



## Racing's West Wales home

Wales has only 3 racecourses, Chepstow, Bangor - and most recently - Ffos Las. The racecourse was built on the site of an open cast mine, once mining had ceased, and held its first meeting in 2009. Ffos Las became the first new National Hunt racecourse to be built in the UK for 80 years and cost £20 million. It was the brainchild of Dai Walters, enthusiastic racehorse owner, who operated the open cast mine and his civil engineering company was contracted to undertake the widening of the M4 motorway around Cardiff. Happily for Walters, the big hole left by mining operations proved to be the ideal place to tip the spoil from the motorway to fill the hole and create the racecourse.

The 600 acre site is located in a natural amphitheatre overlooking Swansea Bay and was officially opened by legendary racing commentator Sir Peter O'Sullivan with a crowd of over 12,000. Professionals consider the track to be a very fair galloping one, mostly level with sweeping bends and then a steady climb to the finishing line. Homebred's only runner to date at Ffos Las is Delagoa Bay who finished a close fourth over 12 furlongs. A recommended pub and restaurant for racegoers is Y Polyn, close to the National Botanical Garden of Wales, which serves great food.

## Nice one Fred...



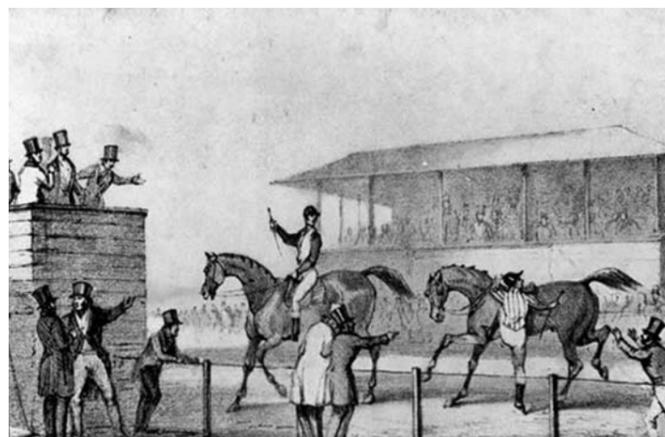
Fred Craggs turned 50p into £1 million

Probably the best bet of all time delivered £1 million from just a 50p stake! Yorkshireman Fred Craggs scooped his million when all horses in his accumulator won. Fred picked the horses by name, ignoring the form book. That's Lucky, Race Forever and Dream Come True were combined with 5 other runners at Sandown, Wolverhampton and Dubai to land odds of over 2,000,000/1. And just to make it a perfect result, it was on Fred's 60th birthday, making him a millionaire overnight!

## Racing's roots

Horsereading has taken place in the UK since Roman times and many of the sport's traditions and rules originated there. All modern thoroughbred racehorses can trace a line back to three foundation sires which were imported to Britain in the late 17th/early 18th centuries and the General Stud Book first published by James. Weatherby still records details of every horse in the breed. It is thought that the first races to take place in Britain were organised by Carl in Yorkshire around 200 AD.

existence, the Kiplingcotes Derby was first run in 1519. The Carlisle Bells, reputedly the oldest sporting trophy in the world, were first competed for in the 16th century, in a race that still bears their name. In 1605, James I discovered the little village of Newmarket whilst out hawking or riding. He began to spend time there racing horses, and from then on it has been known as the home of horse racing. Race meetings began to spring up elsewhere in the country.



The first recorded race meetings were during the reign of Henry II at Smithfield, London, during the annual St Bartholomew's horse fair, recorded by William Fitzstephen writing at some time after 1174 and the poet Drayton. For the next three centuries there are numerous records of Kings of England keeping 'running horses'. Edward III bought horses at £13 6s 8d each, and was also gifted two by the King of Navarre. The royal stud continued to grow throughout the reign of Henry VII. Records become more substantial during the time of Henry VIII. He kept a training establishment at Greenwich and a stud at Eltham. Formal race meetings began to be instigated too. It is believed that the first occurrence of a trophy being presented to the winner of a race was in 1512 by organisers of a fair in Chester and was a small wooden ball decorated with flowers. Meanwhile, the oldest horse race still in

Races were run for silver bells at Gatherley, Yorkshire, Croydon and Theobolds on Enfield Chase. Jockey weights began to be measured and rigorously enforced. In 1740, Parliament introduced an act "to restrain and to prevent the excessive increase in horse racing". This was largely ignored and in the 1750 the Jockey Club was formed to create and apply the Rules of Racing. The Jockey Club governed the sport until its governance role was handed to the British Horseracing Board. The rest, they say, is history!



The Kiplingcotes Derby, Yorkshire - reputed to be the world's oldest horse race

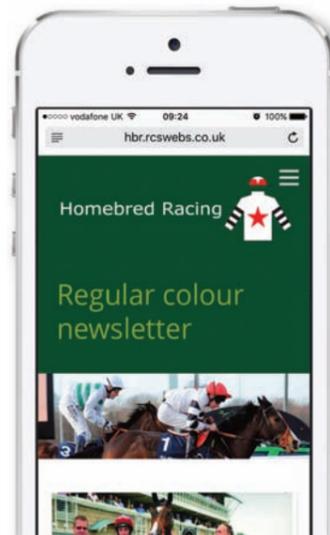
# WINNING POST

THE REGULAR NEWSLETTER FROM HOMEBRED RACING

SUMMER 2016

## Our new website

The Homebred website is having a make-over to improve look and feel - and to also make it suitable for viewing on mobile devices. The content is essentially the same but, hopefully, all easier to find and navigate to! The site continues to have a password protected area for owners to view latest news, training reports, entries and any snippets of racing information and tips. Visit our new site at [www.homebredracing.co.uk](http://www.homebredracing.co.uk)



## Betting shops in the twilight zone?

The BHA is, at last, putting some pressure on the major bookies - Betfred, Ladbrokes, Coral and William Hill, who have not signed up to the approved bookmakers' agreement to pay for the 'racing product'. The BHA's move to change betting shop friendly 'twilight' fixtures to evening fixtures will not please the big four, but will be welcomed by the online bookies such as Betfair and Sky Bet who've agreed to pay the new levy. This decision may precipitate the major bookies to either speed up closure of high street betting shops - or to sign racing's new deal.



Delagoa Bay scorchers to another Kempton win

Having given our mares a short, but well-earned break after their winter campaign, the plan was to bring them back for the summer and autumn. Delagoa Bay got our summer off to the best possible start with an emphatic win in the Kempton UK Racing Handicap over 2 miles. Hopes were high with Poppy

re-united with jockey Martin Dwyer but Martin was forced to give up the ride due to his wife being taken ill. Seven pound claimer Mitch Godwin was the only rider available and deputised to great effect! Poppy made good progress from the back when the runners turned for home and cut down the leaders in

the final furlong to win a shade comfortably. Mitch said "She was always travelling and had the gears when I needed them". In this sort of form Delagoa Bay may well win again - and we now just await re-appearance of her multiple winning stablemate Celestial Bay.

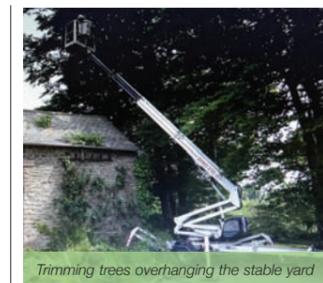
## Young man on a mission...



Apprentice jockey Mitch Godwin

Mitch Godwin is a name to remember - and not just for his first ride for us which was also a win on Delagoa Bay. Mitch is retained as an

apprentice jockey by the all-conquering Richard Hannon stable where he's been working for 18 months and is held in high regard. Aged just 17, Mitch is already making a name for himself having partnered 9 winners to date. Claiming 7lbs and with an attitude beyond his years he looks to have a very bright future ahead of him... and hopefully more winners with Delagoa Bay! The Hannon team have a track record of producing good jockeys and it's very handy that Sylvester (being married to a Hannon) has the inside information!



Trimming trees overhanging the stable yard

## Did you know?

Kempton Park had more runners than any other racecourse last year - 7,151 horses.



## Just Champion!

The comprehensive winner of our 'Spot the Champions' competition was Liam Dye of Whitstable, Kent. It was vindication of Liam's own business, Rating The Races, which enabled him to amass a score miles ahead of all the other entrants. The task was to select which would be the highest rated jump horses after the

Cheltenham Festival - the total of the ratings for:  
 - Highest rated chaser  
 - Highest rated hurdler  
 - Highest rated novice chaser  
 - Highest rated novice hurdler  
 Liam nominated Don Cossack, Faugheen, No More Heroes, and Moon Racer which gave him an unassailable total and he wins a share in Celestial Bay.

## Dazzling new heights

Senior jockey Darryll 'Dazzler' Holland is set to be in the limelight again having been signed up to ride for the Hills, Lambourn based yard. Darryll, now 43, first rode for the Hills in 1988 but has been off the radar having ridden overseas in Hong Kong, Japan and Singapore. Barry Hills recalls "Darryll had never sat on a horse before he came to our yard - but it took him about 2 minutes to discover he was good. He should have been champion jockey". Becoming champion was close when riding 157 winners in 2003 behind Kieren Fallon. The Hill's yard has plenty of ammunition to propel Dazzler towards the top again...



Holland - set to dazzle again?

## Battle of the sexes



War Emblem - retired from racing & breeding

## Did you know?

Grand National winners Team Spirit (1964) and Foinavon (1967) were half brothers - by the same sire, Vulgan.

## Owners' lunch

All owners will be receiving an invitation to the annual owners lunch at the Homebred Stud on Sunday 24 July when we'll hope to enjoy good weather and a chance to catch up.

## Bookies bashed at Cheltenham!

With 3 winning favourites on the first day of the festival, things only got worse for the bookies. David Williams of Ladbrokes said "We can't get away from Cheltenham quick enough. Bookies are being carried out on stretchers whilst punters are hiring cranes to help them take the cash away! It's been the most expensive Cheltenham week we can ever remember".

Six Irish winners on St Patrick's Day spelt disaster for bookmakers and winners of all the biggest races were all well backed including Don Cossack, winning favourite in the Gold Cup. Biggest first day bet was £220,000 on Douvan who ran out an easy winner and overall, bookies estimate a loss of over £60 million during the 4 day festival.

Cheltenham bookies lost £60 million



New shoes improve performance

There's been quite a lot of media coverage about the invention of graphene - a thin, ultra lightweight material that's many times stronger than steel. Most debate has been about its successful application. Newmarket trainer Ed Dunlop's farrier has been experimenting with its use for racehorse shoes. They appear to be much lighter and much

stronger than traditional racing plates and, alarmingly, Ed claims there's a 5% increase in performance. Alarmingly because 5% better than any horse in any race would give an unfair advantage over any horse not wearing the graphene plates. Ed says that he'd seen the plates in use when in Uzbekistan. However, the date of this revelation was 1st April!

Hereford racecourse - back in business



## Here we go again!

Hereford Racecourse is back in business and the popular jump course will host 4 fixtures in 2016. These will be on October 6 and 31, November 23 and December 19th. There was general dismay when ARC Racing announced their intentions to close the

track along with Folkestone (where there had also been plans to re-open). Homebred owners have fond memories of Hereford where our staying hurdler Prince de Galles only went down in their Boxing Day feature race in a desperately close photo finish.

## Who's the new kid on the block?

As the new flat season gets into full swing, it's always interesting to see which new stallions will make the grade when their first two year olds make their racecourse debuts in 2016. Obviously most interest will focus on the Frankel youngsters to see if they live up to his £125,000 covering fee. But putting him aside, others are well represented including

Excelebration, So You Think, Nathaniel and Sepoy. But some of these may need more time and there's usually a surprise from those with less of a high profile who are able to get speedier, early types. From the bargain basement Casamento and Sir Prancealot look very likely contenders whilst youngsters by Mayson should be worth a check when the ground rides soft.



Casamento - could prove a bargain

## Common sense prevails

Trying to interpret who is champion jockey or champion trainer has become almost impossible to fathom with different seasons for all-weather and turf, between different dates and on prizemoney won or number of wins. In terms of the trainers' championship some common sense has at last prevailed and will now be over a straight calendar year - January 1st - December 31st. However, the issue remains whether this should be judged on prizemoney won or number of winners trained. In my book it takes as much - or more skill - to extract a win from a poor horse in a seller rather than training a superstar.



Current champion trainer John Gosden embraced by Frankie Dettori

A stable with a couple of Group 1 performers is always likely to win on prizemoney - statistically just 2% of the horse population scoops over 80% of the pot.

## Did you know?

Tokyo Racecourse is the world's largest with a capacity for 223,000 race goers.

## Did you know?

The fastest speed recorded for a racehorse is 43.97mph achieved by 2 year old filly Winning Brew at Grantville, USA on 14 May 2008.