

SPRING 2007

# *The* KINGSCLERE *Quarter*



THE PARK HOUSE STABLES NEWSLETTER

# The KINGSCLERE Quarter



Above: *VERBATIM*

Front cover: *MY LEARNED FRIEND* and *YEAMANS HALL*

Back cover: *BOTTOMS UP*

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# FRANNY NORTON



This season we are hoping to make regular use of Franny Norton's services, however sadly his start to the season has been delayed due to a broken leg sustained in a fall in December.

Franny's racing career started at 16 when he headed south from his home town of Liverpool and started working for the late Peter Arthur at Didcot. He had his first winner in 1989 aboard *Easter Glory* at Salisbury for Adrian Lee when apprenticed to Alan Bailey, but his career really took off when he joined the Newmarket yard of Geoff Wragg. In 1991, whilst still an apprentice, Norton rode the winners of the Magnet Cup (*Halkopous* for Mark Tompkins) and the Ebor (*Deposki* for Sir Michael Stoute).

Like many before and since, however, he became less fashionable when he lost his claim. In recent years he has ridden a steady stream of winners, which have included many of the major handicaps. Although able to ride at the minimum weight, he is an incredibly strong and stylish jockey with an excellent tactical brain.

Norton boxed as a youngster for the Everton Red Triangle club, and as an eight-time stable lads' champion, he was asked on more than one occasion about the possibility of turning professional. He ran the London Marathon in 2001 with the proceeds going to the Newmarket Racing Welfare and to his friend, the former boxer Paul Ingle, who suffered severe injuries in the ring.

Franny rode a number of horses for us last year and in particular formed a very successful partnership with *Banknote*. Hopefully when he has fully recovered from this untimely injury at some stage in May, he will be down riding out at Kingsclere and I am sure he will prove to be a useful asset to the team. ■

# PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

Andrew Balding

**The 2007 flat season has already started in very pleasing fashion and hopes are high that this could be a year to remember. The reason for this optimism stems not from the record breaking performance of Border Music in the Listed Lady Walfurn Stakes or indeed from Kalankari's exploits in Dubai, but from the performances of our three year olds on the all weather this winter.**

Since January 1st the three year old division have managed 5 wins and 8 places from just 17 runs, a win and place ratio that certainly bodes well for future. This statistic may be a little slanted by the fact that we would not usually run a horse of **Si Foo's** calibre so early in the campaign and his two wins and second place from three runs makes a healthy contribution to the maths! A son of the Kentucky Derby winner Fusaichi Pegasus, he had finished second on his race course debut at Wolverhampton last year before winning his maiden over six furlongs at Windsor on the grass but returned home with a knee chip that required surgery. The improved winter programme and the excellent polytrack surfaces now installed at three of

the racecourses has created even more options for horses after the turf season has ended and was the perfect vehicle to allow Si Foo to continue his racing career after a curtailed juvenile campaign. Both his wins came in seemingly competitive 7 furlong handicaps but the manner of his victories suggest that he may be capable of something better than just handicaps through the course of the summer.

**Telltime** had come agonisingly close to winning her first ever race at Kempton in December and finished second again on her second start in January. So it was with a certain amount of relief that this well bred filly got off the mark at Lingfield later in the month. What she may lack in size is more than made up for in courage and tenacity and under a fine ride from William Buick she won her maiden with something to spare. Having been plagued by niggling problems last summer, Telltime may be open to further improvement as she has made up for the lost time and could also find a step up to seven furlongs in her favour.

**Rambling Light** is a son of the wonderful racehorse Fantastic Light and like his sire appears to be improving with



*KALANKARI winning in Dubai ridden by Martin Dwyer*

age. Having shown very little at home for much of last year he did shape with a glimmer of promise in a Newmarket maiden in the autumn and has progressed in leaps and bounds since then. His second attempt on the racecourse resulted in an encouraging third place in a well contested maiden at Lingfield in February before comfortably landing a similar race over an extended mile at Wolverhampton. The key to how far he can progress is linked with how far he will stay this summer and although his father excelled at middle distances there is a fair amount of speed on his dam's side of the pedigree.



SI FOO



TELLTIME

Further encouragement was offered by a string of near misses by **Ranavalona** who has the misfortune to finish second on three occasions being beaten by a cumulative total of under three quarters of a length! Her time will surely come but at what cost..... these narrow misses have barely covered her diesel money such is the sorry state of prize money at this level, but if she could just get her very pretty head in front at some stage in the future, it would at least enhance her paddock value.

With the start of the regular flat season now within touching distance hopes are high that a number of the other three year

olds should enjoy successful seasons when we get going in earnest. **Yeamans Hall** is a colt who could prove to be the star of the show as he has developed into a fine looking horse over the winter. Second behind a well regarded colt trained by Mick Channon on his sole two year old start he has already shown some positive signs in his work at home and consequently holds an entry in the 2000 Guineas at Newmarket. Whether or not this is a realistic target for him only time will tell but as long as he can steer clear of injuries and illness he is sure to have an exciting 2007. **Water Mill** is an entirely different type of horse and his programme



YEAMANS HALL



OCEANA GOLD

has been delayed slightly due to concerns that he was not progressing physically as we had hoped he would. Happily however he seems to be thriving at present and remains a horse of enormous potential for this year.

**My Learned Friend** has the mind set and constitution to go right to the top and he improved with every race he had in 2006 to end the year on an attractive mark for some of the big three year old handicaps in the summer. A half brother to Kalankari he has a very similar profile to his brother and is sure to be a popular choice in the 12 to follow competition. Likewise **Buccellati** was highly progressive last season and

he too could prove to be a well handicapped horse this year having found only the highly promising Ladies Best too good for him in a hotly contested Newmarket Nursery in the autumn. **Sirens Gift** was officially Kingsclere's best two year old of last season and hopes are high that she can win a pattern race having been placed at group level already on three occasions. **Oceana Gold** has already won a race and has definitely got the ability to add to his tally through the course of the year as he appears to have been dealt quite a considerate handicap mark. Of the other three year olds that have already obtained handicap marks and have an

their first starts before turning into group class performers within a couple of runs?! As a result the once raced brigade of **Verbatim, Yeoman Leap, Winter Lane, Norman Tradition** and **Night Rocket** could all be open to any amount of improvement. Having the benefit of at least one racecourse outing as a two year old is an advantage but for various reasons this was not possible last season for **Lochstar, Bundle of Joy, Tweed River, Sweet Mandolin** or **Driving Miss Suzie**. Lochstar is by the champion sprinter Anabaa out of the champion sprinter Lochsong and like both his parents he was a little bit on the weak side as a juvenile



SEAFLOWER



YEOMAN LEAP



LOCHSTAR



BORDER MUSIC

unexposed look to them **Buzbry Rings, Spice Bar, Hatton Flight, Calzaghe** and **Doonigan** are all certainly capable of winning races on the ratings that they have been assigned. **Star Strider, Seaflower Reef, Whiskey Junction** and **Road to Recovery** remain maidens but have already shown enough on the racecourse to suggest that this will not be for long. There has been a historical trend over the last twenty years or so that strongly implies that Kingsclere horses can often improve beyond all recognition for their racecourse debuts. How else could the likes of Halmahera, Tagula, Casual Look, Streets Ahead etc etc show so little on

but true to his parentage also possesses raw talent and more than his fair share of speed.

**Kalankari** was the model of consistency last season and rarely fails to run his race. He enjoyed a successful spell at the Dubai Carnival winning once and finishing third on another occasion from his three runs. He is effective at seven furlongs as well as a mile and seems to operate on any ground conditions as well as the polytrack. The main question he will have to answer is how he copes with the graduation from top class handicaps to group and listed races as his inevitable rise in the ratings through 2006 has resulted

in him becoming ineligible for all but the heritage handicaps. **Border Music** has once again showed that he is amongst the top all weather performers in the country when smashing the 7 furlong course record at Wolverhampton in early March leaving some useful horses in his wake at the same time. He has now won 7 of his 10 races on the polytrack and has achieved a Timeform rating of 120 on the all weather but remains a frustration on the grass and in spite of some very near misses he is without a win on the turf. He will probably have one or two more chances to redeem this situation and if not we will have to look at some polytrack options in North



*BANKNOTE*



*SABAH*

America for him as there are not many options remaining for him in the UK on the all weather at least. **Banknote** has won at least one race each season of his career and now as a five year old he might be at the very peak of his ability this summer. He has started his campaign in the best possible fashion by winning the listed Doncaster Mile on the all weather at Lingfield. He has an excellent cruising speed and is a tenacious fighter in a finish so hopes are high that he will add to his already impressive strike rate of 6 wins from 15 starts. **Pentecost** and **Vanderlin** have been stable stalwarts for the last five seasons and whilst both are getting long

in the tooth they are not back numbers just yet. Pentecost ran a fine race in Dubai when fourth on his first run at this year's carnival but was badly struck into when favourite for his next start an injury which curtailed his winter activities. He has since returned home and appears to be fully recovered and in fine form and will follow a familiar summer campaign revolving around the big handicaps at his favourite hunting ground at Ascot. Vanderlin has not had a happy time since starting last season in such fine form an unsuccessful trip to Canada was followed by a winter in Dubai without having a single race. A succession of minor setbacks have



*PENTECOST*



*DARK MISSILE*

prevented him from following on from his excellent run in the Champions Mile in Hong Kong last spring, but the winter sun that he enjoyed in Dubai appears to have given him a new lease of life. Vanderlin's half sister **Sabah** has already been placed in a listed race and hopes are high that she could improve further this year given that she seems to have strengthened considerably over the winter. **Chantaco** enjoyed a profitable year in 2006 highlighted by victory in the prestigious Zetland Gold Cup at Redcar and he could have another rewarding year this time around. He was gelded over the winter, is back working with his trademark enthusiasm

and should be ready to make the most of what soft ground we can find this spring. **Dark Missile** was the yard's leading money earner last season winning a very valuable handicap at Newmarket and the Shergar Cup Distaff both on ground that was probably faster than ideal for her. She is best at six furlongs and could be the type of horse to be competitive in one the big summer sprint handicaps such as the Wokingham. **Ollie George** was the leading points scorer in the 2006 twelve to follow competition and proved to be a very resilient competitor once he got the hang of racing last season. He won at Newbury and Bath and was placed on



DINGAAN



HOLBECK GHYLL

three other occasions, he remains on a realistic handicap mark for this year and should enjoy another good season.

**Dingaan** is a full brother to Pentecost and has certainly got ability as his three wins in 2006 will testify but he also has what can only be described as a "quirky" attitude. When his mind is on the job he has the capability to win a major handicap and he has a very attractive turf handicap mark to aid his cause.

**Cape Greko** is another horse who might be considered to have his own view of racing but given the numerous problems he has had to overcome in the past he can be forgiven for having an indifferent attitude to stress and strain. He does

however remain a very capable performer if things can go his way in a race and he thoroughly deserves to add to his sole victory at Ascot as a two year old. **Gordonsville** is lightly raced but remains highly progressive even as a maiden. His runs at Pontefract and in a highly competitive handicap at Goodwood last August suggest that he may have what it takes to win a major staying handicap on his favoured fast ground. **Free to Air** like Gordonsville is a son of the Derby winner Generous and he managed to win twice in the early part of last year when stepped up to middle distances. He seemed to relish some cut in the ground and has returned to the same handicap mark that



FREE TO AIR



ISPAHAN

he won off last season. **Loch Verdi** and **Holbeck Ghyll** have similar requirements as racehorses, namely fast ground and the minimum distance. The former is a daughter of Lochsong and already boasts some very useful form, if she can improve like her mother did at the same age she will be a sprinter to be reckoned with at any level! Holbeck Ghyll was very impressive when winning at Glorious Goodwood last season and also ran up a hat trick of wins in 2005. He is a little bit unpredictable but when on song is capable of winning a top handicap. Another sprinter who, given a clean bill of health, will be winning his fair share of races is **Shade Cozy**. Plagued by setbacks for much

of his career he has only raced 11 times but has either won or been placed on 7 of those occasions, he has an abundance of speed and deserves a change of luck. **Ispahan** has also had more than his fair share of setbacks but is a handy performer on his day when allowed to dominate his races. He had some really good form in the early part of last year and appears to have come back from injury in great form. **Kingsholm** won twice in the autumn of last year and is best with some cut in the ground, unlike **Irony** who was in tremendous form last summer and needs a fast surface to be seen at his best. It is almost a crime that **Antigoni** remains a maiden and we are



*KINGSHOLM*



*LOYAL ROYAL*

all hoping that she can put this right this year when she will race in foal to Phoenix Reach. We have been lucky enough to recruit three useful prospects in the older horse department in Show Winner, Loyal Royal and Beringoer. **Show Winner** has joined us from the powerful Jeremy Nosedo yard and was an impressive winner of a Nottingham maiden last season. He was gelded over the winter and has already settled in well to his new surroundings. **Loyal Royal** showed some good form for David Elsworth over the last two summers and is a useful handicapper as too was **Beringoer** in his native France but showed little in three starts in Dubai this winter and has since been gelded.

It is always a little dangerous to make too many predictions on the two year olds at this stage of the season and we will be able to divulge more useful information in the next edition of the Kingsclere Quarter. However, for the purposes of the 12 to follow it might be worth noting the horses who are likely to be the earlier runners. **Dream Eater** is probably the most precocious of the lot and we would hope to have him on the track in early May. **Flying Indian** has shown plenty of speed at home and **Star of the East** also looks like being an early sort. **Too Grand** was pencilled in for a race as early as April but has been sidelined with an injury which will delay her debut until



*SHOW WINNER*



*DONEGAL*

the middle of May and the **Reel Buddy ex Silken Dalliance** filly also looks a two year old type. **Bid Art** and **Blue Sky Basin** have worked nicely as has **Donegal** who is making up in to a fine looking colt. Of the later maturing horses the **Hernando ex Penelway** colt and **Abstract Colours** appear to have plenty of class as does **Top Lock** who is from the first crop of Nayef. **Prairie Storm, Your Pleasure, Far Song** and **Honesty Pays** are others who could be doing their stuff by mid summer. As ever the two year old selection for the twelve to follow competition remains a bit of a lottery and sometimes the best policy is a blind fold and pin! ■

# THE 2007 **12** TO FOLLOW COMPETITION

We feel that the time has come after quarter of a century to increase the entry fee for the competition. Not being capable of coping with fractions we are putting it up to £10 for each list. The prize money will be divided the same way with £10 back to the least successful entrant. Last year was dominated by "insider" entries with Peter Grubb the closest to the money. Stuart McPhee has given you some ideas of how to select the list although sometimes pretty names works as well as anything!!

Please make sure you fill in the list of substitutes. The list of horses in training is correct at the time of going to press but changes can happen daily and we will make a substitution if we know that one of your selections is no longer in training at the time of the competition's closing. The half way order will be published in the Summer Quarter and more frequent updates on the web site.

Because of the slow start to the grass flat season we have decided to run the competition from the Greenham Meeting through until December 15th both dates inclusive.

## THE RULES

Each list must include at least **FIVE two-year-olds**. All runners from **April 20th until December 15th** count for scoring while they are trained at Kingsclere, this means **all flat, jumping, all-weather and foreign runners**.

Entries are £10.00 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 £10 back. Last year's pool was £1075.

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 20th**

**Reserves will be used in this case**

1. ....
2. ....
3. ....
4. ....
5. ....
6. ....
7. ....

TWO YEAR OLDS

8. ....
9. ....
10. ....
11. ....
12. ....

RESERVES

NAME: .....

1. ....

ADDRESS: .....

2. ....

3. ....

4. ....

# LIST OF HORSES FOR THE 2007 **12** TO FOLLOW COMPETITION

## OLDER HORSES

<b>ALBINUS</b>	<i>Kingsclere Stud</i>
6 gr g Selkirk Alouette	
<b>BANK NOTE</b>	<i>H M The Queen</i>
5 b c Zafonic Brand	
<b>BORDER MUSIC</b>	<i>Kingsclere Stud</i>
6 b g Selkirk Mara River	
<b>BRIAREUS</b>	<i>Miss E Lambourne/IAB</i>
7 ch g Halling Lower The Tone	
<b>CAPE GREKO</b>	<i>Holistic Racing Ltd</i>
5 g g Loup Sauvage Onerfortheditch	
<b>CHANTACO (USA)</b>	<i>Pink Hat Partnership</i>
5 b g Bahri Dominant Dancer	
<b>DOUBLE OBSESSION</b>	<i>John Nicholls Ltd</i>
7 b g Sadler's Wells Obsessive	
<b>DRUMMING PARTY (USA)</b>	<i>Mrs P Hastings</i>
5 b g War Chant Santaria	
<b>HOLBECK GHYLL (IRE)</b>	<i>Holbeck Ghyll P/ship</i>
5 ch g Titus Livius Crimada	
<b>IRONY (IRE)</b>	<i>John Nicholls Ltd/Mobley Homes</i>
8 gr g Mujadil Cidaris	
<b>KINGSHOLM</b>	<i>JC JR &amp; SR Hitchins</i>
5 ch g Selkirk Putuna	
<b>PENTECOST</b>	<i>JC JR &amp; SR Hitchins</i>
8 ch g Tagula Boughtbyphone	
<b>SHADE COZY (USA)</b>	<i>Anthony &amp; Valerie Hogarth</i>
5 gr g Cozzene Fire And Shade	
<b>SOUTHERN STAR (GER)</b>	<i>Mrs M Caine</i>
7 gr g Sternkonig Sun Mate	
<b>TINY TIM (IRE)</b>	<i>I A Balding</i>
10 b g Brief Truce Nonnita	
<b>TROUBLE MAKER</b>	<i>I A Balding</i>
6 b g Green Desert River Abouali	
<b>VANDERLIN</b>	<i>JC JR &amp; SR Hitchins</i>
8 ch g Halling Massorah	
<b>VOICE MAIL</b>	<i>I A Balding</i>
8 b g So Factual Wizardry	
<b>FOUR YEAR OLDS</b>	
<b>ANTIGONI</b>	<i>Winterbeck Manor Stud</i>
ch f Grand Lodge Butter Knife	
<b>BERINGOER (FR)</b>	<i>Dubai Thoroughbred Racing</i>
ch g Bering Charmgoer	
<b>DARK MISSILE</b>	<i>J C Smith</i>
b f Night Shift Exorcet	
<b>DINGAAN (IRE)</b>	<i>Lady S Cadbury</i>
b g Tagula Boughtbyphone	

## FREE TO AIR

b g Generous Petonica	<i>Miss Clare Balding</i>
<b>GORDONSVILLE</b>	<i>G Strawbridge</i>
b g Generous Kimba	
<b>ISPHAHAN</b>	<i>M Rafique</i>
b c Diktat Waltzing Star	
<b>KALANKARI (IRE)</b>	<i>Dubai Thoroughbred Racing</i>
b c Kalanisi Stately Princess	
<b>KERVRIOU (FR)</b>	<i>Mr &amp; Mrs G Luck</i>
ch g Pennekamp Charmgoer	
<b>LOCH VERDI</b>	<i>J C Smith</i>
b f Green Desert Lochsong	
<b>LOYAL ROYAL</b>	<i>WV &amp; ES Robins</i>
b g King Charlemagne Supportive	
<b>OLLIE GEORGE (IRE)</b>	<i>P Grubb</i>
ch g Fruits Of Love The Iron Lady	
<b>PINCH OF SALT</b>	<i>R Hanson</i>
b g Hussonet Granita	
<b>RAG TAG (IRE)</b>	<i>I A Balding</i>
b g Tagula Lovat Spring	
<b>SABAH</b>	<i>Sir Roger Buckley</i>
ch f Nashwan Massorah	
<b>SHOW WINNER</b>	<i>Sir Gordon Brunton</i>
b g Mtoto Rose Show	
<b>YEOMAN SPIRIT (IRE)</b>	<i>Yeoman Homes Ltd</i>
ch g Soviet Star Hollywood Pearl	
<b>THREE YEAR OLDS</b>	
<b>BATHWICK LETI (IRE)</b>	<i>Mrs. S. Clifford</i>
b f Trans Island Brandon Princess	
<b>BRIGHT FORECAST</b>	<i>D H Caslon</i>
b f Marju Bright Spells	
<b>BUCCELLATI</b>	<i>P McMahon</i>
ch c Soviet Star Susi Wong	
<b>BUNDLE OF JOY</b>	<i>D H Caslon</i>
b f Golan Alenteja	
<b>BUZBURY RINGS</b>	<i>M E Wates</i>
b g Piccolo Mory Kante	
<b>CALZAGHE (IRE)</b>	<i>RPB Michaelson/I Robertson</i>
ch g Galileo Novelette	
<b>CHERIE'S DREAM</b>	<i>WV &amp; ES Robins</i>
b f Silver Wizard Last Dream	
<b>DOONIGAN (IRE)</b>	<i>I A Balding/E M Sutherland</i>
b g Val Royal Music In My Life	
<b>DRIVING MISS SUZIE</b>	<i>JC JR &amp; SR Hitchins</i>
br f Diktat Santa Isobel	

<b>HATTON FLIGHT</b>	<i>D. Brownlow</i>	<b>ALL FANTASY</b>	<i>R Barnett</i>
b g Kahyasi Platonic		b f Fantastic Light All Grain	
<b>LOCHSTAR</b>	<i>J C Smith</i>	<b>AMANJENA</b>	<i>M E Wates</i>
b c Anabaa Lochsong		b f Beat Hollow Placement	
<b>MY LEARNED FRIEND (IRE)</b>	<i>N H Harris</i>	<b>BARRASHOT</b>	<i>J C Smith</i>
b c Marju Stately Princess		ch c Barathea Highland Shot	
<b>NIGHT ROCKET</b>	<i>J C Smith</i>	<b>BERTOLINI SPICE</b>	<i>J C Smith</i>
b f Night Shift Exorcet		c f Bertolini Scottish Spice	
<b>NORMAN TRADITION</b>	<i>Hon R Hanson</i>	<b>BID ART (IRE)</b>	<i>M Green</i>
ch f Traditionally Normandy		b c Hawk Wing Crystal Theatre	
<b>OCEANA GOLD</b>	<i>CHF Partnership</i>	<b>BLUE SKY BASIN</b>	<i>G Strawbridge</i>
ch g Primo Valentino Silken Dalliance		b c Desert Prince Kimba	
<b>RAMBLING LIGHT</b>	<i>G Strawbridge</i>	<b>CHOCOLATE ÉCLAIR</b>	<i>R Hanson</i>
b c Fantastic Light Rambler		b f Fantastic Light Normandy	
<b>RANAVALONA</b>	<i>Coriolan Links P/ship</i>	<b>DONEGAL (USA)</b>	<i>I G Burbidge</i>
br f Diktat Syrian Queen		b c Menifee Vickey's Echo	
<b>ROAD TO RECOVERY</b>	<i>Horses For Causes</i>	<b>DREAM EATER (IRE)</b>	<i>J C Smith</i>
b g Mujahid Legend of Aragon		gr c Night Shift Kapria	
<b>SCANTLEBURY</b>	<i>Lord Roborough</i>	<b>ERICARROW (IRE)</b>	<i>Kingsclere Stud</i>
b g Mark of Esteem Krameria		b f Bollin Eric Floriana	
<b>SEAFLOWER REEF (IRE)</b>	<i>Kingsclere Stud</i>	<b>EVER DREAMING (USA)</b>	<i>D H Caslon</i>
b f Robellino Sankaty Light		b f Dynaformer Slept Thru It	
<b>SI FOO</b>	<i>N Cheng</i>	<b>FAR SONG (IRE)</b>	<i>Dim &amp; Distant Racing P/ship</i>
ch c Fusaichi Pegasus Ascension		ch f Distant Music Charlene Lacy	
<b>SIREN'S GIFT</b>	<i>J C Smith</i>	<b>FLYING INDIAN</b>	<i>D H Caslon/A Brooke-Rankin</i>
ch f Cadeaux Genereux Blue Siren		ch f Hawk Wing Poppadam	
<b>SOLDIER FIELD</b>	<i>I A Balding</i>	<b>HONESTY PAYS</b>	<i>Miss A V Hill</i>
b g Fantastic Light Khambani		b f Dr. Fong Absolve	
<b>SPICE BAR</b>	<i>J C Smith</i>	<b>INDIAN ANGEL</b>	<i>J C Smith</i>
b g Barathea Scottish Spice		ch f Indian Ridge Lochangel	
<b>STAR STRIDER</b>	<i>Winterbeck Manor Stud</i>	<b>ISABELONABICYCLE</b>	<i>JC JR &amp; SR Hitchins</i>
gr c Royal Applause Onefortheditch		b f Helissio Santa Isobel	
<b>SWEET MANDOLIN</b>	<i>JC JR &amp; SR Hitchins</i>	<b>JEDEDIAH</b>	<i>P. McMahon</i>
b f Soviet Star Putuna		b c Hernando Peneleway	
<b>TELLTIME (IRE)</b>	<i>Mrs P McEnery</i>	<b>KALAHARI GOLD (IRE)</b>	<i>Toucan Syndicate</i>
b f Danetime Tesla		ch c Trans Island Neat Shilling	
<b>TWEED RIVER (USA)</b>	<i>G Strawbridge</i>	<b>LADY BRORA</b>	<i>W Aeberhand</i>
b c Royal Academy Gotablush		b f Dashing Blade Tweed Mill	
<b>VERBATIM</b>	<i>H M The Queen</i>	<b>MY AUNT FANNY</b>	<i>JC JR &amp; SR Hitchins</i>
b f Vettori Brand		b f Nayef Putuna	
<b>WATER MILL (USA)</b>	<i>E N Kronfeld</i>	<b>ONE NIGHT IN MAY (IRE)</b>	<i>G Chong</i>
gr c Unbridled's Song Capote Miss		b f Choisir Dream Genie	
<b>WHISKEY JUNCTION</b>	<i>D H Back/D King</i>	<b>PRAIRIE STORM</b>	<i>WV &amp; ES Robins</i>
b g Bold Edge Victoria Mill		b c Storming Home Last Dream	
<b>WINTER LANE</b>	<i>G Strawbridge</i>	<b>PRINCESS AUGUSTA (USA)</b>	<i>L L Register</i>
b c Hernando Winding		b f Silic Tri Anytime	
<b>YEAMEN'S HALL</b>	<i>G Strawbridge</i>	<b>PROVISION</b>	<i>H M The Queen</i>
b c Galileo Rimba		ch f Cadeaux Genereux Brand	
<b>YEOMAN LEAP</b>	<i>Yeoman Homes Ltd</i>	<b>RABEERA</b>	<i>J Dwyer/C O'Grady</i>
b c Val Royal Chandni		b f Beat Hollow Gai Bulga	
<b>TWO YEAR OLDS</b>		<b>RELATIVE STRENGTH</b>	<i>D H Caslon</i>
<b>ABSTRACT COLOURS (IRE)</b>	<i>Autobody Supplies</i>	ch c Kris Kin Monalee Lass	
b c Kalanisi St. Bride's Bay		<b>ROYAL STRAIGHT</b>	<i>J C Smith</i>
<b>ALHAVANTI</b>	<i>Park House P/ship</i>	ch c Halling High Straits	
ch f Alhaarth Vijanti		<b>SEEDLESS</b>	<i>C Spence</i>
		br f Mtoto Unseeded	

**STAR IN THE EAST** *Park House P/ship*  
 ch f Observatory Snipe Hall  
**STREET CRIME** *Kingsclere Stud*  
 b c Tagula Brandon Princess  
**TIMBER RIDGE** *WV & ES Robins*  
 ch c Tumbleweed Ridge Dolce Thundera  
**TOO GRAND** *High Maintenance P/ship*  
 ch f Zaha Gold Linnet  
**TOP LOCK** *D E Brownlow*  
 b c Nayef Ermine  
**TRANSFER** *Kingsclere Stud*  
 br c Trans Island Sankaty Light  
**VENI BIDI VICI** *S McPhee*  
 ch f Horse Chestnut Wily Bid  
**VICTORIA MONTOYA** *Kingsclere Stud*  
 br f High Chaparral Spurned  
**WIGRAMS TURN** *D E Brownlow*  
 ch c Hussonet Stacey's Relic

**WORD GAMES** *Park House P/ship*  
 b c Mind Games Salacious  
**YOUR PLEASURE (USA)** *G Strawbridge*  
 ch f Forest Wildcat Pleasure Center  
 Xxx *P. McMahon*  
 br c Hawk Wing Swilly  
 Xxx *Another Bottle Racing*  
 ch g Mutakddim Dominant Dancer  
 Xxx *CHF Partnership*  
 b f Reel Buddy Silken Dalliance  
 Xxx *G Strawbridge*  
 b c Olden Times Rimba  
 Xxx *Axom VI*  
 b f King's Best Black Belt Shopper  
 Xxx  
 b c Black Tie Affair Lissome



OLLIE GEORGE leading scorer 2006

# Twelve to Follow – hints and tips

Stuart McPhee

*Picking the right two year olds to follow at this time of year might seem like a lottery [but obviously, to ignore my Horse Chestnut 2yo filly would be folly!] but a look at consistent points scorers in the Kingsclere 12-to-follow over the past couple years does reveal some pointers that you might want to bear in mind when making your selections this month.*

**In my opinion, this is what you should be looking for – and avoiding.**

**1. Select tough, improving handicappers – ideally 4yo+.**

Of course, identifying such an individual may be easier said than done. If you can find such a horse, they will score lots of points because they run comparatively frequently and clock up regular points even when they don't win. If they improve enough to become a listed performer, they will score even more heavily. Although any horse might go wrong temporarily, another advantage of this age group is they have come through growing pains and common ailments that seem to affect younger horses and have a better chance of keeping on the go all season

**2. Avoid a very promising 3yo with only one or two runs as a 2yo.**

We all dream of having a top class 2yo so that we can spend all winter dreaming of whether to go for the English Guineas or the French equivalent. However, you do not need me to tell you that the top 3yo races are hard to win and horses that have performed well as 2yos but which turn out to be below group standard can be very difficult to place in their second season and don't seem to have fared well in our 12-to-follow competition.

**3. Find a sprinter.**

Sprinters can run a couple of times a week without seeming to notice. Some trainers believe that the right approach with their toughest sprinters is to give them comparatively little work at home but train them to full fitness simply by frequent racing. If you can identify a horse that comes into that category then you will be rewarded by clocking up points simply on the basis of run frequency – assuming that they win or get placed in their turn.

**4. Find a horse that is well handicapped because it needs further.**

Some middle distance 3yos are too backward to run much as 2yos, but others are mature enough to run [and show glimmers of promise] and get a handicap mark. However, if you are bred to need 12f and you are running over 6f and 7f it is difficult to excel and such horses can sometimes be expected to put up a string of good performances when upped in trip while the handicapper is catching up. One of last year's top point scorers came into this category.

**5. Don't be afraid to go against the crowd – especially with a 2yo.**

Lots of entrants can spot a good horse on paper. However a 2yo obviously bred in the purple will appear in almost everyone's list. If this turns out to be a horse that needs time or if there should be any unfortunate illness or hold up, then that might be a wasted selection. Your alternative replacement might leapfrog you above most other competitors in the list.

Based on the maxims above, horses such as Vanderlin, Banknote, Chantaco, Kalankari, Border Music, Holbeck Ghyll, Loch Verdi and Dark Missile should be on everyone's short list – while there is a host of middle distance bred 3yos that are potentially well-handicapped and will certainly improve this year. I won't spoil the enjoyment of making your own selections by naming them – just look for sires that have won over 10f+. Gordonsville is an older horse that will surely score points with another year on his back. Also, I find it hard to ignore horses that never seem to run badly – so I always like to include a tough, consistent fighter with a good attitude, like TellTime.

**Luckily, each of us has our own favourites.  
Good luck everyone.**

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# MY FIVE FAVOURITE RACECOURSES

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I.A.B.

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**We thought it might be fun for me to write about my five favourite courses in this issue and then perhaps to complain about my five least favourite in the summer issue.**

In arriving at my favourite five I am aware that I have left out such superb tracks as York and Doncaster which will not please our Northern friends. In addition it is hard to discard some old friends like Epsom, Bath and Pontefract and also my jumping favourites Cheltenham, Exeter and Wincanton, to say nothing of Aintree.

Starting in reverse order I suppose that Sandown would be most people's idea of the perfect all round racecourse, and certainly that wonderful mixed meeting on what used to be Whitbread Gold Cup Day is my idea of racing heaven. Three high class flat races mixed with the best that jumping has to

offer at a time of year (the end of April) when the ground and weather are usually good, all taking place in one of England's finest sporting arenas is as good as racing gets.

Mill Reef winning the Eclipse Stakes back in 1971 is, not surprisingly, my favourite memory of Sandown. Although Insular winning the Imperial Cup over hurdles for Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother in 1986 runs it close. My slight reservations about Sandown are that they have never managed to solve the problem of achieving three separate courses and the consequent sharing of the flat track with hurdles has led to unsuitably rough ground



*FOREST FLOWER the Mill Reef Stakes at Newbury*

for their early flat fixtures. There is also no six furlong start on the flat course which precludes it from being a totally versatile race track.

Salisbury would be my fourth choice and even now as a Director at the course I get a keen sense of anticipation every time I get in the car and set off on the forty five minute journey down the A303 past Stonehenge and Druids Lodge. This downland track up on the hill which overlooks the famous old cathedral would not be in everyone's top five, but it would always be my first choice for introducing a two year old. An easy horsebox journey, a nice stable yard and a quiet pre-parade ring all make it easier for the debutante. This is followed by a small tranquil paddock and a short easy access on to the course itself. Normally with good summer turf on a gently rising terrain completes the ideal introduction for the young racehorse.

Silly Season, Mill Reef and Murrayfield were all two year olds in my early training days who made their debuts at Salisbury and went on to win the Coventry Stakes at Royal Ascot. Lochsong, Dashing Blade and Phoenix Reach were other notable Kingsclere Group 1 winners who ran their first race here. There is always a lovely friendly atmosphere at this country course and probably my favourite moment recently was when our homebred colt Passing Glance, in joint ownership with our great friend and Chairman of the racecourse, Michael Wates, won the Sovereign Stakes in 2004. This is now a Group III mile contest and Salisbury's most valuable and prestigious race.

Goodwood might be described as an upper class Salisbury. High on the hill overlooking Chichester harbour to the south and northwards a view over the

lovely Sussex Downs with not a single building in sight makes for almost certainly the most beautiful position for any racecourse in the world. Superb downland turf all through the summer months and wonderful racing especially at the Glorious meeting at the end of July beginning of August, ensure a



*GREY SHOT in the Goodwood Cup*

“must not miss” mark in the diary very early on. I have yet to enjoy the new golf and racing package that the innovative Goodwood management team are promoting, but it won't be long before I put that right. The only downside from a horse's point of view is the awkward journey up to the track in a horsebox from the beautiful old stable block a

mile away, which is not help to an animal with a fragile disposition.

Selkirk's narrow loss to Marling in the 1992 Sussex Stakes is still considered to be one of the most memorable races at this great track. Victories by Lochsong in both the Stewards Cup and the King George V Stakes and later that of Grey Shot in the Goodwood Cup will ensure that my memories of Goodwood – to say nothing of owner Jeff Smith's – are always happy ones.



*LOCHSONG at Royal Ascot*

Ascot hosts the best flat racing in the world and their newly laid course is now worthy of it. Previously horses had to race over one wide road crossing on the straight course and one narrow but potentially more dangerous one on the round course (because some would try to jump it!) The flat track with its stiff straight mile and undulating round circuit is superbly drained and with judicious watering will be capable of producing excellent ground even at the end of the five day Royal meeting. The paddock now at the back of the magnificent new Grandstand is not as friendly or colourful as the old one, but is



*SELKIRK winning the Lockinge Stakes*

much more convenient and practical for viewers as well as for owners, trainers, jockeys and the media. The horses and stable lads have always been well looked after at Her Majesty's course and quite rightly still are.

Quite apart from Royal Ascot in mid-June the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes meeting at the end of July and the Autumn Festival with the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes as its highlight are two of the jewels in the flat racing calendar. Mill Reef's 1971 wide margin win in the former, Selkirk's superb 1991 win in the latter and Lochsong's effortless victory in the Kings Stand Stakes three years later are my most notable recollections.

Newbury has to be my favourite racecourse. Not only is it our local track and was founded by the great Kingsclere trainer John Porter over a hundred years ago, but it is also the best and fairest circuit both jumping and on the flat that there is in England. Blessed with a naturally free draining soil (unlike York for example) it can be lightly and regularly watered during the summer months to

maximum benefit. The track has been superbly managed during my training years by Charlie Toller and Frank Osgood and in more recent times by Mark Kershaw and Frank's son Richard Osgood. The Hennessy Gold Cup in November is the National Hunt highlight together with what used to be known as the Schweppes Trophy in February which has always been one of the biggest betting races during the winter months.

The Lockinge Stakes in May, now a Group 1 mile race of considerable stature, is their biggest flat pattern race and Selkirk's win in this race in 1992 for George Strawbridge was a significant success for us. The Group II Mill Reef Stakes over six furlongs in September was inaugurated in 1972. It is fitting that Kingsclere's great champion of the early 1970s should be so honoured and it has been a considerable thrill to win it both in 1986 with Paul Mellon's super filly Forest Flower and again in 2001 with Firebreak. He was officially trained by me but was in fact skillfully prepared by Andrew Balding. ■

# GREY SHOT 1992-2007

I.A.B.

Grey Shot – one of the all-time favourites at Park House – sadly had to be put down recently due to a badly deteriorating pedal bone in a hind foot.

The fifteen year old “white wonder” had been fully retired for nearly two years and was acting as a congenial companion for mares and youngsters at Kingsclere Stud. Bred at Littleton Stud by his first owner Jeff Smith, the grey son of Sharrod out of Optaria ran just once at the



back end of his two year old season in 1994 and happily won a competitive seven furlong maiden race at Doncaster. This timely victory enabled him to escape from the long list of horses due to go to the impending Autumn Sales, thus allowing him later to become one of the bravest and most versatile performers in Park House Stables history.

Three wins and six places from ten races as a three year old culminated in an important victory in his first pattern race – the Prix de Letuce over one mile seven furlongs at Longchamp when ridden by Frankie Dettori. Already his courageous front running style and his distinctive colour had made him a favourite with the racing public and this was never better illustrated than in his heroic win under Pat Eddery in the 1996 Goodwood Cup. In this race he ran in fact in Jeff Smith’s second colours and had rather a distinguished horse in the first colours well behind him on

that occasion – a certain Persian Punch.

This victory inspired an ambitious trip to Australia for the famous Melbourne Cup. In hindsight this arduous test came probably a year too soon for our four year old gelding, but accompanied by Dylan Holley, his long time groom, he gave his owner and trainer a great thrill. Pat Eddery sent him to the front at once and he looked like holding on until well inside the final

furlong when speedier opponents outpaced him. His seventh place beaten only about four lengths by the winner earned enough prize money to offset most of the travelling expenses and the whole occasion became for all his connections and unforgettable experience.

As a five year old in 1997 Grey Shot ran in all the major Cup races. His early and mid-season form was not up to his usual standards, but then suddenly early in October he produced his best ever performance. Ridden for the first time by Richard Quinn, he made all in the Jockey Club Cup at Newmarket winning comfortably in a new two mile track record time. This record ten years later still stands.

His trainer then made the decision that the time was now right for the gallant grey front runner to become a jumper. His owner Jeff Smith and manager Ron Sheather were persuaded to go to Taunton for his first venture in a two mile



novice hurdle. The owner's disaffection for the winter game was already well known and Grey Shot's facile victory and spectacular jumping, whilst alleviating the anxiety on the day, merely convinced Jeff that his exciting N.H. prospect should be sold to someone who would enjoy this part of the horse's career more than he would!!

A satisfactory deal was brokered so that the horse could remain in the yard, now running in the colours of Robert Hitchins. A second place in the Group 1 Tolworth Hurdle and an easy victory at Ascot under Richard Dunwoody confirmed Grey Shot's high ranking among the novice hurdlers of that season. Our hero next finished second on the flat in the Group II Prix Kergolay at Deauville in August, before switching codes again and winning two valuable handicap hurdle races at Wincanton and Cheltenham in November.

An impressive win with Jamie Osborne, now his regular rider, in the Group II Kingwell Hurdle at Wincanton the following February led to an exciting but unsuccessful tilt at the 1999 Champion Hurdle. In the autumn of that year the now seven year old ran in his first steeplechase, winning at Exeter with impressive ease.

Sadly a serious tendon injury sidelined the versatile star for well over a year, but a thrilling success in a high class handicap chase at Ascot with A.P. McCoy in the saddle in January 2001 indicated that steeple chasing might be his ultimate forte. It was not to be however, and none of us will forget his horrific fall with the champion jockey at Sandown on Whitbread Gold Cup day. Another uncharacteristic fall in a chase at Wincanton two months later meant the end of his chasing career and a lifeless run back on the flat in the Queen Alexandra Stakes at Royal Ascot was his final racecourse appearance.

In retirement, Grey Shot – now completely white – became the old trainer's favourite hack. He still pulled much too hard for the good of his delicate tendons and the assortment of jumping that he and his rider continued to do probably did not help his legs either. He was always to be seen standing proudly watching the younger horses going through their paces. With ears constantly pricked his searching gaze never missed anything, sheep or deer in the distance or the young trainer's dogs chasing each other around closer at hand. He often led the yearlings in their slow canters but he never lost his amazing enthusiasm or the constant desire to go as fast as he had in his heyday.

Grey Shot's noble outlook and unmistakable white silhouette, usually at the front of the string, was a feature of our horses exercising at Park House for many years in the late nineties and early part of this century and will remain a nostalgic memory. Furthermore his gentle and happy nature tended to mask a determination and courage that made him very special to all of us who knew him well. ■

# WILLIAM BUICK

## *Trip to America*

I left for America on the 1st February at 11.00 a.m. and arrived 9 hours later and I was then on my way to Palm Meadows to work for Hall of Fame trainer, Todd Pletcher. Palm Meadows is 45 minutes north of Miami in an area called Boynton Beach.

I moved into a nice flat on the track and started to settle in pretty much straight away.

The next morning, I went down to the barn and got introduced to the staff and the Assistant Trainer, Tristan Berry, who is Irish and they were all very friendly people. During first lot, Tristan took me up to the Clocker's stand and explained to me the theory of riding on an American track. The hardest thing was probably to learn what all the different poles were. Then when it came to second lot, I was put on a horse called Justin Rules doing just a normal canter or gallop as the Americans say, which is 18seconds per furlong. My instructions were to hack up to the seven, go six to the half, which means jog back to the 7f marker, then walk to the six and then go from there to the half mile pole. Eventually I got round without doing anything wrong, and my first day at work had gone well.

On my second day, I had six lots and one to "breeze" (work) and I was to ride work with Todd Pletcher's second jockey (on the east coast) Chris Decanto. We were working over 5 furlongs and stayed upsides all the way, so he really took me round and controlled the pace, which was a normal 5f work out, being about 1.01 – 1.03 minutes. When we pulled up I asked Chris how I had got on and he said "good" and Tristan was pleased as



well and told me that I'd be riding work with the riding legend, Angel Cordero, the next day. I didn't even know that Angel rode work for Todd Pletcher, so it was a big surprise when Tristan told me that I would be riding upsides him.

The next day, we went to the barn and met Angel Cordero, who is a very funny guy, who also enjoys teaching young riders. He must be good considering he has taught people like Johnny Velasquez and Frankie Dettori. The first day I rode with Angel was probably one of the best riding lessons I've had in my life. He taught me the advantages

of getting lower in the saddle, the best ways of getting a horse to change legs and the techniques of riding the American dirt. I hadn't even been there a week but had already learnt much more than I thought I would at this stage.

From then on I was riding work every day and most days with Angel or Chris Decanto. My timing got better as well, virtually with every piece of work and some days when Tristan or Todd asked me how quick we went, I was only a fraction out. They also let me breeze from the gate as well, which was a good experience, as the horses are out like rockets.

At the end of my stay, I felt much stronger and sharper with my timing and considering I only stayed there for 3 weeks, it was pretty good. The help of the people I was working with, such as Angel, Chris, Tristan and Todd Pletcher certainly made the difference.

I was offered the chance to go back again next year, which I hope to do and if possible, stay out there for a few months. ■

**HALF SHARE available in an American bred yearling. By BLACK TIE AFFAIR out of LISSOME (by Lear Fan) this is a nice looking bay colt. The breeder would like to retain a share and enquiries should be made to Andrew Balding. The horse arrived in this country a month ago and is valued at £30,000.**

