

## Snapshot

Homebred Star was operated on by Britain's leading equine surgeon Ben Brain - but was quickly back on his feet and out in the field again



Homebred Star was soon back in the paddock after his 'op'.

Britain's leading equine surgeon Ben Brain operated on Homebred Star for his soft palate and obstructed airway at the stud in early September. It was a half hour operation which Ben said badly needed doing. Dixey recovered quickly and, though obviously very

sore, was back eating within a few minutes. The operation site has now healed well and Ben suggested another 6 weeks at grass before starting riding him. The hope is that this wind operation will make a significant difference to Dixey's racecourse performance

as he's previously cruised up at the furlong pole only to run out of puff in the closing stages. Once he's back in work we'll make plans which may include a cross channel raid to Mons (Belgium) or Duindigt (Holland) to race on the all weather.

## What makes a successful stallion?

Winners. That's probably the short answer - if you're an owner or trainer. But breeders look at it somewhat differently hoping to maximize the profit by selling youngsters at a higher price than the cost of production. This season's league table assessed on profitability of stallions makes interesting reading. Arakan is the most profitable sire - his offspring generally fetching 14 times his stud fee. He's followed by Acclamation in second place (x13 his stud fee), then Camacho (x11), Kheleyf (x9) and Piccolo (x9). Some you may never have heard of, but the factor they all share in common is a low stud fee - Camacho



Arakan - selling at 14 x his stud fee

being the cheapest at £2,700 and Acclamation the most expensive at £6,000. So breeders using Arakan took a whopping £40,000 over and

above his stud fee whilst those that lashed out on a 'top' stallion, like Danehill Dancer who's covering fee is £50,000, saw sales average only £55,000.

## Some racing milestones

The first recorded race meetings were in 1540 at Chester - which is the oldest surviving racecourse in Britain. 40 years later Queen Elizabeth I attended racing on Salisbury Plain and in 1595 the local town map shows a racecourse on

Doncaster Town Moor. James I became the first monarch to visit Newmarket in 1605 and within 20 years the first Rules of Racing were drawn up. Racing at Epsom was recorded for the first time in the 1640s - just 25 years before the first formal racecourse was laid out in the USA on Long Island, New York in 1665. Royal patronage

created Newmarket's role as the centre of racing largely due to the keen interest of Charles II who was a regular racegoer in the 1660s. And this was all before the importation of the Byerley Turk (1689) and the Darley Arabian (1704) who were the founding fathers of the modern British thoroughbred.

## New hope for old and injured jockeys...

Building work on a new state-of-the-art home for retired and injured jockeys financed by the Injured Jockey Fund finally began last year. The vision and drive of enthusiastic trustee Jack Berry to create a flagship home for beneficiaries has quickly become a reality on the site of an old racing yard, Bourne House stables, close to the heart of Lambourn. Bob Read and more recently Nicky Henderson and Barry Hills trained hundreds of winners from this base. The horses have long departed, their stables torn down, but the spirit of racing lives on at the new Oaksey House, which will cost over £5 million to complete. When completed it will provide permanent accommodation for 14 with eight single units and three doubles, plus an extra double room offering a respite home for our beneficiaries and their carers from other parts of the country. Further information: [www.ijf.org.uk](http://www.ijf.org.uk)

## Did you know?

Weatherbys is increasing the range of information for owners on its newly expanded site at [www.racingadmin.co.uk](http://www.racingadmin.co.uk).

## Owners encouraged to 'Buy British'

The Horse Racing Levy Board and the Thoroughbred Breeders Association have combined in a new initiative to encourage the owners of top jumping mares to have them covered by UK based stallions. Each owner will receive a voucher for £3000 to be set against the fee of any British based stallion of their choice.

# WINNING POST

THE REGULAR NEWSLETTER FROM HOMEBRED RACING

WINTER / 2008



## VeuveVeuveVoom!

### Our Superior Premium filly gets a new name

Charlie, our 2008 foal by Superior Premium out of Gran Clicquot, seems suitably bred for a champagne related name. So The Wine Society circulated all their members to solicit suggestions for the most appropriate ideas. We were overwhelmed by the response receiving well over 1000 suggestions - the most popular being Premier Cru, Pinot Noir and Black Velvet. All excellent thoughts but sadly unavailable due to already being registered names for other horses. Ultimately we selected 'VeuveVeuveVoom' which



keeps the connection and sounds suitable for a youngster we hope will prove to be a speedy juvenile.

VeuveVeuveVoom certainly likes to speed through the grass around the fields and our vet Richard says of her "she's very strong and just gets bigger from front to back - like a quarter horse!" Charlie will be weaned soon and then spend

the spring and summer at home before being backed and sent into training with the intention of making her racecourse debut as a 2-year-old in 2010. Shares are being snapped up rapidly by Wine Society members so please call the office if you're interested on 01293 884433.



## A 1000/1 winner?



John Oaksey was back in the headlines last winter as the breeder and owner of the highly promising young hurdler Carruthers. Oaksey has a £10 win voucher at 1000-1 about Carruthers winning the Gold Cup one day, either at Cheltenham or Ascot. Placed 48 hours after Carruthers was born, the bet would produce a huge bonus for the Injured Jockeys Fund if the horse delivers on the biggest stage. Carruthers showed class and stamina by winning three times over hurdles last season including a valuable prize at Warwick. So who knows!

## Don't mention the war!

Recent events at the German Derby where jockey Martin Dwyer rode Top Look into third place are reminiscent of an episode of 'Dad's Army'. After the race, Martin Dwyer tried to enter the V.I.P. lounge, where Top Look's owners were celebrating, only to be apprehended by a burly security man who kept repeating "Vot is your name". "Don't tell him your name, Dwyer" was the chorus from the celebrating Brits!

## The scandal of the Tote...



The government made a manifesto pledge 'to sell the Tote to racing for the benefit of racing'. However the government turned down bids of £320 million and £400 million as being insufficient. But the severe turndown in the financial outlook leads industry experts to wonder whether the Tote is even worth £250 million

in the current market. Insiders suggest that the Treasury is now so strapped for cash it hoped that by rejecting racing's offer it might provoke a bidding war from the bookmaking industry - but sadly greed seems to have overtaken common sense. And what of the promise to keep the Tote for racing?

## Did you know?

From the start of next year's turf flat season there will be no races for horses rated 45 and below.

## Stable visits

If you would like to see your horse working on the gallops call the office on 01293 884433 and we'll arrange it for you.



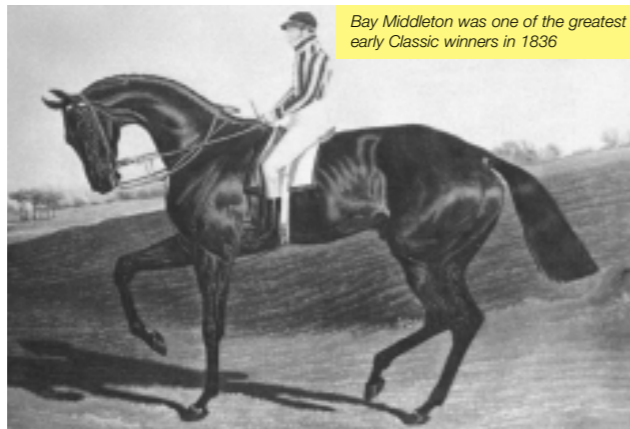
## Snapshot

Polarity (left) working on the gallops at Middleham in early October.



## The English Classics

The English Classic races have long been regarded as the supreme test of the racehorse. And this is still true, although British prizemoney has long been eclipsed by many other races overseas. In fact there were very few races for 3 year olds until the last quarter of the 18th century as most were for older horses over longer distances and determined by a series of heats over the same distance on the same day. The prize went to the first horse to win 2 heats. The initial Classic was the St. Leger, first run in 1776, as a single race heat confined to 3 year olds only. Within a few years The Derby and The Oaks were established and these were regarded as 'the great races'. It was not until 1850 that the 1000 and 2000 Guineas also began to become recognised as something more than just early season trials. By the end of the 19th century it was generally



Bay Middleton was one of the greatest early Classic winners in 1836

agreed that all five races confined to 3 year olds constituted a set of the most important races. The term 'Classics' was applied, and then describing the Triple Crown being for the winner of the Guineas, Oaks or Derby and St. Leger in a single season. This pattern of races has been replicated overseas by most of

the principal racing nations. Earliest recorded winner of the 2000 Guineas was Wizard in 1809. Charlotte is the earliest recorded winner of the 1000 Guineas. Diomed won the first Derby in 1780 whilst Lord Derby's Bridget scooped The Oaks. The inaugural Classic - the 1776 St. Leger - was won by Allabaculia.

## Snapshot

Divine White (No15) in the paddock before her seasonal debut in a novice hurdle in the wonderful setting of Hexham racecourse.



## Did you know?

Plumpton is offering a £60,000 bonus to a novice chase winner on their track who goes on to win at the Cheltenham Festival.

## Who pays for racing?

One of racing's perennial questions has always been "Who funds racing?" The bookies have always argued that if it's not them - it's their punters! Racecourses also claim to contribute a major element - as do sponsors including the Tote. The current financial difficulties faced by racing have been sharply put in focus recently by the search for additional and on going funding to replace the Levy. ROA Council member Sally Rowell-Williams has produced what seems to be a definitive answer. Assuming that the Levy (who effectively bank roll racing's prizemoney) contribute £100 million per annum - which equates to 10% of bookmakers gross profits - the figures can be calculated as follows:

Number of horses in training	20,000
Average cost of training per year	£20,000
Overall cost to owners	£400,000,000
Total prizemoney (bookies contribution)	£100,000,000
Less percentage to trainers/jockeys (20%)	£20,000,000
Total cost to owners	£320,000,000

These figures show only running costs and do not include purchase or breeding of the horse which is another major contribution made by the owner. So punters, indirectly, and bookmakers do make a contribution to racing but to suggest they fund it is a misconception that is now firmly nailed.

## Match making in 2009!

Gran Clicquot, dam of our 2008 filly foal by Superior Premium, was rested this year after her first foal but will be covered again in the spring. So the search is on for the most suitable stallion. Gran Clicquot's male line, (she's by Gran Alba) could be described as 'stout' whilst her female ancestors are clearly speedy. So in choosing a stallion we'll be looking for one that reinforces the speed element in her pedigree. As we hope Superior Premium will have done! It's a coincidence that a horse trained by James Bethell has just retired to stud. Mine was a top class racehorse winning 10 races and over £350,000 in



Mine winning his record equalling 3rd Bunbury Cup ridden by Mick Kinane

prizemoney. James says "He was a most wonderful horse to train. He had a tremendous temperament, great constitution and is very sound. I will be extremely lucky to train another one like him and will also be surprised if his record of 3 Bunbury Cups, The Victoria Cup and The Royal Hunt Cup will ever be surpassed. I would have no hesitation in sending a mare to him".

The added appeal as a potential stallion for Gran Clicquot is the inclusion of Sing Sing, Mummy's Pet and Tina's Pet which echoes our mare's own ancestry. Mine is by Group winning sprinter Primo Dominie who's progeny have already earned over £10 million in prizemoney. Mine has his first season at stud in 2009 and stands at The Allerthorpe Farm Stud near York.

## Snapshot

Broodmares Royal Brush (left) dam of Sweep Home and Snowy Mantle, dam of Divine White and Polarity, enjoy autumn sunshine and the green, green grass of the Homebred Stud.



## Festival rings the changes



Cheltenham racecourse has announced a significant shake-up to the running order of races at next year's Festival. The feature race on each day will now be run as the fourth race on the card, in the hope of building up a sense of climax to each day. Managing director Edward Gillespie said: "It was apparent from the experience of last season that a greater period of build-up to the biggest races was almost universally popular. Because we are now starting racing at 1.30pm instead of 2pm, these races will only actually be run five minutes later than in the recent past".

### First Day - Tuesday 10th March (Old Course)

- 1.30 The Supreme Novices' Hurdle Race - 2m ½f
- 2.05 The Irish Independent Arke Challenge Trophy Steeple Chase - 2m
- 2.40 The William Hill Trophy Handicap Steeple Chase - 3m ½f
- 3.20 The Smurfit Kappa Champion Hurdle Challenge Trophy - 2m ½f
- 4.00 The Cross Country Steeple Chase 3m - 7f
- 4.40 The David Nicholson Mares' Hurdle Race 2m - 4f

### Second Day - Wednesday 11th March (Old Course)

- 1.30 The National Hunt Steeple Chase Challenge Cup - 4m
- 2.05 The Ballymore Properties Novices' Hurdle Race - 2m 5f
- 2.40 The Royal & SunAlliance Steeple Chase - 3m ½f
- 3.20 The Seasons Holidays Queen Mother Champion Steeple Chase - 2m
- 4.00 The Coral Cup Hurdle (A Handicap Hurdle Race) - 2m 5f
- 4.40 The Fred Winter Juvenile Handicap Hurdle Race - 2m ½f
- 5.15 The Weatherbys Champion Bumper (A Standard Open NH Flat Race) - 2m ½f

### Third Day - Thursday 12th March (New Course)

- 1.30 The Jewson Novices' Handicap Chase - 2m 5f
- 2.05 The Pertemps Final (A Handicap Hurdle Race) - 3m
- 2.40 The Ryanair Steeple Chase - 2m 5f
- 3.20 The Ladbrokes World Hurdle Race - 3m
- 4.00 The Festival Plate (A Handicap Steeple Chase) - 2m 5f
- 4.40 The Fulke Walwyn Kirn Muir Challenge Cup Handicap Steeple Chase - 3m ½f

### Fourth Day - Friday 13th March (New Course)

- 1.30 The JCB Triumph Hurdle Race - 2m 1f
- 2.05 The Vincent O'Brien County Handicap Hurdle Race - 2m 1f
- 2.40 The Albert Bartlett Novices' Hurdle Race - 3m
- 3.20 The Totesport Cheltenham Gold Cup Steeple Chase - 3m 2½f
- 4.00 The Christie's Foxhunter Steeple Chase Challenge Cup - 3m 2½f
- 4.40 The Conditionals' Hurdle (A Handicap) (0-140) - 2m 4½f
- 5.15 The Johnny Henderson Grand Annual Steeple Chase Challenge Cup - 2m ½f

## Did you know?

Which racecourse contributes the most to owner's prizemoney? It's Cheltenham with 55% of prizemoney contributed by the course, followed by Aintree (54%) and Ascot (48%).