

HORSES IN RED HOT FORM

It has been a fantastic month and our best statistically since starting training, with ten winners as I write in the month-to-date, and eleven since our last newsletter.

Monte Igueldo won at the end of October and again in November and it has given me so much pleasure to see him in the winner's enclosure, particularly as we had such disappointment with him last season with his heart issues. With all that behind him, he has now truly settled into the groove, and a switch to fences has seen him excel in form and look a very classy prospect.

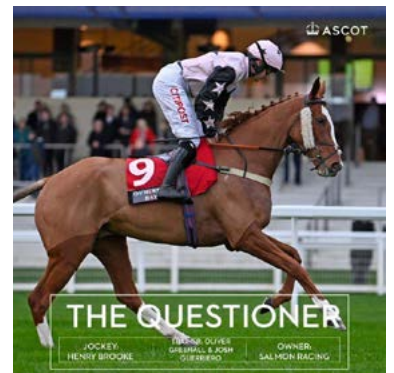
Our summer team, who have flown the flag so well for the yard, have now all had their last runs. It was amazing to see Lucky Lover Boy and Go On Chez win yet again having had such fantastic summer campaigns. Also this month, two other yard favourites, Cawthorne and El Borracho, have been placed, both having run cracking races. They will all have a break now before coming back into work in the spring.

November is when the ground finally gives, enabling us to get properly going with the winter horses. Usually, we find the horses improve for their first run; however, this time, they have all hit the ground running and we have had several first time out winners with plenty of placed young horses that look like they will be winning very soon. Herbie, Iroko and Homme Public were all very impressive on their first starts and we are extremely excited about their futures, whilst Anti Bridgie and Paddy's Fancy both won on their hurdling debut.



Josh and the whole team put a huge amount of time and effort into the schooling, so when the hard work at home pays off, it gives everyone a well-deserved boost.

A great day for the yard was when The Questioner won at Ascot, having been unlucky to be placed second on his two previous starts in lesser races. Part owner, Mark Salmon, and his brother made the trip to Ascot which made it even more special. He's a horse that only ever just does enough but there's definitely more to come and we are looking forward to starting him over fences.



New All Weather Schooling Strip

This month we finished our new jumping strip with three flights of hurdles and fences, which is a fantastic addition to our training set up. We have always had fences on the grass and on the sand, but inevitably the grass gets too firm in the summer and in the winter it gets soft and cuts up. With an all weather option, we can now jump the horses upsides on a sound surface all year round. This, alongside the jumps on the grass, the all-weather school and the jumping lane (complete with a variety of obstacles), gives us a range of training facilities to benefit the horses in different ways.



Flat Horses



The new team of flat horses is coming together really nicely and we are very excited to announce that Colin Gorman will be joining us in early January to help build this side of the business and bolster our flat credentials. Colin's depth of knowledge of the flat is vast having spent many years as assistant to John Hills in Lambourn before moving to Manor House under Tom Dascombe for twelve years.

We have always done well with our small handful of flat horses and are looking forward to growing our numbers with a better class of flat horses, specifically to target Chester and Haydock.

We have currently got shares for sale on our website in Dandy's Derriere and we will be buying and syndicating some others in the new year, so please get in touch if you are keen.



New Staff

We have a great bunch of staff and our newest recruit is Paige Gore who was brought up in Wigan. Having ridden ponies growing up, she went from school to the National Horseracing College in Doncaster for an induction into the racing industry. Paige has fitted in extremely well, getting stuck in and riding a variety of horses. She is doing particularly well as this is her first employment and first time away from home.



INTERVIEW WITH LUCY HUGHES



Where did you grow up?

I grew up in the St Martins area near Oswestry.

How did you first get interested in horses?

I've had horses since a very young age. My mum always wanted a black pony when she was a little girl so bought one when she was pregnant with me so I could live her dream. It all started from that point, really.

How did you get interested in racing and where was your first job in racing?

I have always enjoyed going to the races to watch and I knew I wanted to work with horses, so working in racing seemed the natural choice to combine my two interests. After my A Levels, I went to The British Racing School for twelve weeks to adapt and learn about the industry. I then got a job at Stockton Hall, where I still am today!

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I love it when my favourite horses do well at the races. I get quite attached to some of them and to see them improve gives me a lot of satisfaction, especially when they're ones I ride regularly. I occasionally get to jump the horses which is always a big thrill and something I really enjoy.

Most challenging aspect of the job?

When horses disappoint I find it hard, especially when we have put a lot of work into them at home. Also, it's always really hard when horses go wrong. Thankfully it doesn't happen too often, but it's always sad.

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

More help to develop our skills on the yard and riding. Occasionally we get lessons to help with our style and riding work and it would be great if we could have more of this to help us improve and develop so we can gain more responsibility and progress into other roles.

5 TO FOLLOW COMPETITION

Standings (up to 1st December):

1st	Michelle Clark	83 points
2nd	Sally Anson	76 points
3rd	Bill Madill	65 points

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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