

SUMMER 2009

The KINGSCLERE *Quarter*



THE PARK HOUSE STABLES NEWSLETTER

The KINGSCLERE Quarter



Debrief after work on the downs

Front cover: *BUCCELLATI* winning the Group 3 Ormonde Stakes at Chester

Back cover: *COOL STRIKE* winning at Newmarket in July

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HALF

The yard has enjoyed an excellent start to the season in 2009 and, at the time of writing, we have currently registered 44 wins from 260 runners giving us a strike rate of 17% and a further 64 'podium' finishes. The most exciting aspect of the season to date is the fact that 7 of our 21 individual juveniles have already won and there is plenty of promise that this number will increase further through the second half of the season.

The older horses have also done their bit and **Buccellati** has progressed with every year. His third in the Group 3 Gordon Richards Stakes on his reappearance in April suggested there would be more to come and he went on to win the Group 3 Ormonde Stakes at Chester on his next start. It was quite possibly the slowest-run Group race in racing history, with the field hardly trotting for the first three-quarters of a mile. William Buick, who is enjoying a terrific season, rightly earned plenty of plaudits for taking up the running before quickening from the front as they approached the straight. It is worth remembering his two rivals were former Group 1 winners and in his next start Buccellati was travelling very well before being badly hampered in the Group 1 Coronation Cup on Derby Day. He was lame after that race, and so has been given a break with a view to



HATTON FLIGHT wins the Stan James Heritage handicap at the Newmarket Guineas meeting

TERM REVIEW

by Andrew Balding



VICTORIA MONTOYA the second leg of a Newmarket treble



OCEANA BLUE the third leg of the treble

bringing him back for an Autumn campaign, however he fully deserves to continue to take his chance at the highest level.

Hatton Flight has continued the improvement made last season, once again winning his first three starts of the year. However, he is competing at a much higher level now, and his latest win in a valuable Newmarket handicap was off a mark thirty pounds higher than when winning in April last year. He unfortunately parted company with William Buick shortly after the stalls opened in the Duke of Edinburgh at Royal Ascot, but showed himself to be in great form in winning riderless by a large margin! He has since disappointed at Haydock, but hopefully that was just a one-off, as he has proven to be a terrifically game and progressive stayer. It is to be hoped he continues to advance at the same rate over the next twelve months.

Lochstar won his second race on Lingfield's all weather in May and has run well enough off higher marks since to suggest there could be more success to come, while **Siren's Gift** has finished third and fourth in two Listed races this season and, considering how well she was running late last year, it is to be hoped she can get her head in front at some stage in 2009. **Corriolanus** showed a great deal of determination to register a victory for the first time in four years at Newbury under a very good ride from apprentice Richard Rowe, and hopefully he can continue to provide the Kingsclere Racing Club with plenty of fun.

Isphahan, My Learned Friend and **Rambling Light** were all winners last year and are getting back to marks off which they can be competitive; they could do well in the coming months.

FOUR YEAR OLDS

Dream Eater has once again shown a very high level of form this season, without yet getting his head in front, finishing second in the Group 2 Sandown Mile behind the top class Paco Boy, before filling fifth place in the Group 1 Queen Anne at the Royal meeting. He has run slightly below par the last twice but hopefully Group success may yet happen this season.

Oceana Blue made a good start to the season as she did in 2008, winning big-field handicaps at Newmarket and Doncaster this year. She is versatile as regards ground and trip, and with her willing attitude she can win again this year. **Victoria Montoya** is another to have started 2009 in good fashion, winning in some style at Newmarket before finding only one too good at Sandown on her next two starts, the latest occasion being her first run in Listed company. **Casilda** joined the yard this season, and after finishing third in handicap company on her first start for us, she ran the best race of her career to date when chasing home last year's Group 1 Falmouth third Heaven Sent in a Newmarket Group 3. That form has been franked by the

winner going close in Group 2 company at Royal Ascot, so there is every reason to be optimistic of a good season with her. The giant **Isabelonabicycle** only made her debut late last year but she has recorded two wins and two placings already this season, so hopefully she will continue to make up for lost time. A comment that also applies to **Relative Strength**, who was a winner of his first two career starts, but was off for ten months until reappearing in April. He has run well on several occasions this season, finishing second recently and hopefully he can win again soon.

Little Pete came within a nose of winning at last year's Glorious Goodwood festival, and the good level of form he has shown in competitive sprints this season gives hope that he can land a decent prize in the coming months.



BRIEF ENCOUNTER at the July meeting at Newmarket

Amanjena hasn't yet shown the improvement anticipated this season but her second run was better than her first and she should become competitive soon, as should **Wigram's Turn**, who ran well in the face of a stiff task when finishing midfield in the Buckingham Palace handicap at the Royal meeting. **Lady Brora** has been running well this season and she too should find a race to supplement her victory at Great Leighs last August.

THREE YEAR OLDS

There are a number of improving three year olds to look forward to for the rest of the season; **Brief Encounter** won a maiden on his final start last season and after a promising reappearance he took a good York handicap in eye catching style. Things didn't entirely go his way in the Britannia at Royal Ascot but he finished a very respectable ninth, and the fact he was sent off as favourite for what

is always a fiercely competitive race shows the regard in which he is held. He returned to form with a win in a heritage handicap at Newmarket's July meeting, and looks open to further progress. **Chiberta King** is another to have shown improvement this season. He was unable to show his true ability last year, however, having been gelded over the winter the penny has dropped this season, with wins at Windsor and Newmarket followed by a second in the King George V handicap at Royal Ascot. He too could find a valuable prize in due course.

Final Victory, owned and bred by Sir Gordon Brunton, showed a great deal of promise on his debut last year and after a third on his reappearance over 1m4f, he scored by seven lengths in maiden company before following up on his handicap debut. He finished a good third in the Bibury



CHIBERTA KING wins the first leg of the Newmarket treble

Cup on his latest start and looks the type to continue to improve.

Set The Trend is another exciting prospect. He won on his debut at Lingfield and was later successful in handicap company at Kempton before finding only one too good in the valuable Silver Bowl at Haydock. He has since finished second in a conditions event, and having placed on all five starts to date, it is likely he can improve further. The Jeff Smith-owned pair **Rapid Water** and **Celestial Dream** have both won races already this year and **Rapid Water's** recent win at Ascot gives us great encouragement for the future. **Peking Prince** was another winner for the Kingsclere Racing Club when successful at Newbury in June and went very close in a valuable handicap at Ascot on King George VI day. **Inhibition** was a winner of a Kempton maiden in April before running with credit in the Lingfield Oaks trial and in a listed race in France, where she finished fourth. She too

will continue in that class and she may achieve black type. **Cool Strike** was a runaway winner on his first start run over 1m 4f before running close on his next start off a stone higher, but has since improved again, becoming our second handicap winner at the July festival at Newmarket.

Others winners include **Farleigh**, a game winner on her first start this season, and **Parc Des Princes**, who gained reward for a couple of placings when winning at the eighth time of asking and followed it up with a second win at Lingfield. **Keep Dancing** and **Ben's Dream** are others to have reached the winners' enclosure this year.

We have also had plenty of horses running well without winning so far this season. **Foundation Room** was unlucky on her first start this year at Chester, and after a fair run in the valuable Silver Bowl she again ran with credit



SWAN WINGS at Salisbury

in Listed company at Warwick in late June and deserves to get some black type this year. **Cloudesley** has reached the frame on three occasions in handicap company, and although he picked up a slight knock when down the field on his latest start, he will be back for an Autumn campaign when it is to be hoped he can make further progress.

The Desert Saint has yet to show his best form having returned from a long layoff, but he could yet fulfil the promise shown last year. **Critical Path** has showed plenty of promise in her first two starts, especially when finishing third in a Goodwood maiden in May. She then won bravely at Epsom indicating there may be further improvement. **Perfect Secret** finished fourth at Goodwood on her debut and only start to date and hopefully she too will reach the winner's enclosure.

Zulu Moon and **Lord Fidelio** have both now got handicap marks and can make an impact in the right grade

this year, and there was promise from **Bengal Tiger** on his second run in maiden company at Sandown.

TWO YEAR OLDS

This year's two year olds look a very good group, and already we've had six individual juvenile winners from just thirty runners.

Stargaze was our first two year old winner, getting off the mark at Lingfield in May and winning again at Bath in a novice event after a short lay off. A son of the exciting young sire Oasis Dream he is on an upward trend.

We introduced two smart prospects at Salisbury in June with **Swan Wings** successful over five furlongs and **Lord Zenith** over seven. Both went to the Newmarket July Festival, with Lord Zenith finishing fifth despite being



LORD ZENITH impressive over seven furlongs at Salisbury

hampered, in the Group 2 Superlative Stakes. His target for the year is the Tattersalls Timeform Million at Newmarket in October. Swan Wings ran disappointingly in the Cherry Hinton, and was again out of the money in group company at Ascot. Hopefully she will add to her achievements before the end of the season.

Dream Eater's half-brother **Dreamspeed** made quite an impression when winning his maiden at the first time of asking over seven furlongs. The form has yet to be tested but his manner of victory certainly suggested there is plenty more to come from him and he looks likely to be able to make his mark once stepped up in class.

Suffolk Punch made all on his first try over seven furlongs to win at Epsom in early July, the form has been franked and he looks capable of better. **Danger Mulally** improved markedly on the form of his first two starts when gamely holding on for a narrow victory at Warwick.



DREAMSPEED winning his maiden at Sandown

His future lies in nurseries and he should start off a fair mark.

We've also had several two year olds run very well in defeat, and in doing so suggesting they won't be remaining maidens for too long. **Cool Valentine** finished second on debut over six furlongs at Lingfield in May. The winner and the third there have both won nurseries, so the form looks quite solid, and he can be excused his latest run at Epsom, where he didn't appear to handle the track as well as others. Out of a smart six furlong two year old winner and by one of last year's leading first-season sires One Cool Cat, he can get off the mark soon.

Our major sadness so far this season among the two year olds is **Liquid Asset**. A promising second on debut at Sandown, he suffered traffic problems when finishing mid field having been made favourite for a valuable seven furlong maiden at Newmarket's July festival. He fractured a leg while working at home and tragically could not be saved.

Simenon is another who was able to display his ability on his first visit to the racecourse, running very well when

third on his debut at Newmarket, and that form was franked by those behind that day. On his second start he went on to win a seven furlong maiden at Newmarket again in promising fashion. From a good French family he will hopefully capitalise on this victory.

Yarra River was no match for the subsequent Superlative Stakes-fourth when 2nd at Windsor on his debut, but there were some well-bred sorts amongst those behind him that day. He was not ideally suited by Epsom on his next start but looks capable of winning his maiden.

Although **Dungannon** finished only fifth on his debut, he was undoubtedly a real eye catcher and marked himself down as one to follow in the near future. Having started slowly, he was almost tailed-off halfway through the six furlong contest, but he ran on to such an extent that there he was just four lengths from the winner at the line - another half-furlong and it may've been a different story! A half-brother to the very useful sprinter Bygone Days, he should be a different proposition with that experience under his belt.

The lady in question and **Fireback** both showed ability on their debuts and will improve for the experience, while **White Devil** did well to finish as close as he did on debut at Sandown (behind Dreamspeed) considering how hard he pulled early. Out of a dam from a top Chilean family, he will improve for a slightly longer trip, although he'll need to settle too! **Flaming Miracle** did not show much in two starts over six furlong, but improved hugely on his third start giving encouragement to his owner/breeder Malcolm Evans. He should be a horse to follow in nurseries.

The Kingsclere Racing Club has had two of its juveniles make the track so far, and both will improve for the initial experience. **Tartan Trip**, who had been showing up well on the gallops at home, was very green both in the preliminaries and during the race on his debut at York, and he did well under the circumstances to grab fourth on the line. Out of a half-sister to Border Music, he should know much more next time and could yet prove to be useful. **Constant Contact** was never in the hunt at Warwick on his debut but he too had shown his inexperience early on in the contest and the way he finished suggests the ability is there. A step up in trip will help him.

Carnaval Court is a sister to Foundation Room, who won on debut over 5f last year before gaining black type at Sandown. She was a little disappointing on her debut at Ascot but has shown enough at home to suggest she can put in a much better performance than that.

Four colts have recently had their first introductions to the racecourse. **Dromore** had been working well, a half-brother to the top-class Storming Home, winner of the Group 1 Champion Stakes, he ran with promise on his debut at Lingfield and can make his mark as a juvenile. **Mecox Bay** is a brother to a useful 2yo and made a good impression on his first start at Sandown in a good maiden, whilst **Mon Cadeaux** just failed to make a winning debut at Newmarket. **Viking Dancer**, a half-brother to useful Kingsclere performers **Siren's Gift** and **Speed Cop**, should come on for his effort at Goodwood.

Of the fillies, **Katehari** is out of a half-sister to last year's Oaks third Katiyra and is by Noverre, who sires plenty of juvenile winners. **Veni Vidi Vici** is by first-season sire Antonius Pius, whose progeny have already had plenty of success and should be out soon, as should **Frances Stuart**, a daughter of a Cheshire Oaks second, whose dam was also placed in an Oaks trial and is from a good middle-

distance family. **Opera Gal**, out of a winning half-sister to top-class stayer Grey Shot, has shown plenty in her work and should be out by early August.

Elvira Madigan is from a middle-distance family, and is a half-sister to Isabelonabicycle, who has won twice over two miles this year. By Sakhee, she should improve in time and has shown some ability at home. **Extreme Green** is a half-sister to a useful middle-distance performer in the USA, out of a useful mile winner at three, from the family of Derby winner Generous and Irish 1,000 Guineas winner Imagine. She, along with **Tweedledrum** (a half-sister to Lady Brora) should be ready to run soon.

We also have some nice colts who should be making their debuts shortly. **Portman Boy** by emerging sire Exceed and Excel and out of a dam from the family of Maroof and Irish Derby winner Desert King, has also been showing up well at home and will be out soon. **Fire Raiser** has already been gelded but has shown promise and hopefully he has some of the ability of his half-brother, stable stalwart Border Music.

More backward horses who will hopefully be ready for an autumn campaign are **Pilote Celebre**, **Tappanappa** and **Trewarthenick**. They have all been showing up well at home and look nice types, whilst **Strictly Dancing** has done everything right so far. Out of Nunthorpe winner Lochangel (herself a half-sister to Lochsong), she is by the leading sire Danehill Dancer and is one to look forward to. **Pipette**, a daughter of Pivotal, **Play Of Light** and **Ipswich Lad** have also been showing the right signs on the gallops of late. **Chink Of Light**, **Gardening Leave** and **Guidecca Ten** are others to have been showing up prominently and look good prospects for the future.

Highland Knight and **Jokers Wild** are both by sprinting sires and should make speedy types, while the gelded **Kakatosi** is by Pastoral Pursuits, who has made a very good start with his first crop of two year olds.

Northern Delight's dam was a multiple winner for this yard in the early 1990's and he, along with fillies **Chasse Coeur** and **Kingston Acacia**, should make it to the racecourse before too long.

Inevitably, there have been a couple of injuries amongst the two year olds, including to **Balducci**, a son of leading sire Dansili, **Royal Assent**, **Side Gance**, **Pittodrie Star** and **Song To The Moon**, who had been showing plenty in her work prior to a stress fracture of the tibia. However, all the above should be back before too long. ■

THE 2009 **12** TO FOLLOW COMPETITION

These are the scores up to and including July 14th. Of course there have been a number of winners since and things will have altered already. It looks like being a high scoring year if we can keep the momentum going and there are a lot of two year olds to come out still.

	1	GEE, SIMON	156					
	2	BRADLEY, HARRIET	129					
	3	MARISCOTTI, MICK	118					
	4	BROUGHTON, B	114					
	5	MACKINNON, BRIDGET	112					
6	Balding, Andrew	111	35	Barron, Iain (B)	90	63	King, Gail	77
6	Tillett, Bill	111	35	Finlay, Rosemary	90	65	Box, Peter	76
8	Cheshire, Angela (B)	110	35	Gee, Mary	90	65	Hutchinson, Fiona	76
8	Mouchlian, Dominique (B)	110	38	Slade, Valerie	89	67	Balding, Ruby	75
10	Slade, Martin	106	38	Wingate, Sue	89	67	Balding, Jonno	75
11	Appleby, Mick	105	40	Eymor, Beryl	88	67	Grubb, Oliver (A)	75
11	White Hart Man	105	40	Mackinnon, Roger	88	70	Cousins, Rose	74
13	Grubb, Peter	104	42	Grubb, Sarah	87	70	Rees, Lindy	74
13	Woolley, Steve (B)	104	43	Dangar, Richard	86	70	Wilson, J.D.B	74
15	Masterton, Leanne	102	43	Gay, Simon	86	73	Green, Marion	73
15	Woolley, Steve (A)	102	43	Maldonado, Javier	86	73	Oswald, Sir Michael	73
15	Maldonado, Ignacio	102	46	Balding, Toby	85	73	Phipps, Antony	73
15	Whitehale, A	102	46	K Derbyshire & R Chives	85	76	Caslon, Denis (B)	72
19	Burdett, Adam	101	48	Wallis, Emma	84	76	Lumley, Peter	72
20	Aeberhard, Werner	100	49	Dillon, Batt (A)	83	78	Burnand, George	69
20	Dillon, Batt (B)	100	49	Gordon, J.M	83	78	Gay, William	69
20	R Chives & K Derbyshire	100	49	Palmer, W	83	78	Hill, Audrey	69
23	Bradley, Henry	99	49	Payton, Michael	83	81	Mouchlian, Dominique (A)	68
24	Bevan, Simon	98	53	Back, DH	82	82	Johnson & Garnet Bounds (A)	67
25	Balding, Anna Lisa	97	53	Derbyshire, Mrs D	82	82	Burns, Richard	67
26	Balding, Ian	96	53	Hale, Barry	82	84	Balding, Emma	65
27	Smith, Jeff	94	53	Livingston, Luke	82	84	Cheshire, Angela	65
27	Stillings, M	94	57	Cheshire, Nathan	81	84	Derbyshire, Jason	65
29	Grubb, Georgie	93	58	Gay, David	80	84	Reis, Paul	65
30	Powell, David	92	58	Norris, Liam	80	88	Broughton, T	64
31	Frampton, Pat	91	58	Rae-Smith, Mrs M.A	80	88	Cheshire, Angela (A)	64
31	Mariscotti, Janice	91	61	Moulson, Lee	78	88	Donovan, Brian (B)	64
31	Pettitt, Dwayne	91	61	Tucker, Mrs M	78	88	Gale, John	64
31	Sopp, Maria (A)	91	63	Lee-Robinson, Nick	77	92	Baveystock, Howard	63

92 Feane, John Paddy	63	108 Hyde, Maurice	55	124 Wates, Mrs Michael	40
92 Stratton, Larry	63	108 Sims, John	55	126 Arnold, Pam	38
95 Donovan, Brian (A)	62	111 Hodgkins, Adrian	54	126 Bedford, Peter	38
96 Caslon, Denis (A)	61	111 Howson, G	54	126 Plummer, Ann	38
96 Sutherland, Evan	61	113 Phipps, Virginia	53	129 McPhee, Angus	37
96 McPhee, Stuart	61	114 O'Brien, Dr MJ	52	130 Barron, Iain (A)	30
99 Dunbar, John	60	115 O'Brien, Dr MJ	49	131 Bishop, Trevor	27
100 Lumley, Sue	59	115 O'Brien, Dr MJ	49	131 O'Brien, Dr MJ	27
100 Palmer, Cecilia	59	117 Hussey, Mrs J	48	131 O'Brien, Dr MJ	27
100 Stansby, Clive	59	118 Paris, Rex	47	134 Phipps, Elizabeth	25
103 Simpson, Felicity	58	119 Hutchinson, Mark	46	135 Michaelson, Roger	22
104 Grubb, Oliver (B)	57	119 Kingsclere Stud,	46	135 Oates, Des	22
104 Hall, David (B)	57	121 Balding, Judith	44	137 Hall, David (A)	17
104 Sopp, Maria (B)	57	121 Coventry, Bryan	44	137 Palmer, Clare	17
104 Watts, Joyce	57	123 McPhee, Mina	41		
108 Johnson & Garnet Bounds (B)	55	124 Coleman, George	40		

SELECTION OF THE LEADERS

SIMON GEE

BUCCELLATI	17
DREAM EATER	16
FARLEIGH	14
HATTON FLIGHT	30
ISABELONABICYCLE	36
MY LEARNED FRIEND	17
SWINDLER	
DREAMSPEED	10
EXTREME GREEN	
PILOTE CELEBRE	
PITTODRIE STAR	
SWAN WINGS	16

HARRIET BRADLEY

CELESTIAL DREAM	20
DREAM EATER	16
LITTLE PETE	10
MY LEARNED FRIEND	17
RELATIVE STRENGTH	14
VICTORIA MONTOYA	24
CHINK OF LIGHT	
COOL VALENTINE	7
DREAMSPEED	10
LIQUID ASSET	6
LORD ZENITH	10
OPERA GAL	

MICK MARISCOTTI

BANKNOTE	
BRIEF ENCOUNTER	20
BUCCELLATI	17
DREAM EATER	16
HATTON FLIGHT	30
HOLBECK GHYLL	
SET THE TREND	22
CHINK OF LIGHT	
COOL VALENTINE	7
LIQUID ASSET	6
MON CADEAUX	
STRICTLY DANCING	

B BROUGHTON

BUCCELLATI	17
DINGAAN	11
HATTON FLIGHT	30
ISPHAHAN	
MY AUNT FANNY	
OCEANA BLUE	21
VICTORIA MONTOYA	24
DREAMSPEED	10
EXTREME GREEN	
MON CADEAUX	
ROYAL ASSENT	
TARTAN TRIP	1

BRIDGET MACKINNON

BRIAREUS	
COOL STRIKE	30
DINGAAN	11
LADY BRORA	10
LITTLE PETE	10
MY AUNT FANNY	
VICTORIA MONTOYA	24
EXTREME GREEN	
FIRE RAISER	
STARGAZE	11
STRICTLY DANCING	
SWAN WINGS	16



ISABELONABICYCLE, top scorer at half-way

LEADING HORSES

Isabelonabicycle	36
Cool Strike	30
Hatton Flight	30
Final Victory	28
Chiberta King	26
Victoria Montoya	24
Set The Trend	22
Oceana Blue	21
Brief Encounter	20
Celestial Dream	20

NICK ROBINSON – OWNER PROFILE

Nick Robinson is Chairman of Kennet Valley Thoroughbreds and former publisher of Pacemaker International.



How did you get an interest in racing?

Through my grandfather, Sir Foster Robinson, who had a small stud in Wicken, Buckinghamshire. From just six mares, he bred and owned the winner of the 1964 Oaks, Homeward Bound, and Merchant Venturer, second to Relko in the 1963 Derby.

What was your first horse and was it successful?

The Tarporley-based trainer, Eric Cousins, bought me my first horse, a Tin Whistle colt yearling, at Newmarket October Sales in 1962 for 400 guineas. Named Kwela Boy, he won twice as a two-year-old, at Worcester and Beverley. Although he didn't train on at three years, it certainly sparked my interest in racehorse ownership.

Do you have a current horse at Kingsclere and what are your hopes?

Kennet Valley Thoroughbreds currently have a Firebreak two-year-old named Fireback at Kingsclere. We owned his dad, who was trained by Andrew, under his father's license, to be one of the leading two-year-olds of 2001. He won four of his six races including the Mill Reef Stakes (GR2) and was narrowly and unluckily second in a controversial Coventry Stakes at Royal Ascot. Fireback is a later foal than Firebreak, and lengthier. He had his first start at Ascot in early July, fell out of the starting stalls, but passed half the field in the last furlong.

Racing highlight

Selling Firebreak for 525,000 guineas to Godolphin at the Newmarket October Horses-in-Training Sales - a record. He had been bought as a yearling by Charlie Gordon-Watson for just 27,000 guineas.

Racing lowlight

The Oaks in 1974 when my filly Dibidale's saddle slipped, just as she had taken the lead two furlongs out and full of running. Willie Carson rode her bareback in the last furlong to finish third, but the weight cloth had also come off and she was disqualified. She then went to the Curragh and won the Irish Oaks by five lengths, beating the Epsom Oaks winner, Polygamy - so that was some compensation!

What is your favourite racecourse?

Keeneland in Kentucky. We took Gateman over there in the autumn of 1999 to win the Hlopemont Stakes. A number of our Partners came over. We were given a courtesy box, lunch and drinks. The horse came from last to first, ridden by the legendary American jockey Pat Day. What a day!

Least favourite?

Up to this year I would have to say the newly built Ascot. However under Charlie Barnett it has made huge strides and I actually enjoyed Royal Ascot this year for the first time since 2005. Keep it up Charlie!



FIREBREAK winning his first start at Goodwood in May 2001

PAY HOMAGE

1988 Ch.g. by Primo Dominie out of Embraceable Slew (Seattle Slew)

A couple of months ago we sadly said goodbye to one of our very favourite Old Park House stalwarts. Pay Homage at the age of 21 had been retired in his last few years down at the Stud playing a very important role as nanny, disciplinarian and companion to youngsters, mares, recuperating horses etc.

We bought him originally relatively cheaply from Cheveley Park Stud at the Tattersalls yearling sales in 1989 for Miss Audrey Hill. Over the next nine seasons Pay Homage ran a remarkable 119 times under rules winning twelve races, being placed second thirteen times and third seventeen times with total earnings of £143,455. This does not include his charity race performances.

He was one of the soundest and most consistent horses that I ever trained and gave his devoted owner many happy and memorable days. During these nine seasons he was ridden by several amateur riders including both Clare and Andrew and many apprentices including Martin Dwyer, Seamus O’Gorman, Leanne Masterton and Neil Chalmers. Apart from his renowned dislike of the starting stalls he was the perfect school master for all these home grown young riders. The senior jockeys who won races on him included



Audrey Hill leads in PAY HOMAGE ridden by Clare Balding after winning a Charity Race

some famous names like Lester Piggott, Steve Cauthen, Frankie Dettori, Michael Hills and George Duffield.

In fact Lester’s dramatic short head win on Pay Homage in the 1993 Jubilee Handicap at the Kempton Easter meeting was quite possibly the most exciting race I can ever recall and was perhaps the highlight for Audrey as an owner. He ran three times over hurdles and was very relieved that his trainer did not pursue that idea any further. After his retirement from the track in 2000 he played a very useful role as a trainer’s hack and lead horse for the yearlings.

He was a lovely horse to ride either at home or on the racecourse and was a wonderful lead horse on the gallops for all our better horses in the ‘90s. He was such a kind and sensible character that during this time he was even lent to Windsor and Newbury racecourse to do demonstrations for local children on race days showing how to saddle and prepare a racehorse.

At home he was firstly looked after by a tiny apprentice called Paul Parker and latterly with considerable pride by Reginald James Corfield. Audrey Hill and many others of us at Park House will miss him enormously. **I.A.B.**

HORSES NAMES SINCE THE CLOSE OF THE TWELVE TO FOLLOW COMPETITION

Three Year Old

LORD FIDELIO b f	Xaar	Rekindled Affair	J Munz
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Two Year Olds

BALDUCCI b c	Dansili	Miss Meltemi	McMahon/Gorell/Pausewang
CHASSE COEUR ch f	Dr Fong	Royal Patron	Sir Gordon Brunton
CONSTANT CONTACT b c	Passing Glance	Floriana	Kingsclere Racing Club
DANGER MULALLY b c	Governor Brown	Glittering Image	J Dwyer
DROMORE ch c	Tradionally	Try To Catch Me	I G Burbidge
DUNGANNON b c	Monsieur Bond	May Light	I G Burbidge
ELVIRA MADIGAN b f	Sakhee	Santa Isobel	J C & S R Hitchins
FRANCES STUART b f	King’s Best	Higher Love	Countess of Lonsdale
JOKERS WILD b c	Compton Place	Lady Hibernia	Sir Gordon Brunton
KAKATOSI br g	Pastoral Pursuits	Ladywell Blaise	R Tillet
TAPPANAPPA b c	High Chaparral	Itsibitsi	McMahon/Gorell/Pausewang
THELADYINQUESTION b f	Dubawi	Whazzat	D H Caslon/Mildmay Racing

CHANGING RULES FOR THE USE OF THE WHIP

I.A.B.



H.M. The Queen's EXAMPLE ridden by L. Piggott in France

In writing an article elsewhere on the use of the whip I was prompted into more thought on this subject which always causes a great deal of debate in the Racing Press. No one can argue that style has changed considerably over the past forty years. At the same time there has been much alteration in the rules and in the public's sensitivity concerning it. Gone, thank goodness, are the days when tired horses were flogged every stride up the hill at the Cheltenham Festival which was not only unsightly but also totally unacceptable.

Ever since the amendment to the rules there has been divided opinion about the top jockeys being banned for misuse of the whip. I think as we get older we probably mellow but I have never subscribed to the theory that the harder and more frequently you hit a horse the faster it will go.

Lester Piggott had a unique way of hitting the horse, always high up on the rump which was much more likely to make a horse lengthen its stride as it quickened. Currently several senior jockeys tend to hit the horse down the flank which can not help them. Lester would no doubt have been suspended on several occasions under the current rules but I can recall seeing him putting his stick down many times in a very close finish



Clare Balding steers KNOCK KNOCK to victory

and just encouraging the horse to stretch its neck out in the last few strides.

It was not until my daughter, Clare, rode for a short while as an amateur that I really gave considered thought to all of this. She had a very short, but successful, career as a lady rider, being the leading amateur in 1989 and 1990. At the time we mostly had older geldings for her to ride who had perhaps slightly lost their resolve in a struggle or were out and out villains. During her 'career'

she rode about twenty winners and it would be safe to say she didn't hit a horse once. I think she would admit she didn't know how to pick up her stick and use it - the 'come on boy you can do it' verbal encouragement plus hands and heels seemed to be all that was needed. But these horses gained in confidence and as a result improved every time. Knock Knock who she first rode off a rating of 45 ended up thirty pounds higher after two years of feminine care and won a Chesterfield Cup at Goodwood.

The British Racing School have done a huge amount to try and both educate young riders and re-educate errant jockeys in the correct way to use the stick. Combined with the modern equicizer and video footage Richard Perham and his staff painstakingly go through an assessment of mistakes made on the racecourse and techniques learnt in the school.

During the first half of the season I have missed Hayley Turner in action. While being strong and stylish she realises she does not have to try to hit horses 'like a man' and as a result they really run for her. I have noticed with some pleasure that Tony McCoy - undoubtedly the finest National Hunt jockey of the era - uses his whip less frequently and forcibly than he used to.



TAGULA wins the Prix Morny, Walter Swinburn having dropped his stick

There have been many races lost over the years and I can think of several, even this season by jockeys either failing to change their stick or by not putting it down. In fact I can recall two recent Classics the result of which might have read very differently in the record books had the jockeys concerned been able to ride their races again and use their whip differently.

With the vigilance of the Stewards in interpreting the rule and the help of the coaching that can now be given to the riders racing will become even more pleasurable for the spectator as well as remaining equally exciting. ■

THE SICK LIST

Horse injuries cause dismay in a yard but human illnesses and injuries may be don't get the attention they should. They say everything goes in threes and we wish the three out of action at the moment a very speedy recovery.



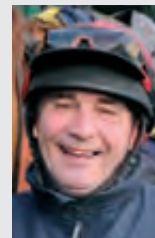
SHIREE KNOWLES had a horrible fall breaking her right femur badly. She has been operated on and is hoping to be back in work

for Buccellati's autumn campaign. She has at least been able to watch her long term boy friend Liam Keniry's growing list of winners.



LOLA WHITLOCK had an accident in the indoor school dislocating her knee cap which causes pain to even think about.

She is hoping it won't be as long a convalescence as Briareus and that Brief Encounter's continued success will cheer her up in the meantime.



MELVYN RHODES is suffering a long time on the sidelines having had a stroke. Hopefully he won't need to be off as

long as Hobeck Ghyll but he is having a frustrating time dealing with the boredom of inactivity and his partner, Rose, is having her work cut out looking after him.

Australian Sprint Stars

by William Huntingdon

S*cenic Blast maintained Australia's excellent record in Ascot's sprint races with a resounding victory over Fleeting Spirit in the King's Stand. Choisir was the trailblazer in 2003 and remarkably won the King's Stand and the Golden Jubilee before going on to be runner up in the July Cup. Takeover Target won the King's Stand in 2006 and Miss Andretti followed up in 2007. How come they are able to be so dominant, often with pedigrees that certainly cut no ice with Mark Johnston?*

Part of the answer lies in the enormous popularity of the Golden Slipper, the world's richest two year old race. As Gai Waterhouse said, 'The race epitomises Australian Racing - it is all about youth and it is all about speed'. First run in 1957, and won by Todman, the first five winners were all by Star Kingdom and the race has proved a rich source of stallions. Vain, Luskin Star, Marscay, Marauding, Canny Lad, Danzero, Flying Spur are all on the victory board. Redout'e Choice was a short priced favourite prevented from running by travel sickness and last year's winner, Sebring, by More Than Ready, looks certain to add to the successful tally. So when it comes to buying or breeding the Slipper is a glittering carrot to want a bite at and Inglis and Magic Millions sales companies organise much of their marketing strategy to cater for that clientele. As a consequence, a large percentage of the Australian yearling population is bred to have the precocity to run a hugely competitive two year old race three quarters of the way through the season on a sharp right handed track over six furlongs.

The second part of the answer to the question lies in the training methods of Australian trainers. English trainers who run horses over trips woefully short of what their pedigrees suggest are usually out to get a favourable handicap mark from which they can reap their harvest once the horses start running over their correct trip. Australian trainers train short and run short. Even their proven stayers and Melbourne Cup hopes are set to run in seven or six furlong races at the start of their Cup campaigns. Debutants, even

those by Galileo or Montjeu, are expected to start over five furlongs, whether in a race or a trial. If they get sore shins or have a setback they go out for a spell and then come in to resume with the same preparation. Many horses never even get to run over the trip they are bred for, a lamentable waste of talent.

However this programme does produce a lot of strangely bred sprinters. Choisir was at least by a miler, Lunchtime, even if he did have six dams on his page at the sales. Takeover Target is by the French Derby winner, Celtic Shot out of a grand-daughter of Northern Dancer. Miss Andretti is by a ten furlong half brother to Second Empire, Ihtiram. Scenic Blast is by Scenic, a Sadler's Wells stallion from the family of Dushyantor and Rainbow Quest. Scenic has been unfairly slated by the Middleham maestro (whose horses are always trying) for being a poor jumping sire! He has been enormously successful in Australia and though dead for three years is in a close third position on the sire's table. He did originally shuttle to Europe and has some old jumpers from those years left racing here. Still he got the Melbourne Cup winner last year in Viewed and would more commonly get middle distance stock. But because of the common Australian training practice most horses are trained for speed and some belie their pedigrees and show amazing aptitude for the speed contests.

The Hong Kong and Asian markets have always recognised the quality of Australian speed and the vast majority of horses imported there for races of under a mile are all Australian bred. Thus Sacred Kingdom, who raced at Ascot from Hong Kong, is by the uncrowned leading Australian sire, Encosta de Lago; himself by Fairy King and not immediately obvious as a sprint stallion.

Hopefully the above words will go some way to explaining the success of the Australian sprinter. No doubt it will continue as the Aussies are as hooked on the Ascot buzz as we are excited by the lure of the Melbourne Cup and any chance of getting revenge from the cricketing front.... ■

SINGLED OUT



Geoff Rigby is now entering his 42nd year of working at Kingsclere and is one of the true stalwarts at Park House. His cheery nature is only ever affected when his beloved Manchester United are beaten which happily for Geoff has been a rare

occurrence in recent years! The best horse he has looked after in his long time of service was the Champion two year old filly of 1979 Mrs Penny, a wonderful race mare who went on to win the Prix De Diane and Prix Vermeille as a three year old. Geoff's horse to follow for this year is also owned by Eric Kronfeld a two year old colt called **Mecox Bay**.



Chetan Singh is now in his second full season working at Park House having previously spent time with both Marcus Tregonning and Richard Hannon. Chetan is an excellent rider and managed to ride six winners during a race riding career in his

native India but he is now domiciled here at Kingsclere with his wife and young daughter. His horse to follow for 2009 is the highly promising **Dreamspeed** who was so impressive when winning on his debut at Sandown.



Matthew Penrice is one of the newest recruits to the team at Park House but is quickly establishing himself as an excellent rider. His gymnastic skills enable him to add extra entertainment at any barbeque with a couple of arab springs or a back flip

or two and they also enable him to sit tight on any of the more "exciting" rides on a Monday morning! Matty is a local boy having grown up in Basingstoke and his horse to follow this year is **Carnaval Court** a filly who has required all of his athletic ability on occasions this summer!



Chris Bonner is now in his fifth season as assistant trainer at Park House. Having enjoyed a hugely successful riding career as an amateur which included big race rides in five Grand Nationals he has worked as an assistant for both Michael Bell in

Newmarket and Tony Noonan in Australia. Chris is an instrumental cog in the wheel at Kingsclere and can take a lot of the credit for the success that the yard has achieved in recent seasons, he is also a part time surf dude and when not busy with horses he will be 'catching waves' in his spare time in Wales or Devon. Chris' horse to follow for the remainder of the season is **Rougham**.



Peter Beasant has worked on the Stud since leaving school and has been Commander in Chief for the past 17 years. His flag flying, Union Jack for winners raised on the Stud and the St David's flag for home bred winners, can cause some scratching of

heads when a victory has been spotted in far off lands or trained elsewhere! He has had a great run with homebreds in the past few years and the best mare who has been in his care all her breeding life is Spurned. Pete singles out **Fire Raiser**, bred on the stud out of our oldest family and already a gelding, so he figures he could still be right in about eight years time. ■

