

Jockeys on TV

Homebred's jockey Paul Flynn always says "I've got the right face for radio" - but the Jockey Club has now announced plans to install cameras around the jockey room entrance at all courses. It's actually part of the fight against corruption, which already prevents jockeys using their mobile phones.

The cameras will be installed next April, at the same time as an upgraded system for cameras focused on racecourse stables. They are being installed in an attempt to prevent jockeys mixing with undesirable elements - whether knowingly or not. A link will be established to the stewards' room, meaning that the

stewards can alert weighing room officers to any suspicious activity. Footage from the cameras could also be used retrospectively at disciplinary inquiries, according to the Jockey Club's publicity director John Manxse. The cameras are being introduced following a review of security at racecourses by former police chief Ben Gunn, who is now chairman of the Jockey Club's security and investigations committee. The move has the support of the Jockeys' Association. "I don't think there is any great uproar. It is only at the entrance, any further in and the jockeys would not be in favour of that," says its chief executive John Blake.



Negotiations get heavy

A BHB proposal to have horses weighed at every racecourse and the results made known to the public is facing industry rejection. The bold move has been in the pipeline since it was raised last year in the review of the Racing Product, which included the recommendation that such a scheme was "in the interest of the integrity of the sport and the protection of its customers." The report also said it would supply "a further source of information to assist the punter,

given that horses in Britain are not trained on the racetrack." Since then the BHB has been canvassing views as to whether a scheme should be implemented. "The current priority is to conduct wide-ranging research among industry insiders and punters," said BHB spokesman Will Lambe. No final decision has been made, and the BHB would face strong resistance from Britain's trainers. "We're not in favour," says Rupert Arnold, chief executive of the National Trainers' Federation. "Trainers know the value of weighing at home but they also know that weight is just one of many variables affecting a horse's performance. The cost would not be justified." Weighing of horses does take place in Japan, Argentina and South Africa, while Australian and Irish racing authorities are also looking at such a move. Despite the NTF's objections, there is support for weighing horses on course from the BHB's Portman Square neighbours. "The Jockey Club is broadly in favour of any initiative which increases the amount of information available to punters. But this is more a question of the dissemination of data than integrity," said its publicity director John Manxse.

Racecourses improve their act



At last racecourses are now beginning to appreciate how valuable owners are to them and, at last, owners' facilities are gradually being improved at most tracks too. Here are some of the latest developments:

Bangor on Dee

Bangor racecourse has opened a new room alongside the weighing room, where winning owners are invited to view their race on video and enjoy champagne.

Hereford

A major modernisation programme is taking place in the stabling complex at Hereford. The extensive overhaul will result in modern stabling and veterinary rooms.

Kempton

Kempton will close for nine months next spring to allow construction of its new floodlit track, due to open in early 2006.

Lingfield

Work on Arena Leisure's £6 million refurbishment has been completed. A glass-fronted atrium gives a new entrance to the grandstand, with lifts and

stairs to the restaurants and upper level. Restaurants and boxes offer modern trackside viewing of the course and the Owners' and Trainers' bar refurbishment offers up to date fixtures and fittings.

Newbury

Newbury is continuing its special owner concession which gives complimentary members badge to owners on production of their PASS card, even if they don't have a runner.

The Owners' and Trainers' area in the Berkshire stand has also been refurbished and enlarged and the caterers have improved their selection of food in the area.

Plumpton

Plumpton now offers owners complimentary light snacks and discounted betting vouchers in its private owners room.

Salisbury

An investment of £850,000 will see improvements that include a replacement Owners' and Trainers' bar. Racecourse manager Jeremy Martin expects work to be finished in time for Salisbury's first 2005 fixture in May.

WINNING PAST

THE REGULAR NEWSLETTER FROM HOMEBRED RACING

1/2005



First steps towards the racecourse...

This is our yearling filly by College Chapel out of our winning flat mare Snowy Mantle. She's shown here being put through the early stages of breaking with Sheena Hill. Sheena says "She's a well grown, strong filly - and being a chesnut certainly performed when she first had the tack on! But she's done all that I would want her to do at this early stage and I'm really pleased with her".

Although Annie was well handled at the stud being brushed over

every day and feet picked out it's a big step to be broken and ridden away. She has had to learn to accept a bit in her mouth, to have tack - initially a roller - over her back and then to be lunged and later driven in long reins. She was then be 'backed' - learning to accept the weight of someone first leaning over her - and then unsupported on her back. Annie is now ridden daily doing 2 - 4 miles of roadwork to harden legs before starting to canter with Amanda Perrett's other 2-y-olds.

Get those entries in!

We've received a good quantity of suggestions to name our College Chapel filly - ranging from Bolshoi Ballerina to Degree Zero. It's not too late to add your own suggestion - the best will win a 1% share in our two year old being trained by Amanda Perrett. But hurry - by phone 01293 884433, fax 01293 884201 or email us at post@chriswallcreative.co.uk

Know your rules



Non Runners

At a time when every horse struggles to get a run the issue of non-runners can be frustrating. The Jockey Club are taking firm action to ensure there's no abuse of the system.

Rule D10 states:

The Stewards of the Jockey Club instruct Trainers that they must notify the Racing Calendar Office when a horse declared to run under Order 124 is to be a non-runner together with an explanation.

All Veterinary Certificates relating to non-runners must be received within 7 days of the race by the Disciplinary Department at the Jockey Club, it must be signed by a Veterinary Surgeon who, at the time, is neither the Owner, nor the Trainer, nor a person whose name is included in the Register of Stable Employees as being employed by the Trainer of the horse.

When a horse is brought to the racecourse but is considered to be unfit to race only a Veterinary Certificate issued by a Jockey Club Veterinary Officer will be acceptable for the purposes of Rule 144 (i) (a). Such certificates will be forwarded to the Disciplinary Department at the Jockey Club Office.

The overnight draw for Flat races could result in Owners and Trainers withdrawing their horses when they consider the horse has received an unfavourable draw. The Stewards of the Jockey Club regard this course of action as highly undesirable. They have recommended that a fine of £220 should be imposed on the first occasion where dislike of the draw appears to be the reason for not running, and that in the case of a second occurrence the person concerned should be reported to the Stewards of the Jockey Club.

We'd like to hear from you

Let us have your ideas and views...



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Course factfile: Fakenham

Fakenham is a tight little track - almost square - of about a mile in circumference with a run in of 250 yards. This is not a stiff track but a course that suits nippy, front running types that can get away around the turning circuit. Trainers to follow on this jumping only track are Brennan, Jenkins, and Bailey. The racecourse is off the A148 in North Norfolk.

Location: London 115 and Cambridge 65 miles

Telephone: (01323) 862388

Trains: the nearest stations are Norwich (26 miles) and Kings Lynn (22 miles)

Celebrations:

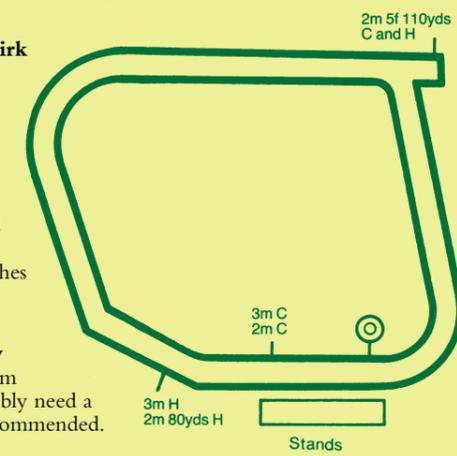
The Crown at Colkirk a charming pub with enjoyable food and a good cellar. Tel: (01328) 862172

The Ratcatchers at Cawston

renowned for its good food and up to 20 imaginative special dishes every day. Tel: (01603) 871430

The Quay, Blakeney

Fakenham is so far from anywhere you'll probably need a hotel. This place is recommended. Tel: (01263) 740797



Exercising at a clip...

Now that winter's here horses have grown a thick coat - which means when working they get very hot and sweaty.

The traditional solution is to clip their coat to ease the problems of sweating and keeping horses clean. Illustrated here are 4 traditional types of clip - but a lot depends on how cooperative your horse is. Homebred's Prince de Galles just hated being clipped - in fact Peter Bowen said "He's the quietest horse I've known but when I went to clip him I really didn't think I would get out of his box alive!"

The standard types of winter clip:

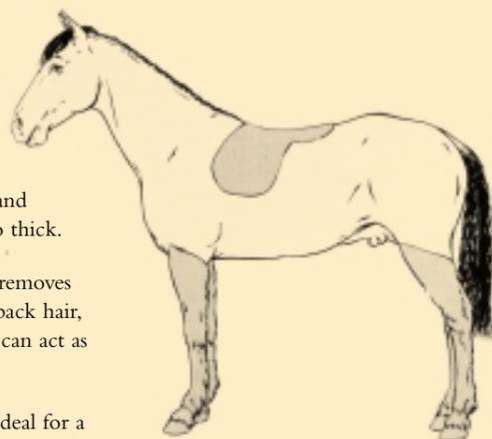
The hunter clip (1) used for fast, hard-working horses, leaves

only the saddle patch to prevent saddle sores and the leg hair for protection, especially while hunting.

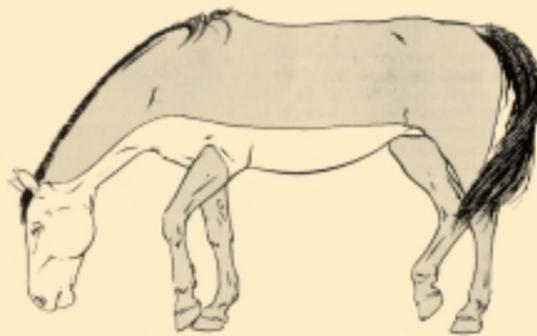
The chaser clip (2) suits fast horses which tend to get cold easily and whose coats are not too thick.

The blanket clip (3) removes all but the leg and the back hair, which in mild weather can act as a substitute rug.

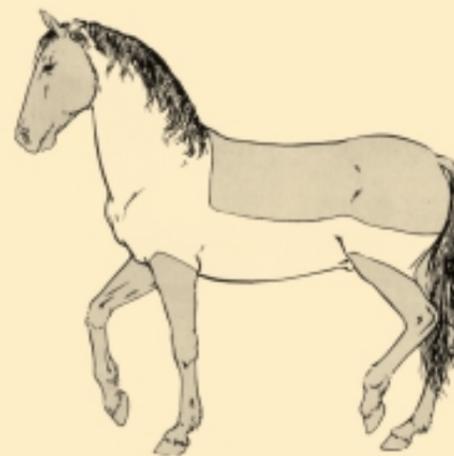
The trace clip (4) is ideal for a horse kept out during winter and the hair may be left on under the throat.



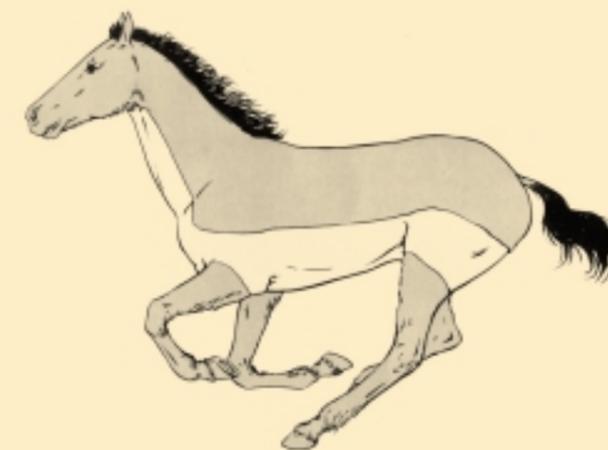
The hunter clip (1)



The chaser clip (2)



The blanket clip (3)



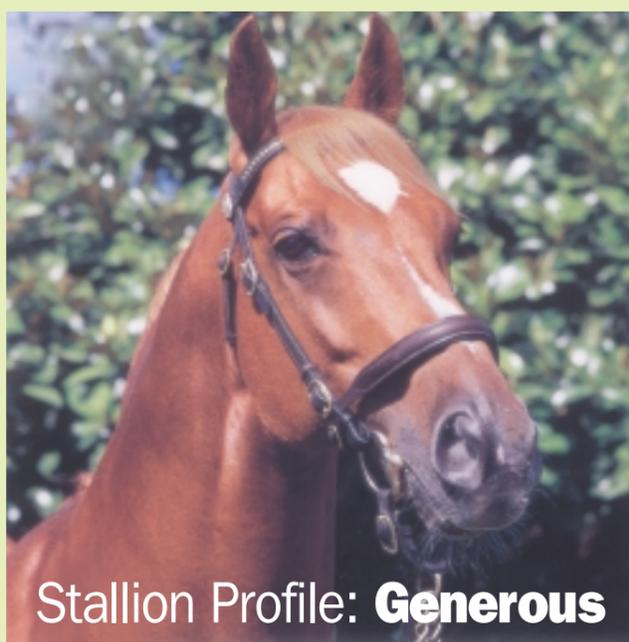
The trace clip (4)

Something for the weekend?

RACING UK will consider introducing a weekend-only service for customers unable to gain maximum benefit from regular monthly subscription, as soon as its infrastructure allows. Pay-per-view is not an option, as this would mean starting a completely new channel, but it has been revealed that a weekend package is in the pipeline.

Racing UK's Simon Bazalgette said: "Several people, including from within RUK, have mooted the idea of a weekend service, and it is part of our research and development programme. I can't say that our infrastructure would allow us to provide such a service quickly but, over time, we'd hope to reach that stage. It is an option worth exploring. We realise that in midweek some people can't watch the channel during the day, which is why we have a highlights package in the evenings."

Bazalgette added that RUK had signed a deal with the Tote, whose customers would receive £20 cashback per month (based on the number of bets they had) if they subscribed to RUK.



Stallion Profile: **Generous**

One of the greats?

Now's the time we're looking to negotiate nominations for our mares - particularly Snowy Mantle, our flat winning mare. Generous has now returned from the Far East after a year spent in Ireland. The stats suggest that he was not only a great racehorse but is a great sire too. But he's simply dropped out of fashion - his mistake was to win a Derby! It seems that the emphasis is so much on speed nowadays that to win over 1½ miles is a minus rather than a plus. What appeals to us is that he was the highest rated horse of the decade at 139, but was also precocious and fast enough to win as a two year old over five

furlongs. And what a pedigree! Generous' male line includes Caerleon, Nijinsky, Northern Dancer and Neartic. His dam, Doff The Derby, foaled five other group winners including Imagine and Wedding Bouquet and is from the immediate family of Triptych - the winner of 14 races. The stats speak for themselves, Generous won 4 Group 1 races and over £1 million on the racetrack and 62% of his foals now go on to be winners - 14% of which are in black type races. He's also not over large so we're thinking he'll really suit Snowy Mantle who we hope to send off at the end of February to be covered.

It pays to get logged on!



Visitors to the website who made use of the tips on 'Inside Track' are happy that a £10 ew staked on every selection between June 1 to the end of November realised a healthy profit of £708.50. Mike Jagger of Leeds said "I'd have been further ahead if results hadn't dipped towards the close of the flat season - which is always a difficult time to pick winners". Members are also able to see results of recent selections which are archived on the site for each quarter so that a constant check can be kept on the performance of selections. Inside Track is only available to Homebred owners who have access via their password to the site at www.homebredracing.co.uk

Improving the lot of farmland birds

Tree sparrow



Yellowhammer



The result of this year's RSPB survey at the stud has been quite an eye opener. We have a good population of a wide number of species. But what was really surprising was the varieties that are on the RSPB 'Red List'. These include tree sparrows and yellowhammers which one remembers as once being so common.

The RSPB have kindly prepared a special report under the Farmer Alliance Scheme to help us provide optimum conditions for a whole range of birds. These include lapwings, curlews, yellowhammers and tree sparrows. Recommendations are to provide margins of unimproved and ungrazed

grasslands, maintenance of thick hedges (cut late), preservation of old trees and buildings, pollarding of neglected trees, siting of nest boxes, late trimming of hedges (every second year), hedge laying, coppicing, maintaining hedgerow trees, tolerating poorly drained and damp areas, use of light stocking levels between mid March to July and delaying haylage cutting until 15 July or after.

We already undertake many of these practices and hope that next year's survey will reveal increased bird numbers.

For further information about the work of the RSPB: www.rspb.org.uk

Curlew



Lapwing

