

## Memorable Quotes



Jenny Pitman

"Racing is definitely losing the plot; I could not be attracted by what I see on TV; it's all about bookmakers prices and betting exchanges. We are losing sight of what we should be promoting, the horses and the people involved with them".

## Galloping costs...

Just as the 'Prizemoney Pyramid' shows elsewhere, only 8% of horses manage to pay their way. We are often asked what the full costs of ownership really are, so here's a snapshot of training costs for Divine White in June last year. Basic training fees were £48.00 per day (£1,440.00) to which extras were gallop fees (£75.00), blacksmith (£134.00), physio (£32.00), vets fees (£123.46), transport to Bath, Windsor and Warwick (£533.00), lad's expenses (£311.50) plus the stable's percentage of 3rd place prizemoney (£28.89).

This all adds up to a grand total, as shown, of £2,677.85 + VAT = £3,146.50.

Additional to this were entry fees (£127.96) and jockey's riding fees (£360.00). And to round it off Weatherbys levied a monthly management charge of £15.00. Total £3,649.46. Or £912.00 per week, £130 per day or £5.43 per hour -

however you calculate it's a lot of money! Costs only relent when racehorses take a break and at Homebred we're lucky to have the facilities to bring them home. But even then there's a catch - and that's the cost of transport to move them.

Nett Total	2,677.85
V.A.T. Total	468.65

Amount Due	£3,146.50
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## How are the on-line tips performing?

Well, not badly - but as always could do better! Results have been as follows for £10 staked each way on every selection between:

1 June - 6 Nov 2004 = profit of	£708.50
6 Nov - 1 Feb 2005 = profit of	£53.75
1 Feb - 30 April 2005 = profit of	£76.00
1 May - Aug 31 2005 = loss of	£14.40
1 Sept - 31 Oct 2005 = profit of	£164.00
1 Nov - 28 Feb 2006 = profit of	£239.00
1 March - 30 June 2006 = profit of	£53.00
1 July - 1 Sept 2006 = profit of	£638.00
1 Sept - 30 Nov 2006 = profit of	£71.00
1 Dec - 28 Feb 2007 = loss of	£71.00

Results for the last quarter would have been significantly better but for all calculations being made at starting price when much longer odds were available when originally tipped. These include winners Cativo Cavallino who was selected at 50/1 (but started at only 20/1) and Ruairi who was 33/1 (but started at a very skinny 4/1).

## Did you know?

A filly is a female horse up to 3 years old - and is thereafter a mare.

## Snapshot

Whiteout on 9th February 2007 when the stud was blanketed by a 10 inch covering of snow

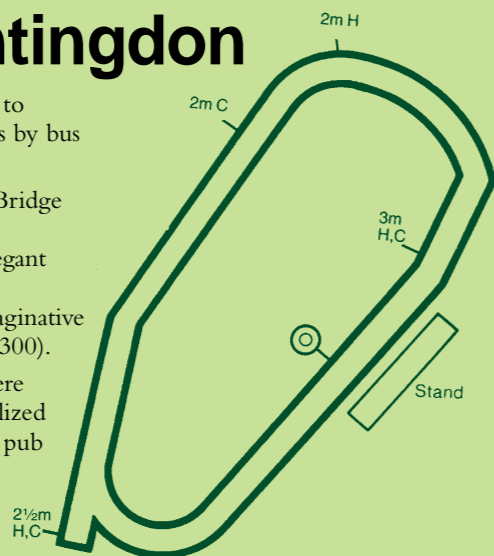


## Course factfile: Huntingdon

Huntingdon is a completely flat circuit of 1½ miles and regarded as one of the fairest jump tracks in the country. It's a galloping track with stiff fences and races are often run at a good pace. It attracts top horses and trainers and hosts the Peterborough Chase which is a trial for Gold Cup candidates. The course drains well and the going is rarely heavy.

**Location:** London 69, Bedford 21 and Cambridge 16 miles  
**Telephone:** 01480 453373

**Trains:** Kings Cross to Huntingdon (2 miles by bus or taxi to course)  
**Celebrations:** Old Bridge Hotel, High Street, Huntingdon. An elegant 18th century hotel renowned for its imaginative food (tel: 01480 424300).  
Chequers at Fowlmere (west of M11) a civilized 16th century dining pub in a quiet village (tel: 01763 208369)



Let us have your ideas and views...



Office:  
Grattons Court, Grattons Drive,  
Pound Hill, Crawley RH10 3AG  
Tel: 01293 884433 Fax: 01293 884201

Stud:  
Prengwyn, Llandysul  
Cardiganshire SA44 4LS  
email: post@chriswallcreative.co.uk  
www.homebredracing.co.uk

# WINNING P ST

THE REGULAR NEWSLETTER FROM HOMEBRED RACING

APRIL/2007

## Who gets the cream?

The 'pyramid' of prizemoney distributed amongst the racehorse population highlights the difficulty of reaching the top. It bears out the frequently made comparison with children at school - only a tiny handful have the potential to be competitive at the highest level. The latest set of statistics issued by the British Horseracing Board reveals that 19,162 individual horses raced last year and fewer than 8% even covered the cost of training fees, leaving the owners of

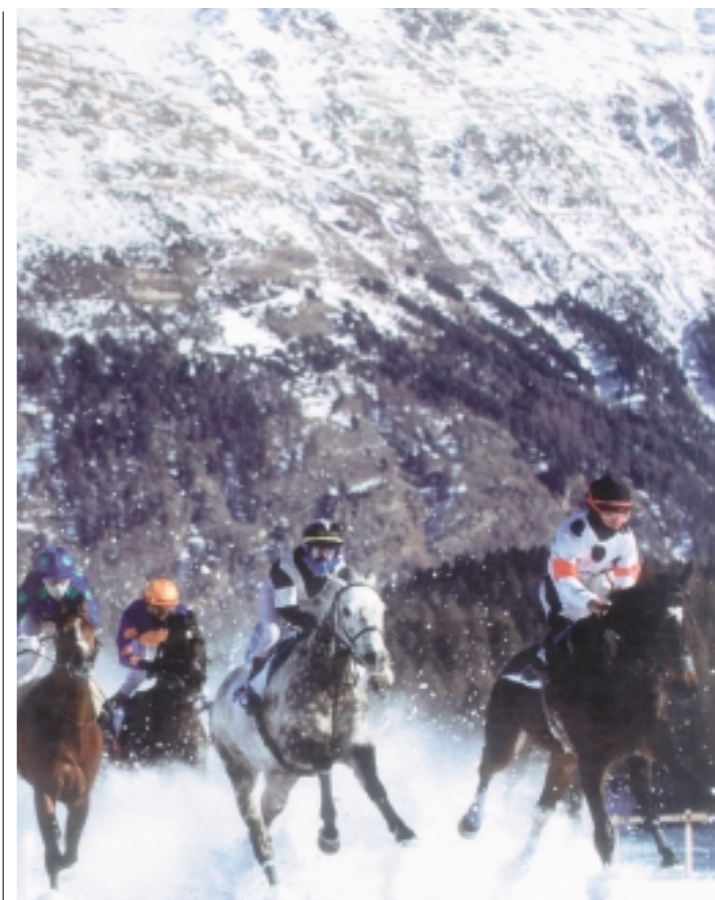
include those that never made it to the racetrack through injury or fear of embarrassing owners and trainers in public as they were likely to prove so uncompetitive! The argument within racing continues to rage about the quality of racing steadily reducing but as the pyramid reveals, if only those horses that could pay their way continued to compete, racing would be reduced by a staggering 92%! In betting terms, the odds of owning a horse that gets to the

Prize money won	%	No. of horses
£100,000+	0.5	91
£50,000+	1.4	277
£30,000+	3.1	590
£15,000+ <small>*Estimated cost of annual training fees</small>	7.7	1,479
£7,500+	17.0	3,265
£2,500+	35.8	6,863
£1+	62.7	12,010
£0	37.3	7,152

### The prize-money pyramid 2006

17,630 horses to dig deep into their pockets to remain in training. Just 91 horses, 0.5% of the total, represented the cream that came to the top to win more than £100,000 during 2006. But frighteningly, 7,152 horses (37.3%) won no prize money at all - and this last figure doesn't

top are 200/1 whilst one that fails to earn its keep are 10/1 on! And that doesn't even allow for the fact that 50% of foals born never reach the track - but that only halves your chances again. We're often asked about the full costs of ownership so the item elsewhere may make equally painful reading!



Racing on snow at St Moritz - but for how long?

## Racing on thin ice

Racing on the snow at St Moritz celebrated its 100th anniversary this year. But what alarms regular racegoers at this unique venue is the effect of global warming. Year after year, less and less snow covers the mountain backdrop.

The first three Sundays of February regularly draw crowds of nearly 30,000 to watch racing on the frozen lake. But just as changing weather poses problems for our own racing on turf, there is now general concern for the future of the St Moritz festival.

## Know your rules: Amateurs

There's generally a lot of confusion about the status of amateur riders and whether they receive a riding fee. Rule 72 states: "In steeplechases, hurdle and NH Flat races, other than those restricted to amateur riders, the full riding fee (£156) shall be paid to the British Horseracing Board where an amateur rider, or an amateur rider riding under provisions of Rule 61, who has had more than 75 rides in Great Britain in races open to professional riders, rides a horse other than those that are the sole property of himself, his spouse, his mother or father."

In short, an amateur that's had 75 rides costs the owner just as much as a professional. These rules protect professionals' earnings and also discourage anyone from perpetually riding as an amateur.

## Did you know?

'Long in the tooth' comes from the description of an old horse - whose front teeth have literally grown long.

Open Day  
Sun 15 July  
Don't miss it



# Picking a winner



Homebred's good looking Sweep Home

In years gone by old stud grooms were the best judges of a horse. Nowadays the only way to acquire an eye for conformation is to study as many different horses as possible. It helps to spend time at sales, ideally with someone experienced beside you. Reading as many books as possible can be useful too. In fact, all equestrian activities offer the opportunity to gain experience, and only by asking questions and discovering the answers will you really learn. Those who ride have the added advantage of being able to compare ride with conformation. Recognising a young unfurnished animal's potential is often extremely difficult, especially if you are not told of its breeding.

If a correctly made horse in poor condition is fed and worked correctly, over a period of time he will fill out properly, whereas a wrongly made horse, regardless of condition, cannot improve. Fat or gross condition can hide a multitude of faults. Points to look for in a thin horse are: good movement; withers that are higher than the top of the quarters; reasonable width of chest; short back; good straight hind legs; and a tail set on well even though the quarters may not be well developed. When viewed from the side, the horse should appear to have plenty of front although the show-jumping fraternity prefer a shorter front. Often horses in poor condition still show quality and presence.

## Memorable quotes

In discussion recently about Homebred Star with Peter Bowen: "I think I'll have to set up a premium rate advice line. This Dr Newland, who's having loads of winners, rings me every day for advice - I'm training them for him!"



## Down on the farm



The loss of these ash trees has been more than compensated by planting elsewhere

Being situated in an area of outstanding natural beauty we are very aware of environmental issues - which may not be apparent from the photo which shows ash trees being thinned along our top fields! However ash trees are notoriously dangerous as

they easily drop branches and thinning them out will give better growing room to the oaks and sycamores they've been crowding - as well as helping the hedge below by allowing more light in. More than 1000 trees have been planted elsewhere on the farm.

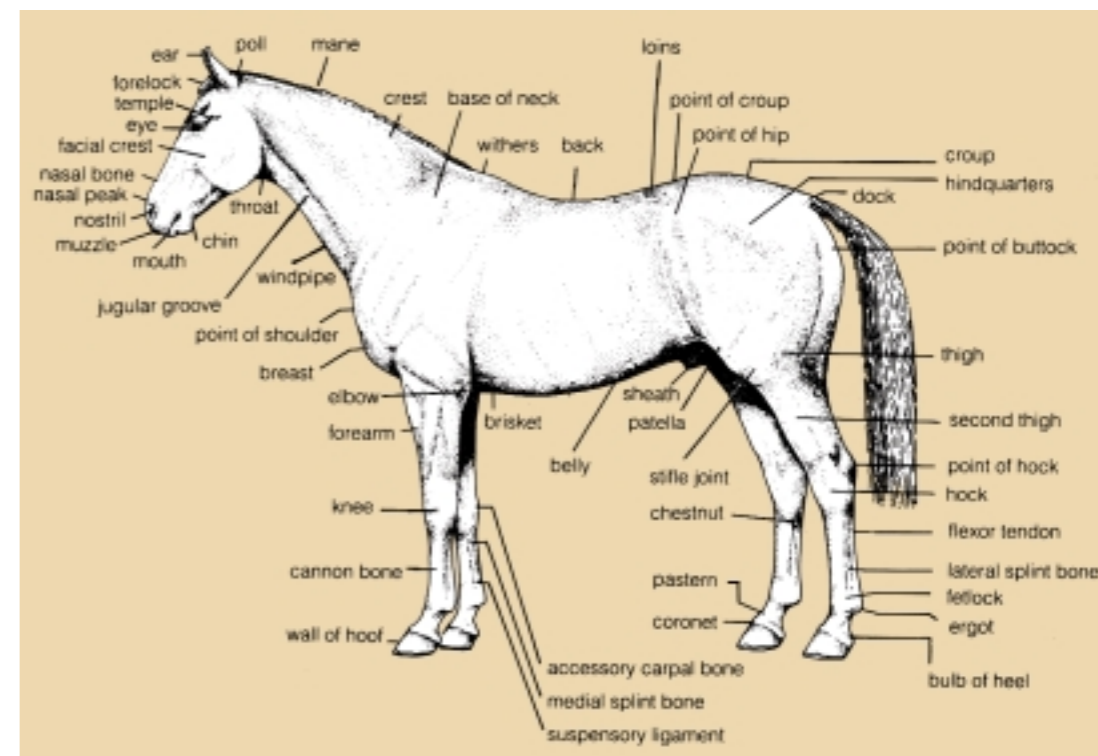
## Snapshot

Peter Bowen's 'Equispa' which has been working wonders for horses with leg problems



## Amaze friends and colleagues with all your horsey knowledge!

Talk around horses is always full of weird and wonderful words and phrases from cannons and carpals to fetlocks and ergots. Our identification chart illustrates all the points of the horse and exactly where each is. Initially all horses seem to look the same but the more you get involved the more differences you'll see and be able to appreciate the important elements of conformation. And beyond that, as always, it's down to a matter of opinion as to what's 'good conformation'.



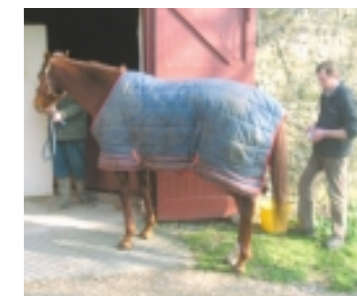
## Snapshot

Peter Bowen with our promising youngster Sweep Home who's on the comeback trail after returning from injury



## Phizz... on the mend

The picture shows vet James Thomas examining Pharly Green who's been stabled for 3 weeks after sustaining a nasty cut out in the field. There's no sign of how or where it happened but it was a very deep cut on the back of her fetlock. Happily it's healed well and there's no lasting damage and James has now given her the all clear to be turned out again. Phizz will be kept quietly on her own until we're sure it's totally cleared up



Vet James Thomas checks Phizz out

but she'll be pleased to be out grazing again. The plan is to get her back into training after the Open Day to be ready to run in NH flat races in the autumn.

## Did you know?

Average weight a fully mature thoroughbred is between 500 - 600 kilograms.

## Snapshot

Homebred's mares, rugged up against the heavy snow that blanketed the stud in February, typically congregate outside rather than inside their barn!



# Solving a problem like Dixey...



Homebred Star in first time blinkers at Lingfield

Why horses don't win perplexes punters every day. But when you own a horse with known potential it's an even greater frustration. Our own Homebred Star is a case in point - a highly promising debut for Peter Bowen was followed by sore shins of which Peter despaired to the extent that Dixey was sent home and turned out to grass. Gerry Enright saw him on Open Day, was keen to try him and soon also confirmed we had a horse of potential - which was realized in a spectacular last to

first win over a mile. But subsequently there's been no return to the winner's enclosure in a dozen or so runs despite changes in tactics, jockeys, distances and headgear. The simple fact is Homebred Star has never repeated the form of his win nor of his ability at home. No stone has been left unturned and the vets have given him a 100% clean bill of health. Jockey Dane O'Neill says that he gives him 'the feel of a class horse'. So maybe he just doesn't try - he wouldn't be the first.

But blinkers or cheek pieces make absolutely no difference. Somedays he seems to stay, other times he doesn't - but generally he cruises up into a challenging position only to disappoint. Everyone is understandably at their wit's end to fathom the problem and find an answer. Peter Bowen has now volunteered a suggestion which hopefully just maybe a solution: "I've had horses that run like this. You can never find anything wrong with them and jockeys never report a problem or noise

in running. It could just be Star needs to race in a tongue tie which prevents his airways being blocked when he comes under pressure to deliver his final challenge". So one final theory to test!

## Did you know?

Newmarket is staging a raceday on May 19 in honour of the legendary Lester Piggott