

Man on a mission...

Dave Roberts is a workaholic who makes hundreds of phone calls a day managing over 50 different jockeys. He eats, sleeps and breathes racing, studying entries and declarations to ensure that the horses with the best chances are ridden by one of his jockeys...so no wonder he gets just 2 hours sleep a day...often still at his desk! Dave is agent for all the top jocks including Tony McCoy, Richard Johnson, Paddy Brennan, Tom Scudamore, Paul Maloney and Jamie Moore – to name a few. Each of them relies on Dave to map out their week for which he receives 10% of the jockey's fee of £157.72 and 1% of any prizemoney. Dave happily admits his job is an obsession that's now lasted 27 years. His 3 mobiles and 2 landlines all ring almost continually and he's glued to the screen watching replays of races to ensure he doesn't put one of his clients up on a dodgy jumper... 'If I get them crooked up – I feel the financial pain too'. Dave says; 'I really don't have any interest in flat racing – just the jumps. My relaxation is Chelsea Football Club where I go for all midweek and night matches. I don't really enjoy sleep or food and just grab bits of either when I can...it's a lifestyle your body gets used to...'

New boys on the block

With poor prize-money and a recession resulting in falling foal crops, new stallions will have a particularly difficult time to make the grade in 2014 – although results of their efforts will not reach the racetrack until 2016. The stallion book for 2014 lists 28 new stallions including Al Kazeem, who performed so well on the track last season, Camelot, Dawn Approach, Intello and, interestingly for us, Finjaan who is closely related to Make A Fuss. Heading the bunch is Declaration of War who will stand at Coolmore for a fee of £40,000 whilst in the bargain basement Shantaram is available for just £1,000. All the top priced new stallions have a look about their pedigrees that suggests they may not get early types. Some of the mid-priced new boys may well fare better in producing early winners and these include Havana Gold, Farrh and Swiss Spirit.



Havana Gold

Low Key delivers high profile gamble



Low Key lands the final leg

Low Key was the fourth winner in a daring 4 leg accumulator betting coup landed by ex-trainer and legendary gambler Barney Curley. Estimates suggest that the bookies face a £2 million plus payout after 3 previous runners – Eye of the Tiger, Seven Summits and Lundas Valley all won on the same day. Each horse had previously been trained by Barney Curley who has enjoyed many previous wins from the bookies who frequently resorted to legal action to avoid paying out. Since retiring from training,



Barney Curley - legendary gambler

Barney Curley spends much of his time and effort on his charity work in Africa. Sources close to Barney say that this is where most of the money will go. Nice one Barney!

ARC racing into trouble



Lingfield Park is an ARC track

ARC (Arena Racing Company) are sailing into choppy waters and many in racing fear that they have no interest in racing. The closure of Folkestone released a large swathe of land for development close to the Channel Tunnel and the simultaneous closure of Hereford was greeted with despair by the jumping fraternity. ARC control nearly 30% of Britain's racecourses and 40% of fixtures but the worry is whether they have racing's interests at heart. There's a suspicion that ARC seeks to capitalise on racing's

assets over and above investing in racing. Events at Bath (where racing was abandoned due to sewage flooding the Jockey's room) and substituting Wolverhampton's Polytrack surface with a cheaper imitation, lend credibility to this argument. ARC's counter argument is a plan to make an all-weather track at Newcastle - but not everyone is happy at that prospect. It may take time for ARC to turn negative perceptions around – but they need to make a start...and soon!

WINNING P ST

THE REGULAR NEWSLETTER FROM HOMEBRED RACING

SPRING 2014

On the road again...



Make A Fuss after a work out on the all-weather at Lingfield

Our 2 fillies Celestial Bay (above) and Make A Fuss (inset) are back on the road towards the racecourse for their 2014 campaigns. Celestial Bay has thrived, despite the gales, floods and wind and has really filled out and should prove to be a force to reckon with this year. Make A Fuss had a recent comeback run on the all-weather but her pre-race antics meant she'd probably ran her race before getting to the start. Gerry says of her "I've ridden plenty of very good ones - and this one has an engine and gears. We just need to get her to reproduce on the track what she shows me at home".



Owners' lunch is on June 29th

Sunday, June 29th is a date for Homebred Racing owners' diaries when it's a chance to visit the stud in West Wales, meet up with other owners and see all the horses at home in rural Ceredigion. Owners will each be receiving a letter inviting them and including details of times and how to find us as well as recommend places to stay overnight for those travelling from far and wide. We look forward to seeing you all!

Did you know?

All racehorses celebrate their birthdays on January 1st - to ensure that they can be grouped into age categories for racing.

Did you know?

The highest jumping performance is held by an ex-racehorse, Huaso, who at the age of 16 cleared 8ft 2ins.

Snapshot

The appallingly wet winter has meant that many of the horses at home have chosen to spend most of their time in the barns.



The world's worst racehorse?



Quixall Crossett trails the field

"Vote for Lust is really bad," the horse's Australian owner and trainer John Castleman. "He just doesn't go fast." Retirement came after his 90th run - ninety rides that came and went without a solitary victory. For all his lack of pace and panache on the race track - Vote for Lust's career fittingly ended with him being 12-and-a-half lengths off the pace in his racing finale. He has enjoyed something of a cult following in Australia, with both a Facebook and Twitter page set up in his name. Vote for Lust is indisputably Australia's worst race horse, with his closest rival being Jordi, who had 67 starts without a win. As for laying claim to being the world's worst, Vote for Lust is in with a good shout, although he has some serious competition. British horse Quixall Crossett was the first thoroughbred to lose 100 races in England in 2000 while the American horse Zippy Chippy also went 100 races without a win and also even lost a race with a minor-league baseball player!



That was the winter that was

Rain, gales and plenty of it. West Wales was lashed by the weather (one of our favourite eating places, a café at Llangrannog, a tiny village on the coast, was destroyed by the frightening tidal surges). The photo shows water breaking over the seawall outside the Harbourmaster - one of Homebred owners' favourite places to stay when visiting the stud for our annual lunch. Happy to report that although the lovely pub, restaurant and hotel was forced to close for a while it happily survived the worst.



The Homebred Stud also lost many trees in the storms

Homebred's website gets a make over



Web users will have noticed that Homebred Racing's website has had a make-over to hopefully make it more interesting and easier to access information. The site gets over 1,500 visits per month - many using the resource of the directory section to find contact details for racecourses, trainers and jockeys. It's also possible to arrange ownership and share purchase in any of the horses online.

Did you know?

90% of all racehorses are descended from Eclipse - so dominant on the racecourse that he 'eclipsed' his rivals!

Lewes Racecourse - 50 years on

Lewes Racecourse may have closed 50 years ago, yet it still plays an every day role for British Racing. Homebred trainer Gerry Enright and Suzy Smith, Jim Best and Mark Hoad all still train on gallops which were the former racecourse. It's true that Lewes has declined from the dizzy heights of over 60 different training establishments based around the town and since Charlottown was trained here to win the 1960 Derby. (An event that lives in Lewes' legend... the day the town's pubs were drunk dry!). Lewes has also sent out a Grand National winner - Shannon Lass in 1902. Lewes Racecourse holds one of the most remarkable records - that of a 3-way dead heat, with the next two finishers dead heating for fourth place just a short head behind in the 1880 Astley Stakes.



The night Charlottown won the Derby - ringed Gerry Enright, then an apprentice jockey

Gerry, who has trained for Homebred since the late 1980's and has sent out several very long priced winners for us including 100-1 shots Backpacker and Homebred Star, says "It's a great place to train and a great place for horses too - they like the peace and quiet and the wide open spaces up here on The Downs. Our gallops on the old

racecourse are as good as any anywhere else and we're handy for the M23 and the local courses like Lingfield, Plumpton and Fontwell. Let's hope that Make A Fuss is our next 100-1 winner!" There are plans to mark the 50th anniversary of Lewes' last race meeting on Saturday 13th September. You can find full details at: www.lewesracecourse.com.



Cheeky girl

Celestial Bay has always enjoyed a bit of fun - usually chasing rabbits - and then digging furiously when they disappeared down a hole! On her current holiday Sky was watching repairs to her field drinker and, when the valve and ballcock were removed, grabbed them to gallop away scattering the parts to be lost in the mud... not a plumber's mate!

Did you know?

More people go horse riding than playing rugby or cricket or going fishing.

Some you win... some you lose...



JP McManus with jockey Tony McCoy

For a legendary gambler who thinks nothing of betting a million dollars on one horse, Irish businessman JP McManus is by all accounts a surprisingly reserved man. From humble beginnings as a bookmaker, McManus has earned a reputation as the fearless man on the track who would take on any wager - no matter how big. Now worth an estimated \$1 billion, the 65-year-old property mogul and horse owner is always a big player at the Cheltenham Festival. More than £500 million is bet during the four-day festival, with many punters taking their lead from the almost-mythical McManus. "McManus is a legendary figure because of how brave he is," Ladbrokes bookmaker David Williams says. "He's one of those faces that when he walks into a betting ring, everyone is wondering what he's going to do. But you'd never believe he's such a big, brazen better - he's very polite, very unassuming, a real gentlemen."

Nicknamed the "Sundance Kid" for his bold gambling, McManus famously won £1 million in just one day at Cheltenham in 2006, in a series of wagers with similarly daring bookmaker "Fearless" Freddie Williams.

Did you know?

The Grand National attracts a UK audience of 9.5 million - 3.2 million for The Derby

Stable boy-turned-millionaire 29-year-old Conor Murphy was a stable boy - until one lucky bet at Cheltenham changed his life forever. The Irishman could have been accused of letting his heart rule his head when he bet £50 on all five of his boss's horses winning.

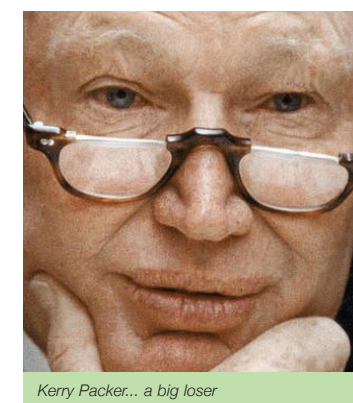


Conor Murphy celebrates his win!

But Murphy happily proved the sceptics wrong, scooping £1 million in an accumulator - a single bet which relies on all horses winning. Murphy placed the wager online three months before the race, giving him greater odds - and greater returns - than those betting on the day. The huge windfall helped finance his lifelong ambition of working as a trainer in Louisville, home of the prestigious Kentucky Derby.

The biggest loser Australian media tycoon Kerry Packer wasn't known as "The Big Fella" of gambling for nothing, famously halving betting odds in a matter of minutes with his million-dollar wagers. Packer, who had an estimated fortune of \$6.7 billion at the time of his death in 2005, was a

legendary figure on the track who struggled to find individual bookmakers with enough money to take him on. In the late 1980s a consortium of Sydney bookmakers joined forces to accept Packer's awesome bets, which could be around \$5 million on a single race. But the bookmakers were rubbing their hands at Sydney's Golden Slipper Stakes in 1987 when Packer lost around \$7 million throughout the day - including \$2 million on his own horse, called Christmas Tree.



Kerry Packer... a big loser

Dettori's magnificent seven In 1996, jockey Frankie Dettori left bookmakers in tears after defying 25,000-1 odds of winning all seven races at Britain's Ascot Festival.

The Italian rider got the record-breaking day underway with a win on the aptly named three-year-old colt, Wall Street. One lucky punter, Darren Yeats, placed a £59 accumulator bet on all of Dettori's races - despite being warned off by his wife. But the bold gamble paid off and Yeats left the track £550,000 richer.



Frankie celebrates

A Dream Come True It's become one of the fabled wins in horse racing history - and the elusive dream that lingers in the back of every punter's mind. It started with a horse called Isn't That Lucky and ended with one called A Dream Come True, for one lucky punter from Yorkshire. In 2008, the unnamed man placed just 50p on eight horses winning in an accumulator bet. Despite the 2,000,000-1 odds, every horse won, granting the gambler a whopping £1 million windfall. He became the first person in Britain to win £1 million in a betting shop.

Wizard of Oz



Encosta de Lago, sire of our own Delagoa Bay, has cemented his position as Australia's greatest ever sire by siring his 100th black type winner - Rubrick. The 2-year-old has already been snapped up by Coolmore to take up stallion duties once his racing days are over. Encosta de Lago has now sired the winners of 21 Group 1 races and Rubrick looks more than likely to add to his tally in the coming seasons. Meanwhile Delagoa Bay is now approaching her first run on her return to training after a long holiday and will run over extended trips this season.