

WINNERS!

We like to give all our horses a short break at the start of January and so since our last newsletter we have had limited runners.

All the horses started running earlier in the Autumn and as it was so wet they were in need of a little rest. They are now all back and have hit the ground running and it gave me a lot of pleasure to see **Snowy Evening** winning at Doncaster again under a lovely ride from Henry Brooke. Doncaster seems to really suit the horse, he jumped very cleanly and got into a lovely rhythm, going away to win well.

He keeps progressing up the handicap and he will probably need a trip in time, but we feel at this stage 2m4f is the right fit. A race like the Topham at Aintree in 2025 could suit him very well.

We always felt **Concetto**, with his two wins last season, had a good future ahead of him, but he took a little time to find his feet in more competitive races.

Horses very often run on confidence, and you see it so often at the start of the season when a horse is in a higher grade they can disappoint until they find their groove again. It looks like Concetto has found that now and will progress from here.



Henry gave him a tactically perfect front running ride, going the perfect pace and jumping so well. He flew the second last which seemed to put the race to bed but then fluffed the last but had enough left to be able to extend and win well.

He won impressively on debut in soft ground at Carlisle and finished a great second at Haydock in a Grade 2 and then fourth in the Tolworth at Aintree, a Grade 1.

He is so tough and honest and seems to relish soft ground. As the ground dries, and he matures, we will go up in trip.



Making Headway has always been a very exciting prospect since coming to us from the sales having won his point to point. We didn't run him in the first season after he was purchased as he needed time to develop and fill out, which he did, and after a full summer out at grass he was all set.

He has now had four runs over hurdles so can have a go in one of the decent handicaps at Cheltenham or Aintree. He could run in either the Coral Cup or Martin Pipe at Cheltenham, or go to Aintree instead. We plan to see how he comes out of his last race and discuss with the owner.





DUBLIN RACING FESTIVAL

As you will be aware having read plenty of these newsletters, we regularly put trips on in the UK and further afield.

This was our first to The Dublin Racing Festival and was a huge success. Twenty five of us went over for the weekend, staying in Dublin, which is so easy to get to via boat or plane, and great as the city centre and Leopardstown Racecourse are so accessible. We had an exceptional Saturday evening at Fire Grill and then we headed out for a few drinks which is always fun in Ireland!

We were in hospitality at the races on Sunday and were superbly looked after, an amazing view and top-quality racing. Jess and I flew home after racing but everyone else stayed and watched the football and flew home on the Monday.

It was a great trip and we look forward to doing it again.

An opportunity to be involved in two very promising young horses...

We currently have ownership opportunities in two national hunt horses that we believe have very exciting futures.

The first of these is **Gentleman Bill**, a lovely five year old gelding who we purchased after he won a 15 runner maiden point-to-point in Ireland.

There are six 12.5% shares still available in him. They cost £3,900 +VAT each.

The second horse is a 4 year old bay filly called **Final Escape**. She ran an eye-catching second in a bumper at Galway, prior to joining us and is progressing very nicely at home.

We have just five 10% shares remaining in her, and these are £4,495 +VAT each.

GENTLEMAN BILL

6 SHARES
AVAILABLE



FINAL ESCAPE

5 SHARES
AVAILABLE



To visit our 'Horses for Sale' page and see more details, please scan the QR code or call us on 01948 861157



IROKO



Last year Iroko gave us, to date, the best day of our career winning at the Cheltenham Festival, and we were so excited to go chasing with him this season.

He didn't disappoint, putting in a perfect performance at Warwick on his debut over fences. A few days later he stood on his shoe and had to go to the vets. It was in a tricky and vulnerable area that is prone to infection and was touch and go however he came through it all well and recovered more quickly than expected. The weekly vet visits enabled them to monitor his healing and they allowed us to increase his work.

We were prepared for him to miss the rest of the season, and unfortunately therefore his novice chasing season. To have him back sooner than expected is a dream come true and we are now hoping we can get him to Cheltenham.

He is entered in the Arkle on the Tuesday and The Turners on the Thursday.

We would rather run in the Turners over 2m4f but will just have to see what Mr. McManus has running and what they want to do.



EVENTS:



UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2024

- Cheltenham Race Day at Bangor-on-Dee **15th March**
- Picnic at Bangor-on-Dee Races **8th June**
- Foal Show in Cercy-la-Tour, France **18th - 20th June**
- Royal Ascot Race Day at Stockton Hall **18th June**
- Newmarket Jockey Club Rooms & Races Trip **18th - 19th July**

Please email – tori@stocktonhall.co.uk for more information and watch for Racing Manager updates.

RACECOURSE CONDITIONS



It has been a very testing year regards ground conditions with some average rainfalls up 40%. So many racecourses have struggled and lost meetings.



Historically it has been the courses that water in the summer that struggle with higher water tables, but all courses have this year.

Most of our winter horses cope with the soft ground but they need plenty of time after their runs to recover. They also need to stay very well, have good wind and have a fantastic attitude to cope with conditions.

You can often get a guide to the ideal ground for that horse by the way it moves, if a horse has a big, high knee action or does not move that well they will often want soft ground, whereas a good moving horse with a low action (where their hooves barely lift off the ground) may want good ground. This is not an exact science and there are always exceptions. We only really know for sure as we run them and get jockey feedback. This can also change with age, so you have to remain open minded about conditions.

With the very wet weather we decided to give everything a mini break so all the horses are very fresh now and will keep running well into the spring.

Doncaster Races was very frustrating last week. Sleet was forecast but it wasn't until we were in the paddock for the first race that the snow started to settle. We were due to have 5 runners on the day but it was all sadly abandoned.



Lord County

ROR

It is great to see Lord County and Gold Desert enjoying life after racing. All our horses go to good homes when they retire and these two have definitely found their second careers, Gold Desert in dressage and Lord County, show jumping.



Gold Desert

THREE TO FOLLOW

CURRENT LEADERBOARDS:

Owners:

Gary Phillips	61
Kevin Bellis	59
David Bostock	57

Staff:

Ryan Day	65
Paddy Chesters	58
Cai Williams	55

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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