

RECENT WINNERS



Go on Chez

Since our last newsletter, there has been plenty going on both at the yard and at the sales. We've also had a flurry of winners on the track, with some great stories to share.

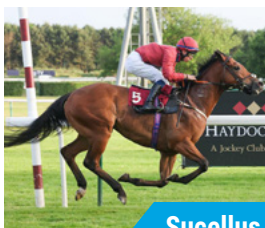
Go on Chez winning at our local track at Bangor, with his owners cheering him home, was a great occasion. He then went on to win again on his next outing, this time at Aintree - a track where both Josh and I have fond memories from our riding days and where scoring a win is always extra special for us. Go On Chez has been a revelation since discovering his love of racing through pointing, and his win at Aintree marked his fifth on the bounce (or sixth if you count his point-to-point victory). He romped home at both Bangor and Aintree showing there is still plenty more to come. We also had a fantastic second with El Borracho at Aintree who ran his heart out and jumped brilliantly but frustratingly got caught when nearly home.

When racing recommenced after Covid, we started the 'Back to the Track' syndicate. Now entering its second season, it has proved to be great fun for those involved, with two horses and a total of twelve shares. Cawthorne won last season and both My Poem and Cawthorne have won this season already. Cawthorne won easily at Worcester where he jumped really well and travelled fluently; the win was even more exciting as it was Henry's first ride back from injury. My Poem has been slightly trickier since coming off the flat and has only just learnt to settle. Henry got her in lovely rhythm, and she picked up well from the third last, running on well to win at Uttoxeter. There are currently two shares available in this syndicate, so please get in touch if you are interested.

Other winners include El Borracho who won very nicely when put back over hurdles at Uttoxeter, making it a double that day alongside My Poem. El Borracho has been such a legend, winning on the flat as well as over hurdles and fences. Killbarry Leader won her second bumper for the yard at Ludlow. She was bought from a dispersal sale and looks a decent mare with a tough attitude. Oceans Red's form has taken a little time to come to the fore since being bought by Dan from a point-to-point bumper. He certainly has ability though and, when it comes together, he can be very impressive which he proved when he won at Uttoxeter following a disappointing run after his Bangor win.



We don't have many flat horse this summer but Sucellus is certainly flying the flag for the yard. He has been so consistent since joining us from Roger Fells and won with such ease at Haydock that the handicapper has put him up 8lbs! George Rooke was riding for us for the first time and gave him a lovely ride to win going away. We are still keen to up him in trip which could find further improvement and we look forward to finding him some decent races to contend this summer.



Sucellus

Horses Coming Back In

This time of year always seems to come around so fast! On the 11th of July, the horses are scheduled to come back in from grass to start their training, and the staff have had time off and are back, refreshed, and ready for the season ahead. We have been really busy cleaning and painting everywhere and, in the next newsletter, I will show you the new all-weather jumping lane and stables with outdoor areas.

New Horses

We are always busy in the spring and summer buying new horses and it has been no different this year. Please do get in touch if you are interested in having a share in a horse as we have some very exciting new syndicates.

We still have space in The Oldcastle Racing Club and in The White Rhino Syndicate. White Rhino was bought at the same sale as Killbarry Leader. We started him off last season where he showed plenty of talent in his work but just wasn't quite ready to race before the ground went too firm. He is back in and will run in the autumn in novice hurdles before going chasing the following season.

FRENCH TRIPS WITH GESSKILLE



Having previously only been to Paris a couple of times in my life, I have now doubled that in recent weeks with two trips to Auteuil with Gesskille.

We first went in May on Grand Steep day for the amateurs' race (their version of the Aintree Foxhunters) where Toby gave him a very good ride to finish second. We then went back again in June to race over the same distance and course but this time in a listed race of a higher standard and, having won prize money the time before, with a penalty. It was extremely hot which was a worry travelling over, so we were relieved when they moved racing to the early morning.

Gesskille was a lot more professional in the preliminaries, having done it before, and Henry got him into a lovely rhythm to challenge at the last to go away and win easily. The win was made all the more amazing as Henry had ridden at 4pm at Market Rasen the day previously, before driving overnight to Paris where he arrived at 5am in time for quick kip in his car! The only disappointment was with the race time changing, the owners were unable to be there but, overall, we had a really enjoyable day (and night!) in Paris and will go back.



Staff Spotlight- Rachel Lytham

1. Where did you grow up?

I grew up in a town called Bury, in Greater Manchester.

2. How did you first get interested in horses?

I've always had a love for horses ever since a young age. It was probably my aunty that passed on the bug, having had horses all her life. I started learning to ride at the local riding school at about eight years old; then at the age of twelve, I was lucky enough to get my first pony. I guess I've never looked back since!

3. How did you get interested in racing, and where did you start working in racing?

I was studying for my A-Levels at college and didn't really have an interest in going to university, so began to look at apprenticeships. It was then that I came across the nine-week course at the British Racing School. Having never had a real, solid interest in racing - bar Cheltenham and Aintree - I wasn't sure if it was for me. However, it proved to be the best decision I've ever made. It was from there that I went on to my first job in racing at John Quinn's in Malton.

4. This is your first position as a travelling head girl. What does this entail?

As a travelling head girl, my days can vary quite a lot depending on what time the races are and whereabouts in the country. My day usually starts at 7am; I muck a few out then ride a couple of lots before getting the racing gear ready and prepping the horses to travel. After driving to the races, I make sure the runners are turned out to a high standard before saddling them up and leading them around the parade ring. After the race, I check them over and make sure any cuts or scrapes are seen to. I then usually give them around an hour after they have run to calm down and relax before setting off to back to the yard. Depending on the course and time of year, I can be home any time between 5pm and 10pm at night. Once back, I make sure horses are okay and then unload all the kit before preparing what is needed for the runners the next day. And so it goes on....!

5. What do you enjoy most about your job?

The most enjoyable part of the job is definitely leading in the winners - that's what all the team work so hard for at home, day in day out, and in all weather conditions. So, no matter which racecourse or the standard of race, I enjoy every winner. Also recently, having the opportunity to travel to France with Gesskille has definitely been the highlight of my career and an experience I will never forget!

6. Most challenging aspect of the job?

The most challenging aspect of the job would definitely be the long days. In the height of the season, I can be racing on consecutive days and doing long hours. Sometimes when you are on your own, it can be very tiring and lonely - and the social life grinds to a halt! It is more challenging in the winter with the colder weather, but we have a good team at home so morale is always high.

7. If you could change anything within the industry what would it be?

Having been overseas to France and experiencing the heat wave we did at the time, I was impressed with how they handled the race day. It was going to be too hot to run a jumps meeting at midday/afternoon as scheduled, so all the races were moved to the early morning for the horses' welfare. This is something I haven't seen in British racing - here, meetings either get abandoned last minute or there are several non-runners. I think this is definitely the way forward and would benefit all including the racecourses, jockeys, stable staff, horses and owners - everyone would be a winner!



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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