

Did you know?

It's a well established fact that the majority of racehorses are incapable of winning. But the all time losers' record is held by Ouroene who was foaled in Australia in 1974 and ran 124 times without a sniff of victory. But hope for all is held out by another Aussie runner Reckless who remained winless in his first 32 races before triumphing on his 33rd start. Reckless then improved out of all recognition winning two Group 1 races and only just being beaten in the Melbourne Cup before being retired to stud!

Stars of the little screen

'The Hunt' a recent 4 part documentary series on BBC2 about hunting, featured our neighbour and helper at the stud 'Ianto' Evans who is joint-master of the Llanwnnen and District Farmers. The programme also included a snippet of footage about Homebred Racing.

The programme's producer and local resident Neil Davies said "It's sparked a phenomenal response from viewers. "I've had calls from all over the UK. People are saying it's the best thing on hunting they've ever seen. I've also been inundated with e-mails from the public saying we've changed their views on hunting, or their family's views."

of statistics which show NH flat races are amongst the most dangerous, common sense should prevail. There must also be some logic in races which usually provide the biggest fields to be run before the number of available jockeys is reduced by injury over jumps.



'Ianto', with our winning hurdler Prince des Galles, who starred in the show

The Hunt is an observational documentary and followed the Tivyside in Pembrokeshire and the Llanwnnen and District Farmers in West Wales, from Christmas 2004 to New Year's Day 2006. "We get inside the heads of the locals in the 'rural tribes', as I call them, in West Wales where there are more people hunting per population than anywhere in the country" said Davies. "There are some laughs, but also the down points. In one programme we show the devastation of lambs killed on a

farm, with the farmer nearly in tears because he's lost so much livestock. "These people are so isolated and hunting is the glue that kept the community together." According to a spokesman, the high level of interest in this documentary is one reason BBC Wales is behind the plans for a live debate likely to be presented by Huw Edwards in the week running up to the anniversary of the ban. Because of the interest the BBC is now planning to repeat the series on terrestrial channels.

The best of the best

Kieren Fallon on being asked about the supreme moment in his first season at Ballydoyle said, "Winning the Arc was great... but it wasn't the best. The moment that really stood out was the Phoenix Stakes. The feel George Washington gave me was just unbelievable - I've never been excited like that about a horse before... and he's still just a baby too!" So we've been warned!

Campaigning for change...

The number of top jumpers recently sidelined by injury has prompted vigorous debate in the Racing Press. Having endured two of our own promising youngsters Sweep Home and Home Rule (see right) suffering with serious tendon injuries, Homebred Racing has been airing our views in the Racing Post and lobbying race planners for change to NH flat races which are always last on the card. This guarantees that the least experienced and most vulnerable always have to race on the worst possible going. Obviously it takes longer to put up rather than remove hurdles but in the light

Snapshot

Home Rule at home enjoying some freedom and grass at last - after several months of box rest recuperating from her serious tendon injury at Worcester.

A final thought

We share the benefit of Michael Dickinson's wisdom on training: "None of us can train a bad one - but we can all train a good one."

Let us have your ideas and views...



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WINNING POST

THE REGULAR NEWSLETTER FROM HOMEBRED RACING

2/2006

One small step for Sam!



This is Homebred's newest arrival - Sam - a lovely filly shown taking her first wobbly steps when just a few hours old. After three very long nights watching the monitor of the foaling box Sam arrived rather unexpectedly in mid-afternoon! She is by Group 1 winner Hamas out of Snowy Mantle making her half sister to multiple winner Snowed Under and to Divine White. If all goes well, Sam looks sure to be the centre of attention at our Open Day in July.

Her sire is a superbly bred son of Danzig, out of Group 1 winning mare Fall Aspen, who won 5 races from 5 furlongs up to a mile including spread-eagling a good field to win the Group 1 July Cup at Newmarket (comfortably beating College Chapel who is sire of Divine White). Hamas has so far sired the winners of over 400 races and over £3.5 million in his first 8 seasons at stud. Hamas slipped into obscurity in France, but now standing in the UK, this close

relative of Dubai Millennium may yet produce a superstar. Let's hope he just has!



...but by day 3 we're galloping!

Memorable Quotes...



Homebred Star in the winner's enclosure

Gerry Enright at Lingfield Park when asked by the Stewards to account for Homebred Star's spectacular improvement after strolling home at 33/1: "If they'd asked me before the race I'd have told them he was going to win!"

OPEN DAY



Sunday 16 July

US Bluebloods in decline

In 1986 six of the top eight stallions in the leading sires list were American based. This year just 3 made it into the top 50 - in 9th, 14th and 30th places. Could it be that this dramatic change heralds Europe's own strain of the modern racehorse? Bloodstock expert Andrew Caulfield thinks so - and that it is due to the reluctance of Europeans to buy stock from stallions who have made their reputation on dirt rather than turf. And also, perhaps, on the dreadful cocktail of drugs that US racing still allows horses to run on.

The fact is the US bloodstock boom of the 80's was fuelled by the export of European champions who had proved themselves in our top races on turf. So Europeans were happy to buy their stock. But with the European bloodstock market remaining strong fewer top class stallions now leave our shores. But the relentless march of all-weather racing may add a further twist to the tale and yet turn the clock back for the American dirt stars. More and more racing (stand by for morning and afternoon racing before long) means that turf tracks will simply

be unable to take it. Michael Dickinson (who famously saddled the first five home in the 1983 Gold Cup but who's now an American citizen) thinks there'll be such a demand for all weather racing surfaces that he's developed his own - Tapeta. Michael says "The potential is absolutely huge. I think artificial surfaces will be at all the major racetracks in five years and every racetrack in ten". What then the demand for turf bred stock?



Michael Dickinson

Did you know?

The most expensive stallions standing in Britain and Ireland command fees in excess of £50,000. They include (in alphabetical order) Elusive Quality, Empire Maker, Giants Causeway, Indian Ridge, Montjeu, Pivotal and Sadlers Wells. Of these Juddmonte's Empire Maker hasn't even bred a single winner yet - his first runners won't be on the racecourse until next year!



The legendary Pretty Polly

Pretty unbelievable!

Pretty Polly burst onto the racing scene at Sandown Park in 1903 with one of the most amazing racecourse debuts ever seen. She finished so far in front of her rivals that racegoers imagined there had been a false start! But 15 consecutive wins that included The Champagne, The Cheveley Park and The Middle Park Stakes, The 1000 Guineas, Oaks and St Leger, all by emphatic margins proved that she was a superstar. Pretty Polly also proved to be a great broodmare and lived to the ripe old age of 30.



Monksfield heads Sea Pigeon in the 1978 Champion Hurdle

Having a Monksfield mare, Pastures Green who is dam of Pharly Green, it's exciting to think of one of our family being so closely related to one of the legendary horses of the 20th Century.

Monksfield's story is a typical Irish fairy tale.

He was bred by an astronomy expert called Peter Ryan, who lived in Fulham. On a visit to Dublin, totally ignorant of horses, he decided impulsively to buy a broodmare. The mare was called Regina, and he bought her for 1500 guineas. Her third foal, Monksfield, was an undersized Gala Performance colt later bought as a two-year-old for 740 guineas by Des McDonagh, a former amateur rider with a stable of six horses in Co. Meath. That transaction was to change his life. In November 1972 he took out a licence to train. Monksfield was now owned by a first-time owner in Dr Michael Mangan, a radiologist working in Newfoundland. It was decided to give Monksfield

an 'educational' outing on the Flat in October as a two-year-old. Starting at 25-1, Monksfield staggered everyone by winning by three parts of a length, hard held. Dr Mangan, in Newfoundland had asked his mother-in-law to bet £10 for him on the Tote. His mother-in-law, on advice, did not place the bet - Monksfield paid 647-1. Monksfield did not win again on the Flat before becoming a leading juvenile hurdler. He won his first two hurdle races, a handicap at Navan in March, and at Cheltenham finished second to Peterhof in the Daily Express Triumph Hurdle. The following season he made his first assault on the Champion Hurdle, and finished a battling second to Night Nurse. The following March, the two were back at Cheltenham but Monksfield took on Night Nurse a long way from home, and had him beaten at the second last. At the last, Sea Pigeon loomed menacingly, but to tears and emotional Irish cheers, Monksfield stormed up the hill for a famous win. The 1979 Champion Hurdle proved to be one of the finest

races ever seen. Monksfield and Sea Pigeon came to the last flight stride for stride. Sea Pigeon was cruising and Monkey received three cracks from Dessie Hughes's whip going into the hurdle. The jump conjured by the little horse was staggering. From cantering, Sea Pigeon was suddenly struggling. More and more Dessie Hughes asked, and each time the little horse dug deeper. Incredibly, 100 yards from the finish, he stuck his head in front and seized victory from defeat. It was the greatest display of raw courage ever seen at Cheltenham. Monksfield returned once more, in a bid to complete the rare Champion Hurdle hat-trick, but this time the cards were stacked against him. The distance of the race was shortened by 200 yards, and not even Monkey's bottomless courage was enough to repel his old rival Sea Pigeon. Monksfield retired to stud at the Amgrove Stud, Co. Laois, the winner of nineteen races and his influence as an important broodmare sire of NH horses continues to live on.

Welcome to the top



Most Welcome

It's always good to know when we've made good stallion selections for our mares as plans are made years in advance of racetrack results. The latest bloodstock review produced by the Racing Post shows that Most Welcome tops the European rankings based on earnings per runner v. stallion fee. This puts him ahead of all the other leading stallions which are supposedly the very best! Anyway it's great news for our unraced three year old Keep a Welcome who was one of the last progeny before his sire was exported to stand abroad. Most Welcome won the Lockinge Stakes beating Warning and other top class scalps he claimed include Mtoto, Risk Me, Don't Forget Me and Zilza. Most Welcome finished second in the Derby (to Reference Point) achieving a Timeform rating of 131 which would normally be a superior mark to most winners. From the the first 10 crops to race his progeny have won over 650 races, £8 million and include Group 1 winners Suances, Artic Owl and Sasuru.



Kieren Fallon with George Washington - the horse he's most looking forward to this season.

A Classic Crop?

With the new turf season about to get underway we listen to some expert views or three year olds to watch:

Giganticus Racing journalist Johnathan Powell says he showed plenty of gears when beating the useful Erytheis at Haydock and Barry Hills expects his colt to shine at distances up to a mile.

Morghim is an exceptionally late foal but still managed to win his sole start at Newmarket. He's closely related to Group 1 stars Kings Best and Urban Sea - the sort of company Morghim is expected to be kept in by trainer John Dunlop.

Mostaqeleh is another John Dunlop inmate who won a hot Newbury maiden (Divine White

not far behind!) and went on to win again and held some important entries - but wasn't risked on testing ground. Expected to take some beating on required fast ground.

George Washington This is the one that Kieren Fallon nominates as the horse he's most looking forward to this year. No more to be said!

Nakheel Pontefract is not the obvious place to spot future superstars but it's the route chosen before by Mark Johnston for Bandari, Gullard and St Expedit. Nakheel is expected to follow in their footsteps to the top.

Seabow is another of Johnathan Powell's selections and was noted

making relentless late headway in his only start without being given a hard time by Frankie Dettori. A Godolphin horse to follow.

Donna Blini Michael Kinane picks this filly of Brian Meehan's as one with plenty of scope and pace to follow over shorter distances.

Carlotamix is a top French juvenile with the scope to make him a likely type for his Prix du Jockey Club - and trainer Andre Fabre also has him pencilled in for the Irish Derby.

Short Skirt another suggested by Michael Kinane who thinks that Sir Michael Stoute's filly will come into her own over a mile or further this season.

Did you know?

The most memorable win by a disabled jockey was achieved by one legged Frank Wise, an amateur, who won the 1929 Irish Grand National wearing an artificial leg. He also owned and trained Alike to win Ireland's premier steeplechase - so it was some performance.

Memorable Quotes...



John Francome in his current role

John Francome on being quizzed about not continuing his career as a trainer: "If you're at the top I think there's really good money in training. But there are too many downsides to it - It's 24 hours a day... It's a lot of effort... and maybe I'm just a lazy bugger!"

Course factfile: Epsom

Epsom is renowned worldwide as the home of the Derby and the Oaks and its hills and undulations make it the unique test of horse and jockey. Set high on the North Downs the horseshoe shaped course of 1½ miles rises 150 feet over the first half mile before dipping steeply to Tattenham Corner from which point there is a gradual rise to the winning post. Being on chalk the going can become very fast in hot weather but surprisingly testing with the onset of heavy rain. Leading stables are Hannon, Elsworth and the local Akehurst yard.

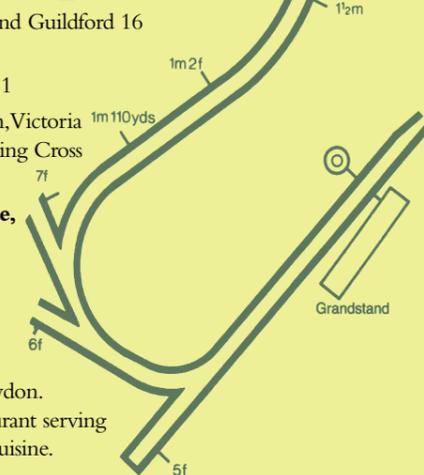
Location: London 17 and Guildford 16 miles via M25/A3

Telephone: 01372 726311

Trains: Waterloo-Epsom, Victoria -Epsom Downs or Charing Cross to Tattenham Corner.

Celebrations: La Barbe, Bell St, Reigate - an excellent French Bistro style restaurant. Tel: 01737 241966

Munbhav: 305 London Road, Croydon. An unusual Indian restaurant serving deliciously imaginative cuisine. Tel: 0208 689 6331



Did you know?

The longest sequence of winning rides is 12 which is a record of consecutive winners achieved by Gordon Richards (1933) and Pieter Stroebel who matched the feat in Zimbabwe (1958).

Racing folklore credits George Herring, who was killed in a fall at Hull, with 19 consecutive wins in 1796 but there are no records to verify this. The best by jump jockeys is 10 wins shared by Johnny Gilbert (1959) and Phil Tuck (1986).