

Snapshot

All the principals at Peter Bowen's Open Day (from left) Jonathan Martin, Peter Bowen, Richard Pitman, Karen Bowen, Peter Bowling and Brian Fletcher



A real Irish punt!

Douglas Taylor, owner of D Four Dave landed an audacious coup on a recent Monday evening when his six-year-old, of previously moderate form, romped home at Kilbeggan. Taylor is an owner with horses in training with a few different trainers in Ireland. Whether his inspiration was a Dick Francis novel or six pints of Guinness is unclear. But what remains the same is the successful plot! The plan involved 200 people - 50 drivers and 150 people to place the bets. The 150 'punters' each had 200 to place on D Four Dave, accompanied by a completed betting slip and instructive letter.

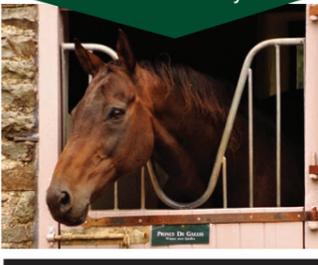


The letter read: "Your job is to place the bet exactly at 6.55pm. You need to be at the counter before to be in position to hand over the betting slip and say to the person at the counter, "I will take the price". You can then return with your driver to MCR office to get paid." Trouble was,

many of the people placing the bet were foreign, with no experience of betting and very poor English. At least one of them handed the entire package to the shop staff. That firm, alerted to the plan, took action to reduce their liability. The expected price of 14-1 disappeared immediately and the opening show on course was half that. The coup was successful, though the reward was somewhat scant for the huge effort. In the aftermath of the event, Taylor revealed that the exercise had been "a dry run" and that there would be another coup in the future.

Snapshot

Winning hurdler Prince de Galles, now retired, keeps an eye on events in the stable yard.



Memorable quotes

Tony Morris, respected racing journalist on the subject of Racing for Change: "If the Champion Stakes is switched to Ascot in 2011 I can promise that I won't be in attendance!"

Racing scandals!

Although horseracing nowadays is 'cleaner' than it's ever been it has been notorious for past scandals. In 1844, Running Rein won the Derby but was subsequently disqualified when it was discovered that the runner was in fact a four-year-old named Maccabeus! The race was awarded to runner-up Orlando. But it was a bad year for the Derby when it also transpired that another of the runners was a six-year-old.

The favourite for the race was tampered with by dopers the night before Derby Day and had to be pulled up by his jockey during the race! Horses being substituted for

others of great ability in a race are known as 'ringers'. Although there have been no recent cases of 'ringers' some big penalties have been handed down where genuine mistakes have been made when the wrong horse was sent to the racecourse.

Did you know?

Fred Winter is the only man to ever win the Cheltenham Gold Cup, Grand National and Champion Hurdle as a trainer and a jockey.

Horse health at the sharp end

Every racehorse has a passport in which all vaccinations are recorded to ensure that immunisation is current. There are severe penalties for not keeping records up to date and horses are banned from running in such circumstances. Immunisation is most effective when a high percentage of the horse population is vaccinated (known as herd immunity). The fact that equine flu epidemics are now quite rare is largely attributed to the success of the vaccination programme. When horses are infected naturally, antibodies are produced and will help the horse fight disease. Both antibodies and killer cells are specific for a particular infectious organism and can continue to circulate within the immune system for a time after the horse has recovered from the disease providing immunity. However, the limitation with this natural immunity is that this response can take days, by which time the disease can cause significant harm and spread to other horses. Over time, the response weakens further unless the horse is re-exposed.

Vaccines stimulate an immune response in horses by tricking their bodies into believing that they're being attacked by a disease and create antibodies and killer cells to fight infection. This means that when natural infection does occur, the immune system is able to produce a much faster and stronger response. It is this strong response, as a result of vaccination, that prevents the disease becoming debilitating and spreading to others. The Jockey Club rules stipulate that a horse must have two primary vaccinations against flu and that the vaccination section of the passport must always be completed accordingly.

Let us have your ideas and views



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THE REGULAR NEWSLETTER FROM HOMEBRED RACING

AUTUMN/2010



Polarity with Felix de Giles at Southwell on her second run

Polarity soon back on track

Polarity is back in training having taken a summer break turned out at James Bethell's yard in Yorkshire. We had decided to give her a short time off after she ran inexplicably at Southwell in just her second run - she was well in contention when dropping out quickly from the lead half a mile from home. Nothing came to light until Sam restarted work and

James spotted muscle wastage on her hind quarters suggesting that she'd pulled a muscle at Southwell. It now all seems to make sense. Sam has been thoroughly checked out by the vets and is 100% sound and has been rebuilding the muscle with plenty of slow, steady work. Although this has meant a delay in her schedule we hope to see her back on the racetrack this autumn.



The Llanwnnen Hounds, have produced a full colour A4 sized appointment calendar for 2011. Copies are £9.99 each and are available by calling 01293 884433 - an ideal Xmas gift!

Homebred Owners' Day 2010



More photos of the day inside...

Did you know?

In addition to the Grand National, Aintree has also hosted five British Formula 1 Grand Prix. Stirling Moss won his first Grand Prix at Liverpool in 1955.

French farce in Champion Hurdle 2010



Mandali was allowed to get away

Jockey Christophe Soumillon is a top flat jockey - so was ignored by the other riders when partnering Mandali over jumps in the 2010 French Champion Hurdle at Auteil. On only his second ride over hurdles, Soumillon took Mandali into a clear lead which soon increased to see him 100 lengths clear of the field. The other jockeys, regarding Soumillon as an interloper, simply ignored Mandali and continued to lollap along at a pedestrian tempo. Despite not jumping with any fluency, nor breaking any speed limits, Mandali was soon miles clear. Soumillon heard the whistles and boos of the crowd as his adversaries' crass error was already apparent with a full lap left to go and wondered if there might have been a false start. But he has never lacked confidence and ploughed on regardless. The wide gap was never reduced. Mandali hopped over the last flight while the others were still approaching the penultimate flight!

Stable visits

If you would like to see your horse working on the gallops call the office on 01293 884433 and we'll arrange it for you.

Memorable quotes

Trainer Mark Johnston on his frustration with racing "It was the end of 2004, we had our best season ever, but I wanted out. I was hating every minute of it".

How are we doing?

Last season's predictions for new stallions to follow with their first juvenile runners couldn't have done better. We selected Dubawi as the likely champion and Avonbridge as the bargain basement 'dark horse'. They finished first and second in the table of numbers of winners sired.

In 2010 we predicted that Holy Roman Emperor would top the table followed by Ad Valorem and that Proclamation might be a likely outsider to sire plenty of winners. So far Holy Roman Emperor duly heads the field followed by Aussies



Holy Roman Emperor sets the pace

Rules and Ifraaj with Ad Valorem in a solid 4th place. Proclamation is some way behind at the moment with 6 winners - but is likely to pick up when the ground softens. But overall not a bad prediction so far!

Speed merchants

It is one of the ironies of horse racing that while, throughout the history of the Thoroughbred, man's constant quest has been for the horse who can run fastest between two given points, records in terms of time have tended to be meaningless. Hand-timing could never be thoroughly reliable, but even since electric timing became commonplace, other factors have been apt to make time alone a poor and misleading guide to racing class. Of course, in all but a tiny minority of races, horses are ridden with the intention of beating other horses, not of beating the clock. As a consequence, many recognised top horses do not break time records, whereas many manifestly ordinary horses do so regularly.

The condition and contours of the track and wind direction commonly have as much to do with the setting of time records as the intrinsic merit of the record-breaker, and comparisons between time records set in various parts of the world have little significance. Inevitably, most of the world's fastest times attributed to British horses were set at Epsom and Brighton, courses which feature sharp descents, and while the American record-holders might seem more legitimate on account of the almost uniformly level tracks, it is American practice to clock races from a flying start and to return times to the nearest fifth of a second, as opposed to the one-hundredth of a second common in most other countries.

Snapshot

Delagoa Bay - our Encosta de Lago filly - saddled up for work at Sylvester Kirk's yard. She's due to make her debut soon.



After consecutive years as champion sire in Australia, Encosta de Lago finished second this season by the narrowest of margins to Redoutes Choice. Both stallions sired the same number of black type winners but Redoutes Choice secured marginally more prize money.

Did you know?

Jockey Ruby Walsh is the only rider to have won all four Grand Nationals - English, Irish, Scottish and Welsh.

Snapshot

Our two-year-old filly VeuveVeuveVoom in the paddock at Lingfield prior to her racecourse debut.



Our two-year-old filly VeuveVeuveVoom hasn't enjoyed much luck so far but has demonstrated that she has plenty of speed. On her first run she veered right across the track to race on her own. Second time out she got a bad outside draw on the all weather and at Windsor the saddle slipped when holding a good position!

Did you know?

New approach only managed to win the Epsom Derby after a mistake by his trainer Jim Bolger who left him down to run as an oversight!

Shaping up to the future...

Homebred's two yearling fillies made a big impact at this year's Owner's Day and were both the subject of very complimentary comment. None more so from Aintree legend Brian Fletcher who said "They're each quite different types - but these are the two nicest youngsters I've seen for a very, very long time".



Aintree legend Brian Fletcher



'Lucy' looks to be a speedy type

Homebred Owners' day 2010

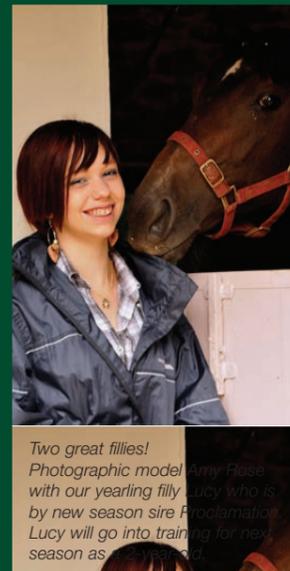
Once again Homebred owners travelled from far and wide to the Owners' Day at the Stud in mid July. Predictably it had to be once the fine weather of early Summer had broken! But although rain threatened it was little more than damp and strangely misty for high summer. The weather forecast deterred many but we still had a good turn out and enjoyed the regular parade of the Llanwnnen Hounds who were due to go onto the Royal Welsh Show the following day.



The Llanwnnen Hounds arrive at the Homebred Open Day



More like October than July!



Two great fillies! Photographic model Amy Rose with our yearling filly Lucy who is by new season sire Proclamation. Lucy will go into training for next season as...



A dress rehearsal for the hounds who were off to the Royal Welsh Show the following day



Unsuspecting dog walkers join the party?



Visitors well prepared for the weather



Plenty of chat in the stable yard



Owners compare notes

'Lucy' has a great pedigree being by Group 1 winner Proclamation ex winning mare Fustaan, by Royal Applause, who is full sister to dual Group 1 winner Finjaan who was also 3rd in the Dewhurst Stakes. Finjaan has further Group entries later in the season. 'Lucy' is particularly laid back but looks to have the build and physique to make a speedy two-year-old. 'Sky' is quite different to Lucy being a size bigger but nonetheless is very well grown. Sky's sire, Septieme Ciel, is also a Group 1 winner and is the son of the great Seattle Slew out of the multiple Group 1 winning racemare Maximora. Septieme Ciel is already the sire of winners of over 1000 races and \$20 million including Group 1 winning fillies Vivid Angels, American Gypsy and is a leading sire of 2-year-olds in France. Sky is out of our winning miler Snowy Mantle and is an exceptional looking filly. The next task is to provide racing names for each (suggestions always welcome!) Initial thoughts for our Proclamation ex Fustaan is Fatwah! But we're struggling for a good name for Sky. The two fillies will remain turned out in our steep front field during the autumn and be stabled at night when the weather breaks before going to Sheena Hill to be broken and ridden away.

Sky is an exceptionally well grown yearling

