



Eaux De Vie in great shape

Our four-year-old Swiss Spirit filly has been given plenty of time to mature after her initial few runs on the flat. Jockey Tom Marquand had told us that she was clearly backward and also needed a lot further when she returns to the track. Sure to say her dam, Delagoa Bay who won five races for us on the level, was something of a late developer too not showing any form until she was a four-year-old and stepped up in trip to win her first race unchallenged by 6 lengths. Delagoa Bay went on to prove herself a thorough stayer by chalking up a hatrick of wins over 2 miles at Kempton. When Eaux De Vie came home to start her break, our horse dentist Justin Harcourt confirmed just what a late developer she's been

when seeing that not all her teeth were through. She's certainly thrived since being turned out with our winning miler Lafontaine and over the winter has thoroughly enjoyed the routine of being in overnight and turned out in the day. She's looking an absolute picture. Justin is due to check teeth again in May which will hopefully reveal that Eaux De Vie has completed her growing up phase and can return to training. Being by sprinter Swiss Spirit we'd thought that she might be an earlier type than it's proved but is clearly a chip off the block in terms of being so like her mum - in every aspect! Hopefully she can also deliver as many wins once she's back on the racecourse.

Aussie youngster shows promise



Brudenell, a 2-y-o colt by Russian Revolution we included in last summer's issue and part-owned by Sarah's daughter Catherine, has been going through his paces with trainer Kris Lees in Newcastle in preparation for his debut run. He's just completed an initial trial over 800 metres on the turf in which he clearly showed plenty of speed finishing at the front of the pack. A performance that means that he'll soon be making his racecourse debut when he looks worthy of support!

Racing's certainty?

2022's best first season stallion appears to be a certainty - Sioux Nation has all the credentials, as well as the numbers, to ensure he'll top the table before any juveniles have even run. With 158 juveniles he only needs 25% of them to win to be sure he'll be champion. Whitsbury Stud's Havana Grey looks the only one most likely to give him anything of a race.



The youngsters of ill-fated and much hyped Roaring Lion will be interesting to watch, as will those from Cracksman, but these maybe later types. Expert Eye and Harry Angel's stock should do well, but one from the bargain basement to keep an eye out for is Massat.

Weighing up all the arguments

Whilst many of us worry about being able to shed a few pounds, the BHA has announced that the minimum weight for jockeys, on the flat and over jumps, is to be raised by 2lbs. This is said to be after consultation with the Professional Jockeys Association - but note the announcement doesn't say 'agreement' with the PJA as many jockeys have voiced their disagreement with this change. The ruling has largely come about as a result of the pandemic during which jockeys were given a 3lb allowance to support them whilst saunas and gyms were closed. But since then racecourse saunas have now been removed, largely as a result of the Dunne case bringing new focus on



changing rooms. The BHA say 'The result of raising weights reflects consideration and balancing of all the conflicting views. Concerns have been expressed by trainers about the potential impact on some horses of routinely carrying higher weights. The 2lbs rise is less than requested by the PJA and follows on from a previous 3lbs allowance for the need to wear a heavier Level 2 body protector and extra layers of clothing in cold weather'. The change will affect all handicap races but weights for pattern races will be allotted on a race by race basis.

Snapshot

Horses getting ready to go out to the gallops at George Baker Racing - Study The Stars in centre foreground

Did you know?

The first race cards produced for racegoers was at the 1827 Derby.



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THE REGULAR NEWSLETTER FROM HOMEBRED RACING WINTER/SPRING 2022

Study the Stars putting in good work on the gallops at Robins Farm



New season - new start

On our recent stable visit we were able to see Study The Stars putting in some good work on the gallops. Trainer George Baker said 'He's come to hand quicker than we expected and worked well in a racecourse gallop at Kempton. So he's ready to run - although we've left something to work on'. We were able to discuss plans with George which are to keep to a mile for the moment, a distance he's already proven at, and to start

off at Kempton where he won. Top rider Trevor Whelan who rode our boy in his racecourse gallop was very pleased with his effort working alongside Run Forrest Run who we've raced against twice previously with honours currently even. It's fair to say that Rocky was unlucky not to have won more races last season but hopefully we're now on a favourable handicap mark holding out the prospect of plenty of fun to be had this year.

Did you know?

Only one racehorse has ever featured on the cover of Time and Newsweek magazines - the legendary Secretariat during his build up to the 1973 Belmont Stakes.

One a day will do...

The BHA has confirmed that the protocol of jockeys only being allowed to ride at a single meeting a day is to continue in 2022. The rule was initially deployed as a means to reduce the Covid risk but has been criticised by many as



Fewer dashes by helicopter?

limiting opportunities for connections to get their jockey of choice. The upside is that it has inevitably created more opportunities for other, less experienced riders whilst the fixture list continues to expand and demand a bigger pool of jockeys. It'll be interesting to see if this now becomes a permanent arrangement and an end to the frantic end of season dash from course to course for those wanting to be champion.

Shutting the stable door...

...well and truly after the horse has bolted in the changing room furore. How the BHA ever thought that issuing their statement after the enquiry, banning Robbie Dunne for 18 months and then threatening further clampdowns on jockeys and valets would improve things in the changing room defies belief. The BHA have largely brought this upon themselves by not acting sooner. Clearly both parties involved felt very aggrieved and something serious must have happened to result in such vitriol. We should never forget that jockeys have been killed and many received life changing injuries from race riding.



So it's understandable that blood has boiled. But where were the stewards when problems occurred on the track or in the changing room? It only goes to reinforce the argument for professional stewards who have real experience of racing and knowledge of the changing room. It's time to end the practice of courses being able to appoint their own local stewards who may be very worthy but simply don't have hands on experience nor see the bigger picture beyond their local racecourse. The welcome award of damages to Freddie Tylicki also casts doubt upon stewarding. Senior jockeys who gave evidence in court clearly felt that the accident was avoidable but the stewards' enquiry at Kempton on 31st October 2016 apportioned no blame 'being satisfied that the accident was accidental' and so took no further action.

Voting to cut finances?

The prospect of another Scottish independence referendum presents a risky outlook for racing over the border. The 'once in a generation' vote in 2014 resulted in a 55.3% versus 44.7% rejection of independence, but since Nicola Sturgeon has made another vote the central plank of her objectives, it raises a big question about the future of racing north of the border. Nicola Sturgeon replaced the very pro-racing Alex Salmond who would surely not have contemplated the predicted £4.2 million shortfall for Scottish racing's coffers should a new referendum deliver a 'yes' vote. Being outside the UK would mean an annual loss of over £5 million from the Levy Board. Such a result would also remove

approximately 7% of fixtures from the BHA's UK wide calendar which no doubt courses south of the border would soon scramble to take over. It may well prove that a rare upside of the pandemic will be to have strengthened ties across Hardrian's Wall - as will, perhaps, realisation about the significant subsidies Scotland receives - and not just from racing.



Backpacker flying the open ditch in Scotland's premier race - The Scottish Grand National



On the right track

Many will be delighted that Southwell's deep fibresand surface has been consigned to history. It was tough for horses, their riders and for racegoers as the surface managed to get everywhere. And the kick-back was awful. The switch to the Tapeta surface was completed during the last part of the year and the first meeting held on December 7th was well supported with some very well-bred horses declared on a card with plenty of runners from top yards too. The Tapeta surface has long been in use at Wolverhampton where it been very well received by trainers

and jockeys. It heralds a new era for Southwell which has always been regarded as racing at the lowest level, but now, with floodlighting, it can hold evening meetings too. It's a good, fair and level track with sweeping bends, a long straight and, with the new surface, may well elevate itself to the top table of all weather racing. After this first meeting jockeys described the surface as 'loose and still needing to bed down' which it will with time. Owners will be hoping that upgrades to the rest of the track's infrastructure will follow!

Something for the weekend...

The publication of the 2022 fixture list reveals an increased focus on weekend meetings. Overall, fixtures have been reduced by just four to 1,482. However, the list may yet expand further due to the new Sunday Series dates for which are still to be confirmed. There are also to be more Thursday evening meetings during the summer. It's hoped that this new focus will not only drive up attendances by staging racing when more people are able to attend but also increase betting revenue which in turn should filter down to racecourses and ultimately into prize money. These changes

have largely been brought about as a result of the pandemic which has at least provided time and space for racing to re-examine new initiatives. Planners must currently be concerned about the small fields becoming such a feature of the early jumping season which is currently being put down to persisting fast ground. Time will tell whether this is just temporary - or if horses taken out of training simply because owners couldn't go racing during the peak of the pandemic will be returned to training. A bigger fixture list and fewer runners would not be ideal.



More weekend meetings should boost crowds from family outings

Climate likely to change horse racing

Climate change is likely to impact racing sooner than we might think. It's not so long ago that new regulations and/or levies were being proposed on muck heaps on the grounds of their methane emissions. Almost a quarter of greenhouse gas emissions are from agriculture and land use. But for racing there are many other significant factors, let alone the arrival of new exotic equine bugs due to a warmer, wetter climate. Think about the transport of horses to the races - often clocking up hundreds of miles for each runner to and from the track. And then there's also the impact of jockeys, trainers as

well as racegoers travelling to each meeting. Similarly, the breeding industry clocks up huge mileage, a lot of it international, by travelling mares to and from studs to be covered by their selected stallion. Stud farms and training establishments also take up large amounts of our countryside preserved for grazing - an activity already identified by the scientists as being a significant factor in global warming. UK racecourses themselves occupy a large swathe of the countryside, estimated to be more than 100,000 acres and each needs to become more resilient to avoid more



International movement of breeding stock by air is a serious problem

meetings being abandoned. So maybe even more all-weather fixtures and the racing calendar adjusted to avoid the worst of the weather? Additionally the production and delivery of horse feed also leaves a massive carbon footprint. So far the industry has remained silent, but soon the spotlight will fall on racing to come up with some solutions. Certainly stud farms and courses can help with tree and hedge planting (as we've done extensively at Homebred Racing) but the hotly debated issue of thoroughbred breeding via IV is sure to become a divisive topic again. In terms of training,

ultimately we may have to follow the American system whereby horses are stabled and trained at the racetrack, each course situated at a public transport hub. This would certainly cut down on transport emissions, but what would be the future of remote training centres like Lambourn? Maybe a new track built close by could be a solution. Not unexpectedly, the BHA currently lacks any policy or view on what could be seismic change forced upon racing. So the worry is, just like the desperate need for a new funding agreement with the bookies, that there'll just be more unpreparedness, disagreement and inaction.



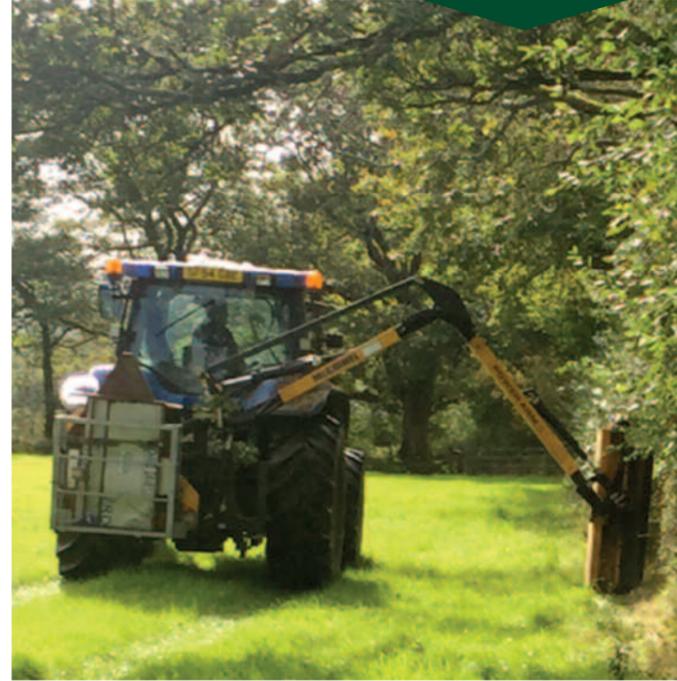
How will remote training centres be affected?

Did you know?

The shortest priced winner of the Cheltenham Gold Cup was Arkle who won in 1966 at 1/10.

Snapshot

This is Richard setting off on a 5 mile trip to give our hedges a light trim to keep them in good condition for horses - as well as the local wildlife as we work in accordance with the RSPB's Farmer Alliance.



Turnout paddocks are a big attraction



The home of George Baker Racing

Our winning miler Study The Stars is now in training with George Baker at Chiddingfold where we feel he'll be better suited with the options of turn-out paddocks which simply weren't available in Lambourn. George, who has already trained over 450 winners, and his team have been at Robins Farm for over 4 years and are able to offer their equine inmates wonderful facilities in a glorious setting where the

gallops start in Surrey but the horses pull up in Sussex! It's a state of the art training facility developed by Sheikh Fahad Al Thani who made significant investment in the stabling, gallops and equipment including a treadmill and solarium. Interestingly another horse in George's care is Run Forrest Run who has twice raced against Study The Stars. Honours are currently even with each having finished in

front of the other. Working together on the gallops could be very enlightening!



Trainer George Baker



Royal Ascot was a big beneficiary from the World Pool

Enjoying the much bigger picture

World Pool, which was only launched in 2019, allows punters around the globe to bet in a single giant pool on the biggest international races including The Derby and Royal Ascot. Royal Ascot this year saw £130 million bet into the pool resulting in payouts that exceeded starting price for 21 of the races. Once designated as a World Pool

fixture live coverage is automatically provided to countries taking part. More coverage equals more betting and punters will inevitably be attracted by the prospect of winning bigger. But the upside for racing is the very real prospect of a new income stream. World Pool is the brainchild of Winfried Englebrecht-Bresges of the Hong Kong Jockey Club after discussion with the world's premier racing venues including Ascot and the UK's betting pool operator The Tote. Royal Ascot is reported to have seen returns from World Pool approaching up to £1million per day. Discussions are on-going with The Breeders Cup to be included and also to add Australia's premier race The Melbourne Cup. World Pool holds out the real prospect of racing getting a better share from betting. To find out more go to the Tote's website at www.tote.co.uk

Did you know?

The oldest racehorse was Australian bred Tango Duke who lived to 42 but it's thought he was not a true thoroughbred - so the record goes to American bred Prospect Point who died aged 38 and 204 days