

KINGSCLERE

PARK HOUSE STABLES



WINTER MAGAZINE 2025



Anna Lisa receiving the trophy and cheque for top Chester trainer in 2025

Front cover: Nine-time winner and yard favourite COLTRANE has retired at the age of eight

Back cover: GEWAN and jockey James Doyle with Sam Geake and Marie Perrault after winning the Group 1 Dewhurst

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INTRODUCTION AMB

2025 has been a memorable year for the Kingsclere team with a record number of winners and a record amount of prize money won.

Obviously, these numbers cannot be achieved without a strong team of horses in numbers and ability and we have been blessed with some outstanding performers over a range of ages and distances, winning stakes races from 5 furlongs to 2 miles and everything in between. Versatility is something that is important to our aims and ambitions for the future and one of the greatest features of racing in Britain is the variety it offers. Unique venues and historic races that test ability of every type of racehorse is not necessarily a feature in other racing jurisdictions and it is something that should be celebrated.

The recent relief at the Chancellor's budget announcement that betting taxes on British horseracing will not change is an opportunity for all the various factions with a vested interest in the sport to work together to improve the fabulous product we have. The British flat season has so much to offer, but as with everything there is a room for improvement and huge opportunities for everyone involved with some unity and shared ambition!

For next season, we are blessed with the prospect of 18 of our top 20 money earners of this season remaining in training in 2026 - that statistic alone should help the winter pass a little quicker than normal.

As well as a strong team of horses, the results of the season could not have been achieved without the continued hard work and devotion of the team at Park House. On work days the string of riders was close to 60 each lot and it is amazing that this could be achieved without compromising the standard of our riders.

Sadly 2025 saw the passing of two former jockeys who had played an important part in Kingsclere history. Geoff Lewis is famously associated with Park House having partnered Mill Reef in all his career starts and his achievements are discussed in more detail in these pages. Bruce Raymond rode many winners for my father both at home and abroad before becoming a Racing Manager for numerous owners racing under the Rabbah banner. In recent years, Bruce was responsible for overseeing many horses under our care and was one of the very best people you could have the pleasure to work with. He was wise and understanding with a great knowledge of horses, people and various situations. I will miss our regular telephone calls and his unwavering support for what we were trying to achieve together.

This winter, we will be planting two trees in the 'Starting Gate Field' in memory of Geoff and Bruce, two great jockeys and two great people ■



Members of the team in the King Power box at Ascot on British Champions Day

SEASON REVIEW

by Tessa Hetherington

With the growth in All-Weather racing and the flourishing of significant race meetings in the Middle East, there is little time to pause and reflect on what has been an excellent season for Park House Stables, but we shall do our best, looking back over the winners since the last magazine in mid-August.

In Andrew's introduction to that August magazine he noted that, whilst the yard had enjoyed an excellent start to the turf season, it was missing a winner at the very highest level on its 2025 scorecard. That gap was soon filled by the plucky **Never So Brave**, who progressed from his Royal Ascot handicap win and Group 2 Summer Mile victories to bring up a hat-trick in the City Of York Stakes at York's Ebor meeting in the race's inaugural year as a Group 1 contest. With the field including former Group 1 winners Rosallion, Qirat and Audience, plus future Group 1 winner Maranoa Charlie, it was every inch a top-flight contest but one which Saeed Suhail's son of No Nay Never won easily in the hands of Oisin Murphy. Undone by a tardy start and no luck in running in the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes on British Champions Day, **Never So Brave** remains full of potential and is a tremendously exciting prospect for 2026.

Further Group 1 glory was to follow on British Champions Day, however, with **Kalpana** putting on a dominant display to win the Fillies & Mares Stakes for the second year running. Always well positioned by Colin Keane, she cruised into the lead just before the two pole and from that

point the result never looked in doubt as she galloped on gamely under hands and heels to score by two and a half lengths from Lancashire Oaks heroine *Estrange*. In so doing **Kalpana** became one of just three horses to have won the race more than once in its long history, and the only one to have done so since it attained Group 1 status (the others being *Shebeen*, winner in 1974 and 1975 when it was the Group 3 Princess Royal Stakes, and *Crystal Capella*, winner in 2008 and 2010 when it was the Group 2 Pride Stakes). Her win was even more impressive as it came just thirteen days after her run in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, where her draw in ten forced her into a wide trip (the first four home were drawn in the first five stalls) and her game effort could not compensate for that disadvantage. We are delighted that her owner-breeders Juddmonte have elected to keep her in training as a five-year-old, with a bid to win an unprecedented third Fillies & Mares on the agenda for the lovely daughter of *Study of Man*.

Our tally of two Group 1s from the older horses could easily have been five, as we had three horses hit the crossbar at the highest level in the latter part of the season. The ever-consistent **See The Fire** had been too keen in a muddling running of the Juddmonte International at York, eventually staying on for fourth, before running a tremendous race in the Group 1 Prix de l'Opera at Longchamp on Arc weekend, handling the soft conditions well and coming with a late rattle under Oisin Murphy to be denied by just a short neck by the determined *Barnavara*. **See The Fire** then travelled to California for the Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf but was done no favours when drawn on the very outside and struggled to settle, having had to be restrained by Oisin to get a position closer to the rail. She stays in training next year and can hopefully gain a much-deserved top level triumph for owner-breeder Jeff Smith.

Flora Of Bermuda has now placed in four Group 1s, adding a third in this year's Haydock Sprint Cup to placings in last year's Prix Maurice du Gheest and British Champion's Sprint, and this year's Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Stakes at Royal Ascot. She has often been unlucky in running and that proved the case again at Haydock, where she got caught up in scrimmaging two furlongs out before running on strongly once clear of trouble. She had fewer obvious excuses in the



KALPANA flying home to a second British Champions Fillies & Mares win

British Champions Sprint on her latest start where she finished mid division, but she has had a good long break now and can bounce back to her best next term. She fully deserves a win at the highest level, and the sprint division seems sufficiently open for that to happen in 2026.

The three-year-old **Blue Bolt** headed into the second half of the season with a hat-trick of wins under her belt, having won novices at Newbury and Windsor before annexing the Listed Coral Distaff at Sandown in July. Runner-up by just half a length to Lady of Spain on soft ground in the Group 3 Atalanta Stakes at Sandown in August, she faced that rival again on a better surface in the Group 1 Sun Chariot Stakes over a mile at Newmarket in October. Here she comprehensively reversed the form, finding only four-time Group 1 winner Fallen Angel too good, with the first pair well clear of the rest of the field. This was a career-best from Juddmonte's daughter of Blue Point and, with only six starts on her resume, she remains unexposed and capable of better still next year.

The other older horse to achieve a Group 1 placing in the latter part of the season was, of course, the marvellous **Coltrane**. The Prix du Cadran at Longchamp in October was his thirty fifth career start, and his eighth at Group 1 level. As ever he gave it all, leading the field from the off until passed by Caballo de Mer in the closing stages, fighting back gamely but ultimately conceding triumph to a rival four years his junior and with sixteen fewer starts in his legs. His retirement was announced immediately after the race and, whilst he did not get the Group 1 win he so deserved and the ultimate fairytale ending to his racing career, he lost nothing in defeat and ended his career a sound, happy horse, still operating at the highest echelons of the sport. The winner of nine races (six at Group or Listed level) and placed in a further twelve (eight at Group of Listed level), he secured over £1m in prize money and the love and respect of many, at Kingsclere and beyond.

Coltrane is a shining example of the capacity of horses to surprise and delight. So slow in his homework as a young three-year-old that the trainer wondered whether it was worth running him at all, rather than selling him whilst he was still eligible for National Hunt bumpers, he exceeded all expectations when finishing second on his debut and won his third start, the first of a hat-trick of wins culminating in the Melrose Handicap at York. A significant injury to his right hind later that season saw him off the track for over a year, with a pin in his leg that put paid to any Melbourne Cup aspirations. Progress was not exactly linear when he returned on the All-Weather at the end of his four-year-old year, but once he got onto the turf as a five-year-old he was a revelation, winning the Ascot Stakes at the Royal meeting, the Listed Coral Marathon and the Group 2 Doncaster Cup before going down by just a head to Trueshan in the Long Distance Cup on British Champions Day. He continued to perform at the highest level for the next three seasons, with career bests coming at six in his Group 2 Lonsdale

Cup win at York and his second to Courage Mon Ami in the Group 1 Ascot Gold Cup. A wonderful servant to the yard, his groom Ryan Gradwell, regular rider Chris Hannaford and devoted owners Mick and Janice Mariscotti, he will remain at Kingsclere as a hack, a role perfectly suited to his exceptional temperament!

We won another Melrose at York this year with the Juddmonte homebred **Tarriance**, who had marked himself out as a young stayer of note when winning a fourteen-furlong handicap at Sandown in July. He had to battle hard to follow up over the same trip at York but showed a tremendous attitude to fend off the challenge of the favourite and take the spoils under Colin Keane. By Frankel, Tarriance is out of the Oasis Dream mare Visit, who was a Group 3 winner over seven furlongs but was Group 1 placed over ten furlongs in the USA. His stamina assured, he headed to Doncaster for the St Leger but ran no sort of race there, perhaps out of his depth but perhaps also feeling the effects of a busy first season on the track. He has been gelded and has had a good break. The Red Sea Handicap in Saudi Arabia in February is under consideration for him, but in any event he should be a force in some of the major staying contests next year.

The yard had two runners in the St Leger this year, with Tarriance joined by **Furthur**, the son of Waldgeist who had run so well in the Queen's Vase at Royal Ascot before disappointing in the Bahrain Trophy at Newmarket. He bounced back to form with a decisive win in the Group 3 Geoffrey Freer Stakes over fifteen and a half furlongs at Newbury, staying on strongly under Oisin Murphy to win by three lengths. Whilst he only beat his stablemate home in the Leger, he was not far behind the rest of a strong field and ran well enough to prompt connections to pursue his entry in the Melbourne Cup, where he would benefit from the handicap conditions and carry an attractively low weight. Having handled all the preparations for the race with aplomb, he found himself rather far back in the large



FURTHUR in Melbourne this Autumn



SUBSEQUENT won the Mallard at Doncaster under Oisin Murphy

field at Flemington and wasted vital reserves by rather over-racing in the early stages. He made good progress late on but ultimately had too much to do and finished eleventh of the twenty-four contenders, far from disgraced in the race that stops the nation. Gelded on his return to Kingsclere, he will have a good break now and remains a lovely prospect, particularly as he is the type to continue to improve as he strengthens and matures. A return to Oz could well be on the cards for him.

Whilst we had no winner in the Leger we nevertheless had a good stayer win on the same day in the shape of **Subsequent**, who took the Mallard Handicap over the Leger trip in the hands of Oisin Murphy. Jim and Fitri Hay's son of Galileo had missed the first half of the season through injury and took a few runs to get back to his best, but had run well in the Ebor after getting unsettled in the stalls. He built on that at Doncaster, going one better than he had in the same race last year. Winner of the Listed Noel Murless Stakes at Ascot in 2024, he can step back up into Stakes company next term and will hopefully develop into a Cup horse. The yard won the Noel Murless again this year, with Kennet Valley Thoroughbreds' **Fantasy World**. The son of Make Believe had won his maiden at Ffos Las and a Racing League race at Yarmouth before finishing fifth behind Tarriance in the Melrose and third in a Class 2 handicap over fourteen furlongs at Haydock. Friendless in the market at Ascot, he defied his odds of 20/1 and showed real tenacity under a great ride from Rob Hornby, who did well to settle him in the early stages and had him well positioned throughout. Progressive throughout the season and with a profile that made him attractive to domestic and foreign buyers alike, Fantasy World was far from friendless at the Tattersalls Horses In Training sale where he fetched 600,000gns. He was bought by Jerry McGrath to join Nicky Henderson's yard with a view to running both over obstacles and on the flat. A very sound

horse with a great attitude, he should do very well for his new connections and we look forward to seeing him on the track for them.

Also sold at Tattersalls was fellow stayer **Alsakib**, a Group 3 winner last year who was placed in the Listed Chester Stakes in late August and has now joined the yard of Donald McCain. Chester once again proved a happy hunting ground for the wonderful **Spirit Mixer**, winner of the Northumberland Plate at Newcastle in June. In October he notched up a second win in the Watergate Cup over two miles on the Roodee, again in the hands of Rob Hornby with whom he has had such a successful partnership. Denied a clear run when fourth in the Listed Rose Bowl at Newmarket on his final start of the season,

Jeff Smith's son of Frankel will be eight next year but shows no sign of slowing down. Kingsclere Racing Club's **Mount Atlas** nearly added to the yard's Chester tally when second to the marvellous Hamish in the Listed Stand Cup in September. This was probably a career best from the son of Masar, who ran well again to be fourth to the same rival in the Group 3 St Simon Stakes at Newbury on his final start of the year, where the softer surface did not play to his strengths. He looks capable of a black-type win next year.

Michael Blencowe's **Belgravian**, like Fantasy World a son of Make Believe, notched up no less than four wins this year, culminating in a Class 3 victory over two miles at Goodwood in August under Jason Watson. This raised his official rating to 96, some 29 pounds above the mark off which he scored his first win, at Doncaster in June. Third in the Cesarewitch Trial at Newmarket in September, nothing much went right for him in the Cesarewitch itself, where he was rather keen and then hit trouble in running. He can continue to progress next term. In the same ownership the



FANTASY WORLD in the ring at Tattersalls in October



SPIRIT MIXER recorded his fourth win at Chester in the Watergate Cup under Rob Hornby

excellently-named **Peaky Blinder** marked himself out as a fun stayer for 2026 when running out the easy winner of a fourteen-furlong handicap at Redcar in October, having placed at Southwell and Kempton earlier in the year. By Soldier Hollow and out of a Lord of England mare, he ought to do even better next year and perhaps over further. **Berkshire Sundance**, a dual winner over staying trips in 2024, missed most of the year through injury but rewarded his owner Paul Spickett's patience when making a winning return to action at York in October. Strongly fancied to follow-up at Southwell on his latest start, he ran rather flat, perhaps feeling the effects of his long absence. He can bounce back and have more good days.

The yard had a trio of Group 2 wins in this second part of the season, with **Jonquil** gaining a deserved second Group success in the Celebration Mile at Goodwood in late August, having gone agonisingly close in the French 2,000 Guineas in May. Back up to a mile for the first time since that run, he was a little keen in the early stages at Goodwood but jockey Colin Keane got him settled with enough in reserve to stay on strongly to the line and win by a neck. Juddmonte's son of Lope de Vega then travelled to the US to contest the Group 1 Coolmore Turf Mile at Keeneland and ran well to be fourth after a slow start from a wide draw. He returned to the States in October, this time to Del Mar for the Breeders' Cup Mile, but was once again done no favours by the draw and finished mid-division, the impact of a busy season perhaps showing in his effort. He has plenty of potential over a mile and perhaps further still next term.

The second Group 2 winner came in the shape of Rex and Wendy Gorell's **Marvelman**, who contributed to a memorable five-timer on Leger day when winning the Park Stakes over seven furlongs at Doncaster under Oisin Murphy. The Invincible Spirit colt had been quietly progressive all season, winning his maiden by five lengths at Kempton in March before placing in Listed contests at Newmarket and Chester and running a fine race at Newbury to be third in

the Group 2 Hungerford Stakes. Sent off mid-division in the betting at Doncaster, he made light work of his opposition, cruising clear two furlongs out to win by three and a half lengths. Then purchased by Bond Thoroughbreds to stay in the yard, Marvelman could not make an impression in the Group 1 Queen Elizabeth II Stakes on Champions Day, but remains unexposed and has plenty more to offer next season. He could start his season early in the Group 2 Turf Sprint at Riyadh in Saudi Arabia in February.

The final Group 2 winner came in Italy when gentle giant **Eydon** got his head in front in the Group 2 Gran Premio de Jockey Club at San Siro in October. Winner of the Group 3 Aston Park Stakes at Newbury in May, Eydon's twelve runs in five seasons of racing give an indication of his fragility but when he's on song he is a smart horse and he showed this once again in Rome, making all under PJ McDonald to



MARVELMAN cruised clear in the Group 2 Park Stakes under Oisin Murphy

win by a length and three quarters from previous Group 2 winner Alleno, who had also placed in two Group 1s in his native Germany. Prince A A Faisal's son of Olden Times now heads further East for the Group 1 Hong Kong Vase later this month. Foreign travel also proved fruitful this Autumn for Royal Ascot heroine **Miss Information**, who won the Listed Wackenhut Fillies Cup at Baden Baden in September under Callum Hutchinson. This was her first run in black type company and a valuable addition to her pedigree page. Norman Court Stud and Susan Bunney's daughter of Blue Point has now headed to the breeding paddocks and should make a lovely broodmare.

Almeric has not been abroad but did travel to Scotland in September, for his first run since winning the Listed Feilden Stakes at Newmarket back in April. The only sign of ring rustiness from Kirsten Rausing's son of Study Of Man was a rather slow exit from the stalls in the Listed Doonside Cup, but once he got into his stride he showed his true colours, quickening well in the soft ground to pass the entire field and win going away under Oisin Murphy.

He was again slow away in the Group 1 Champion Stakes at Ascot in October and found that hindrance more difficult to overcome on quicker ground and in better company. Still very lightly raced, there should be plenty more to come from him. King Power's **Fox Legacy** fared better in the Champion Stakes, finishing sixth on his return from a break after his win at the Qatar Goodwood Festival. Thrown in the deep end for his first start in Stakes company, he acquitted himself well and is a lovely prospect for next year.

The yard will be without the services of **Windlord** next year, Juddmonte's son of Dubawi having been sold to race on in Hong Kong after success in the Listed Gala Stakes at Sandown and a good third in the Group 3 Gordon Stakes at Goodwood.

There was a chance that **Gladius** could leave the yard as he was offered for sale at Tattersalls in October, but happily he was bought by Wathnan Racing and has returned to Kingsclere to be part of a strong team of four-year-olds for 2026. A winner of three of his six starts, fourth in the Group 3 Strensall Stakes at York and second in the Group 3 Darley Stakes at Newmarket shortly before the sale, his attractive profile led to him topping the sale with a price tag of 950,000gns. He heads to the Qatar Derby later this month and should do well there. The four-year-old squad will also include Jeff Smith's **Royal Playwright**, who was third in the Group 3 Winter Hill Stakes over ten furlongs at Windsor in August before winning a conditions race over same trip at Goodwood, and the lightly raced **High Stock**, whose close fourth in the Listed Foundation Stakes at Goodwood in September indicated plenty of potential left in the tank for owner Sheikh Hamed Dalmook Al Maktoum.



Harry Cobden is not a familiar face on Kingsclere horses but won the Jump Jockeys' Challenge at Chester on PLAYTIME

As ever, we had a large draft at the Tattersalls Horses In Training Sale in October, with twenty-eight horses sold. Amongst them was the prolific **Falmouth Lad**, who notched up a hat-trick of wins in the latter part of the season, winning over a mile at Kempton in August and at Newmarket in September before following up over the extended mile at Epsom in October. Having provided owner Jonathan Palmer-Brown with some fun days on these shores, he is set to continue his career in the fast-growing racing jurisdiction of Bahrain. Staying closer to home is **Spell Master**, another son of Kameko who secured a second career win when scoring over seven furlongs at Newcastle in October under Joe Fanning. A consistent sort who has only been out of the top four twice in nine starts (on his debut and on his return from a break in September), he was bought by former Kingsclere pupil assistant Oli Rix, who has just started training in Newmarket. We wish him all the luck in his new venture and hope that Spell Master can contribute many wins to his tally! Another Kameko to sell in October was **Terrapin**, Kingsclere Racing Club's half-brother to Elm Park, who won over a mile at Newcastle earlier that month under PJ McDonald.

Neven Botica's **Playtime** is a big scopey horse who looks made for jumping and highlighted his credentials for that sphere by winning the Jump Jockeys Challenge Handicap at Chester in September under Harry Cobden. He sold at Tattersalls to Gordon Elliott, who has frequently done well with ex-Kingsclere inmates, most recently this year's Galway Hurdle winner Ndaawi. At the speedier end of the spectrum, Opulence Thoroughbred's **Marchogian** fetched 150,000gns from Global Equine Group, the son of Mehmas having won over six furlongs at Southwell in January, Newmarket in May and Chester in August. Dual Chester winner **Brighton Boy** was bought by William Easterby, son of trainer Tim, so will now have a slightly shorter journey to his favourite track! The Dark Angel filly



TERRAPIN scored at Newcastle under PJ McDonald for the Kingsclere Racing Club



RESPOND won at Haydock in August and has run with credit since

Musical Angel had placed at Chester this year, in between wins at Brighton in June and at Epsom in September. The latter was Andrew's 150th winner for her owner-breeder Jeff Smith – testament to a wonderful relationship and many years of strong support for the yard. She too sold at Tattersalls, alongside **Star Chorus**, who added a third career win to his resume when scoring at Southwell in September, and **Mad Unicorn**, who won a nursery at Wolverhampton in October and placed twice more before the sale. She has since won again for new trainer Michael Keady. Yulong's **Best Adventure** recorded his third win of the year at Newcastle in October under Silvestre de Sousa, his first triumph on the All Weather after victories at Sandown and Newmarket earlier in the year. He too sold at Tattersalls and will continue his career in Bahrain.

Others to have made hay on the All-Weather in recent months include **Hatysa**, Newsells Park Stud's well-bred daughter of Sea The Stars adding to her July win at Southwell with a brace of victories over two miles in September, the first at Newcastle and the second back at Southwell, both in the hands of PJ McDonald. **Stateira** is another filly to have scored at both Southwell and Newcastle this year – at the former in February under Nicola Currie and at the latter on her most recent start under Will Carver. She stays in training next term and could target the All-Weather Championships for owner Gary Gillies. Fellow three-year-old **Classical Allusion** did not make his racecourse debut until late September, but he made up for lost time by making his first start a winning one, scoring over twelve furlongs at Southwell under Callum Hutchinson. A big, leggy son of Ulysses whose dam is a half-sister to Doncaster Cup winner Desert Skyline, he should have plenty more to offer for owners Mick and Janice Mariscotti as he matures further and steps up in trip. **Secret Sonata**, Guy Brook's homebred half-sister to Group 3 winner Secret Satire, was placed at Southwell in September but broke her maiden

on the turf at Catterick in October, scoring over six furlongs, also under Callum Hutchinson. She was then sold at the December Mare Sale at Tattersalls.

Highclere Thoroughbreds **Respond** won over ten furlongs at Haydock in August and has since run well twice more, placing third in a good handicap over the same trip at Doncaster's Leger meeting and then running well to be fifth in the Old Rowley Cup over twelve furlongs at Newmarket. A son of Ghaiyyath, he can improve again next year. The lovely **Lieber Power** is ultra consistent and deserved his win over the extended thirteen furlongs at Newbury in September, having placed on five of his six previous starts. Now on a career-high mark of 95, he will find things tougher next time but he is a useful horse

and can remain competitive.

For the last time, the last word within the older horse section of this review goes to the wonderful **King's Lynn**, who will retire at the end of the year. Homebred by Queen Elizabeth II out of Kingsclere winner Kinematic, he won the big Doncaster median auction race as a two-year-old (on just his second start) and the Group 2 Temple Stakes at Haydock as a five-year-old. In total he secured five career wins, the latest of which came in a Class 2 Handicap back at Haydock in July of this year. For the last two and a half seasons he has been owned by Andrew and has acted in part as an apprentice horse, giving invaluable experience to his young pilots in high level races, often with big fields. Not always the easiest ride on the gallops, he was an absolute saint everywhere else and had become part of the furniture at Park House. He will be much missed.

TWO YEAR OLDS

Not to be outdone by the older horses, the Kingsclere juveniles also produced a Group 1 winner in the shape of **Gewan**. Bought at the breeze-up sales by Billy Jackson-Stops for Al Rabban Racing, Gewan had won on debut by the time of the last edition of this magazine but remained totally unexposed. Having won the same maiden as Chaldean three years earlier, he followed in that horse's illustrious footsteps by winning the Group 3 Acomb Stakes at York on his next start, following which he was purchased by Zhang Yuesheng's Yulong operation. Chaldean had followed up his Acomb win in the Group 2 Champagne Stakes at Doncaster but Gewan never seemed at ease in the race, leaving the stalls awkwardly and then being uncharacteristically keen in the hands of his Acomb pilot, PJ McDonald, eventually finishing fourth. The comparisons with Chaldean in the press dried up, but those who knew Gewan best and had witnessed his homework in the run-up to the Dewhurst retained faith in the plucky son



A happy James Doyle as GEWAN crosses the line in the Dewhurst

of Night Of Thunder. He went off at 25/1 at Newmarket but put up a convincing performance that defied his odds, staying on strongly up the hill under James Doyle to win by three quarters of a length from Coventry winner Gstaad, who has since also won the Group 1 Breeders Cup Juvenile Turf. Having stayed the seven-furlong trip with ease and having handled the rigours of the Rowley Mile like a pro, he looks the ideal candidate for the 2,000 Guineas, where he will once again aim to emulate Chaldean and also his own sire, who won the race in 2014. Whether or not he takes in a trial will be determined by his early work in the Spring, but he is a tremendously exciting horse to have in the yard.

Wathnan Racing's **Humidity**, hero of the Chesham Stakes at Royal Ascot, had disappointed in the Vintage Stakes at Goodwood but bounced back with a great effort in the Group 3 Solario Stakes at Sandown in August, running a close third to A Bit Of Spirit and then promoted to second due to interference from the second in the straight. He again showed a great attitude when battling to the line in the Group 2 Royal Lodge at Newmarket, handling the step up to the mile well and going down by just a length to Bow Echo. A setback ruled out his participation at the Breeders' Cup but we look forward to next term with him - his versatility regarding ground conditions and the chance that he may stay further than a mile will give him plenty of options, including the European 2,000 Guineas races and perhaps the French Derby.

It seems unlikely that **Five Ways** will stay further than a mile, Dr John Hobby's son of Kameko being out of Kingsclere six furlong Listed winner Rosie Briar and from a generally speedy family. He won impressively on his second start, putting five lengths between himself and the rest of the field at Salisbury in August, before taking the Group 3 Sirenia Stakes at Kempton in September under Jason Watson, who has ridden him on all his starts. A step up into Group 1 company followed in the Middle Park at Newmarket where he again acquitted himself well to be fourth – he could well have been closer had he settled better in the early stages. All his starts to date have been over six furlongs and should that prove to be his optimum trip then the Group 1 Commonwealth Cup at Royal Ascot looks an obvious target for him next year, but it

may be that he can stay a little further if maturity helps to curb his often-over-enthusiastic running style.

The yard will hopefully also have representation in the 1,000 Guineas next May with both Pacific Mission and Mubasimah having marked themselves out as top class performers. **Pacific Mission** was green as grass on her debut at Ascot in July but put on a much more professional performance to win at Kempton next time out under Will Carver. Slow out and then keen in the Group 2 May Hill Stakes at Doncaster in September she did well to finish second and headed to Del Mar for the Breeders Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf over a mile at the end of October. Drawn in the car park, she was again slowly away but this probably



FIVE WAYS won the Group 3 Sirenia Stakes at Kempton under Jason Watson before running well in the Group 1 Middle Park



MUBASIMAH won on debut at Newmarket under Tom Marquand

helped her to get a better track position and, benefiting from a fine ride from Colin Keane, she followed eventual winner Balantina and scythed through the field, running on strongly to finish second, just lacking the finishing kick of the winner. Bred and owned by Juddmonte, she is out of dual Group 3 winner Big Break who never ran beyond a mile, but she is by Lope de Vega and so may well stay further in time. Proven on a variety of surfaces, she will have the Guineas as her early season target and is an exciting filly for next year.

Mubasimah did not make her racecourse debut until late September but made it a winning one, making all over seven furlongs at Newmarket to win cosily under Tom Marquand. Stepping up into Group 3 company in the Oh So Sharp Stakes at the same track the following month was a big ask, but she put in a game effort, rallying when headed and beaten only by the more experienced Calendar Girl. A daughter of Frankel and out of a Listed winner who stayed



ITEM is now two from two and looks a smart prospect

a mile, she should have no problem getting the Guineas trip and has more experience of the idiosyncrasies of the Rowley Mile than some! She too is an exciting prospect for the yard and for owner-breeder Sheikh Juma Dalmook Al Maktoum.

Frankel is also the sire of **Item**, and Juddmonte's homebred colt went into plenty of notebooks when winning by three and a half lengths on debut at Kempton under Colin Keane before following up over a mile and under a penalty at Bath under Rob Hornby with the same winning margin. Heavy ground at Doncaster in October kiboshed his intended run in the Group 1 Futurity Trophy but his entry in that race shows the regard with which he is held. Out of a Group 1 winning Lope de Vega mare, he could mature into a Derby horse and is likely to start out in a trial next Spring.

At the speedier end of the spectrum, Saeed Suhail's **Comical Point** ran well to be fourth in the Group 2 Gimcrack at York and to be third in the Listed Rockingham



GHOST MODE broke the 7f track record at Chester

Stakes at the same track in October, both over six furlongs. Time will tell as to how far he stays but he could be one for the Group 2 Jersey Stakes over seven furlongs at the Royal meeting. That race could also be in prospect for **Stellar Sunrise**, who followed up his six furlong Goodwood maiden win with a facile victory in the seven-furlong nursery at York's Ebor meeting. Perhaps finding the soft ground too much of a stamina test on his return from a break in the Group 3 Horris Hill at Newbury on his latest start, he should give the Royal Ascot Racing Club plenty more good days next term. Fellow Goodwood winner **Sir Albert** is also proven over seven furlongs and was a good third in the Listed Flying Scotsman Stakes at Doncaster in September. He failed to shine in the new two-year-old race on British Champions Day but this came at the end of a busy season and he should be well up to winning at Stakes level next term.

Michael Blencowe's **Ghost Mode** had placed on his first three starts, including in the seven-furlong maiden at Goodwood, before winning his maiden at Chester by some



TIGER POWER got off the mark at Haydock in September

five and a half lengths, the turning track and a composed ride by Rob Hornby helping him show his true colours and break the juvenile track record in the process. A winner everywhere but the line when beaten a nose in the EBF £100,000 Final at York in October, the son of Ghaiyyath is a lovely prospect for next year, particularly if he learns to settle better in his races.

Owners Mick and Janice Mariscotti have enjoyed a tremendous season with Zavateri, trained by Eve Johnson Houghton to win three Group races including the Group 1 National Stakes at the Curragh, but they also have a decent performer in **Allegresse**, who won on his second start over a mile at Kempton by some nine and a half lengths under Oisin Murphy, the pair then following up under a penalty in a valuable Novice over the same course and distance in September. Allegresse failed to handle the track on quick ground in the Group 3 Zetland Stakes over ten furlongs at Newmarket in October but he should stay that trip and perhaps further next term. Now gelded, he seems unlikely to reach the heady heights of Zavateri but he is a lovely horse with plenty of options.

Javier Maldonado's Super Sprint third **Sands Of Spain** continued to run well, finishing a close fourth in the Tattersalls Somerville Sale Auction race at Newmarket in August. He failed to get home over six furlongs in soft ground in the Group 2 Mill Reef but bounced back on a better surface to be second in a good nursery at York in October before selling at Tattersalls later the same month. **Laazm** was the winner of a York nursery in October, following his debut win at Chester and second place at the same track under a penalty. Sheikh Hamed Dalmook Al Maktoum's son of Mehmas was another to sell at the

end of the season, in his case to Hong Kong. **Rising Empire** failed to make an impression in the big Doncaster median auction race in September on his return from over three months off the track but bounced back to form with a good third in the Tattersalls October sales race at Newmarket before selling later that month. Teme Valley Racing's **New Monarch** took his place in the sales race for the Goffs Orby sale, the Goffs Million, and acquitted himself well to be fourth in a competitive field of thirty. Still a maiden, he should be a fun horse next term.

Simplify, a filly by Profitable, had put in good performances to be second at Newbury in July and Bath in August before gaining a deserved victory over six furlongs at Thirsk in September under Hollie Doyle. She should make up into a smart handicapper for owners Ahmad Alkhalafi and Marc Waters. Also by Profitable, **Tiger Power** got off the mark more quickly, scoring on his debut over seven furlongs at Haydock in September under PJ McDonald, before running respectably to be third under a penalty at Newcastle in October. He looks to be on an attractive mark to start his three-year-old campaign for owners FMQ Stables.

The yard had a host more late blooming juveniles who scored in the latter part of the season and remain unexposed. **Venetian Prince** is the latest in a line of good horses produced by Juddmonte International winner by Arabian Queen and got off the mark on his second start in a valuable Novice at Newbury in August under Oisin Murphy. The form of that race is working out well and Jeff Smith's homebred son of new sire St Mark's Basilica could get going early in 2026 in one of the good Conditions races on the All Weather before reverting to the



PRIZELAND is a full-sister to Hoo Ya Mal and won well at Kempton in October



WINGED ONE left her opposition well behind at Newcastle on her second start

turf. He ought to stay ten furlongs and could be one for the Group 3 Hampton Court Stakes at the Royal meeting. Cheveley Park's **Imperial Ballet** was another Newbury winner, striking on her debut over six furlongs in late August under Oisin, winning by three and a half lengths. By Blue Point and out of a twelve-furlong winner who has already produced Group 3 winner Positive, she looks sure to progress next term. Another filly to win on debut was Cayton Park Stud's **Black Chiffon**, a daughter of Night Of Thunder who won the Class 2 Quidhampton maiden over seven furlongs at Salisbury in October. Out of a Group 3 winner and from the family of Reckless Abandon, she could be one for a Guineas trial next Spring. We are also looking forward to the return of Salisbury winner **Factual**, who had a setback after his debut win in June but is back in full work and could reappear on the track in January.

Magic Trip was an impressive winner at Bath on debut in September under Jason Watson. A bold bid to score some black type in the Group 3 Premio Gran Criterium in Rome did not come off, but The Yippees' son of Study of Man, now gelded, has plenty more to offer next year. The same is true of Ahmad Al Shaikh's **A Taste Of Glory**, a German-bred son of Soldier Hollow who was overfaced in the Group 1 Criterium de Saint Cloud in October but who had shown good ability when placing on his first two starts and winning over a mile at Brighton.

Michael Wates' **Prizeland** is a full sister to Hoo Ya Mal, who was second in the Derby for Ahmad Al Shaikh. She was impressive when winning over a mile at Kempton in October on her second start

and has the makings of a nice middle-distance filly. She could be one for an Oaks trial in the Spring. **Winged One** is another who should stay well, being by Australia and out of a US Grade 3 winner who stayed twelve furlongs and has already produced three-time Kingsclere winner Australian Angel, a winner over fourteen furlongs. George Strawbridge's filly won easily over a mile at Newcastle on her second start under PJ McDonald. **Moonlight Warrior** was another juvenile to score at Newcastle second time out, and Jim and Fitri Hay's Gleneagles colt is also from a family we know well, being out of Kingsclere Group 3 winner Merry Me. He could develop into a Britannia horse next term.

Kingsclere Racing Club had a juvenile winner in **Eastern Veil**, a daughter of Bangkok and Kingsclere winner Sneaky Peek. She won over the extended mile at Wolverhampton on her second start and should be a fun horse for the Club next term. Denford Stud's **Crockham Heath** was hopelessly green on debut at Newmarket in September but put that experience to good use when scoring over a mile at Southwell next time out. A son of Sea The Moon, he should stay further next term which will open up plenty of options. The same is true of **Hard To Believe**, a son of Make Believe who won well at Bath in October on his second start, improving markedly on his debut at Salisbury the previous month. He can continue on an upward trajectory for owners Jayar Investments and Linda Ramsden.

As shown in this review, there is much to look forward to in 2026, including many promising horses that are yet to win but have shown plenty either on the track or at home. Exciting times! ■



MOONLIGHT WARRIOR looking pleased as punch after winning at Newcastle in October

Kingsclere Racing Club

It has been a very exciting year on the racecourse for the KRC, the tally of five winners not telling the full story, as we had no fewer than 15 seconds! The prize-money tally of £136,336 at the time of writing is our highest total since 2019 and the fifth highest since the Club was launched back in 2008.

Much of that came courtesy of our flagbearer Mount Atlas, who gave us some wonderful days' racing, including a fourth in the Rosebery on his reappearance, fifth in the Duke of Edinburgh at Royal Ascot and a deserved success at Ascot in July. He went very close at Listed level in September and hopefully he can improve again in 2026!

Urban Glimpse showed a smart level of form prior to an injury that curtailed his season, but he will be back in 2026 and is one we are really looking forward to, with Solar Pass and Eastern Veil others to have won this year and with the scope to progress further next term.

An unexposed team of nine three-year-olds, including the aforementioned Eastern Veil, will be joined by a group of four two-year-olds, including a



EASTERN VEIL was a winning juvenile for the Club this term

Stradivarius half-sister to Urban Glimpse and an Elm Park filly first foal out of dual KRC winner Damned Elusive.

A near-full complement of members in attendance for our Christmas Party at the beginning of December ensures that we can celebrate another highly enjoyable year's racing together...and start looking forward to next season ■



The latest recipients of the Spillers Employee Of The Month Awards are:

JASON CLIFFORD for excellent work in the saddle and on the ground, showing good initiative and reliability in assisting with treatments for horses in the afternoons.

NOEMI JERE for continued hard work, providing excellent care for her horses and showing great vigilance in spotting anything amiss.

AWARDS



SHAKTI SINGH for his excellent attitude, friendly approach and consistently high standards.

FAE MATHIAS for making a great start to her time at Kingsclere, settling in to the team well and showing good skill in her riding.

Many congratulations to the winners, and many thanks to Spillers for their continued support of this valued initiative. ■



Jason Clifford



Noemi Jere



Shakti Singh



Fae Mathias

THE SEASON IN NUMBERS

1st January 2025 – 1st December 2025

	WINS	RUNS	%	2NDS	3RDS	4THS	TOTAL £
UK	190	1,033	18	151	131	149	7,212,831
FOREIGN	2	26	18	6	1	3	1,251,446
TOTALS	192	1,059	18	157	132	152	8,464,277

MONTH BY MONTH

MONTH	WINS	RUNS	%
January	11	52	21
February	9	43	21
March	9	52	17
April	15	95	16
May	23	141	16
June	32	147	22
July	25	132	19
August	22	110	20
September	25	133	19
October	19	117	16
November	2	37	5

GROUP BY GROUP

	WINS	RUNS	%
2yo	43	238	18
3yo	106	560	19
4yo+	43	260	17
Turf	131	711	18
AW	61	348	18
Under 8f	76	407	19
8f+	116	617	19
Colts/Geldings	150	730	21
Fillies/Mares	42	329	13

TOP TEN EARNERS

1 Kalpana	£729,546
2 Never So Brave	£525,723
3 The Foxes	£513,723
4 See The Fire	£452,835
5 Gewan	£391,642
6 Jonquil	£327,239
7 Furthur	£227,418
8 Fox Legacy	£215,054
9 Flora of Bermuda	£185,795
10 Pacific Mission	£166,120



NEVER SO BRAVE was the yard's second highest earner



STATEIRA was one of 21 winners at Newcastle this year

TOP TEN TRACKS

	WINS	RUNS	%
1 Kempton (AW)	17	102	17
2 Southwell (AW)	13	89	15
3 Ascot	8	69	12
4 Newcastle (AW)	21	64	33
5 Goodwood	9	63	14
6 Newbury	15	58	26
7 Newmarket	11	55	20
8 York	12	54	22
9 Chester	12	48	25
10 Doncaster	7	38	18

BUSY BEES – MOST RUNS

1 Kings Lynn	14
2 Star Chorus	13
3 Best Adventure	11
4 Belgravian	10
4 Marchogion	10
6 Kingmaker	9
6 Lieber Power	9



Callum Hutchinson rode 17 winners for the yard this term



KING'S LYNN has made an impressive fourteen starts so far this year

TOP TEN JOCKEYS

	WINS	RUNS	%
1 Oisin Murphy	67	295	23
2 PJ McDonald	29	84	35
3 Jason Watson	27	148	18
4 Callum Hutchinson	17	123	14
5 David Probert	11	86	13
6 Rob Hornby	9	70	13
7 Colin Keane	8	19	42
8 Hollie Doyle	4	14	29
9 William Buick	3	15	20
9 Hayley Turner	3	14	21

TOP TEN TIMEFORM (3yo+)

1 Kalpana	123
1 Never So Brave	123
3 Almeric	119
3 Marvelman	119
5 Fox Legacy	117
5 Jonquil	117
7 Blue Bolt	116
7 Gladius	116
7 See The Fire	116
10 Furthur	115

TOP TEN TIMEFORM (2yo)

1 Gewan	119
2 Humidity	108
3 Five Ways	102
3 Pacific Mission	102
5 Sir Albert	100
6 Mubasimah	99
7 Allegresse	96
7 Stellar Sunrise	96
7 Venetian Prince	96
10 Item	93



PACIFIC MISSION is our highest rated 2yo filly

THE 2025 12 TO FOLLOW COMPETITION

Many congratulations to groom and work rider Macie Harris, who just pipped work-watchers Andy Johnson and Garnet Bounds to the post in this year's Twelve To Follow competition. We have not yet been able to present Macie with her prize as she is still in Australia, having travelled out there for the Melbourne Cup with Furthur, who fittingly is a major contributor to her points total, alongside her other horses Windlord and Urban Glimpse and her regular ride Stellar Sunrise. Well done Macie!

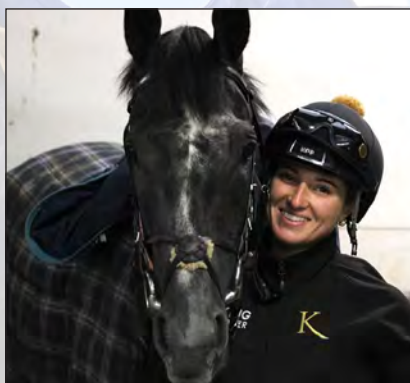
The prize money is divided as follows:-

1st £885.50 2nd £402.50 3rd £241.50 4th £80.50 Last place £10

1 Macie Harris	293
2 A Johnson/G Bounds (B)	264
3 Roland Francis	234
4 Charlie Richards	233

5 Jamie Richards	232	36 Marie Perrault	189	66 Sue Ellen (A)	166
6 Charlie Tucker	231	36 Tom Smyth	189	68 Simon Humphries (B)	165
6 Wayne Bolton	231	38 Jack Osborn	188	69 Andrew Slater	163
8 Alfie Redman	230	39 Andrew Balding	187	69 Vic/Nick Rhoades	163
9 Barry Lewis	227	39 Sue Ellen (B)	187	71 Sharon Woolley	162
9 Sam Geake	227	41 A Johnson/G Bounds (A)	186	72 Peter Bedford	161
11 Angie Cheshire (C)	223	41 Amy Read	186	73 Emma Balding	160
12 Pedro Springer	220	43 Anne Soul	185	73 Michael Bettaney (A)	160
13 Keith Derbyshire	218	44 John Feane	183	75 Bob Humphreys (C)	159
14 David King	217	45 Fabrizio	182	75 Don Smith	159
14 Martin Slade (A)	217	46 Paul Spickett (B)	180	77 Amira/Angela Rhoades	158
16 Billie Robinson-Gay	211	47 Ben Corke	179	77 Mary Gee	158
16 Simon Humphries (A)	211	47 R C B Michaelson	179	79 Eamonn Duggan (A)	157
16 Tessa Hetherington (B)	211	49 Sarah Cundy	177	79 Mick Mariscotti	157
19 Archie Burgess	209	50 Javier Maldonado	176	79 Valerie Slade (B)	157
20 Flora Balding	205	51 Eamonn Duggan (B)	175	82 D Powell	156
21 Anderson King	204	51 Leanne White	175	82 Dr M J/Mrs D O'Brien (B)	156
21 Julia Reardon Smith	204	53 Gerry Rafferty (C)	174	84 David Gay	155
21 Lily Jessup	204	53 Jan Lees	174	84 Stephen Woolley	155
21 Toby Balding	204	53 Mark Hutchinson	174	86 Alan Read	154
25 Bryan Jennick	203	56 Maggie Robinson-Gay	173	86 Gary Richards	154
25 Maya Mcnelis	203	57 John Morse	171	86 Kelly Corke	154
27 Jeff Smith	202	58 Graham Clark	170	89 Adrian Hodgkins (B)	153
28 Richard Dangar	199	58 Iris Hoare	170	89 Shippy Ellis	153
29 Miles Brandi	198	58 Jack Fox	170	91 Graham Jones	150
30 Camilla Richardson	193	58 Philip & Corinne Robertson	170	91 Tessa Hetherington (A)	150
30 Felicity Simpson	193	62 Michael Payton	169	91 Werner Aeberhard	150
30 Jon Rea	193	62 Richard Wilmot-Smith	169	94 Barry Hale (B)	149
33 Barney Bonner	192	64 Lesley Duggan (B)	168	94 John Wright	149
33 Ed Prosser	192	65 Michael Bettaney (B)	167	94 Lesley Duggan (A)	149
33 Jonno Balding	192	66 Richard Hutton	166	97 Angie Cheshire (A)	148

97 Bob Humphreys (A)	148	117 Sue Gay	134	142 Liam Walsh	107
97 Catha Hoare (A)	148	121 Angie Cheshire (B)	132	143 Laurence Jinks	106
97 Jason Clifford	148	122 Jane Pearson	131	144 Boris Balding	104
97 Lucy Dowson	148	123 Sarah Bettaney	130	145 M G Wooldridge (B)	99
102 Barbara Bullion	147	124 Doris/Georgia Balding	129	146 April Rafferty (A)	98
102 Gary Rhoades	147	125 Roger Hetherington	126	147 Fiona Hutchinson	97
102 Jeremy Carey	147	125 Stuart Mcphee	126	148 April Rafferty (B)	94
105 Gary Chong	146	127 Dr M J/Mrs D O'Brien (A)	125	149 Candy Boonzaier	93
106 Adrian Hodgkins (A)	143	128 Richard Hoare	124	150 Matthew/Emily Slade	91
106 Dr M J/Mrs D O'Brien (C)	143	129 Rachael Holmes	122	151 M G Wooldridge (A)	89
108 Tyla Macfarlane	142	130 Des Oates	120	152 Catha Hoare (B)	87
109 Sam Gay	140	130 Janice Read	120	153 Andrea Morse	84
110 Josh Gay	139	130 Sally-Anne Phipps Hornby	120	153 Martin Slade (B)	84
111 Ellen Bower	138	130 Sarah Paddock	120	155 Valerie Slade (A)	77
112 Barry Hale (A)	137	134 Simon Gee	115	156 John Knight	76
113 Ann Brook	136	135 Laura Spickett	114	157 Sarah/Will Gay	75
113 Jack Hulme	136	136 Bob Humphreys (B)	112	158 Charlotte Clarke	74
113 Paul Spickett (A)	136	136 Gerry Rafferty (A)	112	159 Alan Dickinson	71
116 Clive Stansby (A)	135	136 Jamie Mckinnon	112	160 Phil Dowson	70
117 Anna Lisa Balding	134	136 Jora Boonzaier	112	161 Sally-Anne Jinks	59
117 Clive Stansby (B)	134	140 Jemima White	109	162 John Soul	10
117 John Gale	134	141 Gerry Rafferty (B)	108		



Macie Harris with FURTHUR

TOP SCORING HORSES

Belgravian	57
Blue Bolt	48
Fantasy World	44
Kalpana	41
Falmouth Lad	40
Never So Brave	40
Tarriance	40



FALMOUTH LAD was an inspired selection!

SELECTIONS OF THE LEADERS

Macie Harris		A Johnson/G Bounds (B)		Roland Francis		Charlie Richards	
Almeric	24	Jonquil	33	See The Fire	31	Berkshire Whisper	17
Windlord	25	Kalpana	41	Jonquil	33	Mount Atlas	19
Urban Glimpse	13	Windlord	25	Windlord	25	Furthur	30
Furthur	30	See The Fire	31	Royal Playwright	26	Tropical Storm	12
Kalpana	41	Blue Bolt	48	Kalpana	41	Kalpana	41
Berkshire Whisper	17	Kassaya	10	Flora Of Bermuda	18	Bermuda Longtail	8
Kingmaker	29	Displaying	28	Serenity Prayer	8	Windlord	25
Stellar Sunrise	30	Well Versed	0	Dictal	6	North Beach	0
Comical Point	16	Humidity	38	Frankel/Palmas	0	Comic Hero	10
Ghost Mode	30	Lifeguard	0	Mad Unicorn	16	Sir Albert	36
Humidity	38	Imperial Ballet	10	Stellar Sunrise	30	Stellar Sunrise	30
Galiyan	0	Herleva	0	Leonie	0	Storm Flag	5

GLOBAL GALLOPERS

International travel has been a part of the Park House DNA for decades. Andrew's father Ian was the first recipient of the International Racing Bureau's award for International Trainer of the Year in 1981, whilst the early stages of Andrew's training career were defined by the exploits of globetrotter Phoenix Reach, winner of Group 1s in Dubai, Hong Kong and Canada and also campaigned in Singapore, Japan, America and France. With a bumper set of international runners this season, including trips to the Melbourne Cup and the Breeders' Cup, we thought it was a good moment to learn more about the international travel of horses from some of those most involved.

Kingsclere's Racing Secretary **Lindy Rees** has been organising trips abroad for Kingsclere horses for many years. She explains the administration involved.

As soon as Andrew indicates that he's thinking about sending a horse abroad, the first step is usually to liaise with the shipping agent nominated by the country or meeting about paperwork required and any health requirements. Europe and the UK are now harmonised for flu vaccinations but Europe also requires vaccinations for EHV (Equine Herpes Virus). We do these as a matter of course, but I double check that they have been done to the prescribed schedule. For further flung destinations the horse will invariably need an extra flu vaccination within a specified time before travel. There will also need to be bloods and swabs taken from the horse at set intervals to screen them for various contagious diseases. Even for European destinations health papers will have to be completed, plus a Carnet (customs document) for every horse, and a Racecourse Clearance form from the BHA.

Many of the major meetings also require details of all medication given to the horse in the past six months – this is usually uploaded online. Our vets may also have to fill out forms relating to the horse's veterinary history and upload videos of the horse jogging up. An independent BHA vet



THE FOXES landing in Hong Kong last year



Macie and FURTHUR heading out for the Melbourne Cup

will also come to the yard to check the horse over before travel. The screening requirements are most onerous for Melbourne Cup horses – they are required to undergo a CT (Computed Tomography) or MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) scan of their limbs and three assessments by Racing Victoria vets – two at the yard and one in pre-travel quarantine.

As well as making the entries and declarations for the race and booking the jockey, the owners and colours must be registered, and for some countries there is extensive paperwork for licensing our riders, grooms and trainer to work at the track. Visas or visa waivers will also need to be arranged, plus flights and accommodation.

For Europe we always use Eurotunnel these days (ferry crossings being at the mercy of the weather), and for trips to Germany or Italy decisions will need to be made as to where the horses stop on route, taking into consideration factors such as exercise facilities and stable size. The horse will leave two days before the race for France and three days before for Germany or Italy, always allowing a full rest day before the race. Travel times for other countries will depend on quarantine requirements and flight logistics.

We take our own supplies in Europe but if a flight is involved then feed, hay and sometimes bottled water will need to be preordered for the horses in sufficient quantities. Where it is not possible to get the horses' normal feed at the destination I will liaise with Maddy and Paul to work out the closest alternative. The horse will be switched gradually onto this feed at home over several weeks, to avoid any sudden change in diet. It may also be necessary to organise any extras that might be needed and to nominate a vet at the destination to oversee our horses might need. I will also liaise with Maddy regarding a packing list, which has to be very detailed and precise.

In the past our staff would travel with the horses but these days they are handed over to professional 'flying grooms' at the airport. I always ask the shippers to send me a message when the horses have arrived at their destination, whatever the time, and it's always a huge relief to know they've got there safely!

Maddy O'Meara has been the yard's point person for international travel for many seasons now and has accompanied Kingsclere horses all over the world. Her most recent expedition was to the Breeders' Cup at Del Mar with See The Fire, Jonquil and Pacific Mission.

When packing for a foreign trip it's important to know the rules as to what is permitted to be brought into the destination country – for example many places don't allow liquids and pastes to be brought in. I try to plan for every eventuality and will take kit such as a hood, ring bit, lip chain etc. even if the horse has never required this at home, as they can sometimes react differently in a new environment.

We will fly out in advance of the horses and then travel to the airport to meet them off the plane. On arrival the international horses will be isolated from any local horses and at the Breeders' Cup there are separate barns for horses from each location. Quarantine periods vary from country to country but for the Breeders' Cup it is 42 hours. During this time we must pass through strict security to enter and leave the barn and have to dress in protective white suits and boots whilst in the barn. The horse cannot leave the barn but each barn has an indoor track around the stables where the horses can be walked. We do plenty of walking (at least an hour morning and afternoon) and always try to ride the horses around this track at some stage so they've at least been sat on during this period – otherwise you can have some hairy moments when they first see daylight!

It is really important that the horses settle and are happy in their new environment. They are monitored closely for any sign of illness - we take temperatures very regularly and monitor their feed intake and how much they are drinking. I will cut back their feed a little at first, so they are not over faced, and ensure they get sufficient fluids



Maddy, Charlie Richards and HAPPY POWER in Saudi Arabia in 2022



Alfie on SEA THE FIRE and Charlie on PACIFIC MISSION in Del Mar, with Mary and her pony in between!

and electrolytes. The hay in other countries tends to be Timothy hay or lucerne which is different from the haylage we feed at home - they can sometimes gorge on it and end up with very loose droppings, so this too must be monitored and controlled.

Riding out on the track is very different to riding out on the gallops at home and can be chaotic. Del Mar is not bad as it's so big and Keeneland has a separate training track, but Santa Anita is crazy, with a cavalry charge as soon as the track opens. For Breeders' Cup we may request a pony (a horse and rider to lead our horse to and from their work on the track) – I always use the same pony rider (Mary Ellet) as she has ponied for us for many years now and knows our routine. Most horses adapt quickly to their new exercise regime but they can be rabbits in headlights at first. Jonquil did not cope too well with the tight track and strange environment on his first few days at Keeneland for the Coolmore Turf Mile, but when he arrived at Del Mar he was an old pro and a great lead horse for the two fillies.

At the Breeders' Cup all horses are required to trot up and down the chute to the track before starting their exercise, and three vets watch this from different positions. There are also at least two jog-ups at the barn for each horse, the last being on the day of the race. We weigh the horses every day and I will also organise any veterinary treatments they might need during their stay. There is always plenty going on – whether that be jog ups, bloods being taken, photos being done, or paddock schooling to get the horses used to the pre-race environment, but it's a great atmosphere and everyone helps each other out. Representatives from the IRB are on hand to help with queries about declarations and race day procedures and organise the timings for trackwork, whilst the Quarantine Manager will help with any kit required or issues with the stabling. The shipping agents are also great problem-solvers, and the flying grooms stay around during the meeting and are a great help, particularly on race day.

I have been lucky enough to go to many different places with Kingsclere horses, but the Breeders' Cup is always

my favourite trip of the year. You see the same people there each time and it's like catching up with your family. From the horses' perspective I think Saudi Arabia is hard to beat – the stabling area is very quiet with great facilities including grazing areas and sand rolls, and there is less going on so they relax well.

Alfie Redman and **Charlie Tucker** are both apprentice jockeys at Kingsclere and got the call-up for the Breeders' Cup this year, travelling out with Maddy to help ride and look after the Kingsclere trio of horses. Both describe riding out on a busy track amongst all the contenders for the top races as a unique experience and a highlight of the trip, alongside leading up on race day and being part of such an important meeting. The only negative was having to maintain their race-riding weights on an American diet!

Macie Harris has worked at Kingsclere as a rider and groom since 2020 and has looked after Furthur since he arrived on the yard as a yearling two years ago. She was tasked with taking him to Australia for the Melbourne Cup this year – her first time travelling a horse internationally on her own.

Furthur had to complete two weeks in the quarantine facility in Newmarket before traveling to Australia, so I went up there with him. The protocols require staff to 'shower in' at the facility on arrival and to change into a fresh set of clothes, to prevent any cross contamination from other horses outside. The quarantine horses are also only allowed to leave the facility for exercise in the afternoons, when the gallops are not being used by the Newmarket horses. Thankfully there were some other horses in quarantine at the same time and Hugo Palmer's horse (Seagulls Eleven, heading to Sydney for the Golden Eagle at Randwick) was doing similar exercise to Furthur so we could go out in a pair – Furthur is not used to going out on his own and Newmarket is quite a different environment so he appreciated having a buddy.

I flew out to Australia in advance of Furthur and met him when he arrived at the Australian quarantine facility at Werribee in Victoria. All horses entering Australia have to spend a further two weeks in post-import quarantine before they can race. Here you can take what you want in to the facility, but you cannot take anything out and must 'shower out' before leaving. The showers have a three-minute timer on them and if you turn the shower off early you must start again. Washing your hair three times a day is probably not recommended by many hairdressers but is what I had to do!

On the first day Furthur just had a lead out in-hand and I started riding him from day two. Werribee has both an All-Weather and a grass track – you write on a white board which gallop you want to use and what exercise you want to do and you get given a timeslot. In the first



FURTHUR in the cross-ties at Flemington before the Melbourne Cup

week Furthur was very fresh and unsettled – he is not used to exercising on his own and on a flat track. Andrew was reading the data from the GPS and heartrate monitor Furthur was wearing and thought he was doing enough, but it didn't feel like that to me! Over time, however, we got into a good routine of going right-handed to do our warm-up before turning round for any stronger canter or fast work. Once he knew he wasn't going to be allowed to pick up the pace until we changed direction he settled much better.

There is a schedule of vet checks and jog ups in the run-up to the race but Furthur flew through these without any concerns, which was a great relief. The Racing Victoria vets conduct these checks but each horse is also allocated their own vet, and Maxine was a great source of advice if I had any concerns or questions. There were also some older experienced staff out there with other horses who were really kind and supportive – everybody helps each other out and works as a team.

On race day the atmosphere at Flemington was electric. We had arranged to have a red hood on Furthur in the preliminaries to help him settle. At Australian tracks you don't get racecourse stables – instead the horses stand cross-tied in the 'tie-ups' in the run up to the race, although you can walk them round in that area whenever you wish. Furthur and I had practiced for this in the tie-up area at Werribee, and he settled well on race day – he liked having the other horses nearby and took everything in calmly. Once we entered the paddock he woke up and got a bit agitated – it's a very small parade ring for 24 horses and he's a big horse with a long stride – but he still behaved well.

Although things did not really go Furthur's way in the race it was still an amazing experience. It was daunting going out there on my own but also a real privilege to be trusted with that level of responsibility and to represent the yard. I stood with Furthur in the paddock at Flemington and thought, "Wow, we've actually done it". I was so proud of both of us, and I can't wait to have another go next year! ■

STAFF NEWS

There have been many milestones achieved by members of the team in recent months. Apprentice Charlie Tucker rode his first winner, scoring on the Rhys Flint-trained Vape at Windsor in August, before securing his second winner on the same horse at Chepstow the very next day! In August our maintenance man Jimmy Ferry celebrated his 70th birthday, and in September Leanne White celebrated thirty years since starting at Kingsclere as an apprentice. Leanne graduated from race riding to be travelling headperson with responsibility for much of the yard's international travel and latterly moved to a role as rider coach. Recently awarded Rider Coach of the Year by the Racing Staff Development Programme, she remains an integral part of the team here at Park House and has been a tremendous help to many of the young riders.



Mia de Marco receiving her award from Andrew at Newbury

The yard also had another award winner in Mia De Marco, who won the Twelve Club prize as one of the two leading trainees of the year at the British Racing School – a great achievement. Former Kingsclere apprentice and work rider Thomas Brown, a hugely popular member of the team and still known to many here, received the Jockey Club Achievement Award at the recent JETS Richard Davis Awards for his transition from jockey to his current role as Emergency Medical Technician with the East of England Ambulance Service. Tom is intending to continue his



Thomas Brown



Leanne White



Members of the Armed Forces visited during National Racehorse Week

training to become a fully-fledged paramedic and is a fine example of what can be achieved following a career in the saddle.

New members of the team have included two of the small variety. Regular work rider and former jockey Hayley Turner had a son, Richard in October, whilst our vet Jamie Knapp and his wife Laura had a daughter, Evelyn, in November. She seems to already have the Kingsclere veterinary team well under control.



Evelyn Knapp with grandfather and father!

National Racehorse Week took place in August and the yard hosted a visit from former members of the Armed Forces through the Tickets for Troops scheme, whilst October saw a visit from members of Club 26, an initiative to increase the involvement of young people in racing. Members of the team enjoyed a great day on British Champions Day in the King Power box at Ascot, and for Halloween a fiercely contested pumpkin carving competition was held in the hostel and won by Gretel Heiden! ■



Pumpkin carving in the hostel for Halloween

GEOFF LEWIS: 1935 – 2025



Geoff Lewis will forever be remembered at Kingsclere as the man who rode Mill Reef, but his involvement at Park House stretched beyond this role and here Emma Balding shares some memories of a great personality who will be fondly remembered by everyone who knew him.



Geoff Lewis was a vital part of Kingsclere from 1958 until 1972 and we remember him as a talented jockey, great character and a total team player with the kindest and most generous disposition.

It has been well chronicled that he was born in Talgarth in Wales, one of thirteen children. When his family moved to London in 1946 he started his working life as a pageboy at the Waldorf Hotel. This was not a job he enjoyed, and when he told his parents that the great jump jockey Tim Malony had noticed the diminutive bellboy when staying at the hotel and suggested Geoff should sign on as an apprentice with a trainer in Epsom, they made some enquiries. Some accounts suggest that this chance meeting was in fact a total fabrication

by the enterprising bellboy, but either way it did the trick and, never having ridden or been involved with horses at all, Geoff went for a month's trial before signing on as an apprentice with Ron Smyth in Epsom. Ten shillings a week for his first year, £1 for the second and a princely sum of £3 when he had served his time. With an engaging stutter, which made his stories quite long, he was "as h-h-happy as a p-p-pig in s-s-s-shit".

Geoff had two great talents. He had a fine singing voice and once he got his weight up to the minimum for the Stable Lads Boxing (4 stone 9 lbs) he became a regular at the event, winning 15 cups. He continued to support this event throughout the time it took place. Later his golf game also became very important to him, and he made many friends on the golf course, playing regularly for the Variety Club.

Geoff rode his first winner as an apprentice in 1953 and in 1957 my father, Peter Hastings-Bass, invited him to be first jockey at Kingsclere. Whilst the stable only housed some 42 horses there were owners providing some well-bred animals including Paul Mellon, Lord Sefton, Colonel Julian Berry and later Her Majesty The Queen. Geoff at the time still rode for John Sutcliffe and his boss Ron Smyth and was making his mark riding good winners. His great hero was Scobie Breasley, a brilliant judge of pace



MILL REEF and Geoff before the Prix Ganay

and something of a mentor to Geoff. Geoff himself married Noelene in 1959 who was the daughter of a leading Australian jockey, Jim Munro, who had ridden two Melbourne Cup winners. He was of the same era as Lester Piggot, Jimmy Lindley, Joe Mercer and also Ron Hutchinson who came over from Australia and lived next door to Geoff and Noelene. They all had a good head start on Geoff having been introduced into the world of racing through their families at a much younger age, but he soon made up for the lost time.

Geoff rode many good winners for Peter Hastings-Bass, including the July Cup in 1963. When the trainer tragically died aged 42 in 1964 Geoff stayed on as first jockey, with Ian taking over under a temporary licence. Silly Season won the Coventry weeks after the death of "the Captain", as Geoff always called my father. It was an age very different to today, jockeys were mostly called by their surname by owners and stewards alike. Geoff always had a very short fuse and one day called into the stewards' room as "Lewis" he wanted to fight saying "who are yy-you c-c-c-calling L-L-Lewis". Not a way to win a stewards' enquiry. True to say he quite often remembered his boxing days. A high point for him came when Lord and Lady Sefton asked Geoff and Noelene to stay at Croxteth, their home outside Liverpool. Geoff didn't mind Lord Sefton calling him Lewis!

The struggle to establish the yard in the topflight was tough after the good horses Silly Season and Berkeley Springs retired but in 1970 there came along a little horse with a heart as big as his jockey's and a supreme talent. This was Mill Reef and after his first race at Salisbury Geoff told Ian "y-y-you'll n-n-never t-t-train a b-b-better horse than him". It is

not necessary to repeat the list of races the pair won but suffice it to say that Geoff took on the retainer as Sir Noel Murless's jockey with the stipulation that Mill Reef was his first retainer. He went on to ride many of that great trainer's good horses, having the distinction in 1971 of riding the winners of the Derby, Oaks and Coronation Cup at the Epsom meeting. Geoff was memorably supported in his time at Kingsclere by his great friend Tommy Carter who regularly made sure Geoff got here in time for first lot despite f-f-fog on the H-H-Hogs B-Back. Tommy also had the hugely important job of riding Mill Reef's pacemakers, which he did quite brilliantly.

Geoff was a wonderful storyteller, his turn of phrase unique, and his generosity was unlimited, particularly to the yard staff. He lit up a room when he walked in, and he also lit up many people's lives with his kindness and lack of any self-pity when things got really tough for him. He suffered the tragedy of losing his son with remarkable fortitude and adored Noelene, his daughter Mary and her family. Simon Humphries, who many know from travelling Andrew's horses, was apprenticed to Geoff when he was training at Thirty Acre Barn in Epsom. Simon tells some wonderful tales of his days there. Regular sackings of staff on a Sunday evening, only to be chased on Monday morning if they weren't at work on time. It is unlikely that this style of management would survive the demands of modern employment, but they all adored Geoff and live off the tales of their time in his company.

Geoff was an excellent trainer with Lake Coniston probably being the highest profile horse he trained. Typical of the man was to suggest having a lunch party for all the ex-trainers of one particularly difficult owner who moved on many times. A fine example to many, Geoff was small in stature but enormous in personality! ■



Geoff (left) on the Downs with Mill Reef's lad John Hallam, Head Lad Bill Palmer, Ian and Andrew

