

LATE SUMMER 2004

# *The* KINGSCLERE *Quarter*



THE PARK HOUSE STABLES NEWSLETTER

# The KINGSCLERE Quarter



Front cover: *PASSING GLANCE* at Epsom  
Back cover: *CAPE GREKO* at Ascot

## CONTENTS

<b>THE SEASON SO FAR</b>	<b>2, 3, 4, 5 &amp; 6</b>
ANDREW BALDING	
<b>TINY TIM</b>	<b>7</b>
EMMA BALDING	
<b>SCORNED</b>	<b>8</b>
EMMA BALDING	
<b>OPEN DAY</b>	<b>9, 10 &amp; 11</b>
ANDREW BALDING	
<b>2004 TWELVE TO FOLLOW COMPETITION</b>	<b>12, 13 &amp; 14</b>
<b>YEARLING SALES</b>	<b>15</b>
ANDREW BALDING	
<b>MY TOP FIFTEEN</b>	<b>16, 17 &amp; 18</b>
I.A.B.	
<b>BITS AND BRIDLES</b>	<b>19</b>

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# THE

Having enjoyed a terrifically rewarding all weather campaign, it was a bitter disappointment to then have to endure a winless streak of over sixty runners before the most unlikely of saviours, Tiny Tim, broke the ice at Brighton to become the yard's first grass winner of 2004.

Who would have thought it? Tiny himself had not even won a race in his own undistinguished forty race career. However, a brief spell as the retired trainer's polo pony and the introduction of "regional racing" for horses with a terminal lack of ability had given our hero a new lease of life.

A string of placed efforts under both Richard Killoran and Travis Block had given Tiny the seemingly respectable form figures 23502, even if this was in Band C (the dregs of the thoroughbred population) at least it was consistent! His assignment at Brighton on 4th May was by far his easiest to date and the fact that Tiny Tim was posted as 1-3 morning line favourite gave a true indication of the merit of the race. Given a cool and confident ride by Travis Block, Tiny won like



TINY TIM – Travis Block and Rachel Lockie First on the Turf

# SEASON SO FAR

by Andrew Balding



*PENTECOST – L. Dettori at Sandown on Eclipse Day*

any odds on favourite should and even if the Racing Post describes it as "one of the worst races ever run in this country" - it didn't matter.

It was a huge relief to everyone involved with the yard to get off the mark for the season, but the long period of having to wait for that first winner was indicative that something was not quite right. Although winners have now started coming and we remain well on target to match last season's score on the winner front, a small number of horses have remained horribly out of form and we should certainly enjoy an exciting autumn if and when they do return to their best.

Pentecost, who we bought for 5,000gns at the Tattersalls Autumn sale, has enjoyed something of a purple patch. A disappointing run at Royal Ascot was followed by an exciting victory when he passed all nineteen rivals to win the £100,000 ToteScoop6 Heritage Stakes at Sandown

on Eclipse Day. An excellent 4th in a Group 3 at Ascot and an impressive win in the Shergar Cup mile followed and it can safely be said that at the age of 6 Pentecost is in the form of his life.

Passing Glance is another to have put up a career best performance this year and the way he won the Diomed Stakes at Epsom on Derby Day was a truly memorable moment for the yard. On the strength of that he was purchased by the National Stud and will be retired to join their stallion ranks at the end of the year. He is sure to make an impact and as a racehorse there have been few tougher or sounder than Passing Glance over the past couple of racing seasons.

Another older horses at the top of his game is Vanderlin and his easy win in a Chester conditions race was just rewards for his consistency. Lochridge has taken a while to come back to her best, but judged on her fine second



*DESERT QUEST just beaten at Epsom*

at Doncaster she is well on track to build on what she achieved last season.

Distant Prospect is another who, although winless so far in 2004, has run some marvellous races in defeat and too should enjoy an exciting autumn when he will once again attempt to become the first horse in history to win the Cesarewitch more than once.

Desert Quest came to us at the beginning of the year with a reputation for being talented but quirky. Both of these descriptions are accurate and he has run two terrific races this season without making life that easy for his jockey! The first was a short head second in the big handicap at Epsom on Oaks Day and the second was a last gasp win in the Shergar Cup under a brilliant ride from Jamie Spencer. I am still convinced that his tendency to hang is the result of some form of pain and when we can finally get to the bottom of it we will have an exciting prospect on our hands.

Voice Mail and The Fisio have both been prolific winners this season and although the latter was sold at the July Sales, Voice Mail will race on this summer and should continue to give a good account.

The three year olds have not exactly set the world alight and of the forty or so that we started with as two year



*PASSING GLANCE*

olds only a handful have the quality to become top class performers. Both Mr Lambros and Saint Etienne have immense potential but have been plagued by problems since winning maidens at Lingfield and we eagerly await their return to full fitness.

Albinus has been something of a revelation and after his poor behaviour and poor performance in his first start



*PRINCE OF THEBES winning at Ascot*

at Newbury this year, we feared he would never live up to his illustrious pedigree. The application of a pair of blinkers, however, has seen him rise thirty seven pounds in the official handicap the highlights of which were a facile win in the Bibury Cup at Salisbury and an excellent third in a listed event at Haydock. The intention is that he will run next in the St Leger at Doncaster and although he still has a length or two to find on form he has every chance of being able to snatch a place.

Prince of Thebes defied a six month absence from the track when taking an all age handicap at Ascot in July. This handsome son of Desert Prince has the potential to make up into a really smart performer one day but after his performance at Folkestone it will be as a gelding rather than a colt!

One of the most consistent of horses was Royal Warrant, who has been sold to continue his racing career in Singapore. He won or was placed in six of his eight starts this year and made the frame in four of the big three year old handicaps. He will be missed, but we wish his new connections well for the future.

Donastrella is another who has shown great consistency in winning twice and being placed on three other occasions this summer. She is an improving filly

who should continue to give a good account of herself. Trick Cyclist and Red Birr both managed to win races after numerous good efforts prior to getting their heads in front. Red Birr is one to watch out for this autumn when he should get his preferred give in the ground. This is a time when we would also expect Kennet Valley's Conjuror to relish the softer ground, he was an impressive winner at Newmarket on ground faster than ideal. He is a full-brother to Acclamation and has an exciting future.

The two year olds have given us real hope for the future and at the time of writing we have had nine individual two year old winners and I would be disappointed if this score was not at least doubled by the end of the season. The stars to date have been Cape Greco who was an excellent second to Perfectperformance at Salisbury before beating the useful Berkhamstead comfortably in a conditions race at Ascot and Hoh Hoh Hoh. The frustration of injury has prevented the latter from running since his annihilation of his rivals in a maiden at Bath. Such was the ease of his victory we automatically regarded him as a genuine Group contender and hope that he can make up for lost time in the autumn.

Cape Greco will not race again this season having



*CAPE GREKO winning at Ascot*

suffered from a similar injury. However, in his case, it could well prove to be a blessing in disguise as he has so much physical improvement in him and should make in to a high class three year old.

Banknote is a half brother to Royal Warrant and has plenty of scope he is another who should improve next year. He won his maiden at Beverley and looks set to stay distances in excess of a mile. Diktatorial won his second start most impressively despite hanging all over Sandown and looks to have real quality. Lady le Quesne may not be very big but she has an enormous stride and an even bigger heart. A close second to subsequent listed race placed Southern Africa was followed by a good win in a maiden at Epsom and a brave win at Bath in a novice event over the minimum distance. She will now be targeted at the Watership Down Stud Sales race in September.

Marajuana had an inauspicious racecourse debut when she was the culprit of Martin Dwyer's failure to be able to take up an excellent book of rides at Royal Ascot. Her paddock antics resulted in Martin suffering a broken hand and her first racecourse appearance being postponed a fortnight. When it did finally happen Neil Chalmers was the brave man on board and in spite of being a little bit of a madam in the preliminaries she still won in good style. Her next appearance was again a

non-event when she dived under the starting stalls and has had to receive intensive remedial work from Steve 'Yarmy' Dyble. Talented but obviously temperamental she comes with a bit of a government health warning.

Alsu has run with great credit in all of her runs in England this year and was our first two year old winner of the season. Street Cred was a winner first time out but has proved somewhat disappointing since, albeit in good company. Of the two year olds who have yet to win a number have made hugely promising debuts and look certain to win races in the future. L'Escapade and Bay Hawk both finished third in competitive maidens at Newmarket and Salisbury respectively. The former should certainly win a race this season and as a late foal he should continue to improve with time. Bay Hawk is a colt full of promise with the pedigree to suggest that he will come in to his own when running over middle distances and further.

Chantaco and County Clare have both had a couple of runs and improved significantly for their first outings. Chantaco filled the runner up spot at Brighton on his second start whilst County Clare stepped up on her debut run to finish a close second at Newbury and third in a good class maiden at Newmarket.

Kingsholm is another who was in need of experience on his first run a looks like a colt for the future after his most recent third at Sandown. Likewise Silver Highlight who ran a fine second to a well regarded horse in her Yarmouth maiden. She is the type to improve at three and we are all looking forward to watching her next season.

House Martin made a highly encouraging debut as did Middle Earth who took second at Windsor. Flying Ridge has not yet shown on the racecourse what she is capable of at home but I would have every confidence she will show her true colours in the fullness of time. Holbeck Ghyll has already shown useful form and as soon as he is injury free he will have no problem in getting on the winning track.

Speed of Sound is another who has shown form, but it was still somewhat below what she had been showing at home. She looks a well handicapped filly for the autumn. Tashyra and Tuvalu are two horses who should also make the winners enclosure before the end of the year.

Of those yet to race Palace Walk and Pittsburgh are both colts who should see the racecourse this autumn, they are middle distance types who have already shown a degree of ability at home. Foxy Gwynne and Silver Symbol have both shown plenty of promise but have been delayed in making the races by niggles and Sun Bian is also a colt whose preparation has been interrupted but he too looks to have potential. ■

# TINY TIM



*HOUND v HORSE*

Tiny's exploits on the racecourse are described in Andrew's article. What is not depicted is his supreme versatility. Before the Derby he was used in a brilliant piece of promotion advertising the fact that the Vodafone Derby was to be run on the same day as the William Hill Greyhound Derby. He raced a greyhound at Kempton in the evening over two furlongs. Kieran Fallon was booked to ride but in a moment of clear reasoning handed the ride over to Fergus Sweeney. The greyhound, an elderly and semi-retired dog belonging to David Hood of William Hill was drawn on the opposite side of the track. Undoubtedly on the faster ground and probably with his trap opening before Tiny's stall, the greyhound romped home to an easy victory.

Tiny's other leisure interest is polo, although lightly played he is quite willing to stick and ball but slightly resents getting too involved in the melee.

Another extra curricula activity is terrorising inexperienced riders which is the "mean" streak he possesses. Lobbing around as if butter wouldn't melt in his mouth with the retired trainer he has been known to take off at 100 m.p.h. and then unceremoniously dump the unsuspecting passenger.

One thing that he does not have a natural aptitude for is jumping and even with age and experience in the saddle he has emerged on his own from a schooling session minus his bridle!



# SCORNED

Quote from the Spring Quarter 2004 Page 3

***“Scorned has made a very pleasing return from a long lay off and his Newbury second to Albuhera was a really good run. He looks handicapped to win a nice prize if we can steer him clear of the many injuries that have blighted his career to date.”***



Barry Fenton, SCORNED and Cazzy

## **We did and he has!**

He ran out the very game winner of the Sunderlands Imperial Cup on March 13th ridden by Barry Fenton, who shattered his leg the very next week in a bad fall at Huntingdon. Sadly the horse is also out again with another leg injury. Barry will hopefully be back before too long, the horse has time slightly against him but will make a great hack if he doesn't race again and he certainly made all the time and patience worthwhile. Our thanks to Cazzy (Peter Williams) who has spent hours getting the horse back to fitness and to John and Mo Gray who have had him on their lovely farm in Devon for many of the months he has had off.

# HAMPSHIRE AIR AMBULANCE OPEN DAY

**Back in early March, while sitting around the kitchen table, yet again, discussing the whereabouts of Dad's book signing, he managed somehow to twist our arms into holding the launch of "Making the Running" at an Open Day. Previous to this conversation no Open Day had been mentioned let alone arranged!!**

An Open Day sounds so easy, but we have all been reminded why these are not an annual event at Park House Stables! After many hours of poster printing, laminating, sticking up, ticket tearing, sign making, horse labels designing and general dilly dallying the 13th June came and went. Thanks to everyone, especially Andy Lawrence and Brian Coventry, the place was immaculate, all the staff were superb and helped out wherever possible and the most important thing the Air Ambulance charity collected well over £3000.

The day was glorious attracting a crowd of around 1000 people all of whom made good use of the ice cream van. Clare and I compered the horse parade with Clare modelling the very fancy Kingsclere clothing (T shirts, polo shirts, mugs and baseball caps all still in stock!!) The visitors saw Phoenix Reach, Passing Glance and many others ridden in the starting

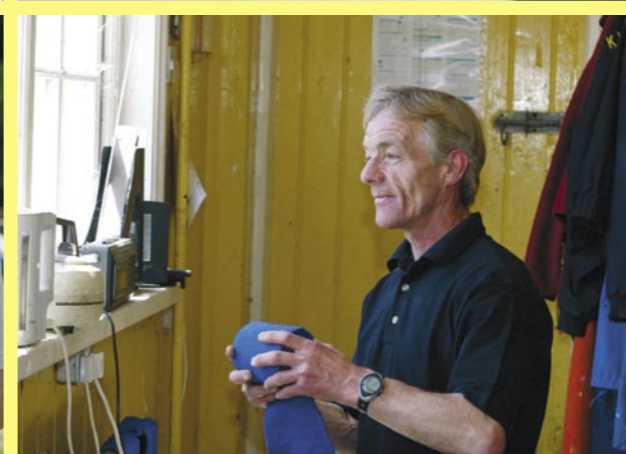
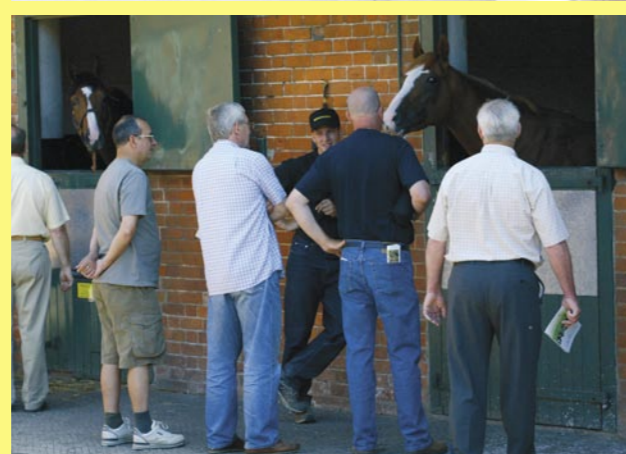
gate field. A swimming display, farrier display, veterinary demonstration and 'design your own silks' competition were among some of the things to do and see during the morning.

Oh yes, I nearly forgot, Dad sold 138 signed copies of Making the Running , a great relief for all!

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the event, particularly Anna Lisa Williams who in truth organised us all. The plan is for the Hampshire Air Ambulance to be up and flying by March next year. Hopefully they will never have to visit the gallops at Kingsclere, but should the occasion arise they will be able to land on either the Lochsong Gallop or on the Downs within twelve minutes of the phone call and with a Doctor permanently on board, will ensure that the patient is in the best hands during transit to either the North Hants Hospital at Basingstoke or the more specialised hospital at Southampton. ■



# JUNE 13 OPEN DAY



# THE 2004 **12** TO FOLLOW COMPETITION

## Scores up to and including August 18th 2004

<b>1 ALLPORT, DAVID</b>	<b>153</b>		
<b>2 WILLIAMS A-L (WELSH)</b>	<b>143</b>		
<b>3 GRANT, PAT</b>	<b>141</b>		
<b>4 FARREN, JOHN</b>	<b>140</b>		
5 BARBER, HAZEL	138	31 HOBHOUSE, J (A)	114
6 DERBYSHIRE, D	137	31 LUMBLEY, S	114
7 BALDING, M.R. & C	134	35 AUBREY, D	113
7 KENNEDY, J	134	35 RANDOM WALK	113
9 RITSON, W & V	131	37 RHODES/COUSINS	112
10 COATH-WILSON, T	130	38 POWELL, D (A)	111
10 GREEN, MARION (A)	130	38 SHARLAND, R	111
12 GORDON, JOHN	127	38 STANSBY, C (A)	111
13 BALDING, IAN	125	41 GORROD, J	110
14 COPE, C (C)	124	42 BALDING, EMMA	109
15 COLEMAN, GEORGE	122	42 HALL, SIMON	109
15 DILLON, BATT (C)	122	44 WILLIAMS, PETER	108
15 MCLAREN, S	122	45 MCDUGALL, R	107
18 KENNEDY, R	121	45 TEACHER, HUGH (B)	107
18 KNIBBS, MARK	121	47 CASLON, D	106
20 MACKINNON, R	120	47 COPE, C (A)	106
21 CULLEN, S	119	47 HARRIS, NIGEL	106
21 DAY, MIKE	119	47 WILSON, JULIAN	106
23 GOSWELL, SIMON	118	51 BAILEY, MARIE	105
24 HYDE, M	117	51 DERBYSHIRE/CHIV(B)	105
25 BUTCHER, G	116	53 LUMLEY, P	103
25 O'BRIEN, M & D (B)	116	54 KING, GAIL	102
25 PETTIT, D (B)	116	54 MCWILLIAM, D	102
25 REIS, P	116	56 DANGAR, RICHARD	101
29 EVANS, MALCOLM	115	56 EDMEADES, W	101
29 HALL, BEVERLEY	115	56 MASON, T (A)	101
31 BARRINGTON, GLYNN	114	56 MASTERTON, L	101
31 GEE, SIMON	114	60 KENNEDY, Y	100
		61 HALL, DAVID	99
		61 HALL, JULIA	99
		63 COVENTRY, S	98
		63 ELLIS-JONES, W	98
		63 GAY, SUE	98
		63 O'BRIEN, M & D (C)	98
		63 PATTON, N (A)	98
		68 GAY, DAVID	97
		68 MACKINNON, B	97
		68 PAYTON, M	97
		68 STRUTHERS, L	97
		68 WECHSLER, E	97
		73 GREEN, MARION (B)	96
		73 LILLINGSTON, L	96
		73 WILLIAMS, ANNA LISA	96
		76 AUBREY, E	95
		76 KNAPP, SIMON	95
		76 MCWILLIAM, R	95
		79 CHONG, GARY	93
		79 LEE-ROBINSON, N	93
		81 HOBHOUSE, J (B)	92
		81 MULLIGAN, A	92
		81 NICHOLLS, A	92
		84 CULLEN, E	91
		84 MELLUISH, A	91
		86 JOHNSON/BOUNDS (A)	90
		86 TEACHER, HUGH (A)	90
		88 COPE, C (B)	89

88 PETITT, D (A)	89	130 DAY, MEL	77	170 WOOLLEY, SHARON	63
88 WATES, C	89	130 JENKINSON, R	77	172 KOOROS, L	62
91 DILLON, BATT (B)	88	130 LOVELL, LYNDA	77	172 MURPHY, J	62
91 KENT, MARK	88	130 MCPHEE, S (B)	77	172 WILSON, D	62
91 MASON, T (B)	88	130 NEWBERY, K	77	175 KEENE, ADAM	61
91 RANSON, J	88	135 ARNOLD, HUGH	76	176 BALDING, ANDREW	56
95 BALDING, CLARE	87	135 BACK, DAVID	76	176 HODGKINS, A	56
95 PLUMBLY, HELEN	87	135 WEEDY, MICK	76	176 PRINCE RUPERT	56
97 CHESHIRE, A (B)	86	138 ARNOLD, PAMELA	75	179 BROUGHTON, T	55
97 FRAMPTON, PAT	86	138 BROUGHTON, E	75	179 BURGOYNE, S	55
97 GEE, MARY	86	138 MICHAELSON, SOOTY	75	181 GALE, JOHN	54
97 HILL, AUDREY	86	141 DILLON, BATT (A)	74	182 HESLOP, D	53
97 MICHAELSON, R.P.B.	86	141 MEARS, G	74	183 KEENE, ANNIE	52
97 PLUMBLY, SIMON	86	141 WILLIAMS, SUZIE	74	183 PALMER, A	52
97 REES, L	86	144 ARNOLD, ALICE	73	185 BEDFORD, PETER	50
97 THOMAS, K	86	144 FEANE, JOHN	73	185 HUMPHRIES, G	50
105 BROUGHTON, B	85	144 HALLAS, GARY (B)	73	187 LAMBOURNE, EMMA	48
105 HALL, MELANIE	85	144 MICHAELSON, R.C.B.	73	187 LEES, FIONA	48
105 MCPHEE, M	85	148 THOMAS, J	72	187 W.W.S.K.	48
105 PALMER, W	85	149 CHESHIRE, A (C)	71	190 WILLIAMS, PUDDLE	46
105 PASCOE, R	85	149 WOODS, JULIA	71	191 BELL, CLIVE	44
105 PLUMMER, A	85	151 BAVEYSTOCK, H	70	191 MITCHELL, B	44
105 WALKER, T	85	151 CHRISTOU, ANTHONY	70	191 RAE SMITH, M.A. (B)	44
105 WEEDY, MAUREEN	85	151 FISHER, TED	70	194 DOHERTY, T	43
113 FOSTER, C (A)	84	151 LUCK, G (B)	70	195 HOLISTIC (B)	42
113 H.M.B.	84	151 WATSON, G	70	196 DICK (GAMEKEEPER)	41
113 HALLAS, GARY (C)	84	156 CLAYTON, D	69	196 HALE, JANICE	41
113 MACREADY, N	84	156 DERBYSHIRE/CHIV (A)	69	196 POWELL, D (B)	41
113 SIMPSON, A	84	158 HOWSON, G	68	199 KINGSCLERE STUD	40
118 HALLAS, GARY (A)	83	158 WALKER, G	68	200 COVENTRY, B	39
118 PATTON, N (B)	83	160 WILLIAMS, GLYN	67	200 LYSAGHT, C	39
118 ROYAL GREENLAND	83	161 NEWMAN, L	66	200 WINTERBECK (B)	39
121 GAY, L.M.	82	161 PARENTE, R	66	203 BRYSER	36
121 JOHNSON/BOUNDS (B)	82	161 RAE SMITH, M.A. (A)	66	203 HOLISTIC (A)	36
121 STANSBY, C (B)	82	161 RICHARDSON, J	66	203 WINTERBECK (A)	36
124 GOVER, TONY	81	165 FOSTER, C (B)	65	204 BEASANT, PETE	35
124 LUCK, G (A)	81	166 BOX, PETER	64	205 OUR TURN P/SHIP	34
124 O'BRIEN, M & D (A)	81	166 HASTINGS, P	64	206 CHESHIRE, A (A)	33
124 OVETT, N	81	166 SAVORY, P	64	207 MCPHEE, S (A)	32
128 TUCKER, D	79	166 TREGASKES, G	64	208 BARBER, DAVID	26
129 CATRIDGE COOLCATS	78	170 WHITE, T	63	209 O'BRIEN, M & D (D)	7

## LEADING LISTS

DAVID ALLPORT		ANNA-LIZA WILLIAMS (from Penarth)		PAT GRANT		JOHN FARREN	
GOLDEN DIXIE	10	ALSU	26	ALSU	26	CAPE GREKO	16
HOH HOH HOH	10	BANK NOTE	12	ANTICIPATING	7	DIKTATORIAL	
INTENDED		CONJUROR	10	BANK NOTE	12	DUBAIAN GIFT	
KINGSHOLM	4	FLEETING MOON	6	BORDER MUSIC	10	DUBAIAN QUEST	
LOCHRIDGE	24	SILVER SYMBOL		BRIEF ADVENTURE		HOLBECK GHYLL	8
PASSING GLANCE	16	SPEED OF SOUND	9	COUNTY CLARE	10	LOCHRIDGE	24
SPEED OF SOUND	9	STREET CRED	10	DUBAIAN GIFT		PASSING GLANCE	16
TAG TEAM	20	TAG TEAM	20	LOCHRIDGE	24	ROYAL WARRANT	19
TAPA		THE PLAYER		SILVER HIGHLIGHT	6	SPEED COP	7
TARAWAN		TRICK CYCLIST	20	STILLETTOE STAR		STREET CRED	10
TINY TIM	34	VOICE MAIL	29	TRICK CYCLIST	20	TAG TEAM	20
VANDERLIN	26	YEOMAN LAD	1	VANDERLIN	26	TRICK CYCLIST	20

There were some unnamed horses in the Spring Quarter list and two of the names have been changed. STONEWALL is now called **MIDDLE EARTH**, SILINA has now been renamed **SILVER SYMBOL**.

The additional names are as follows:-

CASUAL GLANCE	Sinndar – Spurred
ROSECLIFF	Montjeu – Dance Clear
HEAT ALERT	Valid Expectations – Melt My Heart
REGAL ATTIRE	Kingmambo – Style Setter
STAY CLOSE	Belong To Me – Cymbala
STRING BAND	Spinning World – Our Wildirish Rose

The Sinndar – Speedybird filly has still not had a name confirmed.



*Andrew, William and Anna Lisa on Shergar Cup Day*

# YEARLING SALES 2004

I suppose that the yearling sales always creep up on us before we are really ready for them, but come the middle of October all the major sales of youngsters in the USA and Europe will be over. There are always older horses to buy later and the two year old breeze up sales in March/April but the major restock for the yard is in the yearling purchases.

Saratoga has been and gone with three ear marked for owners and two more bought on spec. We move on to Doncaster and Fairyhouse in mid September and then in late September and October the new format at Tattersalls, Goffs and a second Doncaster sale. The buying record over the past five years has been improving as the quantity bought has increased. Having previously relied heavily on owner/breeders there has been more demand from new owners to go out and buy.

We will be buying a few more on spec but if anyone reading this has a specific order please get in touch as

soon as possible. Good horses are out there and not always ridiculously expensive. Pentecost has proved that for 5,000gns you can win good races and have a huge amount of fun. Spend a little more you can buy a group 1 winner, Phoenix Reach for 36,000. There is usually a reason for something being cheap, it is either unfashionable or the confirmation leaves a bit to be desired but if they are athletic they can often realise a racing potential that is neither on paper or in the show ring.

If I start to list the success stories it would only be fair to include the failures also so safer to generalise by saying yes we have bought unsuccessfully but the winners so far out number the non winners! ■

We will keep our website [www.kingsclere.com](http://www.kingsclere.com) up to date with horses that are for sale and hopefully some pictures of them although there is no substitute for seeing them in the flesh.



PENTECOST on Shergar Cup Day

# I.A.B. MY TOP FIFTEEN

## Number 2 LOCHSONG

**T**he main reason that Lochsong takes pride of place over stars like Selkirk, Mrs Penny and Glint of Gold in my list of the best horses I was lucky enough to train is that she was one of the very few sprinters ever to be voted Racehorse of the Year.

This Cartier award came at the end of 1993 when she was also champion sprinter and she went on to become champion sprinter again in 1994 at the end of her six year old season. These awards said as much about her popularity with the racing public and press and her exciting style of racing, as about her ability.

Lochsong first came to Kingsclere as a three year old in 1991 with instructions from Jeff Smith, her owner/breeder, just to try and make her a winner. He was aware that she was not very sound and might be difficult to train. After her debut at Salisbury in mid-summer when

she had finished second in a humble maiden race, she had to be rested after a hairline fracture to her near fore shinbone. Later in October she was fit enough to win a very ordinary maiden race at Redcar under a strong ride from Ray Cochrane.

I was thrilled that we had achieved her goal and made plans to send her back to Littleton Stud at once. It is well known that one of our apprentices, Francis Arrowsmith known to us all as "Scully" had struck up a particularly happy partnership with this somewhat difficult filly. As a reward for his patience and hard work I asked Ron Sheather, Jeff's racing manager, if he would let Scully ride the filly in an apprentice handicap at Newbury virtually on her way back to stud. Ron said that he was sure that Jeff, who was away on business in the USA, would not mind. Consequently Lochsong and her young rider were



*LOCHSONG 1994 Royal Ascot, Kings Stand Stakes.*



*LOCHSONG 1994 Temple Stakes*

able just to hold on and win a 7 furlong apprentice race by the minimum margin.

With two wins and a second – albeit in very modest company – to her name she came back to us as a four year old in 1992. Scully rode her in her first race that season and she finished third in a 6 furlong handicap at Pontefract. She looked very well handicapped in a valuable race at York in May and with only 7.12 to carry we engaged Willie Carson to ride her. The owner was encouraged to support his filly at long odds and Lochsong duly obliged.

This began an exciting programme for our improving filly with appearances in all the major sprint handicaps for the rest of the season. She probably did not quite stay the stiff six furlongs at Ascot when a close fourth in the Wokingham, but there followed an unprecedented treble in the Stewards Cup at Goodwood, the Portland Handicap at Doncaster and then with her pound penalty another exhilarating pillar to post victory in the Ayr Gold Cup.

Lochsong finished her great season with a second in the Group II Diadem Stakes at Ascot at the end of September and she had moved up no less than thirty pounds in the handicap during the season. Luckily there was no suggestion of her retiring now. In her five year old season Lochsong had ran four times in Group

races by early June without actually winning, so we all decided that a short holiday back at Littleton would do her good.

This break re-vitalised her and with Frankie Dettori now as her permanent partner she won a listed race at Sandown in early July and then the King George V Stakes at Goodwood at the end of the month. I vividly recall her sheepskin noseband appearing out of the fog in front that day when she just beat the game grey colt Paris House, trained by Jack Berry, in one of their many jousts in all the major sprints.

Lochsong's next venture was in the prestigious Group I Nunthorpe Stakes at York. She was meeting some of her Goodwood opponents on far worse terms here but her dramatic improvement was still evident. In one of the most emotional sixty seconds of my life Lochsong and Frankie blitzed up the five furlong track at the Knavesmire in unforgettable fashion. This was the moment that the English press and public first took her to their hearts.

At the end of the season Lochsong won the Prix de L'Abbaye de Longchamp in similar breathtaking style by a long looking six lengths after which, as I have said, she was crowned not just sprinter of the year but Cartier Racehorse of the Year as well. Her owner insisted that now her trainer had finally discovered her best distance



*LOCHSONG 1994 Prix de L'Abbaye*

she should return to Kingsclere as a six year old and try and win them all again.

Explosive front running victories in the Palace House and Temple Stakes brought our heroine to Royal Ascot as a warm favourite for the Kings Stand Stakes. There again she delighted the huge crowd with a devastating front-running display. She disappointed in the July Stakes at Newmarket when returning to six furlongs, where a rather speedy canter to the start had not helped her chances. However she returned to the winners enclosure at Goodwood for a second King George V Stakes win later in the month..

When returning to York for another tilt at the Nunthorpe Stakes, Lochsong was undone by the compulsory parade beforehand and broke the track record for a "canter" down to the start. After a not surprisingly lifeless display in the race itself Lochsong by common consent returned to Littleton for another little "refresher".

Two weeks later she returned to be prepared for one final crack at the Prix de L'Abbaye on Arc de Triomphe Day at Longchamp. There she was allowed to walk to the start by the French Stewards so that her mind and energy was focused on the race itself. Frankie and Lochsong treated the vast crowd to one final coup de grace as she made all to win by a thrilling five lengths. Frankie walked her afterwards past those enormous grandstands so that

the crowd could appreciate our champion sprinter before returning to the winner's enclosure. It was for me and all our team yet another extremely emotional occasion.

Sadly in a way, and with nothing apparently to lose, we decided to take our filly to the Breeders Cup Sprint at Churchill Downs. Lochsong broke some watches in an unscheduled work out two days before the big race but failed to sparkle on the day. Frankie wisely let her coast home quietly. It was later found that she had in fact chipped a bone in her knee which while not life threatening would have been career ending anyway.

Lochsong was probably not the best sprinter of her decade, but without a doubt she was the most popular. She herself knew it and became not a little temperamental long before the end of her career. Without the considerable help of the afore mentioned Scully and of her devoted lad Chris Scudder, to say nothing of her affection for my old hack Quirk, who ponied her virtually everywhere in her final season, Lochsong might not have become the legend she did.

It is unlikely that a hard raced mare such as her will produce offspring anywhere as good as herself, but we can keep on hoping. What is certain is that Lochsong remains a thrilling memory for all of us who were fortunate enough to be closely associated with her. ■

# BITS AND BRIDLES



DUBAIAN GIFT at Windsor

In what had been a topsy turvy season the three most disappointing aspects have been under-performance of stable star Phoenix Reach, the injury to Victory Moon before he had even run for Kingsclere and most distressing of all the loss of the wonderful Dubaian Gift, who suffered a ruptured aorta after the Kings Stand Stakes at Ascot. He had been a wonderful servant and one of the great rags to riches stories before his cruel demise. He is sorely missed by us all. He ran 26 times winning 7, second 3 and third once.

Neil Chalmers and Sara (Trooper) Metcalf have produced a beautiful little girl Jessica. She weighed in late at 6lbs and everyone is doing well.

Richard Killoran is leading the Teletext sponsored "hands and heels" apprentice series at the moment. The final is at Doncaster but there is a fair way to go yet and we hope that he can continue to hold on and win it.

Gunner Welburn is back from his summer break to spearhead our jumping team. Weighing in at four kilos lighter than after last summer's holiday.

During the summer months we have had the usual influx of student placements and riders from jumping yards which have all been a great help. Also riding out quite regularly has been Kate Green from New Zealand, who posted the fastest time cross country at Badminton this year but sadly failed to get her horse to Athens.

She has been joined by Heidi Antikatzides, the sole Greek eventer in Athens, who sadly had a fall cross country. But they have both been a pleasure to watch doing some basic flat work on the less co-ordinated horses and organising them in a way that transformed their action.



'Trooper' in waiting

## KINGSCLERE

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