

# Real 'all-weather' racing

It wasn't just British racing that has suffered at the hands of the severe winter - Deauville and Dortmund are two other supposed 'all weather' venues that were forced to abandon during the big freeze. To understand how it is possible to keep the show on the road in even the most extreme temperatures, it pays to cast eyes further north to Stockholm. On average, Taby racecourse has a covering of snow for around three months per annum, yet it manages to stage five-race cards on Wednesdays and Sundays through the worst of the weather. The racecourse staff does have to put in a lot of extra work,



most notably harrowing the track 24 hours a day. Crucially, it is a pure sand surface, which lends itself to being mixed with salt - something that is not possible with the UK's synthetic surfaces. Taby has only had two abandonments in any one winter and raced in temperatures of as low as -20C without problems. The horses were fine but jockeys had to take some precautions - they adjusted their weight, wore extra jackets on the way to the start and went straight into the stalls when they got there!

## Snapshot

Little and Large! Lucy (left) and Sam (centre) awaiting feed time - Sky is in the background



# The Tariff gathers pace

More and more racecourses are now upping their prize-money levels to match, or exceed, the Horsemen's Tariff (minimum prize-money levels acceptable to owners). This year prize-money values fell by a projected 17%. At the same time, owners watched racecourses' media rights income rise while the levy declined. One of the main functions of the tariff is to encourage competition between racecourses so that owners and trainers, when

they have a choice as to where to run, are encouraged to take the best prize-money option.

## Did you know?

Racecourse attendances rose by 3.4% last year but revenue was down by more than 20% as racegoers cut back on hospitality.

# A guide to Tote betting

Betting on the Tote can offer confusing options - this is what they are:

**Win** - Simply pick the horse you think will win the race.

**Place** - A safer bet, you pick a horse you think will be placed.

• If there are 5-7 runners your horse can come 1st or 2nd.

• 8-15 runners and your horse can come 1st, 2nd or 3rd.

• 4th place in all handicap races with 16 or more runners.

**Each-Way** - This popular bet is a win and place bet combined.

**Exacta** - Pick the horses you think will come 1st and 2nd.

**Trifecta** - Pick the horses you think will come 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the correct order.

**Placepot** - To win this bet, pick horses to be placed in races 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

**Jackpot** - Pick the winners of races 3, 4, 5 and 6 to win this small stake, big win bet.

# Proof that racing needs the Tote...

A three per cent increase in prize-money for racing has been confirmed as quarterly figures published by the Pan Mutuel Urbain (off-course tote) suggest France's betting boom has continued into 2011. Figures released this week show total PMU turnover up by 8.3% at €2.58 billion for the first three months of this year and with the 12-month figure on course to hit €10 billion for the first time this year. While this shows the PMU to be in excellent health in the teeth of a worldwide economic downturn, it is also good news for horseracing in France, which receives approximately 8% of the turnover.

Racing shares the prize-money 50:50 with the trotters - between them, they are responsible for 96% of total turnover - with the result that in 2010, a total of €110 million will go to the Flat and €6.5m for the jumps. The news is particularly welcome to the racing community, many members of which feared the opening up of the online betting market in France last June might have had a negative effect. Forecasts suggest €1.2 bn of the 2011 total will come via the internet. All proof - if it was ever needed - that British racing simply can't afford to lose the Tote!

**Flashback to March 30 1974.** Brian Fletcher and Red Rum (No.1) at the 16th en route to capturing their second Grand National



# WINNING POST

THE REGULAR NEWSLETTER FROM HOMEBRED RACING

SUMMER/2011



## Homebred's latest recruits

Our two year old fillies Sky (left) and Lucy ridden away for the first time by John Wayne and Sheena Hill

## How good is Frankel?



The Tetrarch - simply the best

If you can believe the racing pages there's never been anything like Henry Cecil's winner of the 2000 Guineas. But Tudor Minstrel won the same race by an even bigger margin. And then there was The Tetrarch - a freak of breeding who was undefeated as a juvenile including winning the Coventry stakes by 10 lengths. In 1913 the handicapper rated him 10lbs better than the Middle Park winner. Although Brigadier Gerard, at 147 is the highest rated ever winner of the Guineas, it seems likely that The Tetrarch was entitled to be better than any of them - only injury prevented him proving it as a 3 year old.

## New kids on the block

Red Clubs - can prove a classy recruit



## What is a Hunter Chase?

Hunter Chases are held on licensed courses (from Perth to Newton Abbot) and restricted to horses who have been hunted during the current season - which means they are only open to point-to-pointers. They offer more prize-money than point-to-points and the chance to compete on some of racing's biggest stages, so a hunter chase win is a goal for many competitors on the point-to-point circuit. Three races stand out in Britain - Cheltenham's Christie's Fox-hunter Chase, Aintree's John Smith's Fox Hunters' Chase, and Stratford's W+S Recycling Cup - and Punchestown's Champion Hunters' Chase in Ireland.

It's always a bit of fun to try and identify the most likely new stallions to succeed when their first runners reach the racetrack in 2011. Expected front runners this year are likely to be Teofilo, Excellent Art, Dylan Thomas and Amadeus Wolf. Less prominent stallions likely to produce early juveniles include Vital Equine, Red Clubs, Jeremy, Dark Angel and Dutch Art whilst from the 'bargain basement' Baltic King and Strategic Prince also have



Baltic King - from the bargain basement



## Top spot for Delagoa Bay's sire

Encosta de Lago, the champion Aussie stallion and sire of Homebred's 3-y-o filly Delagoa Bay, has now risen to the top of the table for leading global sires by stakes winners. Encosta de Lago has already sired 6 group winners this season - more than double any other stallion worldwide. What's interesting is that having initially started his career at stud, he is now siring many older horses to become black type winners - including a recent 8 year old winning at the top level.

## China continues expansion



Despite uncertainty about what the Chinese government might allow regarding gambling, major racing jurisdictions continue to jockey for position in anticipation of the eventual return of commercial horseracing to the world's most populous nation. While Australian authorities were preparing for an 'equine mission' to China in October, the Hong Kong Jockey Club was outlining its commitment to help build a massive training and equestrian centre at Conghua, near Guangzhou, a city of more than ten million people. As *Beijing Today* reported, investors in the £66.8 million centre, which will sprawl over an area equal to nearly 200 football fields and will be the

site of the equestrian portion of the 16th Asian Games in November, "are expecting... to jump-start horseracing on the mainland". The Hong Kong Jockey Club is also investing in the centre to free up space so that renovations of its existing facilities, a key part of the extensive master plan for the future, can proceed. "As well as extending our training capabilities and overcoming current capacity constraints, this important project will enable us to put a comprehensive refurbishment of our 30-year-old Sha Tin stabling and training facilities under way, upgrading them to world-class standards", said Chief Executive Officer Winifred Engelbrecht-Bresges of the Conghua centre.

The Australian mission, which follows earlier forays into China by Australian sale companies and breeders, will give a variety of equine businesses the chance to learn about potential new commerce. "This mission will examine in detail the growth and potential of equine activities in China, the emerging horseracing industry, engage with a range of players in the industry and showcase the Australian equine industry's reputation for excellence and innovation as a potential partner for Chinese horse sports", stated a promotional brochure. Organised by the Aushorse marketing organization and Austrade, the mission is set to begin at the Shanghai World Expo and then travel to a racing venue about an hour away before continuing on to Beijing. A number of nations, including Ireland, Germany, the US, Canada, Russia, Argentina, Spain and Australia have also reportedly expressed interest in the China International Horse Fair to be conducted in Shanghai in late September under the auspices of the China Horse Industry Association. CHIA is in charge of registration and management of thoroughbreds to comply with

the International Stud Book Committee rules, as well as developing standards for racecourses. Earlier this year, an investment group associated with Meydan in Dubai announced plans to help construct a racecourse and equestrian facilities in Tianjin, China, over the next ten years.

### Snapshot

Polarity arrives home for a summer break after 2½ years away in Yorkshire



### Did you know?

Kings Theatre is currently the leading stallion by number of winners over jumps.

# Homebred's 2011 two-year olds...



## Make A Fuss

**2009 Grey filly by Proclamation (IRE) ex Fustaan (IRE) by Royal Applause**  
Proclamation was winner of 4 of his 8 races, including the Group 1 Sussex Stakes over a mile, beating multiple Group 1 winner Soviet Song. Proclamation's first crop of foals was well received at the sales and he has had his first runners and winners in 2010 ending the season as Britain's leading 1st season sire. Our filly is out of a comfortable

winner of her maiden race over 6 furlongs and who is a full sister to dual Group 2 winner Finjaan. Our filly looks a very sharp and a speedy type. Proclamation ended the 2010 flat season with his first crop led by an unbeaten 107p-rated youngster. Proclamation proved he can get a good one - and his stock seem sure to progress well, just as he did. Remember, he was a brilliant 130-rated Champion over 1 mile!



## Celestial Bay

**2009 Bay filly by Septieme Ciel (USA) ex Snowy Mantle by Siberian Express**  
Septieme Ciel won 5 races up to a mile at 2 and 3 years including the Group 1 Prix de La Foret. A son of the great Seattle Slew out of Group 1 winning mare Maximaro, Septieme Ciel is the sire of the winners of 924 races and \$18,500,000 including Group 1 winners Wild Angels and American Gypsy. He was also the leading sire of two-year-olds in France.

This exceptionally good looking filly is out of our winning miler Snowy Mantle whose first foal, Snowed Under, won 9 races. We are offering introductory shares now at concessionary rates for both of these fillies allowing owners to be involved with their progress right up to the end of their first season in training. Please call 01293 884433 or email [post@chriswallcreative.co.uk](mailto:post@chriswallcreative.co.uk) for further details.

### Snapshot

2011 brood of goslings taking an evening cruise at the stud



### Did you know?

Racing at Ascot was started by Queen Anne in 1711 and the first race, Her Majesty's Plate was worth 100 guineas.

## Pulling a fast one!



Leading jockey Richard Hughes gets the leg up on Delagoa Bay

Globe trotting Richard Hughes, who had just returned from race riding in Singapore to ride Delagoa Bay at Chepstow now has a regular feature in the Saturday edition of the Racing Post. One of his current issues is racecourses 'pulling a fast one' over going descriptions. The very dry winter followed by a scorching spring has made

it very difficult for racecourses, but there is pressure on clerks of the course to always provide good, safe ground. Richard, absolutely correctly, asserts that the currently over-used description of 'good to firm' is meaningless. "Racing's punters and professionals are being misled by racecourse going descriptions. It should be

compulsory for readings to be taken all across the track about an hour before the first race. A lot of readings are taken with dew on the ground at 9am - by race time the ground will be a lot quicker". "My suggestion is that 'fast' should be added to the description. My view is that in mid summer the ground should be fast. Clerks should only water to promote the growth of grass, not to change the description of going". More honesty on going would not only be more informative but also reduce the number of non-runners on the day who turn up to discover what's described as good to firm, is in fact, a good deal faster. And watering can prove a real safety issue when horses encounter different patches of going.

## Too many for too few?



The fixture list has shed just 23 of the 1,503 meetings run last year. Prize-money collected by owners is bound to fall at a time when so many are banging the prize-money drum. However, there is a more compelling reason beyond prize-money to reduce fixtures. It concerns the size of the annual foal crop, which is in sharp decline. This year, some 2,500 fewer horses will go into training to contest a near-identical number of races that were run last year. Next year the number of horses available to go into training will fall by a

further 3,300. And projections for 2013 suggest the intake will fall by another 1,000. These are big numbers with big implications. In the last two years the combined foal crops of Britain and Ireland have declined by 33% as breeders took unprofitable mares out of circulation. Put another way, one in three horses that made up the numbers in 2010 will simply not exist to compete in 2012. Yet fixtures will almost certainly remain constant. This has serious implications for field sizes, which, by rough association, will regress by 33% next year. In consequence, there will be several more races with fewer than the eight runners required for each-way betting down to third place. Field sizes can be addressed at a stroke. Simply programme more all-weather handicaps to cater for all those 40-something rated horses that keep getting eliminated and the problem will disappear overnight.



## Prize money allocation when there is a dead-heat...

Where horses are involved in a dead-heat for any place that offers a prize, prizes are divided equally between connections of the dead-heating horses. Where there is a trophy or other indivisible prize, and the owners can't agree as to which of them takes it, the racecourse executive has the

option to determine the issue by lot and decide which owner takes the trophy.

### Did you know?

Cheltenham contributes more funding to prizemoney than any other racecourse.