



Improving by leaps and bounds!

Polarity (Sam) is now back in full training after nearly two years off since finishing fourth in a maiden on the flat at Wolverhampton. Sam was such a big, gangly youngster that we've now given her plenty of time to fill out and strengthen up. She's looking an absolute picture and thoroughly pleasing Alex who has ridden her in all her work

at home. She'll soon be in full training with Gerry Enright in Lewes and the plan is to go jumping with her this winter. But first we may just give her another spin on the all-weather to see how she's strengthened up. If you'd like a jumper to follow this season Sam looks to have all the right credentials to give us plenty of fun!

Henderson - a name to watch out for in French jockey ranks

Nicky Henderson may have missed out on last season's jumps trainers' title, however there is one current European champion called 'Henderson' albeit under a different code and completely unrelated. Tom Henderson was the champion Flat apprentice in France last year. Attached to the powerful Jean-Claude Rouget yard and referred to in the French racecards as 'Thomas', he partnered 43 winners in 2011. His father is the 60-year-old Londoner David Henderson, whose varied racing career has taken in three continents, contact with two of the greatest stallions of the 20th century and a fighter jet crashing into his yard at Mont-de-Marsan, deep in the south west of France.

"We had to employ lawyers to take on the state," Henderson reported, "and when we finally reached a settlement the lawyers took half, so we came out of it badly. But the last few years have been good years." Tom thrived, riding his first winner just three days after his 16th birthday in March 2010. And though 2010 brought only two further successes, just a year later he had made it into the nation's top 30 jockeys. Quizzed about Tom's future, his proud dad said: "He only has nine more winners to ride out his claim and after that it could be difficult but I hope Mr Rouget won't forget him. If necessary he could even move to America, where he spent last winter."

Bookies ready to pay out?

A £40 million five-year deal with Betfair agreed by the Horsemen's Group, Racecourse Association and BHA could be a template for commercial arrangements with bookmakers, as the industry searches for a replacement funding mechanism to the statutory levy system.

While the deal may add only £1.3 million a year to the sport's coffers, given what Betfair were paying as a voluntary contribution in lieu of levy, the significance is the formalising of a contract with the betting exchange which the brokers of the deal regard as an example that should be followed with fixed odds bookmakers. Talks with the likes of Ladbrokes, William Hill and Coral have yet to take place. The £40m could rise if turnover on British racing on Betfair increases against non-disclosed measures but, equally, if the fixture list were to fall below a certain number during the lifetime of the deal - then the £40m could decrease.

Caviar was second best

An unworthy thought in the aftermath of Royal Ascot was that at least our big horse had proved better than their big horse, that Frankel's reputation had been enhanced while Black Caviar's had diminished. For what seemed like weeks we endured the Antipodean press pack telling us about Black Caviar's brilliance and superiority.



Black Caviar (above) admirably travelled across the world to showcase her talents and remains unbeaten. That she almost met defeat in the Diamond Jubilee Slakes was largely the fault of jockey Luke Nolen, who tried to kid us all there was more in the tank than fumes.

There are now 22 straight wins in the book, which, on one simple reading at least, makes her twice the horse that Frankel is.

At Warren Place Frankel confirms rock star status by occasionally smashing up his box. If he could drive, he'd park his expensive vehicle at the bottom of a hotel swimming pool. He's a beast. On the racecourse, you can almost see a fizzing fuse reducing into the ball of flesh that is his body. Tom Queally may be at the controls but we know who is in charge.

Did you know?

Exactly 100 racetracks have closed in Britain since 1900.



Reach for the Sky!

Our unraced three year old filly Celestial Bay (Sky) is now well into her training programme and due to make her racecourse debut for Sylvester Kirk this autumn. Sky is by Group 1 winner Septieme Ciel, who is himself by the legendary Seattle Slew, out of our winning mare Snowed Under whose first foal won 9 races on the flat for trainer James

Bethell. Brian Fletcher describes Sky as 'one of the nicest youngsters I've seen.' So hopes are high that she'll prove to have some power under the bonnet. Sky has completed six weeks roadwork being ridden around the local lanes by Alex Rhodes, work rider for Carmarthen based trainer Alison Thorpe. Alex says 'Sky is a really lovely filly with a great

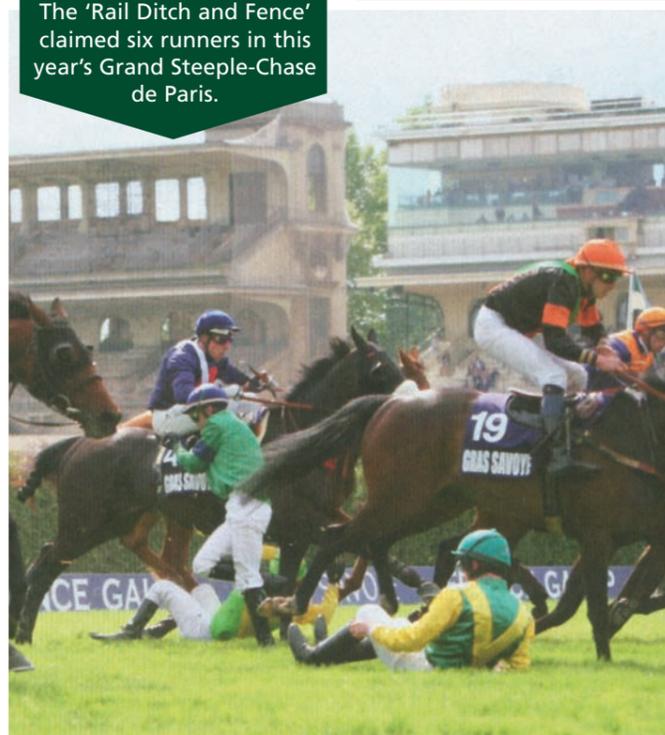
temperament and seems to have everything going for her." The plan is for Sky to make her racecourse debut this autumn over 10 - 12 furlongs - but we'll see how she goes at home before making any definite plans. Interest from owners has been strong but we still have some shares left. Please call us if you're interested! 01293 884433.

Did you know?

Frankel is now the highest rated horse ever to race in Britain with a Timeform mark of 140 - 2lbs higher than the great Brigadier Gerard.

Snapshot

The 'Rail Ditch and Fence' claimed six runners in this year's Grand Steeple-Chase de Paris.



Encosta crowned champion sire in HK



Coolmore stallion Encosta De Lago has been crowned the leading Hong Kong sire of the 2011/2012 season by earnings. The 19-year-old son of Fairy King, who stands at Coolmore Australia and is sire

of Delagoa Bay, ended the season as the sire of 14 winners of \$HK26.6 million (£2,143,747). Encosta De Lago previously hit notoriety in Hong Kong as the sire of star sprinter Sacred Kingdom and was also represented by another high-class performer this season in the Champions & Chater Cup winner Liberator. The four-year old Australian-bred was crowned the season's champion stayer at the annual Hong Kong awards ceremony on Sunday. Second spot was filled by

another Coolmore inmate in Danehill Dancer, the sire of 15 winners of \$HK23 million (£1,896,291). His runners were topped by The Premier Bowl winner Rich Unicorn.

Did you know?

Lingfield Park has contracted to renew its Polytrack surface in time for the new season in November.

Just how far can ex-racers go in another discipline?



For the first time since 1996 when Ready Teddy triumphed in Atlanta, an ex-racehorse could have won eventing gold at London 2012.

Two standout horses of the global scene came out of training. Parklane Hawk, raced in New Zealand, won Burghley 2011 and Kentucky 2012, and is William Fox-Pitt's reserve horse for the British squad at Greenwich. Neville Bardos, bought for \$800 off the track and saved from a fatal barn fire last year, is the

likely Olympic partner of the USA's Boyd Martin. That an eventer's racing background is still thought to be newsworthy in every day equestrianism demonstrates quite how far the speedy thoroughbred went out of fashion in the sport. In 2004 the thoroughbred was considered redundant. However, elite riders have become so skilled that course-designing trends have shifted again. We are now seeing the same intensity of jumping effort over ten-minute rather than 11-minute cross-country tracks, with a marked increase in energy-sapping twists and turns. This has put the thoroughbred back in the driving seat. At Burghley 2011, there were barely 12 thoroughbreds in the 80-starter field, but they provided nine of the 21 clears around the optimum time.

Snapshot

Our farrier Oliver Jones hard at work preparing shoes for Celestial Bay and Polarity



Snapshot

June 2012 - a selection of owners enjoy lunch at the Homebred Stud

Police caution van driver

Although the lanes around the Homebred Stud are pretty quiet, making them ideal for roadwork, just occasionally there's an idiot driver. Work rider Alex Rhodes experienced a nasty incident when riding Polarity on a particularly narrow stretch and was approached by a DPD delivery van travelling at speed. Despite signals from Alex the driver failed to slow down and it was only by luck, rather than judgement, that a serious accident was avoided. The incident was reported to the police who traced and



interviewed the driver issuing him with a caution. A police spokesman said: "This was a prosecutable offence but lack of independent witnesses prevented this. Had it been a young child on a pony - rather than an experienced professional - this could have resulted in a fatal accident. We are keen to eradicate this sort of driving behaviour." Happily Sam seems unaffected by the incident and remains well behaved in traffic - unlike some van drivers!

Counting the cost...

Owners of any type of animal are always staggered by the amounts vets manage to charge! But training to become a vet is a very costly process too. Current tuition fees for vet students are £9,100 per annum and now that the days of student grants are long gone it can all add up to a tidy sum by the time of qualification. Part of the process for vets is to shadow and learn from vets in practice to get experience of working with all types of animals. So the final price tag for veterinary qualification as a vet comes in around £75-£100,000. This goes some way to explain the cost of your latest vet's bill!

Bookies profits up - again!

Despite the protests that they're unable to pay more for the opportunity racing provides for them, bookies profits are still increasing. Ladbrokes have announced an amazing 48.9 percent increase in half year profits. And this is despite experiencing difficulties with their online operation. Hopefully Ladbrokes will now follow Betfair's example which will provide increased funding for racing linked to their profitability.

Memorable quotes

Richard Hughes on riding against Frankel in the 2000 Guineas: "No-one will ever see something like that again - he just ran away from us and went further and further away".

Hereford and Folkestone tracks to close

The closure of Hereford and the potential loss of Folkestone should act as a salutary lesson to racing on the need to modernise the way the sport is funded, according to the BHA. BHA chief executive Paul Bittar said the owner's shock decision was a matter for Northern Racing and Arena Leisure but recognised the commercial pressures behind it. He added: "While British racing is immensely popular on many levels, and enjoyed record attendances last year, the fact is that the sport's financial model remains badly outdated. This undoubtedly makes life very difficult for all who depend on the sport for their living and it also impacts on racecourses, particularly smaller ones."



Hereford racecourse is set to close...



Backpacker was a winner at Folkestone

Racecourse Association chief executive Stephen Atkin said he did not believe that yesterday's news would signal the start of a series of racecourse closures. He said: "It is always disappointing when a racecourse closes but I don't think it would be right to assume that these problems will be felt across all racecourses. There were record attendances last year and this indicates that where the sport is presented well it is immensely popular and is a strong financial proposition. The decision to move fixtures within the Arena/Northern group underlines that fixtures are where the value of the sport is generated." "The closure of Hereford and Folkestone is, none the less, a salutary reminder that racecourses are not immune to market forces and are



Racing at Folkestone is to end...

competing for customers in a crowded sport and leisure sector. Promoting horse racing effectively remains a priority." Closer to the shop floor the reaction was a mixture of sadness and astonishment. An online petition asking Hereford council to save the course has already begun and quickly accumulated hundreds of signatures.

Herefordshire trainer Richard Lee, who had his first ride at the course, said: "I am devastated about it. It's not Ascot but it's a fair track, it is a good viewing track and the stands are quite adequate. "We need every racecourse we can keep in this country. I think this is a wake-up call to racing." Fellow trainer Emma Lavelle said: "It's extraordinary and it's come pretty much out

of the blue, although some people have been saying there would be closures as a result of the merger. It's so sad, and the worry for people like me is that the fixtures will simply be redistributed to all-weather meetings rather than jumping. "Both are great feeder racecourses for young jumpers and I've introduced some nice horses at Folkestone. Young jumpers need these courses." The loss of any racecourse is sad - particularly as Homebred Racing has enjoyed success at Folkestone and Hereford over the years.

British course closures since 1960

Year	Course
2009	Great Leighs
1981	Stockton
1977	Lanark
1974	Wye
1970	Alexandra Park
1965	Birmingham
1965	Rothbury
1965	Bogside
1964	Lewes
1964	Lincoln
1963	Manchester
1963	Woore
1962	Hurst Park
1960	Buckfastleigh