

# Encosta is world's No1

Phenomenal success in Australia should help focus buyers' attention when Encosta de Lago's Irish progeny reach the sales ring later this year.

He became Australia's champion sire by a margin of nearly AUS\$4,000,000 (£2 million) in the 2007/08 season and the son of Fairy King is currently fighting out a close three-way battle with Redoute's Choice and Scenic in the race for the 2008/09 title, which albeit still has some way to go.

There could hardly have been a better demonstration of his talents than on March 14, when the stallion scored Group-race doubles at both Remington Park and Randwick, bringing his tally to 10 Group 1 winners this season alone! The scale of the stallion's success in other parts of the



Homebred's filly 'Poppy' is one of Encosta de Lago's only crop in Europe

world should help focus attention on his Irish progeny when they reach the yearling sales later this year. He has at least 42 yearlings from the book of just over 60 mares he covered during an abbreviated 2007 season. Quite a few are out of mares

with Group winners to their credit, including the dams of the Group 1 winners Sligo Bay, Ashkalani, Atticus and Subtle Power. One of the fillies is out of winning German mare Amory is none other than Homebred Racing's very own 'Poppy'.

## Meet the stars...

Homebred Racing's Open Day at the Stud on Sunday 19th July is an informal occasion giving owners and visitors a chance to meet and see some of the real stars of the show. Principally the horses! But most importantly all those who help behind the scenes to get our horses to the track. And you may also be lucky enough to meet a racing great - like Aintree hero Brian Fletcher (pictured below with our filly Polarity) who's ridden a record 3 Grand National winners, including on Red Rum.



Aintree legend Brian Fletcher with Homebred Racing's Polarity

# WINNING P<sup>HOMEBRED</sup>ST

THE REGULAR NEWSLETTER FROM HOMEBRED RACING

SUMMER/2009

## Twinkling Star...



Homebred Star showed some of his old sparkle at Lingfield Park when returning after 2 years off. He was stepping up to 12 furlongs for the first time and was in the firing line during the closing stages - eventually beaten 6 lengths. The handicapper was sufficiently impressed to raise him 9lbs!

## Thinking about buying a share?

If you're thinking about buying a share, adding to your existing ownership or wanting to be involved in another horse, special offers will be available at Homebred Owners' day on Sunday 19th July. Racehorse ownership is all about sharing an interest and fun with friends. So a share makes a great birthday gift or present - and having a lovely framed photo captioned with the owners name completes the surprise on the day! Call the office on 01293 884433 for further details - but special discount forms will be available at the stud on the day.



## Snapshot

A sudden and unexpected arrival at the Homebred Stud is this swan who dropped in during early May and has now settled in!



## Memorable quotes

Racing lost one of its most ardent fans with the recent death of Sir Clement Freud. When asked what he'd most like said at his funeral, Sir Clement replied: "That one of the mourners thought he saw me move!"

## Did you know?

Betfair makes more trades in a day than all Europe's stock markets put together.

## Owning up...

There are stiff new penalties, up to a 10 year ban from racing, for making incorrect use of 'inside information' as an owner. Enjoying a flutter can be thrilling for a racehorse owner however it's worth remembering that you may have information relating to your horse, or other horses, which could be classed as 'Inside Information'. Generally you can use this information how you like, as long as it's not for corrupt betting purposes which would threaten the integrity of the sport.

The Rules around Inside Information focus on 3 main areas:

1. The passing of negative information
2. Passing inside information for reward
3. Passing information repeatedly

### Specific Standards for Owners from the Code of Conduct

- Do not lay any horse (betting on the horse to lose) in your ownership in a race
- Avoid imparting any information to anyone about your horse's non-participation in a race with a view to the horse being layed before it is taken out of the betting market

- As an owner you should refrain from laying any horse from a yard where you have a horse in training
- Refrain from causing any licensed person to breach the Rules of Racing

### Avoiding Problems

- Refrain from contact with people already disqualified or excluded from racing, or those who may pose a threat to the integrity of the sport
- Be aware that you may have information about your horse and other horses that other people may want for betting purposes
- Inform the trainer in writing if you do not wish the yard to discuss your horse with other owners
- Bear in mind that other owners may have asked the trainer not to discuss their horse. Respect the discretion shown by jockeys, trainers and yard staff, whose livelihood and reputation is at stake if they are found in breach of the Rules on Inside Information
- Report any instances of actual attempted malpractice to the British Horseracing Authority

## Did you know?

Last year 20,000 individual horses competed for a total prize money fund of £108 million - £5,400 each

## Snapshot

Real hedging! Gerwyn Jones gets to grips with an overgrown hedge at the Stud to lay and re-invigorate it!



## Sky's the limit

Meet Homebred's newest arrival - Sky. She's a bay filly by Group 1 winner Septieme Ciel out of our winning miler Snowy Mantle. Shown here at just 72 hours old she's now growing fast, as you'll be able to see at the Owner's Day at the Homebred Stud on Sunday 19th July. Sky is half sister to 9 times winner Snowed Under and to Divine White and Polarity.

## Did you know?

Beverly racecourse is the first to lose it's 'Gold Award' status - for scaling back on hospitality for owners.

## A very hoarsey tip...

Henry Cecil fans may need extra lozenges with which to soothe their throats during the Flat season, as word from Newmarket has it they may be doing plenty of cheering. The ten-time champion trainer, who this year celebrates the 40th anniversary of his first winner, is reported to have said he has as fine a string at Warren Place as he's had for some time. Amongst those to watch out for is a Needwood Blade colt named Kings Bayonet, owned by Cecil's long-term supporter Henry Ponsonby.

## Snapshot

Our unraced 3 year old filly Polarity tacked up ready to work on the gallops at James Bethell's yard in Middleham



## Owners' Day

Sunday 19th July  
Don't miss it!





# Flat racing searches for winning formula

Whilst racing undergoes a further round of self-examination to claw back raceday attendances and new TV audiences - it's clear that flat racing needs to change. By early May the first round of championship races is over - before summer has even started! And, if we are to believe that it is, the supreme test of The Derby follows in early June. It's crazy! At least jumping builds to the Cheltenham Festival and the Grand National. And how can the Derby claim to be the championship when the contestants only take part in virtue of being entered as a foal? As sure away of finding an Olympic gold medallist as

entering an infant for Eton! Racing currently embraces the need to 'clean up its act' but race planning continues to encourage institutional cheating allowing horses to knowingly run over unsuitable distances, tracks and going to achieve an artificially low handicap mark. No wonder potential racegoers find it all somewhat confusing. It's time horses had to qualify out of maidens by achieving a win or a place before going handicapping. Runners should then qualify for the best races which should be repositioned at the end of the season resulting in a meaningful championship - that produces real champions.

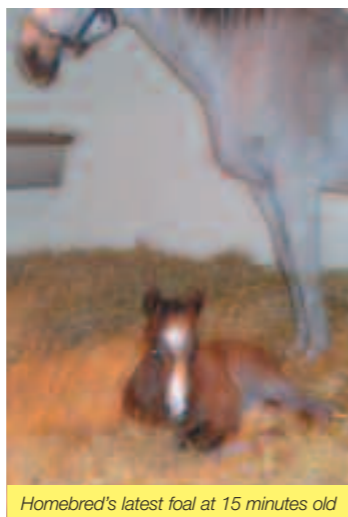


Flat racing needs to build a championship

## Association slams 'sensationalist' claims

The industry has reacted angrily to claims that thousands of horses are being slaughtered every year simply because they don't make the grade. The bold claims by animal rights campaigners have been branded 'inaccurate and sensationalist' by the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association. Animal Aid hit national headlines with its claims which also won the support of MP Mike Hancock who tabled a motion in the House of Commons calling for an end to the over-production of thoroughbreds.

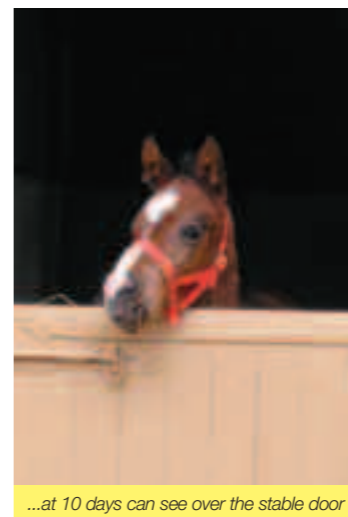
The Thoroughbred Breeders' Association said: "We have been advised that imposing restrictions on production would incur a legal challenge - therefore the only measures available to influence change are market forces and education". But it also points out that over 26,000 individual horses are needed in training to meet the current Fixture List requirements and British foal production alone - which stood at 5,912 at 31 December 2008 - cannot provide anything near sufficient numbers.



Homebred's latest foal at 15 minutes old



...out in the field just 48 hours later



...at 10 days can see over the stable door



...and at 2 months old is growing fast and very demanding!

# Ensuring it's always a happy landing

Foaling is an important time of year - often the culmination of years of planning. There are three objectives: a live foal, a live mare and to maintain the breeding status of the mare for the next year.

The time that it takes for a mare to foal is absolutely crucial for all concerned. The breeder can get the good news from the veterinary surgeon's ultrasound scanner that the mare is in foal from just 11 days after covering. The anticipation starts to build from here and precautionary measures are taken at an early stage. Broodmares are vaccinated regularly against influenza, tetanus, herpes (EHV 1,4) and rotavirus. Some may also be 'stitched' (vulva sutured) to prevent infection or abortion. Feeding starts to be increased during the last three months of pregnancy and our mares receive a further tetanus booster in the last month of pregnancy to protect the foal. Close monitoring is essential in

foaling mares as it is impossible to know when exactly she is going to foal. But there are several physical changes indicating delivery. These are relaxation of the pelvic ligaments, enlargement of the vulva and swelling of the udder, often with a 'waxy' secretion noticeable on the teat end, which is usually a sign that foaling will occur within one to four days. However, occasionally a mare will run milk well before foaling.

Whilst mares can foal easily in a field, most studs are usually equipped with well-designed foaling boxes, so that help is on hand in case of complications. They should be large, bedded with clean straw and well-ventilated but free from draughts. They are usually well lit and there needs to be a way by which the mare can be monitored without being disturbed (Ideally by CCTV). Most mares foal between 330 to 345 days after covering, but foaling after just 315 days or as much as 350 days is frequently reported.

It is possible to use foaling alarms, which rely on the breaking of a suture across the vulva in order to estimate when the mare will foal. However, the best approach is simply to watch the mare very closely without disturbing her. Foaling is a continuous process but it is customary to divide it into three stages. The first stage lasts between one and six hours, and is caused by the movement of the foal, which is initiated both by itself and by the contraction of the womb to push it into position. Therefore, the signs that the mare shows are those of discomfort and mild colic. The first stage of foaling ends with the 'waters breaking'. If she has been stitched, then these must be cut well before the mare is due. The second stage means contractions increase and this hopefully produces the appearance of the glistening white 'water bag' or amnion, followed by the front legs of the foal, usually with one

slightly ahead of the other. This stage should be a quick process that does not normally exceed 30 minutes and a vet should be called immediately if no progress is made within this time. If everything goes smoothly then the soles of the feet should appear directing downwards, the head should be found resting on the cannon bones between the knees and the most powerful contractions force the head and shoulders through the pelvis, rupturing the amnion. Once the foal's hips are delivered the mare rests and it is generally best to leave the umbilical cord intact for as long as possible and allow it to break naturally. With luck, all that remains is to treat the umbilical cord after rupture with an antiseptic solution and to try to encourage the mare and foal to bond with as little assistance as possible. If the foal does not present itself in the correct position

then this requires somebody who is experienced in foaling. The duration of difficulty whilst foaling has a significant effect on foal survival. Experience is vital as difficult foalings represent a race against time. The third and final stage of foaling involves the expulsion of the placenta and is often termed the 'delivery of the afterbirth'. Once the foal has been delivered and is breathing on its own, it is usually put in front of its mother and they are encouraged to bond. Immediately, the focus is switched to the foal, dressing its navel, checking that it sucks from its mother and later checking that it passes its meconium (or first stools). However, just as important is checking that the mare passes her placenta. This should not take more than two hours and a veterinary surgeon should be on hand to attend if it has not been passed within three hours. If it is left too long then the mare may succumb to endometritis, laminitis and

endotoxaemia, from which she may never recover. There is almost an endless list of possible post-foaling complications to worry about! Newborn foals often require veterinary attention and it may be necessary to support their breathing, to ensure their colostrum consumption or to boost their immune status by way of a plasma transfusion if they have low antibody levels. However, it is just as important to give all mares a physical examination within 24 hours of foaling. Mares that start to show signs of depression, abdominal discomfort or significant bleeding after foaling could have a major problem and, if so, it is a race against time to save the mare. A successful foaling, which produces a live, healthy foal and a live, healthy mare who can breed again next year is a wonderful event - and makes it a very emotional moment when the youngster debuts on the racecourse.



## Snapshot

Spring roll! lanto rolls home paddock to repair damage from hooves over the winter

## Did you know?

The last time UK racegoers saw Well Armed he collected £5,218 for landing a Lingfield maiden. Three and a half years later, he cruises home in the Dubai World Cup for a first prize of £2.5 million.



## Snapshot

Homebred's yearling fillies by Encosta de Lago (left) and Superior Premium try to catch a glimpse of the new foal

## Memorable quotes

Racing fanatic Sir Clement Freud quizzed when seen in a restaurant despite his new fitness regime was asked: "I thought you were trying to get in shape?" "I am," replied Sir Clement: "The shape I have chosen is a triangle!"