

Home Alone!



Our orphan foal Gwyl now a strong yearling colt

The Orphan Foal Centre

Now that our orphan foal Gwyl has developed into a powerpack yearling colt it seems appropriate to look back at the help and advice we received to get him through those difficult, early days. And what a worry it was - we'd never had to raise a foal by hand before and there really was little time to learn - every hour was precious. We knew that we had to get him to learn to drink milk - and fast. It was such a stressful time not just for him but for us too as for an age he wouldn't accept the milk. It was the Newmarket Foster Mare Company who came up trumps with plenty of good, knowledgeable and reassuring advice over the phone. The Newmarket Foster Mare Company was founded in 2002 to provide mares to help rear orphaned foals. They also offer crèche facilities where orphan foals are kept together and all bottle fed. As soon as possible foals are transferred to bucket feeding. Richard Williams says "We have found that certain types of mare are more suitable - temperament is all important. In our experience we have found that smallish (14.2hh) cob types are best. As soon as we receive a call we aim to get the mare out as quickly as possible. 2 people are sent to assist as long as required. On introduction to the foal the mare must first be sedated and tied up with a large hay net and surrounded by bales to prevent any potential injuries. Their hind legs are also hobbled. This is all under veterinary supervision.

Once the mare and foal bond it's essential that the mare is covered again to ensure she can be used again for fostering the following season".

Though we had to cope without a foster mare, because of the time and distance issues, we're indebted to Richard and his colleagues for all their help and advice.

For further information on The Newmarket Foster Mare Company - Call 01353 721134.



Gwyl has had Rambo as a constant companion

We'd like to hear from you

Let us have your ideas and views...



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Know your rules...

The celebrated horseshoe table in the original Jockey Club Stewards Room at Newmarket gave rise to the expression of 'being on the carpet'

The performance of horses

Trainers must give notice to the stewards of anything which might have adversely effected the performance of any horse they train in a race. Reports of anything which might have any bearing on past or future performance must also be reported, even if this comes to light after the horse has left the racecourse. Examples are:

- bleeding from the nose
- horse finished distressed
- horse lost a shoe
- horse finished lame
- saddle slipped
- equipment failure
- bit slipped
- filly or mare was in season
- horse choked, gurgled or

swallowed tongue
- suspected virus
- interference in running
- unsuitable going
This list is not exhaustive and trainers are also given notice that the stewards may ask for an explanation of a horse's performance. This reply will be publicised or made the subject of an enquiry following which, if the stewards remain unsatisfied, the matter may be referred to The Jockey Club. It is an offence to mislead the stewards and heavy penalties can be applied by The Jockey Club leading to suspension of a trainer, jockeys and horses.

Horses to follow over jumps...

The success of our 'Horses to follow on the flat' will be a tough act to follow over jumps - but here goes! We all know the likely favourites for the top prizes but we're looking to provide some value with a mix of younger and older horses in our list of 10 hurdlers and chasers. These include those we think look well handicapped and others worth taking a chance on rediscovering top form:



- Back to Ben Alder
- Flame Creek
- Fundamentalist
- Kingscliff
- Lingo
- Royal Rosa
- Sea Captain
- Secret Ploy
- Take the Stand
- What's up Boys

As always, exercise your own judgement on going, type of track, distance etc... and good luck!

WINNING P^{HOMEBRED}ST

THE REGULAR NEWSLETTER FROM HOMEBRED RACING

5/2004



Jockey's weights set to change...

THE Jockey Club's chief medical advisor, Dr Michael Turner, recommends that the minimum weight carried on the Flat next year be raised to 8st 2lb - a rise of 4lb. Dr Turner believes it "inevitable" that the minimum Flat weight by the start of the 2005 turf season will be at least 8st. The bottom weight was raised 3lb to 7st 10lb in 1996, and upped to the current minimum of 7st 12lb in 2001 whilst in Ireland and France the 8st level is already established. Dr Turner expects British racing to

fall into line next year, although he was keen to stress that he can only recommend courses of action - not decide them. It's clear that, at the bottom end of the scale, 25 per cent of riders are putting up overweight at 7st 12lb. "The minimum weight is, in effect, no longer the minimum weight. Less than one per cent of the adult male population can do 7st 12lb, and it's inevitable that the minimum weight will continue to rise for the foreseeable future." Dr Turner acknowledges that the

main complaint concerning a rise in the minimum weight - voiced by handicappers as well as jockeys - is that the top weight does not rise in tandem. "Various problems occur when weights are squeezed into a smaller range. Handicappers want a 28lb or 30lb spread, but there are also huge arguments between vets and trainers concerning what the top weight should be." Clearly what's good for jockeys may be bad news for horses having to carry more weight.

Now's the time to make that visit...



Homebred Star (left) works at speed with Karen Bowen

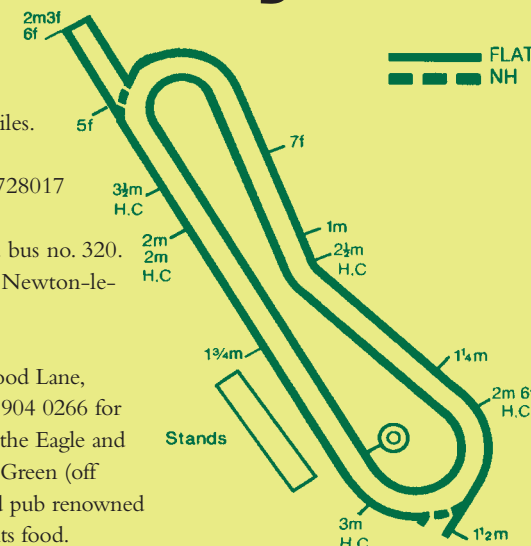
Now with a selection of flat and jumping horses in training, it's a good time to be making a stable visit. And you don't need to have a horse in a particular yard to be welcome to have a look around. All we ask is that you make arrangements in advance, through the office, so that we can ensure you're expected and let you know what is the best time to see horses working and schooling.

Course factfile: Haydock

Haydock is well known as a venue for top quality action on the flat and over jumps. It's a big level, left handed course of 1 mile 5 furlong circumference. So it's a fair track but becomes very testing when the ground is soft. Its notorious drop fences catch many inexperienced chasers. Trainers to follow on the flat are Dunlop, Gosden, Easterby and Hills, whilst over jumps it's Pipe, Venetia Williams and Nigel Twiston-Davies. Haydock is off junction 23 of the M6.

Location:
London 198,
Liverpool 17 and
Manchester 18 miles.
Telephone:
(01942) 725963/728017
Trains:
To Wigan and via bus no. 320.
Nearest station is Newton-le-Willows.

Celebrations:
Le Bon Viveur, Wood Lane, Timperley (0161) 904 0266 for French cuisine or the Eagle and Child at Bispham Green (off B5246) - a relaxed pub renowned for the quality of its food.



Inside...
Peter Bowen marks your card for the coming season

**IN THE RACING POST
WEEKENDER**



**BRITAIN'S
HOTTEST
TRAINER**

Peter Bowen has saddled eight winners from his last 12 runners – find out the latest on his red-hot string in Straight from the Stable

Now that the jump season gets into full swing Homebred trainer Peter Bowen has given us the low down on the leading horses in his yard:

Ballycassidy

“He was our top earner last year and was a top class novice chaser. He’s got a very favourable handicap mark over hurdles so we may also run over the smaller obstacles this season”

The man in form marks your card

Celtic Boy

“He’s recently had a wind operation – 3 miles over hurdles will suit him fine”

Farlington

“He’s won both his races for me. He’ll be even better over 3 miles and is a lovely prospect”

Football Crazy

“He had problems which we’ve sorted. He’s still a novice and should be able to stay 2½ miles plus”

Go Gwenni Go

“She hasn’t shown much but should be up to winning a handicap hurdle”

Hirvine

“He’s one for your notebook and now jumps fences well. The further he goes the better and he’ll know what’s expected in novice chases”

Mr Ed

“He’s been in great form and is still improving on the flat and over hurdles. He’ll be aimed at valuable staying hurdles”

Qabas

“We picked him up cheaply at the sales but has to be one of the soundest horses I’ve trained. He could be a serious horse and one to keep on your side this season”

Siena Star

“He’s been unlucky but I’m certain he can win 3 or 4 races this term”

Swansea Bay

“He’s just had another successful wind operation and I wouldn’t be surprised if he still found a lot more improvement this term. His target was the Badger Beer Chase at Wincanton but he could go for the King George on Boxing day – but he must have good or fast ground”

Peter’s on the mend

We’re pleased to report that Peter Bowen has made a good recovery from emergency surgery. It was all a big shock when when Peter felt unwell, quickly became worse with abdominal pain and was rushed to hospital. Wife Karen said “He’s really on the mend now and gets progressively stronger every day – we’ll soon have him back on wheel barrow duties!” Typically Peter was back in the yard doing what he loves best almost as soon as he was out of hospital – and having a steady stream of winners to move him up to third in the trainers table has been the best possible tonic.

On our recent stable visit to see Homebred Buddy and Homebred Star, Peter was back to his usual happy, smiling and relaxed self. He has to make a return visit to hospital in the next couple of weeks “For a bit of tidying up” and then will be as right as rain.

We all appreciate how hard he works and his results prove it. But he puts in hours that to a junior doctor would make hospital feel a bit like a holiday camp and we just hope he might now delegate some of the work – perhaps driving the box a few less of the 50,000 plus miles it travels every year!

Take the Stand

“His last win was reported by the Racing Post to put him within 8lbs of Best Mate – I certainly wouldn’t put anyone off him – he’s currently very big with the bookies for the Gold Cup”

Victor Fox Trot

“I thought he’d win first time up but he disappointed. He’s better than that and he’ll go again in NH flat races”.

In Summary

Peter says “I honestly believe that we’ll do even better this year – with Take the Stand, Football Crazy and Qabas – we’ve a lot to be excited about”. Given that anyone who had £10 on each of his runners last year ended up with over £550 profit – it makes you think!



Is the proposed hunting ban good news for foxes?

The proposed fox hunting ban looks set to make headlines in the foreseeable future. Frankly we’re neither fanatically for, nor against hunting – and there are many, many other animal welfare issues more deserving of just a bit of the attention currently being devoted to fox hunting. In my book the death of any animal is no cause for celebration. And that is, of course, a sentiment shared by those who lose chickens or lambs to foxes.

Somehow the whole debate seems to have become very confused and fox hunters are portrayed as well heeled toffs with a bloodlust and the antis as students who are out of touch. The reality is very different. We have neighbours who don’t like the hunt simply because they invade their patch and churn up fields and pathways. Other neighbours need the hunt to control foxes because they do loose lambs. Llanwnnen Foxhounds are also our neighbours, but deep in the West Wales countryside they seem to perform a very different role to those packs now engulfed by the leafy suburbs of the South East.

Ieuan Evans has been Master of Hounds for many years and finds the suggestion that they could continue as a Drag hunt totally ludicrous. “We’re here to control foxes – it’s as simple as that. The hunt really doesn’t exist for fun. We receive numerous calls every week from farmers in the lambing season for help with foxes – and

that’s a job... providing a service to all farmers in the area. And for people who own horses, and most do around here, it’s an opportunity to get out and ride in places where they couldn’t otherwise. Kids have ponies and all learn to ride – it’s just a way of life. The politicians in London just don’t seem to be able to get their heads round it – and if hunting is banned, our pack, which is one of the oldest in the country will be disbanded”.

And the real question: What will this mean for foxes? “Well, I don’t reckon it’ll be good news for foxes” says Ieuan “Farmers will still have a problem that can only get worse – so inevitably people will take matters in to their own hands. I’m worried that people will turn to poison and snares – and we know from the past that this will also kill dogs, cats, badgers and birds of prey. Sure it’ll kill foxes too – but less humanely?”

This is the genuine dilemma and it would be good to think that those so concerned about banning hunting would give a little more thought to how cheap food arrives in their local supermarket. It’s estimated that over 50 million chickens die per year due to intensive rearing – and they’re not even the ones that make it into the chill cabinet.

The banning of hunting itself is realistically unlikely to affect racing directly. But what it will do is move racing up the agenda for those who don’t agree with it.

Win a share in our exciting 2-y-o



“A really nice, well grown, active type who should be able to go a bit”.

Amanda Perrett, Trainer

Our last competition to name Buggy proved very popular with Homebred owners – so here’s another challenge!

Come up with a name for our yearling filly Annie and you’ll win a 1% share in her for her first season in training with Amanda Perrett.

Ideally we like to keep some element of the sire’s and dam’s name and combine it with some reference to Home or Homebred (but this is not essential if you come up with a really good idea!)

Annie is a chesnut filly by College Chapel out of our winning grey mare Snowy Mantle who is by Group 1 winning sprinter Siberian Express.



Now that the flat season draws to a close we face the daunting prospect of putting a line under the seven horses, nominated before the start of the season, all worth following. These were:

- Bandari**
- Lucky Story**
- Magritte**
- Ouija Board**
- Thaminah**
- Tree Chopper**
- Well Known**

Overall they’ve performed pretty well – especially Ouija Board who was unlucky not to add the Arc de Triomphe amongst her successes in a wonderful season capped by victory at the Breeders Cup. But how did they perform overall? If you’d backed each and every one of them in every race throughout the season a £10 each way stake resulted in a profit of £254. The actual figures are £180 in lost bets and £434 in winnings of which Mark Johnston’s Bandari contributed well over half with £297 – Ouija Board contributed a healthy £111 in profits.