

KINGSCLERE

PARK HOUSE STABLES



SUMMER MAGAZINE 2023



Above: *High spirits on the way home from the Downs*

Front cover: *SAINT GEORGE* going to post before finishing second at Royal Ascot under Oisin Murphy (Laurence Squire)

Back cover: *CHADEAN* (Josh Bryan) and *BERKSHIRE SHADOW* (Macie Harris) leading the string down the avenues (Georgina Preston)

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 © Park House Stables
 Published by Park House Stables, Park House, Kingsclere, Newbury, Berks. RG20 5PY
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 Printed and typeset by Joshua Horgan, Oxford

INTRODUCTION

The 2023 flat season has already been one to remember for the Park House team and although Chaldean's triumph in the 2000 Guineas might seem an eternity ago, it was a moment to really savour for everyone involved. As we all know success is defined by what a yard can achieve at the very highest level and races don't come any bigger than a Classic! Having said that, the half term report would suggest that there is room for improvement before we can really count 2023 as an annus mirabilis.

Whilst we had a few near misses at Royal Ascot it was a disappointing meeting for us on the whole, but an experience that has made the whole team and the trainer all the more anxious to put this right next year! By and large we have enjoyed a steady and consistent stream of positive results over the summer months and the foundations are well and truly in place to enjoy a successful autumn campaign. I feel we have some exciting untapped talent amongst our two year olds, and it will be fascinating to see how they develop over the last couple of months of this tough season.

As is always the case the opportunity to buy yearlings appears before we really know what we managed to obtain at last year's sales. Indeed, in this edition of the Kingsclere magazine, Tessa Hetherington interviews leading yearling consignor Jamie Railton about his operation, providing a real insight into what goes on over the other side of the fence.

Whilst most of 2023 has been a bright and positive experience it was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Sir Roger Buckley in late June. Roger had been a long-standing owner at Park House and more recently had been a shareholder in the Park House Partnership. Roger was so enthusiastic about his racing and was such a positive and kind person. We will all miss his visits to Park House.

With York's Ebor meeting just days away everyone at Kingsclere is determined to finish the 2023 season in the style that we started it! ■



CHALDEAN as a foal at Whitsbury Manor Stud

THE SEASON SO FAR

by Tessa Hetherington

As a May foal, **Chaldean** was just 27 days old when Kameko gave the yard its first victory in the 2,000 Guineas, and in a normal year he would not have even been born by the time of the race, which was delayed in 2020 due to the COVID lockdown. Less than three years later, he too was triumphant on the Rowley Mile in the first Classic of the season, giving the yard its second win in the race and Frankie Dettori his fourth and last.

Chaldean's route into the race was what one might call 'sub-optimal'. His training at home had gone smoothly but the same could not be said for his prep race. He lined up in the Group 3 Greenham Stakes at Newbury as the short-priced favourite but collided with a rival on exiting the stalls, causing his jockey to fly out of the side door and Chaldean to complete the race riderless, leading the field for much of the race before cruising home behind eventual winner Isaac Shelby. Whilst connections soothed themselves afterwards with the consolation that he had suffered no harm and had not had a hard race, it was hardly what they had planned at the outset.

The day of the Guineas arrived, with Newmarket the victim of near-biblical downpours in the preceding 24 hours and throughout the day itself. Chaldean, however,

had plenty of good form on soft ground and relished the conditions, forging an uncomplicated passage through the race and powering clear in the final furlong to win going away from the field. It was a huge thrill for all concerned and particularly special to help provide Frankie with a fitting swansong in his last year in the saddle. It was also wonderful to win the race for Juddmonte and in the presence of Prince Saud, son of the late Prince Khalid Abdullah, the operation's founder and titan of the bloodstock world. It takes a strong team to get a horse to the Guineas in top condition and special mention must go to Curt Plaattjes, regular rider of 'Deano' (a nickname which helpfully avoids all confusion over pronunciation!), to Chetan Singh who looks after him, and to his head lad Kevin Hunt.

Royal Ascot beckoned next for Chaldean, where he met the Irish 2,000 Guineas winner Paddington, who had started the season in a handicap off a mark of 97 and remained something of an unknown quantity despite his Curragh victory. Chaldean was a little free early and set fractions that probably dented his finishing effort, but nevertheless finished a gallant second to Paddington, who became a known superstar with his stellar performance, a status he has subsequently confirmed with victories in the Eclipse and the Sussex Stakes.



CHALDEAN winning the 2,000 guineas under Frankie Dettori, destined to be his last ride in the race

Back on soft ground in the Group 1 Prix Jean Prat at Deauville the following month, hopes were high that Chaldean could dominate once more, but he ran very flat and the writing was on the wall from an early stage in a race in which none of the fancied horses performed well. After a busy start to the season he probably deserved a holiday and he has been given that. He should return a rejuvenated horse and make the most of the Autumn ground, with the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes on British Champions Day his main target and the Joel Stakes at Newmarket a possible prep race.

Our other leading Classic hope **The Foxes** had a rather more conventional preparation for his intended target, the Derby. He started out in the Group 3 Craven Stakes over the mile at Newmarket in April and ran a solid race, finishing second to Indestructible and staying on in the closing stages as if a step up in trip was bound to suit. So it proved, as he got the better of a good field in the Group 2 Dante Stakes over the extended ten furlongs at York in May, repelling the persistent challenge of White Birch despite edging to his right in the closing stages. A wonderfully balanced and relaxed horse, hopes were high that he had all the attributes to win the Derby, but in the end his stamina was found lacking over the testing mile and a half trip, with his cause not helped by a stumble when leaving the stalls. He nevertheless showed his class by finishing fifth, and he confirmed that on his next start when coming agonisingly close to success at the highest level in the Grade 1 Belmont Derby. Slow out of the stalls in a jurisdiction where that counts more than most, he and his regular jockey Oisin Murphy were left with too much to do and the finishing line came just too soon as they flew home between horses.

Freshened up since his return from the States, The Foxes heads next to the Juddmonte International at York, which will be a tough task but one he deserves to tackle. Unlike Chaldean, he is not at his best on soft ground and so further trips abroad may beckon in the Autumn. He should give the yard and his owners King Power Racing plenty more good days. Another to be Group-placed abroad was **Relentless Voyager**, who followed up his eye-catching win at Kempton in March with a solid effort to be fourth in the Listed Newmarket Stakes at the Guineas meeting before travelling to Capannelle for the Italian Derby, where he ran a great race in heavy ground to be third, beaten only a length and a half and missing second by a short head. He had better ground at Royal Ascot but was slow out and rather disappointing in a very hot renewal of the King Edward VII Stakes. He has since picked up an injury which will see him on the sidelines for a period but hopefully he can return to his best form in due course.

Since January 2022 **Coltrane** has run fourteen times, the last seven of these at

Group level. He has won four of those fourteen starts and has not been out of the first four once, turning up on all the big days and delivering consistently with great heart and tenacity. If Carlsberg made racehorses..... Coltrane's season got off to a flying start when he ran away with the Group 3 Sagaro Stakes over two miles at Ascot, cruising clear to win by almost five lengths under Oisin. He returned to the Berkshire track for the Royal meeting and was sent off favourite for the Group 1 Ascot Gold Cup in a field that included four previous Group 1 winners, including Gold Cup winner Subjectivist and St Leger winner Eldar Eldarov, plus a Grade 1 winning hurdler in Echoes Of Rain! In the end, however, it was the young upstart Courage Mon Ami who got the better of Coltrane, winning the Ascot showpiece on just his fourth career start and his first outing in Stakes company. As ever Coltrane put up a tremendous fight, going down by under a length and playing a pivotal role in one of the best finishes of the meeting.

Coltrane faced many of the same rivals on his next start in the Group 1 Goodwood Cup, with the field missing the now-retired Subjectivist but gaining old foe Quickthorn, a blistering front-runner who had proved unpassable in last year's Lonsdale Cup and had shown himself in good form this year with a Listed win at York in June. Once again Quickthorn powered to the front, galloping relentlessly and clear by some sixteen lengths at the halfway point. Perhaps understandably, none of the riders of the key contenders wanted to burn their petrol by breaking from the peleton and chasing him, but once again Quickthorn showed how risky a strategy this is, with his seemingly endless stamina helping him maintain enough speed to keep his distance from his pursuers and win by six lengths. Coltrane, as ever, fought to the line and was just pipped for second by Emily Dickinson. He lost little in defeat and will have another chance at gaining a victory he richly deserves back at Ascot in the Autumn, with the British Champions Long Distance Cup his main target. He will probably take in the Lonsdale Cup at York on route to this,



BERKSHIRE SHADOW with Paul Spickett, Macie Harris and Oisin Murphy in the Newcastle winners enclosure

where Quickthorn will at least have to carry a Group 1 penalty if he reopposes!

Another to be thwarted at Royal Ascot by a horse in the colours of the new Wathnan Racing operation was the likeable stayer **Saint George**, Qatar Racing's homebred son of the late great Roaring Lion who was limited to one start last year but has flourished this term. A winner of a Novice at Southwell in April, he marked himself out as a highly progressive horse with an easy victory over the extended fourteen furlongs at Doncaster in early June. He was an obvious candidate for the Group 2 Queen's Vase over fourteen furlongs at the Royal meeting, a race we won in 2019 with Dashing Willoughby and placed second in with Berkshire Rocco in 2020 and with Qatar Racing's Count Octave in 2017. Saint George took the step up in class in his stride and looked like springing an upset over the evens favourite Gregory in the closing stages, but ultimately had to settle for an admirable second in a very good field. Sadly for us, Saint George will now continue his racing in Australia with Ciaran Maher, who will no doubt target him at the valuable staying programme down under.

Another heading for Australia is the equally likeable grey **Berkshire Shadow**, who has been a fantastic servant to the yard and his owner Paul Spickett. Winner of the Coventry at two, he had slightly lost his way towards the end of his three year old season but a gelding operation renewed his focus and he made a great start to 2023, winning the Listed Lady Wulfruna Stakes at Wolverhampton on reappearance before taking the mile race at the All Weather Championships, picking up good prizemoney and completing a memorable three-timer for the yard and jockey Oisin Murphy. A step back up in class beckoned in the Group 1 Lockinge Stakes at Newbury and Shadow rose to the occasion with aplomb, defying his



NOTRE BELLE BETE led in by Shannon James at Newcastle

long odds to finish strongly and take third behind Modern Games and Chindit. He was again in the mix in the Group 1 Queen Anne at the Royal meeting, staying on well to finish fifth. He ran flat in the Group 3 Criterion at Newmarket's July meeting but this was a drop back to seven furlongs and came just ten days after the Queen Anne so can easily be excused. A gorgeous horse with a great temperament, he will be much missed but should do well in his new home.

Our other two All Weather Championships winners came in the shape of **Notre Belle Bete** and **Desert Cop**. Notre Belle Bete has very good form on artificial surfaces, having won at Lingfield, Wolverhampton and Kempton last year before



DESERT COP winning on All-Weather Champions Day at Newcastle



SCAMPI, winner of the Jorvik Handicap and Shergar Cup Challenge, with RaceShare members at their yard visit in June

adding Newcastle to his tally with victory in the ten furlong Easter Classic at the Championships. He translated that form to the turf when finishing third for the second year running in the Suffolk Handicap at Newmarket on Guineas weekend, this year off a 7lb higher mark. His two subsequent runs were below par but he has been given a holiday and will be prepared for an Autumn campaign, with big handicaps such as the Cambridgeshire on his radar. **Desert Cop** hides his light firmly under a bushel at home but continued his progression from a Kempton win in February by taking the three year old Conditions Stakes at the Championships, beating decent company with ease despite drifting right under pressure. He flopped on his turf debut in the Group 3 Commonwealth Cup Trial at Ascot but showed that the surface was not the issue when running a huge race to be second to subsequent dual Group 1 winner Shaquille in the Listed Carnarvon Stakes at Newbury. At the time of the last magazine Andrew had hoped that Desert Cop might be one for the five furlong handicap at Royal Ascot, and he did line up over five furlongs there, but in the Group 1 King's Stand Stakes! He was far from disgraced, staying on well to finish sixth but lacking the pace to mount a serious challenge. Returned to six furlongs for his handicap debut on his latest start, he never travelled at Newmarket and perhaps did not appreciate the quick ground. He has had a break since and will return for an Autumn campaign, with races such as the Listed Garrowby Stakes at York in September and the Group 3 Bengough Stakes at Ascot in October potentially on his agenda.

Another horse to show up well at Ascot was the delightful **Sea Of Roses**, who has confirmed the promise she showed last year as a juvenile with a very solid start to the season. She travelled to France for her seasonal debut and ran well to be third over the extended ten furlongs at Saint Cloud in the Group 3 Prix Penelope, handling the soft ground well and gaining some valuable black type. She ran well enough in the Musidora at York to take her place in the Oaks at Epsom, where she made much of the running before struggling in the final stages. A little keen in the Group 2 Ribblesdale at the Royal meeting and with a wide draw to overcome, she nevertheless stuck to her task well and finished fifth, well clear of the rest of

the field. A drop back to eleven furlongs in the Listed Glasgow Stakes at Hamilton looked sure to suit and she ran well once again, finishing second to the consistent Chesspiece, who has since run a neck behind Desert Hero in the Group 3 Gordon Stakes at Goodwood. The Fillies and Mares Stakes on British Champions Day will be Sea Of Roses' end of season target and she may take in the Listed Galtres Stakes at York en route. She fully deserves a Stakes win.

Kingsclere heroine **Sandrine** is another talented filly who has had a respectable start to her season, finishing second to Sacred in the Listed Chartwell Stakes at Lingfield on her reappearance and a close fifth in the Listed Cathedral Stakes at Salisbury. She struggled in the Group 1 Queen's Jubilee Stakes at the Royal meeting but ran better in Deauville in the Group 1 Prix Maurice du Gheest on her latest start. She handles cut in the ground so has plenty of options in the Autumn and should be able to add to her already impressive CV.

Scampi has always been a bit of a favourite and we were delighted when RaceShare, a new microshare ownership group, decided to keep him in the yard having bought him from his breeders the Pendarves family at Tattersalls last Autumn. He has already given his multiple owners a great run for their money, winning the big Class 2 Jorvik Handicap at York's Dante meeting under Hayley Turner, going very close in the Old Newton Cup at Haydock under David Probert, running well to be fifth in the John Smith's Cup at York under Callum Hutchinson and then winning the Shergar Cup Challenge under Saffie Osborne! His York win granted him guaranteed entry into this year's Ebor and, whilst this will be a step up in both distance and opposition from his previous endeavours, we know he likes the track and the £500,000 pot is obviously highly attractive. **Nobel** finished ahead of Scampi in the John Smith's Cup, finishing fourth after a wide margin win at Newcastle and confirming himself as a progressive horse. He will continue that progress in the US, having been transferred there to take advantage of their burgeoning turf programme.

The gorgeous **Aztec Empire** won twice in the early part of the year and then looked like he might be in the grip of the handicapper, but a break in the early summer clearly



NOBEL winning under Oisin Murphy at Newcastle

helped him as he returned with an excellent run in the Northumberland Plate, staying on well over the extended two miles to finish third under Harry Davies, who is having a great season. He could be one for the two mile Sky Bet Stayers Handicap at the Ebor meeting, or drop back to fourteen furlongs in Haydock's Old Borough Cup. Either way he looks sure to continue to do well for his owner Sheikh Isa.

Fellow stayer **Berkshire Rocco** also made hay on the All Weather at the start of the season, winning at Southwell and placing twice at Kempton, but was then rather disappointing in the Marathon at the All Weather Championships and in three subsequent starts. He put in a slightly better effort when fourth in the fourteen furlong handicap at Newmarket's July meeting and confirmed that he is coming back into form with a good second in the Shergar Cup Stayers under Hong Kong's Matthew Chadwick. Elder statesman **Nate The Great** began his seven year old campaign with a good fifth in the valuable Red Sea Turf Handicap in Saudi Arabia and has continued to run with credit, finishing second by just a neck in the Group 3 Henry II Stakes at Sandown in May and fifth behind Courage Mon Ami and Coltrane in the Group 1 Ascot Gold Cup. The Group 2 Doncaster Cup will be his main target for the latter part of the season, with the Lonsdale Cup at York in late August and the Listed Rose Bowl Stakes at Newmarket in October (a race he won last year) possible bookends to that. Fellow old boy **Fox Tal** made a highly encouraging return from injury when beaten just a head in the Shergar Cup Mile this month, looking like the winner until just caught on the line by Perotto. Quirky but lovable, it is great to see him back on track.

The Melrose Handicap at York is one of the key races for young stayers and the yard has won it twice in the last three years, with Coltrane in 2020 and with Valley Forge in 2021. We looked to have the ideal contender for this year's renewal in the shape of **Fairbanks**, like Valley Forge a homebred of George Strawbridge. Very much in the slow learners group last year, he ended the season with a promising third in a Pontefract novice but failed to build on that on his reappearance at Windsor in April. He was, however, a different proposition when upped in trip with a visor applied for his handicap debut, and he

duly trounced his rivals over the extended eleven furlongs at Haydock, winning by over three lengths from the favourite Lordship, who has since won three on the bounce. Fairbanks did not stop there either, following up with an eight and a half length victory over twelve furlongs at Leicester and a four and a quarter length win over the same trip at Goodwood. He looks open to further progress but sadly that will not be in the immediate future as he has suffered a set-back which has ruled him out of the Melrose. We look forward to seeing what more he can do on his return.

Into the breach for the Melrose has stepped **The Goat**, a hugely impressive twelve length winner of the twelve furlong handicap at the Qatar Goodwood Festival last month. Placed in both his starts at two, The Goat had been working like a good horse in the early Spring but had a couple of niggles and remained winless after his first two outings this year. The form of his third in a Kempton novice in mid-July was, however, encouraging, with the winner a very short-priced fancy and the second winning next time out, after which he was handed a rating some 12lb higher than that given to The Goat. The conditions at Goodwood for The Goat's handicap debut were



THE GOAT powering clear at Glorious Goodwood

far from glorious but he relished the stamina test of the mile and a half on what was officially soft but in reality heavy ground. The conditions probably exaggerated the winning distance but the form horses filled the places and there is every reason to believe that he can build on this next time, particularly if he gets soft ground. He will head to the Melrose at York later this month and is an exciting prospect for his owners The True Acre Partnership.

York has proved a happy hunting ground for pocket rocket **Nymphadora**, who won the Listed Marygate Stakes there as a two year old, also finishing fifth in the Group 2 Lowther.



NYMPHADORA landing the Listed City Walls Stakes at York for Jason Watson

Runner up twice in a slightly frustrating three year old season, she has bounced back to her best over the minimum trip this term, winning a Class 2 Handicap at Chester's May meeting under Oisín Murphy before finishing fourth in the Listed Land O'Burns Stakes at Ayr under Hayley Turner, and then gaining her second Listed success in the City Walls Stakes at York under Jason Watson. She was not disgraced in the Group 2 King George V Stakes at Goodwood on her latest start and holds an entry in the Group 1 Nunthorpe at York, but will only take that up if there is sufficient give in the ground. The Group 3 Dubai World Trophy at Newbury in September is an alternative, with the Group 1 Abbaye at Longchamp on Arc weekend her likely swansong.

City Streak won at Chester's May meeting on the same day as Nymphadora and shares her preference for soft ground. Wonderfully consistent, he has only been out of the first four once in his last twelve starts and followed his Chester win with a good second in the Zetland Gold Cup over ten furlongs at Redcar before taking a Class 2 Handicap at Ascot over twelve furlongs on his latest start. He may yet stay a little further and there are plenty of valuable handicap options in the Autumn for Lord and Lady Blyth's homebred half-brother to Quickthorn. **Holguin** is another who has been a model of consistency, beaten a neck on his first two starts this term, in a seven furlongs Conditions event at Newmarket in April and then by previous Group 1 winner Angel Bleu in the Listed Spring Trophy at

Haydock. Second in another Listed contest at Epsom on Oaks day, he ran well at Royal Ascot when sixth in the Group 3 Jersey Stakes despite being stuck on the wing from his wide draw, and fully deserved his Listed win at Chester in July, staying on well under David Probert. Another commendable effort followed in the Group 2 Lennox Stakes at Goodwood, where he finished fourth after being rather free in the early stages. He has further options at Group 2 level in the City Of York Stakes or Goodwood's Celebration Mile, but whatever route is taken he should continue to give the yard and his owner Jonathan Palmer-Brown plenty of fun. His soundness and consistency also make the son of Havana Grey a potential candidate for foreign travel down the line.



CITY STREAK gets up to score at Chester under Oisín Murphy



HOLGUIN with David Probert and Rhys Fox in the Chester winners enclosure after taking the Listed City Plate Stakes

Kingman filly **Totnes** broke her maiden on her second start at Wolverhampton in March and has proved progressive since, winning over a mile at Lingfield in May, over ten furlongs at Chelmsford in July, and most recently over ten furlongs on the turf in the Racing League fixture at Chepstow. With three placed efforts in between, she has done wonders for the Twelve To Follow fortunes of my nieces and looks like she will add further to their points score before the year is out.

Sudden Ambush would have been another shrewd Twelve To Follow choice, having won a mile novice at Lingfield by three and a quarter lengths in January and then going in again over the same trip at Goodwood in May and at Windsor in July. His last two victories have been by much shorter distances (a nose and a neck) which has helped him stay ahead of the handicapper and he could well add to his tally this term. Michael Blencowe's **Sovereign Spirit** has also notched up a hat-trick of wins this year, with back-to-back victories over



VETIVER with Chloe Lindsay and P. J. McDonald after winning the Listed Eternal Stakes at Carlisle

twelve furlongs at Lingfield in the Spring before just holding on at Beverley in June.

Vetiver was a winner at Beverley as a two year old and her five and a half length win at the same track under a penalty on reappearance confirmed her as a smart filly. She duly got her Stakes win in the Listed Eternal Stakes at Carlisle on just her fourth career start and there should be more to come from Cheveley Park's homebred daughter of Twilight Son. She will aim to be our fourth winner of the Group 3 Sceptre Stakes at Doncaster in the last six years, following in the footsteps of Dancing Star, Foxtrot Lady and Bounce The Blues, but could take in the seven furlongs fillies' handicap at York before that. PJ McDonald has ridden her for all three of her career wins and will no doubt be keen to retain the ride!

Grand Providence is also a dual winning filly this term but a very different model to Vetiver. A daughter of Nathaniel and a gentle giant, she was always going to take time to come to hand despite her dam being a Grade 1 winning juvenile in South Africa. She did not race at two but has made up for lost



GRAND PROVIDENCE winning for the first time at Kempton under David Probert

time since, placing in all her five starts and winning over eleven furlongs at Kempton in June under David Probert and over the extended two miles at Doncaster under Hayley Turner. Caught a little flat-footed before rallying over fourteen furlongs at Sandown last time out, a return to two miles beckons and she should have more to give for her owner-breeders Cayton Park Stud.

Old Harrovian has always shown huge talent at home but has been hard to keep sound and was limited to one start in his first two seasons. Connections maintained their faith in him and he confirmed his ability with a four length win over twelve furlongs at Lingfield in April under Oisín before following up a week later under a penalty at Wolverhampton, this time extending his winning distance to ten lengths with Callum Hutchinson on board. He was too keen in the Group 3

Al Rayyan Stakes at Newbury to do himself justice, and sadly injury has once again pressed pause on his progress.

Within the three year old middle distance division, Phil Fox's **Scintillante** has been a consistent performer, placing at Newbury and Ascot and winning at Chester in July under Hayley Turner. **Torre Del Oro** was a facile winner at Wolverhampton under David Probert on his seasonal reappearance and handicap debut but went up 10lb for that and has rather struggled since. Freshened up by a break, he will come on for his run at Chester in July and is easing down to a more workable mark. **Strike Alliance** was another Wolverhampton winner, in his case in the hands of Josh Bryan, and sold shortly afterwards to jumps trainer Milton Harris, for whom former Kingsclere apprentice Bradley Harris (no relation) is riding plenty of winners. A superb horseman who worked wonders on many of Kingsclere's quirkier characters, Bradley is currently leading the conditional jockeys' championship and it is brilliant to see him doing so well.

Galactic Jack is another who may well be seen next over obstacles, having sold at the Tattersalls July Sale to jumps owner Mark Adams. An impressive winner of a Goodwood maiden at two, Galactic Jack showed that he retained his ability when winning a Class 3 Handicap under Harry Davies at Salisbury but his form was rather inconsistent. A few flights of hurdles and a recent gelding operation may help him keep his focus! **Passing Time** was another winner to sell in July, Pimlico Racing's charge having won over a mile under Callum Hutchinson at Ffos Las in July after placing on both his previous starts this term.

Alsakib, a son of Kingman and a half-brother to three Group winners, had always looked like a classy horse and has done well so far this year for his owner-breeders Al Wasmiyah Stud. Unraced last year, he filled the runner-up spot at Kempton on debut before scoring over seven and a

half furlongs at Chester under Harry Davies and following up under a penalty over a mile at Windsor under David Probert. He then stepped up to ten furlongs in the Class 2 three year old handicap at Goodwood, encountering soft ground for the first time, and ran another great race to finish third. He could yet stay further and is a lovely prospect. Jim and Fitri Hay's **Sceptic** had the benefit of a run at two and duly won on his seasonal reappearance, taking a seven furlong maiden at Lingfield under David Probert. He ran well to be fourth in a hot Class 3 handicap over a mile at York in May before winning for a second time over the mile at Goodwood in June, this time under Callum Hutchinson. He had an impossible draw at Sandown but fared better at Newmarket on his latest start and continues to be competitive off his higher mark.

Goldsborough was another to win easily over a mile at Goodwood, this time in May, handling the heavy ground well under David Probert. Homebred by Suzi Prichard-Jones as part of her admirable efforts to maintain the Byerley Turk line in thoroughbred breeding, he was rather disappointing when returning to the Sussex track on his latest start but is a big horse who may still be developing physically. **New Business** is an impressive model and has always shaped well at home. Unraced at two, he placed on his first two starts this year before winning readily over seven furlongs at Kempton under Oisin Murphy in June. Fourth on his handicap debut in a Class 3 at Sandown despite running too freely in the early stages, he was taken out of his race at the Goodwood Festival due to the ground. There should be more to come from Saeed Suhail's son of Sea The Stars.

The form of **Arabian Storm**'s sole juvenile start worked out very well and he was a huge eye-catcher when winning over seven furlongs at Newcastle on his reappearance in March. Below par when sent off favourite for the Listed Burradon Stakes at the same track on All Weather Championships day,

he bounced back at Newmarket when a close third in the Listed Charles II Stakes on Guineas weekend. Injury has sadly delayed his progress but he is a talented individual and one to follow on his return. **Berkshire Phantom** was a dual winner over seven furlongs on the All Weather early this year and then placed on three further occasions before topping the Tattersalls Online Sale in July, selling to new trainer Fionn McSharry. **Grenham Bay** has also won twice so far this term for Martin and Valerie Slade, winning a Kempton novice in April before following up on handicap debut at Salisbury, both times over six furlongs and both times in the hands of Oisin Murphy. Third at Epsom in July, he didn't look to stay seven furlongs on softer ground at Ascot. Speedier still is **Estate**, a compact son of Showcasing who has won over the minimum trip twice this term, at Salisbury under Rob Hornby and at



SCINTILLANTE with Hayley Turner and Kea Taylor at Chester



ARABIAN STORM drawing away from the field at Newcastle

Windsor under William Buick. He was slow out at Goodwood last time and had little chance to make up lost ground in the soft conditions despite staying on well. There is more mileage in his mark and he should continue to do well for owners Highclere Thoroughbreds.

Victorious Racing's **Sisyphus Strength** was a winner and Listed placed at two but struggled in atrocious conditions at Chester on reappearance, pulling up before the line in the Cheshire Oaks. She fared better on a sounder surface in the Listed Height Of Fashion at Goodwood in May, before going off far too fast in the King George V Handicap at the Royal meeting. Dropped back to ten furlongs at Newmarket last time she was more tractable and travelled sweetly under David Probert before quickening well up the hill to score by two and a half lengths. The fillies' handicap over the extended ten furlongs at York looks a good option for her next. **Therapist** is another filly to have won over ten furlongs at Newmarket this term, scoring on handicap debut under Rob Hornby in July and running well back at the track three weeks later when third over the same trip. She struggled in the soft ground at Goodwood last time out but should bounce back on a better surface. There was not much in **Prosecco's** pedigree to suggest she would thrive on soft ground – her sire, Gleneagles, did almost all his winning on Good to Firm and her dam, Kingsclere star Elbereth, seemed best on similar. Prosecco is, of course, blissfully unaware of this, and she relished soggy conditions at Sandown in July when scoring over ten furlongs under William Buick on her second handicap start. She should be open to further progress.

Reminder is another well-bred filly, by Dubawi and out of Group 2 winner Memory who has produced three Stakes winners. She duly scored on just her second start when winning over six furlongs at Windsor under William Buick, the partnership then going close at the same track under a penalty.

Handicaps beckon for her next and she should continue to do well for her owners H.M. The King and H.M. The Queen.

Frankness has Dubawi as her damsire and (as her name might suggest) Frankel as her sire. A dual winner at Chester at two, she ran reasonably well there in two handicaps this term before winning well over six furlongs at Goodwood under Harry Davies. The pair were reunited at Royal Ascot where she ran very well in the Palace of Holyrood House Stakes, finishing fifth after a slow start over the minimum trip put paid to her winning chances. Rather flat at Newmarket last time out, she has been for a mini-break at owner-breeder Jeff Smith's Littleton Stud with her mate Desert Cop and is now back cantering in preparation for an Autumn campaign. The similarly speedy **Bell Song** was a deserving winner over six at Kempton in July, having placed on her first three starts this term. She sold at Tattersalls in July to French-based agent Alessandro Marconi and, as a daughter of good young sire Saxon Warrior out of four-time Park House winner Summer Chorus, a relative of Time Charter, she may be destined for the breeding paddocks before long.

TWO YEAR OLDS

Purosangue did not join the yard until late April, having been bought at the Goffs UK Breeze Up Sale by Opulence Thoroughbreds and Teme Valley Racing. He quickly made an impression on the gallops at home, and went into many notebooks when streaking clear over five furlongs at Haydock under Ray Dawson on debut in June. Stepped up to six furlongs and launched into Group company in the July Stakes at Newmarket on his next start, he again showed plenty of speed but did too much in the early stages to finish his race with any gusto. He dropped back to the minimum trip in the Group 2 Molecomb Stakes at the Goodwood Festival and, despite a slow start, ran a great race to finish a close second,



PUROSANGUE with Lois Day and happy owners from Opulence Thoroughbreds

finding only Royal Ascot winner Big Evs too good. The Listed Roses Stakes at York is next on his agenda and he should be a Stakes winner before long.

Flora Of Bermuda sold 28 lots after Purosangue at the Goffs UK Breeze Up Sale and was the fourth highest lot in the sale, selling for £340,000 to Highclere Agency on behalf of Bermuda Racing. She has already justified her price tag, going agonisingly close on her first two starts, including when very unlucky in running in the Hilary Needler at Beverley, before being drawn on the wrong side of the track in the Queen Mary at Royal Ascot and finishing first in her group but sixth overall. Things finally went her way in the Alice Keppel Conditions

Stakes at the Goodwood Festival and she capitalised on this, sweeping clear of her rivals to win by four lengths. All her starts to date have been over five furlongs but she looks like she will easily stay six and she has already proved that she handles all types of ground. She holds an entry in the Group 2 Lowther Stakes at York and should have an excellent chance there.

By Dubawi and out of Grade 1 E.P. Taylor winner Sheikh Reika (herself a half-sister to Group 1 Cheveley Park winner Lumiere), Sheikh Obaid's homebred **Arabic Legend** is bred to be smart and he looked just that when winning over seven furlongs at Newmarket on debut under Rob Hornby. He ran well in the Listed Stonehenge Stakes on his next start, staying on strongly to be second after initially getting a little unbalanced when asked to make his effort, and looks sure

to progress to a Stakes win before long. Salisbury is one of owner-breeder Jeff Smith's favourite tracks and his **Equity Law** was runner-up over six furlongs there on debut before scoring over the same course and distance next time under Oisin Murphy. Unsited by soft ground at Chester on his latest start, he has plenty of speed and is likely to drop back to five furlongs in handicaps. By King's Stand winner Equiano, out of dual Park House five furlong winner Fair Cop and from the family of good sprinters Desert Cop, Desert Law and Speed Cop, he should continue to progress.

Chester has always been a happy hunting ground for the yard and Michael Blencowe's **Loaded Gun** became Andrew's



FLORA OF BERMUDA showing her class at Glorious Goodwood



ARABIC LEGEND led in by Liam Tarentaal after winning on debut at Newmarket

100th winner at the track when taking a five furlong novice under David Probert in July. Placed on his previous three starts, he is a consistent performer and again ran well in the six furlong nursery at the Goodwood Festival, staying on to be sixth after a slow start. Whilst he did not handle heavy ground on his debut he seems fine on soft and this will give him plenty of options as we head into the Autumn. Mick and Janice Mariscotti have a good record at Chester but an even better record at Epsom, and **Aragon Castle** added to their tally at the Surrey track when winning a seven furlong maiden there under Rob Hornby on his second start. That form was given a boost when the second, Mission To Moon, took the seven furlong nursery at Goodwood in good style, and hopes were high when Aragon headed to Chester for his next start. Again he ran a blinder, finishing well clear of all his rivals.... except fellow Kingsclere-trained **Marcella**! Dahlbury Racing's German-bred filly had shown little on debut but had obviously learnt plenty and, relishing the soft ground at Chester, she finished strongly to just deny Aragon Castle in the closing stages. Whilst this was a piece of race planning that Andrew will not be allowed to forget in a hurry, it confirmed both horses as lovely prospects from which there should be plenty more to come. Marcella was a particularly notable winner as she was the 1000th saddled in Britain by our wonderful travelling head lad, Simon Humphries – a great achievement by him.

The yard has had two juvenile winners at Leicester so far this year, in the shape of **Spanish Phoenix** and **Bits And Bobs**. Fourth behind subsequent Listed winner Action Point when very green on debut at Kempton, Spanish Phoenix was a different proposition on his second start and won by six and a half lengths at Leicester under Oisin Murphy, albeit facing only two rivals. He jumped into Stakes company next time out in the Group 2 Coventry Stakes at Royal Ascot and gave a good

account of himself, finishing fourth in the group of his side of the track and eighth overall. He shaped there as if a step up to seven furlongs would suit but didn't seem to get home over that trip in the Group 2 Superlative Stakes at Newmarket and the Group 2 Vintage Stakes at Goodwood. He may get seven in time as he matures and learns to settle better, but for now a drop back to six seems in order and the York nursery over that trip could be his next engagement. The diminutive **Bits And Bobs** nearly lost his bits and bobs after behaving badly in the parade ring at Windsor before his intended debut, injuring David Probert with a nasty kick to his thigh. Thankfully David made a speedy recovery and Bits And Bobs made speedy amends by winning a six furlong maiden at Leicester in good style under Oisin Murphy. A good second next time out at Chester in one of the valuable Juddmonte-sponsored restricted novices (a great initiative which we hope to see continued in future years), Bits and Bobs was unsuited by the ground at Carlisle but bounced back with a good fifth in the seven furlong nursery at Goodwood, staying on well. He will likely have another go at one of the Juddmonte restricted races at Ripon later this month and is then due to sell at Tattersalls in early September - he will be a fun horse for new connections.

Marcella was the third two year old filly to win this year, the first being **Works Of Art**, a daughter of the much missed Zoffany and Kingsclere-trained sprinter Make Fast, who has already produced Group 2 winner Tactical for the yard. Bred by the late Queen and now raced by H.M. The King and H.M. The Queen, Works Of Art had caught the eye on debut at Kempton in June and returned to the track in July, putting on a professional display when winning over six furlongs under William Buick. She holds an entry in the Listed Two Year Old Trophy at Redcar in the Autumn but will have plenty of options before that. **Clifton Bay** is another with familial links to Kingsclere as she is a close relation of Grand Providence – both being out of Same Jurisdiction and by sons of Galileo in Teofilo and Nathaniel respectively. Clifton Bay has clearly inherited more of her mother's precocity and won easily at Newbury on debut last month under Will Carver, despite doing plenty wrong in the process. Sadly she has since sustained an injury on the gallops but we hope to see her back on the track in due course.



MARCELLA gets off the mark at Chester



WORKS OF ART with William Buick and Shannon James at Kempton

See The Fire is the fourth offspring of Juddmonte International winner Arabian Queen to be trained at Kingsclere and the fourth to win, but she is the only one to have done so on debut. Meeting eleven other newcomers in a fillies' maiden at Newmarket in August, she put on a highly professional display under David Probert, putting the race to bed as she met the rising ground and cruising home by over a length. Jeff Smith looks to have another smart filly on

his hands in this daughter of Sea The Stars, who should stay much further than seven furlongs in time. See The Fire's win was swiftly followed by that of fellow Kingsclere juvenile filly **Lady Wulfrun**, who won the seven furlong nursery on the same card under William Buick, confirming the promise she had shown in placed efforts at Newmarket and Catterick. With the front pair well clear of the rest of the field, she should have more to offer for her Royal connections this term.

As ever it is only in this latter part of the turf season that many of our two year olds are really beginning to get going, and there are a number of lovely prospects waiting in the wings, with others having already shown enough on the track to suggest that they will be heading for the winner's enclosure before the season is out. Exciting times! ■



CLIFTON BAY wins on debut at Newbury under Will Carver



AWARDS



Spillers kindly sponsor our monthly staff awards through the turf season and the winners are as follows:

Curt Plaatjies for doing a brilliant job as regular rider of our Guineas winner Chaldean, and in particular for staying on board when he was very fresh through the spring!

Padraic Dahill-Rowan for his day-to-day work in the yard, with his horses and with our consignments at the sales.

Vishesh Jogessur for a huge improvement in his riding over the last year and looking after his horses including smart sprinter Desert Cop, who he also rides out.

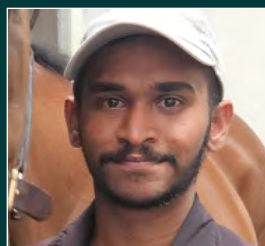
Kea Taylor for her all-round good performance riding out, looking after her horses, and being generally helpful. ■



Curt Plaatjies



Padraic Dahill-Rowan



Vishesh Jogessur



Kea Taylor

Kingsclere Racing Club 2023



KRC members inspecting stars of the future!

We have had a quieter year than usual on the racecourse, with three winners on the board so far, but with the promise of a busy remainder of the season. Early-season winners Cello and Urban Outlook are set to make their eagerly awaited return to action in the coming weeks, while there are also several other three year olds that look set for a late Summer/Autumn campaign.

We were delighted to break new ground this year, with a first Kingsclere Racing Club horse in training with David Simcock in Newmarket. A former pupil assistant to Ian, David came close to making the perfect start for us when Pourquoi finished runner-up on her debut at Windsor and she looks sure to get her head in front in the near future.

Our social diary has been as busy as ever, and we had a very informative morning on the gallops on Warren Hill, followed by a visit to David's picturesque Trillium Place yard in Newmarket and a picnic at the races on Ladies Day of the July Festival. There was time for a brief visit to the Tattersalls July Sale, though hands were kept firmly in pockets!

There have also been visits to see our horses both at Kingsclere and at Chris and Claire Bonner's East Leaze Farm, where several of our team are pre-trained prior to arriving at Park House. It was wonderful to have a behind-the-scenes tour of



On Warren Hill in Newmarket with David Simcock



David Simcock and POURQUOI

how Chris and Claire's breaking and pre-training work is done and we went on to enjoy an excellent lunch at The Pheasant in Lambourn. We also had a trip to Highclere Stud at the end of June, and many thanks to Jake Warren who showed us Land Force and some special mares with their foals.

We head into the final months of the season with plenty to look forward to, not least from our two year olds, with Mount Atlas one to note in particular this Autumn. Out of Highland Pass, a three-time winner for the KRC and a half-sister to Elm Park and Brorocco, the son of Masar has certainly caught the eye on our visits to Kingsclere.

Our end of season party will take place this year on Breeders' Cup Night and we look forward to getting together to celebrate another very enjoyable year's racing.

The Kingsclere Racing Club is full for 2023, but we are accepting applications to join the waiting list for next year. For further information, please contact Nathaniel Barnett on 07890 672435 or by email, admin@kingsclere.com. ■

THE 2023 12 TO FOLLOW COMPETITION

**These are the current standings in this year's 12 To Follow Competition,
with scores up to and including 10th August.**

**Very tight at the top with a three-way tie between Michael Blencowe,
Charlotte Clarke and David Bradley, with Anthony Amos and Chloe Cheverton
only a handful of points behind – all to play for over the next few months!**

1. Michael Blencowe	148	44. Lisa Spickett	109	89. Andrew Slater	91
1. Charlotte Clarke	148	46. Richard Dangar	107	89. Hayley Turner	91
1. David Bradley	148	46. Anne Soul	107	91. Paddy Feane	90
4. Anthony Amos	143	48. Alan Read	106	91. Helen Paul	90
5. Chloe Cheverton	141	49. Will Carver (B)	105	91. Lindy Rees	90
6. Angie Cheshire (A)	138	49. Tom Cox / Wendy Harris	105	94. Rhiannon Burgess	89
7. David King	135	49. Clive Stansby (B)	105	94. Missy / Betty Clarke	89
8. Sue Watson	134	49. Kea Taylor	105	94. Georgina Ducker (B)	89
9. Nieces Of Tess	133	53. John Gale	104	94. Bryan Jennick	89
10. Will Carver (A)	132	53. Ray Horne (B)	104	94. Janice Mariscotti	89
10. Josh Gay	132	53. Jane Pearson	104	99. Alistair Donald	88
10. Valerie Slade	132	56. Daisy Mackinnon	103	99. Barney Hetherington	88
13. Padraic Dahill-Rowan	128	56. Paul Morkan (C)	103	99. Maggie / Billie Robinson-Gay	88
13. Paul Morkan (D)	128	58. Bob Humphreys (B)	102	99. Martin Slade	88
15. I.A. Balding	127	58. John Knight	102	103. Jenny Arlington	87
15. Lois Day	127	58. Jeff Smith	102	103. David Mackinnon	87
15. Paul Spickett (B)	127	58. Lucy Sandford	102	103. Janice Read	87
18. Toby Balding	125	62. Archie Burgess	101	106. Andrew Balding	86
18. Cornelia Maher	125	63. Emma Balding	100	106. Jamie Mackinnon	86
20. Roland Francis	123	63. Sam Gay	100	108. Keith Derbyshire (A)	85
21. Rachael Holmes (A)	121	65. Rex Paris (A)	99	108. Nick Rhoades	85
22. Angus Mcphee	119	65. Becci Thompson	99	108. Jamie Richards	85
23. Lucy Alexander	118	67. Andrew Burgess	98	108. Suzanne Woolley	85
23. Macie Harris (A)	118	67. Stephen Wooley (A)	98	108. M.G. Wooldridge (A)	85
23. Bob Humphreys (A)	118	67. Stephen Wooley (B)	98	113. Simon Humphries (A)	84
23. Monika And Kathleen	118	67. M.G. Wooldridge (B)	98	113. Felicity Simpson	84
23. Laura Woolridge	118	67. Ann Bettaney	98	115. Jan Lees	83
28. David Hall (A)	117	72. Macie Harris (B)	97	116. Roger Hetherington	82
28. Mick Mariscotti	117	72. Kenneth Hunt	97	116. Eva Mariscotti	82
28. Michael Payton	117	72. Winifred Jones	97	116. Laura Spickett (B)	82
28. Paul Morkan (A)	117	72. Lee Savage	97	116. A Whitehall	82
32. Sam Geake	116	72. Charlie Richards	97	120. Catherine Hoare	81
33. Stuart Mcphee	115	77. Simon Humphries (B)	96	120. Bob Humphreys (C)	81
34. Michael Bettaney (A)	114	78. Anderson King	95	120. Billie Robinson-Gay	81
34. Diana Magalhaes	114	78. Alfie Redman	95	120. Pippa Tuthill	81
34. Tom Smyth	114	80. Ray Horne (A)	94	120. Nigel Walker	81
34. Ella-Boo Tait-Golden	114	80. Fabrizio Specchio	94	125. Sally Jinks	80
38. Ed Prosser	113	82. R G Hetherington	93	125. Laurence Jinks	80
39. Barney Bonner	112	82. Maggie Robinson-Gay	93	125. Graham Paul	80
39. Tessa Hetherington	112	84. Keith Derbyshire (B)	92	125. Maddy O'Meara (B)	80
39. D Powell	112	84. Alexandra Guy	92	129. David J. Gay	79
42. Sharon Woolley	111	84. David Hall (B)	92	129. John Soul	79
43. Leisha Brooks	110	84. Graham Jones	92	131. Rachel Burgess	78
44. Kathleen Maher	109	84. Angie And Lorraine	92	131. Simon Gee	78

131. Maddy O'Meara (A)	78	151. A Johnson/G Bounds (A)	68	172. Adrian Hodgkins (A)	59
134. Barbara Bullion	77	151. A Johnson/G Bounds (B)	68	174. Des Oates	57
134. Rachael Holmes (B)	77	151. Ray Vickery	68	175. Angie Cheshire (C)	52
134. Thomas Maher	77	156. Alysoun Carey	67	175. Kiki Gronifillo	52
137. Mark Hutchinson	76	156. Jeremy Carey	67	175. Adrian Hodgkins (B)	52
137. Barry Lewis	76	156. Angie Cheshire (D)	67	178. Kingsclere Stud	51
137. Darren Redman	76	156. Patrick Maher	67	179. Iris Hoare	49
137. Pedro Springer	76	156. Richard Wilmot-Smith	67	180. Fiona Hutchinson	47
141. Angie Cheshire (B)	75	161. Georgina Ducker (A)	65	180. Lorraine Whitehall	47
141. Kevin Hunt	75	161. Michael/Deborah O'Brien (A)	65	182. Paul Morkan (B)	41
143. Michael/Deborah O'Brien (C)	73	161. Clive Stansby (A)	65	183. Armando Gronifillo	38
143. Sarah Paddock	73	164. Susan Gay	64	184. Sarah Rae Smith	35
145. Vic Rhoades	72	164. Julia Reardon Smith	64	184. Laura Spickett (B)	35
146. Michael Bettaney (B)	70	164. Paul Spickett (A)	64	186. Sally Phipps Hornby	31
146. Harriet Bradley	70	167. Pete Beasant	63	187. Jon Rea	29
146. Ella Mackinnon	70	167. Ray Horne (C)	63	188. Matthew / Emily Slade	28
149. Roger Michaelson	69	169. Gary Rhoades	61	189. Monika Bergauer	26
149. Michael/Deborah O'Brien (B)	69	169. Gary Richards	61	189. Rex Paris (B)	26
151. Daren Cheverton	68	169. Bruce Raymond	61	191. Boris Balding	18
151. David Dunn	68	172. Richard Hoare	59	192. Mary Gee	11



SOVEREIGN SPIRIT recording the second of his wins at Lingfield

TOP SCORING HORSES

SOVEREIGN SPIRIT	41
TOTNES	39
HOLGUIN	35
ESTATE	34
SAINT GEORGE	33



Four-time winner TOTNES with groom Hattie Snoulton

SELECTION OF THE LEADERS

MICHAEL BLENCOWE

Imperial Fighter	0
Chaldean	20
The Foxes	28
Coltrane	25
Old Harrovian	20
Eydon	0
Berkshire Shadow	15
Lady Of Leisure	12
Royal Supremacy	0
Imperial Express	0
Aragon Castle	16
Array	12

CHARLOTTE CLARKE

Coltrane	25
Al Marmar	4
Chasseral	6
Chaldean	20
Sea Of Roses	16
Galactic Jack	10
Totnes	39
Array	12
Loaded Gun	16
Mach Ten	0
Hillbridge	0
Break The Bank	0

DAVID BRADLEY

Floating Spirit	0
Fleet Admiral	6
Totnes	39
Alsakib	30
Eleanor Cross	0
Night At Sea	7
Saint George	33
Bits And Bobs	16
Cynosure	1
Hillbridge	0
Ureshii	0
Loaded Gun	16

ANTHONY AMOS

The Foxes	28
Chaldean	20
Teumessias Fox	12
Cello	0
Coltrane	25
Groundbreaker	1
Nymphadora	23
Array	12
Equity Law	17
Storm Star	0
Mach Ten	0
Juantorena	5

CHLOE CHEVERTON

Chaldean	20
Teumessias Fox	12
Sea Of Roses	16
Therapist	18
Vermilion	0
The Foxes	28
Coltrane	25
Upscale	6
Capo Vaticano	0
Tenacious Fox	0
Bits And Bobs	16
Ureshii	0

MARTIN DWYER: 'LIVEWIRE' IN & OUT OF THE SADDLE

by Cornelius Lysaght

When Martin Dwyer's stellar race-riding career came to an end, a chapter also closed on a remarkable and inspiring sporting story.

To think that when growing up on a council estate in the football-obsessed Liverpool suburb of Fazakerley, apart from one incident while on holiday when sent into orbit by the kick of an angry pony, the only equine connection Martin had was watching helicopters making their way into Aintree racecourse near his home for the Grand National meeting.

But everything changed dramatically when the diminutive size that later was to make him a sought-after lightweight jockey ruled out ambitions of being a star striker for Everton, and his father, also Martin, wrote to Ian Balding asking if he might employ the teenager, and Ian said yes.

It is hard to over-estimate just how big a transfer that must have been from kickabouts in the streets of Merseyside to being part of the regimented team at Kingsclere where the stables at the time included Selkirk, fresh from success in Ascot's Queen Elizabeth II Stakes, and Lochsong whose career would soon take off with the memorable Stewards Cup-Portland Handicap-Ayr Gold Cup hat-trick.

Martin quickly fitted into the team of talented apprentices, partly through hard work and ever-increasing polish in the saddle but also, in the true extrovert style of his home city, for the humour – some one-liners, some longer stories, some pranks – which saw him subsequently nominated on a regular basis by colleagues as the funniest jockey in the weighing room where he was nicknamed 'Livewire' Dwyer. No anecdote from those early days has been more brilliantly recounted than one about being tasked with running across country with a scented trail to be followed by a drag hunt and clambering up a tree to avoid 'being eaten by the dogs' who had caught up with him; history does not relate exactly who shouted up, less than sympathetically, that they were 'hounds boy, hounds – not dogs', but the whole episode never fails to bring the house down.

Nor does the occasion on which he is quizzed about riding for a particularly aristocratic trainer. 'Oh, we have a lot in common,' comes the reply, Liverpool accent in full flow, 'after all, we were both brought up on estates.'

There are dozens more, but a personal favourite is the description of driving to Southwell with fellow jockey Steve Drowne and being forced to squeeze out of the windows of the car and onto the roof when breaking down in rising flood water – the punchline revolves around the wisdom of



A young Martin leading in a winner for Ian Balding, ridden by a young Lanfranco Dettori!

a vertically challenged person entering a flood with only a travelling companion called Drowne for company.

It, like a conversation while sunbathing alongside Kylie Minogue in Dubai – 'she fancied me all day: she's only human' – was pretty good first time out, but improves each time for the telling.

The laughs could sometimes mean trouble however, never more so than when letting loose a number of spiders in the kitchen of the arachnid-hating Kingsclere hostel cook.

In what Ian described in his autobiography, *Making The Running*, as 'a complete temper tantrum' the unfortunate lady locked herself in the pantry before demanding that either the 'horrible young Scouse' was sacked or else she was packing her bags. Ian wrote: 'I decided that our young apprentice was a better long-term prospect than our cook.'

Well, the numbers do not lie. Martin rode 73 winners from 702 rides for him before adding on 93 (from 872 rides) for Andrew – plus more overseas particularly with



Winning on PHOENIX REACH

the globe-trotting Phoenix Reach – and most famously he was doing the steering when Casual Look stormed home in the green and yellow silks of William Farish to bring the Oaks trophy from Epsom to Kingsclere in the first year after the father-to-son switch in 2003.

During thirty seasons, between 1993 and 2022, he netted a total of 1,543 winners in Britain, and adding the Derby, with a daring run up the inside on Sir Percy in 2006, and the 2021 Coronation Cup on Pyledriver, which when added to the Casual Look result completed a rare hat-trick in Epsom's Group One prizes.

Plaudits also flew around for a particular affinity with front-runners not least when reinvigorating the charismatic early 2000s stayer Persian Punch, trained for Jeff Smith by David Elsworth, a horse on which he was also an innovator in taking the old warrior to 'meet' his adoring fans in front of the stands after victory in the 2003 Goodwood Cup, something that never really happened at the time.

On the long list of top jockeys who learnt their craft in the Balding academy – names like Ernie Johnson, Philip Waldron, John Matthias and, more recently, William Buick, David Probert, Oisin Murphy, Rob Hornby and Jason Watson – Martin holds a prominent position, even if his loyalty was briefly questioned when, riding for another trainer, a silver-tongued display in the stewards' room at Nottingham persuaded the officials to disqualify a Kingsclere runner and award him the race.

And I know that Andrew and Anna Lisa are delighted that he has been back to offer encouragement and advice to some of the current batch of apprentice recruits, some with more horsey pedigrees than others, some who once probably dreamed of scoring goals for their football clubs (even Everton), telling them that with hard work and a bit of luck – plus a few laughs along the way – next it could be them. ■



Coaching Baz Lewis on a mechanical horse in the hostel

YEARLING SALES 2023

Q&A with JAMIE RAILTON

With this year's round of yearling sales fast approaching, we thought it would be interesting for readers to find out more about the process of preparing and consigning young horses at auction.

Formerly a successful jump jockey, Jamie Railton has been buying and selling thoroughbreds for over 20 years. He and his team specialise in preparing and selling yearlings at all the major European sales, with past graduates including Group 1 winning sires Wootton Bassett and Advetise. Some of the yearlings Jamie sells are those he has bought himself as foals the previous year (a process known as 'pinhooking'), and his Jamie Railton Bloodstock Investment Scheme has achieved some notable successes in the ring, including with a Sea The Stars filly out of Diamonds Pour Moi, bought for 100,000gns in November 2021 and sold for over three times that amount at Arqana the following August.

Jamie also sells horses in training and breeding stock - he was responsible for seeing Group 1 winning filly Quiet Reflection through the ring for 2.1m guineas at Tattersalls in 2017, and last year took charge of Kingsclere-trained Bounce The Blues when she sold for 450,000gns in the inaugural Sceptre Sessions at the Tattersalls Mare Sale.

Buying and selling across Europe and previous work in the USA has given Jamie a firm grasp of bloodstock markets around the world, and he produces a monthly podcast, On The Coalface, in which he interviews key players in the industry about different topics. This is available on all the main podcast platforms and is well worth a listen!

Q: How do the horses you sell as yearlings vary?

JR: Although they are all yearlings, having officially turned one on 1st January in the year they sell, their actual birth dates can vary from January to May and they may be at very different stages in their physical development. About 70% of the horses we sell will be homebreds that we are selling on behalf of their breeders, with the remainder being pinhooks that have been bought as foals, either by me or by others.

Q: What do you look for when buying foals to sell as yearlings?

JR: When you are buying foals to pinhook you are, essentially, speculating on what other people will like the following year. You have to leave your own thoughts behind and try and anticipate what the market will do, so that you can select



Jamie Railton at Tattersalls

horses with a commercial upside. In terms of their physical presentation, the horse that terrifies me the most at the foal sales is a first foal born in January. They often look more mature than the others at the sale but, as a first foal, may not have the same scope for improvement. May foals are also tricky – you think they will improve, and they usually do, but sometimes not in time for the yearling sales!

Q: How do you decide which sale to enter a yearling in?

JR: This is one of the most important decisions for a seller and can make the difference between a great success and an absolute disaster. You need to read the market and try and place your horse where it might stand out – which is not

necessarily in the best sale. A horse in Book 1 that doesn't deserve to be there can end up selling very badly. Ideally you want to be in the top 20% of the market at the particular sale.

The sales run from August (Arqana August at Deauville and Goffs UK Premier at Doncaster) to late November (Tattersalls December Yearlings) which is a factor. You tend to need a precocious, two year old type for Doncaster and for the Tattersalls Somerville sale in early September, although recently some consigners have put the odd horse of a slightly different type in those sales to help them stand out, and this has worked to some extent.

Q: How do the sales companies decide which horses to accept into their sales?

JR: The sales companies have a very difficult job (much tougher than most consignors appreciate!) as most sales are heavily oversubscribed. The bloodstock teams come and inspect yearlings in the Spring and have to try and anticipate how much each horse will improve. They are, understandably, very driven by statistics – if the sales average for the yearling's sire is below the average for the particular sale, that is an automatic question mark and you have to convince them that this horse will do better than the stats suggest.

Yearlings are catalogued in alphabetical order by the name of their dam, starting with a different letter each year, so you can work out roughly where in the catalogue your horse will sell. That is an important factor – in general, you don't want to be at the back end of a huge sale like Book 2 and if that's where your horse will end up you might do better in Book 3. But it depends also on the horse and its pedigree – a very nice individual with a middling pedigree might get missed

at the back end of Book 2 but will stand out in Book 3, whilst a full brother to a Group 2 winner in the current year should be fine in Book 2 as his pedigree page will command attention.

Q: What goes into preparation for a sale on the administrative side?

JR: You pay your entry fee (these range from around £350 for the lesser sales to £1,660 for Book 1 at Tattersalls) and send in the required health documentation (a health declaration, proof of flu vaccinations etc.). You need to check the draft catalogue pages for your lots to make sure the pedigree is correct and includes any recent updates, although the sales companies are generally pretty good at spotting these.

As a rule, I think any yearling that is likely to make 50,000gns or more ought to go to the sale with a videoscope which is put in the repository and can be viewed at the sale by vets. We tend to do a videoscope on pretty much everything we sell, unless the owners don't want to pay for it – it reduces the stress on the horses at the sale as they are not repeatedly being scoped by different vets and it lets you know what you are dealing with – often a horse might just have a bit of inflammation which can be treated, for example.

Similarly, if a horse is going to make more than around 70,000gns then we will generally send it to the sale with a set of x-rays to go into the repository. Both these and the videoscope need to be done within ten days of the sale so they are sufficiently current.

We also do a lot of research on the horses – there shouldn't be a question that we cannot answer. We record all the ratings, racing distances and trainers of every horse within the first and second dam in the horse's pedigree. That is not only useful for buyers but also for spotting potential buyers – if I know that Andrew has trained something good in a yearling's family and he comes to see the horse several times, that's quite a good indication that he might be interested in buying it!

Q: And what is involved in preparing the horse for a yearling sale?

JR: We allow eight weeks for sales preparation. Essentially you are trying to educate the horse, getting it used to being in a confined area, to walking in hand and showing itself calmly, whilst also keeping it as close to nature as possible. We keep turning the horses out every day for as long as we can, and we do a lot of hand walking and some work on the lunge. You don't want to do too much on the lunge with a young horse as it can lead to issues such as sesamoiditis (inflammation of the sesamoid bones and associated ligaments in the horse's fetlocks). Some people use the treadmill and some swim their yearlings – there is no magic formula. You have a basic routine but you adjust it for each individual horse – its temperament, pedigree, condition and conformation.



Yearlings being shown at Tatteralls

Q: Are the horses that have been through a foal sale easier to prep?

JR: Not necessarily. Foal sales are tough for horses. There are more buyers and they like to view the horses more often because, as very young horses, they can be quite inconsistent – you might see a foal three times and get quite a different impression each time, whereas yearlings tend to be less variable. A foal at a sale will be twice as busy as the equivalent horse at a yearling sale and this can leave them rather jaded about humans and lacking in confidence, so they are not always the easiest to prep as yearlings.

Q: Some of the yearlings you sell will have been prepped elsewhere and only met by you at the sale. Is that difficult?

JR: Again, not necessarily. You need to get the measure of them quite quickly but sometimes a change in environment and handlers can be an advantage. Often you find that the horses which are cheekiest at home are quite different in a new place and with new people.

Q: Your area at the sales and your staff team are always very well presented with your branding etc. Is that important?

JR: As for any company involved in sales, presentation and brand recognition is important, but what is crucial is buyer confidence. Your reputation is everything, and once it is lost it is very hard to get back.

Q: What is the daily routine once you are at the sale?

JR: The horses all get exercised early in the morning. We very rarely lunge them at a sale but they will be hand-walked for 40 minutes. On their return from exercise they all get their microchips checked – my biggest fear is selling the wrong horse, and if you have five bay colts by the same sire, some of which you have only met at the sale, two might get put in the wrong boxes on their return from exercise and then you end up showing and selling them as each other. Checking the microchips every day prevents that.



In the ring at the Tattersalls July Sale

Once the horses have been exercised the staff go for breakfast, and then we are ready to show from 8am each day. At peak times the consignment can be extremely busy – the most popular yearlings might do a hundred shows a day. We have a number of people who are dedicated to organising shows for viewers, and we were the first consignment in Europe to move to using an automated inspection list on an iPad, rather than the traditional 'tick cards'.

This is especially good if you are managing horses in several different areas. It also means the owners of the yearlings can log in and see very quickly who has viewed their horse.

Matching the right staff to the right horse for showing is important – it can be disastrous if you get it wrong, but that becomes apparent very quickly. Good sales staff with good hands can manage any horse and are highly prized.

Q: How do you go about deciding upon the reserve for a yearling?

JR: The later you leave this the more accurate you can be – ideally I will not set a reserve until about half an hour before the horse is due to go into the ring. You need to factor in the statistics – the average for horses by the same sire, the average at that sale, where you think your horse sits in comparison to others at the sale and others by the same sire – and then you need to adapt for the individual horse, how popular it has been etc., and also for the individual client.

Q: What happens up at the sales ring?

JR: You want the horse to get to the ring in good time and without being rushed. It is crucial that the horse appears settled and relaxed in the back ring before going in to be sold. People can go off a horse very quickly if it is misbehaving or on its toes – I know I do – and, after all, how a horse behaves in the back ring at a sale will often mirror how it behaves when it goes to the races for the first time.

I will go up with each horse and make sure I am visible



Andrew inspecting yearlings at Goffs

and easy to approach for people with questions about the horse and to monitor levels of interest. I always think that a true reflection of a sale and the strength of the market is how many horses are inspected at the last minute and pulled out of the back ring for people to view.

Q: What happens if a horse doesn't make its reserve?

JR: If a horse doesn't sell in the ring it

may be possible to get a private sale done afterwards. I find in general that if this is going to happen you get indications of interest within an hour of the horse going through the ring, although occasionally you might get an enquiry that evening or the following day. If there is no private sale, the horse may be retained by its breeder to race, go to a later yearling sale, or be prepared for a breeze-up sale the following Spring.

Q: What changes have you seen in yearling sales over the 20+ years you have been involved in them?

JR: I think perhaps the biggest change is the gulf between dirt horses and turf horses in America, which has never been greater. In the 1980s and 1990s plenty of agents bought horses in America to race over here with great success. That doesn't happen any longer. There are more turf races in America than ever before and they carry phenomenal prize money but for some reason the Americans seem to have zero interest in standing turf stallions. The corollary is that you see many more US buyers at our yearling sales, buying turf horses to take back to the States.

Q: What is your most notable recent success?

JR: That would have to be Via Sistina, a mare by Fastnet Rock who we sold as a yearling and who this year won the Group 1 Pretty Polly Stakes at the Curragh before finishing third to Nashua in the Falmouth. She was one of the least obvious yearlings we have sold and only fetched 5,000gns – which just shows that none of us really have a clue! ■

SALES SEASON

The Yearling sales are just around the corner so Andrew and the team will be busy over the next couple of months trying to source some talented youngsters. With several sales coming up in the UK and Ireland as well as abroad, now is the time to get in touch if you are interested in getting involved.

We will be represented at the Goffs UK Premier Sale (29th – 30th August), Baden-Baden (1st September), Tattersalls Somerville (5th September), Tattersalls Ireland (19th-21st September), Goffs Orby (26th-27th September), and Tattersalls Books 1, 2, 3, 4 in Newmarket (3rd-14th October).



STAFF NEWS

STAFF CHANGES

Amelia Foster has finished her spell as Pupil Assistant so Chloe Lindsay is stepping up to fill that role. Chloe has been here for nearly two years and is a valuable rider of forward-going fillies in particular. We wish Amelia all the best for the future and have no doubt Chloe will be up to the new challenge.

CRICKET TEAM SUCCESS



Success on the cricket field

The cricket pitch has seen plenty of action this summer and our team, captained by Charlie Richards, has been unbeaten with a highlight being victory over Team Beckett! Well done to all involved and thanks to our gallopman Rob Bettany and Kingsclere Cricket Club's Mark Hirst for keeping the pitch in immaculate condition.

SUMMER PARTIES

We had two great parties on consecutive nights in July with an owners' party followed by one for all the Park House team. The weather was less kind on the second evening, but everyone still managed to enjoy themselves despite the very autumnal conditions! Many thanks to Anna Lisa for organising. It was also good to welcome lots of the team's families and friends for a game of cricket and barbecue, followed by a morning on the gallops as part of Racing Staff Week at the end of June.



Family and friends of some of the Park House team

EUGENE CULLEN'S RETIREMENT

Eugene Cullen has retired having been our farrier at Park House since 1986. Huge thanks for all his hard work and dedication over the years, and hopefully he can now enjoy a well-deserved retirement! Ben Tillett who has worked alongside Eugene for the last couple of years will now head our Farrier team.



Retirement drinks for farrier Eugene Cullen



Jack Fox after his first ride

JACK FOX'S FIRST RIDE

Well done to Jack Fox who was granted an amateur license and recently had his first ride at Salisbury for Simon Hodgson. They didn't trouble the judge on this occasion but a great experience for Jack and hopefully it won't be long! ■

CARVER'S COLLARBONE COMEBACK

Our apprentice Will Carver suffered a horror fall at Lingfield on 10th June and was ultimately lucky to escape with just a broken collarbone, but with the season in full flow it was not the best time for any jockey to be injured. With the help of Dr Jerry Hill at the BHA getting him specialist advice, and the team at the Injured Jockeys Fund's Oaksey House (which includes physios, nutritionists,



Will's collarbone fracture

sports psychologists, jockey coaches and strength & conditioning coaches) he was given the green light after 6 ½ weeks and wasted no time when winning on his first ride back at Newbury, on our debutante Clifton Bay (who very unfortunately has since suffered an injury at home) for Cayton Park Stud. Well done to Will for his hard work and determination, and thanks to everyone who helped him. ■

