

Racin'



Issue 386

April/May 2024

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS 2024

This final renewal reminder is only for members who receive 'paper' copies of the club magazine.

The membership rate is maintained at £12 for a further year notwithstanding the cost increases re printing and postage seen in 2023/24.

Please send any cheques (payable to North & Midlands Racing Club) to Helen Goodwill, Membership Secretary, 124 Lindsell Rd, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 5NZ.

If you pay by bankers order please ensure the sum is set at £12 and also keep the club updated if either your postal and/or e-mail addresses have altered.

Any 'paper' non-renewals will be added to the online mailing list if we have an e-mail address.

NB If there was a pink dot on the address label for this issue of Racin' it means that your subs are overdue!

TJADE COLLIER STABLE VISIT – SUNDAY APRIL 28TH – FOLLOWED BY RACING AT WETHERBY

Our first stable visit of 2024 takes us to the West Yorkshire stable of Tjade Collier – a former jockey who rode on both the flat and jumps – and is still fairly new to the training ranks.

His stable is located at Wilsden West Yorkshire and following the visit the plan is for members (who want to) to go racing at Wetherby (not too far away) where course manager Michelle Campbell has kindly arranged for NMRC members (on the stable visit) to purchase discounted race day tickets – full details will be shared with those booking for this event.

Ladronne is probably the best-known horse in the yard with seven wins under NH rules to date.

As usual, we will collect small donations from adults on the stable visit (usually a fiver) so we can pass onto the stable staff on the day. Accompanied children are also welcome although please bear in mind that horses can be unpredictable at times and ensure all requests from the stable staff are followed for your own safety. Donations will be collected on the day by joint event organiser, **Dave Bates**.

Those who book for the trip will be sent confirmation of arrival time and directions etc around 7 days before the visit.

If interested please contact Phil Evans via e mail at info@northernracingclub.com to reserve your place



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COMPETITION NEWS

59's DRAW RESULTS UPDATE

The latest '59's' are as follows:

February 3rd – 46 – Gladys Jarvis (Durham)

March 2nd – 06 – Tony Jarvis (Durham)

Your £50 prizes will be with you shortly.

The winning number is determined by the 'bonus ball' drawn in the UK Lottery on the 1st Saturday of the month.

Thanks to all who continue to support the draw. If you want to join the waiting list for the next available number(s) please e mail info@northernracingclub.com for further details.

SATURDAY NAPS+ N H TIPPING CHALLENGE

Congratulations to **Patrick O'Donoghue** (Yorkshire) who won Round 2 of this winter's tipping challenge with **David Edge** (Cheshire) in runner-up spot. They win £70 & £30 prizes respectively.

The leaderboard (after week 18) for Round 3 looks like this:

R3	Name & Entry No.
50	Ian Hazell 83
44.4	Helen Goodwill 46
35.32	Steve Cawley 70
31.4	Les Taylor 80
29.3	Harold Woodward 50
27.9	Mark Banks 96
27.04	Ted Halewood 02
25	Cieran Cassidy 87
22.58	John McDonald 98
18.8	Peter Flynn 20
17.7	Paul Middleton 101
17.46	Carol Evans 107
14.9	Linda Harrison 34
14.8	Phil Evans 24
14.3	Chris Watson 138
14.16	Simon Wilson 121
14	Glyn Howes 35

ALEX BIRD TIPPING CHALLENGE 2024

As is always the case, the competition commenced with the Cheltenham Festival and due to excellent recruitment work undertaken by Mark Banks we have a huge 84 entries this year with a prize fund of £840!

The Cheltenham Round winner was **Mike Campbell** (Cheshire) who wins a £100 prize with runner up **Chris Mackenzie** (Durham) winning £40.

After the final day (Friday) of the Cheltenham Festival, organiser Mark Banks wrote 'Frank Turley, Hugh McCauley, Ken Unsworth and Michael Wheater all shared the honour of top points scorers today with a total of 76 points.

The highest priced winning selection was also shared today with David Cook, Duane Marshall, Joseph Banks, Kay Hornbrook and Sean Morrey all tipping Absurde at 12/1.

There was no change in Round 1 with Mike holding on to first place. However, Chris did reduce the lead to 2 points after L'eau Du Sud's place in the County Hurdle. It then went all the way to the last race with Mike on Waterford Whisper who finished in 2nd place beating Chris selection Quai De Bourbon into 3rd. And, therefore Mike held on and extended his winning margin to 7 points.

Today's most selected horse was Galopin Des Champs who was tipped by 57% of the entries. And, he didn't disappoint by winning the Gold Cup.'

HERITAGE HANDICAPS COMPETITION 2024

The turf flat season has only just started but it's worth noting that [this competition starts on Derby Day at Epsom on June 1st](#).

If you have not entered before it costs £10 to enter with the challenge being to select three horses in the feature handicap each Saturday (for around 20 weekends).

Points are then scored based on the winner/placed horses' tote odds with both a 'main' and an 'exacta' league table used for scores/prizes.

An application form will be in the next issue of Racin' in late May but to register your interest asap please contact Helen 0161 928 0213 or e-mail cheshirecherry@hotmail.co.uk

AROUND THE RACECOURSES IN 80 DAYS

FUNDRAISER BY GRAHAM ARNOLD

Racing fan Graham Arnold is planning to raise funds for Alzheimer's Disease research this year and has set himself a mammoth target of raising £30,000 by visiting all 59 UK racecourses in 80 days. He will be walking around each course on every visit and invites others to join him on the walks on the following dates:

Date	Day	Course	Time	Region	Type	Miles	Date	Day	Course	Time	Region	Type	Miles
07-Apr-24	Sunday	Exeter	Afternoon	South West	Jump		15-May-24	Wednesday	Perth	Evening	Scotland	Jump	97.1
08-Apr-24	Monday	Wincanton	Afternoon	South West	Jump	66.5	17-May-24	Friday	Aintree	Evening	North West	Jump	267
09-Apr-24	Tuesday	Hereford	Afternoon	Midlands	Jump	109	18-May-24	Saturday	Bangor-On-Dee	Afternoon	Midlands	Jump	53.3
11-Apr-24	Thursday	Taunton	Afternoon	South West	Jump	103	19-May-24	Sunday	Stratford-On-Avon	Afternoon	Midlands	Jump	98.3
13-Apr-24	Saturday	Wolverhampton	Floodlit	Midlands	Flat	145	22-May-24	Wednesday	Warwick	Afternoon	Midlands	Jump	12
14-Apr-24	Sunday	Plumpton	Afternoon	South	Jump	187	23-May-24	Thursday	Sandown Park	Evening	South	Flat	98.7
15-Apr-24	Monday	Kempton Park	Floodlit	South	Flat	60.6	24-May-24	Friday	Goodwood	Afternoon	South	Flat	44.8
17-Apr-24	Wednesday	Cheltenham	Afternoon	Midlands	Jump	98.8	25-May-24	Saturday	Salisbury	Evening	South	Flat	64
19-Apr-24	Friday	Fontwell Park	Afternoon	South	Jump	132	27-May-24	Monday	Huntingdon	Afternoon	East	Jump	154
20-Apr-24	Saturday	Brighton	Evening	South	Flat	30.2	28-May-24	Tuesday	Leicester	Afternoon	Midlands	Flat	47.5
22-Apr-24	Monday	Windsor	Evening	South	Flat	72.1	29-May-24	Wednesday	Cartmel	Evening	North West	Jump	183
23-Apr-24	Tuesday	Epsom Downs	Afternoon	South	Flat	33	30-May-24	Thursday	Carlisle	Evening	North West	Flat	66.2
24-Apr-24	Wednesday	Uttoxeter	Evening	Midlands	Jump	166	01-Jun-24	Saturday	Musselburgh	Afternoon	Scotland	Flat	109
25-Apr-24	Thursday	Beverley	Afternoon	Yorkshire	Flat	107	02-Jun-24	Sunday	Hamilton Park	Afternoon	Scotland	Flat	47.9
26-Apr-24	Friday	Doncaster	Afternoon	Yorkshire	Flat	41.1	04-Jun-24	Tuesday	Southwell	Afternoon	Midlands	Jump	265
27-Apr-24	Saturday	Ripon	Afternoon	Yorkshire	Flat	64.1	05-Jun-24	Wednesday	Nottingham	Afternoon	Midlands	Flat	14.3
28-Apr-24	Sunday	Wetherby	Afternoon	Yorkshire	Flat	17.3	07-Jun-24	Friday	Bath	Evening	South West	Flat	149
30-Apr-24	Tuesday	Catterick Bridge	Evening	Yorkshire	Flat	35.5	08-Jun-24	Saturday	Lingfield Park	Evening	South	Flat	136
01-May-24	Wednesday	Pontefract	Afternoon	Yorkshire	Flat	55.6	12-Jun-24	Wednesday	Yarmouth	Afternoon	East	Flat	159
02-May-24	Thursday	Redcar	Afternoon	Yorkshire	Flat	77.2	13-Jun-24	Thursday	Newbury	Afternoon	South	Flat	204
03-May-24	Friday	Newcastle	Evening	North East	Flat	57	14-Jun-24	Friday	Market Rasen	Evening	Midlands	Jump	180
05-May-24	Sunday	Newmarket	Afternoon	East	Flat	250	15-Jun-24	Saturday	York	Afternoon	Yorkshire	Flat	83.8
07-May-24	Tuesday	Fakenham	Afternoon	East	Jump	54.4	16-Jun-24	Sunday	Thirsk	Afternoon	Yorkshire	Flat	25.3
08-May-24	Wednesday	Kelso	Afternoon	Scotland	Jump	303	19-Jun-24	Wednesday	Ascot	Afternoon	South	Flat	244
09-May-24	Thursday	Chester	Afternoon	North West	Flat	208	20-Jun-24	Thursday	Chelmsford City	Afternoon	South	Flat	90.5
10-May-24	Friday	Sedgefield	Evening	North East	Jump	160	22-Jun-24	Saturday	Haydock	Evening	North West	Flat	222
11-May-24	Saturday	Hexham	Afternoon	North East	Jump	52.9	23-Jun-24	Sunday	Ffos Las	Afternoon	Wales	Flat	171
12-May-24	Sunday	Ludlow	Afternoon	Midlands	Jump	232	24-Jun-24	Monday	Chepstow	Afternoon	Wales	Flat	86.5
14-May-24	Tuesday	Ayr	Evening	Scotland	Flat	311	25-Jun-24	Tuesday	Newton Abbot	Afternoon	South West	Jump	103
							26-Jun-24	Wednesday	Worcester	Afternoon	Midlands	Jump	148
											Total Miles		6853.5

I am sure many readers will have had friends/family who have been affected by this cruel disease and will welcome the efforts being made by Graham with this fundraiser. Indeed, club stalwart **Ray Squire** from Bury, is currently suffering from the advanced stages of Alzheimer's and his wife Kath gave me permission to mention this in the club magazine so his old racing chums will be aware. Amongst his numerous club activities over the years, Ray used to sell race cards from a booth at Haydock Park back in the day (where he also handed out club membership forms!) and later became the club's Annual Dinner Secretary and eventually Membership Secretary. He stepped down from the committee in 2018 when his first wife (Viv) was also diagnosed with the disease. For older members, who knew either Ray or Viv, it would be fantastic if you could support this fundraiser. If anyone wants to pass on any messages of support to Kath Squire please send via myself (Phil Evans) and I will ensure the messages are shared with her.

To contact Graham please use Whats App on 07776 415808 or e mail aroundthecourses@gmail.com
 If you just want to send a donation please visit the website: www.aroundthecourses.com
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/aroundthecoursesin80days



RIP KEAGAN KIRKBY

I am sure many racing fans will not have been familiar with the name Keagan Kirkby until the sad news on 4th February.

On the same day, when the stable he worked for was announcing the arrival of a new £740,000 purchase, the trainer's daughter (Megan) was sharing on Twitter (X) that there was a just giving page set up to cover Keagan's funeral costs. I am sure that information was shared in a positive way by Megan (and has now raised over £56,000 with an initial £5000 target) but it also tends to highlight the huge gulf between wealthy owners/trainers and their loyal staff.

The fundraiser was set up by Emma Craze, who has previously worked in the racing industry, including at the Nicholls yard, so it all seems to be above board. However, apart from the funeral costs and 'some sort of memorial' (which I assume to be a headstone, or similar) it remains unclear how the excess funds will be used. Racing supporters are still in an emotional turmoil with the consensus of opinion being what a wonderful sum 'we' have raised. My own view is that the fundraiser should have been closed at £5000 or at least clarity given as to how the excess funds will be used – hopefully this is being used to improve riders safety in the amateurs sport.



By comparison the Graham Lee fundraiser set up in late 2023 has raised over £200000 at the time of writing but donations are going directly to the Injured Jockeys Fund as an organisation.

Going back to the topic of the original fundraiser 'to cover funeral expenses' I suspect most folk, like me, assumed that Keagan had few assets, and his family could not cover the cost, hence the appeal was launched. At that time I was astonished that 'the sport' did not cover riders for such eventualities and I wrote on NMRC's Facebook page at that time that 'something needed to be done' by the sport, or words to that effect.

NMRC member Belinda Rose has since put me right by advising that there are schemes in place run by both codes in the sport. Belinda wrote 'There is a scheme called RIABS- Racing Industry Accident Benefits Scheme where the trainer and/or employee (depending on employee age etc.) contribute a small amount of their wages on a weekly basis (£3.50) and then are provided financial assistance for any time of work/injuries etc. that occur from accidents at work. Then for point to pointing you are insured by the point to point authority from weigh out to weigh in and the Professional Jockeys Association provide similar cover for racing under rules. The amounts aren't necessarily huge, especially when you see the amounts spent by owners and trainers as you said but the industry does try to do something to help protect people at least. In Kegans case the payout should be £35000 yet no media news coverage seem to have picked up on this.

At the end of the day, an enthusiastic member of the Nicholls team has tragically lost his life doing a job he loved. Lets hope the funds raised are used wisely, but in future maybe the fundraisers for such schemes should set out more clearly how the funds will be used and be linked to a recognised charity (which would also allow 'gift aid' to be used). The sport will not want this fundraiser this to turn into another 'Captain Tom' scandal and tarnish the memory of Keagan. Similarly, surely the stable responses and news media coverage could have been a little more forthright about the financial support provided by the sport – which initially came across as rather 'non-caring'.

Keagan's mum Zoe has subsequently posted on social media the following message 'Hello everyone. I am Keagan Kirkby's mum. I wanted to say thank you for all of the love & support for my boy. I have taken so much strength & comfort from reading all of your messages, comments, sharing of those wonderful images & also to thank anyone who has so generously donated.

My family & I are truly blown away by all that is happening. We sat together on Tues & we cheered Harry and Fire Flyer home. As you can imagine that win meant the world to us. I also wanted to honour the incredible Team Ditchheat. Their support & love towards not only Keagan but my family and I has been truly phenomenal. They really are the very best of the best



Racing Post @Racin... · 7h
"I'd just like to say a special word to **Keagan** as he rode that horse every day. That was for him and he deserved that"

Harry Cobden paid a moving tribute to his late colleague and fellow rider **Keagan Kirkby** after he urged Fire Flyer to victory for Paul Nicholls at Taunton



RIP Keagan Kirkby.



There was a final sad twist to this story – the funeral procession (on Tuesday 5th March) was led by Keagan's favourite horse, Highland Hunter (pictured left).

Just a week later the horse ran at Cheltenham in the Ultima Handicap Chase and after a bold front running performance was pulled up after being headed three fences from home and was then reported to

have suffered a heart attack on the course and could not be saved by the on-course vets.

NMRC PREVIEW NIGHT PROVIDES PLENTY OF WINNERS!

NMRC's preview event (in Warrington) again provided those present with plenty of winners so thanks to Paul, Gordon & Dan for all their input. Unfortunately Keith McHugh was unwell and could not join the panel.

Yes there were lots of short priced winners at Cheltenham this year but in many of those races with odds-on favourites the panel often came up with other options such as Captain Guinness & Corach Rambler (each way).

At the end of the night the panel were also asked for naps for the week with Galopin Des Champs (10/11) & Slade Steel (7/2) obliging whilst Dancing City was 3rd at 7/1.

They also provided each way 'naps' with Unexpected Party winning at 12/1 & Tellmesomethingirl (2nd 22/1). Whilst White Rhino missed the cut for its race it ran in a big handicap at Uttoxeter on Saturday instead finishing 4th at 17/2.

Paul was also positive about the chances of Go Dante in the Imperial Cup at Sandown which duly obliged at odds of 5/1.



After 10+ years fundraising for the Injured Jockeys Fund, with most of the bottles for the raffle prizes provided personally, it was an honour to present Ken Unsworth with a certificate of gratitude from the IJF.

We estimate that Ken's efforts, usually supported by Charles Rear, have raised close to £5000 for the IJF.

It was originally our plan to hold an Aintree Festival preview at the same venue this year but we regret that ticket sales for that event were insufficient to make it viable, so sadly it has been cancelled and any ticket monies refunded.

For those still wanting to attend a similar 'Aintree' event I can confirm that Paul Ferguson will be on a panel at the Denbigh Castle pub in Liverpool on Tuesday 9th March, starting at 7pm.

For further information regarding tickets etc please contact Stuart at the pub info@thedenbighcastle.co.uk

The pub address is 10 Hackins Hey, Liverpool L2 2AW. Phone 0151 236 8558.

'FORTY YEARS ON'

BRIAN GOODWILL SPEAKS TO PHIL TUCK

Back in March 1984 you won The Cheltenham Gold Cup on Burrough Hill Lad. How did you first get associated with the horse?

I was first involved with BHL when he was trained by Jimmy Harris to whom I was conditional rider at the time. It was largely due to Jimmy that I got going as a rider. I had ridden BHL in his early races but then moved north to join Mick Easterby. I was replaced at Jimmy's by Jonathan Haynes, who ironically also has his riding career ended in a fall at Southwell with a broken back in similar circumstances to Jimmy himself. Prior to his fall, Jonathan would have won on BHL at Market Rasen but was unseated at I believe the last flight of hurdles. I then rode him the next time, again at Market Rasen on 5th January 1980 when he won the Grimsby 4yrs Novice Hurdle by 20 lengths.

At the end of that season, the horse was sent to Harry Wharton at Wetherby. He only ran him twice; the first run was a Handicap Hurdle over 2.4 miles at Uttoxeter on 11th October which he won by 4 lengths. He then went to Cheltenham 11 days later and won over 3 miles, again by 4 lengths. Unfortunately for Harry, the horse was once more on his travels and he was sent to Jenny Pitman. I can't recall exactly when, but I think in late 1981, I went down to school BHL over fences in Lambourn. I do remember finishing 2nd on him in a Novice Chase at Leicester. Then I couldn't ride him at Newton Abbot due to commitments in the North. Needless to say he won and Colin Brown kept the ride for his next two runs. He was unseated at Haydock and Cheltenham and so I got back on him for Aintree and won the 3-mile Novice Chase, what is now the Mildmay, unless its name has changed again!!!

He then went back to Newton Abbot and won on Easter Monday and so did I, even though there was racing at Wetherby that day!!

I won on him twice more in the 1982/83 season before he was put away with a touch of leg trouble. In the 1983/84 season, he started off over hurdles at Nottingham. His next run was the Welsh National and it could be said that I made a big mistake. I was riding a lot of horses for Scottish trainer Harry Bell and he wanted me to ride Lasobany in the race. I felt honour bound to remain loyal to him and therefore John Francome rode BHL at Chepstow. Again, needless to say he hacked up and I pulled up!! Francome kept the ride for three more victories but for Cheltenham, he himself had to remain loyal to Fred Winter and was going to ride Brown Chamberlain. As BHL was passing the post in the Jim Ford Cup at Wincanton, I was leaving hospital having broken my nose in a fall at Sedgefield a few days before. It was a race to get back to fitness but I was thankfully in the saddle come March 15th 1984.

Did Mrs Pitman fill you up with instructions or did she just leave it to your natural talent. Have you seen her recently and how is she doing?

Not really. We discussed the race in great detail and made a plan to be always fairly handy. "Keep it simple" as they say these days. I do remember vividly, Jenny saying "whatever you do, make sure you get over the third last".

I saw her on in early March at the Gold Cup Centenary lunch and she was in great form. A formidable woman but I always found her to be very fair. If you did as she asked and you got beat, there were never any problems. Fortunately I rode a few winners for her and she was a very good trainer.

When did you know you had got the ride in The Gold Cup and how did it come about?

As said earlier, I knew once Francome was committed to ride Brown Chamberlain that I was going to ride BHL. Apparently he was called "Busby" in the yard after the BT TV advert as everyone was ringing up to ride him!!

Did you have any other rides at that year's Festival?

I had a ride in the County Hurdle, I think for Bill Stubbs and back then, it was after the Gold Cup so I missed out on most of the celebrations in the bar. I did pay for dinner for a dozen people in a pub in Winchcombe that night however. I was riding at Wolverhampton the following day so my personal celebrations were fairly subdued but I still had a fantastic night, drunk on the atmosphere.

What can you recall about the race itself. Were you always confident?

As I said, the plan was always to be fairly handy and I sat roughly half way of the 12 runners for the first circuit. I had to squeeze him forward for a few strides going out into the country for the second time to maintain my position. After that, I

was always very happy. I was sitting second at the last ditch and BHL was going well within himself. Going down to and over the third last, I knew I was always going to be able to maintain my position down the inside rail as BC had been jumping out to his right. We jumped the last two fences pretty well and ran on up the hill to great cheers.



Was passing the post in front the pinnacle of your racing achievements?

I would have to say yes to that. It was my greatest achievement in the saddle but I would so dearly have loved to have won the Grand National. I only got round twice in 7 rides, both on Mr Snugfit in 1985 and 86. We looked like we would win jumping the last in 85 only to be denied "Crisp" style by Last Suspect 10 strides from the line. If someone had told me prior to the race that I would finish 2nd, I perhaps could have taken that because to get round back in the day was an achievement in itself. But to be beaten in the dying stages was very hard to take. The following year we finished 4th to West Tip in a time faster than the year before.

What are you doing now?

I have for the last 9 and a half years, been working as Stipendiary Steward for the Jockey Club of Saudi Arabia. It was an amazing experience for Maria and myself and we met some wonderful, kind and generous people. We were lucky enough to witness many cultural changes within the Kingdom and I was privileged to work with them. It was amazing to be involved in helping to change and improve rules and regulations which included safety for both Jockeys and horses. To be involved in the start of the world's richest horse race, The Saudi Cup, was a highlight of my Stewarding career. There are things that we miss but it is now nice to be living back in our own home. It is also nice to be away from the pressure of it all and have the time to do things that we want to do together with family and friends. I suppose you can say that I am now retired after working in horse racing for 51 years. I am however still involved in a small way with Saudi in that I sit on the independent appeals panel where rule breaches occur. A poacher turned gamekeeper turned judge. I have always said that I have been a very lucky man. All my working life, I have loved every minute of it and have been lucky enough to have been paid to enjoy myself.

Readers can view the 1984 Gold Cup via this link: <https://youtu.be/mCZRDn0Sc6k>

For the 1995 Grand National click on this link: <https://youtu.be/izdyvvgSBQg?si=t0KwXzGvjDyFGVEI>

GRAND NATIONAL SWEEPSTAKE 2024

North & Midlands Racing Club will be repeating its Grand National sweepstake for 2024.

Due to the lower field size of 34 this year, to keep the prize fund at similar levels, it will cost £6 per entry this time and all entrants will be drawn a horse* on the eve of the race and notified accordingly - via e mail or text. If more than 34 tickets are sold then some horses will have a second ticket allocated – where this is the case any prizes won will be shared between all ticket holders for the horse concerned. * Race card numbers used in the draw.

The prize fund has been over £300 in recent years and be allocated as follows:

1st place – 50% 2nd place – 25% 3rd place – 15% 4th place – 10%

In the unlikely event that less than 34 tickets are sold and one of the first four places has no ticket allocated, then the next placed horse will be used for the prize(s) affected.

If anyone is unlucky enough to be allocated a race card number of a horse that does not start on the Saturday, the entrant(s) affected will be given a full refund.

There will be two ways to enter as below:

1. Postal entries can be made until Friday April 12th. Please send to North & Midlands Racing Club at 53 Dalebrook Rd, Sale, M33 3LB together with cheque payable to North & Midlands Racing Club for number of entries required. Please include name/address/email/phone details.
2. Online entries can be made until 6pm on Friday April 12th also, with direct bank payments accepted (contact Phil Evans at info@northernracingclub.com for bank details to remit to).

HOW THE DRAW IS MADE

1. The draw will be made 'online' using a random number generator (and at least two people present) at 8pm on Friday 12th April.
2. All ticket holders will then be advised of the race card number drawn for their horse(s).

OTHER DETAILS

Prizes will be forwarded to the winners as soon as possible after the date of the race.



POINT TO POINTING WITH ANDY WHITE

Cheltenham Success

Congratulations go to Sine Nomine who was the only Yorkshire winner at this year's Cheltenham Festival winning the St James's Place Foxhunters for jockey John Dawson, trainer Fiona Needham and owner Robin Tate. This comes 22 years after Fiona rode Last Option to win the same race for her father Robin. As a prep run, Sine Nomine won the Open Hunter Chase at Wetherby's 3 February meeting by 15 lengths, one of my rare Saturday Naps competition successes. Sine Nomine has received several mentions in my pointing reports with good wins in 2022 at Duncombe Park and Charm Park and then last year at Stratford at the Hunter Chase meetings in April and June.

Sinnington Hunt at Duncombe Park Helmsley

It was a walk to the races for me on 4 February as the 'Helmsley Races' were held in Duncombe Park. Leaving my car at home after reading the weather forecast for a light shower, I arrived at the course entrance 20 minutes later soaked, with the steady rain continuing for the first hour. Another good crowd were in attendance despite the weather. My punting got off to a good start in the opening Members Race with recent Sheriff Hutton winner Rue Galilee ridden and trained by Will Easterby beating my each-way selection Alma De Dios ridden and trained by John Dawson.

In the Conditions race, just four entries saw a success for odds on favourite Camdonian ridden by Christy Furness for Jack Teal. The Restricted Race saw Fire in Her Eyes (Jack Teal) getting the better of Wottinger (John Dawson) after the pair had dead heated at the recent Sheriff Hutton fixture. Just three were declared in the mixed open with the consistent Mount Mews winning for John Dawson and trainer Luci Hughes.

The Maiden saw success for Red Delta for the in-form team of John Dawson and Fiona Needham. Of course I backed it, making a welcome double winning weekend after Sine Nomine's Wetherby success. The Veterans race was won by Supremely Lucky ridden by Natasha Cookson and the final race, a 2-mile Bumper had five entries. All were declared to run with Will Easterby training the first three home with Longtime Listener winning under younger brother Tom.

Yorkshire Jockey Club at Charm Park Scarborough

After the wet weather had caused the cancellation the other planned February meeting at Askham Bryan (the March meeting at the track has been cancelled too), I headed towards the coast on 3 March to Charm Park on a fine sunny day. Plenty of entries resulted in eight competitive races.

The opening Conditions race saw Camdonian follow up his Duncombe Park success with Christy Furness once again on board for Jack Teal seeing off the challenge of Benefaktor for Gina Andrews and Tom Ellis. Miami Magic won the Maiden in good style for jockey / trainer Dale Peters beating Daytime Dreamer (Jack Andrews for Tom Ellis) by 11 lengths.

The Ellis team had better luck in the Ladies open as Fresh New Dawn the 1-4 Favourite beat four rivals under Gina Andrews. She had won the previous two renewals of this race on the talented Latenightpass. That horse now back in the care of Tom Ellis after a period under rules with Dan Skelton had success in the Cross-Country race at Cheltenham meeting. Ellis who has since taken out a professional licence has the horse entered in this year's Grand National. Latenightpass having won the Aintree Foxhunters in 2022 and finishing a creditable fourth last year has a good record over the larger fences. Let's hope it goes well on 13 April to give a boost to British pointing.

The ex-Mark Walford trained 11-year-old Buster Valentine won the Men's open race under Paddy Barlow for Will Millburn.



There was drama in the next race, the restricted won by the in-form Fiona Needham trained Red Delta, who this time was ridden by Nick Orpwood (photo left). Red Delta's usual rider John Dawson fell at the first fence on his wife Alice's Wottinger, then there were unseats for Isla John on Imperial Imp and Paddy Barlow on Grangeclare Diego. The latter taken to hospital by Air Ambulance causing a long delay to racing.

The Maiden divided into two with Nick Orpwood stepping in for the injured Paddy Barlow to win on the 16-1 shot Sunset on Fire for Samantha Coward. Clerk of the course Will Easterby rode his own Lou

Marvellous at 8-1 to win the second division. The final race, the Intermediate went to the John Dawson ridden/trained Duke Account beating Fire in her eyes (Jack Teal)

Hurworth Hunt at Hutton Rudby near Stokesley

It was a 24 miles trip north on the 16 March for my first visit to the picturesque Hutton Rudby on a dry and sunny day, another well attended meeting.



John Dawson (photo below) was given a warm welcome on his entry to the parade ring after his Cheltenham win the previous day. He then rode Mount Mews for Luci Hughes to win the opening Hunt Members race. It was Dawsons 195th Point to Point victory and his fellow jockeys sprayed him with champagne at the post-race winner's presentation to mark his Cheltenham achievement.



In the Restricted race it was welcome success for Paddy Barlow on Grangeclare Diego for Jonathan Barlow, two weeks after his unseat at Charm Park. Runner up was my each-way pick, Imperial Imp for Isla John and Bella Sowary, another who had unseated in the same Charm Park race.

The were first winning rides for Isobelle MacTaggart on the 11-year-old Thosedaysaregone in the ladies' conditions race and Katrina Brown on Legalized in the Veterans Conditions race. Luci Hughes trained a double on the day with Nick Orpwood riding Super Citizen to win the Men's Open. The concluding Maiden went to the Joe Wright ridden Soldier of Rock.

Forthcoming Events

As another Pointing season moves into its final months, the remaining Yorkshire area meetings are -

Sunday 7 April Middleton at Sherif Hutton

Saturday 13 April Bedale at Hornby Castle

Sunday 12 May Derwent "Scarborough Races" at Charm Park near Scarborough

For anyone wanting to go pointing in the Northwest area, the two Sunday meetings at Tabley Knutsford are on the 28th April and 19th May.

As always you can find details of point-to-point news and forthcoming meetings at www.pointtopoint.co.uk

EASTER FAMILY DAY MARKS THE START OF THE FLAT AT CATTERICK RACES

Catterick's 2024 Flat Season starts on Wednesday 3 April.

Catterick Racecourse's 2024 Flat season gets underway on Wednesday 3 April with its Easter Family Day, the first of 17 fixtures at the course this season.

Under 18's race free at all Catterick's fixtures, but on four family days, and throughout the summer holidays, there's more than just the racing action in store for the next generation of racing fans.

On Wednesday 3 April, families can enjoy Easter themed fun alongside the racing action, including 'Easter Egg in a Bucket' and 'Find the Chick' side stall games, and an Easter Egg Hunt. While for those looking for a tougher challenge, reactions will be tested in the Extreme Arena!

Younger racegoers taking part in the Egg Hunt will be hoping to find the Golden Egg, which will enter them into a prize draw to win tickets for Lightwater Valley Family Adventure Park.

Emma Stevenson, General Commercial Manager said: "We always look forward to our family days and



welcoming the next generation of racegoers through the gates! There's lots to look forward to this Flat season and we can't wait to get underway with the Easter Family Day on Wednesday 3 April."

Alongside the family fun, there will be an action packed seven race card to enjoy, the first race is scheduled for 1.50pm and the last race at 4.55pm. The gates will open to the public from 11.50am, and a free shuttle bus will run between Richmond Market Place and the racecourse from one hour prior to the first race.

Catterick Racecourse is pleased to confirm that the Millbry Hill Country Store Ride of the Meeting Series will continue this Flat season and jockeys will be keen to impress for a chance to win a £20 Millbry Hill voucher at each meeting, whilst hoping to earn the Millbry Hill Ride of the Season title at the end of the season.

Other highlights this Flat season include the return of the Catterick Beer Festival Race Day, in association with The Pennine Brewing Co., which takes place on Saturday 8 June this year. While the ever-popular Ladies' Day and family fun days return in August.

Tickets and hospitality for all Catterick's 2024 Flat fixtures are available to book now, with admission starting at just £8 in advance and complimentary race cards available on arrival for all racegoers.

Racegoers can take advantage of advanced and group booking ticket discounts when ordering online at www.catterickbridge.co.uk or over the phone by calling the racecourse office on 01748 811478 at least 48 hours ahead of gates opening. Accompanied under 18's are admitted free of charge and concessions tickets are available for racegoers aged 65+, students and military personnel.

GORDON ARMISTEAD'S RACING DIARY

Saturday February 17th Haydock

This was my fourth Premier race and I can't say I have noticed any difference from last year. Launched with great fanfare one of the aims I think was to attract larger crowds yet Haydock chose the day to increase the cost of attendance by charging for car parking. You couldn't make it up.

Not many Aintree clues in the Grand National Trial. Chambard eighth here should make the cut but the other entries are well off getting a run.

Winner Yeah Man looks like he will stay all day and will evidently head for the Irish National with connections hoping the ground will be testing there. Runner up My Silver Lining ran another fine race in second.

Salver took the Victor Ludorum with the minimum of fuss and will only run again this season if the ground remains heavy. He should be more than just a juvenile hurdler.

The Rendlesham went to Botox Has who isn't up to taking on the top staying hurdlers but has been well placed by Gary Moore. He will head to Aintree for the Grade 1 there and see what turns up to take him on.

The Grade 2 Prestige Hurdle for the staying novice hurdlers looked a very ordinary affair and they finished spread all over the county. I saw the winner Now Is The Hour at Listowel in the autumn beaten over fifty lengths in a moderate maiden hurdle. In his win in a Fairyhouse maiden he beat a horse rated 103. Here he beat horses rated in the 120's apart from Latenightpass who just had a run around before he heads for the National.

Saturday February 24th Fairyhouse

Bobbyjo day and the main Irish National Trial with all four runners entered at Aintree. I Am Maximus has his quirks but he ended up running out a ready winner giving weight all round. He jumped into favouritism for the National where he has eleven stone two. He didn't like being crowded on the first circuit when he won the Irish National last year and came right round the field on the second under a tremendous ride. Vanillier had been backed into favouritism after the Aintree weights came out the previous week. Although this was his fourth run of the season his previous starts were over shorter trips and he was never competitive. His jumping will always be a problem and he wouldn't be for me. The third contender Minella Crooner had looked not to get home when tried over more than three miles and was well beaten here. The other runner Fury Road appears to have lost all enthusiasm for racing after his fall in the National last season and has barely beaten a rival in five runs since,

The three-mile novice chase went to Intense Raffles who basically had a solo run around as his two rivals never challenged him. He was raised thirteen pounds which evidently pleased connections as they want to go for the Irish National and he needed the rise to get in. He couldn't win any of his five chases at Auteuil in 2022 but still only six he looks a promising sort.

Bumper favourite Jersey Des Brosses had chased home two-time hurdle winner Jingko Blue in his point before being sold for £370K but looked one paced in third behind Sporting Glory who had had two placed efforts in bumpers.

Sunday February 25th Naas

Two graded races, a €45K handicap, and the final Pertemps qualifier and just €9 admission.

Star of the show was Ferny Hollow the 2020 Cheltenham Bumper winner. He had run just three times since then beating Bob Olinger in his maiden hurdle before a year off and winning his beginners chase and a Grade 1 chase. Now over two years after his last run he was back in a Grade 3 two-mile chase. He looked fit enough and was getting weight from some of his rivals. It all went very smoothly and he won cosily. It will all be about how he comes out of the race but hopefully he will head to at least one of the spring festivals to take on the best two milers. (Not to be unfortunately as he picked up yet another injury and misses at least the rest of this season)

The other graded race was for juveniles and had been moved from Bobbyjo Chase day at Fairyhouse for some reason. Winners in the last five years include Burning Truth, Teahupoo, and Zenda but this years was a moderate contest. Hurdle debutante Bottler 'secret was a short price against three exposed rivals and duly trotted up. We will see how he goes as he steps up in class.

The maiden hurdle had a short-priced favourite in Shoot The Blues placed second in his only hurdle start. He didn't look great in the parade ring. There was money for Pen To Paper on his debut for Henry de Bromhead and J P McManus but he looked more a future chaser. That left the Willie Mullins ex French Tounsivator with 11/2 available. He jumped very well apart from the last but picked up again to win comfortably. He will no doubt

go on to Easter at Fairyhouse and Punchestown and some of the graded novices in the autumn as he remains a novice till December. I thought he looked useful. Second went to Rainbow Trail who stepped up on his debut and is sure to win one of these soon. Shoot The Blues had every chance in third while Pen To Paper was never in contention. Fourth home Well Dressed is certainly one to take from the race.

From the Pertemps qualifier Kerry National winner Desertmore House ran a decent race in third. He is in the National but will struggle to get in so Fairyhouse looks more likely.

All five in the bumper were winners and Gordon Elliot usually wins this but his runner today Wingman looked a bit of a head case and finished third. Winner William Munny won easily and his owner /trainer Barry Connell told everyone he would win the Grade 1 bumper at Punchestown. We will see.

Tuesday February 27th Catterick

After stepping up in class and running a good race at Cheltenham Prairie Wolf dropped back to a 0-135 and won well from another in form horse in Carrigeen Castle. His jumping could be better but he can win again.

Wolfgang ran well in his second bumper when third to Mister Meggit at Carlisle. Dropped into a very average maiden hurdle he travelled well to pick up the favourite Stay If You Want To just after two out and run out a ready winner. He looked a nice sort and should do well in handicaps in time at a modest level.

Saturday March 2nd Navan

Really heavy ground and most races were run at a very steady pace. Not a bad maiden juvenile hurdle.

Charming Star failed to make it to the course for William Haggas but won on the flat in the autumn for new connections and here on his second hurdles start. He was odds on but made hard work of it looking beaten at the last. The one who led at the last Welcome Break was on debut and just faded up the hill and only finished third. He will come on for this. In fourth Milteye travelled well just behind the leaders but just didn't get home on the ground. His time will come if it ever dries up.

Welcome Break's full brother Last Round also made his debut today in the two-mile six maiden hurdle and also finished third. Totally unfancied he should also have a future as does race winner Kinturk Kalanisi who could win a handicap hurdle before he goes chasing.

The two-mile Grade 3 Flyingbolt Novice Chase saw Blood Destiny reverse form with Spillane's Tower with different tactics. He looks much more settled than he used to be and the drop of half a mile in trip helped as well. Spillane's Tower is going to be a three miler in time and being held up here was no good. He will win some good races down the line.

The other graded chase over two and a half went to Galway Plate winner Ash Tree Meadows who set a very sedate pace before going for home on ground far from ideal. Sam Ewing lost his claim on the flat and so had to learn the jumping game without any allowance and I wasn't a great fan to begin with. He still has had only thirty jump winners but he had a double today and this was a good ride. Journey With Me hadn't run since he was favourite for the three-mile Grade 1 Novice Chase at last year's Punchestown festival when falling. Odds on here he never got into it from off the pace but should come on for the outing.

The mares handicap chase over the same distance was fourteen seconds faster despite the top weight only being rated 109. They really paid for it with the winner winning by sixty-one lengths and the third walking home. The rider of the third and another jockey whose horse walked through the second last both got bans for not pulling up and quite rightly too.

Sunday March 3rd Leopardstown

Piles of snow on the ground around the enclosure from the Friday but it had all gone on the course.

Sixteen of the runners from last year's Aintree bumper have won over hurdles and Runner up Blizzard of Oz won for the second time taking the two-mile Auction Novice Hurdle. He didn't look entirely straightforward at Aintree but that looks a thing of the past. The final of this series is an obvious objective at Punchestown.

No stars in the conditional's maiden two-mile hurdle but a 4/9 shot that had to be taken on. Master Otis caught my eye and Charlie O'Dwyer rode an excellent race to produce him at the last. He should have gone past the leader but didn't so cheekpieces at least needed. He will get a handicap mark after this somewhere about a hundred or so. Winner Zeeband was once rated 95 on the flat for Roger Varian but has taken nine goes to win over hurdles. The favourite Crooked Tannie tried to make all but faded back to third.

They went really fast in the 80-109 two-mile handicap hurdle and were always well spread out. Two that caught the eye were fifth and sixth finishers Poets Cottage and Magic Ollinger for similar events soon.

The four-year-old bumper was probably nothing special but winner Glynn Brae did it well for Stewart Crawford and was immediately put on the market.

Wednesday March 20th Haydock

Prairie Wolf followed up his Catterick win despite again not jumping with fluency. He will be up to a better class of race again after this and the engine is there if he jumps better.

Ascending Lark had run behind some good mares in bumpers last season in Ireland including third to Brighterdaysahead. On her first outing this season in a modest two-mile maiden she pulled a bit early on but went to the front three out and ran out a good winner. She looked like she would come on a bit for the run and might be useful.

Saturday March 23rd Newbury

Denman and Master Minded won the last day I came jumping here. For a time it looked like it could be a long journey for one race as a medical emergency held up racing for well over an hour.

It's amazing how you come across some horses on a regular basis. This was the fourth time in his six runs I have been on course for Cannock Park. Here he was dropping back from a Grade 2 to an ordinary two-mile novice trying to give away the double penalty to most runners and weight to two other previous winners. The three winners had the race between them from a long way out and Goodwin ended up making all. I haven't seen much of claimer Freddie Gordon who doesn't seem to get that many rides but he looked fine here.

Cannock Park kept on well for second as did third Lario on his debut for Harry Derham. All three have a future in handicaps. I'm Ravenous was an eyecatcher in the parade ring on his hurdle debut and after being settled in midfield he ran on from three out for fourth. He will be a chaser in time over a longer trip.

The eyecatcher of the day came in the Goffs Spring Sales Bumper which as with its Irish counterpart the Goffs Defender had runners in all shapes and sizes. Usually in the Irish version most are making their debuts and I can't remember any having won and incurred a penalty. It's also mainly a four-year-olds race with it being ten years since a five-year-old triumphed. Here Regent's Stroll was the third five-year-old winner in four years and the second penalised winner in three. He stood out in the parade ring being a super chasing sort and not surprisingly the most expensive purchase. He led early on before being outpaced but close to home he went right away to win by five lengths. He will certainly need further than two miles over hurdles and could well be back here for the Challow next season a race Paul Nicholls aims his best staying novice hurdler at. Don't Mind If I Do ran well in second on his debut coming from well back. One I liked from the parade ring that ran better than his finishing position was Dance and Glance.

The winner of the Mares Novice Handicap Hurdle Final All The Glory was hard to find on her handicap debut after eleven runs in maiden and novice races. Her two wins were summer races last May and August and I doubt if she will be anywhere near as good as three recent winners Snow Leopardess, Annie Mc, and Mares Hurdle winner Roksana.

As at Haydock on Wednesday the last was spoiled by the sun with ten of the eighteen fences omitted. For some reason apart from all the fences in the straight the first down the back straight was also taken out.

Go Racing In Yorkshire Update

Go Racing In Yorkshire Season Ticket

The Go Racing In Yorkshire season ticket, which offers admission into the Grandstand and Paddock Enclosure at EVERY Yorkshire fixture, is valid from 1st April. There's 183 scheduled fixtures across nine racecourses and single and joint options are available.

With 65 weekend and bank holiday fixtures, as well as 23 evening fixtures and reciprocals with Yorkshire County Cricket Club, you'll have an action-packed year!

Joint and single options are available and tickets can be booked on our [website](#). If you're looking forward to the return of the flat and planning lots of racecourse visits, then this ticket is for you.

Go Racing In Yorkshire Future Stars Apprentice Series, supported by White Rose Saddlery

Supporting youngsters coming into the support has always been important to Go Racing In Yorkshire and also to Malton based company, White Rose Saddlery, who have supported our Future Stars Apprentice Series since day one.

Our winner last year was Elle-May Croot, who is based in Nottinghamshire and works for Ivan Furtado. To date she has ridden three winners in our branded kit and we wish her the best for the turf season. You can find out more about Elle-May and how she got into the sport in her [blog](#).



Family Fundays at Easter

Easter has arrived early this year, but the racecourses have got everything covered for you! With family days starting at Doncaster's Lincoln meeting and running all the way through the holidays at Redcar, Pontefract, Catterick and Wetherby, there is something to keep the younger generation entertained. Don't forget that accompanied under 18's are admitted FREE! You can find out more about what each course has planned in our Easter [blog](#).



Cheltenham Festival

Yorkshire based runners were few and far between at this year's Cheltenham Festival, but that didn't stop us getting into the winners' enclosure!

Catterick's clerk of the course, Fiona Needham, trained her father's Sine Nomine to land the St James' Place Hunters' Chase after the Gold Cup on the final day of the festival. Having graduated through the point-to-point field, the mare has been placed on both her previous starts at Cheltenham. She arrived in good heart, having won the hunters' chase at Wetherby and the continual falling rain was very much in her favour. The family have previously tasted Cheltenham Festival success, with their homebred, Last Option, who won the race back in 2002, but this time Fiona was in the saddle and her father, Robin Tate was training.

Sine Nomine, who cost £2,400 as a three-year-old at Goffs sales, was ridden by Yorkshire point-to-point jockey and trainer, John Dawson, who has partnered the gorgeous grey in all of her starts. A return to Cheltenham in May could be on the cards for the pair, but until then, she gives hope to everyone involved in the sport that they can achieve big things on a small budget.

York Racecourse and Juddmonte announce record prize fund for the Juddmonte International

Looking ahead to August, York Racecourse and Juddmonte have announced that the Group One Juddmonte International will be run for a record £1,250,000 in 2024. This is a 25% increase in value, cementing it as the richest race ever run on the Knavesmire, as well as being the joint most valuable all-age contest staged on a racecourse-owned fixture, in Britain.

In 2023, the Juddmonte International retained its position as one of the top ten races in the world, having been ranked the Longines World's Best Race in 2020. Won last year by Mostahdaf (photo on next page), sired by Juddmonte stallion Frankel, the colt was the joint highest rated horse in the world outside Japan. The support of Juddmonte for this flagship contest dates back to 1989. Over those 35 years, it has regularly featured the

famous green and pink silks of the late Prince Khalid Abdullah, with them crossing the line in front on two occasions, courtesy of Twice Over (2011) and, most famously, Frankel (2012).



William Derby, Chief Executive and Clerk of the Course at York Racecourse, said “We are delighted to announce this boost to the prize fund of our flagship race, the Juddmonte International, to £1.25m, confirming it as the richest race ever run at York. Juddmonte Day on Wednesday 21 August is a tremendous way to open the Sky Bet Ebor Festival, on the first of three World Pool race days. The significant increase in prize money forms part of a wider strategy to ensure the race continues to attract the best horses in the world for racing followers at York and beyond, to enjoy. From Roberto to Sea The Stars, Frankel, to one of his progeny, Mostahdaf, just last year, it is a race that consistently attracts the best in equine talent. Juddmonte have been fantastic partners and curators of this race with York since 1989 and we remain deeply appreciative of their wonderful support of York and wider British racing.

On behalf of Juddmonte, Chief Executive Officer, Douglas Erskine Crum said, “In our 35th year of sponsorship, this 25% increase in value demonstrates both York and Juddmonte’s commitment to increasing prize money and further enhancing the Juddmonte International’s status as one of the world’s very best races. We congratulate York on consistently making prize money a top priority across all their meetings, thereby taking the lead amongst UK racecourses.”

EARLY GRAND NATIONAL THOUGHTS

By HAROLD HEYS

RIGHT! It's the Grand National in a couple of weeks, so what are **you** going to back? Well, here are the National winners since 2000.

2023 Corach Rambler	9	10-05	Derek Fox	Lucinda V Russell	8/1
2022 Noble Yeats	7	10-10	Sam Waley-Cohen	Emmet Mullins	50/1
2021 Minella Times	8	10-03	Rachael Blackmore	Henry De Bromhead	11/1
2020 -	-	-	-	-	-
2019 Tiger Roll	9	11-05	Davy Russell	Gordon Elliott	4/1F
2018 Tiger Roll	8	10-13	Davy Russell	Gordon Elliott	10/1
2017 One For Arthur	8	10-11	Derek Fox	Lucinda V Russell	14/1
2016 Rule The World	9	10-07	David Mullins	Mouse Morris	33/1
2015 Many Clouds	8	11-09	Leighton Aspell	Oliver Sherwood	25/1
2014 Pineau De Re	11	10-06	Leighton Aspell	Richard Newland	25/1
2013 Auroras Encore	11	10-03	Ryan Mania	Sue Smith	66/1
2012 Neptune Collonges	11	11-06	Daryl Jacob	Paul Nicholls	33/1
2011 Ballabriggs	10	11-00	Jason Maguire	Donald McCain, Jr.	14/1
2010 Don't Push It	10	11-05	Tony McCoy	Jonjo O'Neill	10/1
2009 Mon Mome	9	11-00	Liam Treadwell	Venetia Williams	100/1
2008 Comply or Die	9	10-09	Timmy Murphy	David Pipe	7/1
2007 Silver Birch	10	10-06	Robbie Power	Gordon Elliott	33/1
2006 Numbersixvalverde	10	10-08	Niall Madden	Martin Brassil	11/1
2005 Hedgehunter	9	11-01	Ruby Walsh	Willie Mullins	7/1 F
2004 Amberleigh House	12	10-10	Graham Lee	Ginger McCain	16/1
2003 Mony's Pass	10	10-07	Barry Geraghty	Jimmy Mangan	16/1
2002 Bindaree	8	10-04	Jim Culloty	Nigel Twiston-Davies	20/1
2001 Red Marauder	11	10-11	Richard Guest	Norman Mason	33/1
2000 Papillon	9	10-12	Ruby Walsh	Ted Walsh	10/1

So let's take a close look at the 2024 "field."

Apart from a save-your-stake bet of, say, a fiver on Corach Rambler, what are you going to splash out on?

Right. Let's get a fiver on **Corach Rambler** so we don't go too far behind. Ok, four more bets of a fiver, to give us a chance of picking up some folding stuff.

Now let's take a close look at the line-up. Yes, a Magnificent Seven on the trot for Ireland and Scotland trainers! And the Emerald Isle has another very strong entry this year.

Mon Mome (Liam Treadwell) was an out-of-the-blue shocker at 100-1 in 2009 for Venetia Williams and only two more wide-outsiders had made the winner's enclosure since 2000 – yes, Emmett Mullins' Noble Yeats who trotted up at 50/1 in 2022 for Sam Waley-Cohen on what was his last-ever ride, and Aurora's Encore ridden by Ryan Mania for Sue Smith at 66-1 in 2013.

Apart from that slack handful there were only four outsiders at 33-1; Silver Birch, Neptune Collonges, Red Marauder and Rule The World. So that left only about five or so with odds which just scraped 16-1.

I'd struggled down this far, expecting to come up with a hefty dollop around, say 12/1 to 221 – my usual hunting ground – but I could barely find more than a handful!

Right. Let's start again. Tiger Roll did the double in 2018-19 for Gordon Elliott and jockey Davy Russell. Er, um. Not sure where that might take us, unless Corach Rambler did the honours again. And a glance at between 2012 and 2016 gave us fine long-priced jobs on the trot. Not what I had expected.

Ah, the ages of the winners! Well, let's forget anything aged 7; as too young; ten may be knocking on a bit now. Let's look for a challenger around eight or nine. And a glance at the weights carried by the winning horses in the 20's show a clear weight-carry of 10-6 to 11-6. Not many on this run though.

Er, um. God knows... Just pile it on the favs – and keep your fingers crossed for 'em.

Go on then, one last thought: **Mahler Mission**, trained by John C. McConnell, is around 16-1. Can't find eawt against his chances. His form reads 312F-22. McConnell rates him highly. Don't make him a loser!

Grand National odds at time of writing: Corach Rambler 5, I am Maximus, 10 Vanilier, Panda Boy 12, Meetingofthewaters 14, Mahler Mission 16, Kitty's Light, Noble Yeats 16, Mr Incredible, Galvin, Limerick Lace, 20 Minella Indo, Capodanno, Chemical Energy, Latenighttpass 25.

'PONTE' LOVES PENSIONERS

NMRC has quite a few members 'with bus passes' and I know from speaking to members that post covid-19 restrictions being lifted, many of them were upset that some courses decided to either cancel pensioner concessions or made the concessions so hard to find on course websites etc that they may well have been scrapped – effectively being 'hidden from public view'.

It is therefore no surprise to see the slump in many mid-week racing attendances in the last few years with many senior citizens giving up on the sport they have supported all their lives, given the effective price rises imposed on top of run-away fuel costs, cost of living issues etc over the last few years.

So where is all this going – well **on Monday 22nd April** Pontefract are offering all OAP's (over age 60) a completely **free** race day.

You will need to 'purchase' your ticket online and can only claim one per e mail address.

Full details can be found here: <https://www.pontefract-races.co.uk/race-days/monday-22nd-april-fixture/>

On other race days there is a more modest £1 discount for concessions but with the cheapest entrance costing just £4 for OAP's this is very much affordable racing for those on pensions.

If you haven't been before, the course is fairly easy to find a few miles from the M62 leaving at J32.

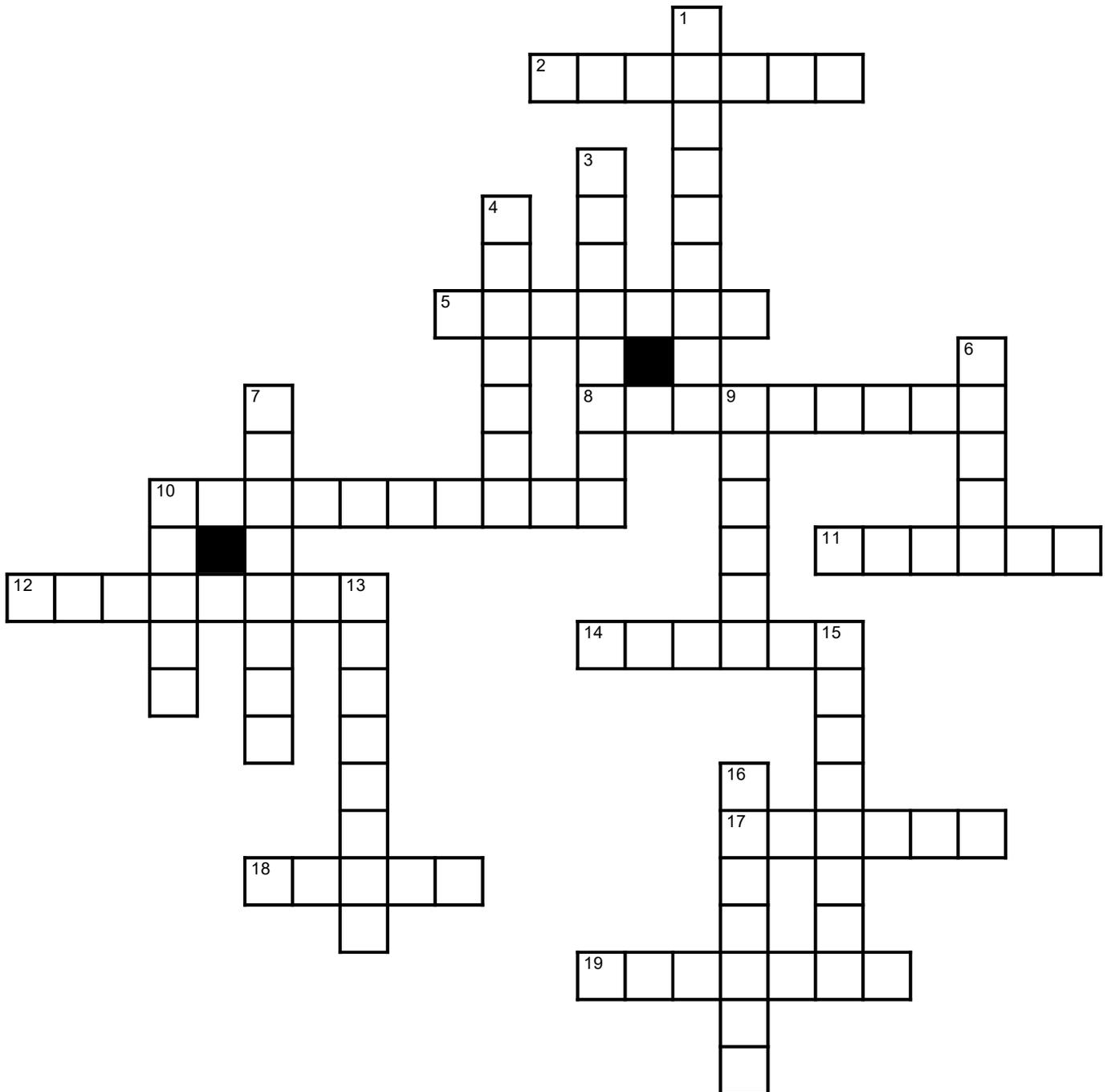
Wouldn't it be great if a few more tacks would follow suit and try to attract more OAP's back to mid-week racing!



MAL BOYLE'S 2000 GUINEAS PUZZLE

FIND TWENTY 2000 GUINEAS (ALL ONE WORD ANSWERS) BETWEEN 1957 AND 2023

One clue (the only ten-letter answer): A few good scores at a Scottish golf course.



As usual there will be a book prize (or similar) for the winner drawn out of the hat on the closing date for entries – Friday May 17th. Postal entries can be sent to NMRC at 53 Dalebrook Rd, Sale, Greater Manchester M33 3LB or members can e-mail entries to info@northernracingclub.com

GORDON ARMISTEAD'S CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL REVIEW

Tuesday -Supreme

Maybe not the classiest renewal but one of the most wide open for some years. Slade Steel came here to avoid Ballyburn who had beaten him at the DRF and took this a shade cosily after not jumping the last very well. No doubt he will go to Punchestown and be chasing next season. Mystical Power jumped the last better to take the lead but couldn't hold off the winner. This was only his fourth run so I imagine he will stay over hurdles next season especially as Galileo's do not make chasers. Firefox was well talked up earlier in the season and was a bit unlucky here and may be better than he showed. Asian Master was well beaten in a novice hunter chase less than twelve months ago but did finish second to Fact To File in his first point. He is certain to go chasing. Behind the first four Mistergif failed to come up the hill when seemingly about to challenge, Favour and Fortune jumped poorly, while Tullyhill jumped better than he had previously but stopped tamely.

Arkle

With the doubts about his Cheltenham record and his poor effort at the DRF it was a surprise to see Gaelic Warrior so well backed for this but he bolted in. The hood he wore seemed to settle him and make him jump relatively straight. He stayed three miles well over hurdles so where he goes next season will be interesting. Found a Fifty has won one and finished runner up in three Grade 1's and just lacks at this class. I imagine that he could go to Aintree to avoid the winner again at Punchestown. Il Etait Temps didn't jump well enough and neither did Hunters Yarn. Matata settled much better than he did earlier in his career and ran best of the British in fourth. He is certain to go to Aintree.

Ultima

More than half the field pulled up in a real test of stamina. The novice Chianti Classico improved for the test and was going away at the line. He will get further and I imagine the National next season would be the aim. Runner up Twig supposedly wouldn't go on the ground but as he had never run on it before it proved to be a wrong assumption. The handicapper seemed to have got Meetingofthewaters or maybe he isn't an out and out stayer as he looked to have every chance three out. He is likely to run in the National. The other national entries hardly boosted their chances. The Goffer didn't get home while Kitty's Light and Chambord were tailed off. Seven others were pulled up and Monbeg Genius also jumped poorly.

Champion Hurdle

Not a vintage renewal and run at a crawl as well. State Man got the job done with the minimum of fuss just out speeding Irish Point from the last. He obviously goes to Punchestown and it is probably too much to hope a well again Constitution Hill will travel over. Irish Point will go back up in trip maybe at Aintree. The fact Luccia who had won a handicap off 136 in a photo last time out was only beaten three and a half lengths shows how steadily the race was run.

Mares Hurdle

There is no doubt Lossiemouth is very good and she easily saw off Telmesomethinggirl who has been rejuvenated since switched back to hurdles. Could she have won the Champion Hurdle is something we will never know but she didn't have to do anything special here. Maybe she will go for the Aintree Hurdle but more probably the mare's hurdle at Punchestown, Telmesomethinggirl and the third Hispanic Moon are likely off to stud but fourth Lantry Lady is one for the future. I liked her when I saw her win her maiden at Gowran last season and this was only her third run. She should make a chaser next season. Some poor efforts for Gala Morceau, Ashroe Diamond, and Echoes In Rain showed that not all the Mullins runners were in top form.

Boodles Fred Winter

The winner Lark in the Mornin wasn't supposed to act on heavy but won readily. It's hard to think many of these will go on. Liari who looked to have scope when I saw him earlier in the season but was pulled up here after a bad mistake might do and third home Ndaawi might be better on good ground.

National Hunt Chase

Only two mattered in the betting and the runner up Embassy Gardens finished with an irregular heartbeat so Corbetts Cross won as he liked. This didn't test his jumping and 16/1 for next year's Gold Cup is plenty short enough. Third Mr Vango will be in long distance handicaps next season while Kilbeg King will have to jump better. Apple Away didn't get home while Salvador Ziggy was poor even allowing for the ground.

Wednesday - Gallagher

Proof that protecting an unbeaten record does not matter. Willie Mullins runners in November and early December invariably come on for the run and Ballyburn was beaten on his hurdling debut. Does anybody think any less of him after he has now just run away with two grade 1's and proved himself the outstanding novice hurdler of the season. The winning margin could have been much further. Before this he was long odds on to go chasing but could he end up staying over hurdles? The same argument was made for Impaire Et Passe last year so we will see what connections decide. Short term he will head to Punchestown. Runner up Jimmy de Seuil had form with Supreme fourth Asian Master so perhaps shouldn't have been 66/1. This was only his third hurdle run. I saw Ile Atlantique when he was beaten in a bumper at Naas and my notes say the winner Stella Story wanted it more. Nothing this season has happened to change my mind that he is not a great battler. Third here it seems the stable expect more from him.

Browns Advisory

Another one beaten first time out this season but who has also won two Grade 1's and is the best novice chaser of the season. I saw Fat to File win a two-mile four bumper so didn't doubt he would stay three miles and he was only out speeded by A Dream to Share in his other bumpers. He will obviously go down the Gold Cup route next season after the three miler at Punchestown. Runner up Monty's Star is a super jumper and looks like he will stay all day. Could well be a National sort in time. Giovinco will be in handicaps next season and his present rating of 146 looks fair. You don't know what you are going to get from American Mike and after his win at Navan this was poor again. Stay Away Fay looked beaten at halfway.

Coral Cup

Favourite Built by Ballymore went in my tracker after running second in a bumper at Punchestown 2022. Since then he had looked very slow despite winning two ordinary races on desperate ground. I couldn't have him having anything like the speed for this so laid him for seven places and never had a moments worry. Not all good news as the one I did fancy Jigoro pulled up after never going well.

Once again this was a race for the old handicappers with the first two Langer Dan and Ballyadam both making their fourth festival appearance.

Champion Chase

Paddy Power were offering 50/1 to new customers about El Fabiolo and I wonder how many thought Christmas had come very early. He had never looked like falling for all his mistakes and indeed somehow kept on his feet here. Assuming he goes to Punchestown it will be interesting what price he is there after this.

With Jonbon absent this was not the race it could have been (For the third year running) but in Captain Guinness it had a winner who had plenty of Grade 1 form even if he is probably the lowest rated winner in the last ten years.

Grand Annual

The only times winner Unexpected Party had run over two miles in a chase have been in the last two runnings of the Grade 1 Henry XII Novice Chase. Connections obviously thought he was better than he is and needed two and half. Runner up Liberty Hunter hadn't stood much racing before this season but had been an improver and ran his race here. Both are going to take a decent hike for this.

Bumper

There had been no standout bumper performances this season. Winner Jasmin De Vaux had won his maiden at Naas easily from a horse beaten a long way in four other bumpers. He showed plenty of speed here. His sire did well to get his chance at stud after just winning a listed race at Cagnes Sue Mer and the Swiss St Leger from seventeen runs. His best progeny so far is Arkle runner up Gabynako.

Of last year's twenty-one runners twenty have won over hurdle so this year's field has something to live up to. The one exception not to win is the winner A Dream to Share who has not had the chance.

Thursday - Turners

The first three had this between them for the whole race despite this being the biggest field for the novice chases. Grey Dawning stalked the leader Ginny's Destiny all the way before taking him on two out and staying on up the hill. I had not thought he was up to Grade 1's and this was probably not the greatest renewal. Talk was of a Gold Cup campaign next year but having him as short as 10/1 for that race looks wrong. He could go three miles at Aintree. Ginny's Destiny could well be a contender for the Paddy Power back here in November.

Facile Vega was much worse here than he has been at Leopardstown and he looks a long way from the superstar he looked like being. He doesn't jump fences well and it will be interesting to see what they try next. Maybe staying hurdles. Iroko never got into it but should come on for the run.

Pertemps

Looking back it was a very poor Anniversary Hurdle that Monmiral won in 2021 with none of the first three winning a race until today. He always looked too small for chasing and staying hurdle races looked a final throw of the dice with blinkers added in. We will see if he can go on. Runner up Kyntara really leaves it all on the track. He has now lost three on the bounce being overtaken after the last but there can be no doubting that he battles.

Ryanair

After the Betfair it would have been hard to see this win for Protektorat his first since the 2022 Betfair. The drop in trip certainly suited him and we will no doubt see him at Aintree.

A sixth festival appearance for Envoi Allen and he travelled well before just being found out from the last. He might not have been the second coming he once looked but he has had a super career and it is not over yet. Conflated ran his race while Capodanno in fourth needs further. Banbridge sank in the ground.

Stayers Hurdle

The youngster beat the old timers with Teahupoo winning this very well and he will take some beating next year as it is hard to see where the challengers are coming from. For a staying race this was run as a crawl and the real stayers were disadvantaged. The other young one that was fancied Crambo was beaten a long way out. It was the end for Paisley Park and you would imagine Sire de Berlais will soon follow him into retirement. Noble Yeats will head to Aintree and maybe blinkers will replace the cheek pieces.

Plate

Shakem Up'Arry defied the weight rise for his New Years Day win in fine style. He is in the National but surely the Topham would be right up his street. Crebilly in second again made mistakes and will need to brush up his jumping to go on. Straw Fan Jack returned to form after two very poor efforts. He looked like three miles might be worth a try.

Mares Novice

Another race run at a crawl which played into the hands of Golden Ace who had already shown she was speedy. The two market leaders Brighterdaysahead and Jade de Grugy who had both seemed suited to two and a half miles were happy to sit behind rank outsider Victoria Milano. Both were hampered when they wanted to make their move. It will be interesting to see how they campaign the winner while the other two will be better than they showed here. They will get their chance in the renamed Grade 1 Honeysuckle Hurdle at Fairyhouse.

Kim Muir

Having chased home Gaelic Warrior twice including in a Grade 1 and then run in a very competitive two-mile four handicap Inothewayurthinkin was upped to three miles two and backed off the boards. He must have been a much bigger price than the S P for the first part of the race traveling poorly in last place. He suddenly appeared at the top of the hill cruising and won with any amount in hand. He is obviously useful at a trip but the jumping will need to improve. The Irish handicapper was impressed putting him up thirteen pounds. Git Maker's rating is also going to take a bid hike after his second here as he was well clear of the third.

Friday - Triumph

No Sir Gino but all the principles from the DRF came here plus the unbeaten Salver. Majborough turned the result round from Leopardstown and is the one in the field who should go on as he is a big chasing type similar to Sir Gino. Kargese made a good attempt to follow up from the DRF but pulled hard early in the race and didn't have enough left for the finish. Salver lost his unbeaten record but ran well and will be suited by a step-up trip. Salvador Mundi on his first start for nearly a year should come on for this and will probably be kept a novice for next season.

County Hurdle

Another crawl and then a sprint for the last half mile. The ride of the week from Paul Townend as Ebor winner Absurde came from last and weaved his way through to lead close home despite mistakes at the last two hurdles. He will no doubt be back on the flat. I liked L'Eau Du Sud when he made his British debut at Haydock in November 2022 but he hasn't managed a win. He went up six for his second in the Betfair Hurdle and will probably get the same again.

Albert Bartlett

Yet another crawl and the first two got it easy in front and didn't come back. I am not sure this is form I would trust with four of the favourites not running any sort of race. Even so both Stellar Story and The Jukebox Man should make good staying novice chasers. Dancing City had beaten the winner at the DRF but was one paced here. Readin Tommy Wrong was a short-priced favourite and had the stamina to prove but was beaten before that mattered and pulled up. His stable mate High Class Hero was pulled up alongside him. Challow winner Captain Teague was never in the hunt while Gidleigh Park was being niggled along way out. All are better than they showed here.

Gold Cup

A proper champion and the best Gold Cup winner since Kauto Star. Not as visually impressive as he was at Leopardstown at Christmas but he never looked like getting beaten. I hope he stays sound to come back next year. I didn't think Gerri Colombe had a run like this in him to be so close in second place. Corach Rambler was well outpaced early on but he stays forever and while on the face of it he ran a fine National trial he had a really hard race. L'Homme Presse ran his race in fourth while Bravemansgame had acquired a sheepskin noseband and might get some other headgear. An amazing run from Jungle Boogie who pulled for two and a half miles before finishing sixth. He has only run six times and I wonder how good he might have been if he hadn't missed so much time.

Hunters

A winner for the north with Sine Nomine overcoming a late switch of position to win with a bit in hand. She still has improvement in her.

Favourite It's On The Line is becoming increasingly hard work and gave his jockey no help. He had his cheek pieces back on and I imagine he will be in blinkers at Aintree. Third home Time Leader will no doubt head to Aintree where he was fifth last year.

Ferns Lock had been a doubtful stayer but got very upset beforehand and pulled too hard to ever get home. He had looked more suited to Aintree but they will have to get his head fixed before then. I imagine this will be the last rules run for dual festival Grade 1 winner Samcro who has been doing well in open points in Ireland.

Mares Chase

Dinoblue had been a short price for this since last year's winner Impervious was ruled out early in the season. The doubt was her staying the trip especially on the ground. She appeared to get home well enough but just couldn't get to the more forcibly ridden Limerick Lace. She has taken on the geldings this season and I imagine she will be in the two miler at Punchestown. The winner stays three miles well having been placed in the Troytown Chase in November and holds a National entry. I am not sure she makes much appeal for that.

Marsh Wren fresh from a win in Ireland ran a career best in third while fourth home Allegorie De Vassy has never really lived up to her early promise.

Martin Pipe

This usually goes to a horse with a good future and there is no reason to suggest this renewal is any different. It is also usually run at a good pace and that was the case again this year. Better Days Ahead beaten by graded novices after winning his own maiden over three miles stays well and it was stamina that won the day as he outstayed Waterford Whispers from the last. He should make a good staying novice chaser next season possibly taking in the Grade 1 three-mile novice hurdle at Punchestown. The runner up also has a future probably over this trip. Third home Quai De Bourbon could well join the winner in that Grade 1 race. It's not twelve months since the winning jockey Danny Gilligan had his first jumps winner and he already has a graded race and five big handicaps in the bag.

HAPPY EASTER FROM ALL AT WETHERBY RACES!



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