



## IN THE WINNERS ENCLOSURE

Cave Top has been a very progressive horse this season and did us proud yet again on the last day of 2017 when winning at his favourite track, Uttoxeter.

He has gone up 22lbs since the start of the season and I am still hopeful he can keep progressing and, with chasing his main target next season, we have got plenty to look forward to.

He then went to Warwick on Saturday for the Grade 2 Leamington novice hurdle and certainly didn't disgrace himself in what was a high class field, we can't wait to see him over the fences next year.



**Cave Top**



**Cave Top**

Zalvados has been a star for us since we bought him in November 2016 including finishing placed at both the Aintree Festival and the Open meeting at Cheltenham.

He headed to Ludlow on Wednesday with a big chance on the back of finishing a very close second in a class 2 handicap at Haydock.

He certainly didn't disappoint, running out a convincing winner by 4 and a half lengths.

We think he will be suited to big field handicaps so we will target the Betfair hurdle at Newbury with him in February.



**Zalvados**



**Zalvados**

## NEAR MISSES

We have been hitting the cross bar plenty of times recently, which is always frustrating but at least they are running well.

So far over jumps this season we have had 23 placed horses and with our winners, it means that half our runners are either winning or getting placed.

American Life has been very unlucky to finish second at Catterick and then third at Bangor in a race not run to suit. He has been ultra-competitive since joining us and will drop on a race very soon.

Asking Questions was a very close second on handicap debut at Ffos Las and, whilst it was slightly frustrating that he couldn't get his head in front, it shouldn't be long before he breaks his maiden tag under rules.

Leskinferre is another who keeps improving with each run and showed a lot of promise to finish third at Wetherby on Saturday. That was just his third start under rules and is progressing all the time and we are sure he will improve massively come next season and as we increase him in trip.

## NEW STAFF

### Mick Boyce



We are very lucky to have been able to add Mick Boyce to the team. Mick has been to a few big successful yards and brings a diverse range of skills which will be a great asset to the yard.

Having ridden for many years, he is very good on the young horses, teaching them and being patient when they are not always behaving.

We sadly have said goodbye to Lauren who came to us when she left school. She has been a great help over the summer but has now headed to The British Racing School to improve her riding and learn some more skills to help her when she comes back in 12 weeks. We are very lucky that while she is away her mum (Paula) has stepped in to help us out.

# EXCITING NEW HORSES

We have got several new exciting horses that have joined the yard in recent months.

Here's an introduction to just a few of them:

Lord County has taken a little time to settle in since coming over from France however he is really clicking now and I am looking forward to seeing him run now he is handicapped.

I bought Fort Jefferson from the horses in training sale at Newmarket in October and he is getting close to running in a novice hurdle. He took a little time to get the hang of jumping but is now winging hurdles and, having thrived on soft ground on the flat for Andrew Balding, should be the perfect candidate for hurdling this winter. He is owned by Racing Spirit Syndicate which is a new syndicate run by Mark Salmon and I am sure they will have plenty of fun with this horse.

Helf is another horse off the flat from Richard Hannon's yard. He has been

gelded since joining us and had a wind operation which has really brought him on. He has taken to jumping like a duck to water and it has been amazing how natural he has been. He could be a lot of fun.

Our most recent addition to the exciting team of horses we have is the recent impressive point to point winner 'Twotwothree.'



He won by a wide margin at Chaddesley Corbett, which is a course that has thrown up high class rules performers such as North Hill Harvey. He came highly recommend by Ed Glassonbury who works for me and was aboard when winning. He jumped

and travelled very well and proved he had plenty of stamina in what were testing conditions for a young horse like him. He has settled in well since arriving this week and we will look for a bumper in 3 to 4 weeks time.

We buy and get sent plenty of unbroken three year olds every summer and now, having turned four, they are really progressing and we have got a very exciting bunch.

Each year we have been able to up our budget and it is really starting to show. Money doesn't always buy you a decent horse but it does allow you to buy a bigger horse that has the pedigree to match.

They were all working and schooling upsides before Christmas and since then they had ten days in the field. This allows them to relax and think about what they have learnt before being pushed on again, which we are doing with them now. We aim to run them in March/April so fingers crossed we will have some stars amongst them.

## 3 TO FOLLOW COMPETITION

Here's the first update on the current standing of our 3 to follow competition.

### Top Scores

Beverley Bostock	56pts
Dan Astbury	56pts
Josh Guerriero	35pts
Dave Bostock	31pts

### Top Horses

Cave Top	35pts
Zalvados	21pts
Rock Warbler	13pts
American Life	13pts

To keep up to date with runners, and hopefully some more winners, don't forget to visit our website, follow us on Twitter and like our page on Facebook.

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