

Is it total domination?

Disquiet has been expressed that the Coolmore juggernaut is scooping all the top prizes in a manner similar to Mercedes and Lewis Hamilton's domination of Formula 1. True to say that most of our top races have fallen to Galileo's offspring and Aidan O'Brien this year. But is this just a blip or a sign of more on course success to come? It's certain that the influence of super-stallion Galileo will persist in the short term but, just as was the case with Northern Dancer, it will eventually wane - prompting the search for his successor. And there's also the assurance that however hard racing's big battalions try they will never manage to scoop the whole of



Many great horses including Seattle Slew came from obscurity

the gene pool. Racing fans should be re-assured by the fact that many of the world's greatest racehorses came from relative obscurity... including Brigadier Gerard, Seattle Slew, Secretariat, Cigar and Nijinsky... and more recently Frankel and Enable have reached the very top without any assistance from Ballydoyle. So there's hope for us all!

When the going gets tough



The GoingStick - results are open to interpretation

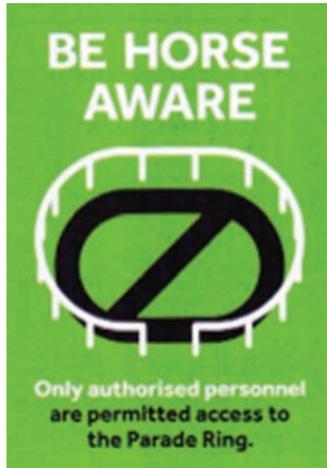
The introduction of the penrometer, also known as the GoingStick, was supposed to make reports very matter of fact by presenting the going as a straightforward numerical reading. These readings range from zero (bog-like) to 15 (concrete). But many trainers feel that such readings are misleading as much depends not on moisture content but on the structure of the soil and so still prefer to rely on descriptions - heavy, soft, good to soft, good, good to firm, firm and hard. The BHA's intent to ensure safe going means reports are not always accurate since courses just want to always appear to be providing 'good' ground.

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Watch out - there's a horse about!

The BHA has sanctioned a new initiative to keep owners safer in the paddock. Called 'Be horse aware', signs will be visible and prominent around racecourses as part of a campaign to make the pre-parade ring, the paddock and winner's enclosure all safer. The code has been agreed between the Racecourse Association, The Racehorse Owners Association and the National Trainers Federation to help promote safety for those genuinely entitled to be in these areas. Certainly the paddock can get very crowded when there are big fields but surely it's incumbent upon racecourses to ensure that facilities can cope rather than just posting a few warning signs?



Mitch Godwin aboard Delagoa Bay on her first of 3 wins at Kempton Park

Mitch on the way back

Many will remember young apprentice jockey Mitch Godwin for his wins on Delagoa Bay when aged just 18. Whilst with Sylvester Kirk's yard Mitch clocked up over 30 wins in almost no time at all and seemed destined to become champion apprentice. But it was not to be as after leaving Sylvester he began a two year battle with depression that forced him to put his career on hold for nearly a year. Not only was Mitch very down about getting fewer rides but his mum was fighting breast cancer. Thankfully he sought help from the Professional Jockeys Association and returned to action earlier this season with a winner for Harry Dunlop for whom he is now stable apprentice. Mitch says: "I was suffering from depression for a year before I actually stopped riding."

The stresses of my mum battling breast cancer and the demands of riding were all too much for a young lad. I was driving 60,000 miles a year alone which gave me too much time to think. I eventually told my parents and dad rang the PJA and I was seen by a psychiatrist in London the very next day. It was unbelievable how quickly the help came. I was seeing him every month for four months until I started getting better and I haven't seen him now since March". His new boss Harry Dunlop says "Mitch has ridden plenty of winners but still claims 3lbs making him a real asset for the team - he's particularly good with the youngsters and the more tricky rides". We wish Mitch all the very best and look forward to seeing this talented rider back in the winner's enclosure.

Snapshot

This is our two-year-old filly Lafontaine - looking more than good and now with a favourable handicap mark looks sure to provide plenty of fun later in the season



WINNING P HOMEBRED RACING ST

THE REGULAR NEWSLETTER FROM HOMEBRED RACING

SUMMER 2019

Winner Michale Palmer with his photo of Eaux De Vie



'Pitstop' gets a new racing name!

Trying to find a racing name for Delagoa Bay's lovely yearling filly by leading sprint stallion Swiss Spirit proved something of a challenge. We initially called her 'Pitstop' (after cartoon racing driver Penelope Pitstop) due to her dashing around the fields and screeching to a halt before setting off again. It was a demonstration of amazing speed that

prompted our farrier Ifan to say that he just has to be there on the day she first sets foot on a racecourse! Being unable to register her as Penelope Pitstop prompted us to put a competition on Facebook to win a share in her for the best name suggested. We were overwhelmed by a response of literally thousands - which of course included many silly

ones and a huge number all suggesting Bay Spirit. But we thought best of all was Eaux De Vie which not only rolls off the tongue but encapsulates the watery aspect of Delagoa Bay and really is a Swiss Spirit! So well done to Andrew Wainwright who suggested it and we look forward to seeing him with Eaux De Vie in the winner's enclosure!

The cost of it all

We were recently asked how much it costs to get a two-year old to its racecourse debut... that got us doing some sums! In the case of our two new youngsters, costs for each were firstly the stud fee, transport and vet costs (£7,250), 2 years keep costs including vets, farrier etc (£26,400), plus identification, naming and passport fees (£360), backing and being ridden away (£600), transport to training yard (£250) and then training fees of £375 per week for 6 months before a racecourse debut (£12,400), race entry fee (£65), transport to racecourse (£200), groom's fee (£65), jockey fee (£127) plus jockey insurance fee (£17). A total of £47,734 plus 20% VAT. Ouch! It's something we couldn't sustain on our own and why we're so grateful to Homebred owners for sharing the cost and, most importantly, the fun of running a racehorse they've followed since it was a foal!

Authorities in Australia act to curb deadly virus



Coolmore's Australian base in the Hunter Valley



Fruit bats are believed to be responsible for spreading the virus

Stud farms in the Hunter Valley are taking urgent steps to protect horses and humans against the deadly Hendra virus after a broodmare was found to be infected. The virus is believed to be spread by fruit bats and can also be transmitted to humans who are in contact with infected horses. The virus can

prove fatal to people as well as horses. The Hunter Valley is at the centre of Australia's bloodstock industry and where most leading studs, including Coolmore, are located. These studs have banded together to introduce tough new vaccination rules to help contain the problem.

Did you know?

Racing contributes over £20 million to Lambourn's local economy and is responsible for 1 in 3 jobs in the area

Borrowdale Park - one of the world's most popular racecourses



Borrowdale Park racecourse

Borrowdale Park regularly hosts racedays with crowds matching those at the Epsom Derby and up to 80,000 racegoers. In fact it's second only in attendances to Hanshin racecourse in Japan and holds fortnightly meetings throughout the year with a seven race card. But amazingly runners are provided by a dwindling number of trainers of which there are just four left. The local thoroughbred breeding industry used to support thousands of jobs and supply regular consignments to the sales which have now all but disappeared. But despite the apparent collapse of the racing industry it thrives at this excellent turf track. But where is it? Harare, Zimbabwe!

A couple of great choices!



Eaux De Vie - shares now available for her first season

Eaux De Vie 2018 Bay Filly by Swiss Spirit ex Delagoa Bay

This lovely bright bay filly has great conformation and is rated by the independent pedigree research tool Goldmine Stallion Match to be the result of an exceptional 20/20 mating with the great Northern Dancer appearing 3 times in the first 4 generations of her

pedigree. Goldmine predicts that Eaux De Vie will be suited by 5 - 6 furlongs as a two year old and by distances up to a mile once a three year old. Her dam Delagoa Bay, by the Australian super-sire Encosta De Lago who topped Danehill from the top spot as the southern

hemisphere's champion broodmare sire, was a five-time winner on the flat and Swiss Spirit was a top class, group winning sprinter establishing himself as the leading UK stallion in his first season at stud. Eaux De Vie will be backed and ridden away this autumn ready to go into training in 2020. Shares are currently available for her first season at a 20% discounted price until 1st November 2019. Your 12 months ownership will only commence once Eaux De Vie enters training with Sylvester Kirk in Upper Lambourn.



Study The Stars - shares now available for his first season

Study The Stars 2018 Bay Colt by Due Diligence ex Celestial Bay

This is an exceptionally well-made and good looking colt out of our multiple winning mare Celestial Bay by leading first season stallion Due Diligence. Goldmine rates Study The Stars to be the result of an exceptional 20/20 mating and anticipates that distances around 6f will suit

as a two year old and up to 9 furlongs as a three year old. Celestial Bay was speedy and versatile winning six races and being placed over distances between 5 and 13 furlongs and is by the exceptionally good sire of broodmares, Septieme Ciel, responsible for the dam of

the top class Cirrus Des Aigles. Due Diligence's racing career was cut short by injury (when finishing 2nd in the Group 1 Diamond Jubilee Stakes at Royal Ascot having already proved himself as that season's champion sprinter) and this son of War Front has made an exceptional start at stud. Shares are currently available for his first season at a 20% discounted price until 1st November 2019. Your 12 months ownership will only commence once Study The Stars is in training with Sylvester Kirk in Upper Lambourn.



Shares are now available in these two lovely home-bred yearlings. Each is divided into ten 10% shares - full details at www.homebredracing.co.uk or simply call 01559 363763 or email us to discuss options at 20% discount before October 31st



Wagtails have left their mark on their unusual nest site!

Feeding time is a free for all!

We've noticed over the years how much feeding horses attracts all sorts of wildlife... from a pheasant chasing the mares off their feeder and out of the barn to being 'bombed' by other assorted bird life when we're mixing up feeds. We've even got used to barn owls swooping overhead to express frustration at lights being turned on when they're busy hunting. Sadly no barn owls currently (the result of grey squirrels disturbing their nesting places) but the skies above the yard and surrounding buildings have been thick with swallows who manage to swoop at high speed and so precisely between the ears of the horses hanging their heads out over the stable door. Most oddly this year has been the choice of a single potted geranium plant as the nesting site for a family of wagtails in full view of all and sundry. But despite such a risky site they've managed to raise and successfully fledge a family of five just leaving the poor plant with very unusual streaky white embellishments. The red kites and buzzards arrive as soon as they hear a tractor starting up for haymaking which they closely follow for signs of the remains any unfortunate mice or frogs caught up in the process. When feeding the horses turned out in the fields the hedgerows come alive with all kinds of birds following through the vegetation in pied piper fashion often joined by rabbits and mice who in turn are stalked by polecats, stoats, weasels and foxes looking for a meal too!

Due Diligence - a sire worth close inspection



Due Diligence in full flight winning The Lacken Stakes

Included in our top three of new recruits to the stallion ranks with first runners in 2019, Due Diligence has exceeded the expectations of many and soon found himself top of the European Freshman Sires. (Good to see that our other two selections Cable Bay and Brazen Beau also feature high on the list too!). Despite the fact that he's significantly

outnumbered by other stallions allowed to cover huge numbers (Due Diligence has only 83 foals of racing age) bodes very well, as does the fact that he's already produced a very smart stakes winner in Good Vibes amongst his first runners. Due Diligence was a spectacular 8 length winner of his maiden on debut at

Saratoga resulting in him being snapped up by Coolmore to be trained by Aidan O'Brien to become the season's champion sprinter. He might well have won as a three year old at Royal Ascot when rapidly closing on winner Slade Power in the Group 1 Diamond Jubilee Stakes - he finished second but was found to have injured his pelvis during the race effectively finishing his racing career. Aidan has always maintained that he 'was a Group 1 winner waiting to happen' and despite leaving Ireland to stand at Whitsbury Manor Stud, it's significant that Coolmore have retained an interest in him. Supremo of Whitsbury, Ed Harper, says: 'When I saw Due Diligence I thought he was the most beautiful looking horse and I think that he'd probably have made a miler rather than just

a sprinter'. He certainly filled the eye when we went to see him at stud searching for a suitable stallion for our multiple winner Celestial Bay who has the great Seattle Slew close up in her pedigree and which is also re-inforced by Due Diligence's own ancestry. Our resulting colt Study The Stars is an exceptional looker too and we hope may prove to be a bit special when he reaches the racetrack in 2020!

Did you know?

The current top rated horse is Enable at 134, followed by the sprinting enigma Battash on 133. This year's Derby winner Anthony Van Dyck is rated 125

Homebred's YouTube channel proving popular

Homebred Racing's YouTube channel has had tens of thousands of viewings in the past year as well as an increasing number of subscribers. Our channel hosts clips featuring winning race replays together with other topics including interviews with top jockeys, Lambourn's training facilities and the birth of Delagoa Bay's foal. Most popular clips are Homebred Star's amazing 100/1 win at Lingfield (where he was a clear last turning into the short straight but swept past the field to win comfortably!) and Celestial Bay's last-to-first win when ridden by champion jockey Richard Hughes. We also have clips about our latest horses giving an insight into their pedigrees by showing how their parents performed on the race track.



Homebred Star's 100/1 win is worth a watch!

It's easy to find the channel by visiting: www.homebredracing.co.uk and then simply clicking on the YouTube icon at the foot of the page that will present a thumbnail menu of all the clips available.

Snapshot

Celestial Bay (left) six times winner and dam of Study The Stars with Delagoa Bay (right) five time winner and dam of Eaux De Vie looking relaxed and tubby after a summer of grass!

