



OCG

Oliver Greenall Racing

NEWS

APRIL 2020

Strange times for us all

It has obviously been a very strange time for all of us and I have definitely never experienced anything like it in my 16 years working in the industry.

We have to count ourselves extremely lucky however, being predominantly a jump yard, that we did get a big part of our season in before it was all cancelled. The only frustration for us was the fact we've had such a wet winter, we had plenty of horses ready for a spring campaign, as soon as the better ground came.

However, all have had a bit of break now in the field, enjoying the amazing weather we have been having, and will be coming in on the 1st of May with the idea to have them ready for when racing hopefully resumes on 1st July.

It has taken time to adjust but with 10 horses still in, and plenty of horses to break in, we are still very busy and keep ourselves well occupied.

We have now got all of our youngsters broken in and going well. They will be turned out on the 1st of May when all of the summer horses come back in.

We will have a strong team of 20 horses to go to war with over the summer, including Lucky Lover Boy, Absolute Jaffa, First Man, Steel Yard, No Cruise Yet, Court In Matera and more.

Plenty of these have been running on unsuitable ground and will be nicely handicapped when they encounter good ground.

There is plenty of racing in July and August and lots of racing locally at Uttoxeter and Bangor so fingers crossed we get the go ahead by then.



The jumping lane has had extensive drainage work done on it and we have also added 3 new jumps.

Improvements round the Yard



We always tend to do plenty of improvements in the summer when we are quieter. However, we are always still pretty busy so it can be a rush to fit it all in. However, with the current situation we have really been able to get stuck in and do plenty of improvements which will hopefully make a big difference next season.

Some of the stables were a bit close together so we have moved them apart, making it a lot more spacious, better ventilated and nicer for the horses. We are taking social distancing very seriously here at Stockton!

The gallops are getting a full overhaul too, topping them up with new surface, doing draining work on the jumping lane and an extension on the hill gallop which will be such a bonus for the horses and get plenty more work into them without any extra strain.

The whole yard has been power washed, disinfected and painted which we do every year but its great we can leave them empty for a good period of time.

--- STAFF ---

The staff have all been amazing. The way it all happened so quickly, we were full up with plenty of runners every week, to suddenly there being no racing and majority of horses out of daily exercise

It soon became apparent that racing was going to be suspended for a while so we had a staff meeting and they were all brilliant and cooperative - some agreeing to go on furlough and move home and the rest to cut their hours but stay on full time to look after the remaining horses in and all the horses in the fields.

New Horses

We still have a few horses to run that we bought over the winter and who wanted better ground.

I am really looking forward to seeing El Borracho (pictured right, top) on the track. We bought him at the Autumn Newmarket sales and having won 2 races on the flat over 1m 6f, and taking to jumping so well, I can't wait to see him over hurdles as soon as racing resumes.

It has been well advertised that Mr Paul and Mrs Clare Rooney are selling their jump horses. we have been very fortunate that one of our existing owners has bought two of them, including A Large One Please who is a young exciting prospect, having finished third in his only start in a competitive bumper at Chepstow. He is a big imposing sort who looks like will do well for a summer off and I can't wait to train him next winter.

The other is Now Children (pictured right, bottom), who with an official rating of 96 on the flat has plenty of class. Having been a little too keen first time over hurdles at Huntington (when he still managed to finish second), he will have learnt plenty from the experience and he will be winning plenty once racing resumes.



NEW ADDITION TO THE TEAM

We are delighted to welcome Bertie The Sheep to our team at Stockton Hall. Bertie had a tough start in life when losing his mum but Bev Bostock looked after him for us and he has now returned to Stockton and he keeps everyone on their toes. He really enjoys spending time with Jess and Walter, as you can see from the pic where he is knocking to be let into the house!



--- 3 to Follow ---

With racing having experienced an "unexpected" pause, we have decided to extend the 3 to Follow competition until the end of August and will update scores in due course.

Sales

At this time of year, we would normally be buying plenty of horses at The Goffs Doncaster and Ireland sales for the following season.

These sales have obviously been postponed for now, but they are hoping to have them later in the summer, but it is hard to know what the quantity and quality of the sale is likely to be.

We are keeping a close eye on the private market however, including the Irish and British pointers that have run, as we expect there to be some value and could for obvious reasons be a buyer's market.

We are also extremely lucky to have two unraced 4 year olds, one by Black Sam Bellamy and one by Malinas that we own and were due to run before racing was cancelled. They are both proper sorts which we really like so are hopeful we can find owners for them to stay in the yard.

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.

www.olivergreenall.co.uk

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