

Going, going... gone!

Description of the prevailing ground on the racecourse has previously been at the whim of the Clerk of the Course - who inevitably would always like to describe it as "good." But in January 2009, it became a requirement of the Rules of Racing that a GoingStick reading be made available by racecourses for each fixture staged - at the declaration stage (a few days in advance of racing) and then again on raceday itself. These readings are published alongside a Clerk of the Course's official description. Moving beyond the traditional subjective approach used until now, the GoingStick is a device that Clerks of the Course use to give an objective numerical reading that will reflect the state of the going at any given racecourse. Developed by Cranfield

University and TurfTrax over a five year period, the device was extensively and successfully trialled before becoming a requirement under the Rules In 2009, and has logged over 6500 official overall course readings in the last two years alone. A GoingStick reading is specific to an individual racecourse and most valuable when considered in the context of historical readings at that course. Below are the mean readings for all racecourses in the the last two years:

Flat racing	
Clerk of Course	GoingStick
Heavy	5.5
Soft	6.4
Good to soft	7.1
Good	8.0
Good to firm	8.9
Firm	10.1
Hard	N/A

Jump racing	
Clerk of Course	GoingStick
Heavy	5.2
Soft	6.0
Good to soft	6.9
Good	8.0
Good to firm	9.0
Firm	10.5
Hard	N/A

Where an official going description given by a Clerk of the Course falls between two possible ground descriptions (for example: 'Good, good to firm in places'), the first and therefore predominant ground description (in this case 'Good') is used for statistical purposes.



The GoingStick provides a more uniform guide

Bleak outlook for racing's funding

Despite a change of government, the sale of The Tote looks likely to slip through racing's fingers again - and it'll be a final insult if it ends up in the hands of the bookies! Further news that the Levy Board's budget for 2011 has slipped even further from its August projection of £70 million to £60m now is another blow to the finances of racing. This financial blow that will reverberate through the whole of the racing industry could receive some reprieve if the government were to come down in racing's favour against

the betting industry when they adjudicate on the 50th levy scheme (2011-2012). But, as much as racing is convinced by its case, the Levy Board has no alternative but to set a 2011 budget on the basis of the current levy scheme, so that its expenditure does not exceed forecast income. Traditionally, levy money has accounted for around 55% of total prize-money, so the fact that its allocation will reduce by £21m from 2010 to 2011 will have a potentially devastating effect on the racing industry.

Aside from the levy, owners and racecourses are the biggest contributors to the total costs of running racing and there is likely to be some healthy debate surrounding the 2011 BHA budget as a result of what has happened to racing's main source of funding. The fallout from the levy debacle has also had consequences for veterinary research, training and education programmes and breeders' prizes - all of which have had their funding slashed.



Close-up portrait of our two-year-old Encosta de Lago filly Delagoa Bay

Delagoa on the way...

Our Encosta de Lago filly Delagoa Bay has enjoyed a couple of educational runs in preparation for her 3-year-old season. Poppy completely missed the break on her racecourse debut at Bath and jockey Liam Keniry told us that she was also unable to handle the very soft ground. On her second run at Wolverhampton Poppy ran a completely different race, breaking fast and then being up with the pace until weakening in the closing stages when Liam reported she's still weak. But it's all been good experience and Sylvester feels she'll improve for a longer trip and more time to strengthen up next season - everyone agrees that she looks the part and is an exceptionally attractive filly. Our hopes for her remain undiminished!

Let us have your ideas and views



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WINNING POST

THE REGULAR NEWSLETTER FROM HOMEBRED RACING WINTER/2010

Happy Christmas from us all at Homebred Racing - and a winning New Year!

Upturn or downturn?

The wellbeing of the horse-racing world is often determined by the yearling sales results - sales of youngsters destined for the racetrack in 2011. Tattersalls November sale certainly produced some good headlines with 38 youngsters fetching six-figure sums. However, headlines obscured rather more sober text which revealed that overall turnover for the sale dropped by 17 per cent to £17,491,400. The average sale price dipped to £31,235 and the clearance rate 3% to 75% of the total lots finding new homes. As always apparently 'good' horses made money to match - but meaning there are still bargains to be secured in the sale ring as many still fail to even cover their cost of production.

Vooming up the weights!

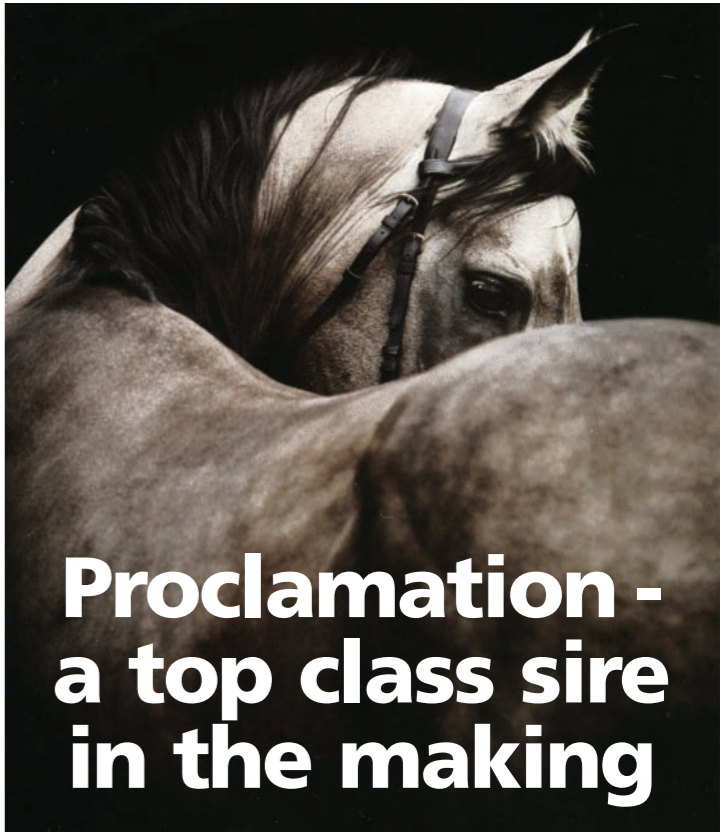
Our 2 year old sprinter VeuveVeuveVoom has been raised 20lbs by the handicapper after her most recent run at Lingfield where she dropped back to the minimum 5 furlong trip for the first time. The sharp track also suited enabling her to turn around form with previous opponents by nearly 30 lengths! Being by Superior Premium out of a mare who won over 6 furlongs, it's no surprise that Charlie looks to be an out and out speedster. Trainer Gerry Enright says that Charlie continues to grow and strengthen up and should be a force in handicaps over the minimum trip in the coming months.



VeuveVeuveVoom is on the up

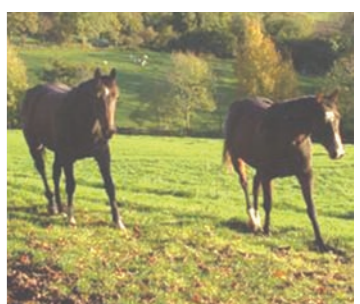
You Tube™ Seen in all the right places!

It's a sign of the times that Homebred Racing now has its own YouTube channel to help give prospective owners more of a feel of what we're all about. Apart from clips of existing video we'll keep the channel updated with snippets of events at home as well as some fascinating pieces with Aintree legend Brian Fletcher. Brian discusses his Aintree exploits with Red Rum and evaluates our yearlings for 2011 season.



Proclamation - a top class sire in the making

The first season sires' table is always something of a lottery - who would have predicted Ifraaj being the runaway winner in 2010? But at Homebred Racing we're very happy to see Proclamation climbing the table to a very respectable 4th place on the number of individual winners. Proclamation, a grey by Kings Best, was in fact the highest rated horse at 130 to join the stallion ranks and his wins included a Group 1 victory over the legendary Soviet Song. He is owned by Godolphin. Our yearling filly 'Lucy', by Proclamation, is out of Fustaan a 2 year old winner



Our Proclamation filly 'Lucy' on the left, walking up the steep hill of front field at feed time.

herself who is full sister to dual Group winner Finjaan, currently in training with Marcus Tregonning. 'Lucy' has started to grow well having been a small foal and is now making up into the stuff of dreams for 2011!

Memorable quotes
Racehorse owner Michael Broke on racecourse organisation:
"As horses parade, there should be a commentator in the ring giving information to racegoers - as is provided on television"

Did you know?
Jumps owners receive 78.25% of any prizemoney, trainers 7.85%, jockeys 8.17% and stable staff 5.32% respectively.

Know your rules: How the race balloting system works:

Under schedule 8 (Part A) The British Horseracing Authority has established procedures for the elimination of horses where entries exceed the number of available spaces in the line up to comply with the safety factor restricting the number of runners for every race.

Section 1.2 states: Elimination will occur in the following sequence:

1.2.1 Any horse entered which is below the lower rating range stipulated in the conditions of the race unless it has incurred a penalty which brings it within the rating range of the race. In addition those with the lowest ratings will be eliminated first sequentially and where it is necessary to eliminate some but not all horses on the same rating random balloting will apply. Where horses have incurred penalties, the amount of the penalty shall be added to the Handicap Rating in order to determine the elimination sequence.

1.2.2 Horses with the lowest weights and horses which

have incurred a penalty bringing them within the rating range of the race - commencing at the bottom of the list but disregarding horses which have incurred penalties unless it is necessary to eliminate these horses at their new weights.

1.2.3 Horses with the same weights - where it is necessary to eliminate some but not all horses with the same weights, those that have incurred penalties will be eliminated first and those without penalties will be eliminated in the published ascending order, such order having been determined by random balloting. Penalised horses with the same weights will also be eliminated in the published ascending order determined by random balloting, unless the horses concerned have different penalties in which case the horse with the lower penalty will be given priority. Any horse previously omitted from a Handicap or given an incorrect weight as provided for under Rule 134 will be

added randomly to any horses on the same weight and such horse will be subject to elimination, if necessary, in accordance with that revised random order.

1.3 Those horses with the same weight which have a Handicap Rating of 45 or below shall be published in descending rating order, with the order for those horses with the same rating being determined by random balloting.

All as clear as mud! But essentially those with the lowest handicap mark are eliminated first and those horses without a handicap rating are eliminated on the basis of the most numbers of unplaced runs.



The ballot ensures the number of runners doesn't exceed the safety factor



Polarity centre, returning from the High Moor at Middleham in preparation for her seasonal debut.

Polarity back on track

Polarity made a pleasing, if rather frustrating, seasonal debut on the all-weather at Lingfield where she finished 5 lengths out of the prizemoney. It was a much better effort showing that clearly something went wrong in her last run when she dropped out quickly when challenging for the lead. The frustration was that Jamie Moore didn't ride her up with the pace as requested - had he done so we felt sure she'd have finished

third. Trainer James Bethell reports that Sam has come out of her race well and shows no sign of the muscle injury she suffered at Southwell. After the race Jamie Moore said that Sam had given him a 'great feel' on the way to the start and felt it worth trying her over shorter trips on the flat. Polarity will now have an easy month of just trotting exercise with a view to her next run over 1 mile 6 furlongs in the New Year.

Racing is an education!

A group of primary school infants, accompanied by two female teachers, went on a field trip to Cheltenham races to see and learn about thoroughbred horses.

When it was time to take the children to the toilet, it was decided that the girls would go with one teacher and the boys would go with the other.

The teacher assigned to the boys was waiting outside the men's toilet when one of the boys came out and told her that none of them could reach the urinal.

Having no choice, she went inside, helped the boys with their pants, and began hoisting the boys up, one by one, holding their willies to direct the flow away from their clothes.

As she lifted one, she couldn't help but notice that he was unusually well endowed. Trying not to show that she was staring, the teacher said, "You must be in year four."

"No," he replied. "I'm riding Silver Arrow in the 3.30!"

Memorable quotes

Successful owner Andy Stuart on the future of the Tote: "It's a bit like the X-Factor... the battle for the Tote may go down to a final few".

US moves towards drug-free racing

At last there are signs that US racing is moving towards a ban on drugs that permits unsound horses not only to race successfully - but more importantly at greater risk to themselves.

Long seen as the most liberal jurisdiction in the world since racing with such substances as the painkiller phenylbutazone and the diuretic lasix is allowed, the US does not have one uniform set of rules but differing ones in the 38 states that permit betting. In October, the Association of Racing Commissioners voted to lower the permitted threshold level for phenylbutazone, a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug routinely given to most American horses.

The ability of veterinarians to evaluate the pre-race condition of horses to ensure they are sound to compete will be improved if horses have less of the drug in their systems. Under the new guidelines, only two micrograms of phenylbutazone per millilitre of plasma or serum will be allowed in post-race drug testing, as opposed to the previous level of five.

Dr Rick Arthur, equine medical director for the California Horse Racing Board and Chairman of the RMTC Scientific Advisory Committee, said that studies of the medications "were funded by the RMTC over the past few years in an effort to provide horsemen and practising veterinarians with withdrawal guidelines that will enable the therapeutic use of these medications without compromising the integrity of racing competition or the welfare of our human and equine athletes." Withdrawal guidelines ranged from 82 days for the steroid boldenone to 24 hours for a single dose of glycopyrrolate, a short-acting bronchodilator. Studies involving other commonly used substances are ongoing.

Richard Dunwoody's paddock pointers

Legendary jump jockey Richard Dunwoody details what to look for when trying to pick a winner in the paddock.

One of the difficulties for the racing enthusiast is to know what to look for in the parade ring. Form of the horse is obviously important, but looking at horses in the paddock is a vital part of finding winners. One of the best indicators of a horse's wellbeing is its coat. Even in winter you can tell if a horse is well or not by just looking at it. If its coat is shining, a horse is usually in good health and in peak condition. Horses are like people, they will look good if they feel good.

To the untrained eye differences can be very subtle when you look at horses in the parade ring. Trainers such as Charlie Mann and Venetia Williams always have their horses turned out immaculately, so it is a good rule of thumb to find a trainer whose horses are always in peak condition and compare the other runners to them.

Commentators usually point out if a horse is sweating. This is because, in racing parlance, it may have run its race before the off, leading to a poor performance on the track.

But a sign of a sweating horse is not always a bad thing. Each horse has its own characteristics. For instance, before the 2005 Derby, Motivator and Walk In The Park were both edgy and in a sweat, and many summarily discounted their chances. Yet they were able to put aside their pre-race anxieties to give their true running. The pair finished first and second!

Knowledge of the breeding would have told you that their sire, Montjeu, was also a free sweater who used to get worked up before his races. You can find this information in publications such as the Timeform racecard available at all tracks. Even the less precocious National Hunt horses can get worked up. Desert Orchid would often sweat a bit, though he rarely worked himself into a 'muck lather', a



Homebred Racing's Divine White in the parade ring at Hexham

term used for a horse that is sweating profusely. In the parade ring, a horse should be alert but not over excited or fretful. If they are, you will hear phrases such as 'on his toes' or 'fizzy', the worry being that they are expelling too much energy. But be careful not to write off horses who seem half asleep, as some horses, like people, are laid back and as soon as the jockey mounts, they know they have a job to do and come alive.

You can usually tell if a horse is fit by looking at its stomach. Study them enough and in time you will be able to spot what's known in the trade as a 'fitness line'. This runs almost parallel to, and is just above, the bottom of the belly.

If you want examples of fit horses, just have a look at those trained by the likes of Nigel Twiston-Davies or David Pipe. These are just one or two pointers to help find winners. Paddock-watching is a very inexact science and, like everything else in life, the knowledge only comes with experience.

Did you know?

The BHA has introduced a fine of £5000 - £20000 to ensure that no one shall use a betting account maintained in their name to lay their horse to lose.

The horse's mouth...

The old saying is 'Never look a gift horse in the mouth'... simply because a horse's teeth can tell you so much about him!

It is important to look after the horse's teeth for two main reasons. First, they are needed for eating and digesting food, and second, because sharp teeth, or the presence of wolf teeth, can make a horse difficult to ride. As a result, the veterinary surgeon or 'equine dental technician' should be called out once or twice a year to keep them in full working order. Most equine dental work is carried out on a routine, preventative basis. It is difficult for most people to assess whether a horse's teeth require attention because the cheek teeth, which cause most

of the problems, are hard to view as they are positioned well back inside the mouth and they are also hard to feel without being bitten. There are occasions, however, when it is obvious that a horse may have a problem with its teeth because it is struggling to eat or 'hanging' at exercise.

How many teeth does a horse have?

An adult horse has at least 36 teeth - 12 front 'incisor' teeth and 24 cheek teeth. However, most older males also have canine teeth (often referred to as 'tushes' or 'tusks') which are found just behind the front teeth and rarely cause any problems. Some horses also have 'wolf' teeth, which are found just in front of the cheek

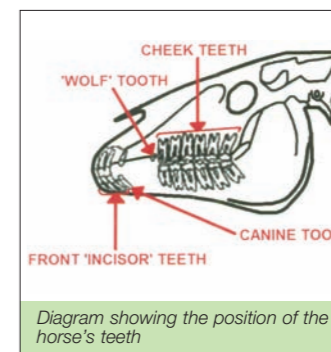


Diagram showing the position of the horse's teeth

teeth exactly where the horse's bit sits and can therefore cause problems such as hanging. Like most mammals, horses have two sets of teeth - temporary 'milk' teeth and permanent teeth. The permanent teeth come through at various specific ages from ten months to five years depending on the type of tooth, for example, the permanent central front 'incisor' teeth come through at approximately two and a half years of age.

Horse's mouths are not easy to access for obvious reasons, therefore a large metal gag is used to carry out a full examination and a lot of the actual dental work. The vet or dental technician will gain a full picture of the horse's mouth using sight, smell and feel, and occasionally an x-ray may be necessary in order to acquire more information about a specific tooth, for example an infected or fractured tooth.

Did you know?

The most profitable stallion measured on sales price achieved v. fee is Monsieur Bond whose yearlings average more than 7 times his £3,500 fee at the sales.