

SPRING 2005

# *The* KINGSCLERE *Quarter*



THE PARK HOUSE STABLES NEWSLETTER

# The KINGSCLERE Quarter



Above: *The Kennet Valley Syndicate on the gallops with CONJUVOR and PALMISTRY*

Front cover: *SILVER HIGHLIGHT & Cheryl Morris*  
Back cover: *GUNNER WELBURN & Pat McGuire*

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# NEWS

## ALL WEATHER RUNNERS

This year, for the first time, we have rented a satellite yard at Lingfield and used this as a base for our all weather runners. The yard has been managed by Chris Bonner who has been doing an excellent job in combining trying to keep old favourites like Palawan sweet while bringing along a selection of promising three-year-old maidens.

The first success for this experiment was a slightly pleasant surprise when **AVERAMI** showed the benefits of being trained at the track when finally fulfilling some of her potential and winning her first race. She is now retired and will be one of the first mares covered by Passing Glance – now standing at the National Stud in Newmarket.

After a promising debut, **STAY CLOSE** showed improvement when running on bravely to win his maiden at Wolverhampton and then a handicap at Lingfield – showing a great turn of foot. He is by the US stallion Belong To Me and we are hopeful that he will continue to improve and add to his tally. He will now have a short break and planning a turf campaign for him should be fun.

At the end of January, **Mr LAMBROS** came right back to his best when running on most gallantly from a poor draw to successfully carry top weight in a competitive Lingfield handicap. He seems more relaxed now that he has been gelded and we are very hopeful that he can now start to show us his talent more consistently both on the Polytrack and on the turf.



MR LAMBROS

# UPDATE

As well as these successes, some of the 3 yo maidens have shown lots of promise. These include **Great Aunt** – who may need a bit further – and placed efforts from **Trymore, Sukuma, Missy Cinofaz, Tuvalu** and **Middle Earth**. Slightly frustratingly, most of those were leading 100 yards from the post in their races but just failed to withstand a strong late finish from opponents. All should win races in due course. In fact, Middle Earth has shown such promise on dirt that we sent him over to the US to contest the prestigious Whirlaway Stakes on February 12th. He acquitted himself very well there in quite a hot race and will now stay in the US to run.

A low point was an injury suffered by **Holbeck Ghyll** at Wolverhampton but he is now on the mend and we are full of hope that he will be back in the summer to show us his true ability again.

More recently, **Nightwing, Palace Walk** and **Pittsburgh** have all run races full of promise for the future and old favourite **Tiny Tim** was just touched off in a photo finish at Southwell. Unfortunately, another old favourite – **Palawan** – was claimed after running well in a seller.

Last week **Chantaco** made a very promising reappearance when just getting up to win a Lingfield handicap. I hope that we can find some similar races for him in the near future.

## THE JUMPERS

The 'jumpers' have once again given us great pleasure this winter. Perhaps pride of place should go to **COOL MONTY**, who seemed to have improved again at the age of 11. He jumped superbly to win races at Leicester and Wincanton. Those wins did not go unnoticed by the handicapper and he faced a difficult task in future chases. However, since "Monty" was still a novice over hurdles, we hatched a plan to take advantage of what looked like an attractive hurdles handicap mark. Sadly, we will never know for sure how he would have fared in those races as he was badly injured in a routine gallop at Kingsclere and had to be put down. We will all miss him terribly.



*CROWN AGENT about to School with the Champion Jockey*

**DISTANT PROSPECT** has given us all many days to remember and he gave us another with a terrific, battling win at Newbury under a wonderful ride from Timmy Murphy. The Coral Cup at Cheltenham is now a possibility for him.

**DUCHAMP** made a promising reappearance at Newbury and gave us optimism that he should win more races. He then made all under an inspired AP ride at Taunton.

**Gunner Welburn** [now at 13yo] showed that he retains plenty of dash when third behind One Knight in a listed handicap at Chepstow. He also finished really well when 2nd at Uttoxeter over a trip a little short for him. He is running as though he still really enjoys his racing and I'd love to see him win again this season.

Schooling our promising set of novice hurdlers has kept us busy over the past couple of months. **REDI** showed the benefit of his previous outings when running on very gamely at Southwell in January, beating two promising new recruits to hurdling. He followed this up with another game win under Tony McCoy at Sandown. He has always shown us plenty of speed at home and the new Juvenile handicap at the Cheltenham festival is a possible target for him now. **Briareus** also made a promising start over hurdles when 2nd at Chepstow. We look forward to seeing **Crown Agent** improving on his first hurdles outings soon. He jumps beautifully at home and we expect him to make his mark at the jumping game soon. **The Player** was not able to settle well enough to get home over hurdles and he will revert to flat action soon. ■

# CHANGING

We are delighted to report that the team at Kingsclere will be strengthened next season by two key appointments. The first is the return of Chris Bonner to replace Simon Burgoyne as assistant trainer and the second is Stuart McPhee to help with the form work.

Simon has decided to take some time out from racing and is embarking on a year of travel. At this moment in time he is working as a guide for a horseback safari company in South Africa! He has been a key member of the Park House team for the last four seasons and will be greatly missed.

Whilst Simon's departure will be a loss, it is a huge relief to have found a replacement who has as much experience as Chris Bonner. One of the leading amateur riders of his generation, Chris still boasts one of the most impressive records of any rider, professional or amateur, over the fearsome Aintree obstacles. In sixteen rides over the big fences he completed on fourteen occasions, the highlights of which were finishing third in the 1994 Grand National on Over The Deal and fourth in the following year on Sir Peter Lely. Since previously being at Kingsclere he completed two seasons as assistant to Michael Bell in Newmarket and a year with Tony Noonan in Melbourne Australia. He has been in charge of our satellite yard at Lingfield during the winter and starts back here for the grass flat season.

Chris's role will be to oversee the running of the yard and with Michael Patrick, my head lad, they will endeavour to ensure that we maintain a high level of attention to detail and to try and achieve a system in which each horse is treated as an individual. He will also act as the co-ordinator between Lindy in the office and everyone in the yard and will help in keeping owners informed of the progress their horses are making.

We now have the experience and professional knowledge within the team to rival any racing yard in the world and on a personal level I am thrilled to be supported by a retired trainer who has saddled over forty Group 1 winners, as well as someone of Chris's calibre.

The management staff is further strengthened by George Peckham, who has done well in the role of pupil



*George Peckham*

assistant and will now be responsible for assisting Chris in the every day running of the yard. Keith Bettridge and Dylan Holley will continue to oversee the horses in the Casual Look and Flying Fox yards.

With the huge volume of racing during the summer it is becoming increasingly difficult to organise a structured racing itinerary for each and every horse. There is no question that to be successful as a trainer it is essential to know well in advance where you are going with your horses. The better the horse the easier it is to pick and choose suitable races; but when you return home late at night after evening racing and rise early for first lot it is not always as easy to spend the necessary time to plot campaigns for every single horse in the stable.

On this front we have enlisted the help of Stuart McPhee, probably best known to magazine readers as the owner of Kelpie. Stuart is a self confessed 'racing anorak' and has forsaken a very successful business career to pursue his passion full time. He will be helping to compile itineraries for each and every horse well in advance of the five-day entry stage. This should enable us to have a more structured approach to the training of each horse and ensure that owners, assistants and head lads are aware of the ultimate objectives of the individuals.

# FACES IN 2005



Chris Bonner

Stuart will also be videoing the action on work mornings and can email film footage to any of the owners who would like to receive it. He is also responsible for the website which we are in the process of updating and is an excellent way of following the fortunes of the yard throughout the season. Lindy Rees, who must be one of the finest racing secretaries in the country, will continue to run the office with the efficiency and brilliance that we have come to expect!

To the huge relief of everyone Lord William Huntingdon has agreed to extend his contract as the resident 'life coach' for 2005! In fairness though his role should not be underplayed as he is always the first to be aware of new developments in the racing world and is never shy in offering advice at any time of the day or night!

I am delighted to have assembled such a strong team for 2005 and am confident that the results next season will reflect this. ■

## Goodbye

It is always difficult to deal with the loss of any horse, but somehow it becomes more difficult when they have been around for a long time.

Cool Monty's untimely and unexpected death has cast a shadow over what otherwise has been a fabulous National Hunt Season for Kingsclere.

'Monty' had arrived with us in 2002 and went on to win five of his thirteen races including two this season. He was a real character, superb athlete and one of the best jumpers of a Steeple Chase fence that you could wish to see.

He will be sorely missed by us all, not least his devoted lad, Paul Lucas and his owners Guy and Rosemary Luck.

Palawan was another stable stalwart who, will be greatly missed. He had been at Kingsclere since a two year old until being claimed at Wolverhampton in February at the age of nine.

In total he ran 70 races for the yard, winning ten of them and giving valuable experience to many of our young apprentices.

He was a wonderful character and it was with great regret that we learnt he had suffered a fatal injury in his first race for his new owner. ■



# POINTERS FOR THE TWELVE TO FOLLOW

*This section is intended to help those of you planning a Kingsclere 12 to follow entry this year by giving you some background information and the Timeform turf rating for each of our horses. Good Luck!*

## THE OLDER HORSES

Phoenix Reach heads our strong team of older horses this year. These horses often run frequently and this is often the team which provide some of the top scoring horses.

**ARCTIC DESERT** Consistent on the track, he has always shown us plenty of talent at home and we expect him to be ready to go from early in the season. He is a real 7f handicap specialist. Bound to win in his turn. [86]

**BOLD RAIDER** A stable stalwart who is returning from a serious tendon injury. He was a very capable handicapper on the flat in his prime and he will be an exciting NH recruit if staying sound.

**BOURGAINVILLE** Has had a slightly disappointing year but retains plenty of ability. Could turn out to be well-handicapped now and is overdue a win. Will contest 10f handicaps to get his confidence back.

**BRIAREUS** A great big horse with a raking stride - currently looking as if he will be a very promising recruit to hurdling. He is also a useful stayer on the flat and could continue to improve. [83]

**CROWN AGENT (IRE)** He has also shown aptitude as a hurdler. This could also be the year that he earns that elusive but well-deserved first flat win. Middle distance races with some give in the ground are likely to be his forte. [72]

**DISTANT PROSPECT (IRE)** He has been a wonderful horse to train on the flat and now over hurdles. He is likely to have a similar sort of campaign to last year. His consistency means that he gets little respite from the handicapper even if we run him over 12f! [103]

**DOUBLE OBSESSION.** He has joined us from Mark Johnston. A really tough, game stayer, he has become a standing dish at



ARCTIC DESERT



BRIAREUS

Ascot – which should make placing him interesting with that course out of action this year! Should contest all the top staying events this term. [111]

**IRONY (IRE)** A talented handicapper who seems to be happiest on a right-handed track running on fast ground. Effective at 7f-1 mile and very likely to pay his way, having recovered from an injury that cut short his 2004 campaign. [90]

**MAPUCHE** A rangy, athletic giant of a horse – a typical Selkirk in many ways. Half-brother to Passing Glance. We expect to get him to the races this year.

**PENTECOST** An all-time bargain buy at 5000g, he continues to improve. He has now shown that he is quite at home in pattern race company and I expect to be able to find a nice mixed programme for him this year – maybe even a conditions or listed race abroad. [116]

**PHOENIX REACH (IRE)** A star performer who has now won two of the biggest races in the world. He will continue to take part in the biggest contests around the globe. [120]

**THE PLAYER** A talented, lightly-raced gelding, he has been keeping busy hurdling. Would have made an even better hurdler if he would allow himself to settle. However, he also has plenty of talent on the flat and we'll be looking to pick up a 7f handicap or two from his current mark. [74]

**TINY TIM** is continuing to be honest, versatile and consistent and now knows more about racing than most of his riders. He will run regularly and keep us familiar with the banded race sprint programme. He may also be enlisted to join Ian's Polo team. [44]

**VANDERLIN** remains a model of consistency at home and on the racetrack. He is often a yardstick against which we measure other promising horses. We will be looking for a listed race or two for him this year from 6f to an easy mile. [112]

VOICE MAIL Grand performer who seems to love fast ground handicaps at Bath, so that is where we'll send him in the summer. [83]

ZARGUS is a past Royal Ascot winner who was not at his best last season. He could turn out to be well-handicapped now if returning to anywhere near his best. [59]

#### FOUR YEAR OLDS

ALBINUS A real character at home. He is a classy stayer and would have a real chance in some of the pattern staying races like the Ormonde stakes or even the Doncaster Cup if he improves just a little for another year on the clock. We will try and find him a small conditions race first to boost his confidence and prove his well being. [109]

BORDER MUSIC A homebred gelding. He looked unlucky in running more than once last season but maybe he just needs everything to go his way. I will be disappointed if we cannot find a handicap or two for him this season. [90]

CHAMBRAY (IRE) is a Baratheia half-sister to Passing Glance, so a win will enhance her potential as a broodmare. She has been a slow developer and is not yet a stable star but continues to make progress. [50]

CONJUROR is a half-brother to that good sprinter Acclamation, and is potentially a very nice sprinter too. Won well at Newmarket last season and finished lame when disappointing in his subsequent race. We'll look for a good class handicap to start with and take things on from there. [82]

DEEP PURPLE A Halling gelding who was with Marcus Tregoning last season. He won his first start at Kempton then still looked a bit green when staying on well in two later races when faced with quite a stiff task against older horses. He should make up into a very useful handicapper. [96p]

DONASTRELA was a rare 33-1 winner for us at Bath last year but proved this to be no fluke by scoring again and being placed on three more occasions. She seems to stay very well and could be an ideal type for some midsummer handicaps when the ground gets firm and the distance races get less competitive. [74]

FIRST CANDLELIGHT She is a nice First Trump filly, previously with James Given. I don't know much about her yet but I expect that she'll be aimed at a sprint handicap program. [78]

FLORIDA HEART She will continue to run as the flagship older horse for the Park House Partnership. Injury and ill-health meant that she was not at her best last season but there seems to be



DONASTRELA



PRINCE OF THEBES

more 7f and 1 mile fillies handicaps in the programme book now and I expect her to provide lots of fun for everyone this season. [73]

GREY ADMIRAL (USA) He is a well-bred, nice-looking grey gelding by the top US sire Cozzene. He hasn't quite lived up to his pedigree yet but has been beset by problems lately. There is still time for him. [67]

INDIANA BLUES This is a very speedy filly by Indian Ridge out of Jeff Smith's prolific mare Blue Siren. The trainer took an age to find her correct distance last year, but, like so many of her owners horses, she seems to be getting faster as she has got older and she looks to be on a very attractive mark for sprint handicaps. [70]

MR LAMBROS A very attractive Pivotal gelding who looks magnificent in full stride. His recent Lingfield win indicates that he may be on the way back to his best and he has always looked a horse of great potential. He could be the type for one of the big sprint handicaps. [92]

PRINCE OF THEBES His good wins at Ascot and Epsom give us lots of hope that he will make a good class miler this season. I had wondered about trying to ready him for the Lincoln, but decided on a more patient approach in the end. However, he should be ready to run early in the season and now, as a gelding, could be one to watch in the major one mile handicaps. [96]

REDI We bought this attractive Danehill Dancer colt from Luca Cumani's stable primarily for a hurdles campaign. He has performed well in that sphere and is still a possible for Cheltenham. However, I will be disappointed if we cannot take advantage of a fair-looking flat handicap mark at some point in 2005. [77]

SAINT ETIENNE Big, scopey filly by Robellino. She has done well over the winter and her homework last season indicated that this was a filly of great potential. There are plenty of opportunities for good 4yo fillies these days and I am hoping for a successful season with her. [96]

SPANISH ACE is definitely a horse with lots of ability but has plenty of personality to go with it. A hood and earplugs worked the oracle for him at Bath. We'll continue to find ways of avoiding him being distracted during his races and hope that he can repay his owner's enormous patience. [97]

TROUBLE MAKER A nice Green Desert gelding who has been beset by problems. This is the season during which we hope to show that he has been worth persevering with.

### THREE YEAR OLDS

ANGEL WING Unraced filly by Barathea. She still needs a little time and we hope that she'll be ready by late spring. She is a bit of an unknown quantity.

ARRIVATO is an Efisio half sister to several winners, including Captain Rio. She has shown enough in her only start at Lingfield and is entitled to improve this season. She should be capable of becoming another winner for the family. [62p]

BALLINGER VENTURE Unraced half sister by Vettori to Ballinger Ridge. In my experience, Vettori's need a bit of time and she seems to be fairly typical of his progeny. I hope to get her to a racecourse by the end of May.

BANK NOTE His form last season has worked out well and he also worked very well at home. He appears to be well handicapped and if he is able to win a small handicap early on then I'd be very tempted to go for a valuable race with him. [75]

BAY HAWK is an Alhaarth half brother to Killing Joke and most of the family stay very well. Under those circumstances he made a very pleasing start this year and normal improvement and a step up in trip should enable him to show his ability to the full. He has some fairly fancy entries for a horse who cost only 3,000gns as a yearling but at this stage it still looks as if he was a bargain buy. [75p]

CAPE GREKO is an outstanding looking colt, he is one of our best 3yos. He might have been a good sort for a crack at the Free Handicap but we have now decided to train him for the French 2000 guineas and the timings are not quite right. An exciting prospect. [102p]

CASUAL GLANCE A Sinndar home-bred. We took things slowly with her last season and she would not have been fully wound up for her two maiden races. Nevertheless, she showed considerable promise and could be a dark horse for this season once she gets handicapped. [53p]

CHANTACO He is from a tough family that stands plenty of racing and improves. He seems to be progressing steadily too and is potentially a nice sort. He ran an exciting race to just get up at Lingfield first time out in February and he might be the type to run up a sequence. [78p]

COMPTON COURT An unraced gelding by Compton Place. Injury prevented him from making his debut last season and he has not been asked a serious question yet and is another unknown quantity.

COUNTY CLARE Promising Barathea filly who has shown a good solid level of form – beaten by a promising Godolphin horse at Newbury and then beaten by group class runners at Newmarket. That ability level will stand her in good stead this season. [77]

DELLA SALUTE A Dansili filly who was a bit backward last year. Did show some promise last year and several winners have emerged from her races. We'll look for an early season maiden race to get her handicapped then find some fillies handicaps. [64]

DIKTATORIAL Showed great promise last year when he was still really a big baby. He looked very impressive when easily winning his maiden at Sandown and showed just the right attitude when battling on to win the G3 Tattersalls stakes at

Newmarket. He showed steady improvement last year and if that continues he will be a genuine 2000 Guineas contender. [105p]

ELKHORN I really like this unraced Indian Ridge colt and if his preparation goes well then I will aim him at the Wood Ditton stakes for unraced 3yo at Newmarket to start his campaign.

FLYING RIDGE Nice Indian Ridge filly. Improved steadily last season and ended with a good win at Carlisle. She seems fairly handicapped and should be capable of winning an early season sprint handicap if we can get some good ground for her and then I hope that she can go on from there. [75]

FOXY GWYNNE A similar type in that she seemed to improve throughout her 2yo career but she did not quite manage to win. Most Entrepreneurs' improve again as 3yos and I'd hope to be able to find a 7f fillies handicap or two for her as long as the ground is not too soft. [69]

GREAT AUNT This Dansili filly showed some ability on the all weather and will be brought back to her peak for a summer handicap campaign.

HEAT ALERT A classy-looking filly by Valid Expectations, the leading sire in Texas. She has shown some promise at Lingfield early in the year but then suffered sore shins. Once they clear up then we should be able to get her handicapped and expect a range of options on the grass or dirt.

HOH HOH HOH A strong Piccolo colt who made a most encouraging start to his career when easily winning his only race by 7 lengths – now handicapped accordingly on 95. He looks an out and out sprinter and we'll find some conditions races that suit him to find out just how good he might be. [94p]

HOLBECK GHYLL We tried this neat Titus Livius colt quite highly last season but he ran very well. I think that he may be very well handicapped but he suffered a nasty injury in his comeback race at Wolverhampton, so we will take things easy with him for a little while. [73p]

HONEY NUT By Entrepreneur, she was a big backward two year old and I doubt if we will be in a great rush with her this spring. Potential for the future.

HOUSE MARTIN Quite a nice Spectrum filly – she ran well first time out at Newmarket but then disappointed me a little later on at Salisbury. She has ability and should win her races. [73]

KINGSHOLM He has shown much more on the gallops at home than he has on the racecourse so we know he has some ability. We will try and find the key to him in some early season handicaps and hope to progress from there. [70]

LIGHTED WAY Sharp filly by Kris. She showed plenty of speed in her races last year and I think she will be a 5f/6f horse – although her pedigree implies that she should get a bit further. She will be stronger this year and will therefore see out her races better. You can expect to see her contesting early season maidens and sprint handicaps as she seems to relish the better ground. [66]

NIGHTWING He made quite a promising belated debut in a hot looking Lingfield maiden last month – running on well over 7f as though he already needed a mile. We will press on with him now that he is fit and ready to run.

# THE 2005 **12** TO FOLLOW COMPETITION

No one has come up with any sparkling ideas for the competition so we are carrying on with the £5 entry fee for each list. Prize money divided the same way with £5 back to the least successful. Last year it was won by Simon Goswell for the second year running so we have to prevent all chances of him getting a hat trick!

Please make sure you fill in the list of substitutes the list of horses in training is correct at the time of signing off but this is of course three weeks before the competition starts and as we know things happen every day of the week. Please enter as the more who do the bigger the pool.

The half way order will be published in the Summer Quarter.

## THE RULES

Each list must include at least **FIVE two-year-olds** and scoring starts on **April 1st** and continues until **December 1st** (both dates inclusive). **During that time all flat, jumping, all-weather and foreign runners will count while they are trained at Kingsclere.** Entries are £5.00 each and you may submit as many lists as you like. **Please put your name on each list.**

The pool will be divided 55% to the winner, 25% to the second, 15% to the third and 5% to the fourth. The person finishing last will get their £5 back. Last year's pool was £1055.

Scoring is as follows:-

- 12 POINTS** TO THE WINNER OF A GROUP OR LISTED RACE
- 10 POINTS** FOR ANY OTHER WINNER
- 8 POINTS** FOR THE SECOND IN A GROUP OR LISTED RACE
- 6 POINTS** FOR ANY OTHER SECOND
- 5 POINTS** FOR THE THIRD IN A GROUP OR LISTED RACE
- 4 POINTS** FOR ANY OTHER THIRD
- 1 POINT** TO A FOURTH WHERE THERE IS PRIZE MONEY

Cheques made payable to:

Emma Balding and returned to her at Park House, Kingsclere, Newbury, Berks. RG20 5PY

**LATE ENTRIES WILL BE TAKEN BUT MUST NOT INCLUDE ANYTHING THAT HAS RUN FROM APRIL 1st.  
SUBSTITUTIONS WILL BE MADE IF NONE HAVE BEEN NOMINATED ON THE FORM.**

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TWO YEAR OLDS

8. ....
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RESERVES

NAME: .....

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# LIST OF HORSES FOR THE 2005 **12** TO FOLLOW COMPETITION

## OLDER HORSES

**ARCTIC DESERT** *Holistic Racing Ltd*

5 b g Desert Prince Thamud

**BOLD RAIDER** *Farleigh Court Racing Partnership*

8 b g Rudimentary Spanish Heart

**BOURGAINVILLE** *J C, J R & S R Hitchins*

7 b g Pivotal Petonica

**BRIAREUS** *Miss E Lambourne/IAB*

5 ch g Halling Lower The Tone

**CROWN AGENT (IRE)** *Miss A V Hill*

5 b g Mukaddamah Supreme Crown

**DISTANT PROSPECT (IRE)** *The Rae Smiths & Pauline Gale*

8 b g Namaqualand Ukraine's Affair

**DOUBLE OBSESSION** *John Nicholls Ltd/Mobley Homes*

5 b c Sadler's Wells Obsessive

**DUCHAMP (USA)** *J C, J R & S R Hitchins*

8 b g Pine Bluff Higher Learning

**GUNNER WELBURN** *W Ritson/D Hall/R Ellis*

13 ch g Gunner B Vedra

**IRONY (IRE)** *John Nicholls Ltd/Mobley Homes*

6 gr g Mujadil Cidaris

**MAPUCHE** *Kingsclere Stud*

5 b g Selkirk Spurned

**MOOR LANE** *I A Balding*

13 b g Primitive Rising Navos

**PENTECOST** *J C, J R & S R Hitchins*

6 ch g Tagula Boughtbyphone

**PHOENIX REACH (IRE)** *Winterbeck Manor Stud*

5 b c Alhaarth Carroll's Canyon

**THE PLAYER** *Action Bloodstock*

5 b g Octagonal Patria

**TINY TIM (IRE)** *I A Balding*

8 b g Brief Truce Nonnita

**VANDERLIN** *J C, J R & S R Hitchins*

6 ch g Halling Massorah

**VOICE MAIL** *R Parry*

6 b g So Factual Wizardry

**ZARGUS** *Mrs M Bruce-Copp*

6 b g Zamindar My First Romance

## FOUR YEAR OLDS

**ALBINUS** *Miss K Rausing*

gr g Selkirk Alouette

**BORDER MUSIC** *Kingsclere Stud*

b g Selkirk Mara River

**CHAMBRAY (IRE)** *Kingsclere Stud*

b f Baratheia Spurned

## CONJUROR

*Kennet Valley T/breds I*

b g Efisio Princess Athena

**DEEP PURPLE** *P Green*

b g Halling Seal Indigo

**DONASTRELA** *G Luck/R H T Cox*

b f Tagula David's Star

**FIRST CANDLELIGHT** *Skeltools Ltd*

b f First Trump No Candles Tonight

**FLORIDA HEART** *Park House Partnership*

ch f First Trump Miami Dancer

**GREY ADMIRAL (USA)** *D H Caslon*

gr g Cozzene Remarkable Style

**INDIANA BLUES** *J C Smith*

ch f Indian Ridge Blue Siren

**MR LAMBROS** *Winterbeck Manor Stud*

ch g Pivotal Magical Veil

**PRINCE OF THEBES** *Dr E Harris/Miss M Green*

b g Desert Prince Persian Walk

**REDI** *Thurloe Thoroughbred*

b c Danehill Dancer Rossella

**SAINT ETIENNE** *G Chong*

b f Robellino Stop Out

**SPANISH ACE** *Farleigh Court Racing Partnership*

b g First Trump Spanish Heart

**TROUBLE MAKER** *Mr F Yeung*

b g Green Desert River Abouali

## THREE YEAR OLDS

**ANGEL WING** *J C Smith*

ch f Baratheia Lochangeil

**ARRIVATO** *G M Tregaskes*

b f Efisio Beloved Visitor

**BALLINGER VENTURE** *Mrs H Barber*

b f Vettori Branston Ridge

**BANK NOTE** *H M The Queen*

b c Zafonic Brand

**BAY HAWK** *Winterbeck Manor Stud*

b c Alhaarth Fleeting Vision

**CAPE GREKO** *Holistic Racing Ltd*

gr c Loup Sauvage Onefortheditch

**CASUAL GLANCE** *Kingsclere Stud*

b f Sinnidar Spurned

**CHANTACO** *Pink Hat Partnership*

b c Bahri Dominant Dancer

**COMPTON COURT** *G Burbidge*

b g Compton Place Loriner's Lass

<b>COUNTY CLARE</b>	<i>T Farmer</i>	<b>SPECIAL TIME</b>	<i>Team Valor</i>
ch f Barathea Input		b f Fort Wood Popular	
<b>DELLA SALUTE</b>	<i>Lord Roborough</i>	<b>SPEED OF SOUND</b>	<i>J C Smith</i>
gr f Dansili Marie Dora		ch f Zafonic Blue Siren	
<b>DIKTATORIAL</b>	<i>Tweenhills/Thurloe</i>	<b>STAY CLOSE</b>	<i>W S Farish</i>
br c Diktat Reason To Dance		br g Belong To Me Cymbala	
<b>ELKHORN</b>	<i>G Strawbridge</i>	<b>STILETTA STAR</b>	<i>J C Smith</i>
b c Indian Ridge Rimba		br f Robellino Loch Sabre	
<b>FLYING RIDGE</b>	<i>E N Kronfeld</i>	<b>STORM CENTRE</b>	<i>Pink Partnership</i>
ch f Indian Ridge Jarrayan		b g Pivotal Long View	
<b>FOXY GWYNNE</b>	<i>O F Waller/T D Rootes</i>	<b>STRING BAND (USA)</b>	<i>W S Farish</i>
b f Entrepreneur Nahlin		br f Spinning World Our Wildirish Rose	
<b>GREAT AUNT</b>	<i>R McDougall &amp; Partners</i>	<b>SUN BIAN</b>	<i>C H F Partnership</i>
br f Dansili Shebasis		b c Makbul Silken Dalliance	
<b>HEAT ALERT</b>	<i>W S Farish</i>	<b>TAPA</b>	<i>D H Back/N Roberts</i>
ch f Valid Expectations Melt My Heart		b f Tagula Tweed Mill	
<b>HOH HOH HOH</b>	<i>D F Allport/R P B Michaelson</i>	<b>TRYMORE</b>	<i>G L Weston</i>
ch c Piccolo Nesting		ch c Tagula Marimar	
<b>HOLBECK GHYLL</b>	<i>Holbeck Ghyll Partnership</i>	<b>TUVALU</b>	<i>N H Harris/IAB</i>
ch c Titus Livius Crimada		ch g Dashing Blade Tepana	
<b>HONEY NUT</b>	<i>Winterbeck Manor Stud</i>		
ch f Entrepreneur Nocciola			
<b>HOUSE MARTIN</b>	<i>J T Thomas</i>		
b f Spectrum Guignol			
<b>INTENDED</b>	<i>G Strawbridge</i>		
b f Singspiel Introducing			
<b>KINGSHOLM</b>	<i>J C, J R &amp; S R Hitchins</i>		
ch g Selkirk Putuna			
<b>LIGHTED WAY</b>	<i>J A E Hobby</i>		
ch f Kris Natchez Trace			
<b>NIGHT WING</b>	<i>Holistic Racing Ltd</i>		
b g Lujain Rasmalai			
<b>NORTHERN SECRET</b>	<i>N Harris/J Hobhouse</i>		
b f Sinndar Northern Goddess			
<b>OCEANCOOKIE</b>	<i>Clare Balding</i>		
b f Dashing Blade Sankaty Light			
<b>PALACE WALK</b>	<i>Winterbeck Manor Stud</i>		
b g Sinndar Page Bleue			
<b>PITTSBURGH</b>	<i>Blue Riband Partnership</i>		
ch c Nashwan Oatey			
<b>REGAL ATTIRE (USA)</b>	<i>W S Farish</i>		
ch c Kingmambo Style Setter			
<b>ROGUE</b>	<i>Winterbeck Manor Stud</i>		
b f Royal Applause Mystique			
<b>ROLLERBIRD</b>	<i>G Strawbridge</i>		
b f Sinndar Speedybird			
<b>ROMAN ARMY</b>	<i>Stamford Bridge Partnership</i>		
b g Trans Island Contravene			
<b>ROSECLIFF</b>	<i>M Tabor</i>		
b c Montjeu Dance Clear			
<b>SAMSON QUEST</b>	<i>Samson Centre Owners Group</i>		
b g Cyrano de Bergerac Zenita			
<b>SHADE COZY (USA)</b>	<i>Anthony &amp; Valerie Hogarth</i>		
gr c Cozzene Fire And Shade			
<b>SILVER HIGHLIGHT (USA)</b>	<i>D H Caslon</i>		
gr f Silver Charm Rare Opportunity			

### **TWO YEAR OLDS**

<b>ALMANZORA BAY</b>	<i>J C, J R &amp; S R Hitchins</i>
ch f Pivotal Putuna	
<b>ANTIGONI</b>	<i>Winterbeck Manor Stud</i>
ch f Grand Lodge Butter Knife	
<b>APACHE ANGEL</b>	<i>Mr J C Smith</i>
ch c Indian Ridge Lochangel	
<b>BABETH</b>	<i>G Chong</i>
b f Indian Lodge Almond Flower	
<b>BALLINGER GOLD</b>	<i>Mrs H Barber</i>
b c Golden Snake Branston Ridge	
<b>BILLY WHIZZ</b>	<i>C Ransom</i>
b c Namid Mareha	
<b>BROADWAY CALLING</b>	<i>J Gale</i>
ch c Dr Fong Manhattan Sunset	
<b>CALL ME WAKI</b>	<i>D H Caslon</i>
ch f Miswaki SS Capote	
<b>CERTAIN CIRCLES</b>	<i>L Register</i>
ch c King Cugat Daily Special	
<b>COSTA PACKET</b>	<i>R Hanson</i>
ch f Hussonet Costa Balena	
<b>DARK MISSILE</b>	<i>Mr J C Smith</i>
b f Night Shift Exorcet	
<b>DARK MOON</b>	<i>M E Wates</i>
b f Observatory Lady Donatella	
<b>DEEP WATER BAY</b>	<i>E Kronfeld</i>
b c Chester House Gem Treck	
<b>EBONY LORD</b>	<i>Miss A V Hill</i>
b c Fraam Dorissio	
<b>FLY BY JOVE</b>	<i>J Robinson &amp; D Stubbs</i>
b c Fasiliyev Flyleaf	
<b>FREE TO AIR</b>	<i>Clare Balding</i>
b c Generous Petonica	
<b>GENEROSIA</b>	<i>Winterbeck Manor Stud</i>
b f Generous Come On Rosi	

<b>GORDONSVILLE</b>	<i>G Strawbridge</i>	<b>SUN FIRE</b>	<i>W Robins</i>
b c Generous Kimba		b c Hernando Venetian Red	
<b>GRACEFUL EXIT</b>	<i>R Hanson</i>	<b>TANGARITA</b>	<i>J C, J R &amp; S R Hitchins</i>
ch c Hussonet La Sencilla		b f Tagula Santa Isobel	
<b>HIGHLAND BELLE</b>	<i>Mr J C Smith</i>	<b>THE JABR</b>	<i>D H Caslon</i>
b f Robellino Scottish Spice		b c Aljabr Vital Laser	
<b>HOH WOTANITE</b>	<i>D F Allport</i>	<b>THEATRE ROYAL</b>	<i>Mrs R Plummer</i>
ch c Stravinsky West One		b f Royal Applause Rada's Daughter	
<b>ISPAHAN</b>	<i>M Rafique</i>	<b>TIME OUT</b>	<i>W Robins</i>
b c Diktat Waltzing Star		b c Alhaarth Waif	
<b>KALANKARI</b>	<i>Dubai Thoroughbred Racing</i>	<b>TIZ TIMELY</b>	<i>D H Caslon</i>
b c Kalanisi Stately Princess		b f Tiznow Delivery Day	
<b>KALANTERA</b>	<i>J Robinson &amp; D Stubbs</i>	<b>TYPHOON LING LING</b>	<i>E Kronfeld</i>
b c Kalanisi Tintera		ch f Hennessy Lady In Waiting	
<b>KING'S RANSOM</b>	<i>C Ransom</i>	<b>WAY TO THE STARS</b>	<i>Mrs D Joly</i>
b c Daylami Luana		gr f Dansili Reason To Dance	
<b>LOCH VERDI</b>	<i>Mr J C Smith</i>	<b>WELSH DRAGON</b>	<i>Welsh Dragon Partnership</i>
b f Green Desert Lochsong		b c Cape Cross Bloreng	
<b>OVERLOOK</b>	<i>Kingsclere Stud</i>	<b>WHITE HEATHER</b>	<i>Miss K Rausing</i>
b f Generous Spurned		b f Selkirk Durrah Green	
<b>PALMISTRY</b>	<i>Kennet Valley Thoroughbreds</i>	<b>WITH INTEREST</b>	<i>G Strawbridge</i>
b c Lend A Hand Divina Mia		b c Selkirk With Fascination	
<b>PINCH OF SALT</b>	<i>R Hanson</i>	<b>YEOMANS GIRL</b>	<i>Yeoman Homes Ltd</i>
b c Hussonet Granita		b f Slip Anchor Rasmalai	
<b>PORT ARTHUR</b>	<i>G Strawbridge</i>	<b>YEOMAN SPIRIT</b>	<i>Yeoman Homes Ltd</i>
b c Selkirk Red May		ch c Soviet Star Hollywood Pearl	
<b>RAG TAG</b>	<i>W Robins</i>	Xxx	<i>Park House Partnership</i>
b c Tagula Lovat Spring		b c Fruits Of Love Where's Charlotte	
<b>RAINBOWS GUEST</b>	<i>Winterbeck Manor Stud</i>	Xxx	<i>Park House Partnership</i>
ch f Indian Lodge Maura's Guest		b f Dagggers Drawn Appelone	
<b>SABAH</b>	<i>Sir Roger Buckley</i>	Xxx	
ch f Nashwan Massorah		ch c Fruits Of Love The Iron Lady	
<b>SANTIAGO STAR</b>	<i>R Hanson</i>	Xxx	<i>Park House Partnership</i>
ch c Hussonet Normandy		b c Fayruz Super Zoe	
<b>SILVER BELL</b>	<i>Mrs P Hastings</i>	Xxx	
gr f Silver Patriarch Lillibella		b c Tagula Boughtbyphone	
<b>SOUL BLAZER</b>	<i>Winterbeck Manor Stud</i>	Xxx	<i>Pertemps</i>
b c Honour And Glory See You		b f Hernando Mara River	
<b>SPANISH STORY</b>	<i>Farleigh Court Racing Partnership</i>	Xxx	<i>Coriolan Partnership</i>
b f Vettori Spanish Heart		b f Desert Prince Bathe In Light	
<b>STONE CURLEW</b>	<i>Mr J T Thomas</i>		
ch f Alhaarth Ghayah			



*An early morning conference over the hostel dining table*

# POINTERS FOR THE TWELVE TO FOLLOW

CONTINUED

**NORTHERN SECRET** She is a Sinndar half-sister to some smart middle distance horses in France and the USA. I'd be much happier with her if I could persuade her to eat some more and put on more weight. She was green and immature last year and her pedigree implies that she'll do better as a 3yo. [70]

**OCEANCOOKIE** Owned by my sister, so I am always under pressure when she runs! She ran some good races last season and is a filly with plenty of scope who could do well this year. Quite well handicapped and seems indifferent to ground conditions. [61p]

**PALACE WALK** Another Sinndar – this time out of a Sadler's Wells mare – so his pedigree and style of racing both suggest that he'll be much better now that we can step him up to 12f. His sire has not set the world alight with his progeny yet, however he is another that could turn out to be well-handicapped when stepping up in distance. [65]

**PITTSBURGH** A strong Nashwan colt – potentially smart and a real galloper. He is another that I think will do much better over 10-12f, but he showed us enough at home and on his racecourse appearances to give me plenty of encouragement and stayed on in a pleasing fashion in his first run of 2005. [87]

**REGAL ATTIRE (USA)** A beautifully-bred Kingmambo colt who is a half-brother to Casual Look, our Oaks winner – so you can imagine how much was looking forward to this colt. He has shown us plenty of ability at home and I believed him to be our best 2yo early last year but he disappointed at the track in his only start at Ascot last year. I am still hopeful that we will get him back to his best and then you will see a different horse.

**ROGUE** is Royal Applause filly who is a sprinter in appearance but has sadly been beset with setbacks. Time will tell but the key to her will be keeping her in one piece.

**ROLLERBIRD** A very nice Sinndar filly – she was one of my best young fillies last year and I was a bit disappointed that she was beaten first time out. As long as she wins her maiden well, I would like to aim her at a race like the Italian 1000 guineas. [67p]

**ROMAN ARMY** Trans Island probably exceeded everyone's expectations with his offspring last season and this is a nice gelding. His debut was on very heavy ground but he boxed on most encouragingly. He has an action that may be very well suited to Southwell but I expect him to win races on any surface. [71p]

**ROSECLIFF** A nice colt by Montjeu. He has shaped with promise every time that he has run. If I am honest, I'd say that I had expected him to win his maiden by now. However, he now seems very well handicapped and is likely to improve for a

step up in trip. If he does, then he could win a very nice race in the summer.

**SAMSON QUEST** A Cyrano de Bergerac gelding who will certainly come on for his two races last season. He looks like a real sprinter and is another that could improve markedly. [67]

**SHADE COZY (USA)** A likeable grey Cozzene colt. He missed a large chunk of 2004 with an injury and has had to play 'catch up' but he is beginning to get the hang of things now. Expect to see him racing from May.

**SILVER HIGHLIGHT (USA)** She is a well-bred Silver Charm filly with a real US pedigree. She shaped really well last season and I expect her to stay well. Although she is probably very well handicapped I am wondering whether she will be worth an outing in an Oaks trial after she wins her maiden! [78]



STRING BAND

**SPEED OF SOUND** Another well-bred Jeff Smith speedster. Her early season form was especially solid although she disappointed later. I expect to keep her to 5f races and we will just try our best to make her a winner. [69]

**STAY CLOSE** By US sire Belong To Me, a son of Danzig who is fast making a name for himself. Stay Close showed lots of promise when finishing well to take 3rd place on his debut and then notched up two good wins in

quick succession on the all weather early this year. I think that he is still improving and we'll take our time with him and see just how high he can go.

**STORM CENTRE** By sire of the moment- Pivotal, He has shown us plenty of ability at various times at home but has been troubled by joint problems. He is now on the mend after being pin-fired and is expected to make an overdue debut in the spring.

**STRING BAND (USA)** is a lovely looking filly who now stands at 16 hands so was unsurprisingly a backward 2yo type. She is a half-sister to Optimistic Lass who was also unraced at 2 but went on to finish 3rd in the Irish 1000gns last year! Fingers crossed for a repeat!

**SUN BIAN** is a nice Makbul colt who is just beginning to get it together on the home gallops and will be ready to run in the spring if all goes well.

**TAPA** This Tagula filly has run in two pretty hot races so far so has not had much chance to demonstrate what she can do. Hopefully we can get her ready for a race in April and get her a handicap mark. [50]

**TRYMORE** Another Tagula who has shown some promise at Lingfield this winter. finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> there twice. His action and running style suggest that he will be even better on decent ground on the turf.

TUVALU A Dashing Blade colt. He has become a little frustrating as he has shown plenty of ability on more than one occasion but he is yet to win. There must be a suspicion that he has been saving a little for himself so we have now gelded him to help him to concentrate on his main task. [68]

### TWO YEAR OLDS

Early indications are that we have an exciting bunch of two year olds to turn into real racehorses this year. Most of them have changed enormously while being broken and ridden away over the past few months and it is one of the joys of training to try and figure out when the 2yos will be ready to run. These are my impressions so far.

GRACEFUL EXIT Another forward looking Hussonet – this time a colt.

HOH WOTANITE Stravinsky also has a reputation for siring precocious 2yos and this nice-looking chestnut colt seems just that type.

RAG TAG We have our first 2yos for Bill and Shirley Robins this year and I hope that this Tagula colt will give us some early season fun.

RAINBOWS GUEST A precocious-looking Indian Lodge filly that will run in the colours of Winterbeck Manor Stud. She may have been well bought at the Tattersalls Part 1 sale.



CALL ME WAKI



CRUSH ON YOU



RAG TAG



WELSH DRAGON



SANTIAGO STAR



PINCH OF SALT

### Early Types

CALL ME WAKI She is a good-looking Miswaki filly who has done everything we have asked her so far without any fuss.

CERTAIN CIRCLES A colt by first season US sire King Cugat who is a son of Kingmambo. He seems very forward and should be ready to run in May.

COSTA PACKET We are lucky to have four 2yos by the fast-emerging Chilean sire, Hussonet, for Robert Hanson this year. Hussonet gets winners over all sorts of distances and this filly looks to me like a 2yo type.

CRUSH ON YOU Stuart McPhee assures me that his first-ever home-bred runner will make an early 2yo, so who am I to argue?

FLY BY JOVE Fasliyev lost a little of his shining image as a sire this season but this colt looks like a typical early season 2yo.

SANTIAGO STAR Another Hussonet Colt. This one has impressed by learning quickly and taking everything in his stride.

THE JABR A colt by Aljabr bought in Ireland has been showing the right signs early on at home.

WAY TO THE STARS A Grey Dansili filly – she covers the ground well and has a pleasing attitude.

WELSH DRAGON A very compact Cape Cross colt who will be easy to get fit early.

Also note the Fruits of Love x Where's Charlotte colt, the Fayruz colt and the Daggers Drawn filly which should be ready early on for the Park House Partnership. The Tagula x Boughtby-Phone [Still for sale] which is a full brother to Pentecost will be one of the early colts if he continues to progress. Also, two more fillies – Babeth [by Indian Lodge] and another by Desert Prince out of Bathe in Light. have also been moving well in these early months.

## Midsummer Types

I hope that our second wave of two year old runners in early summer will include:

**ALMANZORA BAY** A striking Pivotal filly who is a half sister to Kingsholm.

**ANTIGONI** A nice Grand Lodge filly who has surprised us a bit early on.

**BROADWAY CALLING** A very attractive Dr Fong colt who has been catching the eye.

**TIME OUT** A very nice colt by Alhaarth , who sired last year's 2000 guineas winner and of course Phoenix Reach.

**TYPHOON LING LING** A very nice filly by Hennessey, who is really making a name for himself in the USA.

**WHITE HEATHER** An attractive Selkirk filly out of Durrah Green who moves very nicely.

**WITH INTEREST** A striking Selkirk colt out of WITH FASCINATION. He looks like a real racehorse.

**YEOMAN SPIRIT** A flashy Soviet Star colt with a very nice pedigree page.



*PALMISTRY*



*TIME OUT*



*THEATRE ROYAL*



*HIGHLAND BELLE*



*YEOMAN SPIRIT*



*WITH INTEREST*

**EBONY LORD** A nice colt by Fraam, who has a reputation for improving his mare's stock.

**KALANKARI** and **KALANTERA** two nice colts by first season sire Kalanisi who are moving well.

**PALMISTRY** A handsome Lend a Hand colt. This sire did very well with his first crop last year from very few runners.

**PINCH OF SALT** Another Hussonet who has been showing a very willing attitude. **SABAH** A very nice Nashwan filly who is a half sister to Vanderlin.

**TANGARITA** – another Tagula, this time a filly. Her dam is a listed winner and she is looking the part.

**THEATRE ROYAL** A very nice Royal Applause filly out of the talented Rada's Daughter. Royal Applause is proving a tremendous sire of 2yos and let's hope that this one lives up to her pedigree.

Also watch out for a nice colt, **SOUL BLAZER**, by US sire Honour and Glory. He is a half brother to Carte Sauvage currently running at the Dubai carnival. Also some very nicely bred fillies from Jeff Smith; A Night Shift called **DARK MISSILE** that has been catching everyone's eye, **HIGHLAND BELLE** by Robellino and **LOCH VERDI** a filly by Green Desert out of Lochsong – hard to imagine a better speed pedigree than that. We also have, **APACHE ANGEL**, a handsome Indian Ridge colt from Jeff Smith out of Lochangel.

We also have sweet Observatory filly who is unfortunately blind in one eye – which does not stop her running. Finally, watch out for two lovely colts owned by George Strawbridge – a Rahy out of Silver Fling and a Selkirk out of Red May.

The rest of the two year olds may be more late developing, back-end types although they can change very quickly at this age and suddenly develop, so our plans remain very fluid. ■

# NATIONAL HUNT JOCKEYS I HAVE KNOWN IAB

The first jump jockey who became a hero for my big brother Toby and me was Tim Molony. He rode for our father who trained about forty jumpers at Bishops Cannings in the early 1950s. Tim was the champion jockey and he was as tough as they come. He would boot a horse into a fence and drive it along for the last mile of a race with the same fervour that the great A.P. does now.

Tim spoke with a deep Irish brogue and was kind and encouraging to the Guvnor's two young sons. He rode my father's best ever horse Arctic Gold in some of his races and most memorably when the six year old was favourite for the 1951 Grand National and fell when leading at the Canal Turn on the first circuit. I can still feel the pain that our whole family suffered at this bitter disappointment.

Tim's younger brother, Martin, would still be many old-timers' choice as the best ever National Hunt jockey. He was not only light enough to ride on the flat and guided Signal Box to be third in the Epsom Derby, but also strong enough to win on some of the wonderful big strapping chesnut geldings with which Lord Bicester dominated the National Hunt scene at the time. Silver Fame winning the 1951 Gold Cup was one of my favourite memories and Martin looked as polished and stylish then as any modern day jockey. He was superb across country with the Limerick hounds too and remains to this day as charming and humble a man as one could ever meet.

Bryan Marshall, who rode a lot of horses for the famous national hunt trainer Fulke Walwyn was another all time great rider. He was an insatiable theorist about race riding and I remember once asking him to watch me and comment at a time when I had had rather a lot of falls and felt I must be doing something

very wrong. The advice was complicated and took a long time to relate, but Bryan was acknowledged as a complete master of his art. Unlike Martin Molony he was tall and on the heavy side but was still remarkably stylish. He won two Grand Nationals running in 1953 and 54 for Vincent O'Brien on Early Mist and Royal Tan.

The younger generation in the late 50's and early 60's was dominated by the great Fred Winter. I was riding quite a bit myself as an amateur at that time and we all worshipped Fred. He was immensely strong, very brave and from a moderate start to his career, through sheer determination made himself into the ultimate jump jockey. His ride on Mandarin to win the Grand Steeple at Auteuil in 1962 when the bit broke early in the race will be remembered as probably the greatest single feat of horsemanship in racing folk lore.

Stan Mellor, who was much lighter but remarkably durable, ran Fred close in a few National Hunt Championships and then won several himself. Terry Biddlecombe and Josh Gifford were the next generation of champions. Terry, a great friend of mine, was the King of the champagne and fast girls era and a fine jockey too, but many people felt that Jeff King, although never champion, was the best rider of that time. Jeff himself would probably confirm this in some very colourful language.

The following group of jump jockeys produced my all time favourite in John Francome. John was a brilliant horseman and his experience at show jumping early in life may have helped him to become perhaps the best ever presenter of a horse at a fence. His natural cheek and daring was unsurpassed and his sudden decision to retire while still at his best was masterful

and enables him still to enjoy the thrill of jumping fences.

Peter Scudamore and Jamie Osborne were other fine riders who both rode several winners for us, but Richard Dunwoody was unquestionably the best of this era. Apart from his superb riding ability he was amazingly tough and seemed able to arise unscathed from some horrific falls.

So we come to the modern generation which of course is dominated by Anthony McCoy. A.P. has more determination to win than any other sportsman

I have ever met and is totally obsessed by his desire to ride winners. Timmy Murphy, Ruby Walsh and Paul Carberry are other Irishmen who are almost equally brilliant and help to keep the Champion on his mettle. I have to say that of all the great jockeys who have ridden schooling at Kingsclere I would rate Timmy as the best at this early morning educational skill.

With Cheltenham upon us it will be a wonderful opportunity for everyone to watch these current masters of their art competing in the ultimate cauldron of competition. ■

*A P McCoy and IA Balding Schooling*



# PERFORMANCE PROFILES

## THE VET'S BILL JUSTIFIED!

N.H.H. KNAPP, B.Sc., M.R.C.V.S.

The assessment of fitness in horses is a complex multi-factorial process, and by no means an exact science. It relies on pooling information from a variety of sources including evaluation of soundness, cardiovascular function and respiratory performance. Conformation, gait and pedigree also make an important contribution to potential performance. Furthermore, factors which are highly variable or are unable to be measured, including the experience of the horse and jockey, the racing surface and psychology of the horse ensure that performance profiling is not a consistently successful predictor of race day achievement. Performance profiles are used to identify and assess athletes' response to training, racing and interruptions to training. They are used to detect abnormalities such as viral and bacterial infections, organ dysfunction, over training and exercise stress scenarios.

Resting blood samples are widely used to monitor fitness on a yard basis. These samples allow the oxygen carrying capacity of the horse to be determined and an assessment of muscle and major organ function. Normal values relating to blood samples have a very wide range, making individual blood samples difficult to interpret and of limited value. The benefit of blood sampling is to monitor yard health and training status. This is achieved by obtaining multiple samples throughout the season and monitoring changes in patterns of the blood parameters.

Blood samples give quantitative readings of red blood cell numbers and haemoglobin concentration, highlighting optimal, sub optimal and anaemic blood levels. Total white cell numbers and the differential white cell count are good indicators of bacterial and viral infection. The ratio of the different white cells, namely neutrophils and lymphocytes, the N:L ratio, is used to assess horses' response to training. Exercise stress or over training have been shown to depress the N:L ratio. Bacterial infections result in a rise in the total white cell count with a marked increase in Neutrophils. Viral infections classically suppress the total white cell and give rise to an increase in lymphocytes.

### Endoscopy

The ability of a horse to breath efficiently and achieve optimum gaseous exchange is paramount for top performance. Respiratory function can be assessed by a combination of clinical examination, direct visualisation



*Simon Knapp scoping TINY TIM*

of the respiratory tract via an endoscope and to a lesser extent blood sampling.

Endoscopy involves passing a flexible tube up one nostril to visualise the nasal passage, the pharynx and larynx, and subsequently advancing the endoscope through the larynx to examine the trachea (windpipe).

Visualisation of the pharynx and larynx allows the anatomy to be studied and their movement to be assessed at rest. Tonsillitis, laryngeal paralysis, graded 1 to 5, and anatomical abnormalities can be readily detected. To assess the function and movement of these structures at exercise, an endoscopic examination can be performed with the horse cantering on a treadmill. This requires the horse to undergo training for a few days to learn to canter on a treadmill, but the end result allows the larynx and pharynx to be visualised when the horse is exercising, giving an accurate view of these vital structures when it matters most.

Endoscopy allows abnormal fluids present in the windpipe to be sampled atraumatically, and submitted for laboratory analysis where applicable. Blood, pus and mucus are easily identified and analysis ensures bacterial infections and their antibiotic sensitivity can be determined.

At Kingsclere, horses are frequently subjected to an endoscopic examination before racing to ensure the airway is unimpeded before being subjected to the stress of racing.

### The Heart

Hearts are routinely examined using a stethoscope both at rest and immediately after exercise. This allows heart murmurs, arrhythmia's and recovery rate to be

identified. To fully understand the significance of cardiac abnormalities, more detailed examinations using an electrocardiogram (ECG) and ultrasound doppler imaging are undertaken. An ECG produces a graphic trace of the electrical conductivity of the heart, while doppler imaging allows the blood flow through the heart to be monitored. This enables the competence of the heart valves to be visualised and assessed, ensuring a better interpretation of cardiac abnormalities is achieved.

Doppler imaging is now being used to study heart size and the muscle thickness of the heart chambers. Early work in this field suggests a correlation between heart size and performance potential, but it is still early days and too much emphasis should not be placed on heart size alone.

### **Soundness**

The ability of a horse to move comfortably is essential for top performance. Like human athletes, equine athletes suffer injury of skeletal and muscular structures as a result

of over exertion and stress. The ability to diagnose injury has improved dramatically over the past fifteen years. The advent of digital radiography, bone scanning and recently magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) has enabled accurate and early diagnosis to be achieved. Ultra-sound scanning of tendons and ligaments allows the degree of damage to be assessed, ensuring a more accurate long-term prognosis. Ultra-sound is a viable tool in evaluating fibre pattern within tendons, monitoring tendon repair and determining the optimal time for a return to training. Radiography of two year olds allows bone structure to be evaluated. Bone stress can be recognised early, enabling the trainer to tailor a training regime to the individual horse.

A developing understanding of the maturing skeleton, better feeding, improved training surfaces and more informed veterinary input in recent years has resulted in improved training regimes, allowing horses to reach the racecourse in better physical condition, and hence more likely to achieve their potential. ■

## **WHO IS HUSSONET?**

The more observant amongst you may have noticed that our 2yos this year include four youngsters sired by a stallion called Hussonet. Just in case you are unfamiliar with this name, here is a little background information.

Hussonet is a very interesting stallion because although he is very well bred [he is a son of Mr Prospector], he did not seem top class as a racehorse in the US and he ended up at stud at Haras de Pirque in Chile. He has had tremendous success in Chile and he was recently champion sire there for the fifth consecutive season.

He is the sire of last season's champion 3yo colt in Chile - Trotamondo- who won the Chilean triple crown. He is now trained in California for his 4yo

career. He also sired the Chilean champion filly, Wild Spirit, and he seems to be able to get winners over all sorts of trips and his offspring are starting to be very successful in the USA too and that has really got him noticed.

He was bought privately in 2003 by Arrowfield stud in Australia and spends his northern hemisphere covering season at Vinery in Kentucky, standing for \$20,000.

We are fortunate to have four nice horses by him - all owned by Robert Hanson. There are three colts: Pinch of Salt, Santiago Star and Graceful Exit; and one filly - Costa Packet. We are very pleased with how they have started their careers here and it will be very interesting to see how they progress.



## **WEDDING BELLS**

Everyone is delighted that Andrew and Anna Lisa have announced their engagement. The wedding is being planned for July with a delayed honeymoon after the season ends. All will be described in the Summer Quarter.



PAUL WELTON  
1937 - 1999

RHINO  
RUG