

## Pedigree Profile: Arkadian Hero

This season Homebred's winning grey mare Snowy Mantle is to be covered by Arkadian Hero who stands at Tweenhills Stud in Gloucestershire. It's surprising that Snowy Mantle was as good a two year old as she was - only just being beaten into second place on her debut in a large field - because she's a big strong mare who certainly has the shape and size to have made a jumper. We are therefore anxious not to breed overlarge stock from her. Arkadian Hero fits the bill because he's a neat compact type and is barely 16hh. His main appeal, apart from being a top class multiple winner between 6 and 8 furlongs is that he has Caro

close up in his female line. Being by Siberian Express, this is also a sire line in Snowy Mantle's pedigree too - so we're hoping to reinforce class and speed. Arkadian Hero won 7 and was placed in a further 11 races and his victories included the Group 2 Mill Reef Stakes. The Champion Trophy Stakes,



The Hungerford Stakes and The Criterion Stakes as well as being beaten a short head in a Group at Woodbine, USA. He's from a star spangled female line which has provided seven individual Group 1 winners including Hennessy and Editor's Note. Arkadian Hero is by Trempolino who was winner of the Arc de Triomphe and is himself sire of Group 1 winners Snow Polina, Juvenia, Germany and Dernier Empereur. His first foals will reach the racetrack as two year olds in 2005. We are hoping that this match will produce a smart flat type who would stay up to a mile and a quarter. It's said to be impossible to plan to breed a grey but we'll be hugely surprised if this one isn't!

## **Peter Bowen's** new gallops completed

After a sensational season some think that Peter has had a quiet spell. Certainly the weather conspired to thwart his Cheltenham ambitions but, as always, his team have continued to be hard at work. The planned new gallop is complete and already in use. It's a straight 6 furlong track with a steady uphill climb and alongside it is a new all turf gallop for final fast work preparation. These new gallops will assist Peter's intention of having more flat racers in the vard. Peter said "Of course it'll take some adjustment to judge workouts on the new gallops but being adjacent to the yard will save us so much time every day and not having to cross the road is obviously safer even though it's just a quiet country lane. All in all we're delighted".



Peter Bowen's new gallops



Our experiment with 'wrapping' our hay crop last year was a great success. Little or no wastage and no dust. Most importantly the horses loved the sweet smelling result too. So from now on we're likely to make haylage only - any remaining crop will be silaged for our neighbour's cattle. Not having to wait for 5 consecutive dry and sunny days also means that we can cut and bale at the optimum time in early June. Before closing the fields up for hay we like to let cattle graze and fertilize the previous autumn.

# VINING PAST

THE REGULAR NEWSLETTER FROM HOMEBRED RACING

## **BHB** ownership code

Homebred Racing has been instrumental in helping the Btitish Horseracing Board establish a code of conduct for horseracing clubs. The BHB approached Homebred racing last year to help draft guidelines for protection of subscribers in multi ownership syndicates and clubs. The new code has now been published and effectively sets out the rules of coownership for organizers and members. Only those signing up to and abiding by the new code will meet with approval of the British Horseracing Board. Full details are available at: www.bhb.co.uk



## launches new Who's the real winner?

The recent press speculation about skullduggery in racing is really quite extraordinary. And the real concern has to be over the ever increasing influence of the bookies - and now the betting exchanges as well.

Now that it's possible to bet on who's going to lose rather than win a race, it's inevitable that conspiracy theories will multiply. Already the racing authorities feel obliged to enforce less than sensible rules where all horses must be seen to be ridden out to achieve the best possible placing - whether that may be fifth or fifteenth. This is not an ideal introduction for young horses, nor for tiring horses or especially those who may be carrying some form of injury. And the new rules about mobile phones and jockeys just aren't sensible either and only achieve the opposite to what's intended through the implication that jockeys really can't be trusted. Why should people be outraged that a jockey tells them another horse in the race he's riding in 'will

win'? It would be of far greater concern if he didn't know which horses represented the principal opposition! And what is it about our press that wants to destroy our heroes? In Kieran Fallon we really do have a great champion jockey. He made a mistake at Lingfield which he publicly acknowledged - and so got a ban for a rare error of judgement. Of course, if the photo had gone the other way he'd been hailed as the champion of impeccable judgement - which he usually is. Surely no one outside a padded cell could sensibly believe that this was an intentional loss - it would certainly have taken quite extraordinary powers to have achieved it! So where do the stories come from? Who has most to gain and lose?



Kieran Fallon acknowledges the applause after a 3 way photo went the right way in Homebred colours on our 2-year old Welsh Assembly

And isn't it strange that this has all blown up just at the start of another flat season? The fact is that no single jockey costs the bookmaking industry more than Kieran Fallon. Simply because he rides more winners than anyone else. He wins more big races and a higher percentage of photo finishes than anyone else too. So the bottom line is - who stands to win if our champion jockey's credibility and integrity is undermined? Unfortunately racing will be the loser!

## Course factfile: Leicester

This popular Midlands racecourse is renowned as a stiff, galloping track on the flat and over jumps. The last half mile is a steep climb to the finish so it slows speedy types and suits those with abundant stamina. The ground is clay and when soft is particularly testing meaning that fitness is at a premium. It's interesting to note that Martin Pipe often claims horses in selling and claiming races at Leicester

where they have to prove they've got an engine. Location: Birmingham 43, Coventry 24, Nottingham 26 and London 107 miles **Telephone:** 0116 271 6515 Trains: St Pancras to The Water Margin Leicester and bus to course 76-78 High Street, Celebrations: The Bell at Leicester, Chinese restaurant (0116) 277 119 Marks Kirby. timbered and The Nags Head at Castle flagstoned pub Donnington - civilized specializing in Spanish dining pub with changing cuisine (01788) 832352 daily menu (01332) 850652



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## **Know your** rules



spaces between words) according to racing's naming authority Weatherbys. Applications must be formally submitted to Weatherbys and are checked against those allowed or not available. Names not available are those of named living racehorses, registered stallions and mares (whose names are perpetuated in pedigrees). Additionally names which might cause offence, or are obscene are not permitted - though it's thought a few might have slipped through the net amongst some of the now numerous Arab ones! Most famously, a horse was prevented from running at Folkestone with the innocuous looking name WEAR THE FOX HAT but which sounds quite different! We like to try and combine an element of the sire and dam so are toying with Degree Zero for our filly by College Chapel ex Snowy Mantle. Any further

suggestions?



# What's in a name? Just 18 characters (including a prince le Galles settles into retirement) Living the life of Prince de Galles settles into retirement

We've had many enquiries about Prince de Galles' progress since his enforced retirement. Over the winter he's enjoyed hunting out with our neighbour and helper Ieuan Evans who's Huntsman for the Llanwnnen Hunt. "He's an absolute star - so kind and quiet - but get him into a big open space and he'll show you he's got an engine! Me and the kid's just love him to bits". Leo is now back in his box at the stud - the very one he was born in 11 years ago. Because he's been clipped he can't be turned out yet but is rugged up every day to go out for a few

hours in the paddock until he's hardened off and his coat regrows. He's seen all his old pals across the fence and when he's finally put in with them

for the summer it's sure to be party time! Leo's loving all the attention and it's great to have him home again.

Ieuan setting off with the hounds



## **Owners badges** owners to get to weekday

It's often difficult for Homebred meetings - particularly when confirmation of running is always only midday the day before. That means we often have spare badges - so do give the office a call before 4.30pm the day before racing.

### **Winter must** be over!

Not only have Cheltenham and the Grand National been and gone but the geese have returned to the lake at the stud! The lone pair of Canada geese have reappeared - with last year's prized offspring still in tow!

# Looking to the future

Homebred Racing has plenty to look forward to. Horses already in training include Quidditch who we hope, will at last, fulfil the promise shown at home after her summer break. We'll concentrate on the flat with her.

Homebred Star has shown plenty of speed and after being gelded will also be campaigned



Homebred Buddy's future clearly lies over fences but he's already shown a glimpse of his abilities including a spectacular display of running and jumping in one of the season's top novice hurdles at Sandown.

Homebred Star home for a short break on spring grass

And then there's Bugsie - as yet unraced. He's Prince de Galles baby brother by Safawan who Peter Bowen describes as 'a really lovely individual' He's always been a favourite at home too.

Our Pharly filly 'Phizz' is a lovely individual too with a pedigree to match. She's from a top class jumping family including Grade 1 Chase and Cheltenham Festival winners but, at the moment she looks



Phizz - now being broken

more of a flat type. We'll give her another year to see how she shapes up. And finally 'Annie' our impressive College Chapel filly out of our flat winning mare. She catches the expert eye of all our visitors and should make a classy two year old. She'll be off to be broken and ridden away at the end of the year. A lot to look forward to indeed! And remember it's never to early to register your interest, an, if you let us know, we can reserve future shares for you!

## Stable visits



The improving weather makes watching horses work on the gallops considerably more attractive! As always please call the office if you'd like to arrange a stable visit - 01293 884433. We can also let you know what's on in the area too and of the best places to eat etc.

## **News from the stud**

It seems to have been a long winter. West Wales has experienced some cracking frosts and a lot of late snow but, at last, the grass is growing. The next few weeks will see everyone turned out to enjoy it. Homebred Star and Quidditch are now home to enjoy their spring break - and shortly will be joined by Homebred Buddy who started his career over jumps this winter. The boys will all be turned out together with our retired chaser Backpacker, our more recently retired hurdler Prince de Galles and his unraced brother Bugsie (by Safawan). Homebred Buddy exchanges places with champion stallion Pharly's last foal 'Phizz' who is now with Gerry Enright for breaking. She'll also be back for the





and, of course, the Open Day. We very much hope that as many of you - and friends can make it. Just call the office. Full details of the day and how to find us will be sent to acceptors nearer the time.

summer, by which time we'll

be thinking about haymaking