

SPRING IS IN THE AIR!

With the weather slowly picking up and the horses having had a break in January, we have been able to run many more. We would still like the ground to dry out for plenty of them, but at least racing has been on.

Homme Public is a horse that tends to want a sounder surface so we ran him at Doncaster where it never gets too deep. We expected him to need the run, but he stayed on really well under a fantastic ride from Henry Brooke to win on the line. He has really progressed over fences this season and, now rated 142, has become a very classy horse.



Homme Public

Another horse we have always held in high regard is Jagwar who ran a very promising race at Aintree on debut, finishing second to Inthewaterside. Whether he had a



Jagwar

harder race than we thought, or just got run off his feet over 2 miles at Haydock, he disappointed slightly, so it was great to see him get in the Winner's Enclosure at Carlisle. He travelled nicely into the race but then blundered at the last hurdle and did extremely well to battle to get on top at the line. He will develop into a decent horse, however being so big and immature it will take time.

George Cowley has worked for us for several years now and is one of our key work and schooling riders. Unfortunately, he struggles to keep his weight down but rides as an amateur and having been injured on Gaboriot last season, it was fantastic to see him win on him at Catterick. Very often when we get horses over from France (especially the older ones) it takes time for them to adjust, and this was the case with Gaboriot.



Gaboriot

He was somewhat disinterested in his first few runs last season but towards the end he started to get his act together running a nice race at Cartmel. He has been a revelation this season winning on three occasions and coming third in a hot race at Ludlow.

Anti Bridgie has always been one of the yard favourites having won two hurdles last year, been so consistent this year with three thirds and then a great win at Warwick recently. She has always looked like fences would be

the making of her, but has just taken time to adjust. Henry gave her a very positive ride as she was coming down in trip which she seemed to enjoy.



Anti Bridgie

We received some new horses from another trainer last month. It often takes time for them to settle in and get used to the new gallops and surroundings so it was great to see Happy du Mensil finish third at Bangor on his first start for us and for Billytherealbigred to then win at Warwick as he liked. This was then followed up by an impressive 45 length win at Market Rasen to make it two wins in ten days both partnered by Toby Wynne. He is clearly thriving at present and loving the testing underfoot conditions. Well, done to his owners Tony Cottrell, Benn Cottrell, Peter Conway and Liam Conway.



Billytherealbigred

CHELTENHAM AND AINTREE

In the UK our season always builds to the two main festivals in the Spring, Cheltenham and Aintree. I am a big fan of them both and always like to have runners. Aintree tends to be more relaxed and can be better weather.



We were pleased with how Iroko ran at Cheltenham having not run for so long and in such a competitive renewal of the Turners. His jumping was electric and kept him in the race. Unfortunately, he was outpaced and will step up in trip next time, which will play to his strengths.

Cheltenham is as competitive as ever. We unfortunately did not get into the Pertemps with White Rhino as he was a pound too low which was a real blow as we know how much he enjoys the track having won and been placed there previously. Instead, he ran at Uttoxeter, running a great race to finish 4th in a £100k hurdle on extremely testing ground.

We are really looking forward to Aintree and hope to have a few runners. Homme Public is going to be aimed at the Red Rum Chase on the Thursday, Gaboriot in The Foxhunters over the Aintree fences, and possibly Making Headway, Iroko and Windtothelightning.

With Josh and I both having ridden winners at the Aintree and Cheltenham Festivals we would love to also have trained winners there. We had one at Cheltenham last year so very keen to try and get a winner on the board at Aintree over the 3 days of action.



CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP DAY AT BANGOR RACECOURSE

Cheltenham Race Day Lunch



We have held a Cheltenham Race Day Lunch over the past few years and as it has grown in popularity we have changed its location to accommodate the numbers. We had nearly a hundred guests this year and held it at Bangor-On-Dee racecourse. The venue could not have been more accommodating with delicious food, fantastic viewing, lots of laughs and a few winners!

We did a tipping competition, which after a tie break decider in the Midlands National, the magnum of champagne was won by Simon Lockett. Well done to him and thank you to everyone who came and made it such a great event.

RACING JARGON

Racing can be hard for new followers to grasp as it has its own language. Many of you may know these terms but I thought it might be helpful to translate some of the more technical ones.

When doing a debrief trainers and jockeys can say things that we assume owners understand but if they don't it can make it very hard for them know how we feel the horse has run.

Won on the bridle

This is a common term that is used when a horse wins easily, without the jockey having to ask the horse to stride on and when there is still tension on the bit.

"On and off the bridle" is a commonly used term. During a race a horse can still be on the bridle and off the bridle. This is based on whether the jockey is motionless (on the bridle) or the jockey is pushing, which can be a slight loop in the rein and a tap with the stick down the shoulder, or the jockey is using their body weight to push the horse forwards and lengthen the horse's stride.

Mid Div / Make it / Handy / Drop In / Drop Out

These are all terms to describe how a horse is to be ridden during a race. This can be the difference between winning and losing.

If a horse is strong or running over a longer distance than normal you would often go at the back (**drop out**) or in the second half of the field (**drop in**) so that you can determine the speed you want to go. If you set off in front you will often have horses behind pushing you to go faster which could ruin your chances. "**Make**" means to go from the front, "**mid div**" is to go in the middle, often a good place to be so if the pace is strong you can sit back a little and if slow you can press on. "**Handy**" is not in front but not far from the front (3rd or 4th)

Trip

This is the distance a horse runs over so in National Hunt that can be anything from 2 miles to over 4.

Handicap/ Level Weights

A handicap is designed to give every horse in the race an equal chance. There is group of handicappers who watch all races and update the handicap mark every Tuesday depending how the horse has run. The number equates to 1lb in weight, so if a horse is rated 120 and carries 12st and horse in the same race is rated 110 then that horse would carry 11st 4lb.

We often get frustrated with how much horses go up or how little they come down when they run badly, however it is an age-old system that generally works well.

Some races are Level Weights. This means that all horses of the same sex and age run off the same weight. These races are mainly for young horses before they have a handicap mark or very good horses, like the Gold Cup.

When you say a horse is "well in", this is when a horse has run well so is due to go up in the handicap but is running before that comes into effect, so is in effect running with weight in hand.

Juvenile

A three or four year old over jumps, or a two year old on the flat.

When a horse is moving up the field during a race or finishing well at the end of the race and can often mean they are running over too short a distance.

Green

This is when a horse is immature, inexperienced and looking around instead of traveling forward.

Head Gear

(visor/ blinkers/ cheek pieces/ tongue strap/ sheepskin noseband/ hood)

These are all used to aid the horse, generally when a horse is lazy and races "behind/ off the bridle".

Blinkers are the most severe for very lazy horses and can have different sized eye cups.



A **visor** is like a blinker with a hole in so they do have some sight to the side.

Cheek pieces help to keep the horse focused forwards.

A **tongue strap** is used for horses that displace their soft palate, it keeps the tongue forward which keeps the soft palette tight and out of the way of the windpipe.



A **sheepskin nose band** keeps the horse's head down, so they look forwards and helps them to relax and breathe in rhythm.

A **hood** is used to keep a horse calm, it gives them comfort and blocks out noise which can settle a horse, switch them off and help them finish a race well.

THREE TO FOLLOW

As we approach the final part of the season, both our 'owners' and 'staff' competitions are close.

Owners:

Gary Phillips	72
Mark Salmon	69
Kevin Bellis	68

Staff:

Ryan Day	69
George Cowley	63
Paddy Chesters	62

EXCITING OWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

FINAL ESCAPE 5 SHARES AVAILABLE

This is a beautifully bred 5 year old mare by Soldier of Fortune. Final Escape has a brother who won a Grade 3 and another brother that has been placed in a listed race. She ran in one bumper prior to us buying her finishing an eye catching 2nd at Galway and has been going nicely since coming here. She looks the ideal type who will go hurdling this season and then chasing later in her career.

£4,495 per share +VAT (share is 10%)

Then £175 plus vets and racing whilst she is in full training (9 months of the year) and then £45 a month whilst at grass.



NEIGH BOTHA 2017 BAY GELDING

This fine-looking son of Doyen is the ideal summer horse, having won his bumper impressively on debut he went on to be placed many times and is now handicapped to win over fences or hurdles.

He will run through the summer at local tracks and be out plenty, he has had a short break and is ready to go. He is a high-class horse that once things click and he finds his groove could easily go and win a few.

£500 per share +VAT (share is 10%)

Then £175 +VAT per month whilst in full training (not inc racing and vets)



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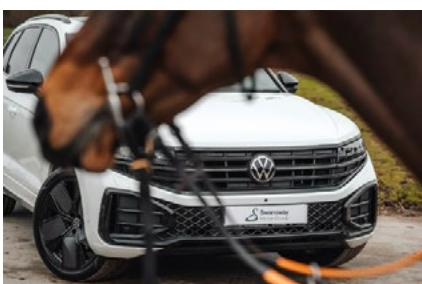
and smooth. The Innovision cockpit includes a navigation system with a 15" display screen and "Discover Pro Max" active info display. Extremely handy when out and about on unfamiliar roads and locations.

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The Volkswagen Touareg 3.0 litre Black Edition is currently available with 7.9% APR Representative* and a £8,000 deposit contribution.

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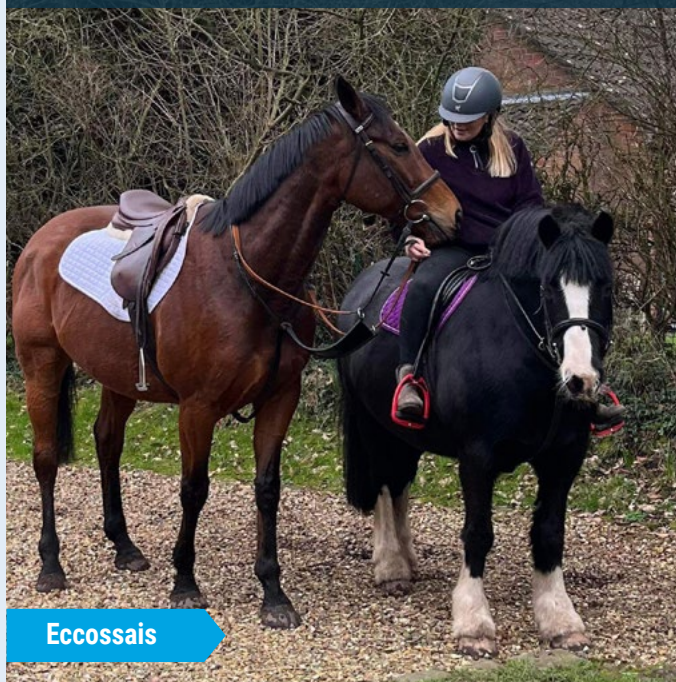
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It's always lovely to receive photographs of Eccossais enjoying his retirement with his new found friend.



Eccossais

ROR – LIFE AFTER RACING

It is great to see Lord County continuing to progress and improve show jumping, he is looking fantastic and giving his owner so much fun.



Lord County

CAROL STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

FIELD PREPARATION

With the days now starting to get longer and warmer it will not be long until we are turning some of the horses out to grass but before we do there is plenty of work to do to prepare the fields and ensure they are safe.



We will do the following over the next few weeks as soon as the land dries out enough:

- Harrow fields to spread any old manure and remove dead grass. This also aerates the soil and replaces divots.
- Roll the fields to level the land and push any stones into the soil.
- Take a soil test to check for nutrient levels and treat as necessary.
- Spray for weeds.
- Fertilise to ensure good grass growth.
- Replace old or damaged fencing.

Almost all of our horses stay on the farm year-round, and we must ensure they are getting the most out of their time off. We have at least an acre of land per horse, so the paddocks are not overgrazed or overpopulated. They get checked regularly and weeding takes place to remove anything harmful such as ragwort.

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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