

WINTER 2003

The
KINGSCLERE
Quarter



THE PARK HOUSE STABLES NEWSLETTER

The KINGSCLERE Quarter



Phoenix Reach with his delighted owners

Front cover: *Phoenix Reach*

Back cover: *Passing Glance, Martin Dwyer & Gary Bridger*

CONTENTS

THE HIGHLIGHTS OF 2003	2, 3 & 4
ANDREW BALDING	
2003 TWELVE TO FOLLOW COMPETITION	5, 6, 7
THE JOINT CHALLENGE	8 & 9
N.H.H. KNAPP	
APPRENTICE & AMATEURS	9
THE SALES	12
WILLIAM HUNTINGDON	
SHARES & SYNDICATES	13
MY TOP FIFTEEN	14, 15, 16, 17 & 18
I.A.B.	
JUMPERS	19

Editor: Emma Balding

Design: Adrian Hodgkins

Photography: Ian Headington, Bob Williams and Charles Sainsbury-Plaice

Contributors: Ian Balding, Emma Balding, Andrew Balding

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Telephone: 01635 298210 Fax: 01635 298305

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THE

2003 has been a truly memorable year for all of us at Kingsclere. It seems almost a lifetime ago when Easter Ogil came storming out of the pack at Lingfield to give us our very first winner of the year. It was the beginning of a journey that has seen Kingsclere horses travelling far and wide in search of further success; from leafy Lingfield to Baden Baden in Germany, Toronto in Canada, Keeneland USA, Tipperary Ireland, Melbourne Australia, Milan, Paris, Hong Kong and back to Lingfield again. It really has been some journey! Not all these travels have been successful, far from it, but every single one has been rewarding and provided us with knowledge for the future.

Probably the first major highlight of the year was out involvement in one of the biggest races in the world, the Grand National. It is a privilege to be involved with a race that provides one of the sporting spectacles of the year. It is a gruelling test of courage and stamina and each winner of the great race provides a fairytale in itself! With Gunner Welburn we had a serious contender with Aintree experience and a realistic racing weight and for the six or so fences that he led the field, jumping as if the obstacles did not even exist, he provided us with an image to cherish forever. Sadly it was his stamina rather than courage that gave way and his gallant fourth place set the tone for the rest of the season.

One of the sadnesses of the year is the decision of Wafic Said to withdraw from his racing interests. Wafic owned, with Bob Michaelson in partnership, a number of horses at Kingsclere, most notably of course Border Arrow. In a six year racing career B.A. earned almost half a million pounds in prize money and this achievement even more remarkable considering that he missed much of his three and four year old years through injury.

2003 was to be his swansong and sadly a third place in the Group 3 Prix Exbury at Saint-Cloud was as close as he got to winning in his three races this season. Injury once again brought the season to a premature end but it is a comfort to know that his gangly frame will be seen plenty in retirement in the paddocks at Kingsclere.

Probably one of the few major disappointments of the year was Rimrod. A Danzig half brother to Selkirk, he had slaughtered Oasis Dream in a maiden as a two year old and shattered the two year old track record in the Stardom Stakes at Goodwood. His home work in the spring was equally outstanding and almost everyone who had seen him gallop at Kingsclere was in agreement that this was a genuine Group 1 horse.

His season started as it was to end in frustrating disappointment. The Easter Stakes at Kempton should, in hindsight, have been at his mercy, but racing too freely he could not finish with

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2003

by Andrew Balding



PASSING GLANCE wins the Group 2 Darley Preis Ottengen-Rennen

any purpose. Next he tried to give five pounds to Kalamian and Ikthiyar – a virtually impossible task. Then he won at Epsom on Derby Day, he was third from a bad draw at Royal Ascot, he had a shocking ride in France and then absolutely no luck in running at Newmarket – end of season! Rimrod will race on for his owner, George Strawbridge, in the States as a four year old and we all hope he can enjoy better luck and finally achieve what we all believe him to be capable of.

Bourgainville looked most likely to give us our first group success of the year when he stole a march in the Gordon Richards Stakes (G3) before being colared in the shadows of the winning post by Indian Creek. He was the model of consistency at the highest level and next year is set to try a global campaign that could finally see him win the 'big one' he deserves.

Kelpie is another horse who deserves recognition for consistency. Bought in late summer of last season by her adoring owner, Stuart McPhee, she won once in 2002 from 6 starts and in 16 races this year has won three times, been placed a further seven times and took time out to be covered! A truly iron horse, her last win at Newbury was one of the highlights of the season.

Of course the top moment was a certain Friday in early June when just about everything seemed to go exactly to plan. Poor old Highland Shot, on top of her game, happened to bump into a handicapper in Passing Glance who was to go on and prove himself a genuine group performer. His win at Epsom set the ball rolling and was followed by an excellent second to Bowman in a listed event at Goodwood before edging out Priors Lodge at Salisbury to become a listed winner himself. It was a titanic duel that day and a repeat battle in the Group 2 Celebration Mile saw a reversal in the form by the narrowest of margins.

The Darley Preis Ottengen-Rennen at Baden Baden was Passing Glance's crowning glory and rarely are there group 2 prizes won with such apparent ease. He is an exciting prospect as a five year old and any further improvement will see him become a major force in all the top mile races in Europe.

Casual Look was the heroine of that great day at Epsom and after the heady heights of Classic glory almost anything would have been an anti climax in comparison. Her third to Vintage Tipple in the Irish Oaks and another third in the Princess Elizabeth Stakes in Keeneland were both outstanding performances but she never quite looked like recapturing



PHOENIX REACH with Martin Dwyer

the glory at Epsom and her owner, Will Farish, has wisely decided to retire her to his Lanes End Farm in Kentucky.

She will retain a very special place in the hearts of all who were lucky enough to be involved with her and it would be lovely to think that one day some of her progeny may even make it back to Kingsclere.

Dubai Gift and Dubai Duel are both examples of the fact that a successful racehorse does not have to cost a king's ransom. The former was 6,000gns yearling purchase from the Autumn Sales and this year won his fifth, sixth and seventh races including a £50,000 handicap and a listed race at Doncaster. Rather like Passing Glance he should be at the peak of his physical capabilities as a five year old and is an exciting prospect for 2004.

Dubai Duel cost only 2,000gns at the Autumn Sales last year and the fact that she went on to realise 105,000gns at the Horses in Training Sale just twelve months later shows how rewarding it can be when things go well! She also collected £53,000 when finishing second in the Watership Down Fillies race at Ascot and black type when third in a Group 3 at Goodwood – quite a find for 2,000gns.

Phoenix Reach had cost a little bit more from the Doncaster St Leger Sale in 2001, but would have been cheap at ten times the price. A nasty injury had threatened to bring his career to an end before it had begun and his achievements this season are a credit to his attitude and courage as well as Simon Knapp's veterinary skill.

It was a long and painful process from the operating table to his seasonal debut at Newbury, but the manner of that maiden victory suggested it had been well worth the wait. Next up was the Gordon Stakes

and it was a tenacious display from a horse who was having only his third career start and facing far more experienced and battle hardened opposition. A short head victory over High Accolade saw Phoenix Reach installed as one of the favourites for the season's last classic, the St Leger at Doncaster.

In a competitive field, Phoenix Reach finished best of those to race close to the pace, best of those racing next to the unfavoured far rail and best of those to encounter some trouble in running! A highly creditable third behind Brian Boru and High Accolade confirmed what we had hoped, Phoenix is a colt of the highest calibre.

On his first trip abroad and first clash with the older generation he raced like an experienced professional to win the Pattison Canadian International at Woodbine by half a length. Brian Boru was behind him on this occasion and the two horses look set for a clash again in the future as both are due to stay in training as four year olds.

One of the features of the year has been the continued success of Martin Dwyer, now highly regarded in the senior ranks and improving all the time. His association with both Casual Look's Classic victory and Phoenix Reach made the successes even more personal to all of us who have known him since his early days here. He has become a force to be reckoned with and we hope he can continue to ride when available. We would sooner have him for us rather than in opposition!

All in all 2003 has been a year to savour and the anticipation of a new season has already begun to build and everyone at Kingsclere remains determined to make 2004 equally memorable. ■

THE 2003 **12** TO FOLLOW COMPETITION FINAL RESULT

A much closer run competition this year with Phoenix Reach playing a large part in the result. Simon Goswell 'does' him and so gains double revenue winning the competition as well. I sincerely hope the result is correct and hope that anyone dissatisfied with their score will please let me know particularly if it makes a difference to the prize money!!

Jeff Smith is back in form again much to our relief!

Thanks to everyone who took part. As usual if anyone has any bright ideas, that aren't too complicated, please let me know in plenty of time to implicate them for next year.

We had 183 entries this year generating a pool of £915 quite well down on previous years.

1st £500.50 2nd £227.50 3rd 136.50 4th £45.50 with Jeff Smith winning £5.00

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| 1. SIMON GOSWELL | 289 |
| 2. EMMA BALDING | 274 |
| 3. IAN BALDING | 270 |
| 4. PAT GRANT | 267 |

5. MR R KENNEDY	259	21. ANDREW NICHOLLS	218	37. C. COPE (A)	206
6. ANGELA CHESHIRE (A)	253	22. GLYNN BARRINGTON	217	37. R.P.B. MICHAELSON	206
7. JULIA WOODS	252	22. RONNIE MCWILLIAM	217	39. JOHN FARREN	205
8. SIMON PLUMBLY	250	22. MRS RAE SMITH	217	39. MELVYN & ROSE	205
9. ANDREW BALDING	249	25. STEVE WOOLLEY	216	39. DAVID POWELL (B)	205
10. ANGELA CHESHIRE (C)	245	26. DAVID POWELL (A)	215	42. JOHNNO SPENCE	204
11. WERNER AEBERHARD	232	27. STUART MCPHEE (A)	214	43. SOOTY MICHAELSON	203
12. ALICE ARNOLD	225	28. RACHEL SHARLAND	213	43. JOHN RICHARDSON	203
13. JULIAN WILSON	224	29. JOHNSON/BOUNDS (A)	212	45. ANN PLUMMER	202
14. REG CORFIELD	223	29. MICHAEL PAYTON	212	46. MICKY WEEDY	201
15. SUE GAY	222	31. PETER WILLIAMS	211	46. STUART MCPHEE (B)	201
15. MARION GREEN (B)	222	32. HELEN PLUMBLY	210	48. GARY HALLAS	200
15. ROB JENKINSON	222	32. JUDITH BALDING	210	48. MARION GREEN (A)	200
18. LEANNE MASTERTON	220	34. SARAH CULLEN	209	50. ROSEMARY FINLAY	199
18. MRS KENNEDY	220	34. MARK KNIBBS	209	51. MR R WALK	197
20. E. AUBREY	219	36. PAUL LUCAS	207	51. CORNELIUS LYSAGHT	197

53. TERRY MASON (A)	196	97. M & J ELLIOTT	169	141. GAIL KING	139
53. PAUL WELLS	196	98. HOWARD BAVEYSTOCK	168	141. LES BEDFORD	139
55. DAVID BACK	194	98. DAVID MCWILLIAM	168	143. SIMON HALL	138
56. SHARON WOOLLEY	193	100. LUCY WILCOX	166	144. CLICKY FOUR	137
57. ADRIAN HODGKINS (B)	190	101. JOHN FEANE	165	145. DAVID ALLPORT	135
58. ANN PALMER	188	101. CLAIRE PATRICK	165	146. W.W.K.S	134
59. JOHN RANSON	187	101. HOLISTIC RACING (B)	165	146. MELANIE HALL	134
60. SIMON GEE	185	104. BATTI DILLON (B)	164	148. GREG WATSON	132
61. ANNA MELLUISH	184	105. DENIS CASLON	163	149. ANNE IRELAND	131
62. DAVID GAY	183	105. MARY GEE	163	149. PAT FRAMPTON	131
62. DWAYNE PETTITT (A)	183	107. NICK OVETT	162	149. FIONA LEES	131
64. DERBYSHIRE/CHIVES (B)	182	108. MARK KENT	161	152. SUE LUMLEY	129
64. R. MASTERTON	182	108. IAN DERBYSHIRE	161	152. PAUL SAVORY	129
66. ANGELA CHESHIRE (B)	181	108. TESSA BROUGHTON	161	154. GEOFFREY RIGBY	128
66. EDWARD GAY	181	111. REID COULTER	160	154. JEFF THOMAS	128
66. RICHARD DANGAR	181	111. PETE BEASANT	160	156. SERENA COVENTRY	127
69. AUDREY HILL	180	113. PRINCE RUPERT	159	157. KATE BUCKLEY	126
69. ROGER BUCKLEY	180	113. STUART MCPHEE (C)	159	157. GEORGE HUMPHRIES	126
69. ADRIAN HODGKINS (A)	180	115. CATH TANSLEY	158	159. BARRY HALE	125
72. M & D O'BRIEN (A)	179	115. VIV COX	158	159. KINGSCLERE STUD	125
73. PETER BOX	178	115. BATTI DILLON (A)	158	159. JULIA HALL	125
73. JOHN KENNEDY	178	118. JIMMY MILLER	157	162. BILL PALMER	124
73. GARY MEARS	178	119. EUGENE CULLEN	156	162. WINTERBECK (B)	124
73. CHRISTINE FOSTER	178	120. SARAH MCLAREN	155	164. GEOFFREY HOWSON	119
77. MRS. G. BUTCHER	177	121. CAROLINE WATES	154	164. BERNARD BROUGHTON	119
77. MICHAEL PATRICK	177	121. DWAYNE PETTITT (B)	154	166. RICHARD PATRICK	118
77. MINA MCPHEE	177	123. DERBYSHIRE/CHIVES (A)	153	166. MARK STILLINGS	118
77. PETER BEDFORD	177	124. MRS P. HASTINGS	152	168. THE DIGITS	115
81. PAULINE GALE	176	125. PUDDLE WILLIAMS	151	169. WINTERBECK (A)	114
81. CLIVE STANSBY (A)	176	126. ANNA LISA WILLIAMS	150	169. SAM WOOLLEY	114
81. ROYAL GREENLAND	176	127. ALAN MOBLEY	149	171. B.K. MICHAELSON	113
84. M & D O'BRIEN (B)	175	127. JOHNSON/BOUNDS (B)	149	172. NIGEL HARRIS	111
84. OLIVER ST LAWRENCE	175	129. IAN LUCAS	148	173. SHEILA WELLS	107
84. M & D O'BRIEN (C)	175	129. EMMA LAMBOURNE	148	174. BRYAN COVENTRY	106
84. TERRY MASON (B)	175	131. GORDON IRELAND	147	174. MARIE BAILEY	106
88. CLARE BALDING	173	132. D. DERBYSHIRE	146	176. BEVERLEY HALL	98
88. STEVE STURGESS	173	132. D. AUBREY	146	177. GEORGE COLEMAN	93
90. GARY RIGBY	172	134. DAVID HALL	145	178. HOLISTIC RACING (A)	87
90. MALCOLM EVANS	172	135. FELICITY SIMPSON	144	179. JEAN WOOLLEY	83
92. H.M.B.	171	136. J & A PHILLIPS	143	180. CLIVE BELL	76
92. ROGER MICHAELSON	171	136. C. COPE (B)	143	181. ALLEN GAY	67
94. TOM COX	170	136. CLIVE STANSBY (B)	143	182. LIDIA	44
94. TONY GOVER	170	139. J CAMPBELL GRAY	141	183. J.C. SMITH	27
94. ANDY TOLHURST	170	139. PETER LUMLEY	141		

TOP SCORING HORSES 2003



DUBAIAN GIFT

PASSING GLANCE	50
DUBAIAN GIFT	44
HIGHLAND SHOT	42
KELPIE	39
PHOENIX REACH	39
LOCHRIDGE	38
RED TRANCE	38
ANTICIPATING	37
VANDERLIN	31
PALAWAN	30



PASSING GLANCE



LOCHRIDGE

LEADING LISTS

SIMON GOSWELL

DUBAIAN GIFT	44
LOCHRIDGE	38
OBLIGE	10
PASSING GLANCE	50
PRINCESS ALINA	6
RIMROD	23
RIPPLE EFFECT	25
ROYAL WARRANT	15
SOUND BLASTER	11
TRENCHCOAT	10
TRICK CYCLIST	26
VANDERLIN	31

EMMA BALDING

BRIAREUS	22
CASUAL LOOK	22
DUBAIAN DUEL	27
DUBAIAN GIFT	44
INDIANA BLUES	1
MAGICO	
PASSING GLANCE	50
PENTECOST	22
PHOENIX REACH	39
RIMROD	23
SPANISH ACE	24
TAG TEAM	

IAN BALDING

CASUAL LOOK	22
DUBAIAN DUEL	27
FEISTY FLORA	1
HIGHLAND SHOT	42
LOCHRIDGE	38
MAKILA KING	10
OBLIGE	10
PASSING GLANCE	50
RIMROD	23
SPEED COP	13
SPANISH ACE	24
TRENCHCOAT	

PAT GRANT

ARCTIC DESERT	21
ARCTIC QUEEN	
CASUAL LOOK	22
DUBAIAN DUEL	27
DUBAIAN GIFT	44
DUMARAN	5
HIGHLAND SHOT	42
LOCHRIDGE	38
RIMROD	23
ROYAL WARRANT	15
SPANISH ACE	24
STAR PUPIL	6

WOODEN SPOON LIST

J.C. SMITH

ARCTIC QUEEN	
BALLINGER EXPRESS	
BONDI	
BORDER ARROW	
DONASTRELLA	
DUBAIAN MIST	
MAKILA KING	10
MOOR LANE	6
SWEET PORTIA	
TAG TEAM	
THE PLAYER	11
VITELUCY	

THE JOINT CHALLENGE

N.H.H. Knapp, B.Sc., M.R.C.V.S.

Some of the treatments that appear on owners' bills and are probably never properly explained.

Racehorses are highly trained athletes who place significant stress and strain on their skeleton. In the case of the two-year-olds this skeleton is immature and rapidly developing, producing additional demands on the body. Although recent evidence advocates the application of controlled stress to the growing skeleton, stimulating bone mass and enhancing ligament strength, the forces applied during advanced training and racing frequently exceed tolerated levels and override the tissues ability to conform and adapt to the strains placed upon it.

Maintaining a racehorse in training is a balancing act between equine genetics, conformation, training regimes and veterinary medicine. The breeders influence the first two, trainers oversee the third and veterinary surgeons aim to balance these factors by facilitating equine mobility and soundness in a pain free environment. They must always work within the rules of racing and not mask the symptoms of injury with any treatment.

Lameness is the principal reason for time lost to training, and joint pain is the most common cause of lameness. The initial signs of joint stress comprise a discrete swelling of the joint capsule resulting from an increase in joint fluid, pain on palpation or flexion of the joint and in many cases lameness to varying degrees. The response of the body to friction is to increase lubrication, hence more joint oil and a swollen joint. It is important to appreciate that an increase in joint fluid is a symptom of joint stress and is not a disease in itself.

The approach to maintaining joint function and avoiding lameness is to respond to early signs of distress by diagnosing and treating problems before significant damage occurs. It is essential to avoid the trap of placing total faith in the "magic needle" and medicating a joint without a thorough clinical examination which will inevitably include X rays. This allows the bone structure to be assessed and the presence of bone chips and osteochondritis (OCD) lesions to be either eliminated or acted upon.

Joint injury in the presence of normal bone architecture and radiographic appearance may be termed "use trauma", causing metabolic dysfunction

within the joint. If ignored this is likely to trigger a self perpetuating degenerative joint disease (osteoarthritis).

Joint support for horses in training involves a multi-faceted approach comprising prophylactic nutritional supplementation, medication and where applicable a period of rest and recuperation. A combination of these factors reduces the risk of injury and accelerates a return to training.

Nutritional supplementation with glucosamine (Osteoflex) is widely accepted as a useful adjunct to joint prophylaxis ensuring enhanced cartilage quality and strength. Based on human research a minimum of 10 grams should be fed daily throughout the training career. Such medication has been shown to increase stride length, aid joint mobility and protect joint cartilage. Cessation of administration of glucosamine has been associated with reduction of movement.

Human trials involving glucosamine have confirmed that it genuinely modifies the joint disease process rather than acting as a pain relieving agent. Studies showed that glucosamine required two or three weeks before clinical improvement was reported but the response was significantly greater than other drugs including ibuprofen (Neurofen) and phenbutazone (bute). More importantly toxicity with oral glucosamine is practically absent, making it suitable for long term administration.

The presence of joint inflammation in radiographically normal joints can be successfully treated by direct medication into the joint. Although a wide range of products are administered, those most frequently and efficaciously used include hyaluronic acid (Hyonate), polysulphated glycoaminoglycans (Adequan), corticosteroids (Adcortyl) and Ibuprofen (Neurofen). These can be divided into two groups: those used to reduce inflammation and those designed to stimulate joint healing and increase joint protection.

Hyaluronic acid is a normal constituent of joint fluid and provides surface lubrication reducing the frictional resistance to movement. Joint inflammation resulting from injury produces soft tissue irritation, pain and increased friction. Administration of hyaluronic acid into the joint reverses these

developments and encourages a rapid return to normal joint function.

Adequan has been shown to protect cartilage and produce clinical improvement after direct injection into the joint or following intra-muscular administration. Injecting a joint is never without a risk even when rigorous aseptic precautions are taken. Adequan binds to damaged cartilage acting as a protectant whilst stimulating cartilage metabolism. Furthermore it increases the viscosity of joint fluid, aiding lubrication. A standard course of seven injections at four day intervals is advised.

The use of corticosteroids in two year old joints is controversial. Although they produce rapid pain relief, reduce swelling and joint distension, they do mask clinical signs, giving a false sense of security. They suppress cartilage production and repair, and in the presence of pain relief may predispose to increased joint damage when the horse works. Low dose short-acting corticosteroids do have a place in

joint medication, but their use must be tempered with caution of the masking effect and the risk of exacerbating injury by an early return to exercise.

Pentosan sodium is a compound which is becoming increasingly popular in the UK. Widely used in Australia its mode of action is similar to Adequan. It has a more profound anti-inflammatory property but is probably less effective in cartilage repair. Evidence suggests it markedly improves joint movement and the intra-muscular route ensures a safe method of administration.

The frequency of joint trauma in young racehorses ensures an on going search for treatment regimes which will enable training to continue without increasing joint damage. The necessity for balancing conformation, training regimes and medication remains, as does the need for accurate diagnosis. We should all bear in mind the importance of ensuring that treatment enhances nature's own healing process and does not act as an antagonist towards it. ■

APPRENTICE & AMATEURS

I.A.B.

NEIL CHALMERS became celebrated when on January 11th he rode Easter Ogil to victory and Lingfield to become Andrew Balding's first winner of his training career. Neil in fact had a very good season and was a force to be reckoned with at Lingfield. Further early season winners there on Palawan, Kelpie, Tarawan and Kelpie again followed by a vital win once more on her at Newbury completed a fine season for him on Kingsclere trained horses.



His partner SARA (TROOPER) METCALFE rode her one and only winner also on the all-weather at Lingfield on our old favourite Easter Ogil who was promptly claimed afterwards.

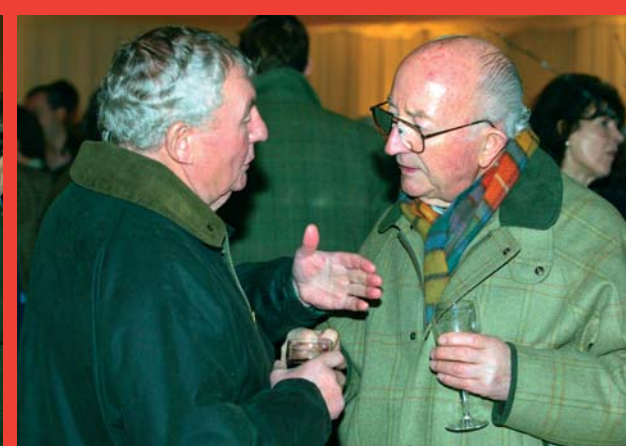
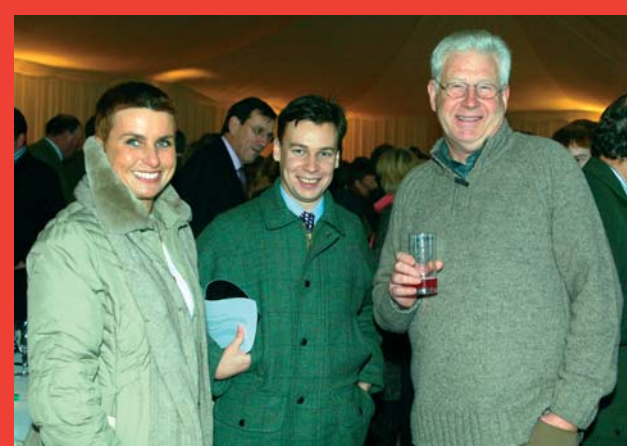
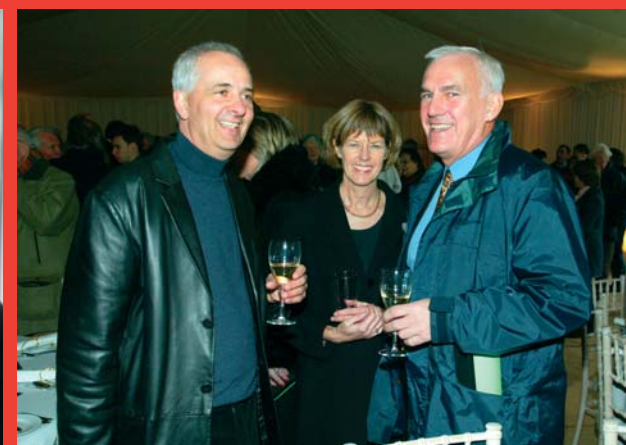
LIAM KENIRY had another good season and rode five winners for us. He gets on better than anyone with Voice Mail and his victory on him at Bath in June and on Florida Heart at Ayr in September were perhaps his two best rides all season. Liam no longer lives at Park House but rides out with us twice a week and will I am sure continue to ride plenty of winners for the stable.

TRAVIS BLOCK made a good start to his career with a third place on Tarawan at Lingfield in January. He went on to ride his first winner on the same horse at Leicester in March and was also second on Kelpie at the same track. He rides at a good weight and has all the right natural instincts to make a decent jockey one day.

SIMON GOSWELL made his debut this year in the amateur ranks and from very few rides was second on Voice Mail at Kempton. His season was perhaps more preoccupied with looking after Phoenix Reach but he should get more opportunities again in 2004 in amateur races.

The 2004 season should see the start of AMY PARSON's career as an apprentice and her enthusiasm will help her no doubt as much as her light weight and good style. ■

DECEMBER OWNERS DAY



THE SALES

by William Huntingdon

As a trainer the most exhausting part of the year begins just as the dual burden of evening and Sunday racing is lifted. Yearling buying time starts for most of us in August and ends up with the one-day sale at the start of the December Sales. This is the time for the seed corn to be purchased and dreams to be dreamt. It is also when racing is still very busy and, in most years, when the soft ground horses and immature two-year-olds get their chance on the racecourse and up the gallops. Gone though are the days when trainers could rely on just home-bred yearlings to replace stock being sold or retiring to stud.

Every trainer will have their favourite sale where circumstances have conspired to enable them to buy well. The season starts with two highly enjoyable sales, Saratoga and Deauville. Both take place in August with limited catalogues, good racing, hopefully good weather and a lively social scene. Saratoga has always suited Ian well. Any place where you have bought a Classic winner from, in the shape of Mrs. Penny, must be a place to return to. The added advantage of only three evening sales sessions and therefore plenty of time for golf or tennis all conspire to make it a fun venue to buy at. Andrew has only recently been introduced to these pleasures; but Shadowlands successful sale back to the States after a winning debut at Thirsk has given him a good reason to revisit. Deauville is the European start to the buying season and, with good weather, is one of the few places owners can get to and thoroughly enjoy themselves. Trainers have also been known to let their hair down a bit but must beware an early start if tempted by too much Calvados the night before.

The sales season starts in earnest with Doncaster which may not have the volume of Keeneland September but boasts an impressive record of winners. It has always been a good market for two-year-olds and their very valuable sales race has done much to bolster this record. This is the first sale that the linchpin of Kingsclere's buying success gets deployed. Emma has already done her "recce" trips to Catridge, Trickle-down and select other consignors and it is her difficult task from then on to organise Ian and Andrew to see the horses and get to the sale ring. Phoenix Reach has done both Doncaster and Emma proud this year and adds to the Group wins of Tagula from the same sale. Ian could usually be tempted up there with the carrot of a good game of golf, long before Purple Doors opened. However it was there that he lost his crown as bottle-walking champion. It was perhaps not David Redvers' wisest move in beating him, as I am sure Ian never went to see a Tweenhills horse again. After his stint with Ramsdens, Andrew has always regarded Yorkshire as his second home so Doncaster sales will always be in his diary.

Luckily Ian and Andrew have always had an in-house agent in the form of Emma. It is almost impossible to cover the sales properly without some help. There are too many horses to see in too short a time and unless you have a very big budget, trying to pick yearlings solely on pedigree is very difficult to justify. I used to find it impossible to buy from an owner's list as you generally ended up with an unhappy compromise. It works far better to produce a list of nice individuals and hope the owner can find some that they like on pedigree. Most trainers use agents to do the leg work. The Hannons and the Doyle family have been a great team for many years. Mick Channon has Gill Richardson who in turn gets great spotting assistance from David and Dinah Nicholson. Michael Bell can call on his brother-in-law, Luke Lillingston and his team while Brain Meehan has the McKeever-St Lawrence partnership to assist. James Delahooke and his girls have successfully helped the Harwood family for a long time. Two of the major agents, John Warren and Charlie Gordon-Watson, act for many clients and there is a tense rivalry between them. Ever since the lambasting many English-based agents got from Indian Charlie's column in the States their sales manners have improved. Doncaster is quickly succeeded by Fairyhouse, the Houghton, Goffs and then, the marathon October Sales with just about enough time for a load of washing to be done. Vendors have it just as hard trying to juggle horses and staff as many of the bigger outfits sell at most sales. For them the timing is critical, the sales horse has only one day, whereas the racehorse usually has an alternative if a minor mishap occurs. Buyers go back to the vendors who have been lucky for them. Forest, Catridge, Trickle-down, Briery, Rathbary and Garrowby have all been lucky for the Kingsclere team. Furnace Mill, Kingwood, Watership Down, Jamie Railton, Ted Voute and Ballygallon all have high-class drafts and the added encouragement of hospitality to sustain one round Tattersalls. The Brown's ham and beef, Fiona Marners' cheese and the Braeburn apples from Ballygallon are all little oases on the long trek.

The final success stories are when the reasonably bought yearling is successful on the racecourse and then sells well through the ring as Firebreak did. This year has seen the Team Walker's enthusiasm, investment and hard work well repaid with Dubian Duel's sale to America for £105,000 after buying her for only £2,000 the year before. Andrew has certainly become more focused at the sales, if you can get him off his mobile phone. Pete Sampras is supposed to have said that Tim Henman has the "attention span of a gnat". As Henman has shown this autumn in Paris this can be changed. So Andrew has become, under Emma's cajoling, much more attentive and industrious in the sale ring. ■

SHARES & SYNDICATES

THE BLUE RIBAND SYNDICATE

We have decided to form a syndicate this year with a view to setting our sights to the sky and attempting to find a horse for the greatest flat race of all, the Epsom Derby.

The two horses we have bought for this are both bred to stay at least one and a quarter miles and are attractive and scopey individuals. The combined purchase price of both yearlings is £106,000 and the projected training costs inclusive of all entry, veterinary, insurance and other miscellaneous costs is £50,000 from purchase to the end

of 2004. This will be divided up into a ten share syndicate at a cost of £15,600 per share. At the end of the 2004 season a decision to retain one, or both or none of the horses for 2005 will be made depending on the potential they have shown on the racecourse, or at home and after consultation with all share holders. If it is decided to retain a horse/horses (which is hopefully the aim!) appropriate funds will be required from each shareholder to cover the next year's cost of training.

DIXIELAND BAND – LITE TWILIGHT (Twilight Agenda) Feb. 9th Chesnut colt \$100,000 Saratoga Select Yearling Sale

A classic stamp of horse who was bought at the same Saratoga yearling sale where I.A.B. managed to buy Classic winner Mrs Penny. He is by Dixieland Band, a sire who has had over 570 winners and in excess of £50,000,000 in prize money both in the U.S.A. and Europe. His progeny in training in the U.K. have a median Timeform figure of 92 which ranks him fourth highest of **all** sires with runners in Britain between 2000-2003. This yearling's dam won five races and \$132,000 in prize money and is a half sister to the Group 3 winner Sheila's Prospect.

NASHWAN – OATEY (Master Willie) March 17th Chesnut colt 27,000gns Tattersalls October Sale

By a Derby winner and out of a mare whose sire was second to Henbit in the 1980 Derby. This horse looks every bit a middle distance type and is closely related to Munwar who won the Lingfield Derby Trail and to the Group 1 placed Hateel. A fluent walker he has the size and scope to make into a really nice three year old.



INDIAN RIDGE filly

The following yearlings are for sale:

Indian Ridge filly out of Jarrayan (by Macchiavellian) £24,000.

Compton Place gelding out of Loriner's Lass (Saddlers Hall) £8,000.

Trans Island colt out of Contravene (by Contract Law).



TRANS ISLAND colt

There are also shares available in the following:

TUVALU a colt by Dashing Blade out of Tepana (by Polish Precedent) a half share at £10,000.

Piccolo colt out of Nesting (by Thatching) a half share at £11,500.

SUKUMA a Highest Honor filly out of Selva (by Darshaan) a half share at £8,500.

I.A.B. – MY

No. 6 SILLY SEASON

Rather like Andrew Balding nearly forty years later I inherited the trainer's licence at Kingsclere with at least one high class horse in the yard already. May be it is sentiment that urges me to put him as high as No. 6, but I know he should have had a far better record than he had. The horse in question was a bay colt by the famous Greentree stallion Tom Fool out of a mare called Double Deal by Straight Deal and his name was Silly Season. He was bred and owned by Paul Mellon.

As a two year old he was tall and somewhat unfurnished but a beautiful mover with lots of speed. He had his first run in the Salisbury Stakes when Peter Hastings-Bass was still alive and had finished a very promising second. I knew that Peter wanted to target the Coventry Stakes at Royal Ascot and that was where he next ran. So, only a fortnight after taking over under a temporary licence, I was fortunate enough to have a double at the Royal Meeting. Linnet Lane owned and bred by my future mother-in-law won the Bessborough handicap on the Wednesday and on the first day Silly Season, also ridden by our young stable jockey Geoff Lewis, won the Coventry Stakes.

After being second in what is now the Solario Stakes at Sandown, our good two year old colt ended an exciting season by winning the Dewhurst Stakes at Newmarket – even in those days our most prestigious race for two year old colts.

In 1965, my first full season as the official trainer, Silly Season started it in style by winning the Greenham Stakes at Newbury comfortably. We went to the 2,000 Guineas three weeks later as a joint favourite with

twenty eight runners in this first Classic. Silly Season was drawn low and as usual with so many runners they split in to two groups. Our horse was far superior to any other colt on our side and with almost three furlongs to run Geoff took up the running and probably went five lengths clear of the whole field. It was too soon of course and as Silly Season got lonely and tired he began to hang right handed across the course. Unbelievably he finished right over on the far side and sadly three quarters of a length behind the winner, Niksar.

Silly Season ran in the Derby which the great Sea Bird won with consummate ease, but he obviously did not stay and Geoff wisely looked after him. We then took the bold decision to run our colt back in the St James's Palace Stakes at Royal Ascot only a fortnight later. This time, back over his right distance, Silly Season made all the running and kept going well to win narrowly

and confirm his status among the three year old milers.

We were all aware that our horse was a rig (a colt one of whose testicles has not descended into the scrotum). Sometimes, particularly when that errant ball is trapped in the inguinal canal rather than still being up in the abdomen, it can be pinched and must obviously be very painful. Nowadays the vets know much more about the problem and,

as with Selkirk many years later, that one ball can be easily removed with dramatic results.

Silly Season, for a top class horse, was inconsistent and in some of the bad races he ran he was almost certainly suffering considerable pain. In his three year old season he ran a couple of undistinguished races before his final start over a mile and a quarter in the Champion Stakes at Newmarket. Geoff rode a beautiful waiting race on this occasion and he came through late to win decisively with the 2000 Guineas winner back in third place.



Winning Coventry Stakes at Royal Ascot

TOP FIFTEEN



The Champion Stakes at Newmarket

Silly Season's four year old season started with an impressive win in the Locking Stakes at Newbury, but narrow defeats at Royal Ascot and in the Sussex Stakes at Goodwood meant that an easy win in the Hungerford Stakes at Newbury over seven furlongs was his only other victory. His career ended with another frustrating narrow defeat in the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes at Ascot in the autumn.

The horse was a brilliant miler but very difficult to ride and train. Geoff and I both felt that had he come along later in our careers, when we were both more

experienced, he could well have been a great horse. He went to stud at New England Stud in Newmarket and was quite a successful stallion. I was happy to train a lot of his best offspring like Martinmas and his full sister Rowantree, Idiots Delight who became a leading National Hunt stallion and the Lincoln winner Fair Season. Later he went on to become a good sire of broodmares and one of them, our Cambridgeshire winner Siliciana, became Emma's foundation mare at the Kingsclere Stud. ■

No. 5
GLINT OF GOLD



The Grand Prix de Paris, Longchamp

There are not many horses that win six Group 1 races, and in the early 1980s Glint of Gold was one of the toughest and most consistent horses in a golden age of middle distance runners. He was unlucky perhaps that the very best of them, Shergar, was foaled in the same year.

Glint of Gold was the first foal of a superbly bred mare, Crown Treasure, whom Paul Mellon had picked out to come to England and be one of Mill Reef's mates for several years. He turned out to be one of the great horse's very best sons.

Glint of Gold was a big strong, handsome bay colt, and very similar to his sire in colour, markings and temperament. He never looked like being a precocious two year old and was not ready for his debut until the end of July. He won his first race, the Sandwich Maiden Stakes at Ascot over seven furlongs, impressively. A narrow defeat in the Acomb Stakes at York persuaded me that he was

not ready for any of our big autumn races in England. However in his third and final race as a two year old we took him to Milan and he won the very valuable Group 1 Gran Criterium over a mile.

Our handsome colt did extremely well during the winter and looked every inch a serious contender for our Derby at Epsom. We started his three year old season with a facile win in Epsom's own trial, the Warren Stakes, over the full course and distance. I decided then to target the Derby Italiano at Rome, which was not only a very valuable and prestigious race in its own right, but also from a timing point of view a perfect trial for our English Derby.

This in fact was the first year that this race was not confined to Italian bred horses and I am not too sure that his facile win was very popular with the locals! In the Derby itself our horse did not get a good start and in a rough race was nearly brought down early on. As a result he came from much too far back to be any danger to the impressive winner, Shergar, but all the same ran a great race to finish second.

We decided that there was little point in taking on the Derby winner again in races like the Irish Derby and King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II Stakes at Ascot. Glint of Gold thus became the first English trained winner of the Grand Prix de Paris since 1921 – still at that time over a distance of a mile and seven furlongs. After that our target was the St Leger at Doncaster and our colt won the main prep race for the final Classic – the Great Voltigeur at York – in impressive style. In the Leger itself, ridden as usual by John Matthias, he took up the running a quarter of a mile from home and looked a certain winner until Cut Above and Joe Mercer found a real turn of foot to pass us well inside the final furlong. I can recall being immensely disappointed, as I felt sure we would never have a better chance of winning this great race.



The Grand Prix de Saint Cloud

Glint of Gold was remarkably tough and seemed to come out of the St Leger so well that we decided on one more journey to Europe and this time for the very valuable Group 1 Preis von Europa at Cologne. The £64,000 prize for the winner was easily our most valuable victory all season and he was beating older horses for the first time.

His four year old season started in promising fashion with a popular local victory in the John Porter Stakes at Newbury. He was then beaten in a photo finish two weeks later in the Jockey Club Stakes by the Gold Cup winner Ardross. Some people felt that our jockey had been outmanoeuvred by the canny Lester Piggott on the winner.

I was not of that opinion, but I did feel that John should have won the Coronation Cup at Epsom just over a month later. Our pacemaker on that occasion, Show A Leg, was never going fast enough and John should have let Glint of Gold go to the front and stride on much sooner than he did. He was narrowly beaten in the end by a 20-1 outsider, Easter Sun, ridden by Bruce Raymond. This race was followed by another narrow defeat in the Hardwicke Stakes at Royal Ascot. It was after this that Paul Mellon convinced me that we had to have a change of jockey and Pat Eddery rode Glint of Gold in his final three races.

We went to Paris for the Group 1 Grand Prix de Saint Cloud and narrowly beat a very good French trained horse of Lord Weinstock's called Lancastrian. Three weeks later he was a close third to Kalaglow and the Irish Derby winner Assert in our big mid season showpiece, the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II Stakes at Ascot. This day interestingly his Coronation Cup victor, Easter Sun, finished ten lengths behind him.

We decided to aim then for the Arc de Triomphe and I chose the Grosser Preis von Baden at Baden Baden as his prep race. Here Pat made all the running to win very easily and impressively. It was a devastating blow when Glint of Gold injured a tendon about ten days before the Arc. He must have gone very close to winning it as that year the ground was heavy, which he loved, and his old rival Ardross was only beaten a head.

This lovely horse was looked after all his time at Kingsclere by Micky Weedy, who of course is still with us, albeit not quite the brilliant young athlete he was in those days! Glint of Gold's career as a stallion was cut short drastically when he was found dead in the paddock one day from an obscure form of grass sickness. He became quite a successful sire of broodmares in his short spell at the Derisley Wood Stud owned at that time by Souren Vanian. ■

No. 4 SELKIRK



The Queen Elizabeth Stakes, Ascot

In the autumn of 1989 George Strawbridge sent us over from Derry Meeting Farm a chesnut colt called Selkirk. He was by Sharpen Up and out of a high class sprinting mare called Annie Edge whom James Wigan had bought with great foresight as a broodmare for George.

We already had the full brother a year older called Casual Flash whom we had managed to get well enough handicapped so that he could win an amateur riders handicap over two miles at Beverley. He was ridden by a certain Miss Clare Balding that day to help her in her successful quest to win the Amateur Riders title that season.

At about this stage of the year we could have been forgiven for laying odds of about 500-1 about his tall gangly younger brother becoming the Champion Miler in just over a year's time. Casual Flash seemed as if he had reached the summit of his ability that day at Beverley and the younger brother Selkirk up until then had looked as awkward and goofy as any two year old colt on the place.

Suddenly however things changed and the two year old started to get his act together and to improve dramatically. So much so that I picked on a listed race over a mile at Goodwood for Selkirk's debut. With John Reid riding he won the race impressively in a very fast time and at once I was regretting not having given him entries in any of the important autumn two year old races.

We had no option but to supplement in the Group 1 Grand Criterium at Longchamp three weeks later. Selkirk never looked like beating the very mature and experienced Hector Protector, but I remember being concerned at how quickly he had faded back into fourth place after looking certain to be second with less than a furlong to run.



The Challenge Stakes, Newmarket

In his first four races as a three year old whether we ran over seven furlongs, a mile or a mile and a quarter, the same thing happened. We were aware that he was a rig but only after seeing him fail to extend his stride in the closing stages of these races did I begin to wonder if his trapped testicle was inconveniencing him. After talks with our vet, Simon Knapp, Simon did the crucial operation of removing the offending ball under local anaesthetic. Less than a week later Selkirk was moving like a different horse and only three weeks afterwards he won the Listed Heron Stakes at Kempton decisively in record time – this time with Ray Cochrane in the saddle.

Fortunately I had left him in the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes at the Ascot autumn festival, and in the rain softened ground Ray brought him through late and fast to beat the classic winning fillies Kooyonga and Shaddayid by two lengths. Selkirk had destroyed the best field of milers assembled all season and deservedly was officially crowned the Champion Miler of 1991.

His four year old season commenced with a dazzling performance in the Group II (at that time) Lockinge Stakes at Newbury where he beat Lahib easily. Having returned from his next start in France coughing, an enforced rest meant that Selkirk did not have an ideal preparation for the Sussex Stakes at Goodwood. Even so he put up a remarkable performance to just go down by a head to the brilliant filly Marling. These two had a great tussle from two furlongs out in what was considered one of the best and most exciting races seen at Goodwood for a while.

A mightily impressive win back at Goodwood in the Group II Celebration Mile put him back on course to become the first horse since the great Brigadier Gerard to win back to back runnings of the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes. With Ray Cochrane suspended, the responsibility for riding the hot favourite fell to John Reid and sadly the race was a nightmare from start to finish for both horse and jockey. Having run in to all sorts of trouble they had to settle for a very unlucky looking third behind Lahib.

Following a brilliant exhibition over seven furlongs in the Group II Challenge Stakes at Newmarket, Selkirk travelled to Florida for the Breeders Cup Mile at Gulfstream Park. The tight turning track and the ghastly humidity that afternoon made life extremely difficult for our champion and in the circumstances he ran very creditably to finish fifth behind the record breaking Lure.

Selkirk was very laid back and had a delightful nature. He was looked after by Louise Shepherd all through his time here – an unusual occurrence at Kingsclere where the girls nearly always care for fillies and the lads the colts.

He has, of course, been a huge success at Kirsten Rausing's Lanwades Stud. For the last few seasons he has been one of the most successful English based stallions and it is always a pleasure to see one of his offspring arriving here as a yearling. Nearly all seem to have his wonderful temperament and we do not worry too much if they are 17 hands and not showing outstanding ability before August of their two year old season! ■

THE JUMPERS

I.A.B.

Firm Ground all through the summer and early part of autumn hindered the preparations of our few jumpers and therefore delayed their appearance as much as any other National Hunt stable.

DUCHAMP was the first to run and two excellent performances at Stratford, where he was narrowly beaten and then won augured well. The champion jockey A.P. rode him on both occasions and he convinced us all to withdraw him from the Doncaster Sale. Sadly in his only subsequent race at Aintree he was pulled up having acquired a leg injury, he now faces a lengthy period of rest.

MOOR LANE looked much more his old self when ridden by Timmy Murphy at Ascot in early November. He jumped beautifully and finished second. We all felt it was enough of a confidence booster to have another crack at the big fences at Aintree. Although he did well under a fine ride from Tony Dobbin to get round and earn some good fourth prize money in the three and a quarter mile Beecher Chase, he did it very much in his own time. It looks, sadly, as if Aintree is not his favourite course and next year's Grand National will not now be on his agenda. He could easily win a significant race or two however around the park courses and remains attractively handicapped.

GUNNER WELBURN was held up more than any of

the others by the firm ground and went to Newbury for his debut this season considerably less than fully wound up. He did not jump with his usual brilliance and in the end was pulled up just before the last. His season will revolve around another crack at the Grand National, but hopefully he can win a good race or two during the winter months on his way to Aintree.

COOL MONTY was another who was not fully fit for his first race. He ran and jumped with enthusiasm on his debut at Newbury however and was in the winner's enclosure at Huntingdon on his following run.

Our two novice hurdlers made eye-catching starts to their new careers. DISTANT PROSPECT jumped superbly for Timmy Murphy in his first race at Newbury to finish a close second to the very useful Albuhera. He appears to love jumping and was impressive winning at Newbury on his second start.

TRAVELLING BAND also jumped extremely well and gamely holding on to win his first race under Jimmy McCarthy at Haydock. He was beaten back there on his next outing but not that disgraced.

All fingers are crossed, but our old friend SCORNED is at least half way towards yet another come back. Right now his legs feel good and as he is a very talented horse his reappearance over hurdles will be awaited with considerable excitement. ■



GUNNER WELBURN in the National

