

## Happy result to Hamilton horror...

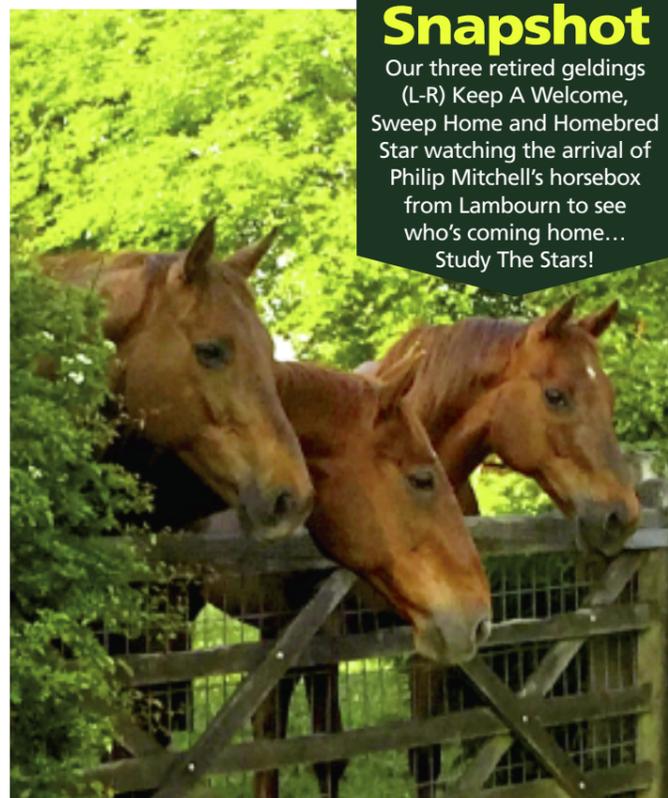
Tucked up at home watching racing from a comfy sofa when it's howling with wind and rain outside makes it difficult to relate to the poor devils filming the action perched high on some wobbly platform.

Commentators often comment on the cameramen on their precarious vantage point whilst being buffeted by the elements by apologizing for the less than steady filming. So it was totally unexpected that two cameramen should fall from their cherry-picker platform before the start of racing on a warm summer day at Hamilton. The unfortunate RaceTech staff fell from a great height onto the roof of their lorry. Inevitably racing was delayed as the emergency services rushed to their aid and the seriousness of

## Did you know?

Andy Stewart, owner of many top class horses at Cheltenham including Big Bucks, went 9 years before having a winner.

the incident sensibly resulted in the afternoon's programme being cancelled. From early reports it would seem that there was some sort of failure in the hydraulics that kept their platform aloft as it crashed to the ground with its two occupants. It must have been a truly shocking experience, but happily both men are expected to make a full recovery. So next time we enjoy watching the action we should spare a thought for those daredevil cameramen who provide us with the pictures.



## Snapshot

Our three retired geldings (L-R) Keep A Welcome, Sweep Home and Homebred Star watching the arrival of Philip Mitchell's horsebox from Lambourn to see who's coming home... Study The Stars!

# WINNING P ST

THE REGULAR NEWSLETTER FROM HOMEBRED RACING

SUMMER 2021

The boys all enjoying sunshine and grass (L-R) Homebred Star, Keep A Welcome, Study The Stars and Sweep Home



## Lazy days of summer at home

## Snapshot

22 acres being baled and wrapped in less than 2 hours thanks to this amazing machinery. Wrapping haylage 'cooks' the hay to make it sweeter and eliminate dust and allows it to be stored outside.



## Cheltenham plans to add extra fifth day

Plans for a new five day Cheltenham Festival from 2023 are being aired. If agreed, the new format would see the meeting being extended by a day to run from Tuesday to Saturday but with the main feature, The Gold Cup, remaining on Friday. The festival currently comprises 28 races - seven a day - but the 5 day plan would provide just 6 races a day meaning that two new races would need to be added. Reactions have been very mixed with many traditionalists fearing that the quality of the racing would be diluted. But The Jockey Club, who runs Cheltenham as well as many other top tracks, is under

financial pressure due to the pandemic to reverse significant losses as a result of COVID-19. It's a pretty compelling argument and the precedent of Royal Ascot being extended to a five day format has been very successful despite an initial outcry and the same arguments about diluting quality of the racing. Generally speaking adding extra days and tweaking the racing calendar has allowed more horses, owners and racegoers to be involved, perhaps the only failure has been moving The Derby to a Saturday which many feel has distracted from its previous status as a 'special' weekday event.

Given that our youngsters had been in training for 18 months and the continuing uncertainty about racegoers coming back to the racecourse, it seemed a good time to give everyone a break. Lafontaine and Eaux De View were first to return home and were soon turned out together. Lafontaine (stable name now a predictable 'Margo') found it all a bit strange at first but soon settled down whilst Pitstop soon made herself at home

and has grown tremendously as well as filling out to become a very strong type. Rocky followed a few weeks later and were we initially a bit concerned that the older boys might bully him. But not a bit of it and Rocky has not only stood up to them but has been challenging to be top dog - especially when food is around! Rocky too has changed a lot having also grown and filled out and hopefully this break will be the making of him.



Lafontaine (left) and Eaux De Vie making short work of new pasture

## Did you know?

Long before the arrival of starting stalls, the first mechanically operated starting gate was introduced at the Epsom Derby in 1901.

“ In racing there's nothing more exciting than winning by a short head - I'd rather win in a photo-finish than by three lengths! At the same time, the biggest turn-off is losing by a head...then I'd rather be last... because you know there'll be people saying that the horse would have won if a lad had been on board.”

Hayley Turner, Jockey



## Contact us

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## Coolmore's dominance on the wane?

After so much wailing about Irish horses sweeping the board at this year's Cheltenham festival, has this year's flat season revealed that our horses maybe aren't so bad or so poorly trained on this side of the water? Certainly the Coolmore bandwagon was slow to get rolling this season and maybe Aidan O'Brien's yard has been under a bit of a cloud after heavily hyped and heavily



Our top races not proving such a happy hunting ground for the Coolmore team this year

backed runners like High Definition have spectacularly flopped whilst the admirable Charlie Appleby has scooped both the English and Irish Derbies with different horses. Of course, the remarkable Jim Bolger helped himself to both versions of the Guineas to level things up a bit. Royal Ascot also proved pretty successful for the home team and allowed some new names to be added to the roll of honour. What suggests that this maybe just a temporary blip is that Aidan is currently operating at only a 10% success rate - very low by his normal standards.

So maybe a little too early to start writing off the Coolmore/Galileo dynasty...but it is good to see others grabbing the top prizes for a change!

## Did you know?

The first documented photo finish for a horse race was in New Jersey in 1881 whilst the first photo finish camera in the UK was installed at Epsom in April 1947.

# A reluctant film star



The legendary Barney Curley

Many people have very different views about Barney Curley, the retired racehorse trainer and scourge of the bookies, who died recently. Barney shunned press attention but those who knew him well describe him as an exceptional man and his amazing charity work in Africa will live long as his legacy. He was certainly a larger than life character and is reported to have taken



Bellewstown where Yellow Sam romped home at 20/1



Blocking calls from the only public phone box prevented the bookies from reducing the starting price

many £ millions off the bookies in carefully planned coups - the most famous of which was the gamble landed by Yellow Sam at Bellewstown in Ireland.

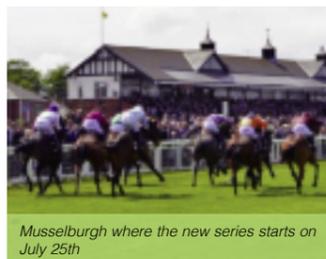
Barney's exploits are what create much of the myth and intrigue of racing that attracts so many. It is only now that the amazing story of the Yellow Sam coup is to

be told in the form of a TV feature that should be aired around Christmas time. Barney himself always said 'I always thought the story would make a great film'. The film is being put together by producer James Bray and will include footage he shot with Barney some years ago. James says that he hopes the film will have appeal to an audience far beyond just the racing community as it's such a great tale of intrigue, amazing planning and the hilarious episode of one of Barney's co-conspirators occupying the only public phonebox on the racecourse to prevent bookies laying off bets and so reducing the starting price!

## Did you know?

Racehorses have been trained at Lambourn for some 300 years and was established as a training centre by William Craven in 1731 after whom the Group 3 Newmarket race is named.

## New SKY Bet Sunday Series offers extra £200,000 to owners and jockeys



Musselburgh where the new series starts on July 25th

The initiative is in collaboration with ITV4 who will cover three Sunday meetings during the summer. Any horse, or horses, winning at all three fixtures will be entitled to share a £100,000 bonus and a further £100,000 will be for any jockey who manages to ride seven winners across the three meetings. £10,000 is also being made available for stable staff including offering £250 for the best turned out horse in each race. Trainers and jockeys have already expressed support for the idea which starts at Musselburgh on July 25th, then Haydock on August 8th and followed by Sandown Park on August 22nd. Jockey Paul Hanagan suggested "Sunday racing is a big opportunity to get more people interested but it's going to be a very big ask for any jockey to ride seven winners across three fixtures!"

ITV Racing plans that coverage will help to shine a spotlight on smaller trainers as well as giving more of an insight into behind the scenes aspects of racing.



Social distancing and masks are for our benefit rather than the horses!

## Can horses catch COVID 19?

Whether the virus that's caused the pandemic escaped from a Chinese lab or jumped from a so far unidentified animal source remains unclear. But there are many types of coronavirus and some are present in horses - as well as in many other types of animal - but generally speaking the cases are mild and horses certainly don't experience the same severe symptoms as us. There is no evidence that

humans can transmit COVID 19 to horses. The only way a horse could transmit COVID 19 to a human is if an infected person has handled the horse and leaves germs on tack or on the horse itself that are then transmitted to another handler. It's unlikely, but the theoretical risk is there, just as it would be if making a fuss of a cat or a dog that's been in contact with someone with COVID.

# Putting horses in the spotlight

A new initiative, National Racehorse Week, will run from September 12th - 19th, and aims to shine a light on the true value of the British Thoroughbred and the incredible care provided to them. It's planned that trainers across the country, including those outside the main training centres, will be encouraged to open their doors to the general public. Timing of the event already co-incides with Malton's Open Day, the Henry Cecil Open Weekend

in Newmarket as well as Epsom and Middleham Open Days. The original idea was from trainer Richard Phillips wanting to create a single event that the entire racing community could get behind to celebrate the equine heroes who power our sport and provide entertainment for millions. Funding is being provided by the Sir Peter O'Sullivan Trust and Great British Racing in partnership with the National Trainers Federation. Further information is available at [www.nationalracehorseweek.uk](http://www.nationalracehorseweek.uk)



Getting up close to the equine superstars at Newmarket

# Flashback to summer 2016

Having been there to cheer our filly home and having read the report of the stewards' enquiry, we still wonder why it took so long to announce the result! Most probably it was because the Sir Mark Prescott trained Rainbow Pride was such a heavily backed odds on favourite that the stewards feared there might be a riot as there was such a massive crowd on a lovely summer

evening! But although Delagoa Bay was given no chance by the pundits in the morning papers and was predicted to start as the 50/1 outsider, she clearly appealed to the holiday crowd and her odds steadily reduced to just 12/1 at the off. So rather than uproar when the amended result was announced, there was a deafening cheer and wild celebration!

### Stewards report

Race 2 - 6:35pm.

THE SYMONDS FOUNDERS RESERVE HANDICAP STAKES (CLASS 5) (Bath Summer Stayers' Series Qualifier)

The Stewards held an enquiry under Rule (B)11.6 into possible interference throughout the final furlong. Having heard their evidence and viewed recordings of the race they found that the winner, RAINBOW PRIDE (IRE, ridden by Robert Winston, had interfered with DELAGOA BAY (IRE), placed second, ridden by Mitch Godwin, which was beaten a short head. They were satisfied that the interference had improved RAINBOW PRIDE (IRE)'s placing in that RAINBOW PRIDE (IRE) had hung right handed giving DELAGOA BAY (IRE) a bump before then continuing to intimidate the mare, who was carried a significant distance across the track before rallying to be beaten by a diminishing short head. They placed DELAGOA BAY first and RAINBOW PRIDE (IRE) second. The Stewards found the interference was accidental as they were satisfied that Winston was taking reasonable steps to prevent the interference from occurring.



Delagoa Bay battles for victory