



The real cost of the bookies

Owners paid £125 million to race over jumps in 2008 - which pales by comparison with bookmakers' receipts which total over £500 million in 4 days of the Cheltenham Festival



Betting returns from Hong Kong for the past year clearly underline just how much the bookies take out of UK racing. There are no bookies in Hong Kong as all bets are struck through the Hong Kong Jockey

Club which totalled a staggering £5,300 million in 2009. That equals to a stake of £68 million per meeting. But the real eye opener is what this means for owner's prizemoney - typically £38,500

for the lowest grade handicap (£2,500 in Britain). The average prizemoney per race in Hong Kong is a massive £80,000. Proof, if ever it was needed, that British racing simply can't afford to lose the Tote.

Working at home!

Now that the weather is, hopefully, set to improve it's a great time to watch horses on the gallops. Homebred trainers are always happy to accommodate owners but we always ask that you make arrangements by calling the office on 01293 884433. We can then ensure that you'll be able to see your horse working on the gallops.

Did you know?

Horse racing sustains over 100,000 jobs, directly and indirectly across the UK.



Divine White retires

Divine White, our sprinting mare by College Chapel has run her last race. It has to be said that she's proved one of our most frustrating runners. Having shown good juvenile form for Amanda Perrett, including in one of the season's big nurseries at Doncaster, it was often

difficult to predict how she might run. But she was unlucky not to win on a couple of occasions and finished second 4 times including by the narrowest of margins. Divine White was beaten a short head by Hysterical Lady over 6 furlongs when giving her 18lbs and jockey Adam Kirby told us

he felt sure she would run up a quick sequence of victories on that showing. But it was not to be. Divine White is now roughed off and will soon be back home at the stud for a summer turned out at grass. Despite never winning we still believe she'll make a great broodmare.

Did you know?

Ffos Las, near Llanelli in South West Wales, is Britain's 60th racecourse and cost £21 million.

Let us have your ideas and views



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WINNING POST

THE REGULAR NEWSLETTER FROM HOMEBRED RACING

SPRING/2010



Lord Oaksey with Carruthers

Late in 2008 we highlighted Lord Oaksey's 1000/1 bet about his homebred youngster Carruthers winning the Gold Cup. Amazingly Carruthers is now as low as 33/1 to lift the prize at Cheltenham in March. So not such a long shot now!



Backpacker, winning Easter Bank Holiday's big chase 'unchallenged' ridden by Richard Dunwoody

Backpacker 1980-2010

We're very sad to announce that Backpacker (by New Brig ex Preston Deal) has died at home at the age of 30. Our first winner, at 100/1, had enjoyed 17 years of wonderful retirement as schoolmaster to our youngsters and a companion to our other retirees. Backpacker was more than a handful on the racecourse and in his early years getting to the start was as good as a

win! In 7 seasons racing over fences he never fell and achieved a rating of 142 after his run in the Scottish Grand National (equal to a rating of 162 today as ratings have been raised 20lbs over the intervening years). He was a spectacular jumper and loved 3 miles on fast ground on a right hand track. He mellowed to be a wonderful friend in his later years. We all miss him.

Will success breed success?



First season stallion Holy Roman Emperor

Last season's predictions for new stallions to follow with their first runners couldn't have done better as we selected Dubawi as the 'most likely' and Avonbridge as the 'bargain basement' dark horse. They topped the table for number of winners in first and second place respectively. This season the field comprises over 50 brand new stallions. Coolmore, as always, is sure to feature prominently and their obvious standard bearer will be Hurricane Run - but there's a suspicion that his runners may not be as precocious as others. So Holy Roman Emperor may be their

trump card. And from the bargain basement Proclamation looks good value. Ad Valorem is another Coolmore inmate who should enjoy plenty of success. Others to look out for are Diamond Green and Aussie Rules. It's a cause for concern that all these mentioned, with the exception of Proclamation, stand in Ireland and maybe it'll be down to Shirocco and Iceman to represent the 'home' team. Final choices? Holy Roman Emperor to have more winners than Ad Valorem and Proclamation to be the surprise packet - particularly on soft ground.

Snapshot

Very pretty - but snowed in! This winter's heavy snow meant that no vehicles could get in or out of the stud for 3 weeks



Owner's discounts

As an existing owner did you know that you can buy shares in other Homebred horses at 20% of the normal price? If you are interested in increasing your involvement or introducing a friend please call the office on 01293 884433. You can also 'swap' into other horses at no cost.

Did you know?

UK adults now spend 14.3 hours online every week - compared to 11.1 hours watching TV.

At last... our latest recruit Polarity is on track!



We had hoped to run Sam as a 3 year old over 1½ miles at the back end of last year, but the weather prevented that as the ground was just too heavy for a first run. 5 entries later, after being variously rained, snowed and frozen off, Sam made her long awaited debut at Southwell on 23rd February. Although the bare result showed that she finished 9th out of 14 there was plenty of encouragement to be taken from her first run - particularly as it didn't quite go to plan. Jockey Graham Lee was asked to jump her off at the front

and track the leaders but in the event Sam jinked left and right at the start and lost a lot of ground before setting off behind the whole field. She moved up well at halfway but tired on the sticky ground. Graham told us "This is a lovely filly but is still weak". James, a little frustrated that Sam got left at the start, was also encouraged by the run despite her finishing position and says that Sam will improve tremendously for this experience and when she races on better ground. So still a lot to look forward to!

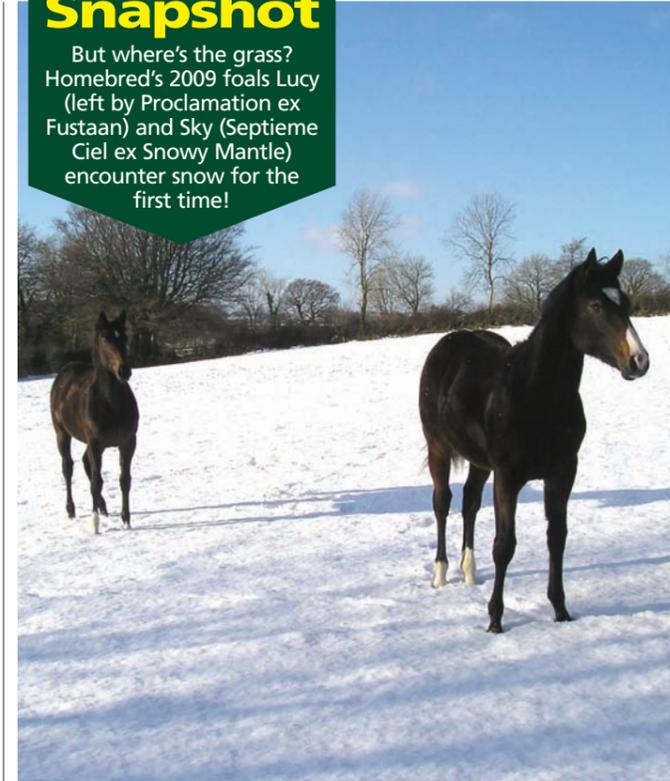
Science fact or fiction?

AI and ET are being used routinely and successfully to breed non-thoroughbred horses worldwide. However, under current legislation, to be registered in the International Studbook, a thoroughbred foal must be the result of natural mating and not from AI or ET. Experts argue that now parentage identification is no longer a problem, due to the introduction of DNA testing, this subject should at least be formally considered and discussed by the International Studbook and International Breeders' Conferences. However, many simply do not like the idea of AI and ET - would it really be right to have a Storm Cat foal in the year 3000? AI has obvious practical advantages but unless the number of mares a stallion can

impregnate is limited, then many argue that surely the introduction of AI would narrow the thoroughbred gene pool too far. In fact, even if the number of mares was limited, who could be trusted with the crucial task of regulating this? Under current non thoroughbred legislation, the introduction of AI would also allow Embryo Transfer. This involves an eight-day-old embryo, being transferred into the womb of another mare that is healthy and fertile but whose genes are irrelevant. If ET was allowed, 2008 Arc winner Zarkava could have two or three foals per year and perhaps would not have been retired! Whatever your opinion, the whole thoroughbred world will be watching these new developments closely.

Snapshot

But where's the grass? Homebred's 2009 foals Lucy (left by Proclamation ex Fustaan) and Sky (Septieme Ciel ex Snowy Mantle) encounter snow for the first time!



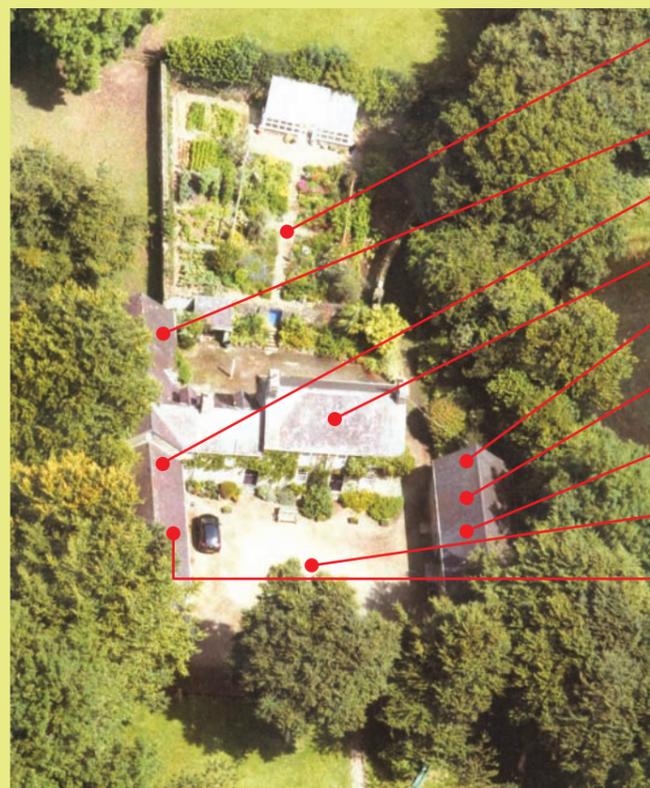
Changes to drug testing

The British Horseracing Authority has changed its raceday testing programme to adopt a more flexible approach, making increased use of information and intelligence and employing more targeted testing, which will occur both before and after racing, and in training as well.

Did you know?

Collectively Britain's jump racecourses have invested over £450 million to upgrade facilities over the past 5 years.

Bird's eye view of home



- Kitchen garden
- Foal barn with access to home paddock
- Feed & tack room
- Main house & office
- Foaling box with CCTV
- Storage/hay barn
- Mares boxes
- Main stable yard
- Yearling boxes

Hopefully this may prove useful to help get your bearings on the Open Day this year which is planned to be on Sunday 18th July

This aerial view shows Homebred Racing's base in West Wales where all our youngsters are bred and raised. There has probably been a farm on the site for a lot longer than the current buildings which were completed around 1875. This was a prosperous era for the area when the local woollen trade was booming and supplied most of the cloth for British Army uniforms. The buildings suit horses ideally since they have plenty of roof height and are airy and well ventilated. The situation on a south facing slope also means good growing conditions for grass too.

Owners' Day at the Stud

This year's open day at the Homebred Stud in West Wales will be on Sunday 18th July. All owners will be receiving a formal invitation with full details in due course - but meanwhile a date for your diary! Let's hope for a 'barbecue' summer this time.

Snapshot

January 2010 - and our latest recruit 2-year-old VeuveVeuveVoom is backed and ridden for the first time



Is this the world's premier racecourse?



We have Ffos Las, and had, temporarily Great Leighs, but the new Meydan racecourse in Dubai has now also opened for business.

It represents an investment of \$2 billion and is described by Frankie Dettori as simply being 'out of this world'.