

## British racing again sold short by the government

After the broken promise about the Tote being sold to racing, remember the notion of 'super casinos' and the UK becoming the betting capital of Europe? Unsurprisingly it hasn't happened. And the UK's tax regime makes it so unattractive that the leading bookmakers have now upped sticks to move offshore! The result for racing is that the subsequent loss of revenue has a direct bearing on bookies' contribution via the levy. No tax = no levy. So prizemoney is set to fall again. Surely it's time that racing's organizers started to earn their salaries!

## Hail the return of the champ...

Anticipation has been building about the long awaited return to race riding by former champion Kieren Fallon. His renewed daily involvement with British racing has been universally acclaimed by all except racing's authorities who've relentlessly pursued something of a witch hunt against the former champion. Having failed in their high profile cases against Fallon they finally nailed and banned him for use of banned substances - on himself rather than any of his mounts! Kieren has already declared himself determined to regain his crown and it'll be fascinating to see how trainers' loyalties divide between the top jockeys over the coming months. From our perspective Fallon looks to be favourite to land next season's title.



Fallon after winning 3 way photo on Homebred's Welsh Assembly

### Did you know?

Racing's share of the betting market is steadily declining at 4% year on year to currently just 37% of total betting.

## Lester Piggott rides to the rescue



More horses crossing busier roads is a problem

Lester Piggott is not well known as a political campaigner. Piggott's concern is simple: that the unique status of Newmarket, arguably the most famous horseracing town in the world, is under threat. His reasoning, is that a heavy cloud of development plans hang over Newmarket, which if realised, would make it near impossible for the current 2,500 horses to be trained there. If his worst fears are realised, there might be no Henry Cecil training in Newmarket, no Sir Michael Stoute, no Godolphin.

And if Sheikh Mohammed decides that it is no longer feasible to have the huge bulk of his racehorse stables there, what is to stop him moving his breeding operation elsewhere? This, of course, is a doomsday scenario. But Piggott and members of the Save Historic Newmarket Action Group are adamant that a proposed 1,200 housing complex on land owned by Lord Derby, and a Jockey Club-backed 'Racing Village' on Hamilton Road, pose a very real threat. "The traffic has got so bad and it will only get worse," says the legendary jockey.

"They're trying to build new things all the time and we don't need it. Newmarket is a horse town, it was built to be a horse town and the racing industry employs a lot of people here. We have the best facilities and gallops for the horses here but if the horses leave, or the big owners leave, Newmarket would have a major problem. It's dangerous riding out in the town now. The horses have to cross the roads at certain places to get to the Heath early in the morning. It puts them and riders at risk. The town's just become too big."

## Memorable quotes

Champion jockey Ryan Moore when questioned on his reticence to be interviewed "I've never been confident and don't consider myself a great talker. I don't even like having my photo taken! I am simply not comfortable in front of camera."

## A chip off the block

It is hardly a surprise Joseph O'Brien, son of Aidan and Anne Marie, is proving a very good young rider. Having cut his teeth on the highly competitive eventing scene, the 16-year-old has made quite an impact in his first weeks as an apprentice, having already had his allowance reduced when he quickly notched up three winners.

### Did you know?

New registrations of thoroughbred broodmares are down by 25% in Britain and 31% in Ireland.

Let us have your ideas and views



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# WINNING POST

THE REGULAR NEWSLETTER FROM HOMEBRED RACING

AUTUMN/2009

## Summer fails to dampen spirits!



The Llanwnnen Hunt on the steep climb to the stud on Open Day

It was a little damp but Sundays either side of our July 19th Open Day were even wetter. Inevitably numbers were down this year but from all the comments, letters and photos it seems to have been a day enjoyed by all. So a big 'thank you' to all our helpers - and particularly to the Llanwnnen Hunt who entertained visitors with a parade in the foal paddock.

More photos of the Open day inside.



Our unraced 3 year old at James Bethell's yard

## Countdown to Polarity's racecourse debut...

Owners in our unraced 3 year old have been extremely patient - but the long wait may soon be over. Trainer James Bethell, who's had great success over the years with the rest of Polarity's family, has always urged us to allow her time. James says that 'Sam' has continued to improve over the summer

and having brought her up to fitness and fast work suggested that we give her a mini break before bringing her back into training for her debut. Staying, and hurdles, will ultimately be Polarity's game but James currently plans to start her off in a 1½ mile NH flat race at Kelso in October.



Flashback to Polarity as a tiny foal in 2006



The big baler compresses the equivalent of six traditional small bales into a single one. Once baled haylage is tightly wrapped to 'cook' the hay and keep it moist and dust free.

## Making hay when the sun never shines!

The extraordinary weather patterns over the past couple of years have played havoc with farming, and more particularly in our case, haymaking. We need 3 consecutive warm and dry days - which have almost been absent in this - and last, summer. In 2008 we made our hay after the Open Day and for the very first time as late as July. And this year we've had to wait until August. Weather forecasters have always predicted that

global warming models suggest warmer, but wetter weather for us. Perhaps this is just the start?

### Did you know?

The leading sire of 2-y-o's in Britain by percentage of winners to runners is Tagula with 60%.

# The story of Homebred Racing's 2009 Open Day in pictures

Over 50 guests defied the weather to visit the Homebred Stud for our 2009 Open Day. For some Wine Society members it was a first chance to meet our yearling filly VeuveVeuveVoom who'll be in training as a two year old after Christmas. The horses certainly enjoyed the luxury of clean, dry stables! After coffee, visitors had a short tour of the stable yard and nearby fields taking in the lake and garden en route. Our local hunt turned out in force to parade after drinks and a buffet lunch.



Even the occasional shower failed to dampen spirits as visitors share a chat with a glass of bubbly



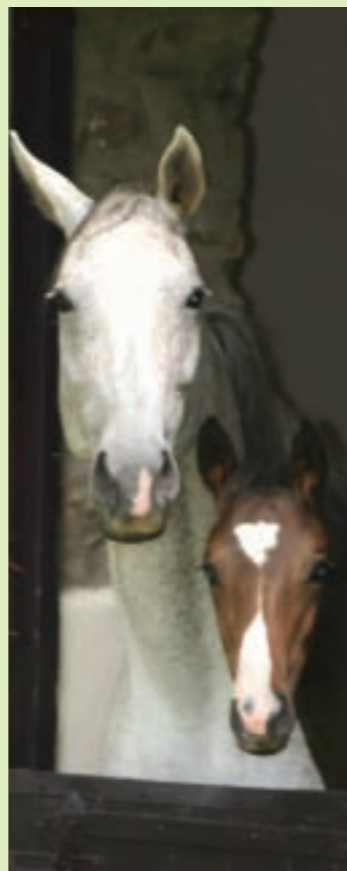
Finding shelter from a passing shower



Our yearling filly VeuveVeuveVoom get's to meet her new owners



The experienced eyes of Brian Fletcher & Gerry Enright check out the Homebred youngsters



Broodmare Snowy Mantle with her foal 'Sky' were major attractions



Terriers in the cab of a horsebox take a break from the Racing Post to check on affairs in the yard!



From left Snowy Mantle with Sky & Poppy (by Encosta de Lago) watch the hunt parade with keen interest



Glorious mud! Having been groomed and polished for the day Keep a Welcome had other ideas!



Trainer Gerry Enright (left) and Brian Fletcher (centre) chat to owner Peter Bowling



The mounted riders and hounds arrive in the stable yard before parading for visitors



Suitable dress was order of the day!



The next generation of jockey?



Homebred broodmares keen to join the party



Even the youngest visitors make friends at the Homebred Racing Open Day

## Snapshot

Class of 2009 (all by Group 1 stallions and out of winning mares!) Homebred's yearling fillies meet up with our 2009 foal 'Sky'.



## Stable visits

Hopefully you'll squeeze in a stable visit before the weather makes watching your horse on the gallops a less attractive option. Simply call Julie in the office on 01293 884433 and we'll make arrangements to ensure you can see your horse working.



Julie runs the Homebred office

## How did we do?

In an earlier issue of Winning Post we suggested the new stallions to follow in 2009. Our 6 selections all feature in the top 10 of over 50 new stallions headed by our 'most likely' Dubawi, closely followed in 2nd place by our 'bargain basement' selection Avonbridge. Not bad!

## Memorable quotes

Rupert Bell, older brother of trainer Michael, on recovering from a fall in the weighing room at Ascot which knocked him out and left him needing mouth to mouth resuscitation from top jockey Johnny Murtagh: "I'd preferred if it had been Hayley Turner!"

## Memorable quotes

**Alec Head - the supremo of French Racing**  
"If betting money goes to bookmakers it won't come back into racing. In France the system (no bookies) is good and racing is healthy - unlike the rest of Europe".

## Choosing a stallion for 2010

It's the time of year when we begin to think of plans for our broodmares. Flat winners Gran Clicquot and Snowy Mantle are due to be covered again in the spring as well as Divine White - who we hope will also prove to be a winner before then! Septieme Ciel is again high on the list of

possibles as we are very pleased with this season's foal out of Snowy Mantle. We may also take a look at Tobougg. He is a dual Group 1 winner out of a dual Group 1 winning mare who has already sired a Group 1 winner - he would be an ideal mate for Divine White.

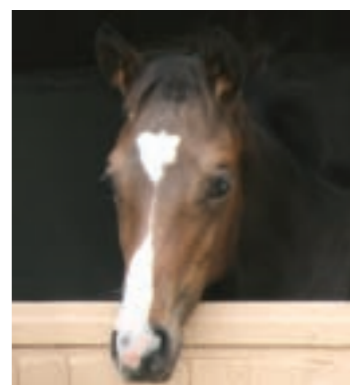


Tbougg has already produced top class winners

## Sky's the limit!

...for coming up with a racing name for our 2009 foal by Septieme Ciel out of Snowy Mantle! "Sky", is her stable name derived from the French stallion whose name literally translates to "seventh heaven". Sky is a really attractive filly and it would be great to give her a racing

name to match. Ideally we like to keep an element of the sire and the dam in the name - but that's the challenge! Let us have your ideas - the best will win a free share for her first season in training. Please send your ideas via email - or on a postcard to the address on the back of this issue.



This season's filly foal needs a name

## Did you know?

Of Britain's 62 racecourses only 3 are in Wales and 4 in Scotland. Perth is the furthest north, Ffos Las the furthest west, Yarmouth the furthest east and Newton Abbot the most southerly.