

# KINGSCLERE

PARK HOUSE STABLES



WINTER MAGAZINE 2016



*BERKSHIRE BOY and COLD SHOULDER make friends during their holiday*

Front cover: *A worthwhile journey: WYNFORD wins at Carlisle under Rob Hornby*

Back cover: *A festive fourth lot*

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# INTRODUCTION AMB

**A**s the year 2016 enters its final stages, I feel the whole team at Kingsclere should reflect on this season's achievements with great pride.

With 108 wins since January 1st to the time of writing and just shy of £2 million in prize money during the same period it has certainly been a season of high achievement.

Dancing Star's wonderful win in the Stewards Cup at Goodwood and Blond Me's last gasp victory in the Topkapi Trophy in Istanbul were amongst the highlights, but possibly the most exciting element of the year was the performance of our two year olds.

The 2 year old crop operated at a 20% win rate (compared to 8% in 2015) and we have six individual juveniles who achieved black type this year, compared to just one last season. The average Timeform rating of our top ten juveniles is some 8lbs higher than the equivalent figure for last year.

The exciting element of these statistics is not so much what was achieved this season but more what the team at Park House has to look forward to next spring and beyond. With South Seas, Poet's Vanity, Perfect Angel, Rosie Briar and Isomer already proven as capable of competing against the best we also have the likes of Horseplay, Leontes, Max Zorin, Genetics, Rely On Me and Intimate Art who have all won maiden races and could easily go to another level as three year olds.

Sadly whatever is achieved next season will be without the help of Chris Bonner, my assistant for the last 11 seasons and friend for a few years longer than that! Chris has done a fabulous job in this role and I will miss his humour and counsel on a cold January morning when the winter blues are at their deepest! We are, however, extremely fortunate that Chris's departure has made way for a natural successor in the form of Nigel Walker. Nigel has played an instrumental role in the success of the yard in recent years in his role as Head Lad, and will replace Chris as assistant. Angela Cheshire, who has worked at Kingsclere since 1990, has replaced Nigel as manager of the Ormonde and Flying Fox yards, whilst Kevin Hunt will continue to oversee the Casual Look, Middle and Elm Park barns and Dylan Holley the Mill Reef and Selkirk yards.

I have no doubt that the management team has the strength and expertise to maximise the performances of what looks to be a very exciting team of horses for the new season. We are all counting down the days now!



*A happy crew with POET'S VANITY after the Group 3 Oh So Sharp Stakes*



# SEASON REVIEW

by Andrew Balding

**B**lond Me's campaign got off to the perfect start when she took the Listed Conqueror Stakes on her reappearance at Goodwood in May and she went on to finish a very good second in Group 3 company at Sandown Park in August, setting her up perfectly for a trip to Turkey for the Topkapi Trophy at Veliefendi.

A contest in which Dream Eater had finished a close second for us in 2009 and 2010, it has been a long-held ambition to win the race and I was delighted to see Barbara Keller's mare rattle home to get up in the final strides under Oisin Murphy.

In addition to landing a very valuable prize, she also added significantly to her paddock value. Though she will make a wonderful broodmare, she will remain in training next year and I really hope she can find an opening at Group 1 level, with further air miles planned for her 2017 campaign!

Another filly to enjoy a stellar season was **Elbereth**, whose Listed success in the Nottinghamshire Oaks in June preceded three outstanding efforts in defeat, the first of which came in the John Smith's Cup in July.

That fast-finishing second further highlighted Elbereth's swift progression and, an hour before Blond Me's Topkapi Trophy victory, Elbereth finished third in the Group 2 Bosphorus Cup on what was her first attempt at that level. Better was still to come, as she closed her season by filling the same placing in the Group 1 Premio Jockey Club in Milan, finding only the St Leger runner-up and a last-time-out Group 2 winner too good.

Given the quality of those performances, it would be fair to describe David Taylor's homebred as a well-handicapped mare, as she remains on a mark of 100 despite placing at Group 2 and Group 1 level on her last two outings! Given the apparent generosity of the assessors, it may well be that Elbereth makes her return in handicap company, but we will certainly look for further black-type over the course of next season.

We have always thought a great deal of **Duretto** and, having been beaten a short-head in a Listed handicap at Chester in August, it was wonderful to see him round off his season in fine style with a win in the St Simon Stakes at Newbury in the hands of Graham Lee.



*DURETTO records his first Group win, in the St Simon Stakes at Newbury*

In what was by some margin the biggest field to go to post in the race in the past 25 years, Duretto settled very well off a strong gallop and was given a well-judged, patient ride, closing two furlongs from home and keeping on strongly once sent into the lead in the final hundred yards. At his best with cut in the ground, Lord Blyth's four year old looks the type to continue to progress and he is a tremendously exciting individual, one that I hope can develop into a Melbourne Cup contender in 2017.

**Tullius** provided us with yet another memorable win when getting up on the line in the Group 3 Diomed Stakes at Epsom on Oaks Day under a tremendous ride from Jimmy Fortune, our third win in the race in recent years. He suffered a nightmare passage in the Balmoral Handicap on Champions Day, but he has once again shown that he retains his ability and enthusiasm, and we are looking forward to trying to add to his 11 career successes when he returns next term.

Fellow eight year old **Highland Colori** ran a smashing race in defeat in the Balmoral, finishing sixth, having previously got his head in front for the first time in three years when winning at York in October under Liam Keniry. A tremendously consistent and likeable performer for his owner Evan Sutherland, that York success followed a series of fine efforts in competitive handicaps during the summer. That Highland Colori and Tullius continue to compete at such a high level is testament to their attitude and ability, and to the exemplary care they receive from their Head Lad Kevin and grooms Kayleigh and Chetan.



*Emotional scenes after yard favourite HIGHLAND COLORI scores at York under Liam Keniry*

**Here Comes When** is a high-class performer on his day, and it was great to see him get his head in front in a conditions contest at Bath in September, having placed at Listed and Group 3 level earlier in the season. He was another of ours to suffer a troubled passage in the Balmoral, but consequently he will start 2017 on a good mark and with no penalties. He thoroughly deserves to win another good prize.

**Haines** has developed into a really useful stayer on the All-Weather and, having won twice earlier in the year, he ran a smashing race in defeat to finish a very close second in the Northumberland Vase at Newcastle, the consolation race for the Northumberland Plate. He will be aimed at the All-Weather Finals in mid-April, with a tilt at the Northumberland Plate his summer objective. **Dungannon** will also be kept on the go over the winter, having been unable to add to January's Southwell success on the turf this term. Rising ten, he remains an enthusiastic individual at home and the handicapper has begun to give him a chance.

**Man Look** progressed well during the summer, winning handicaps at Bath and Chester in June, before being defeated by a short-head at Sandown Park in August. He realised 50,000gns at the sales and will be going jumping for new connections. **Secret Hint** was another to win at Chester in early summer, and the talented daughter of Oasis Dream is now set to be covered before hopefully racing in foal next term, when the objective will be to find her some black-type.

It was a disappointing season for **Absolutely So**, who is a high-class sprinter for whom things didn't really go to plan. First home of his group when fourth in the Wokingham at Royal Ascot in June, he ran another good race when sixth in the Ayr Gold Cup off top-weight, but was then unable to take advantage of what looked two good opportunities in the autumn. He will be back without any penalties next year and, still lightly-raced for his age, I am hopeful that he can enjoy a very successful season.

Smart stayer **Ballynanty** finished an excellent third in the AW Marathon Final on Good Friday, but unfortunately everything went wrong for him from then on, and he was unable to show his best in two subsequent runs on turf. He has since been gelded and enjoyed a good break and, though he is unlikely to be back in time to qualify for the Championships in the spring, he will be aimed at another big All-Weather prize, the Northumberland Plate at Newcastle in June.

**Priors Brook** had finished runner-up on two occasions this term, so it was pleasing to see him get his head in front again under a good ride from Liam Keniry, bringing his record on Lingfield's polytrack to two from three. He hasn't had much racing this year and will stay on the All-Weather over the winter.



It was hugely frustrating to see Jim and Fitri Hay's **Scotland** ruled out for the season after sustaining an injury in the Gold Cup in June, as he had looked set for a fine year when runner-up in the Listed Buckhounds Stakes on his seasonal bow at Sandown Park in May. Providing his recovery from that setback goes well he will be back in the summer, which I hope will also be the case for **Man Of Harlech**, who had finished a good fifth on his reappearance in the Lincoln in April before suffering a setback after his run in the Royal Hunt Cup. Both are very talented individuals and we will keep our fingers firmly crossed for their racecourse returns.

The Kingsclere Racing Club's **Passover** provided members with plenty of excitement in 2015 with four wide-margin wins. Though he found life tougher in 2016 having started off a 40lbs higher mark, he acquitted himself very well, placing on six occasions in strong middle-distance handicaps. He has since been sold and will continue his career in Australia. Fellow KRC stalwart **Intransigent** will remain in training over the winter, and he deserves to find an opening, having finished runner-up on three occasions this term, most recently at Leicester in October. Another to stay in training for the winter is **Breakheart**, who has done a wonderful job as a schoolmaster for many of our apprentices in recent seasons.

### THREE YEAR OLDS

The rise to prominence of **Dancing Star** was one of the stories of the season. It started with a win in a lowly class 5 handicap at Salisbury in May, followed by a facile success at Goodwood the following month.

Having finished a close second in a valuable handicap at York, Jeff Smith's daughter of Aqlaam went on to win in great style at Newmarket's July Festival, but the best was yet to come. The last horse into the Stewards' Cup field, she won what is one of the most competitive handicaps of the year in tremendous fashion under David Probert, becoming the first filly since her great-aunt Lochsong to land the prize.

The ground went against her when disappointing in the Group 1 Sprint Cup at Haydock, and this also came at the end of what had been a busy few months. She has had a good break since and will come back a bigger, stronger filly. We may well try a drop to the minimum and she could start off in the Listed Lansdown Stakes at Bath in April. Wherever she goes I am confident that she is a Group-class filly, and it will be fascinating to see what she can achieve.

Mick and Janice Mariscotti enjoyed a tremendous season, with both **Real Dominion** and **The Graduate** proving most progressive before selling for 350,000gns and 100,000gns respectively at the autumn sales.

Real Dominion's two wins at Kempton Park and Ascot were followed by two excellent runs in defeat in valuable



*REAL DOMINION had an excellent season before topping the Park House draft at the October sales*

handicaps at Newmarket, whilst The Graduate improved by fully 25lbs during a season in which he won four times, including in a competitive handicap at Newbury before a wide-margin success in a valuable contest at Haydock under Oisín Murphy.

**Viscount Barfield** proved himself a tough and reliable sort in what was a busy campaign. He won at Kempton Park in the spring but improved throughout the season, landing a pair of handicaps at Chester in the hands of Rob Hornby, who has himself enjoyed a very successful season.

Impressive in his manner of victory on both occasions, the latter in July off a mark of 82, David Brownlow's son of Raven's Pass rounded off the year with a fine second in his bid to make it three from three on the Roodee. He has since been gelded and enjoyed a really good break in the paddocks, and I am confident there will be more to come from him next year.

Our fillies excelled this year and **Summer Chorus** was another of them to make great strides, building on her maiden and handicap wins on the All-Weather at the turn of the year to land two valuable handicaps at Newmarket in the second half of the season, both by a short-head! She formed a fine partnership with Jimmy Quinn, who rode several winners for us this year. Still rated only 86, there is more to come from her, with the aim next term being to find some black-type for the well-related daughter of Exceed And Excel.

Closely related to the Irish Derby and Gold Cup winner Fame And Glory, it was important to get a win into **Great And Small**, and she duly enhanced her paddock value when successful at Chester in July, one of eight winners for us at the course this season. Following a good second in a competitive handicap, the Nicholas Jones-owned daughter of Galileo stepped up to finish fourth in the Listed Murless Stakes at Ascot in September on her final outing of the year, which gives us plenty of hope that she can find some black-type in due course.

I was delighted by the progress made by **Emperor Napoleon**. He conquered four rivals when getting off the mark at the sixth attempt in a minor handicap at Bath, but went on to run very well in defeat in valuable handicaps at Glorious Goodwood and then in the Melrose at York. That form stacks up very well, he has since been gelded and he is a very smart staying prospect for next year.

**Kingston Kurrajong** is a useful individual and, having won well on soft ground at Windsor in June, he went on to finish a very good third in a competitive Ascot handicap the following month. Off since, he will return on the All-Weather over the winter. This will suit his strong-travelling style, and there is plenty more to come from him for owner Richard Hains.

As well as being an excellent lead horse for Dancing Star, **Dark Shot** proved himself to be a useful sprinter in his own right, his maiden win at Windsor in June supplemented by a taking win at Ascot in September under Rob Hornby. He has had a good holiday since and is bred to improve again next season, which I very much hope will be the case with the Kingsclere Racing Club pair **Brorocco** and **Swashbuckle**.

A half-brother to Elm Park, Brorocco was far too keen in his races in the first half of the season, but improved with experience and went on to record wins at Newmarket and Yarmouth in the summer. Physically he looks the type to progress, which is also the case with Swashbuckle. Swashbuckle looked a young stayer of some potential



*LOADED completes the middle leg of a hat-trick, at Kempton under Oisin Murphy*

when winning a pair of handicaps at Ffos Las under David Probert. He has plenty of scope and, having placed over two miles at York on his final start of the year, he looks the type to win a good staying handicap in 2017.

**Loaded** was another to make great strides in the summer, winning his maiden at Ffos Las in July before following up in handicap company at Kempton Park and then recording the hat-trick at Carlisle, in doing so providing us with a perfect hat-trick of wins at the course this season. A useful performer, he has since been sold to race in Hong Kong, as was **Ian Fleming**, who achieved the rare feat of winning consecutive races by the margin of a nose in the spring, before finishing third in a valuable handicap at Goodwood.

**Both Sides** is another to have been sold, the Chelmsford maiden winner having placed on four consecutive occasions in handicap company, but **Able Jack** will be back next year and he is one I can see improving again. He didn't really have things go his way during what has been a stop-start season for him, the highlight of which was a ready success at Sandown Park in July. He can mature physically and is capable of better, as is **Dream Of Summer**, who runs in the same ownership. He looks to be going the right way,



*DREAM OF SUMMER wins in good style at Kempton under Rob Hornby*

winning nicely on his penultimate outing at Kempton Park under Rob Hornby. His mind looked to be elsewhere when disappointing last time and a subsequent gelding operation could have a significant effect.

The Cliveden Stud-owned **Brief Visit** suffered a setback after winning well on her handicap debut at Leicester in July. A subsequent 5lbs rise looks very workable, given the manner of her victory and her scope to progress. She will be back in the spring and should make a lovely four year old. **Lady Perignon** had shown plenty of promise at two before picking up an injury, so it was heartening when she sprung a surprise by winning at long odds in maiden company in August. She built on that run by finishing





*Big and beautiful – BRIEF VISIT wins on handicap debut at Leicester*

second on her handicap debut on what was her final outing of the season and, like Brief Visit, is a big scopey filly who should improve further with time.

Having taken 11 starts to get off the mark, winning in maiden company at Chelmsford in August proved the catalyst for **Verne Castle**'s season, as he followed up with two further wins at the same course in September. Bred to be quick, being out of the Nunthorpe winner Lochangel, he clearly enjoys the All-Weather and will embark on a winter campaign.

**Lorelina** had won on her debut at Epsom at two, but a subsequent fall saw her lose her confidence. It was



*LADY PERIGNON defies long odds to score at Ffos Las*

rewarding to see her bounce back to form at Chepstow in June under Ed Greatrex. She returned to Epsom on her next outing and duly followed up, whilst subsequent defeats have come off higher marks, the last of them an excellent second at Newbury in October. Like most by her sire, she is progressing with age and should do better again next year, as I hope will **St Mary's**, who found herself on a stiff mark after winning her maiden at Thirsk in July, but ran well in defeat on her last two outings, the latest of them in a valuable handicap at Newmarket.

**Fort Jefferson** started the season in tremendous fashion, with two placed efforts on his first two starts in handicaps being followed by two wins in rather contrasting style. The first of them was an 11-length

romp at Leicester, the second a short-head success under a penalty at Newbury. Unfortunately, a subsequent setback saw him miss the remainder of the season, but he has a



*VERNE CASTLE won three at Chelmsford this year*

bright future and remains very feasibly handicapped. **Iberica Road** made all to win a Chelmsford maiden in September and is capable of better than his subsequent midfield effort back in handicap company, the son of the excellent young US sire Quality Road looking one to persevere with on the All-Weather this winter.

**Hairdryer** finished a promising third at Wolverhampton on his debut for us back in April in a race that worked out particularly well. Things hadn't gone his way on his return from a break on soft ground at Salisbury in October, so it was no surprise to see him make the most of an excellent opportunity to get off the mark in maiden company at Chelmsford in November under Liam Keniry. He has a habit of being too keen in his races, but the ability is there and he can progress once learning to settle.

Carlisle winner **Wynford** had tested the patience of his connections, carers and riders since arriving on the yard as a yearling, but he eventually began to grow up this year and developed into a promising stayer. He has since been sold at the sales, as was fellow Carlisle winner **Vanishing Point**. Both are likely to be seen over timber for their new connections, as will Bath winner **Lady Blanco**, who was sold to go jumping in the US. Newbury winner **Bluff Crag** was another to have been sold in the autumn, and was bought by Richard Hughes who had ridden him in the Leger Legends race at Doncaster.

**Fleeting Glimpse** was a very late starter, having made her debut in October, but two fourth places from her first two starts suggest there is plenty of ability there, and the daughter of Passing Glance looks sure to continue to progress. **Diamond Kut** was very green on his debut at Leicester in September, but has shown ability in his work at home and looks the type to improve with experience. A half-brother to a smart All-Weather performer, he will stay on the go over the winter, as will **Bingo George**, who has been disappointing given the ability he has shown in his work at home. He remains a maiden, but I really hope that can be fixed soon!

**Sir Pass I Am** is very much a work in progress, but is another Passing Glance with a future, having run his best race to date when third in a middle-distance handicap at Windsor in October on ground that would've been plenty quick enough for him. He loves soft ground, will stay further and looks sure to improve physically. The diminutive **Wensara Dream** has taken time to get the hang of things on the racecourse, but her last run at Chelmsford was more promising than the bare result and I hope she is now going the right way.

## TWO YEAR OLDS

We have enjoyed a tremendous year with our two year olds, with 28 winners at a strike-rate of 20% representing an excellent return and several top-class prospects for next season amongst them.

**South Seas** looked potentially smart from a very early stage at home, and it was therefore no surprise to see him make a winning debut over six furlongs at Windsor in June. This was followed by another facile success over the same trip at Haydock the following month.

He handled both the step up in trip and in grade with aplomb on his next outing, producing a fine performance to win the Group 3 Solario Stakes at Sandown Park in a race that was subsequently very well advertised by the runner-up, who went on to place in both the Prix Jean-Luc Lagardere and the Racing Post Trophy.

Following a slightly below-par run in the Dewhurst, I was very pleased with his performance in the Group 1 Criterium



*SOUTH SEAS cruises to victory in the Group 3 Solario Stakes at Sandown*

International at Saint-Cloud, finishing runner-up. This was our third placing in the contest in recent years, after Prince Siegfried in 2008 and Bonfire in 2011.

A son of the French 2,000 Guineas and French Derby winner Lope De Vega, I am confident that he will stay a mile and a quarter next year and the French Derby is, at this stage, the long-term objective for the Qatar Racing-owned colt.

It was a very strong maiden in which **Poet's Vanity** finished fourth on her debut at Newmarket in August. Nevertheless she showed considerable improvement on her next outing, absolutely running away with a Plus 10 maiden at Salisbury, matching the race bonus with the same winning distance and, like South Seas, adding a Book 1 bonus of £25,000 in the process.

That performance, whilst lucrative, also suggested that she was potentially a very useful filly indeed. She confirmed this on her third and final start of the season when winning the Group 3 Oh So Sharp Stakes at Newmarket in great style under Oisin Murphy. There is a strong chance she will stay the mile but, whatever the distance next year, she is a lovely filly with the size and scope to suggest she can improve over the winter. I very much hope she can develop into a genuine Group 1 contender next season.



*ROSIE BRIAR secures a Listed win at Doncaster under Rob Hornby*



**Rosie Briar**'s form mirrors that of Poet's Vanity, as having finished fourth on her debut in June, she returned from three months off with an improved display to get off the mark over six furlongs at Haydock under Rob Hornby. A homebred daughter of the successful first-season sire Mayson, she was unfancied in the market for her third and final start of the campaign, the Listed Doncaster Stakes, but duly progressed again to win in good style. A lovely filly, she will be best with some give in the ground and should do very well next year.

**Perfect Angel** is another exciting filly for the future, her maiden win at Glorious Goodwood in July being followed by some excellent efforts in defeat, most notably when runner-up in the Group 2 Mill Reef Stakes at Newbury. She will stay seven furlongs and our aim next term will be to win a Listed race with her.

**Isomer** started his career in most promising fashion, bumping into Frankel's first winning progeny on his debut at Newbury, and then running an outstanding race in defeat in the Chesham at Royal Ascot, finishing second to the



*PERFECT ANGEL was amongst our best two year olds and has scope to progress*

outstanding, subsequent dual Group 1 winner Churchill. A maiden win at Salisbury followed. Though he was unable to get competitive in the Vintage Stakes at Glorious Goodwood, he suffered a setback there that kept him off the track for the remainder of the season, and I am confident that the best is yet to come from him. A son of the Irish Derby winner Cape Blanco, he is likely to start off in a Derby Trial and we will take things from there.

I would have thought it unlikely that Poet's Vanity's winning distance in her maiden, ten lengths, would be surpassed by one of her peers, but **Horseplay** had shown distinct promise on her debut at Ascot in July. Back from a short break, she absolutely ran away with a soft ground mile maiden at Nottingham in October, pulling 13 lengths clear of the second! The daughter of Cape Cross is out of a Listed winner, herself the daughter of a Grade 1 winner in Canada, so she is a beautifully-bred filly. We will be looking to aim her at an Oaks Trial in the spring.

Though he was one of our first two year olds to reach the track, **Leontes** improved from race to race, and his narrow maiden win at Hamilton in mid-July was followed by a facile success in a three-runner conditions contest on the Roodee. He wasn't at his best when finishing in midfield in the sales race at Doncaster's St Leger meeting, but has been gelded and enjoyed a good break since. He will stay further and is another very bright prospect.



*The tough and consistent LEONTES wins at Chester under Oisín Murphy*

**Bohemian Flame** was another of our earlier two year olds and, in contrast to Leontes, he took little time shedding his maiden tag. He made a winning debut at Salisbury in May, which was followed by a third in the Listed National Stakes at Sandown Park. He ran better than the form figure might suggest when seventh in the Group 2 July Stakes. Though he has had a couple of minor issues since, he has been gelded and has done well for a good break. He looks the type to make up into a lovely three year old for his owners Kennet Valley Thoroughbreds.

The Chelsea Thoroughbreds-owned **Max Zorin** is another exciting type. He followed his maiden win at Chester in September with a good third in a classy conditions event at Epsom later that month, despite looking ill-at-ease on the track. He appeals strongly as the type to win a nice handicap next term, as does **Naval Warfare**, who made it third time lucky when winning a seven-furlong maiden at Ayr's Gold Cup Festival in good style under Rob Hornby, having previously gone close at Ffos Las. A son of the first-season sire Born To Sea and half-brother to a Group 2 winner who improved markedly at three, he is a nice horse and a very useful prospect.

**Hidden Steps** is a granddaughter of Kingsclere Stud's wonderful mare Spurned, and she looked a smart filly in the making when overcoming greenness and a tardy start to win on her debut at Lingfield Park in August. Things didn't really go to plan in the Group 2 May Hill Stakes on her next outing, but she was far from discredited and has always



*Doncaster winner RELY ON ME is an improving type*

looked likely to make up into a better three year old. Similar comments applying to Doncaster winner **Rely On Me**. A daughter of Kyllachy, she showed marked improvement on her debut form to make all on her second start and she is a filly to look forward to next season. Another winning juvenile filly, **Night Law**, has since been sold.

Transatlantic Racing's Acclamation colt **Mucho Applause** showed considerably promise on his debut at Newmarket in June. Two starts later, he was off the mark with a taking performance over seven furlongs at Salisbury under Oisín Murphy, handling the soft ground very well and showing a willing attitude. A big, strong individual, he is a lovely type and he should do very well at three, as should **Drochaid**. A bargain purchase from Book 1, he recouped the vast



*MUCHO APPLAUSE put in a taking performance to win at Salisbury*

majority of his purchase price when beating a couple of subsequent winners in a Haydock maiden in August, picking up a Book 1 bonus in the process. His subsequent nursery disappointment is best forgotten given that it was one run too many for a big, weak horse. He is a well-treated sort for next year.

Having looked a very useful two year old in the making when flying home to win on his debut at Bath in May, **Berkshire Boy's** record since has been the cause of huge frustration, and I feel very sorry for his owner Paul Spickett. After two recalcitrant performances, he was gelded and sent to Gary Witheford for remedial work, which appeared to have worked when he finished runner-up on his reappearance at Ffos Las. However, the bad boy reappeared at Doncaster on his next outing and I can only hope that a break and another change of routine can work the oracle, as he has huge natural ability.

Another to get off the mark on his second outing at Salisbury was **Galactic Prince**, who was given a good ride by David Probert up the stands' side rail to win comfortably over seven furlongs on soft ground in August. He was unable to step up on that form subsequently, but has since been gelded. Out of the triple Listed winner Opera Gal, Jeff Smith's son of Dubawi looks sure to progress over further when he returns. **Genetics** looked a useful colt when



*GENETICS puts daylight between himself and his rivals at Newbury*

successful on his second start over a mile at Newbury in August. He was a little disappointing in the Zetland, having shown plenty at home, but he has always looked a three year old in the making and should excel over a trip next year.

**Scorching Heat** showed a liking for soft ground when winning well at Ffos Las in September under Rob Hornby, after which he ran well in defeat in a competitive nursery at Newbury. He was a little keen that day, but is a lovely type, has plenty of scope to progress and should do very well next term. **Intimate Art** won well on his final outing of the year at Kempton Park in October under Champion Jockey





*INTIMATE ART shows a great attitude to score at Kempton under Jim Crowley*

Jim Crowley. A handy type, he has since been gelded and looks set for a successful time of it at three for his owners Thurloe Thoroughbreds.

**Farleigh Mac** provided us with a poignant winner in the Toby Balding Memorial race, in which we had the runner-up in the inaugural running in 2015. Having run disappointingly on his next three outings, albeit not disgraced at York in August, he has since been gelded and, when he learns to relax, he could be a well-handicapped horse.

**Hidden Stash** is a half-brother to two winners at three, and he did well to win a Brighton maiden in very good style in August, before struggling in better company on his next two starts. He will start 2017 on a useful-looking mark and is one I expect to progress. **Simoon** was the latest of our two year olds to get off the mark, winning by a neck at Kempton Park in November under David Probert, who has only recently returned after three months out of the saddle following an injury sustained at Chester in the summer. A lovely type from a good family, Simoon looks sure to improve with time and is a useful prospect.

**War Of Succession** is a useful colt and he had the misfortune to bump into Sir Dancealot when runner-up in September, that rival having since won at Listed level. He had two smart two year olds behind him that day and his rating of 89 is understandable, so I hope he can win his maiden when he returns before going on to better things.

From the first crop of the exceptional Frankel, **Count Octave** finished a very promising third on his debut at Goodwood in October in what looked a good backend maiden. Closely related to Irish Derby winner Treasure Beach, he looks a high-class prospect and is one for whom we have high hopes.

We have always thought a bit of Elm Park's half-sister **Highland Pass**, and she ran two very encouraging races in defeat in September, on the second occasion behind two fillies that placed in Group company on their next outings.

It was a case of one race too many on her only subsequent start, but she is a potentially smart filly and should do very well next term.

**Native Prospect** went very close to shedding his maiden tag when beaten a short-head on his nursery debut at Ffos Las in September, and filled the same position in a York maiden on his final outing of the campaign. By first-season sire Bated Breath, he is a lovely individual who has a liking for soft ground, and looks the type to improve at three. This is also the case with **Atkinson Grimshaw**, who finished third on his second outing over a mile and a quarter at Bath in September. He has done well for a break and should not be long in winning when he returns in the spring.

The Sheikh Juma Dalmook Al Maktoum-owned pair **Passcode** and **Itsakindofmagic** are both bred to improve next year, so I was delighted that they were able to show plenty on their sole starts this term, finishing third at Newmarket and Nottingham respectively. They are both nice individuals.

**Makkadangdang** is another bred to make a three year old, being by the excellent sire Mastercraftsman. He improved with each of three starts, finishing runner-up on his final outing at Chelmsford in October, and should have a very good time of it in handicap company next term.

The once-raced pair **He's A Lad** and **Wine List** both showed plenty of ability on their sole starts, the former in a six furlong maiden at Windsor in July that worked out well, and the latter in a mile maiden at Newbury in October, where he kept on very nicely having completely missed the break. Both are very nice types and will stay further, the latter being a half-brother to our high-class filly Elbereth.

**Georgio** showed enough in four starts to suggest that he will be winning races next year, running a nice race on his nursery debut at Goodwood in July. **Meyandi**, a well-bred son of Mount Nelson and half-brother to our dual Group 3 winner Buccellati, looks sure to improve on his two runs in backend maidens. He looks a similar type to The Graduate, who did so well at three this season. **Look My Way** is also a later-developing type and ran much better on his second start at Wolverhampton in November. He is a middle-distance handicap prospect.

A son of Phoenix Reach, **Hot Lick** will be much better over a trip next term and requires one more run in maidens for a mark. **Munstead Star** is another that will need further than the mile she encountered on her sole start to date. Having been very green in that run at Newbury, she can be expected to leave the form well behind next year.

**Bay Watch** has run just once and looks a sure-fire improver next term with that experience under his belt, with similar comments applying to **Meccabah**, the beautifully-bred daughter of Makfi rating a nice prospect for her owner Jon Haseler. ■

# THE 2016 12 TO FOLLOW COMPETITION

**The fact that many of this year's high-scoring horses were two year olds meant that a little inside knowledge was a handy thing when making selections in the spring, and six of the top ten finishers this year are Park House employees. Little did we realise, however, that the person paying most attention to the string during the winter months was Flora Balding, who has held on to her mid-season lead and claims the spoils!**

**The prize money is divided as follows:-**

**1st £973.50**

**2nd £442.50**

**3rd £265.50**

**4th £88.50**

**Last place £10**

<b>1 BALDING, FLORA</b>	<b>283</b>
<b>2 DE PAIVA, BEN (A)</b>	<b>281</b>
<b>3 DE PAIVA, BEN (B)</b>	<b>275</b>

4 McCutcheon, Robert	268	25 Smith, Jeff	208	42 Richardson, Johnny (B)	181
4 Burns, Danny (C)	268	25 King, Gail	208	47 Masterton, Leanne	179
6 Cheshire, Nathan	258	25 Aeberhard, W	208	47 Gardiner, Carolyn	179
7 Price, Geoff	255	28 Mariscotti, Janice	207	49 Cheshire, Angela (B)	176
8 Mariscotti, Mick	250	29 Hall, David (A)	201	50 Robertson, C & P	175
9 Clarke, Charlotte	241	30 Ford Fuels, Andy Draper	199	51 Powell, D F (A)	172
10 Hetherington, Tessa (A)	237	31 Cheshire, Angela (C)	197	52 Straton, Larry	171
11 Stansby, Clive	236	31 Finlay, Rosemary	197	52 Measures (C + E)	171
12 K Derbyshire/R Chivers	234	33 Box, Peter	192	54 Richardson, Andy	170
13 Hetherington, Tessa (B)	233	34 Hawke, Zoe	190	55 Cousins, Rose	169
14 Rix, Oliver	232	35 Goldsmith, Sam (A)	189	55 Balding, Clare/Toby	169
14 Balding, Emma	232	35 Grant, Patrick	189	57 Balding, I A	168
16 Balding, A M	227	37 Boyce, I D (B)	188	57 Lane, David	168
17 Humphries, Simon	226	38 Donovan, Brian (A)	187	59 Watson, Sue	167
18 Smith, Lauren	224	39 McPhee, Stuart	185	59 Mackinnon, Daisy	167
18 Hodgkins, Adrian	224	40 K Derbyshire/R Chivers	183	59 Mackinnon, Roger	167
20 Rafferty, Gerry (B)	220	41 Bryan, Joshua	182	59 Feane, John	167
20 Plumbly, Simon	220	42 Teacher, Hugh	181	63 Balding, Mac/Boris	166
22 Burns, Danny (B)	218	42 Hurt, Emily	181	64 Robinson-Gay, Billie	165
22 Bedford, Peter	218	42 Gee, Mary	181	65 Burns, Lynne	164
24 Robinson-Gay, Maggie	215	42 Richardson, Johnny (A)	181	65 Friend, Stuart	164



67 Dillon, Batt	162	105 R Lowry/S Hoskins	139	143 Lumley, Sue	101
67 Smith, Graham	162	106 Paris, Rex (A)	136	144 Cox, Tom (A)	99
69 Reis, Paul/Lisa	161	106 Oates, Des	136	144 Dwayne	99
70 Fowler-Watt, Donald	160	106 Rafferty, C & P	136	146 Rafferty, Gerry (A)	97
71 Gardiner, Andrew	159	109 Tolhurst, Andy	135	147 Lees, Jan	95
71 Burns, Richard	159	110 Gay, David	134	148 Friend, Terry	93
71 Hale, Barry	159	111 Cox, Tom (B)	133	149 Lumley, Peter	92
74 Soul, Anne	157	111 Spickett, Lisa	133	150 Dr & Mrs O'Brien (D)	91
74 Jones, Nicholas	157	111 Friend, Neil	133	150 Newbery, Karen	91
74 Spickett, Paul	157	111 Richardson, Jill	133	150 Rafferty, April	91
74 Spickett, Laura	157	115 Soul, John	132	153 Gardiner, L, T & R	89
74 Hancock, C E	157	116 Horne, Ray (B)	131	154 Mackinnon, Bridget	88
79 Hutchinson, Fiona	156	117 Paris, Rex (B)	130	154 Campbell-Gray, James	88
80 Cheshire, Angela (A)	155	117 Richardson, Adrian	130	156 Mackinnon, Jamie	86
80 Phipps-Hornby, Sally	155	119 Hannaford, Chris	129	156 Ford Fuels, A Goodchild	86
80 Mackinnon, Roger	155	119 Thomson, Linda	129	156 Hyde, Maurice	86
80 Clegg, D	155	119 Drew/Holmes	129	156 Plumbly, Helen	86
84 Conroy, Clifford	154	119 Powell, D F (B)	129	160 Swallow, B G	85
85 A'Court, Peter	153	123 Palmer, Anne	125	161 G Bounds/A Johnson (B)	84
86 Chapel, Bury	152	123 Chinner	125	162 Dr & Mrs O'Brien (C)	80
87 Rea, Jon	151	125 Burns, Danny (A)	124	163 Jones, Cherry	79
88 Gale, John	149	125 Donovan, Brian (B)	124	163 Bullion, Barbara	79
88 Hall, David (B)	149	125 Gay, Sue	124	163 Conroy, Carl	79
88 Gay, Sam	149	125 Spickett, Paul & Lisa	124	163 Friend, Janice	79
91 Hutchinson, Mark	148	129 Gee, Simon	122	163 Arnold, Pamela	79
91 Slade, M & E	148	130 Lowry, Jeremy/Rosie	121	168 Boyce, I D (A)	78
93 Palmer, W	147	131 Slade, Martin	119	169 Palmer, Claire	77
93 Dr & Mrs O'Brien (E)	147	132 Cheshire, Angela (D)	118	170 Watson, Hen	70
93 Dangar, Richard	147	133 Mahoney, Mick	115	170 G Bounds/A Johnson (A)	70
96 Dr & Mrs O'Brien (A)	146	133 Rafferty, Jamie	115	170 Wellman, John	70
96 Oury, Gerald	146	135 Jonno & Alice	114	170 Holmes, R	70
96 Jennick, Bryan	146	136 Goldsmith, Sam (B)	113	174 Dr & Mrs O'Brien (B)	67
99 Hyde, Janet	143	137 Slade, Valerie	111	175 Harris, Pat	63
99 Rodgers, Phil	143	138 Scott, Georgina	107	176 Mackinnon, Ella	39
101 Brotherton, David	142	138 Ford Fuels, Ted	107	177 Harris, Wendy	34
102 Reardon-Smith, Julia	141	140 Gardiner, Nancy	106	178 Conroy, Gloria	29
102 Horne, Ray	141	141 Tucker, Margaret	105		
104 Simpson, Felicity	140	142 Gay, Joshua	104		

## SELECTIONS OF THE LEADERS

### FLORA BALDING

DURETTO	32
SCOTLAND	8
BLOND ME	32
BROROCO	40
MAKE MUSIC	28
REAL DOMINION	38
FORT JEFFERSON	30
ISOMER	24
MANOLITO DE MADRID	6
BOHEMIAN FLAME	15
DROCHAID	20
FARLEIGH MAC	10

### BEN DE PAIVA (A)

ABSOLUTELY SO	5
BLOND ME	32
DURETTO	32
MOLTEN GOLD	4
VERNE CASTLE	49
REAL DOMINION	38
VISCOUNT BARFIELD	28
BOHEMIAN FLAME	15
FARLEIGH MAC	10
SOUTH SEAS	40
ITSAKINDAMAGIC	4
ISOMER	24

### BEN DE PAIVA (B)

ABSOLUTELY SO	5
BLOND ME	32
DANCING STAR	46
ELBERETH	29
LADY BLANCO	20
MAKE FAST	8
WHITE POPPY	26
SOUTH SEAS	40
ISOMER	24
LEONTES	33
NIGHT LAW	12
STREET CRY/SATULAGI	0



## LEADING HORSES

VERNE CASTLE	49
THE GRADUATE	47
DANCING STAR	46
DARK SHOT	41
BROROCO	40
LOADED	40
SOUTH SEAS	40
SWASHBUCKLE	40

Winner Flora with top-scoring horse VERNE CASTLE



# THE SEASON IN NUMBERS

1st January 2016 – 1st December 2016

	WINS	RUNS	SR	2NDS	3RDS	4THS	WIN £	TOTAL £
<b>UK</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>723</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>1,038,999</b>	<b>1,672,374</b>
<b>FOREIGN</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>198,529</b>	<b>292,022</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>731</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>1,237,528</b>	<b>1,964,396</b>

## MONTH BY MONTH

Month	Wins	Runs	%
Jan	4	35	11%
Feb	1	20	5%
Mar	7	34	21%
Apr	5	50	10%
May	9	104	9%
Jun	21	109	19%
Jul	21	119	18%
Aug	13	80	16%
Sept	15	87	17%
Oct	8	69	12%
Nov	4	24	17%

## TOP TEN EARNERS

1	Dancing Star	£249,453
2	Blond Me	£235,188
3	Elbereth	£113,356
4	South Seas	£81,472
5	Summer Chorus	£67,588
6	Tullius	£62,133
7	Duretto	£54,931
8	Poet's Vanity	£53,468
9	The Graduate	£46,046
10	Perfect Angel	£38,369

## TOP TEN JOCKEYS

1	Oisin Murphy	32-206	16%
2	David Probert	28-184	15%
3	Rob Hornby	17-74	23%
4	Edward Greatrex	9-57	16%
5	Liam Keniry	7-51	14%
6	Jimmy Quinn	5-14	36%
7	Jim Crowley	4-15	27%
8	Graham Lee	2-3	67%
9	Jimmy Fortune	1-11	9%
10	Cathy Gannon	1-7	14%

## GROUP BY GROUP

	Wins	Runs	SR
Fillies	37	198	19%
2yos	28	139	20%
Racecourse Debuts	4	63	6%
Turf	79	542	15%
AW	29	188	15%
Up to 8f	69	404	17%
Over 8f	39	327	12%



ELBERETH and BLOND ME

## TOP TEN TRACKS

1	Kempton	11-58	19%
2	Salisbury	9-45	20%
3	Chester	8-35	23%
4	Chelmsford	8-42	19%
5	Bath	6-35	17%
6	Ffos Las	5-15	33%
7	Southwell	5-18	28%
8	Newbury	5-34	15%
9	Goodwood	4-27	15%
10	Haydock	4-29	14%

### TOP TEN TIMEFORM (3yo+)

1	Dancing Star	117
2	Tullius	115
3	Duretto	114
4	Absolutely So	113
4	Scotland	113
6	Here Comes When	111
7	Blond Me	109
8	Elbereth	108
8	Highland Colori	108
8	Montaly	108

### TOP TEN LONGSHOTS

1	Lorelina (Chepstow, June)	25/1
2	Highland Colori (York, Oct)	22/1
3	Berkshire Boy (Bath, May)	20/1
3	Duretto (Newbury, Oct)	20/1
3	Lady Perignon (Ffos Las, Aug)	20/1
3	Rosie Briar (Doncaster, Oct)	20/1
7	St Mary's (Thirsk, July)	16/1
8	Great And Small (Chester, July)	10/1
9	Ian Fleming (Chester, May)	9/1
9	Night Law (Sandown, July)	9/1

### BUSY BEES – MOST RUNS

Highland Colori	12
Intransigent	12
Passover	11
Verne Castle	11
Brorocco	10
Cape Spirit	10
Lady Blanco	10
Rose Above	10
Communicator	9
Dungannon	9
Haines	9
Real Dominion	9
Summer Chorus	9
The Graduate	9
Viscount Barfield	9



HIGHLAND COLORI ran 12 times this year

### TOP TEN TIMEFORM (2yo)

1	South Seas	108
2	Poet's Vanity	103p
3	Perfect Angel	99
4	Isomer	98
5	Horseplay	97p
6	Rosie Briar	97p
7	Leontes	96
8	War Of Succession	93p
9	Max Zorin	92
10	Bohemian Flame	91



HORSEPLAY recorded the longest winning distance

### LONGEST WINNING DISTANCES

1	Horseplay (Nottingham, Oct)	13 lengths
2	Fort Jefferson (Leic, June)	11 lengths
3	Poet's Vanity (Salisbury, Sept)	10 lengths
4	South Seas (Windsor, June)	8 lengths
5	Rose Above (Kempton, Mar)	6 lengths
5	Dark Shot (Windsor, June)	6 lengths
5	Real Dominion (Ascot, July)	6 lengths
5	Wynford (Carlisle, Sept)	6 lengths
9	Lord Huntingdon (Southwell, Mar)	5 lengths
10	French Legend (Brighton, Jun)	4.5 lengths
10	Viscount Barfield (Chester, Jun)	4.5 lengths
10	Emperor Napoleon (Bath, Jun)	4.5 lengths
10	Leontes (Chester, July)	4.5 lengths
10	Hidden Stash (Brighton, Aug)	4.5 lengths
10	The Graduate (Haydock, Sept)	4.5 lengths



INTRANSIGENT also had a busy season



# Kingsclere Racing Club

The Kingsclere Racing Club will commence its 10th season in 2017, and we will start the new year with a suitably exciting team of 16 horses, including four two year olds.

Having had our first winner over jumps back in January 2008 (Albinus at Doncaster), KRC members have since cheered home the winners of 73 races, and over £950,000 in prize-money. They have also seen the emergence of subsequent Group 1 winners Elm Park and Side Glance from foals at the stud to competing at the highest level on the racecourse. There have been numerous highlights elsewhere too, with Intransigent's Challenge Cup success, placed efforts at Royal Ascot and Glorious Goodwood, and runners in France, Germany and Dubai.

The 10 winners recorded this season could well be surpassed in our 10th year, as a particularly strong team of older horses, headed by this year's dual winners



SWASHBUCKLE was a dual winner for the Club in 2016

Brorocco, Fort Jefferson and Swashbuckle, are complimented by a team of six three year olds that includes winners Hidden Stash and Hidden Steps, as well as Elm Park's promising half-sister Highland Pass and Side Glance's brother Cold Shoulder.

The tips advised in the betting guides provided by Club Manager Nathaniel Barnett were once again in profit this year, whilst the Club's busy social

diary included new events. Of these, hospitality on the paddock lawn at Ascot on King George day was a particularly memorable event, and one which we look forward to repeating next year.

*The Kingsclere Racing Club currently has two spaces available for 2017. Membership costs £6,000, with Guest Membership an extra £1,000. For further information, please contact Club Manager Nathaniel Barnett on 07890 672435 or by email, [krc@kingsclere.com](mailto:krc@kingsclere.com).*



Spillers have generously continued their sponsorship of our "Stable Employee Of The Month" awards this season, and the four most recent recipients are:

**Kieren Rundell** for looking after Perfect Angel and for excellent help at the Horses In Training sale.

**Holly Rose** for looking after star fillies Rosie Briar, Summer Chorus & Horseplay.

## AWARDS



**Lauren Smith** for all-round great work and for excellent help at the Horses In Training sale.

**Geoff Rigby** for turning his horses out beautifully – as evidenced by all the BTO prizes!

Congratulations to all winners, who receive £100 and a bottle of champagne, and many thanks to Spillers for their continued support of this initiative.



Holly Rose



Geoff Rigby / Kieren Rundell



Lauren Smith

# MY TOP TEN...SPORTING EVENTS

Clare Balding

## 10. Challenge Cup 2005

I worked on the rugby league for the BBC for about 8 years and really enjoyed it. I remember my grandmother (who had grown up watching rugby league) telling me that finally I was doing “a proper sport”. The final of 2005 in Cardiff was a nail-biter as Hull beat Leeds Rhinos by a single point. After seeing them so distraught by the last minute defeat, I always had a soft spot for Leeds and particularly their long time captain Kevin Sinfield. I was thrilled when he finally lifted the Cup in 2014 and 15.



*With Willie at Ascot*

## 9. Olympics 2016

The press build-up to Rio was as negative as I can remember with stories dominated by Zika, Russian doping, poor ticket sales, disorganisation and political protests but once the Olympic Games started, sport took centre stage. Team GB recorded a record number of medals for an overseas Games and my favourite moments came two days before the end when Nick Skelton won gold in show-jumping and, later that evening, GB's women beat The Netherlands on penalties to win the hockey gold medal.

the water, right in the path of the boats. He was pulled out of the water and half an hour later the race was restarted but the drama wasn't over. The boats came close, the blades clashed and one of Oxford's snapped in half. Cambridge went on to win easily and the Oxford bow, Alex Woods, collapsed in a hypoxic state. As Woods was rushed to hospital (he later recovered), the trophy presentation was cancelled. It was chaotic but unforgettable.

## 8. Boat Race 2012

It's one thing to present a sporting event when things go to plan but the fun really starts when things go wrong. Oxford were narrowly ahead as they entered the last third of the race, along the stretch of water where we walk Archie most mornings. Opposite Chiswick steps, an Australian protestor called Trenton Oldfield appeared in

## 7. Wimbledon 2016

Having worked for 5 Live for 19 years at Wimbledon, I switched to TV in 2015 and had something of a baptism of fire but by 2016 the format of the highlights programme had settled down and I could relax to enjoy Andy Murray's second Championship win. To sit alongside the likes of John McEnroe, Boris Becker, Martina Navratilova and Tim Henman is an utter privilege.



*With AP McCoy and Thierry Henry*

## 6. Winter Olympics 2014

After London 2012, I was given the job of being the main anchor at the Games for the first time. Everyone thought Sochi would be a disaster but Great Britain had their best ever Winter Olympic medal haul with a gold for Lizzy Yarnold in the bob skeleton, a silver and bronze in curling and a bronze in snowboarding for Jenny Jones. I spent most of the time pushing a shopping trolley around the Olympic Park and thoroughly enjoyed it.



## 5. Ryder Cup 2014

I have only ever commentated on two sports – tennis and golf, both for 5 Live, and to be a part of the Ryder Cup commentary team is a great thrill. The combination of walking inside the ropes, whispering as putts are taken and then roaring when they drop, as well as interviewing players and family is quite a test of all round broadcasting and it's a challenge I relish. I was lucky to be on the microphone at the 15th hole as Jamie Donaldson played his second shot to within 2 feet of the pin to seal the win for Europe.



*CASUAL LOOK winning the Oaks*

## 4. British Champions Day 2012

Frankel capped his unbeaten career by winning the Champion Stakes in brilliant style on one of the last occasions that we saw the late, great Sir Henry Cecil in public. It was also the last day that Willie Carson and I presented racing for the BBC so it was a poignant and memorable day.

## 3. Grand National 2010

Presenting the Grand National is a mixed blessing because it's always fraught with danger but AP McCoy's first and only victory in the race brought nothing but pleasure. He'd been trying for so long and to do it on a well backed favourite trained and owned by the people he most wanted to please

was an immense moment. McCoy choked up with tears, everyone else cheered and it was great TV.

## 2. The Oaks, 2003

It may not have been my finest hour as a presenter because it's not exactly professional to lose the ability to speak, but watching Casual Look win the Oaks for Andrew in 2003 was a hugely moving experience. I hit Willie Carson repeatedly on the back as she and Martin Dwyer made their move and in the winner's enclosure I conducted a non-interview with both Dad and Andrew. Sometimes you just can't put into words how much something means but the emotion spoke for itself!



*With Bert Le Clos and Mark Foster at London 2012*

## 1. London 2012

Nothing will ever top the experience of presenting from the Olympics and Paralympics in London. It was the absolute highlight of my career and I loved every second of it. I've never felt so completely immersed in an event and I didn't really think about presenting, just about sharing it with everyone watching. It has helped me hugely in the way I've presented Winter and Summer Olympics since and taught me that if you do your homework and focus on the athletes, the experts and the event itself, it will come alive for people watching at home.

# THE RACEHORSE OWNERS ASSOCIATION



With some new owners amongst the ranks at Park House this year, we thought it would be useful to provide some information on the benefits of membership of the Racehorse Owners Association (ROA).

The Racehorse Owners Association (ROA) promotes and represents the interests of racehorse owners in Great Britain.

The ROA has over 7,600 members who enjoy a package of benefits to make their racehorse ownership more cost-effective and enjoyable. In a recent *National Racehorse Owners Survey* the average duration of ownership among ROA members is 6.5 years, compared to 4.7 for all registered owners.

Benefits of membership include:

- *Free racecourse admission schemes*
- *Automatic third party liability insurance up to £10 million*
- *ROA SIS owner-sponsorship scheme* enabling owners to register for and reclaim VAT on their costs of ownership. This provides typical annual savings of £4,000+
- *Free Owner's priority parking label*
- *Thoroughbred Owner & Breeder*. A free copy of the monthly must-read industry magazine
- *20% discount* on most BHA registration fees
- *Member discounts* on a range of goods and services, ranging from Racing UK to Racing Post

- *ROA Owners Jackpot* – a weekly race which offers a £2,000 bonus on top of win prize-money to connections where a horse is owned by ROA members
- *Branded Racing Post desk calendar*.

Members can also enjoy access to a range of exclusive social events, both on and off the racecourse. In the past year this has included visits to Banstead Manor Stud (home of Frankel), Cheveley Park Stud, Ownership Matters forums in Bristol and Harrogate, and a pre-opening visit to the new Heritage Centre at Newmarket. Members have also enjoyed access to exclusive facilities at a number of racing festivals in Ireland and France, including Deauville's August Festival.

## Racecourse Admission Schemes

The *Racecourse Badge Scheme for Owners* provides free admission to over 1,300 fixtures to members with 50% or more of a horse in training. This covers all meetings at 37 racecourses. In the case of a partnership, the two nominated partners qualify.

The *ROA JCR Admission Scheme* enables free admission to ROA members to around 300 Jockey Club Racecourse fixtures during the year. Badges just need to be booked in advance through the *Members Area* of the ROA website. For this scheme, where badges are booked seven days or more in advance, they are posted out. Badges booked within a week of a fixture are available for collection at the general



Ticket Collection Point at the racecourse (rather than the Owners Entrance).

The ROA website has an *Owners Resources* section within which you will find examples of *agreement templates* which are designed to be helpful for anyone setting up or joining a racing partnership. The website also features a Guide to Racehorse Ownership, a free online 60 page guide which answers some commonly asked questions and is designed to de-mystify ownership.

Membership of the ROA is £230.

Racehorse Owners Association

Tel: 020 7152 0200

Email: [info@roa.co.uk](mailto:info@roa.co.uk)

[www.roa.co.uk](http://www.roa.co.uk)



*Disclaimer: we cannot guarantee this experience for all Park House ROA members!*

## KINGSCLERE'S STAFF

There have been some significant changes within the staff team at Park House in recent months. After an association with the yard spanning over 13 years, 11 as assistant trainer, we were very sorry to say goodbye to Chris Bonner in October. A fantastic manager of both horses and people, he has run the yard with enthusiasm and efficiency and has been a great support to Andrew and his many colleagues over the years. We wish him the very best of luck in his new role with Warren Greatrex.



*Bonner and Andrew*

Into Bonner's sizeable shoes steps Nigel Walker, who first came to the yard as Head Lad in 2011 and so knows the place and its inhabitants and connections very well. A talented horseman who has worked in a variety of yards both in the UK and abroad, Nigel brings a wealth of experience to the role and has already settled in to it well.

Nigel's former role as Head Lad of the front two yards at Park House has been taken by Angie Cheshire, who has worked at Park House since 1990, most recently as



*Angie and Nigel*

co-ordinator of our team of ground staff. Devoted to her horses, Angie's organisation and diligence is second to none and she too has quickly found her feet in her new role.

At Christmas we will say goodbye to Patrick Grant and Valentyn Los, both members of our ground-staff team, and to Emily Kent, Assistant Head Lad. Patrick

has worked at Park House on and off for many years and full-time for the last six years. An experienced and sympathetic horseman, he has been a great member of the team. Valentyn has been at Park House since 2011 and has looked after many good horses during his time here, always with great care. Emily has been assistant to Kevin for the past three years and has been a huge help to him and to the yard as a whole. We wish all three of them well in the future.

We have also had a change in gallops staff as Edward Clayton has moved on to new things. Rob Bettaney has joined the team in his place and has already proved his mettle in keeping the Lochsong gallop usable throughout the recent cold snap!



*Jason Watson*

As with every change of season there are some new faces amongst the staff team, and there will also be a few new faces in the paddock next year as we bolster our team of apprentice jockeys. We have a strong group of apprentices in Rob Hornby, Joshua Bryan, William Cox and Michael Coles, but with Rob Hornby only a few wins away from

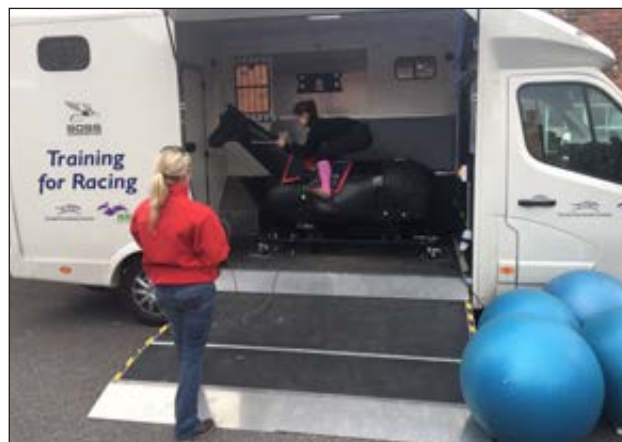
losing his claim we are delighted that Jason Watson and Kayleigh Stephens will soon be joining our apprentice



*Kayleigh Stephens*

roster. Jason has recently completed his licensing course, whilst Kayleigh will undertake her course early in the New Year. Both are very talented and hardworking riders who cannot wait to take their chance under rules.

Many of our young riders recently had the opportunity to hone their skills under the tuition of British Racing School jockey coach Richard Perham and his team, who came to the yard in October. Armed with a video camera, they filmed our riders out on the gallops and used the footage to discuss improvements in their position and style, before putting these into practice on balance balls and equicisers. All who participated enjoyed the experience and learnt a great deal from it. ■



*BRS Training Day*



# BONNER'S LEAVING PARTY

After over twelve years as Andrew's assistant trainer, Chris Bonner deserved a decent send-off and he certainly got that, with a party at Park House expertly organised by Anna Lisa. With a 'This Is Your Life' presentation featuring many funny stories about Chris' childhood, his successful career as a jump jockey and his rather less successful

driving record, all guests left knowing rather more about Chris than when they arrived (and, in the case of Chris' parents, rather more than he would have wanted them to know!). Chris was presented with a painting by the fabulous artist Jo Taylor, which we hope will have pride of place at East Leaze Farm.



## AN UPDATE ON I.A.B.

Many of you will know that Ian had a nasty riding accident in September. A fall when jumping a new horse (acquired because his regular ride, Isphahan, refuses to engage in such activity) left the Guvnor with no less than fourteen broken ribs and a punctured lung. He received excellent care from the doctors and nurses at Basingstoke hospital and then at the John Radcliffe in Oxford, and we are pleased to report that he is now well on the mend. Thank you to the many of you who extended get well wishes. Perhaps now he will see the wisdom in Isphahan's attitude to leaving the ground!



CT chest scan showing one of multiple rib fractures (pink arrow), collapsed left lung (blue arrow) & fluid collection occupying most of left chest



