

WINTER 2007

The KINGSCLERE *Quarter*



THE PARK HOUSE STABLES NEWSLETTER

The KINGSCLERE Quarter



DINGAAN wins at Goodwood in Spring

Front cover: BUCCELLATI at Chester

Back cover: Home from the Downs

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THE

It is with a fair amount of relief that I can reflect on the 2007 flat season with rather more satisfaction than when I wrote my 'half term' report in August. As was mentioned then, our season has been badly affected by injuries to some of the yard's top performers, but the autumn saw a change in fortunes and some high profile victories that turned the season around in the space of a month.

Dark Missile had been the star of the first half of the season with her win in the Wokingham Stakes at Royal Ascot a highlight in an otherwise barren summer. The jump from top-class handicapper to Group company is not always an easy gap to bridge but she showed further improvement to record a career best effort to finish second in the Group 2 Diadem Stakes in September. Hayley Turner, who had ridden Dark Missile when a close second in the Shergar Cup Distaff in August, was a last minute substitute for Franny Norton whose wife was unwell on the day of the race and the pair belied long odds to travel smoothly into the lead with a furlong to run only to be caught on the line by the Irish challenger Haatef. Whilst it is usually hugely frustrating to go down by a short head in a big race it was a result that we would all



DARK MISSILE wins the Wokingham Handicap at Royal Ascot

2007 SEASON

by Andrew Balding



BUCCELLATI (K. McEvoy) wins the £75,000 Ladbrokes.com Heritage Handicap at Ascot in October

have gladly settled for prior to the race and we were all immensely proud of her efforts. It is exciting that Dark Missile returns to training next season as there may well be further improvement to come and her liking of the straight course at Ascot (two wins and two seconds from only four attempts) suggests that she might even be capable of a tilt at the Golden Jubilee Stakes at Royal Ascot next summer.

Buccellati had endured a luckless run in big handicaps through the first half of the year but he managed to turn things around in the autumn with a hat trick of wins in the space of six weeks. His first victory of this period came at Doncaster's St Leger meeting when, sporting a visor for the second time, he came with a late run, having - not for the first time - met trouble in running. Whilst only prevailing by a short head he was value for more than the margin of victory and he duly followed up in a competitive

three year old handicap at Chester a fortnight later. On both occasions he was partnered with great skill by William Buick and having had to endure being forced out wide for the entire ten furlong journey of the Chester race it was once again a performance of rather more merit than the form book indicated. Buccellati had been purchased by Tony Noonan as a yearling for Peter McMahon. They had both returned to Tattersalls for this year's sales and were present to see his finest victory at Ascot in October. The way in which the horse had seen out the trip at Chester had given us the feeling that he could stay a little bit further and with that in mind it was decided that we should wait and target the £75,000 added mile and a half handicap at Ascot. With William Buick banned for the race, the riding honours were assumed by Kerrin McEvoy, who delivered Buccellati with his customary late charge to land the Ladbrokes Heritage Handicap



DREAM EATER (Franny Norton) wins the St Leger 2yo stakes, one of the richest 2 year old races of the year at Doncaster

by a finely judged head. The victory provided a memorable day for all involved with the horse and the realisation that the purpose of his purchase (to one day contest the Melbourne Cup) may now be nearer reality than fantasy!

Our biggest earner of year turned out to be Jeff Smith's very consistent two year old **Dream Eater**. He had run with great credit all summer but was still a maiden when he turned up to contest the £300,000 added St Leger 2 year old Stakes at Doncaster, however his work on the gallops at home had suggested that he had the ability to win a major prize at some stage. Happily, it was this extremely valuable race in which the weights carried by each runner were determined by the median auction value of their sire's progeny, that was to be the one. The £190,000 first prize was one of the biggest for two year olds that this country has ever seen. Despite being drawn on the 'wrong' side, Dream Eater put some useful opponents to the sword and came home a comfortable two length winner. Sadly, a respiratory infection compromised his preparation for the Middle Park Stakes, where he finished a slightly

disappointing sixth and he should have a role to play in some of the top three year old races in 2008 at any distance up to a mile.

Vanderlin has for some years been a flagship performer for the stable and, whilst his advancing years has meant that his glory days are behind him, he showed that he still retains the required ability to win at a decent level when taking a valuable Heritage Handicap at Chester in August. Whilst the horse boasted a fine record around the tight turns of the Roodeye, it was only his jockey William Buick's second ever ride at the track. You could not help but be impressed by the maturity he showed to guide his veteran equine partner into the perfect position from a far from perfect draw. A narrow win in a battling finish was no more than the partnership deserved and, even at the age of nine, Vanderlin could still have a decent prize in him in 2008.

We had long held high hopes for **Loch Verdi** and whilst she had won a couple of nice races as a three year old, this years campaign had been a bitter disappointment before her runaway win in a class four handicap at Folkestone. Being a daughter of the two



LOCH VERDI (Franny Norton) wins the Listed Flower of Scotland at Hamilton

time champion sprinter Lochsong and a half-sister to the Listed winner Lochridge, it was felt that we should probably attempt to get her some black type of her own on the back of that confidence boosting win. Hamilton was scheduled to stage the Flower of Scotland Stakes - a five furlong Listed race confined to fillies and mares - and it was decided that this might represent her best chance of gaining a place in listed company and that all important black type. Another pillar to post victory under a tactically astute ride from Franny Norton was slightly more than we had hoped for and suggested that there may still be more to come from Loch Verdi as a five year old and she too will stay in training next season. If she can only improve half the amount that her dam managed to from four to five, she too could be capable of winning a top prize in 2008.

The Jeff Smith/Littleton Stud purple patch continued when **Sirens Gift** displayed a gritty determination to win a hotly contested Leicester conditions event in September. Sirens Gift had behaved very badly on her previous intended run when she took a dislike to her German jockey, Andreas Suborics, depositing him not once but three times on the Ascot turf. With the help

of stalls guru Gary Witheford and the steely nerves of Franny Norton, the filly's energies were channelled in the right direction and the win was richly deserved by all concerned.

Another horse to find his form late in the year was **Pinch of Salt** who finally began to look like the horse we had once hoped he would be with two facile wins in handicap company at Kempton on the polytrack. The step up to listed company appeared to find him out on his next start but the nature in which the race was run was as much to blame for his lack lustre effort as the step up in class and he could still make an impact at that level in the coming months. His owner Robert Hanson has been amazingly patient with him and any success that he gains from Pinch of Salt is richly deserved.

Gordonsville, Yeoman Spirit and **Calzaghe** all managed to register the first victories of their careers in the autumn and all three have been sold to continue their respective careers over obstacles. Yeoman Spirit who should prove to be a really good buy has joined former Kingsclere assistant John Mackie in Uttoxeter; Calzaghe made a remarkable 68,000gns and will



YEAMANS HALL could develop into a very useful four year old

go into training in Ireland whilst Gordonsville will be joining Jim Goldie in Scotland. Another horse that may well prove to be well bought for the jumping game is **Chantaco** who was purchased for 55,000gns by Highflyer Bloodstock for Nicky Henderson. Chantaco, like many of the yard, left his early season form well behind him in the autumn and showed all his old enthusiasm to win a competitive handicap at Nottingham in October. He proved to be a great purchase at 12,000gns and finished his Kingsclere career having won five of his twenty three starts and almost £70,000 in prize money, giving his owners - The Pink Hat Partnership - some memorable days. George Strawbridge has been a long-standing friend and supporter to Kingsclere and we derived a special delight at seeing his wonderful colt Lucarno win the St Leger at Doncaster this year. His team of horses at Kingsclere have some way to go to match the exploits of that particular horse but in their own much smaller way offer real promise for the future.

I have already stated in previous issues of the quarter the regard with which I held George's three year old **Yeamans Hall** and it was a great pity that injury

curtailed his season but he will remain in training next season and his owner also has two exciting three year olds to look forward to in 2008. **Blue Sky Basin** has improved with racing and the form of his maiden win at Kempton has started to work out well, but it was probably a stronger level of form that saw him finish third in a highly competitive nursery at Goodwood in October. **Your Pleasure** is a particular favourite of mine and she has always shown plenty of natural ability but has had to endure a number of training setbacks that delayed her racecourse debut. After running a little bit green on her debut at Sandown she showed the benefit of that experience when showing her rivals a clean pair of heels at Bath on her next outing and looks to be the type who could rise through the ranks next season.

Hatton Flight is the perfect example of why horses should not be judged too hastily, as he showed precious little in his three starts as a two year old and offered only a modicum of encouragement in his first couple of runs this season. The message may have been slow in arriving but it did happen after a couple of placed efforts the blinkers were applied and the



OCEANA GOLD a tough and consistent performer in 2007

response was fairly immediate. Hatton Flight has now won two staying handicaps at Bath and most recently at Kempton and the hope is that he could develop into a useful fast ground staying handicapper for next season. His owner David Brownlow has been a strong supporter of the yard at this year's yearling sales and looks set for an exciting year ahead with three two year olds to race as well as Hatton Flight, the unraced but highly promising **Top Lock** and the exciting **Wigrams Turn** to look forward to next season.



Oceana Gold is a horse I am particularly looking forward to training as a four year old as I feel he is one whose career has been managed to enable an improvement with age and Karl Fischer, his owner and breeder, readily agreed to a campaign that resisted the temptation to race the horse more times than was necessary. His excellent run to finish a gallant runner up in an ultra-competitive handicap at Ascot ended his season on the right note and I firmly believe that Oceana Gold could just be a handicapper to watch over the next couple of seasons.

Having talked about the horses that have managed to win races in the second half of the season it is probably best kept to the Spring edition of the Quarter to look at the prospects of those that had near misses in 2007 and the ones who could be making an impact in the future. One of the most encouraging aspects of writing a review such as this is the opportunity it provides to assess just what equine ammunition we have remaining in training for the coming year and I can honestly say that we have not been blessed with such a strong team of horses to look forward to for a number of years. ■

KEITH SMITH

I.A.B.

On March 4th 1985 a youthful looking thirty-eight year old, Keith Smith, started work with us on a six month trial basis. He had been a mechanic at A. Cooke & Sons garage in Kingsclere for many years and fortunately for us Howard Cooke was retiring having sold his garage.

Sadly for all of us here at Park House, Keith himself is now retiring at the end of this year. He will not be lost to us altogether, however, as he has agreed to come in on a part-time basis and look after our horseboxes etc.

Keith had also been a part-time fireman in the village for twenty years, which he had to give up when starting here as a full-time box driver. Until his knees gave up the unequal struggle he had also played a vital role in the central defence for the Kingsclere Football team.

Our man was always a superb driver – even if never a lover of seat belts – and in fact he has had his fair share of warnings for not wearing one! Keith, never having had any experience of these particular animals was understandably perhaps not the most natural horseman I had seen when he first came. Over the years he has made himself into a very good one and being big, strong and brave, has many a time has come to the rescue of a lad or lass in trouble at the races. By perseverance and graft he has made himself into an excellent and invaluable driver/travelling head lad. He has also overcome several ‘hairy’ moments in the horsebox when horses have ‘come over the top’ and on one occasion the fire brigade even had to cut through a section of the box in order to get one horse out!

The only thing I have not see Keith do with a horse is to ride one, but now that he will have more time to himself, perhaps he can have a few sessions on Sam and see if he would like to come out drag hunting next Christmas?!

Throughout his whole life the poor man – not



Keith and Denise Smith

unlike the young trainer himself – has been a passionate supporter of Southampton Football Club and I suppose he will say that their famous success in 1976 when the Saints defeated Manchester United 1-0 in the FA Cup Final at Wembley (Geoff Rigby please note) has made it all worthwhile.

Keith has also given Denise great support in running the hostel and many times I have enjoyed watching him do the carving and washing up at the lads Christmas Dinner. In the future he will have more time to devote to his grandchildren and to ‘doing up’ his beloved ancient cars.

We at Park House will miss his cheery face at the races, especially after some of the major successes, but are grateful that we will still see plenty of him. Happy retirement Keith from all of us at Park House Stables and very well played! ■

PENTECOST

All good things must eventually come to an end and the final curtain falling on the racing career of one of the yards favourite old campaigners is greeted with a mixture of sadness and gratitude for what he has contributed to the yard in this time.

To my mind, Pentecost defines a whole generation of staff and horses that have been at Kingsclere during his racing career. He was originally bought for and owned by Mr Robert Hitchins and trained by a certain I. A. Balding; latterly, he was owned by Jeremy, Jonathan and Stephen Hitchins and trained by A. M. Balding. Simon Burgoyne was his rider during his yearling and early two year old days, later that year he became the regular work companion of the top class Firebreak and made his debut under Steve Drowne, he broke his maiden under Tony Clark and was also ridden on one occasion by a seven pound claimer called Mickey Doyle.

As a three year old he helped launch the career of the then five pound claimer Liam Keniry, when the pair won the Britannia Stakes at Royal Ascot. He became a regular and reliable work horse who provided morning competition to the Group One winners Casual Look and Phoenix Reach amongst others. He is the only horse to have won two Shergar

Cup races and he became one of the few English horses to be successful at the 2006 Dubai Carnival at Nad al Sheeba, running there again with great credit in 2007.

For the majority of this season he was partnered by a young William Buick but in previous years Frankie Dettori, Kieran Fallon, Martin Dwyer and the great South African and Hong Kong champion jockey Dougie Whyte were all successful on him. During his time at Kingsclere he was looked after by Donna Bashton, Emily Graham and Leanne Masterton and was ridden in the mornings more often than not by Keith Betteridge. He will be remembered for the silly faces he pulled in the box and the many riders arms he pulled to full stretch and beyond in the mornings. Pentecost has been enrolled in the HEROS scheme for retired racehorses and if he can be half as successful in his new career as he was in his previous one then his new owner will be in for a real treat in the years to come. ■

PENTECOST (Liam Keniry) wins The Britannia Stakes at Royal Ascot in 2001



THE 2007 **12** TO FOLLOW COMPETITION

Andrew's successful 2nd half of the season meant many changes on the 12 to follow leaderboard. The result was another success for The Cheshire clan. After Angela's success in 2006, Nathan showed that he is learning fast by winning this year's competition.

Good representation from inside Park House towards the top of the leaderboard with IAB showing the value of experience in 4th place out gunned by our statistical wizard Stuart McPhee. Clan Masterton in 5th place and Sherie Knowles getting her usual good score.

As usual prize money is split between the leading four entries.

1st £610.50 2nd £277.50 3rd £166.50 4th £55.50

Emma Lambourne won the "wooden spoon" refund this year – understandable since her beloved Briareus did not manage another run.

The full results are:

1 CHESHIRE, NATHAN (B)	216
2 BOAKES, LOUISE	201
3 CULLEN, EUGENE	191
4 MCPHEE, STUART	188

5 IAB	186	21 KING, EMMA	156
5 MASTERTON CLAN	186	21 PARIS, REX	156
7 KNOWLES, SHIREE	184	23 GAY, SUSAN	152
8 PAYTON, MICHAEL	178	24 SHARLAND, RACHEL	150
8 CHESHIRE, ANGELA (A)	178	25 HODGKINS, ADRIAN	148
10 GAY, DAVID	176	26 MACKINNON, ROGER	147
11 MCPHEE, ANGUS	175	26 AEBERHARD, WERNER	147
12 AMB	174	28 PALMER, ANNE	146
13 WOOLLEY, STEVE	169	29 CHESHIRE, NATHAN (A)	145
14 BACK, DAVID	166	30 OVETT, NICK	144
15 STANSBY, CLIVE	165	31 CHIVERS & DERBYSHIRE (B)	143
16 GRUBB, SARAH	162	31 CASLON, DENNIS	143
17 STILLINGS, MARK	160	33 HILL, AUDREY	142
18 JOHNSON & BOUNDS (B)	159	33 KING, GAIL	142
19 WALLIS, EMMA	158	33 BARBER, HAZEL	142
19 DANGAR, RICHARD	158	36 GRUBB, GEORGIA	141

36	MOWCHLIAN, DOMINIQUE	141	75	BRUNTON, GORDON	101
38	GOVER, TONY	139	75	COLEMAN, GEORGE	101
38	EVANS, MALCOLM	139	77	PATIENT PARTNERSHIP	100
40	JOHNSON & BOUNDS (A)	138	77	REGISTER, LAYTON	100
41	RAE-SMITH, MRS M	135	77	WATTS, J	100
41	CHESHIRE, ANGELA (B)	135	80	BALDING, M & R	99
43	DILLON, BATT (A)	134	80	COX, TOM	99
44	POWELL, D	133	82	ARNOLD, HUGH & PAM	98
44	PETTITT, DWAYNE	133	82	PALMER, CECILIA	98
46	DILLON, BATT (B)	128	82	BAVEYSTOCK, HOWARD	98
47	MCPHEE, MINA	127	85	BEDFORD, PETER	95
48	HALLAS, GARY	126	86	ARNOLD, ALICE	92
48	SMITH, JEFF	126	87	BROUGHTON, B	89
48	NEWBERY, MRS K	126	87	RAMSDEN, JACK	89
51	OSWALD, MICHAEL	125	89	OURY, GERALD	86
51	GORDON, SUZIE	125	89	JENKINSON, ROB	86
53	GRUBB, PETER	124	91	FORD, FUELS	84
53	GREEN, MARION	124	91	GALE, JOHN	84
55	COUSINS, ROSE	123	91	LUMLEY, PETER	84
55	BUTCHER, MRS G	123	94	BROUGHTON, TESSA	83
57	PRINCE, RUPERT	121	95	BALDING, EMMA	80
57	FEANE, PADDY	121	95	PALMER, CLARE	80
59	WATES, MRS M	118	97	PALMER, W	78
59	HOWSON, G	118	97	GAY, EDWARD	78
61	GRUBB, OLIVER	114	99	DONAVAN, BRIAN	77
62	HALL, DAVID	113	100	CAMPBELL-GRAY, JAMES	74
62	CASLON, SARAH	113	101	PLUMMER, ANN	73
64	OATES, D	112	101	RANSOM, J	73
64	SAVORY, PAUL	112	103	KINGSCLERE STUD	72
66	HARRIS, NIGEL	110	104	BISHOP, TREVOR	69
67	FINLAY, ROSEMARY	108	105	LONSDALE, DEREK	67
68	BRUNTON, GORDON	105	106	SLADE, MARTIN	59
68	LUCK GUY	105	107	MICHAELSON, ROGER	50
70	GREEN, MARION (B)	104	108	NEWTON, WILLIAM	44
71	SLADE, VALERIE	103	109	BOX, PETER	37
71	REIS, PAUL	103	110	LUMLEY, SUE	34
73	LEE-ROBINSON, NICK	102	111	GAY, WILLIAM	32
73	CHIVERS & DERBYSHIRE (A)	102	112	LAMBOURNE, EMMA	27

LEADING HORSES

HATTON FLIGHT	33
BUCCELLATI	32
LOCH VERDI	30
OCEANA GOLD	30
DREAM EATER	29
GORDONSVILLE	28

SELECTIONS OF THE LEADERS

NATHAN CHESHIRE		LOUISE BOAKES		EUGENE CULLEN		STUART MCPHEE	
LOCH VERDI	30	DARK MISSILE	25	DARK MISSILE	25	DARK MISSILE	25
BANKNOTE	20	LOCH VERDI	30	HOLBECK GHYLL	14	HOLBECK GHYLL	14
OCEANA GOLD	30	TELLTIME	16	LOCH VERDI	30	TELLTIME	16
SIRENS GIFT	19	BUCCELLATI	32	BUCCELLATI	32	GORDONSVILLE	28
BUCCELLATI	32	VOICE MAIL	1	SABAH		LOCH VERDI	30
OLLIE GEORGE	16	BANKNOTE	20	SIRENS GIFT	19	BANKNOTE	20
DRIVING MISS SUZIE	14	SIRENS GIFT	19	YEAMANS HALL	10	SIRENS GIFT	19
RELATIVE STRENGTH	10	FLYING INDIAN	6	RELATIVE STRENGTH	10	VENI BIDI VICI	
FAR SONG		DONEGAL	22	DONEGAL	22	DONEGAL	22
TOO GRAND	16	EVER DREAMING		DREAM EATER	29	EVER DREAMING	
DREAM EATER	29	JEDEDIAH	16	ROYAL STRAIGHT		INDIAN ANGEL	
GENADORE		YOUR PLEASURE	14	PROVISION		YOUR PLEASURE	14

WOODEN SPOON

EMMA LAMBOURNE

BRIAREUS	
FREE TO AIR	1
BATHWICK LETI	
LOCHSTAR	10
TWEED RIVER	
WATER MILL	
SEAFLOWER REEF	1
SEEDLESS	
ALL FANTASY	
PRINCESS AUGUSTA	
ERICARROW	
BLUE SKY BASIN	15



HATTON FLIGHT

THE FIVE YEAR REPORT

by Stuart McPhee

It has now been five years since Andrew took full control of training of the horses at Kingsclere. Stuart McPhee (our own version of Jeremy Paxman) looks at what he has achieved in this time and asks some searching questions about the past, present and future!

The Stats

	1st	Runs	2nd	3rd	4th	Prize Money
Flat Uk	228	2429	246	268	251	£3,478,996
N Hunt	21	103	14	9	6	£257,069
International	10	46	4	3	4	£2,377,077
TOTAL	259	2618	264	280	256	£6,131,742

A couple of standout highlights in these statistics are: a win strike rate of over 20% with jumpers over a five year period and an astounding 45%+ international runners have won or placed.

What have been your personal highlights of the first five years of your training career?

Well the obvious one would have to be a treble on Oaks day that included a classic in my first season of training but there are a couple of other races that really stick in the mind such as Phoenix Reach's win in the Dubai Sheema Classic. He had been a serious challenge to train as a four year old as we had one hitch after another with him but he eventually started coming right and ran a storming race in the Japan Cup before winning the Hong Kong Vase in December. We then had a trouble free run through to Dubai and the horse was simply electric on the day. If anyone doubts what a fine racehorse he was then I suggest they watch a video of that race. Another race that was memorable was Gunner Welburn leading the Grand National field from the Chair until the second last fence in 2003, he eventually faded to finish fourth but provided us all with a memory to cherish.

And what have been the low points for you- the biggest disappointments?

Injuries to any horse are tough to take but it is a bitter blow to take when they are your better horses. I found the beginning of this year very tough because of that. I was also a little disappointed that I did not receive more

support after my first year. We had enjoyed an amazing year but did not attract one single new yearling order. On top of that, I did not even get the yearling allocations we were hoping for!

What do you consider to be the biggest change in approach to training from your father's regime to the one you currently run?

I don't think there is a huge difference in the way the horses are exercised or worked but the yard has had to evolve with a change in times. Some of the older lads are now restricted to duties on the ground so we have had to adapt the system slightly to accommodate them. I think racing in general has changed hugely in the last twenty years as the costs have increased; it is a case of trying to stay in business without cutting more corners than absolutely necessary.

After such immediate success in your career, do you ever find it difficult to motivate yourself to deal with every day, non- group horses?

Look, if I thought there wasn't a very good chance of having that sort of success on a fairly regular basis I certainly would not still be doing it! As far as dealing with non- group horses goes, that term alone categorises

about 99% of the horse population so I would feel fairly redundant if I did not enjoy dealing with them. The thing I get most satisfaction from is seeing a seemingly ordinary horse improve, or better still a handicapper turning in to a top class handicapper and a top class handicapper turning into a group horse.

How do you feel about the pressures of buying new batches of yearlings at ever increasing prices each autumn?

I have never felt it easy to try and generate yearling orders and buying on spec is a risky business. As a result, value for money has got to be the over-riding requirement. I am very fortunate to have the help of my mother at the sales and we have managed to buy some very decent horses over the last few years for relatively little money. They have to be athletic but when you're on a budget you may have to go for the less fashionable pedigrees.

If you could win any race worldwide, what would it be and why?

The Epsom Derby is the one I want the most. Always has been and always will be. The Melbourne Cup and the Grand National are the other two. I doubt I am alone in naming these three races but it is ironic when you think that commercially no breeder in their right mind is trying to produce these types of animals. It's sad really. I would love to win the Leger one day as well!!

Tell us about some of your favourite 'ordinary' horses in terms of spirit and consistency.

'Ordinary' is never a term I would want to use about him but Distant Prospect was a particular favourite as he was a real character but sadly the handicapper ruined him as a racehorse. Kelpie and Emerald Fire were two fillies I grew very fond of as they were both very tough and had great personalities. Irony and Dark Missile are my current favourites.

Which other trainers do you admire most?

I genuinely admire any trainer who has had sustained success at the top level as it is not an easy thing to achieve. I always thought that Dad was pretty bloody good at the job, but the three I would like to have a horse with myself if I were an owner would be Michael Jarvis, Roger Charlton and David Elsworth. They are all trainers who will get the best out of a horse that has any ability. It is a big mistake to suggest that good horses train themselves, as a good horse will be quickly ruined in the wrong hands.

How do you feel about the gradual shift in ownership from large owner/breeders towards more multi-ownership/syndicates. How much more difficult does this make your job?

It is part of the evolution of the sport. As the costs continue to escalate and the rewards diminish it is only to be expected that there are fewer people who can afford or are prepared to take the risks of sole ownership. I am lucky to train for some really well run syndicates and it is very easy to deal with them if they are properly managed.

Has big sale race success this season affected your view of this type of incentivised racing?

Yes it has, as I thought it impossible to win one before this year!! But I genuinely think they are good for the game although I do not like the way they slant stallion statistics and I think the initial entry instalments should be lower as it all too easy to have spent £700 before the horse has done a serious piece of work!

Would you ever consider sharing the facilities at Kingsclere with other trainers?

Only if the economic situation left me with no alternative. The best thing about Kingsclere is the privacy and the exclusive access to the gallops.

You currently run to a win strike rate of 10% over the last five years would you aim to improve this over the next five years?

Yes it would be nice to improve it as it would mean we would be winning more races but protecting my strike rate is not something I factor into the equation when campaigning the horses. It would be all too easy not to run your lesser horses to achieve this, but that is not what the owners are paying you for. Likewise with a better class horse I would much rather win one big race of some consequence and some decent prize-money, than three little ones worth peanuts to the winner. Given the choice I am far more satisfied having won £6 million over the last five years with a strike rate of 10% than I would have been winning half that amount but having a strike rate of 15%!

And what about the next five years?

I would like to sustain the current numbers of horses but we will always keep trying to improve the quality of the stock. It is an exciting time for Kingsclere and I genuinely feel that we can improve on what we have done in the last five years. ■

HAMPSHIRE AIR AMBULANCE

In June 2004, we were thrilled to raise £3,000 for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance at the Park House Stables Open Day. This was entirely thanks to the generosity of owners and visitors on the day and we remain very grateful.

On 1st July 2007, the Air Ambulance finally became operational and is now flying several missions every day, saving lives across the county.

Sadly, on November 9th, the Air Ambulance had to make its first and hopefully it's last visit to the gallops at Kingsclere, picking up Luke Beardsley who had fallen off one of the yearlings. The service was second to none, delivering Luke to North Hants hospital within ½ hour of the fall.

Luke properly smashed up his left ankle but now, with six screws and 2 plates inserted he is on the way back for a full recovery and will hope to be back on a horse again in February.

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance Charity relies entirely on voluntary donations, and for this vital service to succeed, it needs to raise more than £65,000 every month: that's over £2000 every day. Next year, we will hope to organise another Open Day and raise some more funds for this very worthwhile charity. ■



Luke Beardsley

WILLIAM BUICK & DAVID PROBERT

I.A.B.



Much has already been written about the mercurial career thus far of apprentice William Buick. He had his first ever ride (finishing second on Tiny Tim) at Brighton in August 2006. His first winner came just one month later at Salisbury and since then he has not looked back having won no less than seventy six times.

A first win at Royal Ascot on Jeff Smith's DARK MISSILE has been the highlight of this current season, but three wins on The Illies for trainer Barry Hills features high on William's list of achievements.

The low points have been an amazing amount of suspensions which ruined any chance he might have had of winning the apprentice title this season and from everyone's point of view his failure, so far, to pass his driving test!

William has learnt incredibly quickly, is extremely bright at heeding advice and totally instinctive when a rapid decision has to be made during a race. He seems rarely to make the wrong choice and his determination to win races is matched by a natural ability to communicate with the horses he rides. To say that I am happy about my anti post bet at 500-1 with the Tote for W. Buick to be champion jockey within the next ten years – the bet being struck before his first ride – would be an understatement!



His good friend David Probert is also looking forward to an exciting career as a jockey. 'Baby Dave' first came to Kingsclere in May 2006 at the age of seventeen, but looking about twelve years old. He had his first ride, also on Tiny Tim at Lingfield on the 5th December 2006.

David rode several placed horse but that elusive first winner did not happen until his fortieth ride which was on Mountain Pass for trainer Bernard Llewellyn at Wolverhampton on December 4th 2007 – almost exactly a year after his first ride. The race was only a seven furlong seller but in beating senior jockeys Neil Callan and Micky Fenton David received headlines in the Racing Post and the 'Star Performance' accolade at Wolvers that day.

A fine ride two days later when finishing second on SOLDIER FIELD at Kempton confirmed David's newly found confidence and his career should now go from strength to strength. A big help to him will be his newly appointed agent Sara Metcalfe (Neil Chalmers' partner) who also organises Neil's rides. David should take comfort from the fact that no less a rider than Pat Eddery took forty one rides to finally get off the mark before going on to be champion apprentice and multiple champion jockey.

Park House Stables have produced many top apprentices over the years going back to Ernie Johnson and including Philip Waldron, John Matthias, Shaun Payne and Martin Dwyer, but I can not remember a time when we had two such outstanding prospects at the same time. All of the previously mentioned have run the line for the Drag Hunt here at Christmas time. This year it is David's turn when he will be both riding the first line and running the third and fourth lines with the dreaded smelly sock. ■

NEW VENTURE...



Membership only £5,000
krc@kingsclere.com
T: 01635 297 307
www.kingsclere.com

Kingsclere Racing Club



The **Kingsclere Racing Club** is designed to give members maximum involvement and enjoyment of racing with only a limited financial outlay.

The way we are able to offer this is by joining forces with Kingsclere Stud and leasing between 10-15 horses to race through the 2008 racing season. Therefore, cutting out the ever escalating cost of purchasing unproven bloodstock. This club will be exclusively limited to a maximum of 50 members at any one time.

The aim is to provide every member with the complete experience of racehorse ownership; from tranquil mornings on the gallops, to the hive of activity at the racecourse.

On top of this, KRC will offer social activity throughout the season and give our members the chance to mix with other like minded racing enthusiasts.

The cost of membership will be £5,000 for a 12 month period, this will include all training fees, racing expenses and entertainment costs.

Any prize money won by the KRC horses within this period will be divided equally amongst the members.

If you are interested in becoming a member or would like further details, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

NEW CONTACT DETAILS FROM 21st JANUARY 2008

ANDREW AND ANNA LISA BALDING
Park House, Kingsclere, Newbury, Berks
RG20 5PY

MAIN RACING OFFICE – 01635 298 210
ANDREW HOME – 01635 299 013
ANDREW MOBILE – 07774 633 791
OFFICE EMAIL – admin@kingsclere.com

IAN AND EMMA BALDING

Temporarily at :
10 Winchester Road, Kingsclere, Newbury, Berks
RG20 5PX

HOME NO – 01635 298 274
EMMA MOBILE – 07831 632 192
IAN MOBILE – 07836 276 439
EMAIL – emmabalding@btinternet.com

Hydration and Rehydration – a Performance Aid

SIMON KNAPP

Healthy horses are in balance both mechanically and physiologically. Physiological balance includes the chemical and electrolyte balance and hence the state of hydration.

The electrolyte balance is a dynamic, fluid (excuse the pun) scenario. The major electrolytes are sodium, chloride, potassium and to a lesser extent calcium and magnesium. They are essential for all the biochemical activities within the body as well as fluid distribution within and outside the circulatory system. Electrolytes are lost and replaced on a daily basis, the loss coming from faeces, urine, sweat and breath moisture. Losses are replaced by food and water intake. Whilst horses in cool climates and not in work replace electrolytes from food, it is rare for racehorses in intense work to fully replace electrolytes lost in training, hence supplementation is necessary.

Horses working longer and harder produce a greater volume of sweat proportional to their workload. This is exacerbated by hot and humid conditions thus the greater the sweat loss, the greater the electrolyte loss. If this becomes excessive, fluid is lost from the circulation and the horse becomes dehydrated. The most influential electrolyte in circulatory regulation is sodium which can be readily fed to horses as salt. Although high salt intake is detrimental in man, no such doomsday scenario has been recorded in horses. Too much electrolyte is not palatable and will be refused whether fed or introduced into water.

Hay and commercial racehorse diets ensure a predictable electrolyte intake, but electrolyte loss varies with the work schedule and climate conditions. Over a period of time electrolyte loss may exceed intake producing an electrolyte imbalance. This in time will lead to reduced or poor performance and in more severe cases may predispose the horse to 'tying up' (exertional rhabdomyolysis), the 'thumps' (diaphragmatic flutter) and even muscle strain. Exhaustion and post exercise fatigue are also associated with electrolyte imbalance.

One litre of sweat equates to 1kg in weight, thus a horse losing 10kg after exercise can be regarded as losing 10 litres of sweat. In electrolyte terms, this means 35g of sodium, 60g of chloride, 12g of potassium and 1g of calcium are lost -108g or 4oz of electrolytes. Studies on the effect of fluid loss suggest that a 2% weight loss reduces performance whilst a 3% loss leads to reduced muscle endurance and further loss of performance. A 7% loss results in collapse.

Electrolytes can be replaced via several routes, the major source being the main ration, both hard food and hay. Feeds can be supplemented with commercial electrolytes or plain salt, whilst electrolyte pastes are widely used especially after travel or racing. Electrolytes can be added to water but this may have a deleterious effect

by reducing or even preventing water intake. Clean plain water must always be available if electrolytes are administered in water. Salt licks in the manger offer a ready source of sodium and chloride, but the intake cannot be calculated – some horses reject the lick whilst others develop a voracious appetite for them.

Intravenous administration of electrolytes and amino acids (the building block of protein) is widely used. Although not a practical method of replacing electrolytes on a daily basis, it does have a valuable role in rapidly replacing electrolytes after racing, hastening a return to full training or racing. Intravenous electrolytes (drips) given before racing reduce the risk of muscle exhaustion and tying up thereby ensuring optimum performance.

At Park House Stables both isotonic fluid (balanced electrolytes) and Duphalyte drips (electrolytes and amino acids) are used before and after racing. The Duphalyte drips are spiked with a B vitamin complex which is regarded

as essential for metabolism. Horses travelling abroad or over significant distances in the UK are ‘dripped’ to counteract fluid loss in transit and maintain appetite and fluid intake.

The administration of drips or electrolyte pastes on the day of the races is prohibited under the rules of racing, although pastes can be given after the race with the permission of the racecourse veterinary officer. The widespread use of Duphalyte drips and litres of isotonic saline at Park House Stables has helped the horses achieve their optimum performance and bounce back after their races.

Initially the frequent administration of drips led to veterinary ‘tired arm syndrome’ a repetitive strain injury which generated very little sympathy from stable lads or indeed the trainer. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Andy, the wonderful maintenance man who has now sadly left Kingsclere, for coming to my aid and constructing an extending pole – an extension which has revolutionised my life! ■

TOO GRAND

Too Grand was probably the most “domestically” important winner of the year. A syndicate formed by Anna Lisa called High Maintenance were the proud owners of this 2,000gns purchase made by Anna Lisa herself last autumn. Although not rising to dizzy heights she competed nine times winning at Kempton and being second on her last run when she was sold privately after the race. The twelve members of the all girl syndicate got a small return from the investment and certainly knew how to enjoy the races.



The only time owners did not turn up to see the filly run was when they were having a celebratory meal at the Carnarvon Arms instead. The filly herself was quite high maintenance as her attitude towards the stalls required the attention of Chris Bonner, who didn't seem to mind mingling with twelve girls, and Neil Chalmers who rode her in the majority of her races was a star. ■

