

WINTER 2004

The KINGSCLERE *Quarter*



THE PARK HOUSE STABLES NEWSLETTER

The KINGSCLERE Quarter



Andrew Balding

Front cover: Phoenix Ridge returns after the Hong Kong Vase
Back cover: Autumn leaves falling

CONTENTS

REVIEW OF YEAR	2 & 3
ANDREW BALDING	
2004 TWELVE TO FOLLOW COMPETITION	4, 5 & 6
SEEING THE BIGGER PICTURE	7 & 8
CLARE BALDING	
PARK HORSE PARTNERSHIP 2005	9
N.H.H. KNAPP	
EXPLORING THE EAST	10, 11, 12 & 13
KINGSCLERE – PRODUCER OF STALLIONS WITH HIGH IQ'S	14 & 15
STUART MCPHEE	
A DAY IN A LIFE AS A STABLE LAD	16 & 17
ANNA LISA WILLIAMS	
MY TOP FIFTEEN	18, 19, 20 & 21
I.A.B.	
THE JUMPERS	22
I.A.B.	
YEARLINGS FOR SALE	23

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REVIEW

Well, no one ever pretended that training was easy and 2003 was always going to be a hard one to follow. This year has been frustrating mostly because of the inconsistency of the yard rather than the lack of quality. There is just the lingering feeling that we weren't really able to exploit the potential of many of the horses because of their in and out form.

Exceptions to this were Vanderlin who was admirable in his consistency, likewise Pentecost who had a grand season also Donastrela and Voice Mail. The two year olds as reviewed in the last issue look overall a much stronger group and the season took a big upward surge when Diktatorial won the Group 3 Somerville Tattersalls Stakes at Newmarket in October. He stuck on bravely when headed, and despite his obvious immaturity, battled on well providing the joint syndicates of Thurloe Thoroughbreds and Tweenhills racing with something to dream about through the winter. It was also the first Group 3 winner for his breeder and part owner, Di Joly.

He had presented us with some serious problems in training and had been another resident with Steve Dyble (Yarmy) who



PENTECOST who enjoyed a fabulous season

OF YEAR

Andrew Balding



DIKTATORIAL wins the Somerville Tattersalls Stakes

has accompanied him to the start for each of his runs and has worked wonders with him. He is a much more settled horse at home and if the improvement continues will have grown out of his quirks by next year. Physically as well as mentally he has done well and with luck will be a genuine top class group colt next year.

As many of you already know we have leased twelve boxes at Lingfield to keep our regular runners down there and train them on the track. Chris Bonner is in charge and we should be starting a more serious campaign with those horses after Christmas. Hopefully they will get us on the winner's board to give us a sound start for the turf season. It will also give an opportunity for our apprentices to have some rides and hopefully winners in the less competitive events and Tiny Tim will be back in action soon.

Travis Block has returned to the warmer climes of his homeland, South Africa, to pursue his career there.

A fuller review of changing faces at Kingsclere will appear in the Spring Quarter but also lured by Africa is Simon Burgoyne who is taking a year out from racing and working for a company taking horse safaris in Botswana.

The Horses in Training Sales are always a sad time as horses move on too but at the same time the yard fills again with the youngsters and we are assembling a nice looking lot of yearlings many of them from families that have already been at Kingsclere.

We have learnt a lot during the season, will probably have some decently handicapped horses next year to campaign with and an exciting number of young horses. Most importantly of all, that bit about the fat lady and singing, never give up hope. When I started this article it was with a pretty unsatisfactory feeling about the whole year. **Japan and Hong Kong later – wow – what a difference. ■**

THE 2004 **12** TO FOLLOW COMPETITION

FINAL RESULT

The twelve to follow competition is always a very good indicator of the whole season and no time more so than this year. The months from August 18th to December 1st were very low scoring ones and some scores did not change at all in that time. No one would have thought in April that horses such as Phoenix Reach, Saint Etienne, Dubaian Gift and Florida Heart would amass a total of one point between them but such was 2004.

Congratulations to Simon Goswell who has won this year despite losing poor Dubaian Gift and Phoenix Reach not appearing from July until Japan. Simon has moved on from racing but had some great successes while he was here and it is good that he has emerged a winner. Congratulations also to Roger Mackinnon (father of the clerk of the course at Windsor) who had a very consistent list.

We are open to any suggestions of how we can improve the competition without making it too complicated so please let us have them by the end of February when we will be organising the 2005 entry list.

1st £577.50 2nd £262.50 3rd 157.50 4th £52.50 and £5.00 returned to the O'Briens

1. GOSWELL, SIMON	190
2. MACKINNON, R	183
3. DILLON, BATT (C)	176
4. BARBER, HAZEL	175

5. O'BRIEN, M & D (C)	173	22. MCWILLIAM, D	154	41. MCLAREN, S	141
6. GREEN, MARION (A)	170	24. LEE-ROBINSON, N	152	42. FEANE, JOHN	140
6. REIS, P	170	24. PATTON, N (A)	152	42. GORROD, J	140
8. AUBREY, D	167	24. SHARLAND, R	152	42. KENNEDY, Y	140
8. GRANT, PAT	167	27. COLEMAN, GEORGE	149	42. MASTERTON, L	140
8. HYDE, M	167	27. MACKINNON, B	149	42. WECHSLER, E	140
11. TEACHER, HUGH (B)	165	29. RHODES/COUSINS	148	42. WILLIAMS A-L (WELSH)	140
12. MCPHEE, M	164	30. COPE, C (A)	147	42. WILLIAMS, PETER	140
13. COATH-WILSON, T	162	31. HOBHOUSE, J (A)	146	49. EVANS, MALCOLM	138
14. COPE, C (C)	161	31. LUMLEY, P	146	49. JENKINSON, R	138
14. DERBYSHIRE, D	161	33. PAYTON, M	145	51. GORDON, JOHN	137
16. BALDING, M.R. & C	160	34. DERBYSHIRE/CHIV(B)	144	52. ELLIS-JONES, W	131
17. ALLPORT, DAVID	159	34. POWELL, D (A)	144	52. GALE, JOHN	131
17. KENNEDY, R	159	34. W.W.S.K.	144	52. MCWILLIAM, R	131
19. FARREN, JOHN	157	37. MCDOUGALL, R	143	55. JOHNSON/BOUNDS (B)	130
20. CULLEN, E	156	38. CASLON, D	142	55. MICHAELSON, SOOTY	130
21. BALDING, IAN	155	38. RANDOM WALK	142	55. PLUMBLY, HELEN	130
22. KNIBBS, MARK	154	38. RITSON, W & V	142	58. BAILEY, MARIE	128

58. DAY, MIKE	128	110. DILLON, BATT (B)	108	161. BURGOYNE, S	86
58. JOHNSON/BOUNDS (A)	128	111. ARNOLD, ALICE	107	161. MULLIGAN, A	86
58. KENNEDY, J	128	111. CHESHIRE, A (B)	107	163. BROUGHTON, T	85
62. STANSBY, C (B)	127	113. WILSON, D	105	163. PLUMMER, A	85
63. FOSTER, C (B)	126	114. MITCHELL, B	104	163. WILLIAMS, SUZIE	85
63. LUMBLEY, S	126	115. HALLAS, GARY (A)	103	166. CHRISTOU, ANTHONY	84
65. BUTCHER, G	125	115. HOBHOUSE, J (B)	103	167. LUCK, G (A)	83
65. CULLEN, S	125	117. NEWBERY, K	102	168. HESLOP, D	82
65. PETTIT, D (B)	125	117. OVETT, N	102	168. WATES, C	82
65. TEACHER, HUGH (A)	125	117. RAE SMITH, M.A. (B)	102	170. HASTINGS, P	81
69. BACK, DAVID	124	117. STANSBY, C (A)	102	170. LYSAGHT, C	81
70. BAVEYSTOCK, H	123	121. BROUGHTON, B	101	170. THOMAS, J	81
70. MICHAELSON, R.C.B.	123	121. CHONG, GARY	101	173. PALMER, A	80
70. NEWMAN, L	123	121. HALL, DAVID	101	173. RICHARDSON, J	80
73. DILLON, BATT (A)	122	121. WILSON, JULIAN	101	173. WATSON, G	80
73. HILL, AUDREY	122	125. WINTERBECK (B)	99	176. HODGKINS, A	79
75. DANGAR, RICHARD	121	126. NICHOLLS, A	98	176. ROYAL GREENLAND	79
75. EDMEADES, W	121	126. PALMER, W	98	178. HALL, MELANIE	78
75. O'BRIEN, M & D (B)	121	126. PASCOE, R	98	179. WALKER, G	77
78. WALKER, T	120	129. BOX, PETER	97	180. BROUGHTON, E	75
78. WILLIAMS, ANNA LISA	120	129. CLAYTON, D	97	181. MEARS, G	74
80. BARRINGTON, GLYNN	119	129. DAY, MEL	97	182. CHESHIRE, A (C)	73
80. GEE, SIMON	119	132. BALDING, CLARE	96	182. WHITE, T	73
80. PARENTE, R	119	132. KNAPP, SIMON	96	182. WILLIAMS, PUDDLE	73
80. PLUMBLY, SIMON	119	132. LOVELL, LYNDA	96	185. WOOLLEY, SHARON	72
80. THOMAS, K	119	132. SIMPSON, A	96	186. BEASANT, PETE	71
85. GREEN, MARION (B)	118	136. BARBER, DAVID	95	186. WEEDY, MICK	71
85. HALL, BEVERLEY	118	136. DERBYSHIRE/CHIV (A)	95	188. HALLAS, GARY (B)	70
85. MASON, T (A)	118	136. FRAMPTON, PAT	95	188. PRINCE RUPERT	70
85. PATTON, N (B)	118	136. GAY, DAVID	95	190. KEENE, ANNIE	69
89. BALDING, EMMA	117	136. H.M.B.	95	190. TREGASKES, G	69
89. GOVER, TONY	117	136. HALLAS, GARY (C)	95	192. WILLIAMS, GLYN	68
89. HALL, JULIA	117	136. WOODS, JULIA	95	192. WINTERBECK (A)	68
89. MCPHEE, S (B)	117	143. WEEDY, MAUREEN	94	194. KEENE, ADAM	67
89. MICHAELSON, R.P.B.	117	144. GEE, MARY	93	195. BEDFORD, PETER	66
89. REES, L	117	144. MACREADY, N	93	195. DOHERTY, T	66
95. AUBREY, E	116	144. MASON, T (B)	93	195. LAMBOURNE, EMMA	66
96. GAY, SUE	115	147. HALE, JANICE	92	198. HUMPHRIES, G	65
96. KING, GAIL	115	147. MCPHEE, S (A)	92	199. DICK (GAMEKEEPER)	63
96. PETITT, D (A)	115	147. MELLUISH, A	92	199. LUCK, G (B)	63
96. RAE SMITH, M.A. (A)	115	147. MURPHY, J	92	201. HOLISTIC (B)	61
100. COVENTRY, S	114	151. ARNOLD, PAMELA	91	201. SAVORY, P	61
100. HOWSON, G	114	151. FOSTER, C (A)	91	203. HOLISTIC (A)	58
102. BRYSER	112	151. GAY, L.M.	91	204. BALDING, ANDREW	55
102. CATRIDGE COOLCATS	112	151. TUCKER, D	91	205. BELL, CLIVE	54
102. STRUTHERS, L	112	155. KENT, MARK	89	205. COVENTRY, B	54
105. HALL, SIMON	111	155. O'BRIEN, M & D (A)	89	207. KOOROS, L	50
105. HARRIS, NIGEL	111	157. POWELL, D (B)	88	208. KINGSCLERE STUD	48
105. RANSON, J	111	158. ARNOLD, HUGH	87	209. CHESHIRE, A (A)	38
105. LEES, FIONA	110	158. COPE, C (B)	87	210. OUR TURN P/SHIP	30
109. LILLINGSTON, L	109	158. FISHER, TED	87	211. O'BRIEN, M & D (D)	14

TOP SCORING HORSES 2004



VANDERLIN

VANDERLIN	42
VOICE MAIL	39
INDIANA BLUES	34
TINY TIM	34
PENTECOST	31
ALBINUS	31
DISTANT PROSPECT	29
DONASTRELA	29
LADY LE QUESNE	26



TINY TIM

LEADING LISTS

SIMON GOSWELL

ANITICIPATING	7
BAY HAWK	4
CAPE GREKO	16
DIKTATORIAL	22
DUBAIAN GIFT	
ELKHORN	
INDIANA BLUES	34
LOCHRIDGE	20
SPEED COP	6
STORM CENTRE	
VANDERLIN	42
VOICE MAIL	39

ROGER MACKINNON

ANGEL WING	
BORDER MUSIC	21
COUNTY CLARE	10
INDIANA BLUES	34
LADY LE QUESNE	26
LOCHRIDGE	20
MARAJUANA	10
PHOENIX REACH	
SAINT ETIENNE	
SPANISH ACE	11
SPEED OF SOUND	9
VANDERLIN	42

BATT DILLON (C)

ANTICIPATING	7
COUNTY CLARE	10
DESERT QUEST	17
DIKTATORIAL	22
DISTANT PROSPECT	29
LOCHRIDGE	20
PASSING GLANCE	13
PENTECOST	31
ROGUE	
SILVER HIGHLIGHT	12
SPEED COP	6
SPEED OF SOUND	9

HAZEL BARBER

ALSU	22
ANGEL WING	
ANTICIPATING	7
BALLINGER EXPRESS	20
BORDER MUSIC	21
COUNTY CLARE	10
INDIANA BLUES	34
LADY LE QUESNE	26
LOCHRIDGE	20
SAINT ETIENNE	
SPEED COP	6
SPEED OF SOUND	9

WOODEN SPOON LIST

MICHAEL & DEBORAH O'BRIEN (D)

ARRIVATO	
AVERAMI	
DISKO BAY	
HOUSE MARTIN	1
LADY SOLEAS	
MIDDLE EARTH	12
MOOR LANE	
RENDOVA	
SUN BIAN	
TARAWAN	
TUVALU	1
YEOMAN LAD	

SEEING THE BIGGER PICTURE

By CLARE BALDING

Have a look at the photo on the right. What do you notice? The horse is beautifully balanced, leading on the correct leg and evidently in the middle of a dressage test. The banner behind tells you that it is Athens 2004. The rider's centre of gravity is right where it should be and yet he looks as if he is holding his right arm behind his back. Look at the other photograph and he seems to be riding side-saddle.

His name is Joop Stokkel, from the Netherlands, and he won a silver medal in the Grade II individual dressage at the Paralympic Games. If you look a little more closely, you will see that his right arm is missing. His left leg is also missing. He was struck by lightning, the fork entering his body through his right shoulder and coming out by his left hip. Both limbs were burnt so badly that they had to be amputated. Joop uses a wheelchair to get himself around the place. He needs help pushing the chair but put him on a horse and he is his own master.

Watching him in admiration, I had to admit to myself that even when I was eventing on a regular basis, I could not have performed a dressage test with such control and consistency of rhythm. "How can he do that with one leg and one arm and I can't do it with two?" I thought.

I have been part of the BBC's coverage for some of the major events of this year – the Olympics, Trooping the Colour, the Grand National, the Derby, Royal Ascot, the rugby league Tri-Nations, the Lord Mayor's Show – and yet none of them have had an impact like the Paralympic Games. It doesn't just change the way you feel, as other sports do, giving you a lift that lasts for a few hours or a few days, it changes the way you think.

The reason that Joop Stokkel, Tanni Grey-Thompson, Lee Pearson and the rest can do what they do is a combination of talent, dedication and attitude. What other people may see as insurmountable barriers represent daily life to them. They live with their disability in the same way that you may live with a stiff back, or hardness of hearing, or a short temper.

The Paralympic Games are littered with examples of people who don't have the time or the inclination to sit around complaining about the problems in their life. They just get on with it. All of them have exceeded the



Joop Stokkel



Joop Stokkel

expectations of family and friends who said "you can't do that" and a few of them have surpassed their own ambitious targets.

I have a deep admiration for the athletes I watched and met but the Games also reaffirmed my belief in the power of sport and its ability to motivate, to bond people together, to magnify their inner strength. The Paralympic Games have a significance that reaches beyond the score in a football match or result of the 3.10 at Haydock. In a world that has become increasingly obsessed with the perfect body shape, with judging and being judged by how you look, the Games are a massive antidote to all that superficial nonsense.



British Paralympic gold medalists Lee Pearson and Anne Dunham

A generation of children are growing up, hopefully having watched the coverage of the Paralympics, learning that there is no need to point and stare at someone in a wheelchair but instead to appreciate the skills of wheelchair basketball, to gasp in wonder at amputees who can cover 100 metres in 11 seconds, to cheer on swimmers with no arms and cyclists who cannot see.

Sport may be the greatest triviality of all, television the greatest vanity of all and working for TV covering sport the most superficial job of all but if it can help this country become a more tolerant, accepting and mature place then for once, it has a purpose of which to feel proud. ■

BACK TO THE RACING

The summer in Athens did not make me want to desert racing. Quite the opposite. Part of the enjoyment of coming home was to return to the sport that I know best. Watching good horses and talented jockeys trying to out-speed, outwit or out-stay each other will always thrill me.

Ouija Board, Attraction and Soviet Song have rightly received the plaudits for being the outstanding fillies of the season, while Haafhd finally repeated the class performance he had produced in the 2000 Guineas to end a frustrating season in style by taking the Champion Stakes. It was disappointing that North Light did not build on his Derby win but perhaps the pattern of his form emphasises the feeling on the day that Kieren Fallon rode a tactically brilliant race and made the most of his mount around a course that he has mastered.

Although Kieren ruled the roost at Epsom, he has had a difficult year and still faces probing questions next April when the City of London police will take their investigations of racing to the next stage. While some in racing still pretend that there has never been anything wrong or scream in outrage that its integrity is in question it is my firm belief that whatever the outcome, racing will be in a stronger position for having undergone a thorough examination. A full medical is rarely an enjoyable experience but it is necessary for a clean bill of health.



Frankie in winning action on Pentecost

I was particularly pleased that Frankie Dettori won back the flat jockey's title, 9 years after his last championship. Racing's greatest showman needed to prove to himself, and to a critical public, that his desire for winners had not been dulled by a comfortable lifestyle and a variety of outside interests. He managed to do so in style and will begin next season with an even bigger team of Godolphin horses with which to help him defend the title. ■

PARK HOUSE PARTNERSHIP 2005

This partnership has been running for seven years now and we are reverting to our original concept, which was to buy yearlings to race at two and sell them at the end of the year. At least, this is the intention. We have retained one three year old, [she will be four on January 1st] FLORIDA HEART. She had an interruption to her training last year but she is now back in full work and we plan to train her for an all weather/turf spring campaign. Then we have the option of selling her in the Newmarket July sale.

The other three horses making up the group are pictured below. They are all reasonably early looking



FLORIDA HEART

Attractive 2001 chestnut filly.

She ran 7 times at 2 winning one, second twice and fourth twice. She ran twice at three being fourth at Ascot and then injuring herself in her next run. She is in full work and hopefully ready to run on the all weather in February. She could be well handicapped.



FRUITS OF LOVE x WHERE'S CHARLOTTE

(by Sure Blade)

April 19th bay colt.

Half brother to Bond City- now winner of three races and placed in the Supersprint. Same family as Sampower Star and Fire Up The Band. Should be sharp and fast.

sorts - two from proven two-year-old sires and the third a compact and forward looking colt by Fruits of Love, a first season sire.

There are ten shares in the partnership (some of which are shared) and the cost per share is £12,000. This includes the purchase of the horses, all training, veterinary, blacksmith, entries and registrations until the horses in training sale at the end of October/beginning of November. The partnership is always great fun and we have had winners each year and usually plenty of action through the grass and all weather seasons.



DAGGERS DRAWN x APPELONE

[by Emperor Jones]

2003 bay filly.

February first foal. Eligible for Doncaster sales race - Dagers Drawn sired this year's winner. A bit of a shot in the dark, pedigree wise, but is a very taking individual.



FAYRUZ x SUPER ZOE (By Bustino)

April 12th bay colt.

Second foal. The Lahib two year old half brother is a group horse according to the Irish breeder but has yet to run. He has very little tail thanks to the bullocks that he spent his childhood with but hopefully this won't curb his speed. Lots of winners in the family including LATE NIGHT OUT.

**We have a couple of shares available.
If anyone is interested, please call Andrew or Emma
on the office number, 01635-298210 for more details.
*The perfect Christmas present !!***

EXPLORING THE EAST

Andrew Balding

The Far East seemed even further away than it actually is after Phoenix Reach had trailed in a well beaten also ran in the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II Stakes at Ascot in July.

A post race endoscopic examination revealed a grade 3/5 internal bleed which, although it offered an explanation to his poor performance, left us all wondering whether our stable star would ever return to his best. The fact that he even managed to see a racecourse again in 2004 is a testament to the hard work and professionalism of the staff at Kingsclere.

Sound veterinary advice, a careful training regime (which included twice daily exercise) a patient but ever-optimistic owner and a horse with an insatiable appetite for work enabled us to climb a mountain. Having failed in a bid to have him ready in time to defend his title in the Canadian International, we made a rather wishful entry in the prestigious invitation races in Japan and Hong Kong later in the autumn.

The optimism behind these entries lay not in the fact that the horse lacked the ability to contest them, but in the understandable reluctance of the relevant racing authorities to ship "out of form" or "unsound" horses across the globe at huge expense to them.

Whilst Phoenix had begun to work with real zest and seemed to be the picture of good health, it was still difficult to persuade the Japan Racing Association that a horse who had not raced since July would be in the physical shape required for a race such as the Japan Cup. Happily they decided to take the chance and, whilst the Hong Kong Jockey Club had the opportunity to evaluate his run in Japan, Phoenix joined the other European challengers Warsaan, Powerscourt and Policy Maker on the long journey to Tokyo.

It is almost twenty years since Kingsclere was last represented in a Japan cup and I.A.B.'s memory was a little hazy when it came to remembering exactly what to expect. Mrs B did however insist that the trip to Mt Fuji was a must and that Gold and Ivory had not run to form (he finished 8th) as he had endured a relatively tough campaign in Europe and Canada that summer and autumn.

Having a "fresh" horse is considered a benefit when contesting the international races in late autumn, but

a prep run four weeks prior to the Japan Cup would undoubtedly have helped. Alas, you play your hand with the cards you are dealt and in this instance we were just grateful to be travelling with a sound and healthy horse for one of the world's richest races.

When it comes to travelling, there is no better passenger than Phoenix Reach and when he arrived at the quarantine station after a full twenty-four hours in cargo, Richard "Chadwell" Phillips and Steve Woolley reported that the horse's appetite for the food he was given was somewhat greater than theirs.

The Japanese generosity and hospitality was something to behold and when Martin Dwyer and myself arrived with Anthony, Kelly, Karen and Andrew Christou in Tokyo we were looked after and helped like never before.

Tokyo Racecourse is vast and having been lucky enough to have visited virtually all the major racetracks in the world, I can safely say it is one of the most impressive facilities that exist. The only failing is the turf course which is firm and rough. Unlike Hong Kong who produce a world class racing surface on the grass, Tokyo's turf track is as hard and lacking in cover as I have ever seen anywhere.

This did provide extra anxiety, but we were all in agreement that if you had to risk your horse it was made easier by the fact you were chasing a first prize of over £1.3million. Indeed for finishing second in the 24th running of the Japan Cup the owner stood to collect almost as much as North Light had won connections in this year's Epsom Derby.

Whilst owner and trainer may have been a bag of nerves, the people who matter most at this stage (horse and jockey) were ice cool! Martin had a ride the day before to get a feeling for the course and Phoenix Reach did an excellent piece of work on the Thursday prior to the race (Sunday).

The preliminaries for the big race are as much a test of the horse's mental durability as the race itself is a physical test. The horses are saddled a full hour prior to the race and the paddock itself is a cauldron of activity and atmosphere. The Japanese love their racing and an estimated 110,000 racegoers (or "fans" as they are referred to) flocked to fill every inch of the Grandstand and lawn beneath it.

We watched the race from high up in the stands and all felt the sensation of complete awe as their National Anthem was sung and the announcement was made that the runners should start loading to rapturous applause and frenzied screams. The runners were installed with the minimum of fuss and in what seemed a matter of seconds the field was sent on its way to deafening cheers from the crowd.

Phoenix Reach, who had the perfect draw in stall 5, broke smartly but proceeded to pull ferociously for his head for a full two furlongs. Martin did a heroic job in restraining him and eventually he settled five lengths off a brisk pace, nicely positioned on the rail. Turning in to the straight with three furlongs to run he was poised to strike and still travelled well. However Zeno Rob Roy appeared on the scene and in the style of an exceptional horse at the top of his game and with home advantage, he quickened clear to take the race in a matter of strides.

Phoenix battled bravely looking sure to secure a podium position before tiring in the last hundred yards to finish an honourable sixth only two lengths behind the second placed horse. He had run as well as we could ever realistically have expected and both the owners and the trainer were extremely proud of the horse and the work of the team both at home and in Japan. He picked up over £100,000 for his effort or the equivalent of winning a major Group race at home and received due credit from press and race officials after the event.

The Hong Kong Jockey Club were quick to issue an invitation for the Hong Kong Vase and we were quick to accept it, as long as the horse was not showing any ill effects from the race. The "bounce" factor is an obvious risk when running so soon after a top class performance has followed a long break, but it was a risk worth taking with a lightly campaigned horse.

The journey time from Japan to Hong Kong is only five hours and the turf course at Sha Tin is as European friendly as any other outside the continent. Added to this the excellent prize money and the fact that the horse could enjoy a well-deserved break we all felt that we had to take our chance in Hong Kong.

The climate in Hong Kong during the early part of December is very similar to that in Japan and much the same as a standard day in England in June. There is no humidity and the vast majority of European runners settled in to their new environment without a hitch. The exception was the German challenger in the Vase, Senex, who suffered from a classic case of travel sickness with

a raised temperature and high white cell count, sadly he had to be withdrawn.

For Phoenix Reach the five-hour flight from Japan was far less strenuous than the long journey from England and he arrived at Sha Tin in good shape three days after his Japan Cup run.

With only a fortnight between the two races there was very little to be done with him except routine exercise and trying to avoid any injury or illness. Richard Phillips and Steve Woolley were outstanding in their attention to detail and professionalism in caring for Phoenix and when Martin and I arrived in Hong Kong on the Tuesday prior to the race, the horse appeared in the same excellent physical condition he had been prior to the race in Tokyo.

We decided to let the horse have a 'blow' on the grass on Wednesday and were left in no doubt that he was in the form of his life as he moved well and posted some good sectional times in the seven furlong work out.

Race day loomed without the same feeling of apprehension we had all felt two weeks earlier. The track was in wonderful condition and the preliminaries were nowhere near as stressful as they had been in Japan. In fact the only hitch came when Martin noticed that the leather strap on Phoenix Reach's bridle had snapped on the way to the start. Thankfully there was a spare at the start and the replacement was a rather fetching red plastic bridle.

From the moment the stalls opened to the time he crossed the winning line, Martin had Phoenix perfectly placed. Sitting close to a moderate early pace, he made a decisive and winning move turning into the straight and Phoenix stretched clear to win by three quarters of a length. It was a wonderful performance from both horse and jockey

The rest is history, but needless to say the celebrations carried on for at least the next week. Phoenix Reach has now won two of the most valuable prizes over twelve furlongs in the world and has established himself as a horse who must be respected at the highest level wherever the race.

We are looking forward with great anticipation to more globetrotting in 2005 and his likely target will be the Queen Elizabeth II Cup at Sha Tin in the spring, for which he is eligible for a \$1,000,000 bonus should he win. Races such as the Arlington Million, Cox Plate and Japan Cup will also be on the agenda if we can steer our tough and hugely talented hero clear from injuries. ■





KINGSCLERE – PRODUCER OF STALLIONS WITH HIGH IQS

Stuart McPhee

You cannot open a racing magazine or newspaper these days without having your senses assaulted by a barrage of data clarifying for you just why Stallion XYZ is now leading in some category or other. Much of the hype surrounds stallions yet to sire a runner!!

The Owner-Breeder magazine web site [www.ownerbreeder.co.uk] includes the following table which holds information that potentially gives a different slant from how many races won or offspring prize money. [The owner-breeder site lists more stallions than this.]

Stallion	Rnrs	Rated	%	Rated	%	Rated	%	Best Horse	Best Rating
		80+	80+	100+	100+	115+	115+		
Sadler's Wells	766	469	61.2	265	34.6	99	12.9	Montjeu	137
MOR	1353	722	53.4	420	31	145	10.7	Celtic Swing	138
Selkirk	260	138	53.1	72	27.7	23	8.8	Leadership	124
MOR	712	276	38.8	119	16.7	29	4.1	Kyllachy	129
Generous	109	53	48.6	30	27.5	9	8.3	Courteous	120
MOR	402	199	49.5	100	24.9	28	7	Mark of Esteem	137
Rainbow Quest	386	203	52.6	109	28.2	31	8	Armiger	131
MOR	965	434	45	246	25.5	74	7.7	Celtic Swing	138
Peintre Celebre	75	37	49.3	19	25.3	6	8	Mister Monet	124
MOR	169	87	51.5	44	26	8	4.7	Classic Cliche	128
Singspiel	85	45	52.9	22	25.9	6	7.1	Moon Ballad	131
MOR	206	108	52.4	3355	26.7	20	9.7	Opera House	131
Pivotal	137	67	48.9	28	20.4	9	6.6	Kyllachy	129
MOR	359	88	24.5	25	7	4	1.1	Compton Admir.	121
Hernando	106	42	39.6	27	25.5	7	6.6	Sulamani	130
MOR	235	82	34.9	36	15.3	9	3.8	Domedriver	128
Polish Prec.	249	92	36.9	43	17.3	15	6	Pilsudski	134
MOR	795	349	43.9	176	22.1	37	4.7	Montjeu	137
Green Desert	475	218	45.9	101	21.3	26	5.5	Desert Prince	130
MOR	1191	513	43.1	235	19.7	73	6.1	White Muzzle	129
Halling	112	57	50.9	29	25.9	6	5.4	Norse Dancer	121
MOR	274	120	43.8	54	19.7	12	4.4	Opera House	131
Indian Ridge	418	180	43.1	83	19.9	22	5.3	Namid	128
MOR	1015	352	34.7	162	16	46	4.5	High Chaparral	132
Daylami	46	21	45.7	11	23.9	2	4.3	Grey Swallow	126
MOR	114	63	55.3	34	29.8	9	7.9	Grand Lodge	125
Marju	240	91	37.9	32	13.3	10	4.2	Soviet Song	126
MOR	610	223	36.6	89	14.6	23	3.8	Classic Cliche	128
Bahamian Bounty	72	21	29.2	9	12.5	3	4.2	Babodana	116
MOR	166	27	16.3	8	4.8	2	1.2	Atlantis Prince	116
Alhaarth	121	40	33.1	11	9.1	5	4.1	Haafhd	126
MOR	291	109	37.5	44	15.1	9	3.1	Ashdown Express	124
Slip Anchor	224	60	26.8	27	12.1	9	4	User Friendly	128
MOR	606	168	27.7	69	11.4	14	2.3	Sea Wave	124
Soviet Star	177	59	33.3	27	15.3	7	4	Freedom Cry	132
MOR	514	207	40.3	98	19.1	26	5.1	Pilsudski	134
Alzao	460	176	38.3	83	18	14	3	Second Set	127
MOR	1117	401	35.9	170	15.2	50	4.5	Classic Cliche	128
Cadeaux Genereux	396	173	43.7	60	15.2	12	3	Bijou d'Inde	127
MOR	1164	412	35.4	176	15.1	45	3.9	Pentire	132
Mtoto	245	67	27.3	27	11	7	2.9	Shaamit	127
MOR	620	171	27.6	69	11.1	11	1.8	Catchascatchcan	122

You can probably prove nearly anything with Statistics, but it seems to me that there are a few items of interest in this table. Firstly, the stallions are sorted in order of percentage 115+ rated runners – clearly of interest if you think that your mare is capable of producing

group winners. You can also see which sires have high percentage of 80+ runners or 100+ runners, just in case your sights are a little lower. [although if you are like me then you will be convinced that all your mares will produce nothing but group horses!].

However, I was particularly interested in the data line under each stallion – labelled MOR. This gives similar data for the Mares Other Runners. In other words, it offers you the potential to examine how much a stallion has achieved with a mare compared to other stallions. For example, you can not only see the percentage of 100+ rated horses a stallion has but also the percentage of 100+ rated horses that stallion’s mare band achieved down the years with other stallions. I have compared these two numbers for each stallion to derive an “Improvement Quotient” [IQ] which will be positive if a stallion has “done better” with the same mares as other stallions or negative if he returns a lower percentage. Please do not assume that this implies “good stallions” or “bad stallions” because there are just too many unknowns in the data. Firstly, the data is most meaningful for stallions with several years of runners. Also, we do not know enough about the stallions to which the mares were sent. Were the mares sent to stallions in a similar priceband or all in this country. How many other offspring were there? At best we might imply, if we assume that the set of mares were sent broadly to stallions in a similar price band, that some stallions are good value at their price – but you know that already!!



TAGULA

Anyway, for your interest, my calculated IQ scores for this stallion set [sorted by 100+ IQ scores] were:

Stallion	IQ 80+	IQ 100+	IQ 115+	Stallion	IQ 80+	IQ 100+	IQ 115+
Pivotal	99.6	191.4	500.0	Green Desert	6.5	8.1	-9.8
Danehill Dancer	49.2	181.6	316.7	Slip Anchor	-3.2	6.1	73.9
Bahamian Bounty	79.1	160.4	250.0	Spinning World	-8.1	3.0	-85.0
Tagula	37.1	129.4	n/a	Cadeaux Genereux	23.4	0.7	-23.1
Cape Cross	4.8	77.5	116.7	Mtoto	-1.1	-0.9	61.1
Hernando	13.5	66.7	73.7	Peintre Celebre	-4.3	-2.7	70.2
Selkirk	36.9	65.9	114.6	Singspiel	1.0	-3.0	-26.8
Definite Article	23.3	43.1	100.0	Mark of Esteem	-15.1	-7.2	-44.2
Efisio	43.7	32.4	62.5	Marju	3.6	-8.9	10.5
Halling	16.2	31.5	22.7	Elmaamul	7.3	-9.3	70.6
Zamindar	-13.4	26.6	-43.3	Averti	-48.9	-12.3	9.5
Royal Applause	14.9	25.0	26.1	Night Shift	6.5	-12.8	-26.3
Indian Ridge	24.2	24.4	17.8	Barathea	0.4	-16.7	-42.9
Robellino	-8.5	20.5	68.8	Daylami	-17.4	-19.8	-45.6
Alzao	6.7	18.4	-33.3	Soviet Star	-17.4	-19.9	-21.6
Sadler’s Wells	14.6	11.6	20.6	Polish Precedent	-15.9	-21.7	27.7
Rainbow Quest	16.9	10.6	3.9	Spectrum	-21.3	-28.7	-44.8
Generous	-1.8	10.4	18.6	Alhaarth	-11.7	-39.7	32.3
Zilzal	-3.8	9.4	-59.2	Desert Prince	-25.7	-49.3	-55.7
Desert Style	9.5	9.0	250.0	Shinko Forest	-15.3	-68.8	

I would be very hesitant to draw many conclusions from this data but three points stood out for me: 1. There are lots of ex-Kingsclere horses in the top 10! 2. Some stallions seemed to do disproportionately well in one particular ability band. 3. It is interesting to note that most of those stallions with high IQs across

the whole spectrum from 80+ to 115+ are precisely those which have seen significant fee rises due to their success – so I apologise for not showing this data a few years ago!!

Happy Stallion selection for next season!!

A DAY IN A LIFE AS A STABLE LAD

by Anna Lisa Williams



“How am I supposed to walk in these?” asked Andy Sherwood, a feature writer for the popular monthly magazine *LOADED*. It was 5.00 a.m. and he was referring to the wellies that we had suggested he wore in preparation for his very own “Day in a life as a stable lad”.

Andy lives in Croydon, works in London and has never been to the country before; he normally gets up at 9.00 a.m., into the office at 10.00, leaves at 5.00 p.m. and has a pin ball machine next to his desk. He was in for a massive culture shock!

Mucking out, riding, washing down after exercise, grooming and picking out feet are all part of the daily routine at Kingsclere. Imagine what it was like for someone who is told at 5.00 a.m. that this is what his role entailed. This guy had never seen a tractor before, never held a broom and thought a hoof pick was an article of self-defence. He believed that he was allergic to horses; well at least this is what his mother had told him when he was young to avoid the possibility of having to take



Andy mucking out

him for riding lessons. His day was to prove otherwise and the look of panic on his face when he climbed on to Grey Shot for the photo shoot was something to see.

A morning with Chris Wilson and George Peckham broke him in perfectly, six hours of proper manual labour.



The Horse Whisperer!!

With blistered hands and aching feet he wandered into the house at midday asking for food, water and sleep; only to be told to stop moaning, get changed and get to the races.

Straight back from the races, having led one up at Kempton, he was invited to prepare Tiny Tim for inspection at evening stables. Rachel Lockie was a star guiding him through the work, despite being shocked by his naivety she showed him what to do including taking Tiny's temperature. The trainer was most impressed and Tiny looked a picture, but only had one foot picked out, Andy was terrified of this procedure and could only face it once!

Helping the lads feed was his last job, but this nearly finished him off and within fifteen minutes Andy was in the pub drinking his pint of Stella with the other lads before driving round the M25 to the comparative safety



Washing down – don't get too close!

of his home next to his beloved Crystal Palace football ground. The next morning he was back to normal, a 9 o'clock alarm call, a commute via tube, bus and a walk across the Thames to his high rise office where he works on the 35th floor.

He loved his day at Kingsclere but took three days to recover! He did amazingly well and showed great courage really getting stuck in – this was proved when he chose to pick up a fresh steaming dropping with his hands from Tiny's stable. It was much quicker than going to get a shovel when the trainer was fast approaching for the evening inspection!

For anyone who is a regular reader of Loaded magazine Andy's article is due to appear in the January edition. For those of you not familiar with the usual contents of this magazine it is not one for the easily offended! Tiny and Grey Shot won't be reading it. ■



Evening stables and smiling at last

I.A.B. MY TOP FIFTEEN

Number 1 MILL REEF



John Hallum with MILL REEF

There is no great guesswork needed to imagine which horse would rate as the best I trained in my lengthy career. Mill Reef was a legend and in my obviously biased opinion I would still maintain that he was the best mile and a half horse I have ever seen racing in Europe. There is not space here to detail his whole career, and anyone who has read my autobiography will have seen a fuller version of his story there.

The lad or girl who looks after any horse can make a big difference to that horse's attitude towards racing and in my time it was even more the case because that lad usually rode his own horse most days as well. John Hallum was the fortunate man who "did" Mill Reef right from the day he arrived until the day he departed for the National

Stud. John was a good rider and an outstanding horseman/groom and his relationship with Mill Reef was as happy as any I have witnessed.

This made a big difference to Mill Reef because, like most top class horses, he pulled hard and always wanted to go faster. Any middle distance champion needs to learn to settle early in a race so that he can produce the decisive acceleration so necessary at the end. John had good hands and a full understanding of how and why the trainer wanted this horse to learn to conserve that undoubted speed.

There are very few Derby winners who have won over five furlongs (Crepello is the only other one I can think of) and Mill Reef's first race in the Salisbury Stakes in May 1970 demonstrated the



The 1971 Derby at Epsom

extraordinary speed he possessed. He pulverised a future top class sprinter called Fireside Chat who had had the benefit of a very impressive previous outing. Our jockey Geoff Lewis who had not sat on the horse before came in and shrewdly told me then that this was not just the best horse I had trained so far, but probably the best horse I ever would train.

Mill Reef went on to show his class by romping home clear of his rivals both on firm ground in the Coventry Stakes at Royal Ascot and again later in August on heavy ground in the Gimcrack Stakes at York. His final victory in that first season was again effortless when Geoff held him up in the Dewhurst over seven furlongs at Newmarket before coming through to win going away.

My own belief that if ever we were going to win a Classic at Kingsclere it would be the 1971 2,000 Guineas with this horse was further endorsed by Mill Reef's comfortable win in the seven furlongs Greenham Stakes at Newbury about three weeks before the first classic.

I was not to know at that stage just how good a miler we were to meet in the mighty Brigadier Gerard. I still find it an amazing quirk of history that these two horses – the two outstanding champions of my time – should have been foaled – albeit on different sides of the Atlantic – in the same year.

Every racing man knows that the Brigadier won that contest, over his best distance, decisively. Most will know that sadly for us the two great horses never met again over what would have been a

more suitable distance for our fellow. Brigadier Gerard went on to win all the top mile and mile and a quarter races in the next two seasons. He even showed his class by winning the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II Stakes at Ascot over a mile and a half as a four-year-old. He was however vulnerable on soft ground.

Mill Reef progressed, as we all know, to win the Derby, Eclipse, King George VI and Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe in a scintillating three-year-old season. In three of those races he broke track records and at Ascot he won by a then record distance of six lengths. In all these races he was very well settled by his jockey in mid division and the finishing speed he showed was devastating.

We could hardly wait for his four-year-old season and hopefully a return match with Brigadier Gerard. When he won the Group 1 Prix Ganay over a mile and a quarter at Longchamp in May, by an astounding ten lengths, it looked as if our champion



Ascot 1971

was better than ever. The Coronation cup over the Derby track at Epsom was our next target with few horses looking likely to take him on.

Sadly neither I nor my vet Peter Scott Dunn had any way of knowing at the time that Mill Reef



The winner's enclosure Epsom 1971



MILL REEF at the National Stud

must have picked up the dreaded respiratory virus, Rhinopneumonitis, in France and actually ran with it in the Coronation Cup. His narrow win over Homeric looked unimpressive at the time, but it turned out to be one of the bravest victories in racing folk lore. It was without doubt the cause of the minor problems that blighted Mill Reef's summer plans, and may even indirectly have contributed to the horse's final debacle when he broke his near fore canon bone cantering on Watership Down in September 1972.

The brilliant operation which saved Mill Reef for a highly successful stud career at the National Stud was performed by the late Jim Roberts in our own make-shift surgery at Kingsclere, now the Colour

Room. His somewhat premature death at the National Stud aged seventeen after a lung infection was a great sadness, but a magnificent bronze statue of the Horse by John Skeaping preserves his memory both there and at Kingsclere.

Time sometimes dulls ones recollections, but not for me in this case. Mill Reef's great beauty and his gentle nature combined with his extraordinary ability to go faster and faster the further he went will remain engrained in my memory forever. That such a distinguished man as Paul Mellon should say that he would like to be remembered above all else as the breeder and owner of Mill Reef bears out, perhaps, my belief that here was one of the greatest racehorses of all time. ■

THE JUMPERS

I.A.B.

As the press seem to have it in their minds that I train the jumpers, perhaps it is appropriate that I should write the autumn review on them. It must be stated here however that A.B. is very much the man in charge of their work and running programmes, choice of jockey etc. I am just happy to ride out with them daily and look after them at the races in his absence, particularly when they are running well!!



Gunner Welburn

We have had in fact a very promising start, with those that have run so far showing excellent form. Cool Monty had a couple of races, at Market Rasen and later at Kempton, where he jumped well and did enough to put himself spot on for his next race, a two and a half mile handicap chase at Leicester in early December. Here the champion jockey gave him a superb ride and both owner and trainer were present to witness Monty jumping superbly and winning comfortably enough without having a great deal in hand. The handicapper might just allow him one more handicap chase, but I know the trainer is keen to try and take advantage of his more lenient rating over hurdles.

We had a very exciting afternoon at Newbury on Hennessy Gold Cup Day. First Duchamp, having his first start this season and wearing cheek pieces for the first time, ran possibly his best ever race over fences to finish a game second to the very promising Great Travel. Barry Fenton, who has been doing a lot of our schooling, gave him an excellent ride and if Duchamp continues to show this sort of enthusiasm he could have a very good season.

Later in the afternoon in very gloomy conditions, Distant Prospect and Timmy Murphy positively

illuminated our whole autumn in the two mile listed Gerry Feilden Handicap Hurdle. Both horse and rider produced a stunning performance to win all out by half a length from Distant Prospect's old rival Albuhera. A big handicap hurdle over a slightly longer trip in the spring will be the most likely objective for this talented and versatile gelding.

Finally another old stalwart, Gunner Welburn,

has run twice and shown a lot of his former jumping prowess. He got very tired but earned some useful prize money when finishing fifth in the Edward Hanmer Memorial Chase at Haydock. Three and a half weeks later in the John Hughes Rehearsal Chase at Chepstow Welly ran a fine race to finish third and earn even better prize money. He blew hard and on a six pound lighter mark than where he started the season he should be spot on for his attempt to win the Rowland Meyrick Chase at Wetherby on Boxing Day for the second year running.

We have two useful prospects to run over hurdles in the near future. These are Redi, bought out of Luca Cumani's draft at the Horses in Training sale and with good form on the flat. Another winning flat horse, The Player, is schooling nicely and if he stays sound could just be classy in his new role. Old favourites Bourgainville, Briareus and Crown Agent have not yet schooled but it is planned to hurdle all three in the spring.

Moor Lane is busy qualifying for point to points and hunter chases. He could just give Andrew Braithwaite, our visiting student from Reading University, an exciting time in 2005. ■

YEARLINGS FOR SALE



Tiznow x Delivery Day [Dayjur]

Very attractive TIZNOW filly – April 13 foal. Bought at Saratoga. From the first crop of the **ONLY horse to win the Breeders' Cup Classic-G1 TWICE**. Dam has already produced a 2yo winner in the US and is from a very good dam side family. **One 25% share remaining @ £12,500.**



Slip Anchor x Rasmalai [Sadlers Wells]

Attractive, athletic Slip Anchor filly – January foal. Bought at Tattersalls. Sire is Derby winner and has produced more than 600 winners and prize money of £7million. Dam also placed at Epsom. Half-brother Nightwing is in training at Kingsclere. **One 25% share remaining @ £2,500.**



Miswaki x SS Capote [Capote]

Good looking Chesnut MISWAKI filly – March 24 foal. Bought at Saratoga. From a top US sire [92 stakes winners] – **son of Mr Prospector**. Dam is unraced – from a good family. **One 25% share remaining @ £12,500.**



Fruits of Love x The Iron Lady [Polish Patriot]

Handsome, Chesnut Fruits of Love colt – February foal. Bought at Doncaster St. Leger sales and eligible for their sales race. Sire with first crop 2yos next season. Was top rated older horse in 99 (11-13f.) also 2nd in Canadian International. Dam unraced. **100% for sale @ £21,000 or possibly two 50% shares.**



Soviet Star x Hollywood Pearl [Phone Trick]

Powerful chesnut Soviet Star colt - April 23 foal. Bought at Tattersalls in Ireland. Sire has produced 6 individual group 1 winners. Dam is unraced. Lots of US winners in the family and plenty of black type horses on the page. **Two 25% shares remain @ £9,000 each.**



Tagula x Boughtbyphone [Warning]

Good looking Tagula colt – 8 May foal. Bought at Tattersalls. **Full brother to Pentecost**. Sire G1 winning 2yo [6f] later top class 7f winner. Produces lots of 2yo winners. Dam is half sister to Capricho. **100% for sale @ £30,000 or possibly two 50% shares.**

