

SUMMER 2003

# The KINGSCLERE Quarter



THE PARK HOUSE STABLES NEWSLETTER



Summer scene

Front cover: *CASUAL LOOK* with Martin Dwyer and Cheryl Morris

Back cover: *GREY SHOT* leads the string back from the Plough Gallop

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When Casual Look finished a gallant second to Soviet Song in last season's Fillies Mile at Ascot, it became apparent that she could be capable of winning a top class race as a three year old. However, even the most optimistic of people could not really have imagined her winning the Oaks and even on the day of the race itself she was still considered more of a lively outsider than a realistic winner.

Although Casual Look's credentials were good, Group 1 placed as a two year old and a staying on sixth in the 1,000 Guineas, far more was required if she was to lower the colours of the mighty Godolphin or to repel the Irish challenge from Ballydoyle. Besides it had been thirty two years since Kingsclere's last victory in an English Classic and, despite numerous placed horses, no Epsom Oaks winner had been housed here since La Roche in 1900. So history even considered her an outsider.

Casual Look had been bred on her owner's stud farm in Kentucky and had arrived at Park House as a yearling in November 2000. A tall rangy filly with plenty of scope she was considered at the time to be more a three year old prospect than precocious two year old type. Her racecourse debut was at Ascot in July of the following year where she finished a promising third to Nasif in a six furlong maiden. An unlucky run at Salisbury was followed by a facile win in a maiden at Bath, but such was the impression she created on I.A.B. that he had not only entered her months before hand but was also keen to run her in the premier two year old race for fillies run over a mile all season. Casual Look rewarded his faith with a top class performance in finishing second at 16/1 having been considered a 33/1 shot on the morning of the race.

The drop back to seven furlongs did not suit her in the Rockfel Stakes but she still had the beating of all bar Luvah Girl and not for the last time a filly called Yesterday followed her home in third. I.A.B. had always told me that he wanted to hand over one really good horse when he retired and this was the one, in spite of all she had achieved as a two year old it had always been expected that she would improve even further at three.

I was keen that if she was to be considered a serious Oaks candidate she should avoid any of the Guineas trials and use the Guineas itself as a trial for Epsom. In so doing it gave us plenty of time in the spring and whilst we expected the run at Newmarket to bring her on, if she was good enough she was fit enough.

The Sagitta 1,000 Guineas attracted a large field and as always was hotly contested. Russian Rhythm and Six Perfections, two fillies who would be outstanding in any year, filled the first two places with Intercontinental and Soviet Song third and fourth. Casual Look ran a race full of promise in sixth, staying on having met trouble in running in to the dip and in so doing justified the intention of Epsom as her next target. Yesterday finished behind her in eighth.

Usually big races are preceded by a hiccup of some sort or another, but with Casual Look it was so straight forward she worked, she ate, she trotted up sound, she worked etc. etc. and she seemed to thrive with the more work she did.

# CASUAL LOOK

by Andrew Balding



*CASUAL LOOK with Michael Patrick, A.B. and Cheryl Morris*

The only thing that could have prevented her making the line up was her owner and trainer's last minute moment of doubt as to whether or not she was stoutly enough bred to see out the gruelling one and a half miles of the great race. The Prix de Diane over an easier mile and a quarter was still being considered as a viable alternative up to three days before the race until Ambassador Farish decided once and for all that it was a case of 'nothing ventured nothing gained'.

An hour before the Oaks Passing Glance won a £50,000 handicap in impressive style, ten days previously Casual Look had beaten him in a serious gallop at home and she had also handled herself well when we took her for a pre-race gallop around Tattenham Corner earlier in the week. So there was an air of confidence in the paddock prior to the race that the filly could finish in the first three but to actually win it was a remote possibility. If there was one person (other than Cheryl!) who had no doubts whatsoever that the filly was capable of winning the race it was Martin Dwyer.

Martin has become the most improved jockey in the country and in my opinion will soon become one of the top big race jockeys. He has always had confidence in himself which is such an important factor in any successful jockey and he also had a huge belief in Casual Look even prior to

Epsom. He rode her accordingly always well placed from the off, keeping her balanced as the field hurtled down the famous hill, producing her at the perfect time and showing great strength in the saddle to repel the late challenge of Yesterday.

Anyone who saw the B.B.C. coverage of racing that day will be aware of what this victory meant to us as a family and what it meant to this courageous filly's owner/breeder and to her jockey. As with every big winner, however, an aspect not often seen is what it means to those behind the scenes and most importantly the one person closest of all to the horse is in Casual Look's case, Cheryl Morris. No one is more deserving of success than her and her dedication to the filly, who she also rides nearly every day, is unbelievable. Michael Patrick, Dylan Holley, Eugene Cullen and Simon Knapp have also played a monumental role in the filly's success and they too will no doubt cherish the moment along with Lindy Rees (who remembered to declare her at the 48 hour stage!) and rightly so.

After every great day there is usually a feeling of deflation at some stage after the event when the boredom of normality returns. However in this instance I think everyone at Kingsclere has remained on a special high and will probably continue to do so for months if not years to come!

# Kelpie - product of a passion for racing

by Stuart McPhee

## **C**an you remember the day when your love affair with Horse Racing began?

For me, it was one day as a six year old when my ever-loving father took me to Lewes races. I must have looked a bit odd with my arms frantically clamped around my Dad as we sped along on his trusty Vespa. The only thing that worried me was the possibility of having a crash on the stretch of road alongside the river. I wasn't concerned about the possibility of a crash but I was worried about ending up in the river – because I couldn't swim.

Half way through the card and after three losing bets, my father asked me to find him the winner of the next race. He must have said it a bit loudly as the chap alongside gave him a very strange look as he resorted to these desperate measures. I proceeded to reel off the next three winners. I never did tell him that I just picked Scobie Breasley's mount, then Lester Piggott's and then Breasley again. [The last one was a close run thing as it was a photo between Breasley and Piggott]. I have no idea how much my dad won, but it must have been a lot because he gave me ten shillings – which was more money than I had for the next six years. I can remember spending half of it on a bus conductor's outfit – including a machine which really punched holes in tickets. I knew how to enjoy myself in those days!

Strangely, my early jockey hero was Ron Hutchinson rather than Piggott or Breasley. I have no idea why. All those sequences of wins on Ragstone and Hardbake and those exotic extra wins at Ascot for Paddy Prendergast. The Eclipse win on Scottish Rifle – making all on a horse that really needed holding up. I have only just forgiven Gordon Smyth for jocking 'Hutchie' off Charlottown in the Derby.

Is it me or did the horses seem to have more personality and character in the sixties and seventies? Who could forget Knockroe or Park Top or the one-eyed Belper – or Quortina who seemed to win every week at Windsor. Evening racing at Windsor! I never went there but in those days before ever-open betting shops or the internet and teletext, you could spend the whole evening in excited anticipation of listening to the evening racing results on the Light programme on the radio after the ten o'clock news.

I used to make all my brothers and sisters play horse racing in the garden. I'd give them a list of names to choose from but I would usually be Potier (Stewards Cup winner) because I liked to finish fast and take the lead just before the winning post. This worked especially well if it had been raining because I knew a strip of less slippery ground over near the fence. Even then it was important to walk the course. According to my brothers, if they got in my way so that I couldn't win – I'd hold a 'Stuart's enquiry' which was inevitably followed by a disqualification.

Although I'm the right height, I failed in my planned career as a jockey – probably because I never learned to ride and I weigh 4 stones too much. For the next 20 years I had to make do with watching racing as an enthusiastic spectator – having to put up with resigned looks from my own children saying 'Daddy's watching horse racing again'.

I suppose that it was inevitable that I started thinking more and more about ownership – even before I could afford it. Having tested the water with some small scale syndicates – I took the next step by attending the BHB ownership seminar and discovered that trainers were flesh and blood too and would listen [most of them!] and have conversations about racing. . Then, one fateful afternoon, I took the plunge by phoning IAB. To my surprise, he suggested that I came over immediately for a chat. I felt like I had been transported to heaven when being shown around Kingsclere – particularly since I was able to spend the whole afternoon just talking about various aspects horse racing. Ian must have thought that he would never get rid of me! He advised starting out in a new syndicate he was setting up [which I did] but I knew that it was just a matter of time before I wanted a horse of my own at Kingsclere. Since I'm interested in breeding and pedigrees too – I wanted to find a filly that might make a broodmare and found a dynasty for me.

Then in August, just after the July sales – we found her. A beautifully bred 3 year old filly (by Kahyasi out of a Darshaan mare) that was for sale at something close to the rock-bottom price that I required. Although she had one third place to her name, she had run disappointingly in three races for Godolphin in the French provinces [I didn't dare tell Ian and Emma that she had actually

come last in all of her only three races and the third was a three runner race.]. Anyway, I was optimistic that Ian and Andrew would improve her out of all recognition – win a couple of races and transform her into a valuable broodmare for me by March!!

Perhaps bullied by my enthusiasm and optimism, Ian agreed to go to Newmarket and look at her for me the next day. I prayed that he would like her. What would happen if someone else wanted to buy her too? It was just too exciting and we had not even bought her yet. Then he telephoned. As you will all know, Ian has an endearing habit of making you feel like you are his most important owner and that yours is the most important horse that he has ever seen. He described in detail liking her head and liking her attitude before giving a couple of tiny worries about some minor injuries. He was bringing her home - She was ours!!!

A frustrating month then followed while she built up condition and began to get fitter. I watched her on the gallops. Although I was already her biggest fan, I had to admit that she was not the world's best mover

while cantering – but she had a pleasing, easy effortless gallop which filled me with hope. I contented myself by scouring the Racing Calendar and Programme Book looking for suitable races for her – Andrew would learn to dread the optimistic outputs from me undertaking that particular activity!

A maiden race at Bath was selected as our first foray. Everyone told me not to expect too much – even though I was secretly determined to show Darley what a mistake they had made. No fairy story first run – although when she took the lead 2f out it did seem briefly possible. It did look like a run full of promise.

I had not been prepared for the way that owning a racehorse takes over your life and thought processes. I now seemed to spend large chunks of my life, especially long motorway journeys, replaying Kelpie's races or imagining future races or mulling over alternative future races. I wonder what I used to think about before?

Her next three runs proved puzzling, as she always seemed to run well but seemed to run in snatches and sometimes seem to need further and sometimes shorter.

Jockeys gave conflicting post-race reports too. Andrew found some easy looking handicaps at Lingfield but she seemed unable to quite go through with it – maybe she needed blinkers??. Then, thinking about her previous races and talking about them – we developed a theory. Whatever the distance, she just seemed to stop when she took the lead and let the others catch up. So we decided to try and hold her up till the last minute. Everything now seemed to be in place – including learning to watch races from Andrew's "lucky" vantage place at Lingfield.

Then that wonderful day in December – it worked!!! I cannot describe the elation of watching her win – such pride hearing the commentator say: "and Kelpie is winning this easily – she is different class". I have worn out that videotape already. There seemed to be so many congratulations – I did not realise how many people in racing I had met in such a short time. Andrew and I hatched a plot for Kelpie to be his first official winner as a licensed trainer, in a perfect 0-70 classified stakes at Lingfield on January 2nd. Unfortunately, the handi-

capper must have heard about it and put her up to 72 so she couldn't run.

Another great day was a beautiful ride from Neil Chalmers to lose his 7lb. claim. She has now won 3 times and been second 4 times for us already – what a tough race mare she must be – and we still have big plans for her to win a turf race before she does start her career at stud and breed us a champion. She looks better than ever at the moment. As Emma says, she has everything you want in a broodmare – speed, pedigree, wonderful nature and a big bottom. [update: She is now tested safely in foal to Benny The Dip.]

**I had not realised that you could fall in love so easily with a horse. It's all been so lucky – what a start!! We even love her quirky nature and her ability to give away races that she could have won. This has been so much fun that we are now looking for another unexposed 3yo filly at the July sales to try and repeat the miracle next year – as long as Andrew can stand another winter of heated debate about which races we will go for at Lingfield!**



*KELPIE in the winners enclosure. L to r: A.B., S. McPhee, N. Chalmers, M. Vasylichenko*

# THE SEASON SO FAR

by Andrew Balding



It has been a highly satisfactory season so far and apart from the obvious highlights there have been other notable successes and some huge promise for the future.

**TARAWAN** has been called some fairly uncomplimentary names in the past but he is a valuable member of the team and provided the yard with its first and second turf wins of the season and two young jockeys with their very first career wins. Michaela Sowerby partnered him to a comfortable success in the amateur race at Doncaster and Travis Block showed a cool head to come from last to first at Leicester two weeks later. He remains in good heart and could add to his tally through the summer.

**HIGHLAND SHOT** is an admirable race mare in almost every way. Tough, talented, versatile and ultra consistent she has now won three and been second in a further three of her nine starts this season. She has won a valuable handicap at Sandown over seven furlongs, a mile handicap on the poly-track, a classified race at Epsom and has been second over six furlongs at Newmarket.

Sadly in many ways if it had not been for **PASSING GLANCE** she would have also won a £50,000 handicap at Epsom on Oaks Day! That was the start of what has to be one of the most rewarding days Kingsclere has enjoyed for many seasons. Quite apart from winning the Oaks itself, to have a one-two in



*PASSING GLANCE the first leg of the Epsom treble, with M. Dwyer*



*RIMROD winning at Epsom, the third leg of the treble with K. Fallon*



*HIGHLAND SHOT with Shirley Robson*

an ultra competitive handicap of that nature was a triumph in itself.

**PASSING GLANCE** had been disappointing in his first two starts of the year, but returned to form in dramatic fashion. Under a positive ride from Martin Dwyer he pulverised the opposition and provided long standing Kingsclere owners Michael and Caroline Wates with a memorable win.

Just half an hour after **CASUAL LOOK'** s Classic triumph , **RIMROD**, who on the morning of race day had seemed our most realistic chance of a winner, lined up in the Surrey Stakes. Ridden for the first time by a certain Mr K. Fallon he at last realised some of the potential that we have all felt he can and will show the world. In spite of losing valuable ground on a track that did not really suit him, he showed both class and guts to reel in Naahy, a very capable performer on his day, who had poached a seemingly unassailable lead. RIMROD may only have won by the shortest of margins, but his subsequent third from a poor draw in the Jersey Stakes underlined the fact that this horse is a top class performer and anyone who knows him still believes that success at the very highest level will come his way before too long.

**DUBAIAN GIFT** has proved a bargain buy over the last two seasons. Four wins in 2002 and a further brace of big handicaps this year see him gaining a reputation as one of



*LOCHRIDGE beating Golden Dixie at Newbury*

the fastest horses in training. He returned to form with a startling display of speed over Lingfield's sharp five furlongs and this win was followed by another flat out dash to victory at Windsor. He has now won almost £70,000 in prize money which for a 6,000gns yearling is no mean feat and soundness permitting should have little trouble adding to that impressive tally in years to come.

Of the three year olds **ANTICIPATING** has done nothing but improve through this summer. A maiden win at Beverley has been followed by two excellent placed efforts in handicap company and another good performance to grab a Salisbury handicap by five lengths. He ran a good race to be 4th at Goodwood and is a useful stayer in the making and could even one day develop into a serious Cup race contender.

Jeff Smith has in **HIGHLAND SHOT** a wonderful breeding prospect to return to Littleton when her racing days are finished, but he also has something special to look forward to in both her half sister **OPERA GLASS**, who opened her account at Beverley in July and in Lochsong's daughter **LOCHRIDGE** who returned to winning ways later in the same month. Both should continue to improve and progress and are capable of going on to bigger and better things.

Littleton also reared **VOICE MAIL** who has been our most prolific runner this year and, although his strike rate of one win from umpteen runs does not read that well, he has remained the model of consistency. He loves fast ground and it would be

disappointing if he could not give his owner Roger Parry at least one more visit to the winner's circle this summer.

Equally consistent, but sadly still lacking a win this season, is **BOURGAINVILLE**. A short head second in group company at Sandown is the closest that he has got, but the numerous near misses deserve to be forgotten with just one big win. Who knows it could even come in Chicago this August!?

**PALAWAN** broke an important duck at Folkestone in July. His owner Malcolm Evans has been one of the unluckiest people to own racehorses. Bad luck and bad news, but he has never once been anything but understanding and gracious in his dejection. It was not only with great relief, but also with enormous satisfaction that we all saw his colours storm to victory aboard **PALAWAN** at Folkestone. The manner of the victory suggests that there should be further days to celebrate in 2003.

The two year olds have made a satisfactory start to the season, with six individual winners from twenty horses and the promise of many more to come. John Hobhouse's homebred **SPANISH ACE** is the star to date. Having won a valuable conditions race at Ascot, he also ran a highly regarded juvenile of Aidan O'Brien's to within a neck of victory in the Railway Stakes at the Curragh. He should be up to winning a good prize before the year ends.

**MAKILA KING** made a winning debut, a feat which is rare for this yard. He then disappointed at Epsom where the occa-



BOURGAINVILLE

sion was all too much for him. He has been gelded since a move which should, with luck, see him fulfil the promise he has shown at home.

**TRICK CYCLIST** opened his account at Bath after two placed runs in maiden company. An unfortunate incident, when the trainer did not pull the girths tight enough at Ascot, was happily forgiven when the jockey got up and walked away in more or less one piece! He will be seen to better effect over six furlongs and should have a prosperous autumn campaign.

**DUBAIAN DUEL** may only have cost peanuts as a yearling but she more than covered her purchase price when winning at Beverley in late June. A really likeable sort who should continue to improve she nearly pinched a nursery at Goodwood.

The most exciting thing about this crop of two year olds is that they have not even begun to get going. We have at least six juveniles who are at home as good as those that have run already and if they can remain sound and healthy we have a lot to look forward to in the coming months.

## PHOENIX REACH

PHOENIX REACH is another horse who has shown immense courage to return from a very serious injury and win a competitive Newbury maiden in impressive fashion. We have always held him in high regard and on his sole start as a two year old he managed to run Norse Dancer to a head over seven furlongs at Salisbury.

A fractured pastern that required a plate and three pins to repair meant that Phoenix Reach did not see a racecourse for a further 363 days. However, he returned victoriously and, in spite of being short of room repeatedly in the last two furlongs he quickened in the style of a really good horse when the gaps finally appeared to win by a comfortable looking two lengths.

This was followed by a game win at Goodwood in the Group 3 Gordon Stakes on the first day of their Glorious Meeting. Nearly brought down in the early stages of the race together with the second and third he hit the front and just held off the challenge of High Accolade. He was receiving weight and the second did not have the clearest run in the closing stages which is reflected in the prices on offer for the St Leger. However this was only his third start and the experience can only bring him on again.

By Alhaarth he is from the same family as the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe winner Carroll House and is a half brother to the handy stayer Capriolo. Hopefully we will get him to the St Leger in one piece and if he can continue his improvement he goes there with more than a glimmer of hope of winning the oldest Classic.





CASUAL LOOK – Vodafone Oaks 2003



CASUAL LOOK – Vodafone Oaks 2003



*GUNNER WELBURN still in contention*



*DUBAIAN GIFT winning at Windsor*

# THE 2003 **12** TO FOLLOW COMPETITION

**Surprisingly this is not as high a scoring stage as this time last year when the leading list had accumulated 193 points however it is all quite closely grouped and the second part of the season will be vital. Please let me know if anyone is left off the list or you have any serious queries about your scores.**

## Scores up to and including July 20th

1 IAN BALDING	179	32 ROGER BUCKLEY	122	63 EDWARD GAY	99
2 JULIAN WILSON	175	32 LEANNE MASTERTON	122	63 OLIVER ST LAWRENCE	99
3 ANGELA CHESHIRE (A)	172	34 SUE GAY	121	65 REID COULTER	98
4 PAT GRANT	163	35 MARION GREEN (B)	120	65 RONNIE MCWILLIAM	98
5 HELEN PLUMBLY	160	36 JOHNNO SPENCE	119	65 LUCY WILCOX	98
6 ALICE ARNOLD	155	37 DERBYSHIRE/CHIVES (B)	118	68 DENIS CASLON	97
7 SIMON PLUMBLY	151	38 ROSEMARY FINLAY	116	68 TOM COX	97
8 STEVE WOOLLEY	150	38 R.P.B. MICHAELSON	116	68 MRS RAE SMITH	97
9 SOOTY MICHAELSON	148	38 DAVID POWELL (B)	116	71 DAVID BACK	96
10 ANDREW BALDING	147	38 MICHAEL PAYTON	116	71 C. COPE (B)	96
10 SARAH CULLEN	147	42 ANGELA CHESHIRE (B)	115	71 STUART MCPHEE (A)	96
10 SHARON WOOLLEY	147	43 MARK KNIBBS	113	71 ALAN MOBLEY	96
13 AUDREY HILL	144	44 MICHAEL PATRICK	111	75 CLARE BALDING	95
14 C. COPE (A)	141	45 PRINCE RUPERT	110	75 JUDITH BALDING	95
15 REG CORFIELD	140	46 DAVID GAY	109	75 ANNA MELLUISH	95
15 GARY HALLAS	140	46 MINA MCPHEE	109	78 PETE BEASANT	94
17 PETER WILLIAMS	139	46 M & D O'BRIEN (B)	109	78 M & D O'BRIEN (A)	94
18 EMMA BALDING	137	49 PUDDLE WILLIAMS	108	78 DWAYNE PETTITT (A)	94
18 ANN PALMER	137	50 SIMON HALL	107	81 HOWARD BAVEYSTOCK	93
20 JULIA WOODS	135	51 PAULINE GALE	106	81 MARION GREEN (A)	93
21 MRS. G. BUTCHER	133	51 BILL PALMER	106	83 BATTI DILLON (A)	92
21 SIMON GOSWELL	133	53 ROB JENKINSON	105	83 DAVID HALL	92
23 DAVID POWELL (A)	131	54 J & A PHILLIPS	104	85 JOHN FEANE	91
24 ANGELA CHESHIRE (C)	130	55 GLYNN BARRINGTON	103	85 MR R KENNEDY	91
24 DERBYSHIRE/CHIVES (A)	130	55 RACHEL SHARLAND	103	87 TERRY MASON (A)	90
24 JOHNSON/BOUNDS (A)	130	57 STUART MCPHEE (B)	102	87 R. MASTERTON	90
27 WERNER AEBERHARD	127	57 CATH TANSLEY	102	89 D. DERBYSHIRE	89
27 JOHN FARREN	127	59 VIV COX	101	89 M & D O'BRIEN (C)	89
27 MICKY WEEDY	127	59 H.M.B.	101	89 GARY RIGBY	89
30 MELVYN & ROSE	125	59 STUART MCPHEE (C)	101	89 MR R WALK	89
31 EUGENE CULLEN	123	62 MRS KENNEDY	100	93 KATE BUCKLEY	88

94 E. AUBREY	87	121 GARY MEARS	77	154 IAN DERBYSHIRE	65
94 PETER BOX	87	121 ROGER MICHAELSON	77	155 THE DIGITS	64
94 RICHARD DANGAR	87	121 NICK OVETT	77	155 KINGSCLERE STUD	64
94 TONY GOVER	87	127 MARY GEE	75	155 FELICITY SIMPSON	64
94 CLAIRE PATRICK	87	127 ANDREW NICHOLLS	75	158 WINTERBECK (A)	63
99 CLIVE STANSBY (A)	86	129 BARRY HALE	74	159 JEAN WOOLLEY	61
100 SIMON GEE	85	129 JOHNSON/BOUNDS (B)	74	160 HOLISTIC RACING (A)	60
100 MARK KENT	85	129 DAVID MCWILLIAM	74	161 MELANIE HALL	58
100 JIMMY MILLER	85	129 SHEILA WELLS	74	162 DAVID ALLPORT	57
100 STEVE STURGESS	85	133 PETER BEDFORD	73	162 BERNARD BROUGHTON	57
104 ANN PLUMMER	84	133 CHRISTINE FOSTER	73	164 MRS P. HASTINGS	54
105 M & J ELLIOTT	83	133 GEOFFREY HOWSON	73	165 WINTERBECK (B)	53
105 ANNE IRELAND	83	133 JOHN RANSON	73	166 NIGEL HARRIS	50
105 CAROLINE WATES	83	137 PAUL LUCAS	72	167 JULIA HALL	48
108 BATTI DILLON (B)	81	138 GAIL KING	71	167 B.K. MICHAELSON	48
108 MALCOLM EVANS	81	139 PAT FRAMPTON	70	169 TESSA BROUGHTON	47
108 RICHARD PATRICK	81	139 FIONA LEES	70	170 CLIVE BELL	43
108 CLIVE STANSBY (B)	81	141 EMMA LAMBOURNE	69	171 BRYAN COVENTRY	41
112 J CAMPBELL GRAY	80	141 JOHN RICHARDSON	69	172 MARIE BAILEY	40
112 CLICKY FOUR	80	143 SERENA COVENTRY	68	172 SAM WOOLLEY	40
112 ADRIAN HODGKINS (B)	80	143 ADRIAN HODGKINS (A)	68	174 GEORGE HUMPHRIES	39
112 ANDY TOLHURST	80	143 PETER LUMLEY	68	175 PAUL SAVORY	38
116 GORDON IRELAND	79	143 PAUL WELLS	68	176 JEFF THOMAS	37
116 IAN LUCAS	79	147 GEOFFREY RIGBY	67	177 GEORGE COLEMAN	35
116 MARK STILLINGS	79	147 ROYAL GREENLAND	67	177 GREG WATSON	35
119 JOHN KENNEDY	78	149 LES BEDFORD	66	179 DWAYNE PETTITT (B)	33
119 SARAH MCLAREN	78	149 SUE LUMLEY	66	180 ALLEN GAY	30
121 D. AUBREY	77	149 TERRY MASON (B)	66	181 BEVERLEY HALL	28
121 HOLISTIC RACING (B)	77	149 ANNA LISA WILLIAMS	66	182 LIDIA	13
121 CORNELIUS LYSAGHT	77	149 W.W.K.S	66	183 J.C. SMITH	10

## LEADING LISTS

<b>IAN BALDING</b>		<b>JULIAN WILSON</b>		<b>ANGELA CHESHIRE (A)</b>		<b>PAT GRANT</b>	
CASUAL LOOK	17	ANTICIPATING	36	ANTICIPATING	36	ARCTIC DESERT	10
DUBAIAN DUEL	10	BRIAREUS	11	ARCTIC DESERT	10	ARCTIC QUEEN	
FEISTY FLORA	1	CASUAL LOOK	17	CASUAL LOOK	17	CASUAL LOOK	17
HIGHLAND SHOT	48	DOWNING STREET		INDIANA BLUES		DUMARAN	
LOCHRIDGE	11	HIGHLAND SHOT	48	LOCHRIDGE	11	DUBAIAN GIFT	20
MAKILA KING	10	INDIANA BLUES		OBLIGE	10	DUBAIAN DUEL	10
OBLIGE	10	MR LAMBROS		RIMROD	23	HIGHLAND SHOT	48
PASSING GLANCE	18	OPERA GLASS	16	RIPPLE EFFECT	21	LOCHRIDGE	11
RIMROD	23	PRINCEOF THEBES	4	ROYAL WARRANT		RIMROD	23
SPEED COP	1	RIMROD	23	SOUND BLASTER		ROYAL WARRANT	
SPANISH ACE	24	SOUND BLASTER		SPANISH ACE	24	SPANISH ACE	24
TRENCH COAT	6	TRICK CYCLIST	20	TRICK CYCLIST	20	STAR PUPIL	

# I.A.B. – MY

**No. 9**  
**DASHING BLADE**

b.c. 1987 Elegant Air - Sharp Castan



*DASHING BLADE winning the Dewhurst Stakes*

In 1988 Ron Sheather retired from training and happily, in his new role as Jeff Smith's racing manager, he advised Jeff to send the majority of his horses to us at Kingsclere.

Amongst that very first crop of yearlings to arrive from Littleton Stud was a tall leggy bay colt with three white socks and a large white blaze called Dashing Blade. He was from the first crop of Elegant Air – a son of Shirley Heights whom we had trained for Paul Mellon to win the Horris Hill at Newbury and the prestigious Tattersalls Rogers Gold Cup at the Curragh. His dam Sharp Castan had been bought for Jeff by John Warren at the December Sales actually carrying Dashing Blade.

Straight away he looked a useful colt even though he swung one front leg very wide when galloping. He was however a difficult and nervous horse to ride and one day before he ever ran I remember him getting loose on the winter gallops down below. He galloped down the avenue and jumped the gate on to the main road. Luckily he turned left up the hill towards Overton rather than right towards the village and went a pretty good gallop in the fog until fortunately our downsman, Jona Holley, having heard a horse coming shepherded him off the main road and up the hard track to the Lloyd Webber's farm yard nearly three miles away.

When I eventually caught up with him on my hack there was not a scratch on him so I immediately thought he must be useless!

He won his first race in June easily and impressively – the Berkshire Stakes at Newbury – a race that the legendary Brigadier Gerard had also won on his debut. He went on to win the Champagne Stakes very easily at Salisbury over six furlongs, where he gave his jockey quite a problem pulling up. In his third race I recall being disappointed that he was only third in the Group 2 Vintage Stakes at Goodwood over seven furlongs and felt that for some reason he had not been at his best.

Dashing Blade then had quite a good break before the owner managed to persuade his trainer in September to contest the valuable Group 1 National Stakes at the Curragh. He duly won and in his final run as a two year old he won the Dewhurst Stakes at Newmarket narrowly. We were in the stands when Jeff noticed the horse was 10-1 and considering this an insult rushed off the stands to take advantage of it.

In all these races he was ridden by John Matthias and when John was interviewed on TV after the Dewhurst he was asked when we first thought Dashing Blade was a good horse. John replied memorably "When he overtook a Porsche on the road one foggy day before he ever ran." Dashing Blade's extremely successful two year old season had helped his ill fated sire to become the leading first season stallion.

Early on in his three year old season Dashing Blade sadly injured himself – a pulled muscle behind – and after a long enforced rest he had a hurried preparation for the 2000 Guineas. He was unplaced at Newmarket and a somewhat disappointing fourth in the St James's Palace at Royal Ascot followed. A month later owner, manager, trainer and jockey all landed in a little plane at Toussus-le-Noble – a small airport no more than eight miles from St Cloud racecourse – where Dashing Blade



*Prix Eugene Adam (J. Matthias) Saint-Cloud*

# TOP FIFTEEN

was due to contest the Group II Prix Eugene Adam over a mile and a quarter.

As the reserved taxi failed to turn up the substitute vehicle, whose driver did not know the route to the racecourse, got us to the course just in time for jockey John to run the last three hundred yards to the weighing room and change with thirty seconds to spare. Luckily both he and horse were a lot cooler than the rest of us and they won the valuable contest comfortably. Two weeks later the same team were second in another valuable contest in Europe – this time the Group 1 Grosser Mercedes-Benz Preis at Munich and only narrowly beaten by a good German four year old.

An unsuccessful bid for the Juddmonte International at York convinced us all that we should go for big prize money abroad again. Consequently Dashing Blade ended his career ridden by Brian Rouse by impressively winning the Group 1 Gran Premio d'Italia over a mile and a half in Milan by a long looking six lengths beating the Italian Derby winner among other good horses. It was a good enough performance for the owner to chide the trainer for not having allowed him to run his colt in the Derby at the time and to want to run him in the Arc de Triomphe next stop.

He would certainly not have been out of place in such a contest but sadly a tendon injury ended his career prematurely. He retired to stand at Littleton initially but later in the summer as a four year old, after not a very busy covering season, the horse seemed so well that we all decided it would be worth having another shot training him for some of the autumn races. I can remember him looking so impressively well when he returned and doing one brilliant gallop which gave us all hope that he could win another Group 1 race. Sadly the tendon flared again and this time Jeff Smith sold him as a stallion to stand in Germany. There he was an immediate success and has been the leading sire of two year olds in that country on more than one occasion. I rather wish we had more of his off spring to train probably the best to date being Dashing Blue.

Dashing Blade was a better horse than his Timeform rating of 115 would suggest and but for injury would have won more and better races. Even so he amassed nearly half a million pounds in prize money.

John Matthias rode him in most of his races and Peter Williams looked after him and rode him most days and in a lot of his work.

No. 8

## DIAMOND SHOAL

B.c. 1979 Mill Reef - Crown Treasure



*Gran Premio di Milano 1983*

I have always been fond of Bath racecourse and felt that its old downland turf and steady uphill rise over the last four furlongs makes it a suitable course on which to run any horse.

Glint of Gold's little brother had his first start there in mid-June 1981 and won the five and a half furlong maiden. It was the beginning of an amazing career. He was much smaller and more compact than his older brother and more like his sire in make, shape and colour. Diamond Shoal's two year old racing career gave no indication as to how good he would be as a four year old – in fact in five more races he won only once – a modest nursery handicap at Brighton over seven furlongs. After two unsuccessful runs in nurseries at the end of his first season I can remember thinking that he probably didn't try very hard and attempted to persuade Paul Mellon to accept a big offer we had to sell him. Fortunately for all of us the owner, in true Hobhouse style, said he had no real need of the money and that we should persevere with his home-bred son of Mill Reef.

It turned out to be a very wise decision. His three year old season began with a comfortable win in the Rosebery Memorial Handicap over a mile and a half at the Epsom Derby meeting. This was to be his only win that year but it hardly indicated that he would improve enough to finish second in the Group II Great Voltigeur at York, third in the St Leger, third again in the Group I Preis von Europa which Glint of Gold had won the previous year and on his final start an honourable fourth

in the Washington International at Laurel Park. Diamond Shoal was rated 121 that year in Timeform who felt that if he had been ridden with more enterprise he might well have won some of those races.

His four year old season was quite outstanding by any reckoning. Now ridden whenever possible by Steve Cauthen he started by winning the John Porter Stakes at Newbury comfortably. After a disappointing run in the Jockey Club Stakes he won the Grand Prix d'Evry (Group II) ridden by Cash Asmussen and demonstrated his considerable character by diving right handed across the course soon after the winning post and very nearly knocking over the third horse and colliding with the stands rail!

In the Coronation Cup he finished fourth and did not run up to his best but only ten days later we took him off to Italy to become the first ever British trained horse to win the Group I Gran Premio di Milano. His final run before his main objective, the King George VI and

and I felt this was our horse at his very best.

We gave the horse a well deserved break during a very hot August when I can remember him enjoying swimming nearly every afternoon. Our equine swimming pool, built in 1980, has been extremely helpful not only to horses coming back from injury, but also for horses who enjoy swimming (and not all do) it can be a very useful method of rekindling their enthusiasm and freshening them up.

Diamond Shoal's next target was the Group I Grosser Preis von Baden which once again his older brother had won the previous year. It was a genuine target of its own but I also felt it was an excellent prep race for the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe which was to be our final objective four weeks later.

Diamond Shoal and Steve Cauthen were at their best in Germany and won easing up by three and a half lengths having taken up the running fully half a mile from home. It was a little difficult for the Germans to enjoy seeing



*Grand Prix d'Evry ridden by Cash Asmussen*

Queen Elizabeth II St at Ascot, was the Group I Grand Prix de Saint Cloud in early July. The previous year we had won the race with Glint of Gold and Diamond Shoal was just as impressive ironically beating the same horse, Lancastrian, by a cosy three quarters of a length.

Steve Cauthen was out of action for the big mid-summer Ascot showpiece but we managed to get a pretty able substitute in Lester Piggott who road Diamond Shoal for the only time. Lester took up the running with three furlongs to go and beat off the challenge of the high class filly Sun Princess only for another great mare, Time Charter, ridden by Joe Mercer to catch him inside the last furlong and beat him by three quarters of a length in a very exciting race. Lancastrian whom we had beaten in France was eight lengths behind this day

their huge prize going to England for a second year running but he was favourite which eased the pain.

In the Arc sadly Diamond Shoal did not run up to his best. He finished twelfth beaten only about five lengths by All Along. Perhaps his hard season had caught up with him – it was after all his fifth trip abroad – but it was a disappointment as on his best form he would have gone very close.

With his superb pedigree he was much sought after as a stallion and went to Walmac in Kentucky where he did not achieve as much as he had on the racecourse. As a racehorse he was sound, tough, genuine and very classy. Timeform rated him as high as 130 at the end of his career. Micky Weedy looked after him as he had his brother all of his time at Kingsclere.

No. 7  
**FOREST FLOWER**

Ch.f. 1985 Green Forest - Leap Lively



*Irish 1,000 Guineas*

I had trained Leap Lively – a lovely big chesnut filly of Paul Mellon’s – and she won the two year old fillies Group I race over a mile at Ascot in the Autumn. She went on to finish third in the Oaks at Epsom and second in the Yorkshire Oaks as a three year old. One can imagine that I was thrilled to hear we were being sent her first foal – a filly by Green Forest. When she arrived I thought we had been sent the wrong animal, as the chesnut filly that was sent looked like a half starved u-necked pony. So diminutive and unimpressive was she that in spite of her breeding none of our senior lads wanted to look after her. I can remember telling one of the youngest apprentices, Chris Avery, that he was doing her and no arguments.

Little did anyone realise that this tiny animal measuring 14.2 hands at the time of her arrival would turn out to be one of the best two year old fillies to race in this country for many years. She was ready for her debut by mid-May and ridden by Steve Cauthen she comfortably won a fillies race at Newbury. This was the perfect prelude to a very facile win – this time ridden by Pat Eddery – in the Queen Mary Stakes at Ascot.

As she looked already an out and out two year old we went straight to the Cherry Hinton at Newmarket three weeks later where she carried her penalty and beat Ministrella by three quarters of a length in the first of three somewhat controversial clashes that season, this time she was ridden by Tony Ives. The rest of the field were seven lengths behind. Rather than target the York two year old races we decided to have a cut at the Heinz 57 Phoenix Stakes at Phoenix Park which was not only Group I but also the most valuable two year old race in Europe that year. Pat Eddery took the ride and from an unlucky outside draw we were just beaten a short

head by Ministrella. Our filly was flying at the finish and would have won in another stride, but she showed the courage that was to be her trademark later on.

Forest Flower had a little holiday after this long journey and hard race and next ran six weeks later in the Group II Mill Reef Stakes at Newbury over six furlongs. Naturally I had been keen to win the race named in honour of our great champion and up until then we had not been successful. Amidst much rejoicing and this time re-united with Tony Ives the little filly comfortably beat the colts. In winning this local event she set herself up nicely for her final objective of the season the Group I Cheveley Park Stakes at Newmarket but run on the July course that year on the first day of October.

This proved to be the most controversial race of the year. There were only six runners with Forest Flower partnered by Tony Ives a hot favourite. Her old rival, Ministrella, ridden by John Reid was an obvious danger. Two furlongs from home our filly was pulling double in behind but was boxed in. Tony Ives, instead of waiting a little bit longer, bumped Ministrella in his anxiety to get out. It made not the slightest difference to the result of the race which Forest Flower won comfortably by two and a half lengths. The objection by Ministrella’s connections was quickly over-ruled by the Newmarket stewards and Paul Mellon, who was present, was able to receive his trophy. Winning punters were also happy, but an appeal was soon lodged by John Reid, the rider of Ministrella.

I could scarcely believe the justice at Portman Square where Tony Ives was found guilty of intentional foul riding and suspended for twelve days. Forest Flower was not only disqualified but placed last. Happily the Jockey Club have now sorted this rule out more fairly and nowadays the jockey would have had a three or four day suspension and the result of the race would not be altered. To lose a Group I race on an unfair disqualification still rankles and Jeff Smith will remember how much because it happened again a few years later when Blue Siren won the Nunthorpe Stakes at York decisively only to be demoted to second.

Nevertheless Forest Flower ended up champion two year old filly and second in the Free Handicap just a pound behind Reference Point. Her speed and courage were exceptional and Tony Ives, in spite of his very expensive blunder at Newmarket, was retained as first jockey for 1987 mainly so that we would have a regular partner for this wonderful filly.

Forest Flower needless to say was winter favourite for the 1,000 Guineas that next year but nothing seemed to go right for her. She was not sparkling at home and after a disappointing gallop at Bath racecourse we had to call



*Cherry Hinton Stakes at Newmarket*

off any hopes of running in the 1,000 at Newmarket. She was obviously suffering from some wretched respiratory infection and had to be rested. Her participation in the Goffs Irish 1,000 Guineas three weeks later was doubtful even up to the last minute, so much so that at the last moment Paul Mellon decided not to fly to Ireland. Sadly he missed one of the bravest performances by any racehorse that I can remember. Forest Flower challenged the leaders with about two furlongs to run and under strong driving from Tony Ives just managed to get her nose in front of Milligram on the line. The latter had been second in the English 1,000 and went on to win the Coronation Stakes at Royal Ascot and the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes there in the autumn and was rated the top filly over a mile that year. So Forest Flower's performance at the Curragh was not just brave but of the highest quality.

Tragically that very hard race so soon after her virus finished her and I should never have run her again. I talked myself into thinking she was somewhere near back to her best in July and we ran her in the Group II fillies race at the July meeting at Newmarket (the Child

Stakes). Forest Flower was never going and sensibly Tony Ives virtually pulled her up, it was a sad end to a brilliant career. Chris Avery and Tony Ives's smiles at the Curragh after the result of the photo was announced were something to savour and this game little filly is one I shall never forget. At the end of her two year old season she was rated 127 and Timeform wrote the following: 'Seldom does one see a racehorse show more gusto than Forest Flower. She is indomitable of spirit and wonderfully game and genuine, qualities which have endeared her to the racing public. Let's hope she sets the seal on a notable career with success in a classic.'

She retired to stud now nearly 15 hands tall and stayed at Kingsclere for four seasons before Paul Mellon decided to wind down his breeding operation. She was sold as part of the dispersal at Tattersalls December Sales and bought by Betty Moran. She was covered by Nashwan and then exported to the States. Certainly her English-bred progeny did not reach dizzy heights on the racecourse her first foal Hill of Dreams winning two amateur races ridden by a certain Mr A.M.B.!

# BITS AND BRIDLES

## VICTORY MOON

It has been a real pleasure to have the South African challenger staying in the yard since May. Trained by Michael de Kock and owned by the MAD Syndicate he came from a winter campaign in Dubai, where he won the UAE Derby, to run in the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II Stakes at Ascot. His prep races were the Queen Anne Stakes at Royal Ascot and the Eclipse Stakes at Sandown where he ran a great race to finish fifth. Despite working brilliantly leading up to the big day he sadly ran well below his best which was a huge disappointment to all involved.

Tom Dascombe has been in charge of his preparation riding him twice every day and carrying out all the trainer's instructions to the minutest detail. He is a magnificent horse and has such an appetite for work it has been an education to watch him. Hopefully after a break he will recover his form and capture more big prizes.

## 2003 SALES

The new yearling sales season is upon us with the annual trip to Saratoga starting off the search for new talent. We are proposing to be at the St Leger Sale, September 9-12 and then Tattersalls Fairyhouse and the three yearling sales at Newmarket, possibly Goffs also.

If anyone is interested please contact Andrew. We are considering putting together a syndicate of four yearlings in the 30,000 guinea range, which would roughly work out at ten shares of £20,000 each which will include the first year's training fees. It would give rather more of a chance of action than single ownership and again any interest in this idea please contact us. Nice horses can be bought for this sort of money and at the beginning of the sales season there is so much more choice.

## GUNNER WELBURN

GUNNER WELBURN turned in a magnificent performance to finish fourth in the Grand National in April. Ridden by Barry Fenton, they survived a serious first fence blunder before producing a breathtaking exhibition of jumping.

Taking up the running before the Chair Welly effortlessly jumped from fence to fence and was still at the head of the field and travelling strongly at the third last. But, alas, as we are all aware it is a very, very long way from there to the winning post and as the eventual winner, Montys Pass, came to the second last it was evident that Welly's stamina was coming to an end. However he battled bravely to the end and finished a very gallant fourth in what was one of the best Grand National fields in modern times. He gave us, his owners Will Ritson and David Hall and Pat McGuire, who looks after him, a huge thrill.

The horse is at present enjoying a well deserved holiday at his owner's home in Cheshire but will hopefully return for another season and possibly another tilt at the great race.

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