



OCG
Oliver Greenall Racing

RECENT WINNERS



Gold Desert

Since our last newsletter, the winter horses are now out in force. With plenty of rain about, the ground has been ideal and we've had a fantastic start. Now the ground is going softer, most of the summer horses are having a break. However, one horse that has been extremely consistent all year has been Authorizo so it was fantastic to see him get his head in front at Stratford last month. He will now be put away until the ground dries out in the spring. He is owned by a group of local racing enthusiasts and, as a relatively cheap buy of £3000, he has given them a lot of fun and, as soon as we are out of lock down, I look forward to celebrating his success with them.

We have always done well with horses coming off the flat. Dan bought two nice horses at the July Newmarket sales and both took to hurdling extremely well. Sadly, North Point got a cut on his debut over hurdles when running a nice race but is on the mend now and will be back on the track soon.

The other horse we bought was Gold Desert who has been a revelation; he loves his jumping, stays all day and is just so tough. He has now won two races and been placed third. He seems to want further so will continue to improve when we step up in trip. Tommy Dawson rode him the first time he won and gave him a great ride and then Ross rode him at Catterick to take the penalty off.

He looked in trouble turning in but put his head down and toughed it out to win nicely in the end. He is owned by the Harbour Rose Partnership made up of four local guys all of which, excluding Gary Dewhurst, are new owners to the yard, which is fantastic. They have all had horses in the past and done extremely well with them, so to train for them is a great accolade and we are delighted how well it's going.



Ecossais

NEWS

NOVEMBER 2020

Double at Southwell



It's been a fantastic season so far for us and especially the last two weeks, with a 24% strike rate and 52% in the first four. We had a fantastic day at Southwell with two runners and two winners. Both horses (Cave Top and Ecossais) have been slightly off the boil of late, Cave Top won four races for us two seasons ago but since then a hike in the handicap and a loss in confidence has seen his form dip however I am so fortunate to have such patient owners in this case my father and Jocelyn Rosenberg who were prepared to give him time and it has paid dividends. Robbie Dunne gave him a fantastic ride and it was a joy to watch him winning nicely. He is a lot lower in the handicap than he has been so has plenty of room to progress. Ecossais is owned by my racing club with a lot of new owners and first time owners getting involved. He has just taken a little time to settle in since coming over from France which is not unusual. Everything from the training methods, climate and even the speed in which races take place are different. So it is no surprise it takes time and now he has clicked and enjoying his racing he will be plenty of fun this winter for his enthusiastic club members.

Ross gave him a superb confident ride, Ross has been at the yard for three seasons now and is gaining confidence all the time, he is fantastic on lots of different types of horses and knowing the horses from riding them at home gives him a big advantage which is very important. He works extremely hard and it is defiantly paying off.

FIRST MAN



First Man has really grasped racing now and it was great to see him win again on Saturday at Huntingdon under a strong, decisive ride from Ross. Since being bought by his members, he was second at Perth beaten by Robin Gold who went on to win two more races. He didn't enjoy Hexham last time but then won nicely at Huntingdon on Saturday. He only just does enough and is improving all the time. He has been slow to learn but the penny is starting to drop now and, although he disappointed over fences, I would still be keen to have another go as he jumps so well at home. His owners have been so supportive and I am delighted that he is now rewarding them for their patience.

The horses are all in great form and long may it continue. We have had seventeen seconds in addition to our thirteen winners since the 1st July so we couldn't be happier with the way they are running. It's a hard time for everyone at the moment, and without being able to go to the races and have a fun day out with friends, it could take the fun out of the game, so it really helps when the horses are producing the goods on the track and everyone can still enjoy cheering them on from home. The BHA are hopeful for crowd test days early in the New Year and welcoming race goers back by Aintree, so fingers crossed not too long now until things get back to normal.

New Recruits

We are always on the look out for new horses and we have been very busy recently buying plenty at the October Horses in Training Sale at Newmarket. The new recruits are all schooling well and Kimberley, Red Centre and Escalade will be the first to run over hurdles very soon. They have all taken to hurdles extremely well and definitely have the ability to be winning a novice. Some horses take a long time to settle to jumping; when you buy them it is hard to tell, so when they enjoy it and take to it straight away, it is always a joy to see. We have recently been sent a filly called Zip Pearl, owned by Deva Racing who is related to a horse I won the Walrus Hunter Chase on called Pearlysteps. She has been in training with Phil Rowley and he speaks very highly of her. The plan will be to run her in a bumper before the end of the year.

We are very excited to have purchased Homme Public, a three year old from France, who has a very exciting profile finishing second at Auteuil on his two only starts, and only being beaten by a neck last time having made a mistake at the last. The horse that won was called Houx Gris which was then sold for 200k which was nice to see. He is going to have a quiet month to settle in and then will be prepared to run in early spring over hurdles.



Escalade

Raving Bonkers



Another exciting winner was Raving Bonkers. He was bought very cheaply from the last Doncaster sale by David Jones who had been following the horse and was keen to buy him. I don't think he envisaged getting the hammer knocked down for a thousand pounds, however!

He didn't seem to be getting home in his races so we felt, with that in mind and his style of running, he would benefit from going over fences. Josh and Toby Wynne did a huge amount of work jumping him and getting him to make a shape and use himself.

Eventually it has clicked and he jumped extremely well when winning at Ludlow. Robbie Dunne gave him a lovely patient ride and produced him at the last. Never a Word fell at the last when upsides us but fortunately he is fine and I don't think it affected the result. He ran again but got stuck in the mud so will now have a break until the spring.

Natasha Halliday – Our Osteopath

Some of you may recognise my name as I appear on your horse's bills (some more than others!) so I thought it would be a good idea to introduce myself to you. This was meant to happen at your Owners Day but, due to COVID-19, that wasn't possible.

I'm an equine osteopath. "What is that?" I hear you ask. Essentially it is my job to make sure that the bones are in the right place and the muscles, which make the bones move and therefore drive the engine, work as well as they possibly can within your horse's natural capability.

Well, as we all know, no horse is perfect mentally, physically or physiologically so I can't alter a horse's conformation but I can suggest things to the farrier to try such as heel extensions or pads. These can improve how a horse's foot hits the ground. The forces travel up through the leg to the back. The back can be either the cause of the problem (think hitting a fence at 25mph) or as a result of the forces travelling up through the leg and the impact they have on the back. For example, long pasterns can place strain on the tendons. If the heels are collapsed, this exacerbates



the problem and the suspensory ligaments start to hurt, the horse's posture changes putting strain through other structures such as shoulders and back. We also have to remember that these equine athletes are training and racing almost to breaking point. If the bones and muscles aren't working in unison some horses worry, others become withdrawn and some become very grumpy. I have a role in their feel good factor too!

Regrettably, I am not Harry Potter so I just do what I can to try and help. I assess the horses in the stable, walked and trotted up, on tight circles and going backwards. This enables me to decide what the problem is and then make a decision as to how to treat a horse. This will always vary slight but I follow the same routine. I massage the horse all over ears to tail, including the forearms

and second thighs. Sometimes something else becomes apparent while I'm doing this, e.g. stomach ulcers with a very greasy dry coat. I then manipulate the horse using just my hands and arms. Think of the vertebrae as a train on a track. The carriages are the bones, joined by the couplings (spinal cord) and the rails are the ligaments except, instead of sitting on the rails, one ligament runs along the top of the vertebrae and one below. The spinal column can twist and rotate in several directions depending on the force and direction of the impact, while still being held in place by the ligaments. This is followed by some relaxation techniques and finally I stretch the horse before trotting it up a second time. And hey presto, hopefully, the horse moves off with more range of movement within the spinal column and a longer stride!!

I hope this gives you a brief insight into my work. My website natashahalliday.co.uk has more information for those who are interested.



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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