington** is well into her rehabilitation from injury and she too is on an attractive mark when she returns to the track.

Both by Iffraaj, **Peggy McKay** and **Until Again** both have one start to their name, over a mile at Windsor. The former was the more savvy on debut and should have little difficulty in getting off the mark in the coming weeks, and whilst **Until Again** was very green she is a nice filly who will have learnt a lot from the experience. Sheikh Juma's **Sweet Lady Rose**, a daughter of Shamardal, made a very encouraging reappearance when runner up at Chepstow over a mile, and whilst she failed to build on that at Thirsk next time she has been given a fair mark off which to target handicaps. **Maggie Jonks** and **Silver Swift** have both spent some time in the special needs group this spring but they seem to have got over their phase of recalcitrance and both showed sufficient promise in their most recent novice start to suggest they are well up to winning in handicap company – a line can be drawn through the former's handicap debut as she failed to handle the quick ground at Newbury.

The Wates' **Face Like Thunder** has run reasonably in defeat in two handicaps this term and is now on a nice mark. The same is true of **Unbridled Spirit**, also a son of Passing Glance, who looks sure to do better once the rain comes having been placed twice on softer ground off marks well in excess of his current rating. **Fox Mafia** came back rather jarred up after his debut at Sandown on quick ground and he too will do better once the weather turns, whilst **Ballyquin** has been limited to one start this season due to injury but is now back on the move and remains a lovely prospect, having finished fourth behind three smart horses on his reappearance at Newmarket on what was only his second career start. **Sovrano** also ran a very encouraging race when fourth on his second career start and seasonal debut at Salisbury. He has not been the easiest horse to keep sound and is due to be gelded which, as a sizeable horse, will help him significantly. Highclere Thoroughbred Racing's **Consultant** is even bigger than **Sovrano** but returned from a winter break having filled out into his frame. His early work was very encouraging and he was unlucky not to score on reappearance, just going down by a neck at Thirsk. Laid low by a bug after that, he has gone for a holiday and we look forward to his return to the yard. Kingsclere Racing Club's **Essendon** has recently returned from a break and we hope he can improve on his three runs at the backend of last year – although it would be hard for his form to get much worse, so the only way is up!

TWO YEAR OLDS

In the early Spring it looked as if we had not only our nicest but also our most forward bunch of youngsters ever, but the very short window between arctic conditions in April and tropical conditions in June meant that we had limited opportunities to get the two year olds on the grass gallops and many took longer to come to hand than we had initially anticipated. Thankfully they are now flourishing and they remain a hugely exciting bunch.

Spearheading those that have already run is the delightful filly **Look Around**, who showed promise when very green on debut at Doncaster but knew her job next time at Kempton, winning comfortably over seven furlongs under David Probert. The manner of that victory justified a step up in class and so she headed to Sandown for the Listed Star Stakes. Only mid-division in the betting in a competitive field including five other winners, one of whom was second in the Albany, Look Around made all and looked the winner



LOOK AROUND is already a Listed winner and has scope to progress

from some way out, stretching out unchallenged under Oisin Murphy. An athletic filly by the exciting first season sire Kingman, she has plenty of physical scope for improvement and a great attitude. She may well head to Goodwood next for the Group 3 Prestige Stakes and is a bright prospect for owner-breeder George Strawbridge.

The second juvenile to secure black type was King Power Racing's Goffs London Sale purchase **Shine So Bright**, who joined us having finished fifth in the Coventry at Royal Ascot for previous trainer Karl Burke. Wonderfully straightforward, he settled in here very quickly and ran very well at Goodwood to be third in the Group 2 Richmond Stakes, having been denied an entirely clear run in the closing stages. He heads for the Gimcrack at York next.

Mick and Janice Mariscotti's **Forseti** was our first two year old winner of the season, scoring on his second start over seven furlongs at Salisbury having finished an unlucky fourth in an extremely hot maiden at Newbury on debut. He found things a bit tough in the Group 2 July Stakes at Newmarket and is better than his final placing in the seven furlong nursery at Goodwood, he being another of our

runners there to find trouble in running. By Charm Spirit, who is doing well with his first crop, this strong and athletic colt should add to his tally soon.

The gorgeous **Fox Tal** bears more than a passing resemblance to his sire, the great Sea The Stars, and confirmed the promise of his debut third at Sandown with a win at Ffos Las on his next start, the winning margin much shorter than it might have been had he not got stage-struck when out on his own in front. He probably heads for the Listed Stonehenge Stakes at Salisbury next and should provide his owners King Power Racing with plenty of highlights both this year and next.

A week on from Look Around's Kempton triumph another George Strawbridge homebred took the honours at the track, with **Firelight** winning over six furlongs in the hands of Oisin Murphy. Small but strong, she is typical of her excellent sire Oasis Dream. She went in again at Newmarket on her latest start despite still showing signs of inexperience, and is probably now ready for a step up to Pattern class.

Kingsclere Racing Club are used to having to wait until the back end of the season for any juvenile action but this year has been rather different and they have already had a two year old winner in the shape of the excellently named **Pass The Gin**, by Passing Glance and out of Park House winner Oasis Spirit. Having shown promise in three novice auction races, she put the lessons learned there to good use when running away with a similar race at Chester on her fourth start, handling the tight track with aplomb in the hands of Jason Hart. Raised 11lb by the handicapper for that effort, she was not beaten far in a big Class 2 nursery handicap at Newmarket next time and there will be much easier nurseries for her in the coming weeks. Another KRC juvenile to have run is **Spirit Warning**, by Charm Spirit and a half-brother to (amongst other winners) Side Glance and Rawaki. Green as grass on debut at Newmarket, he was a close second at Epsom on his next start despite



FORSETI was our first juvenile winner of the year



STRICT TEMPO is the fourth foal from Strictly Dancing to win for Park House

having his finishing effort delayed. He found everything happening a bit too quickly round Chester last time but is a lovely individual and should win soon, probably on a more galloping track.

Dutch Treat built on reasonable runs at Chepstow and Ascot when running a decent filly close at Newbury on her third start, the pair finishing well clear of the field. She improved again to win impressively at Yarmouth last time out, scooping a £25,000 Book 1 Bonus, and should be a black type filly this season. Another Bottle's **Barossa Red** ran very well at the same Newbury meeting on debut. Whilst we expected him to be placed, there being only three runners in the race(!), it was very encouraging to see him finish so close to his two smart rivals, both previous winners. He confirmed that this was no fluke when coming second to a nice type at Ffos Las the following week, and will now aim for the big Goffs UK sales race at York. **Happy Power** was another to make a pleasing debut at Newbury, finishing fourth in a six furlong maiden at the Lockinge meeting. He was a little jarred up after that run so we are waiting for better ground before turning him out again. Our latest two year old to run at Newbury was **Dudley's Boy**, who ran a huge race to be second on debut over seven furlongs to an experienced and highly rated rival, the pair almost four lengths clear of the rest of the field. Owned and bred by Karen Gough, Dudley's Boy was raised at Kingsclere Stud and both his parents were trained by Andrew (Passing Glance and juvenile winner Lizzie Tudor). He has always shown plenty at home and this was a very promising start to his career. In the same week the Tamayuz filly **Hello Bangkok** also made an excellent start to her career, finishing second in what is likely to have been a good fillies' maiden at Newmarket.

Indomitable also filled the runner-up spot on debut, this time over six furlongs at Chelmsford. The winner of that race won well next time on handicap debut, and this son of Invincible Spirit looks to have been a shrewd foal purchase by Jeff Smith. He may head to York for the

Convivial maiden next. Jeff Smith has another nice two year old in **Strict Tempo**, the Norse Dancer half-sister to Dancing Star and Foxtrot Lady. Although more feisty than her siblings, she is like them in being pretty smart. Placed on her first two starts at Bath despite badly missing the break, she failed to fire at Newmarket next time but won well at Nottingham on her latest start, becoming the fourth Park House winner from four foals out of her dam Strictly Dancing. **Rux Power** is another speedy filly who has impressed in her work at home and, after showing her inexperience on debut at Newmarket, she ran very well to be second in the big seven furlong fillies' maiden at Goodwood. She should add to her sire Kingman's first crop winners before long.

Oloroso was also runner up on his second start having been very green in a Newmarket maiden on debut. We have always thought plenty of him at home but his work became rather inconsistent after that second run and he failed to build on it next time back at Windsor (although the form of that race is working out rather better than initially seemed). The trainer's advice was to geld him and, although his owners were initially reluctant, the horse sealed his own fate by dumping regular and devoted work rider Holly the next day. Swiftly gelded, he is back in fast work and looks to be on a handy mark for his nursery debut. The same is true of **Swan Street**, who showed promise on debut at Kempton before failing to handle Chepstow's undulations. He ran a good race to be third at Chelmsford last time and, also now gelded, will target nurseries next. KRC's **Pot Luck** has already begun in nurseries and ran respectably at Ffos Las last time, having finished fourth in each of her three starts in novice and maiden company. She will probably appreciate a step back up in trip to seven furlongs and should get off the mark soon. Qatar Racing's **Reconnaissance** has shown real talent in his work at home but his two runs to date have been very disappointing. We are sure they cannot have been his true form and hopefully we will get him right for next time.

Fox Premier is also a real eyecatcher at home but was just too green to do himself justice on debut at Sandown. By Frankel out of a black type mare, he has a real turn of foot and should put that to good use soon. In the same ownership, **Fox Leicester** found Chester too much of a test on debut but had been working well and should be a different horse next time around, although we will wait for some give in the ground with him, whilst the imposing **Bye Bye Hong Kong**, a breeze-up graduate, ran well to be third at Newmarket on debut in unsuitably soft ground. **Havana Rocket** and **Grandstand** are also nice colts by speedy sires in Havana Gold and Kodiak, and both should leave their rather clueless debuts well behind in the near future. The same is true of the fillies **Laura's Legacy**, **Queen Of Jumeirah** and **Disco Doris**, who found everything happening too fast on their first racecourse experience but will be much more switched on next time. ■

Kingsclere Racing Club



It has been a very exciting summer on the racecourse so far for the Kingsclere Racing Club, with the emergence of the highly promising dual winner Urban Aspect from the three-year-old ranks, Pass The Gin getting the team of two year olds off the mark and Brorocco leading the way for the older horses.

Brorocco's second at Epsom on Oaks day was followed by some solid efforts in handicap company, but all previous form was eclipsed as he ran towards the line in front in the Group 2 York

Stakes, only to be agonisingly headed in the final strides. Still, it was a wonderful run and proof that the half-brother to Elm Park is capable of mixing it at Pattern level.

Our record intake of nine two year olds gives us so much to look forward to this autumn; Side Glance's half-brother Spirit Warning has already shown plenty of ability, whilst Ranch Hand (Dunaden – Victoria Montoya) and Indlyne (Intello – Lady Brora) are all showing considerable promise to match their excellent pedigrees.

Having enjoyed several sun-soaked mornings on the gallops and some wonderful moments on the racecourse (one notable highlight being a first, second and third from as many runners on a beautiful July evening at Chester), it feels like we have had a full year's worth of action...thankfully there is plenty more in store!



The Kingsclere Racing Club is full for 2018, but we are currently accepting applications to join the waiting list for 2019. For further information, please contact Nathaniel Barnett on 07890 672435 or by email, krc@kingsclere.com.

THE 2018 12 TO FOLLOW COMPETITION

The mid-term rankings (as at 5 August) in the Twelve to Follow competition are dominated by two members of the same family – owner Paul Spickett and his daughter Laura, who leads the field. Either the Spickett family spend hours around the dining table discussing form, or their loyalty to their own ‘Berkshire’ horses in their selections has paid off! The highest placed dog is currently the marvellous Spud, who at eighteen years of age is considerably wiser than most canines around. With many of the two year olds yet to really get going and a number of well handicapped horses ready to shine, everything may change in the coming months, so watch this space!

1. Laura Spickett	161	39. Philip Rodgers	109	80. Ray Horne (B)	90
2. Alysoun Carey	154	42. Philip Robertson	108	80. Angie Cheshire (B)	90
2. Paul Spickett	154	43. Pete Beasant	106	83. Lisa Spickett	89
4. Sally Jinks	149	43. Paul Reis	106	84. Felicity Simpson	88
5. Richard Dangar	148	45. Boris & Mac Balding	105	84. John Smith	88
6. Sharon Woolley	143	45. Jonno Balding	105	86. Rob Bettaney	87
7. Simon Humphries (B)	142	47. Josh Bryan (A)	104	86. B. Swallow	87
8. Anderson King	140	48. Susan Gay	103	88. Anthony Brooke-Rankin	86
9. Bridget Mackinnon	139	49. Iris Hoare	102	88. Luke Tierney	86
10. Spud Clarke	136	49. J.C. Smith	102	88. Lindy Rees	86
10. Cherry Jones	136	49. Helen Plumbly	102	88. Simon Plumbly	86
12. Charlie Richards (A)	135	52. Jamie Mackinnon	101	92. Gerry Rafferty (B)	85
13. Dr M.J. & Mrs D. O'Brien (B)	134	52. Maggie Gay	101	92. David Dunn	85
14. Tessa Hetherington (A)	130	52. Mary Gee	101	92. Max & Louis Needham	85
15. Tessa Hetherington (B)	128	52. Jeremy Carey	101	95. Will Carver (A)	84
16. Ian Balding	127	56. Joshua Gay	100	95. Richard Manu	84
17. Alan Rae Smith	126	56. Rose Cousins	100	95. Rachael Holmes	84
18. John Wellman	125	56. Sally Phipps Hornby	100	95. K. Derbyshire & S. Cornwell	84
19. Nigel Walker	124	56. Martyn Needham	100	99. Harry Murtagh	83
19. Anne Soul	124	56. S. Humphries (C)	100	99. David Gay	83
21. Richard Burns	122	61. Pam Arnold	99	99. D.F. Powell (B)	83
21. Janice Lees	122	62. John Gale	98	99. Philip Randall (A)	83
23. Ross Burdon	121	63. Angie Cheshire (A)	97	99. Derek Heath	83
23. Liam Mungovan (B)	121	63. Richard Wilmot-Smith	97	99. Gary Richards	83
25. Berkshire Drivers	120	63. Batt Dillon	97	99. Matthew & Emily Slade	83
25. Des Oates	120	63. Charlie Richards (B)	97	106. Dr M.J. & Mrs D. O'Brien (D)	82
27. Mick Mariscotti	119	67. Gerry Rafferty (C)	96	106. Ruth McWilliam	82
27. Jason Watson	119	67. Mike Horner	96	108. Janice Mariscotti	81
27. Julia Reardon Smith	119	67. Jamie Neild (B)	96	108. Laura Clayton	81
30. Rosemary Finlay	118	70. Layton L. Register	94	110. Mick Beasant	80
31. Ann Plummer	117	71. Ray Horne (A)	93	110. Tom Smyth	80
32. Andrew Balding	116	71. Billie Gay	93	110. Martin Slade	80
32. Mick Mahoney	116	71. John Soul	93	113. Simon Humphries (A)	79
34. Steve Woolley	114	74. Nathan Cheshire	92	113. April Rafferty	79
35. Corinne Robertson	113	74. Will Carver (B)	92	115. D.F. Powell (A)	78
35. Liam Mungoven (A)	113	74. Jenny Arlington	92	115. Saritha Aila	78
37. Angie Cheshire (C)	112	77. Laurence Jinks	91	117. Will Carver (Snr)	77
38. Sam Gay	110	77. Werner Aeberhard	91	117. M Tucker	77
39. W. Palmer	109	77. Sue Lumley	91	117. Valerie Slade	77
39. Emma Balding	109	80. Kingsclere Stud	90	120. Andrea Buriandva	76

120. Angela Lane	76	148. Clive Stansby	63	178. Adrian Hodgkins	46
120. Peter Box	76	148. Guy Brook	63	180. Chinner	45
123. Richard and Emma WS	73	152. John Conway	62	181. Josh Bryan (B)	44
123. Clare Palmer	73	153. Gary Boon	60	182. B. Broughton	43
123. Dr M.J. & Mrs D. O'Brien (C)	73	153. R.P.B. Michaelson	60	183. Jen Watson	42
126. Mike O'Driscoll	72	153. Charlotte Clarke	60	184. James Rafferty	41
127. Suzanne Woolley	71	153. Ronnie McWilliam	60	184. Toby Balding	41
127. Terry Friend	71	153. Michael Payton	60	186. Dr M.J. & Mrs D. O'Brien (A)	40
129. Mark Hutchinson	70	158. Edward Gay	59	186. Hugh Teacher	40
130. John Feane	69	158. Jessica Mooney	59	188. Angie Cheshire (D)	39
131. Philip Randall (B)	68	158. Daisy Fenwick	59	189. John Crofts	38
131. S. Cornwell & K. Derbyshire	68	161. Linda Thompson	58	189. Gaily King	38
131. Lynne Burns	68	161. Stuart Friend	58	189. A. Johnson/G. Bounds (A)	38
134. Barney Bonner	67	161. Peter Felton	58	189. Rachael & Lads	38
134. A. Johnson/G. Bounds (B)	67	164. Carl Conroy	57	193. Tim Watson	37
134. Nicholas Jones	67	164. Gerry Rafferty (A)	57	194. T. Broughton	36
134. Barry Hale	67	164. Stuart Mcphee	57	194. Roger Mackinnon	36
134. Bernie McGuire	67	164. Sandeep Gauravaram	57	196. Simon Gee	35
139. A. Whitehall	66	168. Emma Baldwin	56	197. Angus McPhee	33
139. Sooty	66	168. Barrie Rickman	56	198. Bidy Shennan	32
139. Pip Elson	66	170. Barney Hetherington	54	198. Peter A'Court	32
142. Sue Watson	65	171. David Hall	53	200. Mac Zapotocky	31
142. Fiona Hutchinson	65	171. David Hall	53	200. Janice Friend	31
142. David Lane	65	173. Catherine Carver	52	200. Grace & Molly Redshaw	31
142. Jamie Neild (A)	65	173. Jonno Rea	52	203. Angie Cheshire (E)	29
146. Anna Lisa Balding	64	175. Simon Melik	49	204. S. Cornwell & K. Derbyshire	27
146. Peter Lumley	64	176. Bryan Jennick	47	205. Michael Lloyd	6
148. Jim Goslin	63	176. Jamie Richards	47		
148. Michael Bettaney	63	178. Dr M.J. & Mrs D. O'Brien (E)	46		



TOP SCORING HORSES

BERKSHIRE ROYAL	49
MAID UP	46
FOXTROT LADY	42
CROSSING THE LINE	32
SHAILENE	32



SELECTION OF THE LEADERS

LAURA SPICKETT		ALYSOUN CAREY		PAUL SPICKETT		SALLY JINKS	
Berkshire Boy	10	Count Octave	19	Berkshire Spirit	22	Flintrock	14
Berkshire Blue	11	Beat The Bank	12	Beat The Bank	12	Pak Choi	0
Berkshire Royal	49	Foxtrot Lady	42	Berkshire Blue	11	Maggie Jonks	1
Berkshire Spirit	22	Whitefountainfair	10	Berkshire Royal	49	Master Of Wine	16
Absolutely So	0	Dancing Star	21	Count Octave	19	Count Octave	19
Beat The Bank	12	Danzan	0	Rebel Streak	17	Crossing The Line	32
Maid Up	46	Master Of Wine	16	Perfect Illusion	0	Foxtrot Lady	42
Bangkok	0	Oloroso	6	Barossa Red	10	Barossa Red	10
Constraint	0	Havana Rocket	0	King Power	0	Landa Beach	0
Disco Doris	0	King Power	0	Fox Tal	14	Top Fox	0
Forseti	11	Look Around	22	Fox Premier	0	Johnny Kidd	0
Lariat	0	Indomitable	6	Bell Rock	0	Pass The Gin	15

MY TOP FIVE... IN FIFTY YEARS AT KINGSCLERE: GEOFF RIGBY



Geoff Rigby first arrived at Park House Stables on 31 August 1968, some five months after his fifteenth birthday. He was technically an apprentice but never really expected any rides: 'I had to waste to do 8 stone 10!' and although he did have one outing under rules, it has been as a work rider and groom that Geoff has spent his fifty years at Kingsclere.

In the early years it didn't look likely that Geoff's employment would span five decades. He informs me that he used to smoke forty a day and drink ten pints of an evening (impressive for a man of his stature) and was threatened by IAB with the sack on several occasions, including after having been woken up by the

Guvnor at the house of his then girlfriend (and now wife) Julie on a Saturday lunchtime, some hours after an important work morning had concluded....

Luckily for us Geoff survived these early skirmishes with his boss and he has become something of an institution at Park House. Although he no longer rides out he is a highly valued member of the ground-staff team, devoted to his horses and particularly good with fillies. Geoff's time at Kingsclere has undoubtedly had many highs but it has also had some incredible sadness, as in 2011 his son Gary lost his life in a motor accident near the entrance to the yard. Gary did not work at the yard but was an important part of life here and is much missed by all who knew him. We are all full of admiration for the way in which Geoff and Julie have handled this terrible loss.

As his fiftieth anniversary approaches, we asked Geoff to select his top five from the horses he has looked after at Park House over the years. He found it very tricky to pick only five, and honourable mentions also go to Man Of Harlech, Angelic Upstart and Make Music.

1. MRS PENNY – 1977 Ch f, Great Nephew / Tananarive (Le Fabuleux)

Mrs Penny was purchased as a yearling in Saratoga by IAB for Eric Kronfeld in 1971 and arrived in Kingsclere



MRS PENNY winning the Cherry Hinton Stakes at Newmarket in 1979



Geoff with MAN OF HARLECH

later that year. She filled the runner-up spot on both her first two starts, but then sprang a surprise by winning the Cherry Hinton Stakes at Newmarket (then a Group 3) at odds of 11/1 and despite being slow out of the gates. She went on to win the Group 2 Lowther Stakes at York before taking on the colts in the Group 2 Mill Reef Stakes at Newbury, where she finished fourth. Back against her own sex in the Group 1 Cheveley Park Stakes at Newmarket, she won by a short head and by the end of the year was rated the best two year old filly in Europe. As a three year old, Mrs Penny was second in the Group 3 Fred Darling Stakes on her reappearance and then placed third in the 1,000 Guineas and in the Irish equivalent, before winning the French Oaks under Lester Piggott. Back against the boys in the Group 1 King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes at Ascot, Mrs Penny ran the race of her life, almost taking the prize but being outstayed by the older colt Ela-Mana-Mou in the final stages, the pair five lengths clear of the rest of the field. She then returned to France and won the Group 1 Prix Vermeille, beating an exceptionally strong field of fillies and mares. Mrs Penny was fourth in the Group 1 Coronation Stakes as a four year old before being sent to America to be trained there, winning a Grade 3 and finishing second in the Grade 1 Manhattan Handicap. She went on to be a successful broodmare, her daughter Mrs Jenney producing American Grade 1 winner Unaccounted For.

Geoff says of Mrs Penny: 'I looked after Mrs Penny from the start and I rode her every day. She had a wonderful temperament and she was a brilliant ride, so she was a real pleasure to do and she won some great races for me.'

2. HIDE THE KEY – 1977 Bay f, Key To The Mint / Sno Where (Northern Dancer)

At the same time Mrs Penny arrived in Kingsclere, Geoff took charge of another American filly, Hide The Key. She was owned and bred by Paul Mellon and, although not as good as Mrs Penny, she was a decent

two year old. She was third in the Group 3 Sweet Solera Stakes over seven furlongs at Newmarket and fourth in the Group 2 May Hill Stakes at Doncaster over a mile, before finishing down the field in the Group 1 Fillies' Mile back at Newmarket. The following year she was third in the Group 3 Princess Elizabeth Stakes at Epsom and second in the Group 3 Premio Bugatta in Milan, but ultimately she only won one race, a maiden over a mile at York.

Geoff says of Hide The Key: 'She was a kind filly and a lovely ride. I missed her only win because she won the day before Mrs Penny ran in the French Oaks and I was at Chantilly. Lester Piggott rode Hide The Key to win at York on the Saturday and then he flew to France and rode Mrs Penny to win the French Oaks on the Sunday!'

3. SKAZKA – 1986 Bay f, Sir Ivor / Winter Words (Northern Dancer)

Skazka was another American filly, also owned and bred by Paul Mellon. She won a nursery handicap at Newbury as a two year old before winning again at three over a mile at Salisbury, placing a further four times during those seasons and often ridden by apprentice jockeys. As a four year old, Skazka acquired a new pilot in Clare Balding, for whom she won a ladies' race at Beverley over a mile and a half and placed in a ladies' race at Brighton over the same trip.

Geoff says of Skazka: 'Although she wasn't very good she was a super filly with a great temperament and I really enjoyed looking after her.'



LOCHANGEL streaking to victory in the Nunthorpe in 1998

4. LOCHANGEL – 1994 Ch f, Night Shift / Peckitt's Well (Lochnager)

Homebred by owner Jeff Smith and a half-sister to the superstar sprinter Lochsong, Lochangel only ran twice at two but hit the headlines because her win in a Conditions stakes at Ascot on her second start was the penultimate leg of Frankie Dettori's 'Magnificent Seven', when he rode all the winners on the card.



Geoff with STAR PUPIL, first offspring of Lochangel

Lochangel missed much of her three year old year through injury, but was placed in the Listed Chartwell Fillies' Stakes at Lingfield. Like her sister before her, it was as an older horse that Lochangel excelled, and as a four year old she won the Listed Somerset Stakes at York before placing in the Group 2 Temple Stakes at Sandown, the Group 2 Kings Stand at Royal Ascot and the Group 2 King George Stakes at Goodwood. She then returned to York where she won the Group 1 Nunthorpe Stakes by a length under Frankie Dettori. Repeating the victory of her sister in the same race and for the same connections some five years previously, she was a tremendously popular winner. She did not win as a five year old but placed again in the Temple Stakes and King's Stand before retiring to Littleton Stud where she was a successful broodmare, her progeny including Park House winners Verne Castle and Strictly Dancing, the latter best known now as the dam of four Park House winners in Dance Of Fire, Dancing Star, Foxtrot Lady and Strict Tempo.

Geoff says of Lochangel: 'I didn't do Lochangel as a two year old but when Scudder left the Guvnor asked me to take her on. She was a sour cow, who would take any chance to kick out and would split you in two in the box if she could, but she was a great ride, and would lead anything down to the gallops. Leading her up to win the Nunthorpe was a great day. I looked after her first colt, Star Pupil, but I've steered clear of the family since!'

5. DINGAAN – 2003 Bay g, Tagula / Boughtbyphone (Warning)

The brother of Britannia winner Pentecost, Dingaen was bought by Andrew as a yearling for 28,000gns and sold on to Lady Cadbury. He placed in two of his three runs as a juvenile before winning his first two starts at three, both at Lingfield. He then won a big Class 2 Handicap at Kempton over seven furlongs off almost bottom weight. He was clobbered by the handicapper for that and found life tough for a while, but once he



DINGAAN won six races from Park House

dropped down to a competitive mark he capitalised on it, winning a Class 2 at Goodwood as a four year old for William Buick (claiming five) and, as a six year old, a Class 4 at Bath for David Probert (claiming three)! He won two claimers at seven and was claimed out of the latter by Peter Grayson, for whom he raced for three further seasons, eventually retiring at the age of ten.

Geoff's memories of Dingaen are: 'Dingaen was a great horse who won me six races. The race he won at Kempton was the last on the card at an evening meeting. The jockey had been told to make the running but he fell out of the stalls and got shuffled very far back – I thought he had no chance, but he came with a brilliant run to win on the line. I looked at the racecard after the race, thinking that it was an ordinary little handicap worth a few thousand, and discovered it was worth £40,000! Back in those days the lad got the pool money for the horses they did, rather than the current shared system, so that was a very pleasant surprise!' ■

SAVE THE DATE

– Park House Golf Day –

Friday 5 April 2019

Sandford Springs Golf Club

THE MELBOURNE CUP COMES TO KINGSCLERE

Last month we were delighted to welcome the Melbourne Cup to Kingsclere as part of the British leg of the 18th Annual Melbourne Cup Tour. At an event co-hosted with Highclere Thoroughbred Racing, Victoria Racing Club Chairman Amanda Elliott and local trainers and guests enjoyed a tour of the yard and inspected our potential Melbourne Cup hopefuls, including Qatar Racing's Count Octave. We hope the Cup returns in November! ■



AWARDS



With all systems go during the busiest part of the season everyone is working very hard, but worthy of particular recognition are the following members of staff, who are recipients of the Spillers 'Employee Of The Month' awards for the first half of the season:

WILL CARVER for his continued excellence in the saddle and in particular for his impressive levels of both patience and stickability in riding feisty fillies Wingedit and King Power every morning!

JON WILLETTS for showing admirable resilience after a very nasty fall in the early Summer, returning to work early and with an excellent positive attitude, and for looking after dual winner Urban Aspect.

BRADLEY HARRIS for his continuously improving skills as a rider. Having initially come to the yard during his school holidays, Bradley is now one of our most able pilots and has learnt how to settle the most buzzy of horses (and how to stick on White Turf on a Monday morning!)

CLIONA SUGGETT for the care and devotion shown to her set of horses (including top level performer Scotland) and for her improved riding and can-do attitude.

Award winners receive £100 and a bottle of Spillers prosecco, and as ever our thanks go to Spillers for their continued support of this valued initiative. ■



Will Carver



Jon Willetts



Bradley Harris



Cliona Suggett

SALES SEASON

It will not be long until the hunt for future stars begins again with the annual round of yearling sales. Members of the Park House team will be attending the Goffs UK Doncaster sale (28-29 August), the Premier Yearling sale at Baden-Baden (31 August), the Ascot Yearling Sale (11 Sept), the Tattersalls Ireland sale at Fairyhouse (25-26 Sept) the Goffs Orby sale (2-3 Oct) and Books 1, 2 and 3 of the Tattersalls Yearling Sale (9-19 Oct).

If you are interested buying yearlings at the sales, please contact Andrew (ab@kingsclere.com).

RACING STAFF WEEK



The first week in July was Racing Staff Week, a national initiative set up by Racing Welfare and designed to celebrate and publicise the excellent work of racing staff up and down the country. We hosted a staff barbecue at Park House complete with big screen TV, and cleverly arranged for the England football team to beat Colombia on penalties which added considerably to the atmosphere! A good time was had by all, although Andrew was devastated when the screen was collected

mid-way through the episode of Love Island shown after the match...

As part of the week's events, the National Association of Racing Staff held daily quizzes, culminating in a Grand Prize Draw to win £1,000 worth of holiday vouchers. The popular winner of this was none other than our gallop man Rob Bettaney, who has become even more popular in the weeks since! ■

HAMPSHIRE HOPBIT

On the Sunday before Royal Ascot we hosted the start and finish of the Hampshire Hoppit, a trail marathon and half-marathon across the Kingsclere Downs and surrounding area. Four members of the Park House staff team decided that a gruelling cross country run was the ideal preparation for one of the busiest weeks of the racing calendar and, despite varying degrees of training, all four finished in good style. Maddy and Tess completed the half-marathon and Nigel and Stuart the full marathon, with Maddy and Nigel recording impressively quick times and Tess and Stuart undoubtedly coming on for the run... ■



Summer Parties

The eve of the King George VI meeting at Ascot saw the annual Park House owners' party, which as ever was a very enjoyable night for owners, staff and other connections of the yard. We were blessed with fine but mercifully cooler weather and after a delicious meal Tom Bradley and his band had everyone dancing into the night, before the trainer himself took to the microphone for a (thankfully largely mimed) rendition of his favourite track. There were a few sore heads in the morning but the weather was glorious for hosting owners on the gallops and Tess just about managed to identify the horses correctly as they came past! Anna Lisa organised everything with her customary flair and efficiency and we are hugely grateful to her for an excellent occasion.

The following evening the marquee was put to good use as the venue for 'Banter at the Baldings', a drinks party with witty debate and Goodwood hints from a panel including Clare Balding, Francesca Cumani, John Warren and Harry Herbert, expertly interviewed by young magician Archie Manners. This was a highly entertaining and informative evening which raised an impressive £23,826 for the North Hampshire Medical Fund, an independent charity which raises money to help fund specialist equipment and care at the Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital. It is a fact of life that those who work with racehorses are likely to be high users of local medical services and we are delighted to be able to support the work of the Fund. ■



