

SUMMER 2007

The KINGSCLERE *Quarter*



THE PARK HOUSE STABLES NEWSLETTER

The KINGSCLERE Quarter



Front cover: *DARK MISSILE* and William Buick
Back cover: *BANKNOTE* at Baden Baden with Frannie Norton
and Andy Whitehall

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THE

2007 has not yet been a year that I will remember with any great affection. A summer in which the weather has yet to resemble any thing other than a wet and miserable November, has complicated the racing season for both horses and humans and a spate of unrelated injuries to some of the yard's top performers have left a void in our prize money earnings that will be hard to fill.

The one outstanding highlight of an otherwise forgettable year was **Dark Missile's** fabulous victory in the Wokingham Stakes at Royal Ascot under a fine ride from William Buick. Dark Missile has been a major achiever in her relatively light racing career. A winner of one of her two starts as a two year old, she gained two high profile prizes last season when winning the £85,000 added Totesport.com Handicap at the Newmarket July meeting and the Shergar Cup Sprint at Ascot. This season she had started her campaign with a good effort to finish fourth in a very competitive sprint handicap at Newmarket in May and it was decided that she should then be targeted directly at the Wokingham a full six weeks later.

A certain degree of luck is always required when tackling these big handicaps and with a favourable high draw, some rain arriving at the track in time to turn the ground to good to soft and a five pound claimer riding out of his skin, there appeared to be ticks in many of right boxes. What is also needed to win a race of this nature is a horse with both class and desire and in Dark Missile we had the perfect candidate to pull off a win in one of the season's most competitive cavalry charges. William Buick rightly received an abundance of praise for a flawless ride and for Jeff Smith it was his second homebred winner of the meeting which is an achievement that any owner/breeder would be rightly proud of. Dark Missile disappointed on her next start at York but the atrocious racing conditions that day were probably to blame. She bounced back to form with a good second under a fine ride from Hayley Turner in the Shergar Cup Distaff with her stable mate, Loch Verdi, close up fourth. There remain plenty of good opportunities for her this season.

Injuries are sadly part and parcel of the racing game and reducing the number and severity of them occurring is an aspect of training that we have invested a lot of time, money and effort in. Top class training facilities, veterinary advice and head lads with experience and careful attention to detail will drastically limit the severity of any injury,

SEASON SO FAR

by Andrew Balding



DARK MISSILE wins the Wokingham Handicap at Royal Ascot

but unfortunately where there is athletic demand on a thoroughbred there will also be injuries.

This season has been particularly cruel in this department and career ending injuries to three of our most promising older horses has been a bitter pill to swallow. **Kalankari** looked to have a seven furlong conditions race at Warwick in safe keeping before taking a false step and severing his superficial flexor tendon in May. Not only was he collared on the line as he bravely tried to hold on with only three legs operating properly through the last fifty yards of the race, but the injury sustained was so severe that he will never race again. In all Kalankari raced 18 times winning on three occasions including at this year's Dubai Carnival and finishing placed on 11 other occasions. He was a role model for tenacity and consistency and he will be sadly missed in the yard although he is sure to enjoy his new career as a polo pony stallion.

Sabah was another high class performer who has been retired prematurely to take up stud duties due to an injury sustained in training and **Shade Cozy** who

has had to endure so much hard luck in his all too short racing career has been retired having suffered a further setback. To add to the misfortune of losing these three horses on a permanent basis, injuries to two of other flagship horses have seen both **Ollie George** and **Diamond Quest** ruled out for the season.

It has not all been doom and gloom and although winners have been reasonably hard to come by the horses on the whole have run well for much of the season and the performances of some of the two year olds have given us great hope for the future. **Donegal** has already confirmed himself as a top class two year old when finishing third in the season's strongest 7 furlong race to date having previously won his maiden in impressive fashion. A further test of stamina should see him in an even better light and he should be capable of contesting some of the top two year old mile races of the autumn. **Jedediah's** introduction to the racecourse was a baptism of fire as he made his debut in Royal Ascot's Chesham Stakes. Far from disgraced he was beaten only two and



BORDER MUSIC Ascot July 2007

half lengths into fifth place and then ran another fine race to be second in a hotly contested Sandown maiden. He is an exciting prospect for next year as he has plenty of speed for a horse who should be capable of staying middle distances next season.

Wigrams Turn made an eye catching debut when comfortably winning his first race at Redcar in May by four lengths. He ran well enough to be third in a conditions race at Salisbury on his next start before disappointing at listed level at Ascot on his third start. There is a lot more to come from this horse however as the ability he has shown in some of his home work suggests that he will be winning a decent race or two before long.

Dream Eater rather frustratingly remains a maiden after some high class performances. His run to be fourth in the Windsor Castle Stakes at Royal Ascot displayed some of the abundant ability he possesses and he has also run with credit in other highly competitive races; his first win will not be far away.

Polygraph and **Flying Indian** have both filled the runners up berth this summer and both look likely to win races at some stage this year, whilst **Restless Genius**, **Far Song**, **Ever Dreaming** and **Too Grand** have shown enough to suggest that they too are capable of winning sooner rather than later. There are still some exciting horses yet to make their debuts so look out for the

likes of **Your Pleasure**, **Blue Sky Basin**, **Arewig Lissome**, **Top Lock** and **Karate Queen** over the coming months.

Of the older horses **Banknote** started the year in fine style when he stepped up from handicaps to Listed races when winning the Doncaster Mile in March. He furthered this progress when comfortably winning the Group 3 Badener Mile in Baden Baden on his next start and then ran a fine race in defeat when finishing second to the top class Soldier Hollow in another Group 3 event at Dortmund. Banknote is the perfect horse to travel on the international circuit as he has a marvellous temperament, so important to successfully travel from one country to the next. It is hoped that his autumnal campaign will include the \$1 million Topkapi Trophy in Istanbul on September 9th.

Border Music also started the season off with a Listed race win and finally put a frustrating run of defeats on the turf to an end when winning over 5 furlongs at Ascot in July. He remains a high class performer who could well add to his successes through the remainder of the season. **Dingaan** had become very difficult to predict last season having started the year by winning three of his first five starts. He started this season off in good style again when winning a valuable Goodwood handicap in May and has continued to run well in top

handicaps. He too should be adding to his score in the coming months.

Chantaco started the year in uncharacteristically poor form but a lengthy holiday at Hillwood Stud should have put him spot on for an Autumn campaign which will include a tilt at the Cambridgeshire. **Gordonsville** and **Antigoni** were both desperately unlucky to be denied wins in the shadow of the post at Catterick and Wolverhampton respectively. The former will have other chances to make amends but sadly that was Antigoni's last and best chance of a win as she has retired to the paddocks at Winterbeck in foal to Phoenix Reach.

Lundys Lane has spent the last four years in training in Dubai and joined us at Kingsclere in May. He ran good races in two top notch handicaps at Ascot and Sandown before running a fine race to be second in a classified race back at Ascot on King George day. This was followed by a frustrating and unlucky attempt in the valuable Old Newton Cup, back over a mile and a half. Stopped in his tracks twice in the last three furlongs, he ran on bravely to be fourth beaten only a length and a half by the winner. He looks to retain the enthusiasm and ability and hopefully will get another chance to win a decent prize before the end of the year.

Pentecost and **Vanderlin** also spent the winter in Dubai and have returned in fairly good form. Both are advancing in years and don't have quite the gears that they used to have but are still competitive at a high level. Vanderlin has been placed twice at listed level this year and Pentecost ran a fine race in the Victoria Cup and remained on target for his attempt to win a third Shergar Cup Mile. He was not disgraced in finishing third. **Irony** is another horse who is not getting any younger and although he followed a couple of decent placed efforts with a couple of indifferent performances he is at last getting some respite from the handicapper so his return to the winners enclosure should not be far away.

The three year olds have been somewhat of a disappointment so far this year although both **Telltime** and **Oceana Gold** have managed to win twice and have displayed the sort of attitude needed to win more races in the future. Oceana Gold looks a handicapper to follow as he seems to be improving all the time and his tenacious win under William Buick at Sandown was an excellent effort.

Probably the most exciting three year old we have is **Lochstar** who being the son of two champion sprinters



BANKNOTE finishing 2nd in Dortmund

should not be short of speed and happily looks to have plenty of his parent's traits. He was unraced last season but still started off this year as a warm favourite for a five furlong maiden at Bath, but appeared to try to gallop with two legs in Somerset and the other two in Wiltshire, finishing a never nearer fifth. He had more of an idea what was required on his second start when blowing away a decent enough field of maidens at Lingfield on his second start and although encountering a couple of training setbacks since then he has the raw ability to make an impact in some top class sprints in the future.

Yeamans Hall is another colt of considerable potential and his conditions race victory in late April is just an indicator of what this horse could be capable of in the future. **Calzaghe** and **Buccellati** have both been a little unlucky not to win races this year and the latter in particular has been unfortunate to be denied a clear run on a couple of occasions when it really could have made a difference. In spite of the frustrations of the first half of the season there is still much to look forward to in the coming months and it is certainly possible to see one or more of our two year old crop develop into top class performers by the end of the autumn. ■

OLD DOGS – NEW TRICKS



Distant Prospect retired in October 2006 at the age of 9 and has found a new career. Under expert tuition from Dean Skeates and Claire Chambers he has learnt to jump coloured things slowly and accurately and then branch off on the cross country course with enthusiasm. Uncertainty about the water on his first venture prevented him from a clear round but there is potential there. John and Pauline Gale who were part owners with the Rae Smith's have even encouraged their daughter Kate Caskey to take him hacking and the photographs prove his new found versatility. ■



NIGEL HARRIS



Elizabeth and Nigel Harris with Johnny Rae Smith at Epsom

All at Kingsclere were enormously saddened to hear of the death of Nigel Harris after heart surgery in July. He and Elizabeth have been much valued owners at Kingsclere since moving Northern Goddess here on the retirement of Nicky Vigers in 1988.

In shares with her breeder, John Hobhouse, the Goddess proved to be an exciting and talented sprinter. Winning her maiden at Newbury as a two year old she progressed to winning both a listed and Group 3 race at Phoenix Park, being second at Ascot in the Diadem Stakes and the following year second in the Scarborough Stakes at Doncaster. With shares in Pride of My Heart, Kilcoran Bay, Prince of Thebes, Grip FastTuvalu, Norther Secret, Mara River, Marabello and Total Magic he had winners, but none quite emulated the flying filly.

Nigel was always enthusiastic, realistic and had a wonderful sense of humour. As good a loser as winner he was the epitome of a great owner and it is sad that he did not see his current horse, My Learned Friend, realise his full potential. Being an orthopaedic surgeon

himself he fully understood the various injuries that beset his horses and he was incredibly patient with them.

His great friend, George Smart, also had horses at Kingsclere after Nicky retired and he and Elizabeth frequently came racing with George and helped him celebrate the likes of Knock Knock, Self Expression, Vola Via and Easter Ogil. We will miss his wisdom and kindness, but hope very much that Elizabeth can enjoy some success in the future. ■



Nigel and Elizabeth with Malcolm Evans at a Kingsclere Open Day

THE 2007 **12** TO FOLLOW COMPETITION

These are the current scores [up to 31 July] at this early stage in our 12 to follow competition. Scores look pretty tight, reflecting the fact that many horses have scores in the teens. Obviously, many 2yos have still to show us what they can do on the racecourse. Things will change quickly!

		1 WALLIS, EMMA	100					
		2 MCPHEE, STUART	95					
		3 AMB	93					
		4 IAB	92					
5	MCPHEE, ANGUS	87	31	GAY, SUSAN	66	59	PRINCE RUPERT	52
5	CHESHIRE, NATHAN (B)	87	33	BALDING, M & R	65	59	SMITH, JEFF	52
7	BOAKES, LOUISE	86	33	OSWALD, MICHAEL	65	59	PETTITT, DWAYNE	52
8	STILLINGS, MARK	84	33	RAE-SMITH, MRS M	65	59	CASLON, DENNIS	52
8	CHESHIRE, ANGELA (A)	84	33	GREEN, MARION	65	63	MACKINNON, ROGER	51
10	PALMER, ANNE	80	33	COX, TOM	65	63	REIS, PAUL	51
11	PAYTON, MICHAEL	78	33	HOWSON, G	65	65	OVETT, NICK	50
11	BARBER, HAZEL	78	39	GRUBB, PETER	64	65	HALLAS, GARY	50
13	MOWCHLIAN, DOMINIQUE	77	39	GRUBB, OLIVER	64	67	GAY, EDWARD	49
14	HODGKINS, A	75	41	POWELL, D	63	68	REGISTER, LAYTON	48
14	BUTCHER, MRS G	75	42	WATES, MRS M	62	68	ARNOLD, ALICE	48
14	KNOWLES, SHIREE	75	42	NEWBERY, MRS K	62	70	AEBERHARD, WERNER	46
14	PARIS, REX	75	44	FINLAY, ROSEMARY	61	70	COUSINS, ROSE	46
14	DANGAR, RICHARD	75	44	STANSBY, CLIVE	61	72	FORD, FUELS	45
14	SHARLAND, RACHEL	75	44	GOVER, TONY	61	72	GALE, JOHN	45
20	JOHNSON & BOUNDS (B)	74	47	FEANE, PADDY	60	72	BROUGHTON (B)	45
20	CULLEN, EUGENE	74	47	KING, EMMA	60	72	CAMPBELL-GRAY, JAMES	45
22	GRUBB, SARAH	72	47	JOHNSON/BOUNDS (A)	60	72	OATES, D	45
22	GAY, DAVID	72	47	PALMER, CLARE	60	72	CASLON, SARAH	45
22	WOOLLEY, STEVE	72	51	LEE-ROBINSON, NICK	59	78	RAMSDEN, JACK	43
25	CHESHIRE, NATHAN (A)	71	51	MASTERTON, CLAN	59	78	BISHOP, TREVOR	43
26	BACK, DAVID	70	53	ARNOLD, HUGH & PAM	58	78	HALL, DAVID	43
27	KING, GAIL	69	53	GRUBB, GEORGIA	58	81	MCPHEE, MINA	42
27	DILLON, BATT (A)	69	55	HILL, AUDREY	57	82	BAVEYSTOCK, HOWARD	41
27	CHIVERS/DERBYSHIRE (B)	69	56	CHESHIRE, ANGELA (B)	56	82	PARTNERSHIP, PATIENT	41
30	BRUNTON, GORDON	68	57	GORDON, SUZIE	55	84	DONAVAN, BRIAN	40
31	SLADE, VALERIE	66	58	GREEN, MARION (B)	54	85	OURY, GERALD	39

86 KINGSCLERE STUD	38	94 SAVORY, PAUL	35	104 NEWTON, WILLIAM	24
87 BRUNTON, GORDON	37	96 CHIVERS/DERBYSHIRE (A)	34	105 PLUMMER, ANN	23
87 BROUGHTON, T	37	97 LUMLEY, SUE	32	106 RANSOM, J	22
87 LUMLEY, PETER	37	98 PALMER, CECILIA	31	107 BALDING, EMMA	20
87 DILLON, BATT (B)	37	99 PALMER, W	29	108 BOX, PETER	19
87 JENKINSON, ROB	37	99 WATTS, J	29	109 MICHAELSON, ROGER	15
92 EVANS, MALCOLM	36	101 LUCN	27	110 LONSDALE, DEREK	14
92 HARRIS, NIGEL	36	102 SLADE, MARTIN	26	111 LAMBOURNE, EMMA	11
94 BEDFORD, PETER	35	103 COLEMAN, GEORGE	25	112 GAY, WILLIAM	7

SELECTION OF THE LEADERS

EMMA WALLIS

DARK MISSILE	11
OLLIE GEORGE	16
TELLTIME	16
RAMBLING LIGHT	1
BANKNOTE	20
YEAMANS HALL	10
DINGAAN	10
DONEGAL	16
MY AUNT FANNY	
TOP LOCK	
CHOCOLATE ÉCLAIR	
TOO GRAND	

STUART MCPHEE

DARK MISSILE	11
HOLBECK GHYLL	6
TELLTIME	16
GORDONSVILLE	12
LOCH VERDI	6
BANKNOTE	20
SIRENS GIFT	8
VENI BIDI VICI	
DONEGAL	16
EVER DREAMING	
INDIAN ANGEL	
YOUR PLEASURE	

AMB

BORDER MUSIC	11
OLLIE GEORGE	16
TELLTIME	16
BUCCELATTI	2
SPICE BAR	1
YEAMANS HALL	10
DREAM EATER	15
JEDEDIAH	6
DONEGAL	16
EVER DREAMING	
INDIAN ANGEL	
YOUR PLEASURE	

IAB

BANKNOTE	20
GORDONSVILLE	12
LOCH VERDI	6
BUCCELATTI	2
OLLIE GEORGE	16
YEAMANS HALL	10
BID ART	4
FLYING INDIAN	6
DONEGAL	16
EVER DREAMING	
MY LEARNED FRIEND	
YOUR PLEASURE	

LEADING HORSES

BANK NOTE	20
OLLIE GEORGE	16
TELLTIME	16
DONEGAL	16
DREAM EATER	15
OCEANA GOLD	14



BANKNOTE cooling off

SALES SEASON 2007

With the sales season fast approaching we thought we had better offer a timely reminder that yearling orders are welcome and take this opportunity to list some of the many successful purchases made by the Kingsclere Team in the past.

HORSES PURCHASED AS YEARLINGS BY THE KINGSCLERE TEAM

BLACK TYPE PERFORMER

Mrs. Penny	\$40000	Saratoga	Champion Two Year Old filly. Classic winner and King George runner up at three.
Weigh Anchor	39,000 gns	Newmarket Oct	Dante Stakes runner up and leading Derby fancy and at three years.
Border Arrow	28,000 gns	Newmarket Oct	Derby and Guineas placed and winner of £376,000
Tagula	36,000 gns	Doncaster	Group 1 winner at two. Classic placed at three and now a successful stallion.
Halmahera	36,000 gns	Doncaster	Group 3 winner of 9 races and over £300,000 in prize money.



PHOENIX REACH – Triple Group 1 winner of almost £2million – a bargain buy at just 36,000gns

Phoenix Reach	36,000 gns	Doncaster	Winner of 3 major international Group Ones and £2million in prize money.
Vanderlin	38,000 gns	Newmarket Oct	Group 2 winner of 7 races and £340,000 in prize money. Also Group 1 placed.
Pentecost	5,000 gns	Newmarket Autumn	Winner of 8 races and £260,000 including Britannia Stakes at Royal Ascot.
Silver Highlight	\$50,000	Saratoga	Winner of Wonder Where Stakes and over £100,000 in prize money.
Bourgainville	16,000 gns	Newmarket Oct	Group 2 placed winner of £ 108,000.
Dubaian Gift	6,500 gns	Newmarket Autumn	Listed race winner and winner of 6 other races, £88,000 in prize money.
Dubaian Duel	2,000 gns	Newmarket Oct	Group placed winner of £65,000 and sold after 12 months for 100,000 gns.
Sign Of Hope	42,000gns	Newmarket Oct	Group 2 winner of the Santa Anita Derby.
Trans Island	100,000gns	Newmarket Oct	Group 2 winner of 7 races and £271,000. Now a successful stallion.
Nicobar	45,000gns	Newmarket Oct	Group 2 winner of 6 races and £159,000.
Jayannpee	6,400gns	Doncaster	Group 3 winner of 10 races and £166,000.
Brandon Prince	17,500gns	Newmarket Oct	Listed winner of 10 races and £99,000.
Pay Homage	13,000gns	Newmarket Oct	Listed winner of 12 races and £144,000.

Other Notable purchases include:

Prince Of Thebes (Winner of 4 races and £75,00); **Chantaco** (Winner of 4 races & over £65,000 to date); **Dingaan** (winner of 4 races and £60,000 to date); **Palawan** (10 wins and £60,000); **Dumaran** (6 wins and £110,000); **Pantar** (4 wins and £112,000); **Golden Dixie** (8 wins and £67,000); **Papua** (9 wins and £105,000); **Sarangani** (5 wins and £45,00); **Middle Earth** (3 wins and £75,000); **Kalankari** (3 wins and £62,000); **Risky Reef** (5 wins and £54,000); **Tarawan** (6 wins and £51,000) and many more winners.



TAGULA – Group 1 winner and now successful stallion another bargain at 36,000gns

Contact

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MY FIVE LEAST FAVOURITE RACECOURSES

(following on from my 5 favourite racecourses)

I.A.B.

What constitutes one's least favourite racecourse is waking up in the morning and saying 'Oh hell, I've got to drive to so & so today' – for a number of reasons. Firstly it's probably a long and difficult drive, secondly the horse or horses we are running are probably pretty moderate and don't have much chance of winning and thirdly the racetrack itself is poor and one would sooner send the apprentice on his own rather than have to walk it with him!

Starting with the least awful I would number Brighton as number 5. My judgement here is somewhat clouded by having to go there one evening to do the 'funny' (rather than serious) speech at the grand dinner they held to mark the opening of their season back in about 1990. Roger Easterby who was in charge then had admittedly misled me as to the make up of the

audience. Consequently I had prepared a speech that was suitable perhaps for a male rugby player's dinner. I found myself sitting between the Lady Mayoress and the Chairman's wife and both of these eminent ladies were well into their seventies.

Not being versatile enough to alter my prepared dissertation I recited it in complete and embarrassing silence, except for the odd noisy guffaw from the present Duke of Devonshire, who was then Lord Hartington and head of BHB, and had earlier made the 'serious' speech. The best thing I can remember about Brighton is that William Buick had his first ride there and nearly won on my favourite polo pony, Tiny Tim.

Folkestone at No 4 is another course that does not help one's normally sunny nature by having to travel some distance on a seemingly grid locked



KINSMAN winning at Brighton

M25 to get there. I won a hunter chase there once on my lovely old horse Ross Poldark and that is certainly my favourite memory. Most of my visits however are spoilt by our horses being drawn low on the straight course and thinking it is a good draw (as the stalls are always placed on the stands side) – only to watch all the runners except ours make their way over to the far side rail. Then to witness ours – the jockey told by me of course to go the shortest way and therefore stay on the rail – finish some way behind the others! An early departure to beat the rush-hour traffic on that ghastly motorway is strongly recommended.



BORDER MUSIC overcoming the disadvantages of Wolverhampton

Catterick is a very tight undulating little circuit and, although I have only ever been there once myself, I rarely ran horses there either if I could help it. Certainly no half decent racehorse should ever be asked to go there. Somehow the young trainer must have persuaded his mother and me that the admirable Border Music should make the long journey North last season – to no avail of course. It serves him right that when poor Gordonsville got mugged in the very last stride there this season at long odds on A. Balding's record of 0 wins at the course in 15 attempts was frequently referred to!

Believe it or not but about forty years ago one could fly in to Wolverhampton racecourse in a little plane and I can remember landing one afternoon with Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie in Ted Dexter's plane with the England captain himself at the controls. I must have convinced those two intrepid punters that we had a real 'good thing' there, but I expect like most 'certainties' at Wolverers it got well stuffed.

Long ago I had said that I was never going to Wolverhampton again, but in early March I found Emma and myself driving up the dreaded M6 whilst I was still in my neck brace. With the aforementioned admirable Border Music winning a listed race and Rambling Light completing the

double that day, I really have no valid reason for including Wolverers in this list. Also facilities for both horses and visitors have improved out of all recognition since my early days as a trainer and especially with a photograph of a Kingsclere trained winner for Her Majesty the Queen back in about 1966 still prominently displayed – I am beginning to feel really quite guilty!

However if anyone from Arena Leisure ever happens to read this, they may be disappointed but perhaps not in total shock to discover in addition that my least favourite of all racecourses in this country is Southwell. I had long since told Andrew that I was never going to this God-forsaken place again when I found myself only last year making the tedious journey again. Despite his very precise instructions I managed to get well and truly lost and increasingly angry on my way in. I would only have done it for my old friend Tiny Tim and probably David Probert having his first ride. It was therefore with no sadness at all and indeed a certain amount of glee that I read Southwell racecourse had sunk in the recent floods. I hope that it and Great Leighs, if either ever emerges again, will do battle with each other in another life somewhere and that no horses from Kingsclere need ever be involved. ■

ROBELLINO

1978-2007 I.A.B.

One of the grand old men of the stallion world, Robellino, was put down on July 4th at Jeff Smith's Littleton Stud. He was twenty-nine years old and this wonderful old horse had played a major role in our fortunes at Kingsclere over many years.

I bought him originally as a yearling at Tattersalls for Mrs McDougald for 36,000 guineas. He was one of a group of yearlings from Roland de Chambure's famous Haras D'Etream consignment which had sold that year for 1,697,000 guineas. Fortunately he had slipped through the net the cheapest of the whole group. I remember being attracted by his handsome honest head, rounded quarters and forelegs with plenty of bone.

He turned out to be one of the very best two year olds of 1980 winning four of his six races including the Seaton Delaval St. (Group III) at Newcastle over seven furlongs and memorably the Royal Lodge Stakes (Group II) at Ascot in the Autumn. I recall thinking that he was also extremely unlucky not to win the Chesham Stakes at Royal Ascot where he was just caught on the line by Kirtling.

As a three year old he generally had a disappointing season, which probably wasn't helped by his owner's determination for him to run in the Derby. He finished

second in the Blue Riband Trial over a mile at Epsom in April and fourth in the Dante Stakes at York where he fairly obviously didn't get the trip. We let him take his chance in Shergar's Derby nevertheless, where Glint of Gold was the more fancied of our two runners and finished second. Robellino finished twelfth.

Tragically he fractured a bone in his near fore at Goodwood in September which finished his racing career. He was ridden in all his races except the Derby by our stable jockey, John Matthias and his groom here was Ken Cox.

One of our American owners, the late Marshall Jenney, had always loved the horse and was determined to buy him to stand as a stallion at his Derry Meeting Farm in Pennsylvania. Marshall struggled to get mares to him and wisely moved him on to the famous Windfields Farm in Maryland where he got more mares. The whole picture changed as soon as Robellino's first crop of two year olds ran. He took the title of leading first season sire in England thanks mainly to the exploits of the good colt Faustus and the Kingsclere trained filly Chalk Stream who was owned by the then Lord Porchester.

The following season Faustus won the Greenham Stakes and Hello Ernani, bred by Marshal but now



ROBELLINO winning Royal Lodge Stakes Ascot 1980



ROBELLINO & MRS PENNY

owned by George Strawbridge and trained here, was a close second in the Premio Parioli (Italian 2,000 Guineas). He had four stakes winners from a crop of only sixteen which was a remarkable start to his stallion career.

His level of success in the U.S.A. in no way matched his success here and happily Jeff Smith through London Thoroughbred Services came to the rescue buying a controlling interest in the horse for him to stand at Littleton for his first season there in 1989. His first major success here was from his 1991 crop when Mister Baileys won the 2000 Guineas and was fourth in the Derby.

Hardly a crop went by without him siring some important winner and he sired classic winners in three of his first six English crops. Happily we used him regularly for Emma's Kingsclere Stud and our best mare Spurned (Robellino – Refill) as the dam of four black type winners, including Passing Glance, and two other black type placed horses has been easily our most successful broodmare.

Robellino was very fertile and his offspring nearly all had his superb temperament. He will be sadly missed at Littleton in particular where he was a great favourite. ■

ONE YEARLING NOT PREPARED FOR SALE AT THIS TIME



Jonno James Balding born 29.12.06

