

KINGSCLERE

PARK HOUSE STABLES



SUMMER MAGAZINE 2017



Above: HORSEPLAY stretching out on the Downs under Oisin Murphy

Front cover: DROCHAID winning at Epsom on Derby Day
Back cover: All smiles as Charlie leads in a victorious BREAKHEART and Kayleigh Stephens

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INTRODUCTION

It is some relief that the achievements of the yard in 2017 have so far matched the optimistic expectations mapped out in the Spring edition of the Kingsclere magazine! With that sense of relief comes a lot of satisfaction, but with the flat racing season only at the halfway point, it is not yet the time for celebrations or congratulations.

The work ethic amongst our staff has been fantastic this year and that has been a key factor in the success we have enjoyed on the racecourse. In terms of winners the obvious highlight was Here Comes When's fabulous victory in the Sussex Stakes at Goodwood, with further Pattern race success for Blond Me, Absolutely So and Beat the Bank and Listed wins for both Horseplay and Viscount Barfield. From a personal point of view, Montaly's victory in the Chester Cup was particularly memorable given the wonderful history of the race.

Whilst our racing highlights have been many so far in 2017, we have also suffered two personal losses and it was with great sadness that we said goodbye to two loyal friends and owners in Sir Gordon Brunton and John Drew. Sir Gordon has been a successful owner-breeder for many many years, and counted the Ascot Gold Cup winner Indian Queen (trained by William Huntingdon) as amongst the best he had raced. On William's retirement, Sir Gordon chose Kingsclere as the home for his horses in training and we enjoyed many successes together. His flexibility, understanding and patience were of great help to his trainers and we hope that we can continue to have success for his family in the years to come.

John Drew, who with his wife Bridget founded 'Mildmay Racing and Breeding', has enjoyed prolific success with a number of trainers in the last ten years. Formerly a well-known and highly respected veterinary surgeon, John suffered from multiple sclerosis and had been confined to a wheelchair for the past few years but this did nothing to diminish his enthusiasm and he was always in attendance to support the Mildmay runners all over the country. John had a great sense of humour and both he and Sir Gordon will be sadly missed both on the racecourse and here at Park House.

I hope that after the silly season of Autumn racing and yearling sales, I will find the energy to reflect on the second half of the season – if it is as good as the first half, it will not be that difficult to put pen to paper!



Anna Lisa and Sir Charles Hobhouse with the Chester Cup

THE SEASON SO FAR

by Tessa Hetherington

A more organised racing manager might have written this review by the end of July, completing the task in advance of the busy Qatar Goodwood Festival and anticipating only a few last minute adjustments to cover the results from that meeting. For once a lack of diligence has paid off, as the yard's achievements in the past week would have required a whole-scale re-write of this piece. A Group 1 win, a Group 1 second, a Group 3 win and a host of other impressive performances have added over £815,000 to the prize-money pot in just five days, putting the yard amongst the headlines and giving all connected with Park House a major boost.

As dark clouds clustered over the Sussex Downs, the authorities at Goodwood must have also been growing gloomy at the prospect of one of the summer's major racing festivals becoming a mud-bath. Others, however, have been waiting for months for the rain to come, and

none more so than Park House stalwart **Here Comes When**. A dual Group 2 winner on soft ground in 2014, the seven-year-old Danehill Dancer gelding's sole victory in the following two seasons had come in a Conditions event at Bath last summer. His game victory in the Listed Hambleton Handicap at York on his seasonal reappearance in May suggested he was back to his best, however, and so it proved at Goodwood, where he sprang a major surprise in winning the Group 1 Sussex Stakes. Given a copybook ride by ex-jump jockey Jim Crowley (for whom the conditions would have been no novelty) he settled well in the early stages of the race, saving his energy to power home in the final furlong, repelling the challenges of first Lightning Spear and then the favourite, Ribchester.

Given the conditions and the absence of leading contender Churchill, this year's Sussex Stakes will not go down as a vintage renewal, but neither should Here



HERE COMES WHEN relished conditions at Goodwood when winning the Group 1 Sussex Stakes

Comes When's victory be considered a fluke. Fourth in the same race and close in a strong Lockinge in 2015 (both on unsuitably quick ground) he has been mixing it with the big boys for some time, and when the rain comes he is a force to be reckoned with. In any event, one of the joys of British racing is that it is conducted on idiosyncratic tracks and in changeable weather, and it is a facet of this that on different days different horses will get their conditions and their chance to shine.

To win a Group 1 with any horse is special, but to do so with one of the 'old boys' is particularly rewarding. Here Comes When has been in the yard since he was a yearling and possesses not only a serious engine but also the kindest temperament. To see him achieve at the very highest level for his patient and dedicated owners Jim and Fitri Hay was wonderful for everyone connected with the yard, and particularly for his groom and regular rider Kim Tierney and devoted Head Lad Kevin Hunt. His main aim now is likely to be the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes on British Champions Day, where the ground should once again suit, but he may head to Milan for the Group 1 Premio Vittorio in the interim.

Blond Me made an excellent start to her campaign when she won the Group 2 Middleton Stakes at York on the same day as Here Comes When's Hambleton triumph. Unlike him, she has long been thought to prefer a firmer surface, but her win over some smart fillies (not least



BLOND ME has been a superstar mare for her connections

Breeders Cup heroine Queen's Trust) on Good to Soft at York gave enough confidence to keep her in the Group 1 Nassau Stakes at Goodwood. The outsider in a high-class field including Queen's Trust and fellow Group 1 winners Sobetsu and Winter, Blond Me was dismissed by the pundits before the race, and seemed to have weakened her chances by taking a strong hold in the early stages. From two furlongs out, however, she showed every ounce of the tenacity and heart that has characterised her racing career in battling her way to the line, finding only dual Guineas and Coronation Stakes winner Winter too hard

to pass. She has been the most marvellous mare for the yard and her owner Barbara Keller and is likely to have two or three more starts before heading to the paddocks as a highly desirable broodmare. An excellent traveller, she may well pack her bags for first Germany (for the Grosser Preis von Baden), then Canada (for the EP Taylor or Canadian International) and finally Hong Kong (for the Hong Kong Cup or Vase).

Shortly before Here Comes When and Blond Me made their reappearances, **Montaly** had already got the season off to a flier with victory in the prestigious Chester Cup.



MONTALY enjoys a well-earned drink after victory in the Chester Cup

Always highly regarded at home, Montaly had run well in a number of big handicaps in the past few years. He had also been pulled out of almost as many on account of the ground firming up, and expectations at Chester were therefore tempered by the good-to-firm going description. Luckily Montaly cannot read going descriptions and, having advertised his well-being by nearly decapitating Anna Lisa in the paddock, he showed an impressive turn of foot to dismiss his rivals under a bold ride from Oisin Murphy. His second in the Listed Coral Marathon at Sandown on his latest start confirmed his class, and he is likely to head to York at the end of the month for the Ebor or the Lonsdale Cup.

Chester is often a happy hunting ground for us and this season has been no exception, with **Duretto** running probably the best race of his career when a close third in the Group 3 Ormonde Stakes, despite enjoying little luck in running and carrying a penalty for his St Simon Stakes win at the end of last season. Briefly on the sidelines since, the talented son of Manduro is back in full work now and we eagerly anticipate his return to the racecourse, confident that his best is yet to come.

Viscount Barfield likes Chester as much as we do and followed up his win in a strong Class 2 handicap at York in June under David Probert with victory in the Listed City Plate on the Roodee in July, his first success at that level and his third (from five) at the track under regular partner

Rob Hornby. The ground went against him at Ascot last time and he will probably head back to York for the big mile handicap at the Ebor meeting.

Absolutely So has never run at Chester, preferring a more galloping track, but he too stepped up a level this season in taking the Group 3 John O'Gaunt Stakes at Haydock in June. Injury has often prevented him from displaying his obvious ability on the racecourse and so it was especially heartening to see him score at Group level. Another mud-lark, it was a real shame that another niggle kept him from running at Goodwood, but all being well he should be able to capitalise on the softer ground towards the end of the season.

The ever-consistent **Elbereth** has had another excellent season, kicking off with a win on the polytrack at Dundalk which qualified her for the Fillies & Mares race at the All-Weather Championships, where she finished a creditable fourth. Back on turf she defied her odds in finishing second in the Group 2 Dahlia Stakes at Newmarket before running the race of her life to finish fourth in the Group 1 Coronation Cup at Epsom behind superstar Highland Reel. Scuppered by a terrible draw in the Wolferton at Royal Ascot and by unsuitably soft ground at York on her latest start, an Australian campaign is currently under consideration for David Taylor's Mount Nelson mare.

Tullius had his season cut short by injury and it was with heavy heart that the decision was made to retire him from racing. More will be said elsewhere in this magazine about his long and illustrious career, but it was fitting that his fourth in the Listed Festival Stakes at Goodwood on his final start took him over the £500,000 mark in prize-money earned for his enthusiastic owners Kennet Valley Thoroughbreds. He has been a flagship for the yard for many years and will be much missed. Fellow nine-year-old **Highland Colori** continues to run with credit. He has dropped to an attractive mark and hopefully there are a few more wins in the old warhorse yet!

Jeff Smith's wonderful broodmare band continues to produce classy speedsters and he has a trio of older sprinters in the yard at present. **Verne Castle** had a break after his excellent all-weather campaign over the winter and would have needed his reappearance run at Ascot last month. He returns to Chelmsford next week and will aim to extend his unbeaten record there. **Dark Shot** has run well in defeat this year, particularly when narrowly denied in the Epsom Dash on Oaks day, having hit trouble in running and making a jaw-dropping run to come from last to almost first in the final hundred yards. He ran flat at Goodwood and has returned to Littleton Stud for a mid-season break. Last year's Goodwood heroine **Dancing Star** confirmed her class with a narrow second

in the Listed Leisure Stakes at Windsor and was terribly unlucky in the Diamond Jubilee at Royal Ascot where she was heavily hampered and almost fell. Thankfully she emerged unscathed but she will be given a break before returning to the track.

Donjuan Triumphant was unable to give us back-to-back wins in the Stewards Cup this year, but he ran an encouraging race given that he missed the break and was drawn on what turned out to be the wrong side of the track. He will have more options when the ground is more consistently soft in the Autumn and remains a horse of real potential. King Power Racing's other four-year-old, **Cleonte**, has been rather disappointing so far this season, but if he can replicate his form in France last year he is now on a handy mark.

The Kingsclere Racing Club have enjoyed a good season to date, with **Swashbuckle** and **Brorocco** leading the way. The former has only been out of the first three twice in his twelve career starts and confirmed himself as a progressive stayer in beating a classy field at Salisbury in June under Joshua Bryan. The race was not run to suit in the Shergar Cup at Ascot but he should be a contender in the big staying handicaps towards the end of the season. A bit of a hot-head, Brorocco needs a strong gallop to help him



BROROCCO lands the City and Suburban at Epsom under Jimmy Quinn

settle in his races but got just that in the City and Suburban handicap at Epsom and was able to quicken impressively to beat a strong field. Things did not go his way on his next three runs, where he appeared to be a magnet for trouble in running, but he ran a great race at Newmarket on his latest start, finding just one well-handicapped rival too good. He should continue to be competitive in the big middle-distance handicaps.

The form of **St Mary's** maiden win last year had worked out well and she further franked it with an impressive win in the apprentice handicap at Chester's May meeting under William Cox. Having endured a difficult passage

back at Chester in June, she ran well over two miles at Ffos Las this month and is likely to return to the Roodee in September. At the other end of the trip spectrum, eight year old **Intransigent** continues to fly the flag for the Club and, having had a mid-season break, will be ready to return to the track next month. Six year old **Priors Brook** is also now part of the furniture at Park House and notched up another win for his owner-breeder Linda Alexander at Chepstow in June. Wonderfully consistent, he has won in each of the last four seasons now. Fellow six-year-old **Haines** is back in work after a break and should be ready for a winter campaign on his favoured all-weather service.

Sir Pass I Am returned this season as a changed horse both physically and mentally, and duly confirmed his latent promise with a victory over two miles at Chepstow. Eased down in the final half furlong, the winning margin is recorded as a neck but could have been ten lengths. This did not escape the attention of the handicapper and



SIR PASS I AM delights his connections at Chepstow

so we ran him back quickly at Lingfield under a penalty, but in hindsight this was a mistake as he ran very flat. Since freshened up with a break at Clairey Bonner's, he should be able to capitalise on his favoured soft ground in the weeks ahead. Another by Passing Gance, the ultra-consistent **Lorelina** has been placed on all three starts this year and should get her head in front soon.

Summer Chorus has also been knocking at the door of late, placing on her last two starts at her favoured Newmarket. She looked to stay seven furlongs well on her latest start, only her second attempt at the distance, and so will probably head for the big fillies' handicap over that trip at York's Ebor meeting. **Lady Perignon** and **Brief Visit** have both failed to shine in their first two starts this season but are big, burly fillies and should come on considerably for those efforts. **Make Music** posted good performances in coming fourth in the Fillies and Mares' Sprint at the All-Weather championships and second in a big Class 2 handicap at Goodwood in May. She is currently enjoying a holiday at Kingsclere Stud and will return in the autumn for a campaign on the All-Weather, the surface on which she has recorded three of her four career wins.

Emperor Napoleon suffered a set-back after an encouraging reappearance run at Chester in May, but he is back cantering now and will hopefully be ready to tackle some of the big staying handicaps in the autumn, when the softer ground will suit him. **Hairdryer** has also been off games, having placed on all four of his starts this year. He has now been gelded which should help him return to the winner's enclosure when he is back to full fitness.

The last word in the older horse's section fittingly goes to **Breakheart**. Having last won in May 2015 off a mark of 74, 'Breaky' has continued to perform a vital schoolmaster at home and on the racecourse, but many assumed that his winning days were over. Ten years old this year, he still showed flashes of his former ability, notably when finishing second under Jason Watson at Kempton and under Nathan Cheshire in a charity race at Newbury, but despite having dropped almost two stone in the weights he seemed to have decided that an easy life was preferable to the winner's enclosure. It was therefore little surprise to see him at odds of 40/1 when he lined up in an apprentice race at Sandown, four pounds out of the handicap and piloted by the diminutive Kayleigh Stephens on her first ever ride under rules. Happily, however, racing sometimes produces fairy-tales. With a ride rightly described as 'accomplished' in the race report, Kayleigh managed to coax Breakheart into putting his best foot forwards. Making steady progress around the pack, the pair kicked on easily from the two furlong pole to record a win which received a reception in the hostel to rival that for any Group 1 triumph. Breakheart has confirmed his status as a legend in Park House folklore, but who knows, he may not be finished yet!

THREE YEAR OLDS

This year's crop of three year olds excelled as juveniles last year and gave much to look forward to over the winter months. Ironically, however, it is a horse that was not even in the yard last year who has led the pack so far. Bought privately by Al Donald from Darren Bunyan's yard in Ireland in the spring, having won his maiden on debut at Dundalk, **Beat The Bank** is one of a team of new horses owned by Mr Srivaddhanaprabha's King Power Racing. The Paco



BEAT THE BANK is now a Group 3 winner and is a tremendously exciting prospect for King Power Racing

Boy gelding has hardly put a foot wrong for his enthusiastic new owner, kicking off by winning the seven furlong conditions race at Newmarket's Craven meeting under Oisín Murphy. He was a little out of sorts when he ran in the Jersey Stakes at Ascot but bounced back on his return to Newmarket in July, taking the Listed Sir Henry Cecil Stakes over a mile under Jim Crowley. Encountering soft ground for the first time in the Group 3 Thoroughbred Stakes at the Goodwood Festival, Beat The Bank looked like he might be in trouble when momentarily boxed in against the rail in the home straight but, under a typically cool ride from Ryan Moore, he quickened as soon as a gap appeared and powered clear of his rivals with impressive ease. He is likely to aim for a Group 2 next, either the Celebration Mile back at Goodwood or the Joel Stakes back at Newmarket, and is a tremendously exciting prospect.

Qatar Racing's **Count Octave** came closest to providing us with a Royal Ascot winner this year, following up his maiden win at Wolverhampton and encouraging fifth in the Chester Vase with an excellent second in the Queen's



SCORCHING HEAT was the yard's third winner at this year's Goodwood Festival

his three-year-old campaign with a win at Salisbury under Josh Bryan before placing in four strong sprint handicaps. One sensed his return to the winner's enclosure was not far away and so it proved at Goodwood, where he capped a wonderful week with a dominant display in the Stewards' Sprint, the consolation race for the Stewards' Cup. Tough and genuine, the son of Acclamation is at his best with give in the ground and will likely head to Ayr for the Silver Cup, where he should get his preferred conditions.

Another to flourish as a three-year-old is **Drochaid**, who won a Class 2 handicap over ten furlongs at Chelmsford before coming out on top in a thrilling finish to the big three-year-old ten furlong handicap at Epsom on Derby day. Stepped up to twelve furlongs at Royal Ascot he ran a blinder to finish fourth in the King George V Handicap despite meeting interference at a critical stage. Comfortable on a firmer surface, he has now been sold to race in Dubai. Another to have been sold after Ascot is **Mucho Applause**, runner-up in the Esher Cup at Sandown and the London Gold Cup at Newbury this season before a commendable seventh in the Group 3 Hampton Court Stakes at the Royal meeting on ground that was firmer than ideal.

We began this year with high hopes for **Horseplay** after her thirteen-length maiden win in October, and she confirmed that she had improved for her winter break with a taking victory in the Listed Pretty Polly Stakes at Newmarket's Guineas meeting. In the Oaks she was a little keen and got rather unbalanced on Epsom's undulations, but ran on well to finish fourth behind the ultra-impressive Enable. Fourth also in the Prix de Malleret at Saint-Cloud in July, we will look at the Geoffrey Freer Stakes and the Yorkshire Oaks for her next outing. **Poets Vanity** was our other Classic runner this year but, having finished an encouraging third in the Group 3 Nell Gwyn Stakes over seven furlongs on her reappearance, she did not seem to stay the mile in the 1,000 Guineas. There is plenty of speed in her pedigree so she was dropped back to six furlongs and ran well to be fourth in the Group 2 Sandy Lane Stakes



HORSEPLAY takes the Pretty Polly at Newmarket under David Probert

Vase, the Group 2 over fourteen furlongs at the Royal meeting. The form of that has been franked by the winner, Stradivarius, since taking the Group 1 Goodwood Cup. A gorgeous horse but a classic late developer, Count Octave has kept on improving since his Ascot run and is likely to tackle either the Geoffrey Freer Stakes at Newbury or the Great Voltigeur at York before a possible re-match with Stradivarius in the St Leger.

Qatar Racing have another improving type in **Scorching Heat**. Never out of the first three this year, he kicked off

at Haydock behind Harry Angel. Seven furlongs is probably her ideal trip and her next target is likely to be the Group 2 Hungerford Stakes at Newbury.

Mildmay Racing and Denis Caslon's **Perfect Angel** has now been Group-placed twice at Newbury, supplementing her second to Harry's Angel in the Group 2 Mill Reef Stakes last year with a second to Magical Memory in the Group 3 Hackwood Stakes last month, both over six furlongs and on soft ground. One doesn't need to be a form nerd to realise that those are impressive performances! She should have little problem in picking up winning black type in those conditions. She had her ground at Goodwood but her run there told us emphatically that she does not stay seven furlongs, and she may well head for the Listed Garrowby Stakes at York next. **Rosie Briar** already has winning black-type from her juvenile year but her third in the Listed Achilles Stakes at Haydock in June suggests that she may yet add to that this year when she gets her preferred softer ground. Recently returned from a mid-season holiday, she should be ready for a tilt at the five furlong Group 3 at Newbury in late September.

South Seas and **Isomer** were also black-type two year olds but they are yet to flourish this year. The all-weather surface may have been too quick for South Seas on his debut at Newcastle but there were no such excuses in the French 2,000 Guineas, where the ground was soft. He has been gelded and hopefully this will help him re-find his excellent form from last year. Isomer's juvenile form is also impressive, having run Churchill and Cunco close on separate occasions. He returned from his winter break a much more physically imposing colt but he is difficult to keep sound and has been limited to one start so far this season, in the Listed Gala Stakes at Sandown, where he definitely needed the run. He should come on for that and we will look to capitalise on the current wet weather as he is at his best with a bit of give underfoot. **Max Zorin** has also had a few niggles this year but showed significant improvement from two to three when third in the Dee



Kennet Valley's CONTANGO won his first three starts

Stakes at Chester's May meeting, making subsequent Derby second Cliffs Of Moher really stretch for his victory. Side-lined since, he is now back cantering but will be given plenty of time and readied for a winter campaign on the all-weather. **Genetics** is another with decent form in the book, having beaten subsequent Group winner Raheen House when winning his maiden at Newbury last year. He suffered an early-season setback but is cantering now and, as a big rangy horse, may well have benefited from his enforced break.

Kennet Valley's **Contango** was unraced last year but has grown into his tall frame and been a revelation this year, winning his first three starts with ease, including a Class 3 at Newmarket over ten furlongs. Wonderfully straightforward, he ran well to be second in the Shergar Cup and is an exciting young horse. **Look My Way** is another who was



LOOK MY WAY on his way to victory at Southwell on Easter Sunday

very backward at two but has thrived at three. Having won a Class 6 Handicap at Southwell on Easter Sunday, he has now been placed at Class 3 and Class 2 level and will surely pick up a decent staying handicap this season. What he lacks in stature he makes up for in heart and he is a firm favourite of many here. Two more making their mark in middle distance handicaps are **Atkinson Grimshaw** and **Galactic Prince**. David Brownlow's Atkinson Grimshaw followed up his maiden win at Southwell with an easy victory over twelve furlongs at Chester, before running well to be placed in two Class 2 handicaps at Newmarket back at ten furlongs. An impressive horse, he could be the type to do well over obstacles in time. Galactic Prince is a much more compact model who had slightly disappointed last year after winning his maiden. Now a gelding, he has grown up this year (mentally if not physically!) and has done well upped in trip to a mile and a half, winning at Goodwood in June and placing in a valuable handicap at Ascot in July for his owner and breeder Jeff Smith.

Also owned and bred by Jeff Smith, **Fair Cop** is a beautiful but delicate filly and found life a little tough last year. She is now much stronger and, having made her debut in April, has only been out of the first three once in six starts. Blessed with a very high cruising speed, she won



ATKINSON GRIMSHAW streaks clear at Chester under David Probert

her maiden at Windsor over five furlongs and ran a career best on her latest start when second in a good handicap at Goodwood, again over the minimum trip. **Farleigh Mac** is also not short of speed and won well at Windsor in June under David Probert, but he requires everything to go his own way and likes to make all. We may experiment with some headgear to persuade him that passing horses is also acceptable!

Mick and Janice Mariscotti may have sold Drochaid but they still have a useful team of three-year-olds. Having won at Southwell in February, **Native Prospect** has been runner-up at Epsom twice over the extended mile and should go one better soon, whilst **Torcello** was impressive in winning his maiden at Salisbury and, with a liking for soft ground, should continue to progress in the coming weeks. **Cartavio** added to the Mariscottis' tally with a win at Salisbury under Liam Keniry before selling at Tattersalls in July, whilst **Meyandi** has been runner-up on both starts this year and is the type to keep improving with racing.

Thurloe Thoroughbreds' **Intimate Art** is a lovely horse who won well over a mile at Chelmsford in July but unfortunately picked up an injury on his next start. He remains on a competitive mark when he returns to the track. **Naval Warfare** also won over a mile, at Leicester in May. He was clobbered by the handicapper after that effort and struggled in two starts but bounced back to win impressively at Newmarket on his latest run when allowed to dominate a smaller field. **Impact Point**, also owned by Qatar Racing, showed plenty of promise on his debut at Lingfield in April and the form of that race has worked out well. He should make his mark in a middle-distance maiden in the coming weeks. **War Of Succession** won his maiden over the extended mile at Beverley and has since been sold.

Highland Pass is from a lovely Kingsclere family and ran well to win her maiden at Chester under David Probert, but she and fellow Club filly **Hidden Steps** are quite highly-strung and need sensitive management. Both recently returned from a mini-break at Kingsclere Stud, they can make their marks in handicaps in the latter part of the season. **Belle Meade** is a lovely scopey filly with black type to her name already. Her yard debut was delayed by

a minor set-back but she ran a race full of promise at the Shergar Cup on her reappearance. **Bohemian Flame** is another with juvenile black type who has required a patient approach this year. He was unlucky in the Shergar Cup but will hopefully give his owners, Kennet Valley Thoroughbreds, some fun in the coming months. **Simoon** will not be ready to run for a while yet, having suffered a frustrating setback in the spring, but the standard of his homework before that suggests he will be more than worth the wait.

Martin and Valerie Slade's **Investigation** is a lovely-looking horse with plenty of ability but a mind of his own. Finding it difficult to cope with life in the string, he followed an individualised training programme for much of the spring and it is to the credit of regular rider Stef Higgins and regular jockey Rob Hornby that he was able to win his maiden on his second start, over the extended eleven furlongs at Yarmouth in May. Since gelded, he has now been integrated back into the yard's normal routine and this should help him settle better on the racecourse when he returns to the track. He is joined in Kingsclere's 'special needs' group by **Berkshire Boy** and **Itsakindamagic**. Berkshire Boy's area of difficulty is coming out of the stalls, but with the assistance of Gary Witherford he has improved with each start this year and his three placings in good handicaps show that he still retains the ability that saw him run away with his maiden on debut at two. Itsakindamagic has no trouble exiting the stalls at speed but then finds it difficult to settle. He won his maiden at Chelmsford in March by eight lengths, running at full throttle for the full mile. That approach has not been so successful in handicaps, although it is testament to his considerable ability that he has still placed on three of his four handicap starts. His last



The likeable NAVAL WARFARE has won at Leicester and Newmarket this term

two runs and recent homework show definite signs that he may, at last, be calming down and if continues in this vein he can do very well. **Leontes** is another who by choice would do everything at breakneck speed, but as a sprinter this is less of an issue. He was unsuited by very soft ground at Chester in June, but has been freshened up since and can be competitive off his current mark.

Breakneck speed is not a phrase one would readily associate with another of David Brownlow's three-year-

olds, **Orsino**, but he is bred to stay and has run well in all his six starts since making his debut in April, including two very creditable efforts in good fourteen furlong handicaps last month. He can shed his maiden tag before long. It is frustrating that **Meccabah** remains a maiden as she has obvious ability and has gone close twice this year. She should come on for her latest run at Windsor, which came after a break, and hopefully she can win soon. The same is true of **Munstead Star**, who has also been knocking at the door. Her latest run at Chester can be excused as it came too soon after her fourth placed effort in bottomless ground at Newbury. There was no obvious excuse for the latest run of **Rely On Me** at Salisbury, but that does not seem her true form given her excellent work at home and her close seconds at Leicester and Carlisle this term. She should be able to add to her maiden win this season. The same is true of **He's A Lad**, who won his maiden at Southwell by five lengths in March but has been plagued with injuries since. He has been gelded and is back cantering now.

Having been very green on debut at Chester, **Ancient Foe** has run well in two maidens over a mile and will now qualify for handicaps. A full-brother to Britannia winner Born In Bombay, he is the type to improve with racing. **Count Simon** improved with each of his three maiden runs and was a little disappointing on handicap debut at Leicester recently, but the soft ground may not have suited. Heavy ground at Ffos Las was also a bit much for **Wine List** on his seasonal reappearance, but he will come on for that and shows plenty at home.

Layton Register's **Queen Moon** will find things easier in handicaps, for which she is now eligible, and looks to be on a handy mark, whilst **Opera Queen** is another who should fare better now she has a rating. **Josh The Plod** has been placed in three of his four starts and his turf mark looks very workable. The same is true of **Makkadangdang**, also owned by Phil Fox, who has filled the runner-up spot on his last two starts in maidens. **Passcode** won her maiden at Southwell in April but struggled in two handicaps and now heads to the sales. From a lovely German family and



FORTUNE'S PEARL was our first juvenile winner of the season

with an excellent temperament, she will make a lovely broodmare. **Know The Truth** is another sweet filly and was bought in by Andrew at the July Sale from George Strawbridge for the apprentices to ride. She was only beaten three-quarters of a length on handicap debut at Kempton and should provide our young jockeys with a winner or two this season.

TWO YEAR OLDS

Last year's juveniles were unusually precocious for a Park House crop, but normal service has resumed this time around! We have some really lovely horses but many will take plenty of time and it is only now that the youngsters are beginning to appear on the racecourse with any regularity. It was early July when **Fortune's Pearl** gave us our first two-year-old winner of the season, winning on his debut at Chepstow in good style despite showing greenness in the closing stages. A good moving colt, he was less suited by the slower ground at York on his next start but should do well this year and is bred to improve.



DANZAN is rightly pleased with himself after his ten length victory at Pontefract

Danzan's win at Pontefract was an impressive one, as he trounced his rivals by some ten lengths! Having shown improvement in two starts over seven furlongs on the All-Weather he relished the switch to turf and the drop back to six, and made short work of a field which included a couple with decent form. Given an opening rating of 91, he is entitled to raise his sights and is likely to head for the Group 3 Acomb Stakes at York.

The first juvenile filly to win was Hot-To-Trot's lovely daughter of Acclamation, **Golden Salute**. Having impressed in all her work at home we had high hopes for her on debut at Windsor but, despite jumping well and showing early speed, she tired in the closing stages over six furlongs on Good to Soft ground. Dropped back to five furlongs and on a firmer surface she had little problem in breaking her maiden on her next start, also at Windsor. Having taken that race well she ran back in another Novice Stakes at Bath nine days later and, with William Cox's 7lb claim negating her penalty for her win, notched up another



GOLDEN SALUTE with her biggest fans, Will Cox and Will Carver

victory over the minimum trip. The victory must have been particularly sweet for Will as the horse he beat by a short-head in a driving finish was ridden by Josh! Golden Salute should continue to improve and, with an opening mark of 79, will be competitive in sprint nurseries this season.

Sheikh Juma has a very nice filly in **Crossing The Line**, who has flourished since the weather improved in the spring. She confirmed all the promise she shows at home by winning on debut at Newmarket over six furlongs, beating a good field in which she was the only filly. By the excellent and much-missed stallion Cape Cross and from a good family, she has heaps of class and will head for the Group 3 Dick Poole Stakes at Salisbury next month.

Rebel Streak should be on the list of winning two-year-olds but was desperately unlucky at Ascot on his second start when squeezed for room at a critical stage, and then thwarted by a lack of pace at Goodwood. It is testament to his significant ability that he has been a close runner-up on both occasions despite these disadvantages. Jeff Smith's son of Dark Angel should go one better soon and may well be destined for Pattern company. Pink Hat Racing look to have a worthy replacement for old favourite Chiberta King in **Macaque**, who followed up an educational debut at Salisbury with a close second in a decent novice event over seven furlongs at Sandown. He faced just one rival at Brighton on his latest start and duly cruised home, winning by some 24 lengths.

Master Of Wine almost made a winning debut at Sandown, going down by just a head and beating two subsequent winners in the process. A son of first-season sire Maxios, he disappointed when odds-on favourite back at Sandown on his second start, but he got very worked up during the preliminaries and probably needs to mature a little to fulfil his obvious potential. **Luna Eclipse** is another who ran well on debut, finishing third over the minimum

trip at Salisbury. He was unable to provide us with back-to-back victories in the Toby Balding Memorial Novice at the track on his next start, but with hindsight that was an extremely hot race, won by subsequent Group 3 winner Nyaleti and with four of the other six runners now winners, two with black-type.

Cape Blanco does not have many runners over here but Andrew has done very well with his offspring and Jim and Fitri Hay look to have sent us another nice type in **Dixieland Diva**, who ran a race full of promise on debut at Newmarket, finishing second to the odds-on winner who had won already and is now rated 90. She should have little trouble in going one better in due course. The same is true of **Soldier To Follow** who was second in a good Salisbury Novice on debut. **Angel Islington** has been steadily progressive in three maidens and was an encouraging third on handicap debut at Chester last time out. She too should be a winner soon. Having placed in novice events at Chester and Epsom, **Carouse** was given a stiff enough mark by the handicapper but ran well at Goodwood on his nursery debut and should do better stepped up to seven furlongs. **Chai Chai** also ran well on handicap debut at Goodwood, staying on well having been badly buffeted in the closing stages of the seven furlong nursery. He has a great attitude and should win races this season.



CROSSING THE LINE has heaps of class and won on debut at Newmarket

Like Chai Chai, **Aiya** was purchased at the breeze-up sales for King Power Racing. A beautifully bred son of first-season sire Declaration Of War, he had been very impressive in his work at home but disappointed twice on the racecourse. The intensity of breeze-up preparation had probably taken its toll so he has been given a decent break since and has made tremendous physical progress as a result. He should return to the track in late September. **Foxtrot Lady** is a half-sister to Dancing Star by Australian sprinter Foxwedge. She was very green on debut at Goodwood but will have learnt plenty from the experience. The same is true of **Lord Vetinari** and **Berkshire Royal**, both imposing colts who should come on from their initial racecourse outings. ■

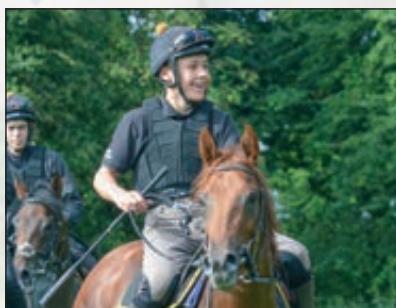
THE 2017 12 TO FOLLOW

COMPETITION

These are the scores up to and including 6 August. With most of the two year olds still yet to hit the track much may change by the end of the season, but our newest apprentice Will Carver is clearly a pretty good judge from the saddle. There may be some domestic tension in the weeks to come, however, as his girlfriend Holly Rose is only three points behind him!

1. Will Carver (A)	165	37. Andrew Balding	94	74. Ray Horne (C)	74
2. Holly Rose (A)	162	39. Nick Lee-Robinson	93	76. Lindy Rees	73
3. Tessa Hetherington (A)	143	39. Jeff Smith	93	76. C.E. Hancock	73
4. Mark Crehan	142	41. Kenneth Smith	92	78. Nicholas Jones	72
5. Will Carver (B)	140	42. Megan Fox	91	79. Paul & Lisa Spickett	71
6. Jamie Neild	132	42. RPB Michaelson	91	80. Danny Burns (A)	70
7. Nigel Walker	131	44. Valerie Slade	89	80. Michael Payton	70
8. Tessa Hetherington (B)	129	45. Mark Hutchinson	88	82. John Feane	69
9. Holly Rose (B)	128	45. Graham Smith (A)	88	82. Alan Rae Smith	69
9. Robert McCutcheon	128	45. Werner Aeberhard	88	82. I.D. Boyce	69
9. Imogen Carter	128	48. Carver Family	87	82. Amanda Taylor	69
12. Charlie Richards	127	48. Philip Randall	87	82. John Conway	69
12. David Hall (A)	127	48. Emma Balding	87	82. Hugh Teacher	69
14. Thomas Brown	125	51. Helen Plumbly	86	88. D. F. Powell (B)	68
15. Jason Watson	120	51. Gerry Rafferty (C)	86	88. Mick Beasant	68
15. Michael Coles	120	53. Laurence & Sally Jinks	85	88. John Wellman	68
17. Stuart McPhee	119	53. Des Oates	85	91. Richard Dangar	67
18. Roger Mackinnon	111	53. Richard Burns	85	91. Dr M.J. & Mrs D. O'Brien (C)	67
19. Julia Reardon Smith	109	56. Martin Slade	84	91. Russell Cox	67
20. Simon Humphries (A)	107	57. Abdul Adam	83	91. B Broughton	67
20. Joshua Bryan	107	57. I.A. Balding	83	95. Rosemary Finlay	66
20. Charlotte Clarke	107	59. Angie Cheshire (B)	82	95. Iris Hoare	66
23. Batt Dillon	106	59. Cherry Jones	82	97. Martyn Needham	65
23. Danny Burns (B)	106	59. Ann Plummer	82	97. D Fowler-Watt	65
25. Garnet B Andy J (B)	105	59. Mac & Boris Balding	82	97. Paul Reis	65
26. Angie Cheshire (A)	104	63. Sandeep Gauravaram	81	97. April Rafferty	65
26. Angie Cheshire (C)	104	64. Mary Gee	80	101. Ray Horne (B)	64
26. S Cornwell & K Derbyshire	104	65. Sally Phipps Hornby	78	101. Tom Cox	64
29. Jon Rea	102	65. Drew/Holmes	78	101. Ronnie Truth Mac (A)	64
30. John Soul	99	65. Anne Soul	78	104. Stuart Friend	63
31. Ella Mackinnon	98	68. Ray Horne (A)	77	104. David Gay	63
31. Bridget Mackinnon	98	68. Simon Humphries (B)	77	104. Grace & Molly Redshaw	63
33. Mick Mahoney	97	68. T Broughton	77	107. Terry Friend	62
34. Barry Hale	96	68. David Donn	77	107. Jane Martens	62
34. Nathan Cheshire	96	72. Matthew & Emily Slade	76	107. Andy Tolhurst	62
36. Kieren Rundell	95	73. Jenny Arlington	75	110. Jim Richardson	61
37. D. F. Powell (A)	94	74. John Neild	74	110. Sooty & Sweep	61

111. Bryan Jennick	61	136. Peter A'court	49	164. Anderson King	39
113. Maggie Robinson Gay	60	140. Unnamed	48	167. K Derbyshire & S Cornwell	38
114. Angus Mcphee	59	140. R Holmes	48	168. David Hall (B)	37
115. Fiona Hutchinson	58	140. Gerry Rafferty (A)	48	168. Jamie Rafferty	37
115. Angela McQuillan	58	143. Janice Friend	47	170. Nicky Randall (A)	34
115. Clive Stansby	58	143. Lawrence Charlton	47	170. Lynne Burns	34
115. M Stillings/Rambo	58	143. Andy Johnson	47	170. Joanna Cox	34
119. Adrian Hodgkins	57	143. Mrs M E Wates	47	173. Sue Lumley	33
119. Michael Bettanley	57	147. Carl Conroy	46	173. Susan Gay	33
119. Kingsclere Stud	57	148. Janice Lees	44	175. Peter Felton	31
119. James Campbell-Gray	57	149. Charlie Berry	43	175. Layton Register	31
123. Paul Spickett	56	149. Simon Gee	43	177. Johnny Richardson	30
124. Mike Charlton	55	149. Anne Ireland	43	177. Billie Robinson Gay	30
125. Graham Smith (B)	54	149. Philip Rodgers	43	179. Gerry Rafferty (B)	29
125. Simon Plumbly	54	149. Jamie Mackinnon	43	179. Simon Yelland	29
125. Jeremy Carey	54	154. Rose Cousins	42	181. Dr M.J. & Mrs D. O'Brien (A)	28
125. Gail King	54	154. Dr M.J. & Mrs D. O'Brien (E)	42	181. David Webb	28
129. Sue Watson	53	154. John Gale	42	183. Chinner	27
130. Mrs M Tucker	52	154. Daisy Mackinnon	42	183. Peter Box	27
131. Andy Richardson	51	154. Toby Balding	42	185. Nicky Randall (B)	24
131. Ronnie Truth Mac (B)	51	159. Laura Spickett	41	186. Wendy Harris	21
131. Gordon Ireland	51	159. Lisa Spickett	41	187. Richard Smith	19
131. Richard Ware	51	159. Roger Michaelson	41	188. Leigh Spickett	14
135. Caroline Redshaw	50	162. Pamela Arnold	40	189. B. P. McGuire	12
136. Angie Cheshire (D)	49	162. Linda Thompson	40	190. Dr M.J. & Mrs D. O'Brien (D)	7
136. John Knight	49	164. Barbara Bullion	39		
136. Dr M.J. & Mrs D. O'Brien (B)	49	164. Peter Lumley	39		



TOP SCORING HORSES

SCORCHING HEAT	42
FAIR COP	32
CONTANGO	30
HERE COMES WHEN	29
BROROCO	26

Note: Beat The Bank would have been the second most high-scoring horse but, as he arrived in the yard after the list of horses for the competition was published in the Spring magazine, he is not eligible for selection.

SELECTION OF THE LEADERS

WILL CARVER (A)		HOLLY ROSE (A)		TESSA HETHERINGTON (A)		MARK CREHAN	
Impact Point	6	Summer Chorus	10	Brorocco	26	Swashbuckle	18
Dark Shot	12	Intimate Art	14	St Mary's	16	Scorching Heat	42
Swashbuckle	18	Rosie Briar	5	Horseplay	14	Elbereth	9
Itsakindamagic	11	Scorching Heat	42	Intimate Art	14	He's A Lad	0
Scorching Heat	42	Fair Cop	32	Max Zorin	6	Intimate Art	14
Summer Chorus	10	Rely On Me	13	Scorching Heat	42	Farleigh Mac	24
Brorocco	26	Impact Point	6	Simoon	0	Eolian	14
Carouse	10	Nathaniel/Chicita B	0	Bold Brief	0	Fortune's Pearl	11
Bold Brief	0	Bold Brief	0	Luna Eclipse	4	Lopito	0
Ensign Ewart	0	Carouse	10	Crossing The Line	10	Carouse	10
Crossing The Line	10	Crossing The Line	10	King And Empire	0	Sovrano	0
Golden Salute	20	Golden Salute	20	Fortune's Pearl	11	Diocletian	0

Kingsclere Racing Club



A happy team with ST MARY'S at Chester

The KRC enjoyed a tremendously successful start to the turf season, with Brorocco's impressive win in the prestigious City and Suburban Handicap at Epsom a real highlight. Though he was unable to justify favouritism back there on Oaks day, members enjoyed a wonderful picnic at the course and a memorable day's racing.

Chester success for St Mary's saw the KRC reach a very significant milestone of £1,000,000 in prize-money since the Club started in 2008, a tremendous feat and one that has been almost entirely achieved with horses bred at Kingsclere Stud.

Highland Pass was another to win on the Roodee and the half-sister to Elm Park is capable of further success, while it has been very pleasing to see Look My Way develop into a useful young stayer this term. Perhaps the most exciting prospect for the months ahead, however, is Swashbuckle, who has the Cesarewitch as a long-term aim.

We have been incredibly fortunate with the weather for our gallop mornings this season and, when the heavens did open on King George Day at Ascot, we were very thankful to have hospitality for the day on what was an exceptional afternoon's racing, once again seeing the brilliant filly Enable in winning action.

With the two year olds yet to make their debuts and the older horses doing so well, there is a still great deal to look forward to and hopefully there will be several more winners to celebrate by the time of our Annual Dinner on the eve of the Hennessy!

The Kingsclere Racing Club is full this year, however we are now taking applications for 2018, with membership costing £6,000 for the year. If you are interested in further information, please contact Nathaniel Barnett on 07890 672435, or by email, krc@kingsclere.com



Derby day picnic

STAFF UPDATE

We are delighted to welcome a few new faces to the team this month. With Angie Cheshire returning to her role as co-ordinator of the ground staff (and groom to her beloved horses!), Ross Burdon has recently started as Head Lad of the front



Ross, Hollie and Liam

two yards. Most recently with Ismail Mohammed in Newmarket and previously with Sir Henry Cecil, Ross has a great deal of experience and is quickly settling in to his new role. He will be assisted by Liam Mungovan as pupil assistant. Liam hails from County Clare in Ireland but has been working in Australia for Gai Waterhouse and Coolmore Stud and has made an excellent start here at Park House. The second pupil assistant role is filled by Hollie Watts, who has built up an impressive level of experience on racecourses in roles for Turftrax, as Stewards' Secretary and most recently with ITV Racing. Hoping to become a Clerk of the Course in the future, Hollie should get a real insight into the trainer's perspective from her time here.

Liam and Hollie have difficult acts to follow, as we say goodbye to two excellent pupil assistants in Megan Armes and Georgie Jones. Both have grown hugely in skill and confidence during their year at Park House and have been integral and much valued members of the team. We wish them the very best of luck in their future endeavours.

On the track, Kayleigh Stephens made the best possible start to her race-riding career by piloting Breakheart to a memorable victory at Sandown. The

newest addition to the team of apprentices is Will Carver, who has been at Kingsclere for a year now and has recently gained his licence. A talented horseman with pony racing experience, he eagerly awaits his first ride under rules. We also have a new amateur jockey on the

team in Callum McBride, who has joined the yard from Nigel Twiston-Davies. An excellent pilot with experience in point-to-points, Callum is sure to make a good impression on the racecourse.

Breakheart warmed up for his win at Sandown with an appearance in the Racing Stable Staff Week charity race at Newbury, where he was piloted by Nathan Cheshire. Nathan, son of Taffy and Angie, was born and raised at Park House and has developed into an exceptional rider. It must be a long time since he has ridden Breakheart at home as his mornings generally consist of riding the yard's trickier customers, but the pair gelled quickly on the racecourse and put in an excellent effort to finish second. ■



Our thanks go to Spillers for continuing to support the 'Stable Employee of the Month' awards here at Kingsclere.

The recipients of the Spillers 'Employee Of The Month' awards so far this season are:

MEGAN ARMES for going well beyond the confines of her pupil assistant role, standing in as Head Lad for a prolonged period and approaching all challenges with an excellent attitude.

SIMON HUMPHRIES for his commitment and reliability in his role as Travelling Head Lad. He has spent most of his summer on the road and, when he isn't away, he has to ride some right horrors at home!

IMOGEN CARTER for continued hard work as rider and groom. She is dedicated to her horses and was an exemplary carer for injured two year old Bold Brief.

ROB BETTANEY for keeping our everyday gallops in tip-top condition and for his enthusiasm and can-do approach.



Nathan Cheshire receives instructions from AMB and IAB before the charity race

MY TOP FIVE... *Sales Venues*

Richard Venn

With sales season fast approaching, we asked bloodstock agent Richard Venn to pick his five favourite spots for buying horses.



I grew up just twenty miles from Kingsclere in Winchester and developed an interest in racing as a teenager. My passion for the sport was further fuelled when I watched 'Something to brighten the morning', the documentary about Mill Reef which centred on the life-saving operation to repair his broken leg, the people close to him and his ultimate recovery. I became fascinated by the diversity of culture and excitement of this wonderful sport.

It took me several years to find my way to where I am now. My first paid job in the industry (following work experience at Littleton Stud and with Stan Mellor) was as a bookkeeper to Sheikh Mohammed's racing operation at Aston Upthorpe Stud near Oxford. I eventually ended up at Dalham Hall Stud in Newmarket. After a variety of roles there I left with his former Racing Manager, Anthony Stroud, to help him set up his own agency. It was whilst with Anthony that I learnt the trade and bought several decent horses including multiple Group 1 winner in Hong Kong, *Olympic Express*, top hurdler *United* and the Ebor winner, *Mudawin*. This gave me the confidence to take the plunge and go on my own, so in August 2007 I

started my own agency. This summer I celebrated the 10th anniversary of my business and a total of 30 years working in the racing industry. In the summer of 2014 I relocated with my wife Kate and three children to a picturesque part of Normandy, France and continue to run my agency, travelling to and from there to the UK and various other parts of Europe. My five favourite locations to buy horses are as follows:

1. BBAG Yearling Sale Baden-Baden, Germany – 1st September 2017

I am the BBAG Representative for the UK and Ireland so this venue is, naturally, top of my list! It is one of the first major yearling sales of the year and it is always great fun to attend. The weather is usually warm and sunny and BBAG do a great job of welcoming potential buyers. On the eve of the sale there is a very popular barbecue where the appearance from 'Elvis' is always highly entertaining! Baden-Baden is famous for its spas and saunas in addition to some great venues for winding down after a long day at the sale. I often go to Leo's, which offers a good selection of German cuisine and always has bit of a buzz about it, but if it's good red meat you like the Porterhouse Grill never disappoints.

The sale offers the very best in German breeding. Twelve of the last eighteen German Derby winners have been BBAG graduates, as was the super star



filly *Danedream*, together with a plethora of Group 1 winners, including *Monsun*, *Tiger Hill* and *Manduro*. I have been lucky enough to find two black type performers in recent years for less than €30,000, namely *Ormito* (trained by Andrew) and *Nyanza*.

2. OSARUS Yearling Sale, La Teste, France – 6th–7th September 2017

This is another sales venue which is generally bathed in sunshine and it is always a nice place to inspect horses. Tattersalls obviously saw the potential and joined forces with Osarus in 2014. La Teste is close to the seaside resort of Arcachon and the impressive sand dunes of La Pilat, which are well worth a visit. There are some excellent restaurants in Arcachon serving fresh local seafood and La Concha is a lovely place to eat and drink and watch the sun go down.

The sale generally offers a good cross section of French-bred yearlings, all qualifying for lucrative Owners' Premiums on prize money won in France (64% for two-year-olds). There is value to be had here and every year the sale produces quality horses who were bought for little money. I have bought a few winners here including a nice horse called *Bantu* who I purchased for a client for €26,000. He went on to win 7 races and over €142,000 in prize money.

3. GOFFS/DBS Doncaster May Spring Sale, Doncaster – 23rd–25th May 2017

This sale is historically known as a National Hunt Sale, where they sell jumping stores, good quality second-hand jumpers and the odd flat horse. The spring is always a nice time of the year to be buying horses. Downtown Doncaster can be a bit of a shock to the system, but if you are in the company of a good crowd of friends the evening can be very entertaining. For those of you who might be looking to slow things down a little after a long dusty day at the sales, then the Mount Pleasant hotel near Bawtry is a great place to stay. The rooms are very comfortable and their breakfast is one of the best on the sales circuit.

This is always a sale that deserves close inspection as many top-class jumpers have passed through here, including one of the all-time greats, *Red Rum*.



REAL DOMINION selling at Tattersalls Horses-in-Training Sale last year

4. Tattersalls Horses-in-Training Sale, Newmarket – 30th October–2nd November 2017

The traditional end of turf season sale for second hand horses never disappoints.

I lived just outside Newmarket for 25 years and always enjoy coming back to stay with friends and visiting old haunts. Although living in France has



ORMITO

its benefits, I do miss the cosiness of a British Pub with a roaring fire and a selection of real ales, serving good old English comfort food. The Blackbirds in Woodditton, The Red Lion in Cheveley and The Pack Horse in Moulton would be high on my list of places to relax after a long day at the sale. If you prefer to stay in town there is an array of restaurants serving cuisine from around the world, including The Momtaz (Indian), The Fountain (Chinese), Prezzo's (Italian) and The Tack Room, attached to the Palace House Museum.

The sale consistently produces top class flat horses and jumping prospects. *Makfi* was famously sold unraced for just 26,000 Guineas prior to winning the 2,000 Guineas the following spring. I have found it a fruitful sale for finding winners for clients all over the world. Highlights include *El Dancer* who won a Grade 2 over hurdles at the Grand National meeting and *Secret Asset*, purchased for just 15,000 guineas, who very nearly won the Group 1 Prix de L'Abbaye at Longchamp.

5. Arqana December Breeding Stock Sale, Deauville, France – 9th–12th December 2017

Deauville is a great sales venue at anytime of the year, however the December Sale heralds the end of a long and sometimes arduous sales season and, as it also coincides with the Christmas festivities, the atmosphere is a little more relaxed.

There are some excellent places to wine and dine in Deauville, aperitifs can be taken in the Drakkar, followed by dinner in any number of high quality restaurants including Le Comptoir et la Table, La Cantine and 21. It is also a worthwhile experience to take the short walk across the bridge to Trouville to sample an array of excellent restaurants and enjoy the locally caught seafood. If you are still feeling fresh and want to soak up the party atmosphere, then I recommend Le Drakkar, Manhattan or Le Broq.

The sale offers something for everyone, including broodmares, stallions, foals, NH yearlings and horses-in-training for both codes. I tend to buy mainly in-foal mares and foals for clients at this sale. I purchased the Group 3 winning filly *Split Trois* as a foal at this sale for just €11,000. ■

FAREWELL TO TULLIUS

Earlier this summer we had to retire the wonderful Tullius, who picked up a career-ending injury in the Festival Stakes at Goodwood in May. Now a nine-year-old, he has been a marvellous servant to the yard and his owners Kennet Valley Thoroughbreds.

Bought by David Redvers for 20,000 guineas at Book 2 of the Tattersalls October Yearling Sale in 2009, Tullius began his career with Peter Winkworth. He made his debut at Lingfield in July of his two-year-old season, where he behaved appallingly in the paddock before finishing tenth of fourteen runners, beaten twenty-six lengths. The race report states "soon outpaced and early reminders, always well behind." He was gelded within a week. This, combined with careful handling by Peter and his team, was the making of the horse. He won his next start, at Lingfield in October, and was given an initial rating of 74. Beaten a head off that on handicap debut, by the end of his three-year-old season he had won twice more and risen in the weights to a very respectable mark of 92.

When Peter retired from training at the end of that year Andrew was lucky enough to be sent this progressive son of Le Vie Dei Colori, and he won his first three starts as a four-year-old – a Class 2 handicap at Newmarket and Listed races at Windsor and York – before being beaten a length in the Group 2 Summer Mile at Ascot. He then won the Group 3 Sovereign Stakes at Salisbury, beating Sovereign Debt and fellow Park House miler Highland Knight. An injury kept him off the track for the rest of 2012



and most of 2013, but he showed that he had retained his considerable ability with a close third in the Listed Hyde Stakes at Kempton on his reappearance.

It was as a six-year-old that Tullius really flourished. Kicking off his campaign with a second in the Lincoln, he then won the Group 2 Bet365 Mile at Sandown before finishing



second in the Group 1 Lockinge at Newbury. He was then fourth on three successive starts - in the Group 1 Queen Anne Stakes at Royal Ascot, the Group 2 Joel Stakes at Newmarket, and the Group 1 Queen Elizabeth II Stakes back at Ascot on Champions Day, finishing the year on a rating of 118. The following year he won the Listed Doncaster Mile before springing something of a surprise in the Group 2 Skybet York Stakes on ground firmer than ideal, a first victory at ten furlongs. His form tailed off slightly towards the end of that year and, as he headed into

his seventh racing season as an eight-year-old, one might have assumed that his Group-winning days were at an end. Tullius had other ideas, and with the addition of a visor bringing out every ounce of his tenacity, he battled to a



marvellous victory in the Group 3 Diomed Stakes at Epsom on Oaks day last year. The fact that the second, Decorated Knight, has since won two Group 1s shows that this was no weak contest.

Although still unfailingly grumpy in the stable, Tullius continued to show enthusiasm in his work this year and ran well on both his starts, belying his now advanced years. His fourth in the Festival Stakes on his last appearance took him over £500,000 in career prize-money, a fitting milestone at the end of a long and illustrious career. His absence from the string and the barn is felt by everyone here, not least his groom Chetan Singh and Head Lad Kevin Hunt, and we hope he enjoys a very happy retirement.

In addition to Tullius we will also miss one of his most dedicated owners, as Major Johnny Richardson sadly passed away this summer. A member of Kennet Valley Thoroughbreds for many years, he was a great racing enthusiast and will long be remembered as Kennet Valley's "unofficial photographer", capturing gallop mornings and race days on his old-fashioned camera. ■

Summer Parties

Wet weather could not dampen spirits at the annual owners' party, held on the eve of the King George. Good food and excellent music from Tom Bradley and his band made for a really fun evening, which ended with much wild dancing and the annual competition to climb the central pole of the marquee. The latter's test of strength provided further evidence (if any were needed) why Rob Hornby, Leanne and Will Carver ride work and Andrew and Tess do not!

Three days after the owners' party the marquee hosted a fundraiser for the North Hampshire Medical Fund, which raises money for advanced medical equipment for Basingstoke Hospital. The perils of dealing with racehorses (and IAB's kamikaze approach to life) mean that we are

repeat users of the services of Basingstoke Hospital and so this cause is particularly close to the hearts of many here at Park House. It was therefore with great pleasure that we hosted 200 visitors for a parade of horses and tour of the yard, followed by a champagne reception with an auction and a run through the main races at Goodwood from Andrew and Rob Hornby. All who attended seemed fascinated by the insight into a working yard and the event raised over £28,000 for the fund. It will also have increased the personal funds of attendees who followed Andrew and Rob's advice to back Here Comes When for the Sussex Stakes!

Huge thanks, as ever, go to Anna Lisa for her amazing organisation of these events. ■



COMING UP: SALES SEASON

Yearling sales season will soon be upon us! Members of the team will be at Goffs UK (29-30 Aug), Tattersalls Ireland (19-21 Sept), Goffs Ireland (26-28 Sept) and at Tattersalls in Newmarket for Books 1, 2 and 3 (3-14 Oct).

If you are interested in buying yearlings at the sales, please contact Andrew (ab@kingsclere.com).

