

# Where are they now?

The whole issue of caring for ex-racehorses is what Homebred Racing is all about - ensuring that once their racing days are over that they'll have a permanent, secure home where they're loved and cared for.

This is Welsh Assembly - Celtic Chimes' first foal by



Welsh Assembly still proving he's a winner

Presidium - who was last seen winning in a three way photo when ridden by champion jockey Kieran Fallon and trained by Gerry Enright. Welsh Assembly is now owned and cared for by Gerry's wife Midge and has been a lead horse for their string at Lewes as well as



Welsh Assembly in action at Pevensey Levels

showing new youngsters the ropes en route to a racing career. Welsh Assembly (known at home as Taffy) is currently acting as a 'ladies hack' taking part in sponsored rides for charity (the rosette is for completing a 12 mile course with jumps in under 1½ hours). Midge and Welsh Assembly are now members of the local riding club taking part in show jumping, dressage and horse trials. Some 'retirement'!

## Class conscious

Since Winning Post frequently mentions Group races we've, quite rightly, been asked to explain their relevance and merit. The Pattern system of race grading means that Group, or Grade, 1 races are the top events where all horses compete at level weights (with except of age or sex allowances). Same for Group 2 and 3 which are of proportionally less importance and value. Listed and conditions or stakes races are the next classification to which particular conditions may apply (e.g. 2-year-olds only or 3-year-old fillies only). Handicaps, which form the bulk of racing, are then graded from Class A to G in which the best horses are set to give weight to less capable runners. In maidens (races for horses which have never run) all carry equal weights just as they also do in novice events, though in these, previous winners are obliged to carry an extra penalty.

## A chip off the old block

Peter Bowen's young son Mickey is mad keen on racing to the point of obsession - he can tell any visitor to the yard where and when a horse ran, who rode, the weight carried as well as the finishing distances. He's also developed strange illnesses at school to be sent home shortly before the 2.45 at Uttoxeter or the 2.00 from Aintree! Persuading him to turn in for bed Karen promised to read a story. Hardly through the first paragraph Mickey quipped "Oh no, not this Mum - can't you read something more interesting ... on equine nutrition"!

# WINNING POST

THE REGULAR NEWSLETTER FROM HOMEBRED RACING

7/2003



Leo relaxed in his new role out hunting with Anwen Evans...

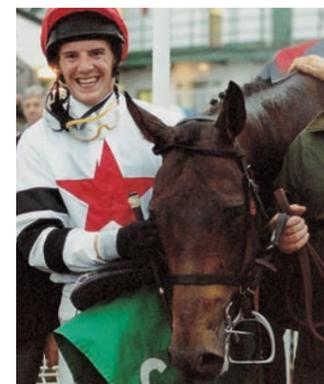


and in previous action winning the Budget Power Hurdle

# Homebred hero returns home

**Our handicap hurdler Prince de Galles has run his last race. After his disappointing runs at Worcester and Exeter we had him thoroughly vetted and it transpires that he'd started breaking blood vessels.**

This is a commonplace occurrence in most, if not all, racehorses and it is only the degree that ultimately affects performance. Veterinary advice was that Leo had experienced significant bleeding and was at risk of a more serious incident if we continued to race him. Overseas horses run on Lasix which prevents the problem but British Racing is, quite rightly, drug free. Leo has returned home to us where he was born at the stud and will continue to enjoy a long and happy retirement with his old friends out in the field. Whilst hunting continues, Leo will be hacked out with the Llanwnnen Hunt accompanying Ieuan Evans' children and ponies. He's got such a wonderful quiet and kind nature it's a job he's sure to enjoy. Peter Bowen paid a glowing tribute to Leo "We'll be so sad to see Leo leaving us - he's Karen's favourite horse in the yard. He's not won as



Paul Flynn and Leo were a great partnership

many races as he should, being so unlucky on several occasions - but I would love to have a yard full of horses just like him. When we had a very difficult time for a couple of seasons Leo kept the flag flying for us - wherever we went we could always rely on him running well - winning or being placed. He was so amazingly consistent. If he'd taken to fences he'd have won a hatful of races - they're so much less competitive than handicap hurdles".

Prince de Galles has given us all tremendous fun and excitement and it's a shame he didn't quite win for us in his final season - though in retrospect his narrow defeat giving lumps of weight to Excellent Vibes may prove to have been one of his best runs. Leo won or was placed no less than 16 times and is by far the best racehorse sired by Prince des Coeurs. On behalf of Leo we'd like to thank everyone for their messages - and cards - sent for his retirement. He'll be pleased to see you at next year's Open Day and meanwhile is more than happy to allow Homebred Buddy to uphold the family reputation!

Flashback to Leo's first win at Ludlow (with Alan)



## The haylage taste test...

This year we made half our hay crop traditionally and the other half as haylage. Experts say haylage is much better for horses being free of dust and moulds - and they clearly like the taste. Since haylage is also easier to make and store it's looking like we'll only make haylage in future.



## Stable Visits

With all Homebred horses approaching full fitness it's a great time to visit the stables, see them working and to hear and discuss plans. If you would like to arrange a visit to Gerry Enright's (Lewes) or Peter Bowen's (Letterston) yard please just call the office on 01293 884433, Monday to Friday 9.30 - 5.30.

## We'd like to hear from you

Let us have your ideas and views...

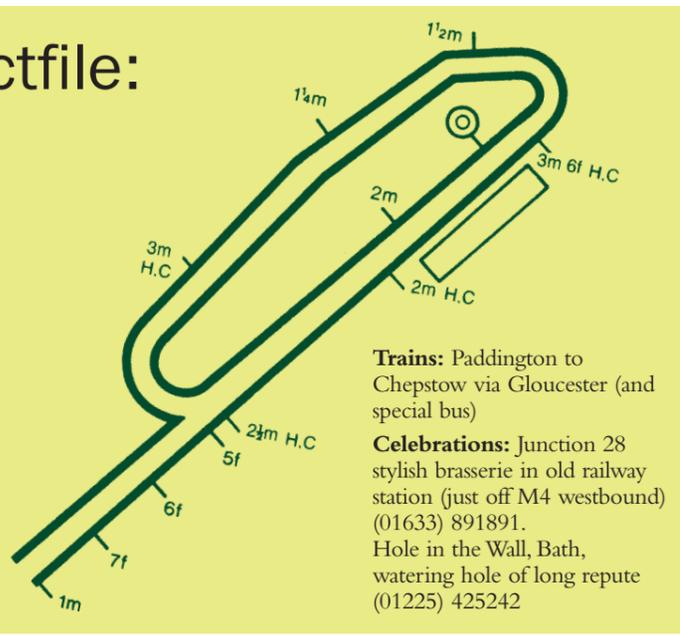


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## Course factfile: Chepstow

Apart from being Peter Bowen's nearest track, Chepstow is known as a very stiff track on the flat and over jumps. The course is a two mile, undulating oval with a very stiff climb to the finish. Chepstow is in a beautiful setting and hosts the Welsh Grand National.

**Location:** London 131 miles, Bristol 17, Cardiff 28 and Gloucester 34 miles  
**Telephone:** (01291) 622260



**Trains:** Paddington to Chepstow via Gloucester (and special bus)  
**Celebrations:** Junction 28 stylish brasserie in old railway station (just off M4 westbound) (01633) 891891.  
Hole in the Wall, Bath, watering hole of long repute (01225) 425242

## Really Goode video

The Homebred video is completed - at last - and features Channel 4 commentator Graham Goode who kindly did the voiceover for us. Graham met up with us in the recording studio in Leeds after commenting on afternoon racing at Pontefract. The whole process of putting his voiceover to our edited video was completed in just two takes. The final result gives an overview of Homebred from foals to their achievements on the racetrack. Those who've seen it give it good reviews - so let us know if you'd like to receive a free copy. The video is currently being sent out to enquirers from advertisements running in the National press.



## Inside Track

Peter Bowen's recent run of fantastic form including three winners on one day at Aintree's big Autumn meeting has made tipping really quite easy! Hopefully those of you who supported our horses to follow in our last issue will be well in profit - as are regular visitors to Inside Track on our website. It's reported that a Leeds bookie was so depressed by a Homebred owner's winning run that he had a £100 bet on the last selection for himself - pocketing £400 winnings! The change of going from firm to softer ground will, predictably, wreak havoc with the formbook... but keep in touch at www.homebredracing.co.uk.

# Caption competition



"I can only ever see you featuring in the Lamb Stakes"

In our last issue we asked for suitable captions to our picture of our Most Welcome foal Gwyl and his woolly pal Rambo. There were some very amusing and unprintable ones but the vote goes to Sharon, who works in the Homebred Office, and wins the bottle of bubbly.



## Stallion Profile: Pharly - one of the greats

Now that our Pharly filly yearling is shortly to be broken in and then ridden it's an opportune moment to review the stallion. Pharly is superbly bred being by the great stallion Lyphard who was himself a multiple Group winner and sire of many of the best racehorses of the 20th century including Al Nasr, Dahar, Manila and the legendary Dancing Brave. Bred in France, Pharly was out of smart flat winner Comely who also produced two other outstanding racehorses Melyho and Comeran who were both Group 1 performers. Pharly himself ran on the flat in France as a two and three-year-old and in thirteen runs only once finished out of the money and won no less than three Group 1 races and was only just beaten

in three others. He won over a range of distances from seven furlongs up to ten furlongs. His record as a stallion matches his performance on the racetrack and he's sired the winners of an incredible 2,200 races and over £20 million in prize money including many Group races. What's also good news for us is that Pharly also tops the table as the world's most successful maternal grandsire - so we're very lucky to have a Pharly filly who is his very last foal. Pharly is a small (15.3hh), compact chesnut with a narrow white blaze. Our filly Phizz is very similar though with one white sock. Like her sire she is not overlarge but is full of quality. Being out of a Monksfield mare she's sure to be tough and have abundant stamina.



## Just for kicks!

How quickly foals change! In our last issue we reported our orphan foal Gwyl's nasty accident which required many stitches. Now there's absolutely no sign of his mishap and he's grown tremendously. In fact it's his handlers who're now more likely to need attention having been on the receiving end of his exuberance. He's fine to handle at most times - except when coming in at evening time. The problem is his woolly pal

Rambo who charges the gate and squeezes through to be first into the stable - whilst Gwyl has to wait to have a head collar put on and then be led! Gwyl's frustration boils over and legs fly everywhere - but he has to learn manners and to be led in and out. So though he now presents something of a different challenge it's so good to see that he's developed in to such a healthy, strong and bouncing boy.

## Know your rules

**Balloting of races where declarations exceed the safety factor, J3 of Jockey Club Rules states:**

'Elimination will occur in the following sequence:

**Handicaps** - horses with the lowest weights

**Races other than handicaps** - horses, which in the opinion of the handicapper, have the lowest rating. Those with identical ratings are randomly balloted.

**Races other than Handicaps** Priority will be given to horses which have won previously, then horses which have been placed previously with preference given to those with the greater number of placings, then horses which have never run, then horses which have run less than three times, then horses which in the opinion of the handicapper have the highest rating, then horses with the least number of unplaced runs'.

## The final nail...

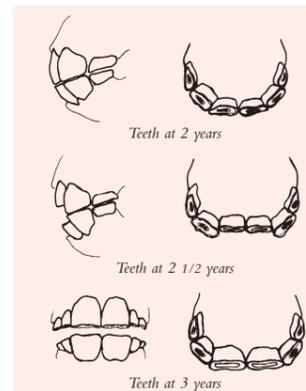
Sadly our longstanding (and long suffering) farrier Nigel Berney Smith - known to us as 'Shoey' - has retired. We'll miss him as he's provided such a wonderfully reliable service over the years and has coped with the numerous kicks and antics of our fractious youngsters. Shoey, a keen fisherman, is off to enjoy his retirement near Ely, where he was born. We all send our good wishes for many happy hours to be spent on the riverbank.



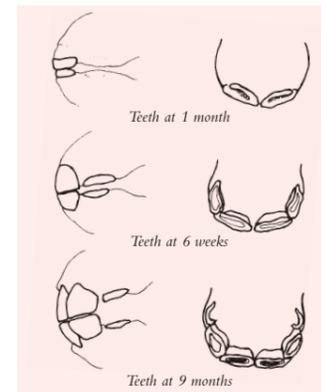
Shoey celebrates Charlottown's Derby win

# The dentist's visit

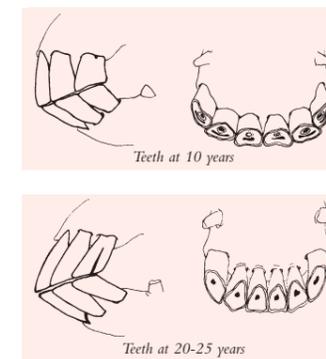
It's not only humans that avoid the dentist - in fact we always think it's one of the worst jobs when the horse dentist comes to check the Homebred band! Teeth need to be checked regularly - at least once a year - because any abnormalities can affect how food is digested, how teeth grind forage and ultimately the condition and well-being of the horse. Tooth problems can cause rapid loss of condition, headshyness and poor performance. Horses, like



humans, develop two sets - temporary milk teeth and permanent teeth. It's this ongoing process of development that enables a horse to be aged by simply looking in its mouth. Our dentist, Geraint Hughes, first checks each horse by washing out the mouth and then making a thorough visual check holding the horse's mouth open with a 'gag' which is like a special bit that cranks the jaws apart. Teeth wear unevenly and overgrow so any 'hooks' or sharp edges are filed down. Most horses

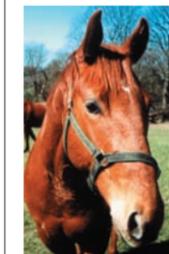


are surprisingly tolerant of this procedure but some need to be sedated for any work to be completed or for extractions to be made. It's particularly important that youngsters are checked to short cut any problems and to remove any wolf teeth (obsolete teeth which often develop in front of the molars), which may prove troublesome when the horse is ridden. It's a full days work at the stud and a horse dentist needs to be extremely fit as the job is extremely demanding - as it is just holding the reluctant patients!



# New kids on the block

The next Homebred youngsters to go into training will be our 2 three-year-olds (until January 1st when they'll automatically be considered four-year-olds), Bugsie and Tilly. **Bugsie** is a very well made half brother to our successful hurdler Prince de Galles and also to Homebred Buddy. Size wise he's somewhere between the two of



them. He's a strapping chesnut gelding by the champion miler Safawan out of our King of Spain mare Royal

Brush. Whereas Prince de Galles is a smaller version of his mum Bugsie takes his colour and appearance from his sire. However he also shares the wonderful, kind temperament of the rest of the family. Bugsie was broken as a yearling and has been given plenty of time to mature - he'll go into training after the spring grass to run in National Hunt Flat Races.



**Tilly** is a compact, dark bay filly by seven furlong specialist Wizard King out of our Monksfield mare Pastures Green. Tilly was a very late foal so she too has been given plenty of time. She's always been on the small size but has filled out to become a really strong, stocky type. She was broken by Gerry Enright alongside her companion Quidditch who is currently in training with Peter Bowen. Tilly will also be tried in National Hunt Flat Races in 2004.



**A very Happy Christmas and New Year from Homebred Racing**