

# KINGSCLERE

PARK HOUSE STABLES



WINTER MAGAZINE 2017



HIGHLAND COLORI feeling festive in retirement with Kayleigh Stephens

Front cover: BLOND ME with Barbara, Leanne and Oisin after winning at Woodbine  
Back cover: A frosty morning on the Lochsong gallop

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## INTRODUCTION AMB

**2017** has provided all at Park House with a truly memorable year. From the start of this season's turf campaign we enjoyed a steady stream of winners at the bigger meetings and our seasonal tally of well over two and a half million pounds in prize money was an all-time record for the yard. Here Comes When's victory in the Qatar Sussex Stakes provided the highlight of the summer season and a truly glorious Goodwood saw the yard win almost one million in prize money in a single week. It was hugely gratifying for the whole team and a fitting reward for the hard work that goes on behind the scenes.

With so many of our leading performers remaining in training for 2018, the winter months have seen a large investment in the facilities at Park House. A new 23 horse barn is near completion which will provide further stabling of the highest standard - it is no coincidence that over two thirds of our winners in 2017 hailed from the barns built in the last six years. On top of this development we are undergoing a total refurbishment of the all-weather gallops at Kingsclere. The Lochsong gallop is being replaced with a polytrack surface to provide the best available synthetic all-weather facilities for our everyday use. Added to this will be a new circular gallop which will provide an extra dimension to routine morning exercise. It is no secret that Kingsclere has some of the finest grass gallops in the country and whilst these will still be the focus for faster work mornings, the investment in our gallops used on a daily basis will benefit every horse trained at Park House. It has never been our aim to rest on our laurels and I hope the success of this season is a springboard to something even better in 2018! ■



Dylan with MACAQUE and ZATORIOUS



# SEASON REVIEW

by Tessa Hetherington

**N**ot for the first time, but sadly for the last time, the Park House Stables review of the season is headed by the marvellous mare **Blond Me**. She has certainly made the most of her last year on the racecourse before retiring to stud, kicking off her campaign with a typically tough win in the Group 2 Middleton Stakes at York. Her brilliant second to Winter in the Group 1 Nassau Stakes was one of the highlights of a truly Glorious Goodwood for the team, but it was in October that she finally secured the top-level triumph she so deserved. Having travelled to Canada with groom and regular rider Leanne Masterton, 'Blondie' contested the Grade 1 E.P. Taylor Stakes at Woodbine over 1 mile 2 furlongs. Starting as joint outsider in a competitive field including Group 1 winner Nezwaah and three American Grade 2 winners, Blond Me was ideally positioned throughout the race by Oisin Murphy and when switched out after the final bend, cruised past her rivals to win decisively. Previously a dual Group 2 winner and placed in a further four Group contests, it was a huge thrill for the whole team to add a Grade 1 to her collection. The result was perhaps particularly gratifying for owner Barbara Keller, who owned 2014 E.P. Taylor runner-up Odeliz (trained by Karl Burke) and who is the namesake of 2011 winner Miss Keller!

Seasoned traveller Blond Me is currently in Hong Kong, and although her final race in the Hong Kong Cup did not provide a fairytale sign-off, she owes us nothing and will now head to the paddocks of her new owner HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Thani. By Tamayuz out of a Docksider mare, Blondie is an out-cross to many of the most fashionable sire-lines and has a hot date with

Dubawi booked into her 2018 diary. Bought by Andrew as a yearling for 65,000 guineas and originally raced by Rex and Wendy Gorell, she retires as the winner of six of her eighteen starts, and over £720,000 in prize-money. We cannot thank her enough for her huge contribution to the yard over the past four years. She will be much missed by all at Park House, but we look forward to following the racecourse exploits of her offspring in future years.

**Elbereth** was Blond Me's travelling companion in Turkey last year but this time around headed there alone to contest the Group 2 Bosphorus Cup at Veliefendi for the second year running. Despite the ground being softer than ideal, David Taylor's Mount Nelson mare went one place better than last year, finishing runner-up to Godolphin's Secret Number. Then unsuited by tacky ground at Newmarket at the end of a long turf season, Elbereth has had a break and is now back in full training in preparation for a trip to Qatar for the Group 1 Emir's Trophy in February, following which she too may head to stud. A deep-bodied but athletic horse with a lovely temperament, she will make an excellent broodmare.

**Here Comes When** provided us with one of the season's major highlights when battling through the mud to win the Group 1 Sussex Stakes at Goodwood. He again had his conditions in the Group 1 Queen Elizabeth Stakes at Ascot on British Champions Day but, having been held up in the early stages, things didn't really go his way when he tried to make his move. He will be eight next year but seems as good as ever at home and, having travelled well previously when taking the Group 2 Oettingen-Rennen in Germany as a four year old, a trip to Australia for the Group 1 Doncaster Mile at Randwick in April is under consideration. A fairly recent innovation, the Sydney Autumn Championships offer excellent prizemoney and are often run on the softer surface Here Comes When prefers.

Another who could head down under in search of valuable opportunities on softer ground is King Power Racing's **Donjuan Triumphant**. Group 1 placed as a three year old for Richard Fahey, his promising run in the Stewards' Cup at Goodwood suggested that he was coming back to his best, and so it proved with a facile win next time out at Haydock when he made all under PJ McDonald. The Ayr Gold Cup had been the long-term target for this



*DONJUAN TRIUMPHANT and PJ McDonald win the Ayr Gold Cup, at Haydock!*

imposing son of Dream Ahead and so it was particularly disappointing when waterlogging of the course led to the abandonment of that meeting. Thankfully the horse was still spot-on for the rescheduled running of the race at Haydock the following weekend. Reunited with PJ McDonald, 'Donald Trump' (as he is known to his friends) missed the break but battled gallantly in heavy ground to take what was a highly competitive renewal of the race despite the reduced field. He faced a tough task in his final start of the season, the Group 1 sprint on British Champions Day, but came out of that race bouncing and will resume early in the New Year with a view to a potential Australian campaign in the spring.



*MONTALY gives us another big win in the Group 2 Lonsdale Cup at York*

Now six, **Montaly** is a horse who seems to keep improving with age and he kicked off his season with a memorable victory in the Chester Cup in May before running well at Listed level at Sandown in July. His next assignment was the Group 2 Lonsdale Cup at York, where he faced a classy field including Group 1 winners Sheikhzayedroad and High Jinx and dual Group 2 winner Dartmouth. Initially caught flat-footed by a stiff early pace, Montaly showed his customary dogged determination to reel in his rivals, sticking to his task despite being carried right by Dartmouth and getting up to beat that horse by a nose. This was a career best effort from the feisty son of Yeats, landing another big prize for PJ McDonald in what has been an excellent season for the former jump jockey. Montaly ran a little flat in his final two starts of the year and is currently enjoying a well-deserved holiday in the paddocks of his owner Sir Charles Hobhouse.

Montaly is likely to face another Park House rival in the big Cup races next year in the shape of **Duretto** who, having suffered a mid-season setback after his excellent third in the Group 3 Ormonde

Stakes in May, bounced back to his best with an easy win in the Listed Stand Cup back at Chester in September. This was his second victory in the hands of Graham Lee, who also partnered him at Ascot on British Champions Day when he stepped up in trip to two miles for the Group 2 Long Distance Cup. In a particularly strong renewal of the race Duretto ran a huge race to be fifth, just tiring in the closing stages on testing ground and finishing well clear of the rest of the field. He is a most exciting prospect for next year.

**Brorocco** is a lovely horse who has matured significantly over the past two seasons. His need to be held up off a strong pace means that things do not always go his way, but when they do he is a force to be reckoned with. He showed that again in the latter part of the season when following up his City and Suburban Handicap triumph with another big win, taking the Dubai Duty Free Handicap at Newbury in great style under a well-timed ride from David Probert. The following week he ran another excellent race in the Cambridgeshire at Newmarket, staying on in eye-catching fashion having been unsuited by being drawn away from the pace. Currently enjoying a well-deserved rest at Kingsclere Stud, he will return to the yard in the next few weeks and should once again take some beating in the top middle-distance handicaps.

Brorocco's brother **Elm Park** will not be joining him in training next year as, after a lengthy rehabilitation programme following a tendon injury, the decision has been made to retire Qatar Racing's Group 1 winner to stud. A gorgeous horse with huge presence and a phenomenal cruising speed, Elm Park was bred at Kingsclere and gave the Kingsclere Racing Club members some great days before providing them and new owner Sheikh Fahad with a memorable win in the Racing Post Trophy at Doncaster. Having failed to settle in the Derby but running well in the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes as a three year old, Elm Park had looked better than ever as an older horse and it is terribly



*DURETTO bounces back to his best at Chester in September*





*Group 1 winner ELM PARK has retired to stud in France*

frustrating that injury prevented him from proving this on the racecourse. He retires to stud in France where he will stand at Haraz du Saz. We look forward to following the progress of his progeny and hope to welcome some of them into training here at Kingsclere.

Kingsclere Stud did not produce a Group 1 victor this year but it has provided the yard with plenty of good winners. Brorocco led the way in terms of prizemoney but **St Mary's** provided the most wins, supplementing her victory over a mile and a half at Chester's May meeting with another win on the Roodee over two miles in September and triumph at Nottingham over a mile and six furlongs in October. Tough as they come, she has been placed on a further four occasions and ends the year as leading point scorer in the Twelve To Follow. St Mary's does not like people much, but she loves her work and her racing and has struck up an excellent partnership with apprentice William Cox, who rode her in all bar two of her eleven starts this year and in each of her wins. A good effort in the Listed Prix Denisy at Saint-Cloud suggests that she is capable of black type and she may race in foal next year.

**Swashbuckle** won well for the Club over a mile and six furlongs at Salisbury in June and, although he was outclassed at Listed level and faded in the Cesarewitch, his sizeable frame and relentless galloping style marked him out as an ideal candidate for a career over obstacles. He was bought by Donald McCain at the October Horses In Training sale and is reported to be schooling well. Longstanding Club flag-bearer **Intransigent** won at Kempton in January and has been runner-up at the track a further three times this year. He has stayed in training over the winter and is likely to head back to Kempton early in the New Year. Having

done sterling service as Blond Me's work partner in recent months, he may have been rather relieved to see her head off to Hong Kong and from there to stud!

The older sprint division will be missing **Dark Shot** and **Verne Castle** next year as both were sold at Tattersalls in October. Bred and raced by Jeff Smith, the pair added seven wins and twenty placed efforts to the Park House tally over the past three seasons. Also sold in October was David Brownlow's tough sprinter-miler **Viscount Barfield**, who supplemented his Listed win at Chester in July with a good third in the Group 3 Supreme Stakes at Goodwood in August. Bought for Norwegian trainer Niels Petersen, Viscount Barfield is destined for the Dubai Carnival and should be ideally suited by conditions there. Exciting sprinter **Straight Right** has not won since he joined the yard after Royal Ascot but he has run well on several occasions, including when fourth in a competitive Class 2 Handicap at Kempton on his latest run, making eye-catching progress after a slow start. He should be one to follow next year.

**Lady Perignon** took a while to come to hand this year but after three poor runs she scored decisively over the extended mile at Epsom in September, before finishing fourth in a Class 2 Handicap at Newmarket despite failing to settle in the early stages. Placed twice on the All-Weather this autumn, she will stay in training over the winter and should win again. **Dancing Star** is still on holiday following a good run in the Listed Leisure Stakes at Windsor and a horrid passage in the Diamond Jubilee at Ascot, but **Make Music** has returned from a summer break in great form. She has won three on the All-Weather at Lingfield and has two Class 3 handicaps there as her initial targets. **Haines** is another set for a winter campaign on his preferred All-Weather surface and is likely to kick off at Wolverhampton, where he won in February under Rob Hornby. **Hairdryer** recently returned from injury with a good second over ten furlongs at Kempton. He has never been out of the first three in seven starts on the All-Weather and remains on a competitive mark, so should not be long before winning again. **Cleonte** has been rather disappointing this season but he has dropped to an attractive mark and showed more in his last two starts. He has been gelded which may also help him.

**Lorelina** thrives on softer ground and justified favouritism when winning over ten furlongs in heavy ground at Ffos Las in September under William Cox. This was a well deserved win after placing in seven previous starts. She struggled on faster ground at Newmarket in October but returned to form with an excellent second on soft at Newbury on her final start of the year. Placed in all bar five of her seventeen career runs she is wonderfully consistent and, as with many by Passing Glance, has improved with age.

Also by Passing Glance, **Sir Pass I Am** won easily at Ffos Las in May but bounced on his next start and then had a few niggles which prevented him from showing his true form later in the season. Another mud-lover, we will aim to have him up and running early in the season before the ground gets too firm. Our final Passing Glance four year old, **Fort Jefferson**, had won twice last year but then lost his confidence after a near-fall and bad muscle strain on the gallops. He failed to beat a horse in his first four starts this year, and although he seemed to retain all his ability at home I was not sure how I could convince potential purchasers of this when he headed to the October Horses In Training sale. Thankfully he came good just in time, winning well over ten furlongs at Brighton in early October. He was bought by young trainer Oliver Greenall and is apparently doing well in preparing for a National Hunt campaign. **Paris Bound** was withdrawn from the sales due to injury, having finished second at Kempton under Jason Watson in October. He has not been an easy horse to keep sound but is a lovely individual who stays well and could be one to go jumping for the Kingsclere Racing Club in due course.

Cliveden Stud's **Brief Visit** ran extremely well when second in a ten furlong Class 3 Handicap at Ffos Las in August, she and the progressive winner pulling well clear of the rest of the field. She then justified short odds when running away with the Newmarket Whip in September under Oisin Murphy. Having faced a tough task at Listed level on her final start, she will now retire to stud. A gentle giant who has given confidence to many young riders at home, she will be much missed. **Summer Chorus** was not nearly such an easy ride but she too had plenty of ability and was placed on three occasions this year. She retires to stud as the winner of four races, two at Class 2 level, and will make a lovely broodmare.

**Priors Brook** has also retired, although as a gelding he is not destined for stud duties and instead has gone home to owner-breeder Linda Alexander to be a riding horse. A wonderful servant to his connections over the past four years, he has won each year he has been at Park House and has been a reassuringly consistent presence in the string under regular rider Dylan Holley.

### THREE YEAR OLDS

King Power Racing's exciting miler **Beat The Bank** led the pack of Park House three year olds this season, progressing from winning a conditions race at Newmarket's Craven meeting in April to the Listed Sir Henry Cecil Stakes on Newmarket's July course and then to the Group 3 Thoroughbred Stakes at Goodwood in August. Stepped up again in the Group 2 Joel Stakes back at Newmarket in September, he was keen in the early stages but romped home in impressive fashion to win by five

lengths, cementing his place in many notebooks for the top mile contests next year. He came out of that race in great form and so the decision was made to run him in the Group 1 Queen Elizabeth II Stakes at Ascot on British Champions Day. He failed to shine at Ascot, but the race came at the end of a long season for a young horse who had made his racecourse debut in February and been on the go ever since. The testing conditions at Ascot also did not play to his strengths - whilst the ground had been soft at Goodwood he had probably won despite rather than because of it. Most importantly he seemed none the worse for his Ascot effort and is now enjoying a holiday in the paddocks here at Park House before gearing up for a 2018 campaign that is likely to include the major British Group 1 contests over a mile and may also feature some international travel.

We also have much to look forward to in the staying division next year with Qatar Racing's **Count Octave**. Having been second in the Queen's Vase at Royal Ascot behind subsequent Goodwood Cup winner Stradivarius, and runner up in the Listed March Stakes to Call To Mind (then just pipped at the post in the Group 2 Prix



*WINGINGIT is a scopey and talented filly*

Chaudeney), Count Octave then ran a blinder to be sixth in the Group 1 St Leger at Doncaster. This was one of the most competitive renewals of the race in recent years and the first six home, led by Irish Derby winner Capri, were well clear of the rest. The form has since been franked by the Group 1 placed efforts of Stradivarius and Coronet on British Champions Day and the Melbourne Cup win of the fourth in the Leger, Rekindling. Count Octave kept on improving last year and should be a major contender in Cup races next season.

Cliveden Stud's lovely Cape Cross filly **Horseplay** made an excellent start to the season, winning the Listed Pretty Polly Stakes at Newmarket and finishing fourth to Enable in the Oaks despite not relishing the track. She also ran fourth at Group 2 level in the Prix de Mallerat in France before a

niggle kept her off the racecourse until British Champions Day. Her lack of recent match practice told there in very testing conditions, but she has been freshened up by a decent break in the paddocks here since and remains a filly of great potential. **Perfect Angel** ran a cracker to be second to Magical Memory in the Group 3 Hackwood Stakes at Newbury in July on her preferred soft ground. A neat and attractive filly by the ultra-fashionable Dark Angel, she may race in foal next year. Fellow speedster **Rosie Briar** also added more black type to her page this season with a good third in the Listed Achilles Stakes at Haydock and she too is destined for the breeding paddocks, whilst **Belle Meade** has juvenile black type but will return next year in a quest to add to that, her form this year having been a little patchy. **Wingingit** is a big, scopey filly who was very progressive in the early part of the year for Noel Meade and joined the yard in mid-summer having been bought by Barbara Keller. She showed great promise in her first start for us, in the Group 3 Arc Trial at Newbury, and although she failed to give her true running next time out at Yarmouth she is a filly to look forward to next year.

**Contango** has a near-perfect race record, having won his first three races over a mile to ten furlongs before just missing out on his first try at a mile and a half in the Shergar Cup Classic at Ascot. An injury shortened his season but he has recovered fully from that and Kennet Valley's Casamento gelding is very much one to look forward to next season over middle distances. Qatar Racing's **Scorching Heat** was also briefly sidelined towards the end of the summer but he too is an exciting prospect for next year. Never out of the first three this year, he began his season with a win at Salisbury and ended it with a win in the Stewards' Sprint at Goodwood. Now gelded, he will likely be out early next season to take advantage of the softer ground he prefers. In the same ownership, **Naval Warfare** also posted two wins this year, at Leicester in May and at Newmarket in August, when he made all to take a Class 2 Handicap over a mile. He posted a career best when fourth in a strong renewal of the Fortune Stakes at Sandown, his first attempt at Listed level, but was unable to adopt his preferred front-running tactics when drawn with all the pace in the Cambridgeshire. He has since been sold to race for Chris Waller in Australia.

Mick and Janice Mariscotti's lovely Born To Sea colt **Torcello** was another who progressed well last year. Having won his maiden over ten furlongs at Salisbury in July, he won on handicap debut over the same trip at Newmarket in August before going on to win again at that track over a mile and a half, beating the subsequent November Handicap winner by three lengths. He was sold at Tattersalls in October along with the Mariscottis' **Native Prospect**, who book-ended a highly consistent season

with wins at Southwell in February and at Epsom in October, and **Meyandi**, a winner at Chepstow in September under apprentice Joshua Bryan.

We had a strong draft at the Horses In Training Sale overall, and **Look My Way** attracted plenty of interest. Very backward at two and the subject of some rather disparaging remarks in the spring edition of this publication, Look My Way flourished as a three year old, winning over a mile and a half at Southwell on Easter Sunday before a host of good performances in high quality staying handicaps. These culminated with a twenty-two length victory in a two mile Class 3 Handicap at Ffos Las in September, where he relished the heavy ground. One of the most genuine and likeable horses one could ever meet, Look My Way was bought by John and Sean Quinn at Tattersalls and has already made an excellent start to his jumping career, finishing second on his hurdling debut at Newcastle last week.

Another who was very popular at the sales was **Count Simon**, who had posted some very solid performances in defeat before dominating from the front to win over a mile and a half at Haydock in heavy ground in September. A good looking and smooth moving horse, he was the subject of a bidding war in the ring and eventually went to agent Kevin Ross for 95,000gns, a good return on his €26,000 yearling sales tag. **Atkinson Grimshaw** won his first two starts of the year before being placed three times, including at Class 2 level. His form has worked out extremely well and he looked a value buy for Scottish trainer Iain Jardine at the sales. Another three year old owned by David Brownlow has also headed north, as progressive stayer **Orsino** was bought by Yorkshire owner Ronald Postlethwaite having won under Rob Hornby at Salisbury over a mile and six furlongs in July. Another Bottle's likeable Champs Elysees gelding **Wine List** was also sold at Tattersalls, having won over eleven furlongs at Kempton after two good efforts in heavy ground at Ffos Las and Epsom. Jeff Smith's tough Dubawi gelding **Galactic Prince** won at Goodwood over a mile and a



*MUNSTEAD STAR looks a stayer of real potential*



half in June and ran with credit in several competitive handicaps. Best on a firmer surface, he was bought by Qatari champion trainer Mohammed Gassim Ghazali and so has headed for warmer climes. **Makkadangdang** had been disappointing earlier in the season but ran much better at Kempton on his last start and was bought by American trainer Leslie Young. She will be hoping that he can follow in the footsteps of Lady Blanco, her 2016 purchase from Park House, who has since won a Stakes race over hurdles. **Eolian** relished the heavy ground at Ffos Las in August and romped home by five lengths. He was bought by up and coming young trainer Olly Murphy and is another likely to switch to hurdling.

The talented but quirky **Berkshire Boy** won well at Chepstow in September and the form of that race has a solid look about it. He does seem to be growing up at long last and was bought back by owner Paul Spickett at the October sales so remains in training next year. Another to be returning next year is the scopey filly **Munstead Star**, who won her maiden over a mile and a half at Kempton under Oisin Murphy in August and marked herself out as a stayer of real potential when following up over two miles at the same track under Rob Hornby. King Power Racing's **Night Of Glory** came to us after the Goffs London Sale in June. Initially a little disappointing, he ran a much better race when encountering genuinely soft ground for the first time at Haydock in September, finishing second to a progressive type. A willing horse who stays well, he gave owner Mr Srivaddhanaprabha a first taste of National Hunt racing at Sandown this month, finishing an encouraging third on his hurdling debut. Another King Power recruit from the Goffs London Sale, **Twin Star** failed to shine in two starts for us over the summer but he has shown much more than that in his work at home and has done very well physically for his winter break. The lovely Dubavi filly **Straight Away**, who bears more than a passing resemblance to her sire, won on her debut at Redcar in October, having been purchased by Jeff Smith's Littleton



*NIGHT OF GLORY schools at Park House under Paddy Brennan*



*STRAIGHT AWAY wins on debut at Redcar*

Stud from Godolphin in July. She has not managed to build on that in two attempts since but we are hopeful there is still more to come from her.

**Rely On Me** had gone close at Leicester in May and at Carlisle in June, so it was gratifying to see her win over seven furlongs at Newmarket in August, her Class 3 Handicap victory providing the final leg of a treble on the card for the yard and a four-timer for jockey Oisin Murphy. Sheikh Juma's Kyllachy filly stays in training over the winter, as does Kingsclere Racing Club's **Hidden Steps**, who advertised the benefits of a mid-season holiday at the stud by winning a Class 4 Handicap over a mile on her reappearance at Windsor. Two good efforts in better grades followed, and hopefully there is more to come from the first foal of KRC winner Hidden Valley. Fellow Club filly **Highland Pass** has not yet added to her maiden win at Chester in May but she too remains in training and is on an attractive mark, whilst Jeff Smith's **Fair Cop** is enjoying a holiday having run with great credit this season, winning over the minimum trip at Windsor and placing at Class 2 level at Goodwood. **Farleigh Mac** was also a Windsor sprint winner this year and was placed on three further occasions before selling in October.

Good juvenile **Leontes** struggled in the early part of the season but ran extremely well at Kempton in September, finishing second to the progressive Accidental Agent who has since been Listed placed and is now rated 109. **South Seas** and **Isomer** were also very talented juveniles for whom things have not really gone right this year. Both have been gelded and have done extremely well for their time out in the paddocks - hopefully they can regain their form next year. **Max Zorin** was sidelined for much of the season but his excellent third in the Dee Stakes at Chester behind subsequent Derby second Cliffs Of Moher marked him out as a horse of significant ability if we can keep him right next year. **Poets Vanity** is another whose season did not live up to the early promise of her third in the Group 3 Nell Gwyn Stakes in April but her fourth to Harry Angel in





A cheeky **RELY ON ME** with owner Sheikh Juma after winning at Newmarket in August

the Group 2 Sandy Lane Stakes at Haydock is solid form and she remains a filly of great potential.

The likeable **Intimate Art** is now fully recovered from an injury picked up after his good win at Chelmsford in July. He will soon begin his winter campaign and is two from three on the All-Weather. **Genetics** also missed the summer through injury and needed his first run back at Windsor in October. We expected him to run a big race on his next start, back at Newbury where he had won his maiden last year, but he failed to replicate the high standard of his homework and we are still rather scratching our heads with him. **Meccabah** is another source of frustration, having been placed on six of her eight career starts. She will head to Australia at the end of the year (home of her owner Jon Haseler) but we very much hope to win with her before then. **Many Waters** was similarly consistent, placing in all bar one of her six starts for the yard before selling to race in America. **Ancient Foe** showed enough in three maidens this season to suggest that he can win once switching to handicaps, whilst **Queen Moon** has been placed twice at Southwell this autumn and hopefully her turn will come soon.

One filly whose turn seemed a while in coming was **Know The Truth**, who had her first five runs from Park House for breeder George Strawbridge before being bought by Andrew at the Tattersalls July Sale as a horse for the apprentices. She dutifully provided five different Kingsclere claimers with racecourse experience over her next six starts, but hadn't looked

to war with the following year. That is very much the case with this group, which includes some lovely individuals.

**Fortune's Pearl** was our first juvenile winner of the season, winning at Chepstow on his racecourse debut. He soon built on that good start, taking a strong novice event at Newmarket in August on his third racecourse outing. The form of that race looks good, with the second horse winning next time out and the fourth and fifth having both won twice since, the former now rated 103. Fortune's Pearl then ran well to be fifth in the Group 3 Tattersalls Stakes back at Newmarket and Qatar Racing's scopey son of Harbour Watch is the type to improve again next year.

**Danzan** took a couple of runs to learn the ropes but then ran away with his maiden at Pontefract by ten lengths. He ran with great credit in the Group 3 Acomb Stakes at York, finishing fifth in a strong field, before a huge effort in the six and a half furlongs sales race at Doncaster's Leger meeting, where he really made the winner stretch to get past him having hit the front two furlongs out. He was far from disgraced in the Group 1 Middle Park Stakes at Newmarket on his final start of the season and could be a horse for the three year old sprint race at the All-Weather Championships on Good Friday.

Sheikh Juma's lovely daughter of Cape Cross **Crossing The Line** had shaped well at home and duly won on her debut at Newmarket in taking fashion. She had no luck in running in the Group 3 Dick Poole Stakes at Salisbury and was rather taken off her feet by the blistering early pace in the Group 1 Cheveley Park Stakes



Will Carver makes his first ride a winning one

at Newmarket, but she has the physical scope to improve for her winter in the paddocks and is an exciting prospect for next year. The same is true of Hot to Trot's **Golden Salute**, who won twice over the minimum trip before being just touched off in a Class 2 Handicap at Goodwood over six furlongs. A happy filly who loves her work, we very much look forward to her return to the yard after a break at Airlie Stud. Jeff Smith's **Foxtrot Lady** was very unlucky not to win at two, having been placed in four of her five starts, but she already has black type to her name having finished third in the Listed Two Year Old Trophy at Redcar on her last run of the season. A half-sister to Stewards' Cup winner Dancing Star and from the family of Lochsong, she is bred to improve with age and should not be long in opening her account next year. **Whitefountainfairy** has also already secured black type, having finished second in the Group 3



*GREAT SHOT SAM makes the trip to Newcastle worthwhile*

Prestige Stakes at Goodwood in August on her second start for the yard. The flashy daughter of Casamento was bought by King Power Racing at the Goffs London Sale and will aim to win at Pattern level next year.

**King And Empire** did not make his racecourse debut until October but made the wait worthwhile with a taking win over a mile at Kempton. By exciting young sire Intello and from a lovely family, Qatar Racing look to have another nice colt on their hands for next year. **Macaque** progressed with each of his starts and although his win on his third attempt was in a two-runner affair at Brighton, he then showed that this was no fluke with a good second in a much stronger novice event at Goodwood and a fourth in the Haynes, Hanson & Clark Conditions Stakes at Newbury. A little keen on that occasion, he has been gelded and has the makings of a lovely handicapper for next year. **Chai Chai** is another to have been gelded, having won on soft ground at Chester in September, and he should be a handy horse next year. **Great Shot Sam's** debut was full of promise and, although she got bogged down in heavy ground at Pontefract on her next start, the trainer managed to have

her spot on to coincide with a visit from her American-based owner Layton Register last month. She duly got off the mark in good style at Newcastle, prompting extensive (if not memorable) celebrations on the part of her owner! A strong, athletic daughter of American sire Shackelford, who has made quite an impact with his first two crops in the States, she should do even better next year.

The August yearling sale at Baden-Baden has been a happy hunting ground for Andrew in recent years and last year's trip resulted in the purchase of two lovely horses. **Soldier To Follow** has always impressed at home and, after a highly encouraging debut at Windsor, he was unlucky to bump into one at Carlisle on his next start. He should not be long in getting off the mark next year. Fellow German purchase **Zatorius** also ran very well on debut once the penny dropped, staying on impressively to be second at Chester at odds of 25/1. His inexperience showed on his second run at York where he finished fourth to three more seasoned rivals but he again ran on well. Since gelded, he will have benefitted from a winter break in the paddocks and should make a lovely three year old. **Rebel Streak** was unlucky not to win at Ascot on his second start and also went agonisingly close at Goodwood. He was rather keen at Newmarket before tiring in soft ground and then faced a tough task in the Group 2 Mill Reef Stakes at Newbury. He has also been gelded and this should help him settle and focus next year.

Once-raced fillies **Dixieland Diva** and **Must Be Magic** shaped with huge promise on their debuts at Newmarket in typically competitive races, whilst **Pilgrim Soul** made eye-catching progress late-on at Kempton on her first run and should be one to follow over longer trips



*KING AND EMPIRE was an impressive winner on debut at Kempton*



next year. George Strawbridge's imposing filly **Ocala** found only a subsequent Listed winner too good on debut over six furlongs at Nottingham in October but failed to justify odds-on favouritism at Kempton over seven furlongs on her next start. By King George winner Nathaniel and out of Park House speedster Night Carnation, her optimum trip is not obvious and it may be that she needs further to excel next year. Her work at home has been impressive and she should not be long in winning in 2018.

Castle Down Racing's **Dawn Dancer** has come on leaps and bounds in the past few months and is unrecognisable from the woolly and rather wayward yearling who arrived here last year. He still has plenty to learn but improved significantly from first to second start when runner-up at Southwell last month. By Dawn Approach, he is a half-brother to the hugely progressive but sadly ill-fated Ballet Concerto who won two Group races this year for Michael Stoute. Donjuan Triumphant's half-brother **Bacacarar** is another who stepped up on his second run, finishing fourth after showing up well for a long way over a mile at Newbury. The Wates' **Face Like Thunder** also ran much better second time, finishing third in a conditions race at Leicester, and on pedigree and physical type should improve again next year. **Diocletian** showed real promise in three starts but still showed signs of green-ness on his latest run at Newmarket. Richard Wilmot-Smith's striking son of Camelot still has some maturing to do but has the makings of a lovely horse. That is also the case with Highclere Thoroughbred's **Consultant**, a big horse who should build on his maiden form as he develops into his sizeable frame. **Master Of Wine** ran a huge race on debut at Sandown, finishing runner-up with three subsequent winners behind him, but his antics in the paddock on his next start and in the stalls on his third attempt led swiftly to a gelding operation. He has heaps of ability and a reduction in testosterone should be the making of him. **Luna Eclipse** also ran well on debut and initially looked an early type but he rather fell apart as the season went on. He has been given a decent break and has improved out of sight for that, looking twice the horse as he heads into his three year old year. Jonathan Palmer-Brown's **Ballyquin** made a good impression on debut when staying on well at Newbury, whilst the Nathaniel colt **Natural History**, owned by H.M. The Queen, was a promising third on debut at Leicester and unlucky not to have finished closer.

**Unbridled Spirit**, **Essendon**, and **Seasearch** were all raised at Kingsclere and are later-developing types. Their runs this year were always going to be more educational than eye-catching and they should do much better next year. The same is true of Paul Spickett's two juvenile runners, **Berkshire Royal** and **Berkshire Spirit**, who will have learnt plenty this year and will both begin 2018 on a very

handy mark. **Carouse** was clobbered with an impossible-looking mark after placed efforts in novice company at Chester and Epsom, but he has ability and should win once the handicapper relents. **Aiya** was disappointing in his first two starts but, as a breeze-up sale purchase, needed time to mature. He showed much improved form on his reappearance at Lingfield last month and has stayed in full work with a view to running on the All-Weather over the winter. **Rux Ruxx** was also a breeze-up purchase for King Power Racing and has shown some promise in two runs, possibly not getting home over seven furlongs on her latest start. Bought at the same sale but owned by Andrew Gemmell, **Angel Islington** progressed with each of her four starts before picking up a knock shortly before she was due to run in a nursery at Doncaster. This was very frustrating but she is fully recovered and should pick up where she left off after a decent winter holiday.

**Maggie Jonks** and **Maid Up**, both bred at Brightwalton Stud, shaped better than the bare result on their second starts and can progress next year. The same is true of **Lord Vetinari**, who struggled with immature joints this year but will be much stronger next. Qatar Racing's **Mercury Rising** was very green on debut at Pontefract but still finished fourth and should prove to have been something of a bargain purchase in time. Also owned by Qatar Racing but in partnership with Barbara Keller, **Change Maker** was another who showed inexperience on debut at Nottingham but has shown plenty at home. By the highly successful first season sire Havana Gold, he should make his mark quickly next year. The same goes for Thurloe Thoroughbred's once-raced son of Lope de Vega **Lopito**, and Sheikh Juma's feisty but talented Shamardal filly **Sweet Lady Rose**, who was all at sea in the early stages of her debut at Kempton but made late progress once the penny dropped. Fitri Hay's **Kabrit** and the Nedas' **Silver Swift** were also slow on the uptake on debut but will know much more next time. ■



*Kingsclere Staff with 2017's two Group 1 winners*

# THE 2017 **12** TO FOLLOW

## COMPETITION

**This year's competition ended up as a battle between Park House's Racing Manager and Assistant Trainer, with Tessa coming out on top by a narrow margin. A rather embarrassing result, but one which at least may give owners confidence that the senior management in the yard have some idea what they are looking at on the gallops each morning!**

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

**1st £1039.50      2nd £472.50      3rd £283.50      4th £94.50      Last place £10**

**1 HETHERINGTON, TESSA (A)      207**  
**2 WALKER, NIGEL      197**  
**3 BROWN, THOMAS      195**

4 Carver, Will (A)	189	25 Hutchinson, Mark	152	46 Cheshire, Angie (B)	135
5 Hetherington, Tessa (B)	183	25 McCutcheon, Robert	152	47 Balding, Mac & Boris	134
6 Rose, Holly (A)	182	25 McPhee, Stuart	152	48 Hall, David (A)	133
7 Burns, Danny (B)	181	28 Soul, John	150	48 Oates, Des	133
8 Soul, Anne	180	29 Conway, John	148	48 Rundell, Kieren	133
9 Cheshire, Angie (C)	179	29 Michaelson, RPB	148	51 Dillon, Batt	131
9 K Derbyshire/S Cornwell	179	31 Bryan, Joshua	147	51 McQuillan, Angela	131
11 Carter, Imogen	178	32 Mackinnon, Roger	146	53 Campbell-Gray, James	130
12 Mackinnon, Bridget	175	33 Slade, Valerie	145	54 Jennick, Bryan	129
13 Adam, Abdul	171	34 Cheshire, Nathan	144	54 Rose, Holly (B)	129
14 Fox, Megan	169	34 Smith, Graham (A)	144	56 Carey, Jeremy	128
15 Cheshire, Angie (A)	167	36 Andy J/Garnet B (B)	143	57 Balding, Andrew	127
16 Lee-Robinson, Nick	166	36 Neild, Jamie	143	57 Jones, Cherry	127
17 Rea, Jon	165	36 Watson, Jason	143	59 Family, Carver	126
18 Crehan, Mark	164	39 Donn, David	142	59 Michaelson, Roger	126
19 Coles, Michael	162	39 Reardon Smith, Julia	142	61 Broughton, T	125
20 Gee, Mary	160	39 Richardson, Charlie	142	61 Needham, Martyn	125
20 Horne, Ray (A)	160	42 Humphries, Simon (A)	140	63 Ireland, Gordon	124
22 Carver, Will (B)	158	42 Slade, Matthew & Emily	140	63 Smith, Jeff	124
23 Hoare, Iris	154	44 Cox, Russell	138	65 Fowler-Watt, D	122
23 Mahoney, Mick	154	45 Neild, John	137	66 Balding, Emma	121



67 Finlay, Rosemary	121	109 Ireland, Anne	98	151 Felton, Peter	74
68 Aeberhard, Werner	119	110 Plumbly, Helen	97	151 Mcphee, Angus	74
69 Dangar, Richard	118	111 Hutchinson, Fiona	96	153 Smith, Graham (B)	73
69 Hale, Barry	118	112 Watson, Sue	95	154 Johnson, Andy	72
69 Horne, Ray (C)	118	113 Bullion, Barbara	94	154 S Cornwell/K Derbyshire	72
69 Plummer, Ann	118	114 Bettaney, M	93	156 Friend, Terry	71
73 Cheshire, Angie (D)	117	114 Sooty & Sweep	93	157 Randall, Nicky (A)	69
73 Powell, D F (A)	117	116 Drew/Holmes	92	157 Register, Layton	69
73 Rae Smith, Alan	117	117 Gauravaram, Sandeep	91	157 Spickett, Laura	69
73 Reis, Paul	117	117 Gay, David	91	160 Cox, Joanna	68
73 Spickett, Paul & Lisa	117	117 Kingsclere Stud	91	160 Holmes, R	68
78 Smith, Kenneth	115	120 Charlton, Mike	90	160 Mac, Ronnie Truth (B)	68
79 Hodgkins, Adrian	114	120 Powell, DF (B)	90	163 Cousins, Rose	67
79 Mackinnon, Ella	114	120 Stansby, Clive	90	163 Spickett, Paul	67
79 Randall, Philip	114	120 Teacher, Hugh	90	165 King, Gail	66
82 Clarke, Charlotte	113	124 Beasant, Mick	89	166 Spickett, Leigh	65
82 Friend, Stuart	113	124 Rafferty, Jamie	89	167 Friend, Janice	64
82 Horne, Ray (B)	113	126 Gee, Simon	88	168 Mackinnon, Jamie	63
85 Humphries, Simon (B)	112	126 O'Brien Dr MJ/Mrs D (E)	88	168 Richardson, Johnny	63
85 Tolhurst, Andy	112	128 Rafferty, Gerry (C)	87	170 Tucker, Mrs M	61
87 Rees, Lindy	111	129 Berry, Charlie	86	171 Robinson Gay, Billie	60
88 O'Brien, Dr MJ/Mrs D (B)	110	129 Cox, Tom	86	172 Boyce, ID	59
88 Slade, Martin	110	129 Plumbly, Simon	86	172 Mackinnon, Daisy	59
90 Balding, Toby	109	132 A'court, Peter	85	174 Burns, Lynne	58
91 Balding, IA	108	133 Lees, Janice	84	175 Gale, John	57
91 Hancock, CE	108	133 Redshaw, Grace & Molly	84	175 Wates, Mrs ME	57
91 Payton, Michael	108	135 O'Brien Dr MJ/Mrs D (C)	83	177 Charlton, Lawrence	53
91 Wellman, John	108	136 Martens, Jane	82	177 Thompson, Linda	53
95 Jinks, Laurence & Sally	107	137 Arnold, Pamela	81	177 Chinner	53
96 Rafferty, April	106	137 Burns, Danny (A)	81	180 Lumley, Peter	51
96 Rambo/M Stillings	106	137 Mac, Ronnie Truth (A)	81	181 O'Brien Dr MJ/Mrs D (A)	49
98 Knight, John	105	140 Gay, Susan	80	182 Rafferty, Gerry (B)	46
99 Rodgers, Philip	104	140 Richardson, Andy	80	183 Yelland, Simon	45
100 Arlington, Jenny	103	142 Richardson, Jim	79	184 Randall, Nicky (B)	43
100 Phipps Hornby, Sally	103	142 Spickett, Lisa	79	185 Webb, David	41
102 Broughton, B	102	144 Robinson Gay, Maggie	78	186 Lumley, Sue	38
102 Jones, Nicholas	102	145 Conroy, Carl	77	187 Harris, Wendy	37
104 Burns, Richard	100	145 Feane, John	77	187 Smith, Richard	37
104 King, Anderson	100	145 Redshaw, Caroline	77	189 O'Brien Dr MJ/Mrs D (D)	23
104 Taylor, Amanda	100	148 Box, Peter	75	190 McGuire, BP	20
107 Rafferty, Gerry (A)	99	148 Hall, David (B)	75		
107 Ware, Richard	99	148 Unnamed	75		

## SELECTIONS OF THE LEADERS

TESSA HETHERINGTON (A)		NIGEL WALKER		THOMAS BROWN	
BROROCCO	37	BROROCCO	37	MUCHO APPLAUSE	12
ST MARY'S	49	SIR PASS I AM	10	WINE LIST	15
HORSEPLAY	14	SWASHBUCKLE	18	BROROCCO	37
INTIMATE ART	14	EOLIAN	18	POET'S VANITY	6
MAX ZORIN	6	ST MARY'S	49	HORSEPLAY	14
SCORCHING HEAT	42	IMPACT POINT	6	RELY ON ME	27
SIMOON	0	MECCABAH	24	SCORCHING HEAT	42
BOLD BRIEF	0	FORTUNE'S PEARL	21	ENSIGN EWART	0
LUNA ECLIPSE	4	LOPITO	0	FOXTROT LADY	21
CROSSING THE LINE	10	CROSSING THE LINE	10	FORTUNE'S PEARL	21
KING AND EMPIRE	10	LUNA ECLIPSE	4	BOLD BRIEF	0
FORTUNE'S PEARL	21	ENSIGN EWART	0	DIOCLETIAN	0

## LEADING HORSES

ST MARY'S	49
SCORCHING HEAT	42
TORCELLO	40
BROROCCO	37
CONTANGO	36
LOOK MY WAY	36
LORELINA	36



Winner Tess with St Mary's



SCORCHING HEAT



TORCELLO



# THE SEASON IN NUMBERS

1st January 2017 – 6th December 2017

	WINS	RUNS	SR	2NDS	3RDS	4THS	WIN £	TOTAL £
<b>UK</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>1,702,066</b>	<b>2,564,896</b>
<b>FOREIGN</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>193,923</b>	<b>263,240</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>1,895,989</b>	<b>2,828,136</b>

## MONTH BY MONTH

Month	Wins	Runs	%
Jan	4	31	13%
Feb	7	35	20%
Mar	6	26	23%
Apr	6	57	11%
May	13	86	15%
Jun	10	74	14%
Jul	10	84	12%
Aug	13	89	15%
Sept	16	89	18%
Oct	7	68	10%
Nov	3	36	8%
Dec	0	2	0%

## TOP TEN EARNERS

1	Here Comes When	£592,536
2	Blond Me	£380,610
3	Montaly	£196,633
4	Beat The Bank	£145,161
5	Elbereth	£127,879
6	Brorocco	£92,549
7	Donjuan Triumphant	£71,109
8	Scorching Heat	£67,397
9	Danzan	£66,350
10	Count Octave	£60,768

## TOP TEN JOCKEYS

1	David Probert	30-214	14%
2	Oisin Murphy	28-151	19%
3	Rob Hornby	8-74	11%
3	Joshua Bryan	8-41	20%
5	William Cox	5-31	16%
6	Liam Keniry	3-40	8%
6	PJ McDonald	3-7	43%
8	Jimmy Quinn	2-24	8%
8	Jim Crowley	2-5	40%
10	Kayleigh Stephens	1-4	25%

## GROUP BY GROUP

	Wins	Runs	SR
Fillies	27	217	12%
2yos	10	123	8%
Racecourse Debuts	5	62	8%
Turf	68	471	14%
AW	27	206	13%
Up to 8f	47	385	12%
Over 8f	48	293	16%



HERE COMES WHEN was the yard's top earner in 2017

## TOP TEN TRACKS

1	Chester	9-39	23%
2	Newmarket (July)	7-23	30%
2	Southwell	7-30	23%
4	Kempton	6-54	11%
5	Chepstow	5-16	11%
5	Salisbury	5-32	16%
5	Newmarket (Row)	5-38	13%
5	Lingfield (AW)	5-46	11%
9	Epsom	4-16	25%
9	York	4-16	25%

### TOP TEN TIMEFORM (3yo+)

1	Beat The Bank	125
2	Here Comes When	121
3	Donjuan Triumphant	119
4	Blond Me	117
5	Montaly	116
6	Count Octave	115
6	Dancing Star	115
8	Duretto	114
9	Absolutely So	111
10	Straight Right	110

### TOP TEN LONGSHOTS

1	Breakheart (Sandown, Jul)	40/1
2	Here Comes When (Gwd, Aug)	20/1
2	Viscount Barfield (Chester, Jul)	20/1
4	Montaly (Chester, May)	16/1
4	Montaly (York, Aug)	16/1
4	Haines (Wolves, Feb)	16/1
4	Hidden Steps (Windsor, Oct)	16/1
8	St Mary's (Chester, May)	14/1
8	Lady Perignon (Epsom, Sept)	14/1
8	Make Music (Lingfield, Jan)	14/1

### BUSY BEES – MOST RUNS

Know The Truth	11
Brorocco	10
Highland Colori	10
Intransigent	10
Look My Way	10
St Mary's	10
Verne Castle	10
Cape Spirit	9
Dungannon	9
Farleigh Mac	9
Viscount Barfield	9



KNOW THE TRUTH ran 11 times this year

### TOP TEN TIMEFORM (2yo)

1	Danzan	103+
2	Fortune's Pearl	97
3	Whitefountainfairy	96
4	Macaque	88
5	Crossing The Line	87
6	Rebel Streak	86
6	Carouse	86
6	Foxtrot Lady	86
9	Golden Salute	85
9	Soldier To Follow	85
9	Zatorius	85



DANZAN was our highest rated 2yo this year

### LONGEST WINNING DISTANCES

1	Macaque (Brighton, Aug)	24 lengths
2	Look My Way (Ffos Las, Sept)	22 lengths
3	Contango (Newmarket, Jul)	11 lengths
4	Danzan (Pontefract, Jul)	10 lengths
5	Itsakindamagic (Chelm., Mar)	8 lengths
6	Brief Visit (Newmarket, Sept)	7 lengths
7	He's A Lad (Southwell, Mar)	5 lengths
8	Eolian (Ffos Las, Aug)	5 lengths
9	Beat The Bank (Newmarket, Sept)	5 lengths
10	Native Prospect (Southwell, Feb)	4.5 lengths



MACAQUE recorded the longest winning distance



# Kingsclere Racing Club

**O**ur busiest ever year on the racecourse has yielded 12 winners, over £200,000 in prize-money and, at the time of writing, a place in the top 50 owners for 2017!

Having provided the highlight of the first half of the season with a ready win in the prestigious City and Suburban handicap at Epsom in April, Brorocco atoned for some unlucky-in-running midsummer defeats to again steal the limelight in the second half of the campaign, running away with a very competitive renewal of the Dubai Duty Free handicap at Newbury in September.

St Mary's trio of wins was followed by a tilt at a Listed prize in France and, with six other individual winners during the course of the campaign, there was plenty to celebrate at the Club's final event of the season, a party on the eve on Newbury's Ladbroke Trophy. A picnic at Epsom on Oaks day, hospitality at Ascot for the King



George and a series of very enjoyable gallop mornings ensured it was another busy year socially too.

Whilst the likes of Brorocco and long-time KRC flagbearer Intransigent will be back for 2018, several of the older horses have been sold to make way for the nine two year olds set to join the KRC for 2018, including a Charm Spirit half-brother to Side Glance, an Intello half-sister to Elm Park and a Dunaden half-brother to KRC winners Cape Victoria and Victoria Pollard. They look a tremendously exciting group and we are already looking forward to seeing them start their racing careers in 2018. ■

*There is currently a waiting list in place for KRC 2018. If you are interested in further information or to join the waiting list, please contact Nathaniel Barnett on 07890 672435, or by email, [krc@kingsclere.com](mailto:krc@kingsclere.com).*



*Trophy Raffle Winners – Martyn Needham (top) Kevin Scutt (left) and the delighted Rae Smiths (right)*

## PHOTO BOOK

Racing photographer Hugh Routledge has visited Park House throughout the year and we have produced a lovely coffee-table book of his photographs, showing different aspects of daily life in the yard and on the gallops. Copies are available for £50 - please contact Anna Lisa ([annalisa@kingsclere.com](mailto:annalisa@kingsclere.com)) to order.



# OUR TOP FIVE... RACECOURSES FOR OWNERS

Martin and Valerie Slade

*Martin and Valerie Slade have been members of the Kingsclere Racing Club since its foundation in 2008 and owners at Park House in their own name since 2010. As enthusiastic and diligent attendees of many race meetings, we thought they would be ideally placed to pick their top five racecourses in terms of the experience given to owners at the track.*



*Martin and Valerie (left) with Gerry and April Rafferty at Chester in 2017*

It was in January 1969 at Haydock Park that we had our first experience as 'owners'. Ryan Price had two horses running in the W D & H O Wills Hurdle, Sable Tang and Some Jest. The family horse was Sable Tang and Josh Gifford, as stable jockey, had choice of mounts. He chose Sable Tang, who finished second to Some Jest! It was this experience that really whetted our appetite for racing but it was not until the late nineties – when school fees were well and truly over and retirement beckoned – that we were able to concentrate on racing.

We decided to set ourselves the challenge of visiting every racecourse in England, Wales and Scotland, and completed this challenge at Ludlow in 2005. Some of the courses we visited have sadly disappeared, such as Wye, Alexandra Palace and Folkestone, whilst there have been two new

additions in Chelmsford City and Ffos Las. We have highlighted five racecourses as ones that any owner or racing enthusiast should visit to gain experience of our very varied courses.

## **Chester**

Chester – known as The Roodee – is the oldest racecourse still in use in the country. Situated outside the city's old roman walls, the course was originally the venue for chariot racing which possibly explains why the nine furlong course is almost completely circular. The grandstands are built under the old walls, but the main areas such as the paddock, weighing room and owners' facilities are in the centre of the course. The course provides an excellent four course buffet available all day for owners. The viewing from the centre of the course is not the best, but the racing is usually good quality.



*Chester*

## **York**

York is another old established course and is situated on the Knavesmire, a former marshy area just outside the city where reputedly the highwayman Dick Turpin was hanged in 1739! Originally the course was like an elongated horse shoe but when York hosted Royal Ascot in 2005 (while Ascot was being redeveloped) the loop was joined up to form a circular course. This has made an enormous difference to the course as they are now able to stage longer races. There has been considerable redevelopment at York over the last few years – a new weighing room and pre-saddling area have been very tastefully done. For owners, there is a large sitting area and bar and a separate dining room where a three course meal





*The historic Paddock at York*

is served. Good viewing from the balcony outside the owners' room is another factor making a visit to York well worthwhile.

### **Sandown**

Sandown Park dates from 1870 and is located at Esher, southwest of London. It is a dual-purpose course and stages the Eclipse every July. The two mile course is elliptical with flat races run over the hurdles course. There is a five furlong sprint course straight up the middle. It is a very convenient course where a visitor can see the horses in the pre-parade ring and parade ring and then easily get to the stands to see the race. It is a good viewing course and generally attracts good quality horses. Owners have a recently enlarged bar and lounge area where food is available.



*Salisbury*

### **Salisbury**

Salisbury racecourse is situated in a rural setting on a hill overlooking the city of Salisbury, whose cathedral has the highest spire in the country! Racing has taken place here since the mid 16th century and maximum distance for races is one mile six furlongs as the course is not circular. A flag start has to be used for these races as the space is too small for the starting stalls. Facilities for owners include a lounge and bar area shared with annual members and sandwiches are available.

### **Goodwood**

Goodwood staged its first formal race in 1802 and is owned by the Duke of Richmond. Situated high on the chalk downs above the city of Chichester, it is another course that is not circular. The longest race is just over two miles but the course is not the easiest since there are several difficult gradients, with a downhill stretch about four furlongs out that can catch out many an inexperienced jockey. The course started redevelopment in the 1970s and provides excellent all-round viewing. Owners have a dedicated lounge and bar area as well as a dining tent where meals are served.



*Goodwood*

There are many other notable courses, especially National Hunt tracks. Hexham is probably the most individual of all – it has no grandstands as the course is set in a valley and the slopes form natural stands! And then there is Cartmel, the home of the original sticky toffee pudding! During their main festival a racehorse takes part in the Church service on Sunday morning.

Four of the five courses described are individually owned, whereas Sandown Park is owned by the Jockey Club. In general facilities for owners have improved enormously over the last few years as racecourses have at last realised that without owners they would have no business, but some courses still need to do more! ■

# HAPPY RETIREMENT

The close of the turf season has seen the retirement of a trio of Park House old boys, with nine-year-old Highland Colori and ten-year-olds Dungannon and Breakheart all hanging up their racing plates.

## HIGHLAND COLORI

Bought as a yearling for €13,000 by David Redvers, Highland Colori was unraced at two and began his career as a three year old with Tom Dascombe. He won his third start, over five furlongs at Southwell, by five lengths, the Racing Post analyst noting that he 'looks a decent type in the making'. This proved an accurate prediction. Moved to Park House as a four year old, Highland Colori went close on his first start for Andrew before winning his next three races, over six, seven and eight furlongs respectively. He continued to improve throughout the season, winning a Class 2 at Newmarket before being beaten a short-head in the Ayr Silver Cup.



HIGHLAND COLORI

As a five year old, Highland Colori contested many of the big sprint handicaps and capped a very solid season with a memorable triumph in the Ayr Gold Cup, one of the most prestigious contests in the racing calendar. With this win he provided then five-pound claimer Oisin Murphy with the pinnacle of a four-timer that was to catapult the young apprentice into the limelight and prove a significant

milestone in his career. A resultant mark of 111 then forced Highland Colori into pattern company, but he was far from disgraced with a fourth in the Group 2 Challenge Stakes at Newmarket and a second in the Listed Wentworth Stakes at Doncaster.

The next two seasons were winless for Highland Colori but he continued to run with credit in many big handicaps. Over time his official rating dropped and in October 2016, 1,076 days after his last victory, he returned to the winner's enclosure, landing a nineteen runner Class 2 handicap at York at odds of 22/1.

This season did not provide another win for 'the war horse' but he continued to give his all and put in several good performances, including in the last race of his career when he was fourth of seventeen runners and beaten only a length at Newmarket. Winner of ten of his sixty-seven starts and earner of just shy of £250,000 in prizemoney, Highland Colori is much loved by all at Park House. We are delighted that his owner Evan Sutherland has entrusted him to his devoted groom and regular rider Kayleigh Stephens, who keeps him just down the road.

## BREAKHEART

Ten year old Breakheart was bred by longstanding Park House owner Jeff Smith and is a half-brother to Wokingham winner Dark Missile. After two runs as a two-year-old he won his third career start, over a mile at Lingfield under Liam Keniry. His trainer then boldly pitched him straight into Class 2 level, sending him all the way up to Ayr despite him being four pounds wrong at the weights. This audacity was rewarded, as Breakheart duly won at odds of 10/1. He proved this was no fluke with close seconds in two further Class 2 handicaps and a fifth in the Dubai Duty Free at Newbury before realising 100,000gns when sold to Andrew Tinkler at the end of his three year old season. Moved to the yard of Michael Dods, Breakheart lost his form as a four year old and dropped from a mark of 91 to 76. His value also plummeted and he made 12,000gns at the Horses In Training sale in October 2011, where he was bought by trainer Paul Howling. Things didn't improve the following year, with Breakheart being beaten a total of 195.5 lengths in eight starts (an average of 24 lengths!). By the end of 2012 Breakheart was rated 55 and Andrew was able to buy him back cheaply, thinking that he might make a good horse for the apprentices at Kingsclere.

Breakheart quickly proved himself ideally suited to this task, winning over a mile at Kempton on his first start after his return to the yard and providing young rider Joey Haynes with his first ever winner. Joey rode Breakheart





*BREAKHEART*

another six times, winning on him once more over the same course and distance, before handing over the reins to Jack Garritty in 2013. Breakheart duly provided Jack with his first win, over ten furlongs at Salisbury, and the pair also scored over the same trip at Sandown in the same year. Whilst Breakheart did not see the winner's enclosure in 2014 he won for Rob Hornby at Kempton in 2015. Over the past three seasons he has provided ten further Kingsclere apprentices and amateur riders with racecourse experience, as well as showing many more riders the ropes at home.

In July of this year Breakheart capped his marvellous service record with a fairytale win, defying a two year dry spell and odds of 40/1 to provide Kayleigh Stephens with a win at Sandown on her first ever ride. This was his eighth career win from seventy five starts and moved his prizemoney total to over £67,000. His place in Park House folklore firmly established, Breakheart has retired to the hacks boxes and is continuing to play a pivotal role in the yard, leading the yearlings and providing novice riders with invaluable experience on Kingsclere's gallops.

## **DUNGANNON**

Dungannon was bought by Andrew as a yearling at Tattersalls, consigned by the Hobby family's Brightwalton Stud and fetching 10,000gns. He ran once at two and, like Highland Colori and Breakheart, won his third career start, a maiden at Bath over six furlongs. He began in handicaps off a mark of 75 and soon won off that, taking a Class 5 event over seven furlongs at Folkestone (then a dual purpose track). Perhaps emboldened by his experience with Breakheart earlier the same year, the trainer then pitched him straight into Class 2 level for his next start, where he was four pounds wrong at the weights despite a 9lb rise for his Folkestone triumph.



*DUNGANNON*

The strategy almost worked once again, with Dungannon beaten only a neck in a big field.

As a four year old it initially seemed that the handicapper had Dungannon's measure, but he then scored in a Class 3 at Doncaster before a game victory in the Shergar Cup Dash under Australian rider Hugh Bowman (now best known as pilot of super-mare Winx), beating subsequent Group 1 performer Medicean Man into second.

Fifth in the Wokingham at Royal Ascot as a five year old, Dungannon was winless that year and for much of the following year. By the autumn of his six year old campaign he had slid to a mark of 86, but he capitalised on this with wins at Ascot and Haydock before proving back to his best with a Class 2 win at Doncaster at the end of the season. Coming good in the latter part of the year was a pattern that repeated itself in 2014 when, after a luckless trip to Dubai in the spring and a disappointing summer, Dungannon bounced back on the softer ground in the autumn with wins at Ascot and Doncaster, before transferring to the All-Weather and winning at Lingfield off a career high mark of 107. He began 2015 with a promising Fibresand debut at Southwell, and this track was to prove a happy hunting ground in his twilight years. He won there in 2016 as a nine year old under Oisin Murphy and then twice this year as a ten year old under Joshua Bryan. With injury finally calling time on a long and illustrious career last month, Dungannon retires as the winner of thirteen of his sixty-eight starts and over £170,000 in prizemoney. A typical sprinter with two regular speeds at home (slow and warp), he has tested the mettle of many a Park House rider but his lovely nature and tough constitution means that he is a firm favourite of everyone here. He will retire to the stud paddocks as a companion for mares and youngsters and will be much missed on the yard, not least by his groom Andy Whitehall. ■

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sharp early types who are relishing their initial training.

10% shares are available at £10,000 plus VAT, to cover the purchase price and all training, racing and veterinary expenses for the trio up until October 2018, when it is intended that the horses will be sold at public auction. For further details please contact Andrew or Tess via the office (admin@kingsclere.com, 01635 298210). ■



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### **CONTANGO**

(CASAMENTO / CALL LATER)

who has won three of his first four starts and was a close 2nd in the Shergar Cup. He is a high class prospect who could develop into a pattern campaigner in due course.

*He is in training with Andrew Balding*



Enquiries to **SAM HOSKINS** on 07791 746119  
or sam@kvtracing.com



CONTANGO



# FAREWELL TO KEITH BETTRIDGE



This month marks the end of an era at Park House as we say goodbye to Keith Bettridge, who retires after almost fifty years of service in the racing industry and over twenty years at Park House.

Keith started out in racing in 1968 and came to Kingsclere as Assistant Head Lad in the early 1990s. An accomplished rider, Keith's regular rides included Rous Stakes and Portland Handicap winner Dashing Blue, Britannia Handicap and dual Shergar Cup winner Pentecost, and the good sprinter-miler Irony. When Andrew was allocated a barn of horses by Ian in anticipation of taking over the licence, Keith became Andrew's Head Lad, and then took over the new Casual Look barn during Andrew's early years as trainer at Park House. Over time he has acquired additional responsibilities, including swimming horses in the pool, with Cesarewitch winner Top Cees, Shergar Cup winner Bernie



The Bolt and Bibury Cup winner Whiplash Willie amongst his charges. He drives the forklift to deliver hay, feed and paper to the various yards, and also took over the operation of the equine treadmill after Ian almost broke this expensive new piece of kit on his first day at the helm.....

Keith is an excellent horseman, capable of handling the most boisterous colts with ease. He is also completely unflappable, which is particularly useful when dealing with first-timers on the treadmill or in the pool! He gets all his jobs done with great efficiency and the minimum of fuss and will always lend a hand with a tricky horse or any other problem. He has a wealth of experience and has been a great source of advice and assistance to young pupil assistants as they learn the ropes of head lad duties. A cheerful and reliable member of the team, we will miss him greatly but wish him a very happy retirement. ■



The most recent recipients of the Spillers 'Employee Of The Month' Awards are as follows:

**CHARLIE RICHARDS** for making an excellent start to his career in racing, always showing an eagerness to learn, and for looking after the winners Breakheart, Wine List, Brief Visit, Look My Way and Count Simon.

**AGNES TEGLAS** for great work as a new member of the ground-staff team. Aggie is dedicated to her horses and is a skilled, reliable and very cheerful member of the team.



Charlie Richards



Agnes Teglas



Callum McBride



Steve Woolley

## AWARDS



**CALLUM MCBRIDE** for his can-do attitude and first-rate skills as a rider of many of the yard's more challenging inhabitants.

**STEVE WOOLLEY** for continued sterling work in the saddle and on the yard which scandalously has never been recognised by one of these awards!

Winners receive £100 and a bottle of Spillers prosecco. Our thanks go to Spillers for continuing to sponsor this series which is much appreciated by all at Kingsclere.

