

Racin'



Issue 345

June/July 2017

NEW PASSWORD

Thanks to everyone who has already renewed their memberships for 2017.

As the renewals process is now complete we have changed the password required to access the password protected websites for downloads of the club magazine and also the racing data bases covering Drawfacts, trainer traits and festival guides.

The new password required is **nrc2006** which will remain in place until the 2018 membership renewals are completed.

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook in 2017!



Cartmel's General Manager, Jonathan Garratt (above), is under the spotlight in this edition of Racin' – see pages 3&4.

AINTREE SWEEPSTAKE RESULT

Thanks to all who took part with all tickets sold!

1st place prize of £100 to Andy White (Rochdale)

2nd place prize of £50 to Brian James (Warrington)

3rd Place prize of £30 to Joan Cushnie (Scotland)

4th Place prize of 59's subs to Alan Parker (Stockport).

The draw was made by the panel at the NRC Aintree Preview with **Neale Doughty** of Hello Dandy fame keeping us all entertained with his reminiscences of both winning the big race and also his time as a jockey.

To cap his evening's work, he was the only panel member to pick the big race winner **One For Arthur**. NRC also presented Neale with an engraved photo supplied by Colin Turner.

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SATNAPS TIPPING CHALLENGE

The big race winner at 40/1 on the final day of the jumps season was Henllan Harri - we had three entrants called Harry or Harold but only one went for the big winner - Harold Jones.

However, one other entrant also found the big winner, being Brian James, and as he had already scored more points in the round than Harold Jones he wins the Round 4 prize with HJ runner up. Brian scored 49pts in the round and Harold 37pts

Because the big race winner was such a good price this has also changed the seasonal positions substantially with Brian James also our overall champion tipster with long-time leader Harold Woodward in 2nd place with Harold Jones and Andy White filling the final prize places.

In the more important wooden spoon competition I drew level with Patrick O'Donoghue but I will let Patrick take the final prize being the generous person that I am!

All prize winners will be contacted in early June regarding their prizes.

Once again thanks for entering this winter's NH tipping challenge - I hope to be back in the autumn.

The leading scores in the seasonal table are as below:

Brian James 41pts
Harold Woodward 27.3pts
Harold Jones 26.5pts
Andy White 23pts
Ian Hazel 16.5pts
Gary Mellor 14.61pts
Tony Coleman 14pts
Harry Sandland 14pts
Michael Wheeler 13pts
Les Taylor 12pts
Rom McDermott 11.5pts

ALEX BIRD TIPPING CHALLENGE

Guy takes Aintree prize but Les remains in the lead after two rounds. Goodwood and York to follow in July/August.

Unfortunately John Boswell will be unavailable to run the Royal Ascot round of this years competition, so it will have to be cancelled.

Instead John will substitute the first 4 days of the **Glorious Goodwood** meeting **Tuesday August 1st to Friday August 4th**. John will send out a reminder before the Goodwood meeting. At least we will then have Ascot form to help with our selections!

AINTREE ROUND RESULT (LEADERS)

GUY WEAVER 146
TIM COGAN 143
LINDA BOSWELL 140
ALAN PRESTON 138
HELEN GOODWILL 135
JOHN BOSWELL 2 135
HAROLD WOODWARD B 125
KEN UNSWORTH 123
BRENAN O'MEARA 2 122
LES TAYLOR 121
ALAN SPENCER 120
CHRIS MACKENZIE 119
PHIL EVANS 119

LEADERS AFTER CHELTENHAM & AINTREE

LES TAYLOR 293
ALAN PRESTON 270
KEN UNSWORTH 270
LINDA BOSWELL 265
CHRIS MACKENZIE 264
HAROLD WOODWARD B 259
JOHN BOSWELL 2 257
ALAN HILL 254
TIM COGAN 253
GARY MELLOR 251
HARRY SANDLAND 245
GUY WEAVER 236
ALAN SPENCER 235

RACING SPOTLIGHT – JONATHAN GARRATT

Compiled by Brian Goodwill

WHAT FIRST SPARKED YOUR INTEREST IN RACING

My sister gave me a ginger coloured Guinea Pig called Grundy and said that if I didn't help pick grass for all her other Guinea Pigs (of which she had more than forty) then Grundy would starve. Grundy couldn't run quite as fast as his Lester Piggott ridden namesake – but he was quite an escape artist.

In those days we attended the Easter Saturday point-to-point every year at Charing and my father would give me 50 pence to put on each race. If the horses won then I kept the money; if they lost it was his money. Later on my brother and sister both rode in point-to-points with a little bit of success – and we then started attending the United Hunts meeting at Folkestone each year.

As a student I used to scan the newspapers for photographs taken by Ed Byrne. No one has ever taken better photographs of racehorses. I used to stick them to my wall with blu-tack and I still have a few in my desk somewhere.

WHAT AND WHEN WAS YOUR FIRST DAY'S PAID WORK ON A RACECOURSE

I went to Lingfield in order to tread in the divots between races. Unfortunately a thick fog descended, the horses cantered to the start for the first race, circled for five minutes and then returned to the stables. It was a pretty short day's work but I was paid £5 – which seemed like quite a lot of money at the time.

WHO ARE/WERE YOUR RACING HEROES

While I admire Tony McCoy, especially for the positive way in which he has used his celebrity status to promote the sport, when I was growing up, I wanted to be like John Francome and then Richard Dunwoody. In terms of horses, none made a bigger impression on me than Wayward Lad. I also loved Bradbury Star, Dublin Flyer and Desert Orchid.

HAVE YOU ANY HANDS ON HORSE EXPERIENCE THAT YOU CAN SHARE

It's better to stay on top if you can. I rode a point-to-point winner at Charing, but I hit the deck more times than I passed the post in front. There is a Hunterchase at Fontwell Park's National Spirit meeting in February – I've said that when it is worth £20k, I'll put my riding boots back on.

HOW IS CARTMEL DIFFERENT FROM ANY OTHER RACING VENUE IN THE WORLD

Everything you've ever heard about Cartmel Racecourse is true – large crowds, huge funfair, loads of picnics, lousy viewing, almost no permanent facilities and a tight track which often suits front runners. While it is impossible to see the whole course, the crowd can get close up to the rail almost all the way around. It is just great fun and although the quality of the racing has improved a lot in recent years, we don't like to take anything too seriously.

YOUR CARTMEL BLOG IS WITTY AND ENTERTAINING, WILL THERE BE A BORDERS BLOG

I think it'll be called the Border Post...

I THINK YOUR TENURE HAS BEEN TREMENDOUS FOR THE RACECOURSE. WHAT WILL BE YOUR LEGACY

We've spent a lot of time and effort improving the racing surface and I am really proud that the team won the RCA Groundstaff Awards last season. Cartmel races was great event well before I arrived on the scene and it will remain a great event for long after I've gone. I hope that we've helped to create some very happy memories for those people that have visited the track in recent years and I'd settle for that as a positive legacy.

WHAT WILL YOU MISS ABOUT YOUR JOB MOVE

I love the people here. I'll be relocating to Kelso, so I'll miss seeing them every day. However, I hope to have an ongoing involvement at Cartmel (even if it is from a distance), so I can keep in contact with everyone for some time to come.

SIMON ROGAN, GOOD FOR CARTMEL OR NOT

I don't get to dine at his establishments every day, but thanks to Simon Rogan and Jean Johns at the Village Shop (purveyors of the best Sticky Toffee Pudding in the country), the village of Cartmel has a fine reputation as a foodie paradise. Combined with the twin attractions of the medieval Priory and the racecourse, it has to be a good thing. Doesn't it?

GORDON ARMISTEAD'S RACING DIARY

Thursday April 6th Aintree

Manifesto Novice Chase

While Top Notch had done nothing wrong this season he was one you had to take on at around even money and he never really looked like winning. Flying Angel took it up four out and came back after being headed and he stays this two four trip well. It was disappointing to see Cloudy Dream loose this after taking it up just before the last as Brian Hughes seemed to have timed his run perfectly. He has always looked like he would get this trip but maybe not. A couple of small mistakes might have taken a toll but he was beaten by Forest Bihan under similar circumstances at Doncaster and I want to see him win again.

Top Notch will struggle in handicaps under his 158 rating as he is only small so it will be interesting to see where he goes next season. Frodon has been on the go since September and looked to have had enough for now.

Anniversary Hurdle

Seven from seven for Defi Du Seuil without looking near his best. While there has been talk of going chasing the Champion Hurdle looks the route with good two mile hurdlers being thin on the ground. Divin Bere was probably flattered by being beaten only a length and a half and connections will hope the handicapper doesn't take it literally. Maiden Bedrock back in third will find races come the new season.

Bowl

Beforehand I thought that Empire of Dirt would probably start favourite but bookmakers couldn't give him away and the money came for Bristol De Mai who looked awful in the parade ring. Empire of Dirt was beaten with two circuits left while Bristol De Mai-after setting off to make the running-was headed after five fences and soon beaten. With Silviniaco Conti running himself into an honourable retirement and Aso and Smad Place never competitive it left Cue Card and Tea For Two to battle it out with the latter getting on top from two out. Cue Card has been well below last season's stellar form and this was no different but it seems he will be back for the Charlie Hall and Betfair next season. Tea For Two now has two Grade 1's and while he doesn't appeal to me as a Gold Cup winner he is overpriced and has a better chance than many of those priced up at under half his price.

Aintree Hurdle

No great problem for Buveur D'Air and the distance back to My Tent or Yours was about the same as at Cheltenham. He is rightly favourite for next year's Champion Hurdle and looking at the market you would be looking at good odds many of the others quoted turning up. The New One tried his usual best and will go up to three miles now but will find things just as tough there.

Foxhunters

The favourite On The Fringe had to be taken on after Cheltenham and he made the market for any number of horses at good prices. Balnaslow looked the obvious one to lead after Cheltenham but an early mistake put him behind and he only got into the race after the last when he only found Dineur too good. The winner finished second last year and runs his best races here. Eight years after finishing sixth to Mon Mome in the National Big Fella Thanks turned in a super effort in third. While he made an early mistake On The Fringe was never going and it will be interesting to see if he turns up at Punchestown.

Red Rum Chase

The usual wide open race but it was not run at as fast a pace as I expected with Alisier D'Irlande being held up and Gino Trail not going mad in front. Double W's back down in trip came to lead close home and take the race. He has already been turned over off this mark at two miles so how much improvement there is we shall see. Runner up Theinval had recently come back to two miles and is probably going to find it hard off his present mark. Third home Bun Doran had not run at this trip since his bumper days and looked a stayer when winning his novice hurdle on heavy at Haydock last season. He has had in and out form since then and needs more consistency before you would want to back him.

Nickel Coin Bumper

Overall not a sparkling bunch of mares. Winner Dame Rose led a mile and a half out and kept on well but she lacks a bit of scope for next season over hurdles. Also not the biggest is runner up Oscar Rose who looked the winner as she came with a run from three out but couldn't get by. Of the rest Shearling did not get a clear run from well off the pace to take fourth while Redemption Song who was the pick of the paddock stayed on well after being outpaced and will need a trip over hurdles.

Friday April 7th Aintree

Alder Hey Handicap Hurdle

A wide open handicap but a gamble on Dream Berry looked like coming off until he hung on the run in and refused to go passed Rather Be. The winner has turned into a solid performer. Back in third Geordie Des Champs returned to form keeping on well after being outpaced and slightly hampered early in the straight. Fourth placed Thomas Campbell was held up well off the pace and never really got in contention. My big hope Ice Cold Soul held a good position until turning for home when he was pushed up on the inside and then snatched up twice in a few strides and that was the end of any chance.

Top Novice Hurdle

Pingshou had looked really promising when he won at Cheltenham in December but upping him to two four for his next run didn't suit and then a moderate run in the Supreme Novice left him down as an outsider here. He looked in really good nick but up to this race the Tizzard stable was still under a cloud. He won this very easily forging clear from two out and this form would have seen him in the mix at Cheltenham. He should make a chaser. Runner up Mount Mews was stepping up in class and had plenty to prove for a 9/4 shot. He was outpaced when the winner quickened but ended up a clear second and although beaten in his one attempt at two and a half it looked like that trip should suit him. Fourth home High Secret looks a stayer while former champion bumper winner Moon Racer looked well and seemingly had no excuse for a poor run. Supreme third River Wylde may be one to avoid as he looked a very awkward ride with his head high and to one side when under pressure.

Mildmay Novice Chase

Three months ago we had a supposed superstar staying novice chaser in Thistlecrack and now we seemingly have another one who is even better. Might Bite made all here in a time five seconds faster than Tea For Two the day before and was probably not as good as he was at Cheltenham. Talk was of the Betfair before the King George next season and we will see have good he is then. Whisper chased all the way but might struggle in handicaps next season. Back in third Virgilio was closer to Might Bite than he would have been in the Kauto Star Chase and off his mark of 144 could find a good handicap next season.

Melling Chase

Fox Norton stood out in the parade ring and just bolted home here on his first run over more than two miles. As a youngster he would just pull far too hard to even contemplate him at this trip and he is unrecognisable from the horse that was picking up place money last season in the best two mile novice chases (at a respectable distance) before just beating Dormello Mo last April. It's not just for the Tizzard's that he has improved as he was backed off the boards in a good handicap on his last run for Neil Mulholland so they must have known about the improvement even then. He is now being touted for the King George but we will see.

Runner up Sub Lieutenant is a real handful not being seen in the pre-parade ring and only passing quickly through the main ring. He was raced prominently but looks the sort who will always find one too good for him in Grade 1's. In third Traffic Fluide picked up the pieces after never being a factor and is not up to races like this. Trailing in last Uxizandre never jumped and gave the impression something physical was wrong.

Topham Handicap Chase

I couldn't have any of the first eight in the betting here and at least got that right as the best place they made was fourth. Ultragold was 50/1 for a reason as he has been an in and out performer over a variety of distances since he came from France in 2013.

Sefton Novices Hurdle

A good bunch of stayers with plenty having a future. The Worlds End had looked good at Haydock and was going well when falling at Cheltenham. He looked to be winning easily before a mistake at the last but he put his head down and showed he can battle as well. He supposedly stays hurdling but looks all over a chaser. Beyond Conceit was stepping up a mile in trip and got it well and I imagine he too will be heading down the staying hurdle route. Debece was beaten here off at mark of 120 in December but has improved no end in two runs since. He looked like he might win when The Worlds End made his mistake at the last but just faltered close home. Constantine Bay looks hard work being ridden with over a circuit left but he kept answering his rider. He will probably need extreme distances over fences and maybe some headgear in time. Elegant Escape and Get on the Yager look chasers at a lower level.

Wetherbys Bumper

Some good looking types here. German bred bumper winners are pretty rare but Lalor (by 2008 Arc third It's Gino) has improved for racing and looked a decent type. I can only find one jump winner by the stallion so that has to be taken on trust. Runner up Enniscoffey Oscar was not one of the better lookers but was doing his best work at the end. Third Western Ryder and fifth Claimantakinforan swapped places from the Festival but give the form a solid look. Other decent types were If The Cap Fits, Black Op, and Clondaw Castle.

Saturday April 8th Aintree

Gaskells Handicap Hurdle

The novices held sway here filling the first four places and Fountains Windfall had the race won turning for home after going ten lengths clear at the end of the back straight. His bad runs have been on heavy ground so this good suited him well and he looks a chaser for next season. Runner up No Comment came from too far back and the winner had gone before he started improving his position while his jumping is still not the best. Dadsintrouble was just behind the leaders but outpaced once it quickened up and he then stayed on and will get extreme distances over fences. No Hassle Hoff had form with the top staying novices but after being well positioned he just stayed on at one pace.

Mersey Novices Hurdle

The form of Finian's Oscar's wins had not worked out but he showed here he is a proper horse and he has the looks of one too. He is only five so could have another season over hurdles but he looks a chaser. Runner up Captain Forez will be a novice for next season over hurdles and is another who will make a chaser. Third home Messire Des Obeaux would have been over fences next season however he is out injured but his run gives a comparison to the Neptune at Cheltenham. Brio Conti was just not good enough here but he has a future while La Bague Au Roi looks like she needs further and mares chases should be well within her compass. Although pulled up here Reivers Lad will win races over fences.

Maghull Novice Chase

Only the five runners but plenty of action. Politologue looked set to collect on his first chase start back at two miles when he tripped himself up two strides after the last seemingly handing the race to Forest Bihan. He however didn't seem to like being in front and San Benedeto put his head down and got up on the line. I first saw San Benedeto this season back in October when he finished last of four to Virgilio at Newton Abbot beaten thirty three lengths. Running exclusively over about two and a half he looked exposed until dropping to two miles at Musselburgh in February and he hasn't looked back since. He will find it hard next season as will Forest Bihan whose jumping is suspect and he also seems to need to only lead right on the line. Politologue looked better at two miles although he didn't travel as well as I expected and maybe he is better on softer ground. Charbel's race effectively ended with a mistake down the back straight.

Betway Handicap Chase

This race is usually a mine field and I had no intention of getting involved. However two horses stood out in the parade ring. Potters Legend who was being backed into favourite and Sizing Codelco who had showed next to nothing all season and had looked awful on the three times I had seen him. With Tizzard and Power taking all before him on the Potts horses

14/1 was worth taking and he bolted in. He was greatly flattered by the winning distance as the placed horses all failed to stay the trip and a prospective mark of 150 will make it very hard for him. Potters Legend will be interesting back at two and a half.

Liverpool Hurdle

Coming off the worst run of his career Yanworth was up to the distance many people thought he would be racing over all season at three miles. While coming through with a win he was hardly impressive and needed a very hard ride from Geraghty to get him home. He evidently goes chasing but he isn't exactly bred for that job so I would want to see him do it first. Runner up Supasundae got himself in a real mess before the race and travelled poorly early on but finished well. He also goes chasing and while Galileo is one of the best sires of all time good chasers by him are scarce. Snow Falcon has had enough runs in staying hurdles for us to know he isn't really a Grade 1 performer and his run holds the form down being beaten under two lengths

Of the others Ballyoptic again jumped appallingly and while he looks a chaser he will have plenty to prove in that sphere and it's hard to see where they go with Cole Harden, Aux Ptits Soins, and Three Musketeers.

Grand National

Not the classiest renewal but a good winner in One For Arthur who improved again from his Warwick win over the longer trip. If there is a proper Grade 1 horse running next year he could easily get in with a half decent weight but nowadays it's usually a first time runner that wins. I must admit to being glad Cause of Causes didn't win as he has too many strange runs in his form. Blaklion started favourite and although passed after going clear I wouldn't put him down as a blatant non stayer. Despite assurances from connections that was a stronger stayer than last year I had big doubts about Vieux Lion Rouge staying the trip and he cut out at just about the same place as last year. I was getting excited about my own fancy Pleasant Company as he travelled well just behind the leaders. He would have to have been a good one to win after his shocking mistake at second Valentines but the way he finished I am not sure he would have got home anyway.

Pincent Masons Handicap Hurdle

Not the best renewal of the conditionals/ amateur handicap and the ex John Ferguson Chesterfield was back to form on good ground having returned from two years off in December. He will go up plenty and the Scottish Champion Hurdle or Swinton would look to be good targets and he would have chances on similar ground. Most of the others are exposed sorts and the best thing about the race was Wakea getting up from a horror fall at the second last.

Saturday April 15th Haydock

Seven handicaps of which six were challenger finals and just about the hardest day of the season anywhere to find winners. Ballybolley was the easiest winner following up his win last year in the two and a half handicap chase. The handicapper is going to give him plenty for this and he will struggle to get his mark down enough to qualify for the hat trick.

Most runners on the day are at about their right mark but Stomp Your Feet winner of the two mile handicap could have a bit more improvement in him if he steps up in trip as he has needed all of this trip on both his wins.

Wednesday April 19th Cheltenham

They must have put plenty of water on the track but it was still fast enough to downgrade the card a little and there were a few more no shows on the day.

The two four novice hurdle is usually a solid race with plenty of depth but William Henry stood out on form and won easily. He might not be the biggest for going chasing. Runner up Blairs Cove on his first run for the Skelton yard stepped up on his form in four Irish bumpers and should win his maiden easily enough at this trip or further.

The two four handicap chase didn't have many runners you would trust and my one bet of the day was Art Mauresque back on the faster ground. He ran a shocker as Henryville returned to form after some moderate efforts. In second Foxtrot Hill again showed that this is his trip while third home Casino Markets from eight pounds out of the weights might have scuppered his chances in some of the better summer handicaps.

Thursday April 20th Cheltenham

Dusky Legend and Verdana Blue finished third and fourth in the mare's novice hurdle at the Festival and ran much to form in the two four listed mares novice hurdle but were both seen off by Brillare Momento. The winner is a much bigger sort who battled well after a mistake at the last and she should jump a fence.

Only five mares in the listed two four handicap chase and three of them headed the market at one time or another. I didn't want any of the three as Plaisir D'Amour looked well overpriced at 8/1 with the step up from two miles looking right up her street. She travelled well all the way and her jumping was exceptional as she won by six lengths with her ears pricked and with plenty in hand.

Tuesday April 25th Punchestown

Champion Novice Hurdle 2 Miles

After his Aintree win Pingshou looked well overpriced at 9/1 to turn around the Supreme form with Melon and the wayward Labaik. Melon and Pingshou went toe to toe for most of the race and really ran each other into the ground leaving the Mullins third string Cilaos Emery to pick up the pieces. The winner who made the running in the Supreme before finishing fifth should get two and a half and quotes for the Champion Hurdle look optimistic. Melon will probably go down the Champion route without being good enough while Pingshou should make a very good two mile novice chaser next season.

Champion Chase 2 Miles

Pingshou couldn't follow up from Aintree for the Tizzards but Fox Norton did the business again after looking well outpaced for much of the race. Having only just stepped up to two four he now looks like that trip suits him far better than the flat two. There appeared no excuse for Un de Sceaux and he looked the likeliest winner turning into the straight. Maybe now at the top level he hasn't just got the pace at two miles but saying that he wouldn't be favourite to beat the winner at two and a half. God's Own always runs well here and was not beaten far despite a poor jump at the last.

Champion Novice Chase 3 Miles

I had big doubts about Disko over the three miles after he was beaten at Leopardstown at Christmas but going down by a length to Our Duke looks a lot better now. The horse that finished between them that day Coney Island must also be top class if he comes back next season. Here Disko just let out and out front runner Acapella Bourgeois take him along at a good pace before going on before three out and it was all over. He will be in the mix for the grade 1 staying chases next season. The Irish staying novice chasers have run (apart from the very strange Ten Up Chase at Navan) very consistently all season and second and third here Anibale Fly and Genie In Abottle ran to the inch of their run at Naas in January and both should make decent handicappers next season. Acapella Bourgeois who won that Ten Up Chase faded away and it looks like he needs deep ground.

Other Races

The usual mixed bunch in the valuable Land Rover bumper. The first two home Vision Des Flos and Hollowgraphic were both having their first runs and both looked like they would improve for the outing. Vision Des Flos was put straight into the sales on the Thursday night and was sold to join the Alan Potts string for £270K. The first two plus another debutante Boot Camp who finished sixth should have decent futures.

The maiden bumper usually has nicer sorts in it and this year was no exception. Winner Roaring Bull sixth place Musical Slave and the badly baulked Texie Rexie will be the ones I will be watching for next season.

Wednesday April 26th Punchestown

Daily Mirror Novice Hurdle 3 Miles

As at Aintree they were a really good bunch in the staying novices Grade 1 with three Cheltenham Festival winners in the field. They all looked super in the parade ring apart from Presenting Percy who looked like he had had enough for the season and ran like he looked. The three previous Irish winners of the Martin Pipe Hurdle had all gone on to win at Grade 1 level and Champagne Classic followed suit in good fashion and should make a chaser next season. Albert Bartlett winner Penhill was given plenty to do here but was well beaten and is more a hurdler. Monalee made a lot of the running before fading to fourth and looks the sort to be much better over fences.

Punchestown Gold Cup

What a great race. Before the race Sizing John did not look his best getting a bit sweaty and giving the impression he might just have had enough for the season while Coneygree, Djakadam and Outlander who ran so deplorably at Cheltenham looked in super nick. It was always going to be a fast pace and Coneygree soon saw off the other front runner Champagne West as Outlander who must surely have some physical problem again fell away early on. Sizing John never looked to be travelling that well but he and Djakadam closed on Coneygree and it was almost three upsides

going to two out. A bad mistake from Coneygree and a slight one from Sizing John and Djakadam led after the second last here for the third year running.

Sizing John was just about back upside at the last where Djakadam made a small mistake and then it was just head and head to the line as Coneygree ran on gamey in third. Sizing John was probably below his Leopardstown and Cheltenham form in bringing off the treble and is the one to beat next season. Djakadam again just can't win a Grade 1 at three miles and after his usual run in the John Durkan must surely go for the Ryanair at the Festival. With Coneygree it's just a matter of if he can be kept sound.

Champion Bumper

This was a bit of a massacre with Cheltenham winner Fayonagh making all and then quickening away on the home bend for a very easy win. She is a big mare so hopefully she will be able to jump. Second and third Paloma Blue and Poli Roi are both big chasing types while I also liked fourth home Go Another One whose previous runs had been last summer. The other three runners dropped well away but I also wouldn't give up on Someday.

Other Races

The two mile four Louis Fitzgerald Hurdle for winners of one race usually has some promising up and comers in it but this year it was more for disappointing sorts on recovery missions. Willie Mullins horses in blinkers are almost as rare as hen's teeth but he turned to then for C'est Jersey and they did the trick in beating stable mate Battleford who continues to make jumping mistakes. Both will probably go chasing but still have lots to prove.

With none of the condition races offering any betting opportunities it was down to the handicaps. A Rated at 25/1 almost did the business in the twenty five runner Martinstown Opportunity Hurdle Final looking the winner before a mistake at the last. He should win a small handicap this spring as should fifth home Ben Dundee and sixth placed Crossed My Mind.

The two mile four Guinness Handicap Chase looked more promising with the Willie Mullins trained French import Polidam backed into 7/4 meaning there was plenty of value to be found. Irish Cavalier who I backed when he won this race last year was only three pounds higher and came here with much the same form was too big at 16/1. The horse that leapt out of the parade ring was Sizing Granite who as with most of the Tizzard horses here and at Aintree looked magnificent. The former Grade 1 winner had three P U's in his last four chases but had to be backed at 23/1 on Betfair. The result was not in doubt for at least the last mile as Sizing Granite won eased down. Just where the handicapper will place him after this is the question but the Irish assessor is sometimes slightly easier on winners so the Galway Plate might be the race for him. Irish Cavalier ran a decent race in third and should find something again in the autumn. Favourite Polidam made a bad mistake early in the race but must be though better than this run.

The Grade 3 Mares Bumper had half/full sisters to The New One, Simonsig, Rock on Ruby and Jezki running but they were all beaten by Minutestomidnight from the small stable of Jonathan Sweeney. She has won a point and while isn't the biggest at the sales on Thursday night she still made £200K. Down the field paddock pick The Princetonian -the full sister to Rock on Ruby- did not get a clear run on her debut and is up to winning a couple of mares bumpers at least.

Saturday April 29th Haydock

Fairly run of the mill racing with only the seven furlong handicap standing out. Winner Afjaan took the race very easily off a mark of 100 and should find a listed race at this trip as there are plenty of them. Runner up Oh This Is Us was trying to give him ten pounds and should also be up to winning at listed level. Third home Fawaareq was an improver when last seen in July last year and looked like he would come on for this run.

Saturday May 13th Haydock

The two handicap hurdles looked wide open on paper but proved anything but in practice with two very easy winners. Mia's Storm was stepping up in trip and back up in class after being well beaten in a couple of decent mare's races in the autumn before taking a modest race at Doncaster in January. She fairly bolted home by an easy eight lengths and will need to improve again as the handicapper will not be generous. Runner up Prime Venture who has been chasing home good horses during the winter is the best runner by Sandown Classic Trial winner Primary looks a bit one paced. The other runners may well be handicapped up to the limit.

I fancied a couple of outsiders in the Swinton Hurdle and for a few seconds was optimistic as 25/1 shot Fergall shot clear going to the second last before John Constable appeared running all over him. Fergall fell at the last leaving John Constable to win eased down by fourteen lengths and end his period as a serial underachiever. Quiet where he can go

from here will depend on the handicapper as most of the field looked well in need of break and he will probably go up more than he deserves.

The main flat race was a terrific heat with Oh This Is Us finding a gap just in time on the inner when last year's winner So Beloved looked set to win again. Absolutely So also found a way through for second but while the winner looks an improver Absolutely So is an in and out performer.

Bet you don't know the answer?

HAROLD HEYS poses a question

When is a bet struck? When *exactly*?

It's easy enough in a betting shop or on line. It used to be simple at the racecourse. But that was when the "enemy" relied on their wits as opposed to all the computers and flashing electronics.

The days when bookies used chalk or marker pen and a board and the pushing and jostling by punters in the ring was a lot of the fun of an afternoon's racing.

You'd got 7-2 to your tenner just before the off when 3-1 was all that was left. Ok, you were beaten a short head. But you'd scored a minor, satisfying, victory.

It was a lot of fun running round the bookies in the old days. Not anymore. It's all just so *boring*.

The rot set in with the introduction of electronic betting boards. God knows how they work but these days a lot of bookies don't have a clue what's running and rely on numbers. Imagine going up to back, say, Frankel and being expected to use a number.

How many times have you gone to stick a tenner on something by name and the bookie has to search the list for its number while, at the same time, giving you his – or her – best "thicko amateur" look under a pained frown? I got that look at Donnie last year: I used to bet with his grandfather.

I don't want to back a number! I want to back a horse. It's as bad as being at the dogs. "Come on the 2" they shout. And the commentary drones on: "Close on the last bend; 3 takes it up from 4," and so on.

How long before racecourse commentaries join in the numbers game?

But to get back to my original question. When is a bet actually placed on the racecourse? It used to be simple. The moment you had handed over your money and got a numbered card in return as the bookie told you – and his penciller – "Three tenner's So and so." Sorted.

A second later he might wipe the threes and chalk up 11/4. Or, horror of horrors, Burlington Bertie. These days? It's largely amateur hour, frankly.

Just one example: Wetherby a few weeks ago. I hadn't had a sniff all afternoon and had passed the fourth race on to my wife to sort.

A glance round the couple of dozen bookies had revealed an array of 4s. And then we spotted a solitary board showing 9/2 about her fancy.

She duly sailed forth clutching her five-pound note. "Fiver Robintheaulad," she said handing over a slice of her housekeeping.

Brief blank stare till the bookie – a lass – found the number. "Er, five-pound win *Number 10*," she told the button presser by her left shoulder. A paper ticket duly wheezed noisily out of the machine and Christine dashed after me and up into the stands.

"And they're off!"

"Why that one?" I asked. "I had an old uncle called Robin," she explained. Fair enough. I looked idly at her ticket. It said: "10: Robintheaulad @ 4-1. £5.00 win."

Yes, in the moment after my wife had called her bet and handed over her fiver the chap who, presumably, handles the electronics for the whole gang of bookies hit one of his buttons and got rid of that irritating 9/2 anomaly.

I was still shaking my head as Uncle Robin trailed round without getting involved in the action up front. I was rather glad. "Please check your ticket," it said at the bottom. Yeah. Right. In more enlightened days you scribbled the bet the bookie had called out on the back of your cardboard ticket: 5 x 10: JC, for instance.

I will check next time. But will it get me anywhere? Of course not. Actually, we won't be in any hurry to drive to an expensive race meeting this summer although we'll probably make it to the York Festival in August as usual (where we'll quickly be more than annoyed at groups hogging tables all afternoon - and the shrinking space for ordinary visitors to Tatts).

I'll probably stick a few bets on at the local shop before setting off. There's certainly no fun looking for the odds on a racecourse any more.

So to round off my initial question – and offer my answer. I would have thought that the moment the layer had been told the bet, and had taken hold of my wife's fiver, the 9/2 showing then should have stood. Not the 4/1 of perhaps two seconds later when the lass had found the nag's number and repeated the bet in number-speak to her clerk so he could press his button.

Does it matter? Not in this instance, but it could do, one of these days. It might involve a lot of money.

As far as a day's racing is concerned the electronic boards certainly take a lot of the fun out of it all. And so does the absence of the tipsters and the card-sharps and the tic-tac men and the chap in the bowler warning The End of the World is Nigh!

Great bloke. I used to have a regular exchange with him at the Grand National entrance. "Here he is again," he'd tell passing racegoers, pointing a bony finger at yours truly. "Another sinner!" I never took his warning of Armageddon too seriously. "Going to Chester?" I'd ask. "I'll be there," he'd reply. "Trying to save lost souls such as yours." Not if the world ends tomorrow, you won't, I thought.

How many racegoers these days would have a clue what "Carpet the earth" meant? Who or what were Neves and Rouf? Everton full-backs, perhaps? Who can remember buying a tip from May Marsh at Manchester in the 50s – "Get yer May Ma-ash card!" – or from the wonderful Prince Monolulu on one of the big race days?

And who can recall the Find the Lady sharks who operated alongside the dog track outside Castle Irwell in those lively and fascinating days of yesteryear? What a team! Pure theatre! Even as a kid I could clock the heavies – the ones with a nose pointing to a cauliflower ear. Whenever it kicked off one of the team would shout "Police" – the card table would vanish into thin air and so would the gang. Only to regroup a couple of minutes later.

Main attraction for punters these days seems limited to watching raucous stag and hen parties falling about the place, usually on top of each other. And counting the vast fleet of cars and vans and ambulances tearing round in hot pursuit of the field.

Haydock still holds my personal record for a chasing convoy – eight vehicles involved in some vague way with the race in progress. Although, to be fair, the last one could have been flogging ice cream.

It can be quite interesting watching, say, a novice hurdle, and looking for the two or three "runners" who hang around and tuck in at the back and just lob around admiring the scenery. Who cares? Nobody, other than the unhappy punter who has risked a fiver on one of 'em.

There was none of that chicanery in the old days – honest – and race cards were a shilling and weren't full of adverts. A pint and a pie wasn't cheap but you didn't feel ripped off. Wine and avocado dip hadn't been invented.

Ok, if it rained you got wet. But you could always enjoy a battle of wits with the ring. Five bob on a winning nose at 5/2; SP 2/1 - ecstasy. Five bob on a 7/2 winner; SP 4/1 - dejection.

No, a day at the races isn't what it was.



- The way it used to be: Barry Dennis and his team ready for action.

NRC FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ROYAL ASCOT FESTIVAL PREVIEW - MONDAY 19TH JUNE

We have a new guest on the panel this time being **Gary Leonard** (SIS Commentator) together with our own **Kieran Rowbottom**

The venue will again be the Victoria Inn at Newton Le Willows, WA12 8EP, start time 7.45pm. There will be one interval when free sandwiches will be available. We aim to finish about 10.30pm

This is a FREE event for members and guests are also welcome at £5pp (includes a first year membership of NRC).

In order that we have sufficient seating (and sandwiches!) please contact Phil Evans asap if you wish to reserve places – see committee panel for contact details.

COMPETITION NEWS & RESULTS

59's DRAW RESULTS UPDATE

The latest '59's' winners are as follows – each now wins the monthly £50 prize!

The winners are based on the bonus ball drawn on the first Saturday Lotto draw each month.

April 1st (#14) – Jennifer Burgess from Cuddington

May 6th (#30) – David Hurst from St Helens

If anyone else wants to join we currently have numbers 35-52-53-54 available!

Please contact Phil Evans (see contacts list on last page) if you wish to join in – costs £12 for 12 draws!

APRIL/MAY BOOK COMPETITION

The answers to the last competition were:

(1) Vaughan Williams (2) Russell Grant

Not many correct answers this time but it is **John Boswell** from Southport that came out of the hat this time.

We shall sort out a small prize for John in the near future!

Pastures New by Michael Wheeler

Pastures New is a registered charity devoted to the rehabilitation, retraining and re-homing of retired and injured race horses. It is located on a 25-acre farm in Littleborough near Rochdale and run as a labour of love by Jacqui Taylor and her team of dedicated volunteers. Jacqui is supported by the trustees of the charity and a couple of famous patrons in the form of Sir Alex Ferguson and Paul Scholes.

Thousands of horses finish their racing careers in the UK every year. For some it will be through injury but in many cases it's when connections realise that their thoroughbred will simply not make the grade. These horses often face an uncertain future which can be bleak for those that go directly to the sales and fall into the hands of unscrupulous traders.

Through its retraining programme Pastures New aims to give each horse a worthwhile future after racing whether as a 'happy hacker' or something more befitting of their fantastic pedigree such as dressage, polo, eventing or show jumping. Not all horses will be suited by these avenues though, so the secret is finding out what they excel at and then tailoring the re-homing process to suit their skills.

When I'm Framm Govan known as 'Guv' reached the end of his racing career towards the end of 2015 Sir Alex Ferguson donated him to Pastures New. Guv who was sired by Framm and trained in Lambourn by George Baker was especially useful on the All Weather and won 3 races from 8 starts on this surface, the highlight being a Class 2 success at Kempton in December 2013. A chestnut gelding with a distinctive white blaze, Guv who stands at 17 hands high is a gentle giant with a lovely temperament described by his former trainer as 'the kindest horse he has ever worked with'.

Since coming to Pastures New, Guv has had significant health problems with sarcoids being the main issue. Sarcoids are like a benign skin cancer and it's a condition unique to horses; there are 6 different types of sarcoids and Guv has 4 of them! Also, he had a wind operation when racing which has left him susceptible to lung infections plus he has a weak back and suspensory ligament issues. Guv has made good progress over the last 12 months, essentially he's had the year off and lived like a horse. His respiratory issues have been managed by feeding him at floor level with quality haylage, using dust-free bedding and getting plenty of fresh air. He has had therapy on his back, rehabilitative work to strengthen any anatomical weaknesses, and fingers crossed 80% of his sarcoids have now been eliminated. All this was

achieved through natural, homeopathic and holistic treatments. Guv's current role is an equine facilitator for Pastures New but there could be an exciting new vocation for him, which is under wraps for now with talks still in progress.

The equine facilitator role involves horses interacting with children and adults who have specific needs or issues e.g. autism, cerebral palsy, mental health, difficulties with social interaction. The benefits of equine therapy or assisted equine learning can be found in both physical and emotional areas. For example, spending time with a horse provides exercise for youngsters who need help developing fine motor skills in small muscles such as fingers and wrists. For people who struggle with social interaction being with a horse gives them much needed practice and helps build up their confidence and self-esteem. A horse has to have a gentle type of character for this role and another who has carried out the function for Pastures New is Fadansil (Dan) who was sired by Dansili. After he was retired from racing in 2008, Dan spent 2 years in a field and was suffering from appalling neglect when Jacqui brought him to Pastures New in December 2010. After being shown some tender loving care, Dan's playful personality and intelligence emerged and he proved to be an ideal facilitator.

The horses owned by Pastures New cost between £1200 and £2000 per calendar month to maintain depending on the time of year and the number of horses in their care. The charity raises its money through fundraising, sponsorship, private donations and funding applications. Because of the invaluable help provided by the volunteers all monies go directly to the needs of the horses in terms of feed, bedding, haylage, farrier and vet bills etc. Some months it's very difficult to make ends meet and last winter was especially tough for Jacqui, working 12-16 hour days and struggling to pay the bills. At times she had to rely on the goodwill and generosity of her suppliers and equine health team whilst the riding and exercising of the horses had to take a back seat as the charity searched for new ways to generate funds in order to survive.

In terms of raising money through sponsorship, Pastures New aims to have 20 sponsors per horse to achieve a target of £200 per horse per calendar month. 1 unit of sponsorship can be bought for £10 per month, 2 units for £20 per month and so on up to the full £200 for sole sponsorship. Jacqui is also hoping to sponsor a race at Haydock later in the year and bring some of the horses along (and possibly one of the patrons!) to promote the charity. If this comes off, I will post a message on NRC's Facebook page. Incidentally, Sir Alex is generous with his time, money and support of the charity. For more information about Pastures New please have a look at their website www.pasturesnewcharity.org or check out and 'like' their excellent Facebook page.

STAYING RACING ~ ANYONE INTERESTED IN JOINING IN?

Breeding

I have always wanted to have a go at breeding a Cup horse. Any Cup-Doncaster; Chester. Melbourne, I'm not fussy. I've had neither the money nor the courage until now, when one of the two has happened and it's not the money. I have always studied pedigrees and, in a theoretical kind of way, picked out horses I thought I could theoretically afford with pedigrees I liked.

Last May I went and did it. I purchased Ogaritmo, a chestnut mare by Manduro out of a half-sister to the great Quito. She has spent the last couple of months living it large in Tipperary taking in an assignation with Ruler of the World at Coolmore. After conceiving twins and the worry that removing one would kill the other, happily she has returned home in foal. The adventure Oggie and I have had to get to this stage has been exciting and fascinating and we have met some fantastic people along the way. I can recommend it to anyone if anybody would be interested in a joint venture in another mare.

My plan would be, if all went well, to set up a syndicate to race any progeny. However, that is a long way off and there's a lot that can go wrong on the way. What I would like to do in the meantime is set up a syndicate or partnership or racing club called Staying Racing to have at least one staying horse running in this country and another in France, with the emphasis being on affordability.

Staying Racing- France

We all know that having a share in a horse in the UK is about having a fun interest, about that bit more excitement at the races, about having a stable to follow. Having a share is not about breaking even, although this may start to change with the alterations in prize money allocation. However, imagine having a share in an affordable horse that, with a reasonable amount of luck, did not cost you anything and provided you with some small adventures into the bargain.

Imagine having a share in a horse trained in France. We all know that French prize money is currently superior. What you may not realise is the difference in the way prize money is distributed. In the rarefied regions of Group and Listed races, where most of us will never see a horse racing in our colours, the prize money is similar in both countries. The biggest difference however, lies in the lowest grade races, even for horses rated 45-50. A horse of this rating can pick up € 9,500 for a win even at a non-metropolitan track. If it is French-bred there is an additional 60% or 40% bonus on top of that (depending on age). So around 15 grand for winning the lowest class of race. It beats toiling around Southwell or Wolverhampton.

French racing is very competitive however, so should the horse be unlucky enough to win less than € 5,000, transport costs for the horse are reimbursed together with the riding fee. Fantastique non? In addition, there is a very interesting system in the big betting quinté handicaps. Balloting-out guarantees a run in another division of the race, although not necessarily at the same course. Something like seven divisions of the same handicap can be run over a short period in order that all the entrants can get a run.

There are 250 racecourses in France so there is plenty to go at. In Paris there are the metropolitan tracks: Chantilly, Longchamp, St Cloud, Maisons-Laffitte (just) and Auteuil for the jumps. In addition, there are some terrific tracks a short train ride away, Fontainebleu, Compiègne, Craon for example. Don't forget Deauville and Cagnes Sur Mer. It is surprisingly easy to get to most of these tracks without having a car. Auteuil is even on the Metro and there is a dedicated racing channel, Equidia.

Chantilly and Lamorlaye are jointly the Newmarket of France. This area is supposed to support the greatest concentration of Thoroughbreds in training in one place in the world, around 2,500 horses. The miles and miles of gallops and rides, on grass and romantic woodland, are carefully maintained by France Galop.

My proposal is to set up some kind of affordable arrangement with a horse trained by Andrew Hollinshead, Reg Hollinshead's son, who, with his wife is training out of a small yard in Lamorlaye. Andrew and Debbie are terrific company and very welcoming. There is also a very nice little restaurant at the end of their road! With the Arc being run again at Chantilly this year, Ecurie Hollinshead would be open house for the meeting. It is also just a taxi ride from Charles de Gaulle airport to Lamorlaye. The Arqana sales complex is just down the road and the sales are pure theatre.

It is more complicated and the options are less flexible to set up a racing club, partnership or syndicate in France than it is here however. Affordability is the main criterion in the final decision in what form the arrangement would take. Ecurie Hollinshead's website is www.hollinsheadracing.com.

Staying Racing-UK

Regarding the horse for racing here, much to my astonishment, I have purchased a very likeable 3yo unraced gelding, Forewarning, by Cacique from the Juddmonte family of Rail Link and Wharf. He lives at Susan Corbett's yard, Girsonfield, in Northumberland and the plan is to start him off in 3yo bumpers, just to see. **My** plan then is to run him on the flat, Susan's to go the NH route. His half-brother, Roller, is with Mick Easterby and has been winning over 1mile. Susan Corbett is equally welcoming and Girsonfield's website is www.girsonfield.co.uk.

I am envisaging an affordable share-say around £75 per month each for 20 people for both horses. Obviously more than one share could be owned. I am unsure at this stage whether to retain ownership, so there would just be a monthly payment or whether there would be an initial purchase price for shares in ownership of the horses too. I would be grateful for any opinions on this.

If anyone would like to know more please contact me by email on wildandfruitful@gmail.com or give me a call on 016973 44304.

Jane Maggs.

TRIPLE CROWN TRAGEDY BY DENNIS NOLAN

With the American Triple Crown series being run I am reminded of an intriguing story regarding the 1999 running of the series. Let me start by introducing the main character of the story. Chris Antley was a top American jockey who one year rode nine winners in one day and had the distinction of riding a winner on 64 consecutive days.

The fame and easy money brought with it hangers on and soon stories were going around about his drinking and drug taking and he lost his licence, once for twelve months after a positive drugs test. Unable to control his weight rise he started taking weight loss drugs which left him depressed and to combat the depression he started taking "happy" drugs. It was in 1999 that he was to become more of a legend than a celebrity. Having spent the first part of that year in a rehabilitation centre he wanted to return to race riding but who would offer him a ride?. Then unexpectedly trainer Wayne Lukas who had two horses in the race and needed a jockey for his outsider remembered Antley who had previously ridden a Derby winner and offered him the ride The horse was Charismatic a 33 to 1 shot. As the horses came into the home straight Cat Thief the other trained runner moved clear but the crowd started to get excited as they saw Charismatic coming with a strong run taking the lead with half a furlong to go and to win by half a head. It was a fluke everyone said but two weeks later at Pimlico racecourse Antley and Charismatic won the Preakness by one and half lengths at the odds of 19 to 1. Everyone was now looking at the possibility of the first Triple Crown since Steve Cauthen and Affirmed in 1978.

The Belmont at New York the oldest and longest of the three classics would be a test of the stamina of the horse and jockey. Antley got the horse away quickly and kept ahead at a moderate pace. At the mile marker there were five horses in a line with Charismatic bang in the middle going well. Turning into the home straight the record crowd at Belmont were on their feet roaring Charismatic on. It was then that disaster struck. A sudden ominous give in Charismatic's stride and a screech of distress and the horse was wobbling. Antley reined hard and did what did what few riders would have dared to do. He leapt from the saddle and wedged himself under Charismatic's chest and cradled the stricken horse's left foreleg. Charismatic had fractured a sesamoid and a few more full paced strides would have done irreparable damage. At the end of 1999 viewers overwhelmingly voted the footage of a tearful Antley holding the horse's leg the most memorable sporting moment of the year. Few remember the winner that year but most remember the jockey who gave up his moment of glory for the sake of his horse.

Soon Antley was back to his addictive ways that would lead to his death in bizarre circumstances. He never rode again in 2000 but in April that year he married 29 year old Natalie Jowett, a television producer he had met during the making of a documentary about his life. Everyone was surprised for they had not known each other for long It was a quick wedding in Las Vegas and after, Natalie returned to New York while Chris returned to his ranch style house in California. When Antley died on 2 December Natalie was eight months pregnant. By this time he was in such a state that he stopped answering the door, even to friends. Gary Stevens his fellow jockey called one day and found him drunk and bloated and tried to persuade him to get help but was told 'You cannot help me Gary, they are after me, you will understand in time'. Stevens remains convinced that Antley was suffering from the aftermath of his rides in 1999. 'The Triple Crown is as tough as any challenge in sport, for those five weeks you have the weight of the whole world on your shoulders. Take a guy like Chris, who is already mentally fragile and in those circumstances you can imagine what it does to him' he said.

Throughout the year Antley talked about making a comeback but in July he was arrested for drunk driving in Pasadena with a blood alcohol count three times the legal limit. Two months later police went to his house after a call and found him and a house guest, Timothy Wyman Tyler Jnr and a stash of illegal drugs but escaped prosecution on a technicality. The police did not have a search warrant. On December 2nd, Cathy Park, a local estate agent and a close friend of Antley had collected his younger brother, Bryan, from Los Angeles International Airport and when they arrived at the house there were no lights on and no sounds from inside. On gaining entry they found Antley lying face down, barefoot and caked in blood in a passage leading to the main bedroom. The walls and carpets were heavily splashed with blood and the bedroom had been ransacked. The door was hanging off the hinges and there were clothes and sheets all over the floor. Antley who had been dead for at least two hours had suffered head and neck injuries. It was reported in the papers that Chris Antley had been brutally murdered. But why and by whom? On January 10th the Los Angeles County Coroners announced that his death was an accident due to a drug overdose and by slipping and banging his head. The Pasadena police captain said 'This is no longer a homicide inquiry'. This ruling stunned Antley' family. Cathy with the help of Bryan and his father engaged a private detective to review the case.

Vladimir Cerin a California trainer said 'It's got to be a cover up, a drug overdose does not cave your head in and rip your neck open, I think someone killed him'. Tyler the son of a wealthy Pasadena businessman was questioned for eight hours about Antley's death and held in custody for a further two weeks. He was released without charge on January 3rd. In a bizarre twist on the day of the coroners verdict was announced he was arrested for burgling Antley's home. Cathy Park said 'It stinks, within hours of learning that the police had dropped the murder charge he breaks into Chris's house. Tyler knows more than he is telling'. At Pasadena court Tyler denied burglary but pleaded guilty to a charge of trespass. He

was ordered to spend six months in a drug rehabilitation centre. Antley was buried in his hometown of Ellore in South Carolina December 9th. Seven hundred people, including some of the biggest names in racing, gathered for the service.

Footnote. Charismatic never raced again but recovered from his injuries to become a stallion. He died on February 19th this year [2017] aged 21.

HERITAGE HANDICAPS COMPETITION 2017

Helen Goodwill is again running this competition over 20 weeks in the main flat season. In brief entrants are asked to pick three horses in the main handicap race on each Saturday and you then score points based upon the tote dividends of the winner/placed horses in the main competition with a secondary competition also linked to any exacta/trifecta dividends on the race.

It costs £10 to enter and the prize fund will be allocated in due course based upon the number of entries received.

Please send entries and entry fees to NRC at 124 Lindsell Rd, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 5NZ.

On line bank payments can also be accepted – please contact Helen for details on 0161 928 0213.

Here are the races covered in 2017 – a full list and entry rules will be supplied to entrants in due course.

Investec Corporate Banking Dash	5f	Epsom	Sat 3 June
Devils Dyke Handicap Stakes	6f	Newmarket	Sat 10 June
William Hill Scottish Sprint Cup	5f	Musselburgh	Sat 17 June
Wokingham Stakes	6f	Ascot	Sat 24 June
John Smiths Northumberland Plate	2m	Newcastle	Sat 1 July
Bet365 Old Newton Cup	1m 3f	Haydock	Sat 8 July
The 58th John Smith's Cup	1m 2f	York	Sat 15 July
Weatherbys Super Sprint	5f	Newbury	Sat 22 July
Gigaset International Stakes	7f	Ascot	Sat 29 July
Qatar Stewards Cup	6f	Goodwood	Sat 5 August
Discovernewmarket.co.uk Handicap	7f	Newmarket	Sat 12 August
William Hill Great St Wilfred	6f	Ripon	Sat 19 August

Betfred Ebor	1m 6f	York	Sat 26 August
National Feed & Flower Production H/cap	1m 1f	Sandown Park	Sat 2 September
32Red Casino Hand	1m 6f	Haydock	Sat 9 September
Ladbrokes Portland Handicap	5 1/2f	Doncaster	Sat 16 September
William Hill Ayr Gold Cup	6f	Ayr	Sat 23 September
Betfred Cambridgeshire	1m1f	Newmarket	Sat 30 September
Totescoop6 Challenge Cup	7f	Ascot	Sat 7 October
Betfred Cesarewitch	2m 2f	Newmarket	Sat 14 October

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Next copy deadline date is on Sunday 16th July ahead of main hols!