

# Racin'



Issue 348

December/January 2018

## RACIN ARTICLES

Thanks for all the contributions received this time, including a couple of new contributors!.

If you would like to submit something for a future edition please contact Phil Evans.

It will help if articles can be sent as word or open office documents and any photos as jpeg format.

Our 'size' is restricted to 18 pages at present so sometimes there may be a delay before items can be published.

Our next copy deadline date is Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January ahead of the February/March edition



Above, **Harold Woodward** receives the Alex Bird trophy from Alan Preston, at Haydock Park.

Below, **Phil Tuck** is under Brian Goodwill's spotlight in this issue of Racin'



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## NRC FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### WED DEC 6<sup>TH</sup> – HAYDOCK RACEDAY

NRC is sponsoring a race on the card with all members attending welcome to join us in the parade ring before the race to judge the BTO horse and after the race for the presentations.

Contact Phil Evans if you want to get involved.

Pre-booked tickets can be purchased via the Haydock Park website for just £10pp (all enclosures) or £17.50 on the day.

### FRIDAY DEC 15<sup>TH</sup> – BANGOR RACEDAY

NRC is sponsoring a race on the card with all members welcome to join us in the parade ring before the race to judge the BTO horse and after the race for the presentations.

Contact Phil Evans if you want to get involved.

### MONDAY JAN 22<sup>ND</sup> NRC AGM

The main aim of the AGM is to reflect on the club's activities in the last 12 months and draw up a list of activities for the next 12 months.

The club's annual accounts are also presented to members and the committee elected for the following year.

The meeting will again take place at the Tetley Club in Warrington and will start at 8pm with the formal part taking about an hour, then time to have a general chat with other members.

Contact Phil Evans if you want to come along and I will provide further directions to the venue.

If you cannot attend but have something you would like to raise at the AGM or volunteer to join the committee please e mail [info@northernracingclub.com](mailto:info@northernracingclub.com) or drop a letter to NRC at 53 Dalebrook Rd, Sale, M33 3LB.

## COMPETITION NEWS & RESULTS

### HERITAGE HANDICAPS COMPETITION

There were no major surprises in week 20 of the competition with the leading positions remaining unaltered.

So in the main competition Helen Goodwill took 1<sup>st</sup> place and was followed home by Dave Bates and Gary Mellor.

In the 'exacta/trifecta' table we had a dead heat between John Boswell and Dave Bates.

Well done to all our winners and a big thanks to Helen for organising it this year.

### 59's DRAW RESULTS UPDATE

The latest '59's' winners are as follows – winners receive the monthly £50 prize unless we have a 'roll over'!

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

**Nov 4<sup>th</sup> ~ 57 ~ Not Allocated so a roll over prize of £100 available for the December Draw**

If anyone else wants to join in we currently have numbers 54-57-58 available!

Please contact Phil Evans (see contacts list on last page) if you wish enter – it costs £12 for 12 monthly draws!

### SATURDAY NAPS NH TIPPING COMP

A slightly later start this year on Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> and running through until Grand National day in 2018.

Entries are still being accepted and anyone interested should contact Phil Evans.

# RACING SPOTLIGHT – PHIL TUCK

Compiled by Brian Goodwill

## YOU HAVE WORKED IN RACING AROUND THE WORLD WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW

I am Stewards Advisor for the Equestrian Club, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. I have been here for just over four years and am very happy in my role. I am contracted to work 9 months a year which is split into two parts of the season. The first is held in Taif, which is the mountainous area between Riyadh and Jeddah and we hold 16 days racing over eight weeks racing on Friday and Saturday with eight races each day. It is a bit cooler up there although this season we were still racing in temperatures of 35C. But when you compare it to Riyadh and 50C it's bearable. We then have a short break and start again mid October and continue through to the end of March, again racing Friday and Saturday with 10 races each day. Maximum field size is 18 and it is not uncommon for us to have 180 runners with standbys in many of the maiden races. My job has evolved over time and I have been able to introduce many changes and improvements. Jockeys, as in all racing jurisdictions, are required to wear body protectors and they had to be of a standard approved by the Equestrian Club, but no one could tell me what that standard was. We have introduced international standards now which include helmets and padded whips. It is however, a very different culture here and I am mindful of that in any suggestions for improvements that I may make. Together with Ciaran Kennelly, ex Irish Handicapper who does the programme for the Club, we raised the minimum weight in fillies races from 54kg to 56kg as around 60% of horses were carrying overweight. Being an ex jockey, I do try to help these guys as much as possible. The first thing Frankie Dettori said to me when he visited was 'thank goodness you've sorted out these weights here'. We don't have Handicaps as such, but have open races where horses are given a 1kg penalty for each race won up to a maximum of 62kg. This of course means that a horse that has won say 14 races competes on level terms with a winner of 7 races but as I said earlier, it's a different culture. One of my assignments was to re-write the rule book, which was fairly challenging and is a moving feast as things crop up each year where we feel we can make further improvements. We have recently joined all other major racing jurisdictions in banning the use of Anabolic steroids which was a great step forward. One of the things I am most proud of is the stalls loading times. When I first arrived, it would sometimes take almost 10 minutes to load a full field of 18 runners. I introduced stalls testing for unraced 2 yrs olds in the first year and we have now reached the stage where every horse racing has to have passed a test before being allowed an entry. This has seen the average load time drop to below 3 minutes which I think would be acceptable anywhere in the world. As advisor, I am involved in all race day enquiries, giving guidance and help to my Stewards.

## WHAT CAN THE BHA LEARN FROM OTHER RACING JURISDICTIONS

That's a difficult question to answer in that everywhere has different thoughts and expectations. When doing the rule book, I tried to take things from different places that I thought would work here but sometimes things don't quite fit. Things that work here wouldn't necessarily work back home and vice versa. For example, we run races at 25 minute intervals but we are not competing with any other tracks and there is no betting. Jockeys might weigh out for 2 or 3 races at a time and occasionally we get the wrong saddle on a horse but it just seems to work. In actual fact, we very often run earlier than the official race programme. I recall my first days racing here and about five minutes before the off time there was only a few horses left to go into the stalls. I mentioned it to the Stewards Chairman and he said 'don't worry it gives us more prayer time'. Then after the second race, I was reviewing the film and they all got up and started to pray. This is absolutely the norm for them and I have grown quite used to the way of things out here.

## YOU FINISHED SECOND IN THE 1985 GRAND NATIONAL. HOW DO YOU LOOK BACK ON THAT

I would call it my greatest defeat. If someone had told me beforehand that I would finish second, I would probably have been happy with that, but to get so agonizingly close to winning was a bitter pill to swallow. If we had never looked like winning then acceptance would have been much easier but to think we were really going to win and then get caught in the dying stages was hard. We really fancied Mr Snugfit, having jumped round the year before in the Topham over a trip which was way short of his best. The biggest problem was whether

the horse would get a run or not as if I recall correctly, he was allotted 8st 13lb. You may wonder how we could have fancied him being that far out the weights, but after they were published, Mr Snugfit hit form and I think he won 5 races before Aintree. It was only 10 days before the National that Mick Easterby said to me 'we won't be going to Liverpool so we'll run the bugger at Nottingham'. I tried to give him an easy race as possible and he won no problem. Fortunately enough horses dropped out for us to get a run and I knew that if the handicapper could have re-assessed the horse, he would have been higher up the weights. Crossing the Melling Road for the final time, having been flat out for most of the way, Mr Snugfit came back on the bridle and I really thought at that stage we were going to win. We hit the front after the second last and it was only in the final few yards did I see Last Suspect coming on the outside. I was like a drowning man and there was nothing I could do. Occasionally I look at a replay of the race and it still brings a lump to my throat as the one that got away.

### **YOU WON THE CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP FOR MRS PITMAN. WHAT MEMORIES DO YOU HAVE OF THE DAY**

In truth I don't think I had time to appreciate it all at the time. The horse had obviously been fancied for a long time but I didn't feel under too much pressure and Jenny was very good. She knew her horses inside out and if you did as she wanted and they then were beat, she accepted it no problem. The one thing I do remember is her saying to me 'make sure you get over the third last', the tricky downhill fence. Once we jumped that it was pretty straight forward. Brown Chamberlain was jumping out to the right and I got a great run up the inside. We jumped the last and stormed up the hill to win. A great day as my wife Maria was there with some of her family. That night I treated a dozen people to dinner in Winchcombe with Burrough Hill Lad's owner buying 'fish and chips' for Jenny and her partner Dave Stait. Enough said!! I had to drive back to Leicestershire that night to Maria's parent's house as I was riding at Wolverhampton the next day so couldn't have too much to drink. I managed to ride a winner there for John Edwards and everyone was congratulating me on the previous day but as I say, I don't think I really appreciated what had happened for some time after.

### **YOU ONCE HAD TEN CONSECUTIVE WINNERS. REMIND US OF THAT AND ITS PAINFUL CONSEQUENCES**

Well the ten winners weren't painful; I simply was in the right place at the right time. I had just started the job as jockey to Gordon Richards and it was the start of the 1986 season with not too many runners. Gordon almost always had his horse fit first time and it was a great way to get the job started. I went to Cartmel on the Saturday and had one winner for him. We were back there again on Monday where I was lucky enough to ride a four timer. Then I went to Perth for two days and had two winners each day. Seven had been trained by Gordon and there was one each for Sally Hall and Ian Vickers. I wasn't aware of any records and it was only when the press got interested after my ninth ride that it came about. Jonny Gilbert, who incidentally was Ray Cochrane's father in law, had ridden ten consecutive winners some years before me. I wasn't offered any other rides until going to Southwell to ride Doronicum and Easter Brig for Gordon, and both of which I had won on at Cartmel. Doronicum came first and running back over hurdles duly obliged again. I then rode Easter Brig and set out to make the running only for him to fade into fifth place. Gordon wasn't best pleased because my mother in law happened to be there and said to him 'bad luck Gordon' to which he replied 'Ooh he cut his froat dear' meaning he thought I'd gone too fast on the horse. Mother in Law knew no better and responded 'oh dear, I do hope he'll be alright'. It was nice that Jonny rang to congratulate me and to this day we still share the record.

Then it turned out that I was in the wrong place at the right time. That season I was leading rider at Cartmel and was in the winner's enclosure collecting my trophy when all of a sudden I was bitten on the arse. All I saw was a woman running out of the enclosure and disappearing into the crowd. Luckily Maria was with me that day otherwise she would have never believed how I came to get lipstick on my breeches. The Sun newspaper eventually traced the woman and I believe she was a Publicans wife who had a fetish for jockey's bums. It takes all sorts!

## **DID YOU ENJOY BEING CLERK OF THE COURSE AT SEDGEFIELD**

Not really no. I had been in Cyprus for two and a half years as Chairman of the Stewards for the Nicosia Raceclub. That was an interesting time and if I told you that there was mafia and corruption involved, you wouldn't be surprised. The guy that followed me in the job had his car shot at one night. I was at the point where I wanted to return home and a great friend of mine, Ian Wood, who had been a Weighing Room Security Officer, had spoken with Major Charlie Moore about me regarding the vacancy at Sedgefield. I was interviewed on Christmas Eve and offered the job. Charlie is a fantastic Clerk and does a brilliant job but I felt that I wasn't able to interact with people as much as I had done in other roles. Racedays were fine and I worked hard with the Ground staff but I always hoped that another overseas job would come up for me. When I was approached by John Sanderson of International Racecourse Management about Riyadh, after talking it over with Maria, we didn't hesitate.

## **ANY FURTHER CAREER AMBITIONS**

Realistically at age 61, this will probably be my last job. I have been in racing since leaving school aged 15 and am thankful for the life it has given me and my family. But at my age, even with all my experience, new employers would be looking for younger people. I am very happy here in Riyadh and there is, I feel, more improvements that I can introduce. At the end of my time here, which could easily be another five or six years, I hope they will say I'm the best Stewards Advisor they have had. It certainly won't be for lack of enthusiasm.

## **TELL US ABOUT YOUR FIRST EVER WINNER AS A JOCKEY**

My first winner was a horse called Persian King, trained by Walter Wharton. He was a great school master and gave several of the lads in the yard a winner. I had ridden the horse at Warwick in a Handicap Hurdle with I think about 12 runners. I can tell you now that the Guvnor said 'What ever you do, don't finish in the first six'. The owner liked a bet and this was just a prep run. As you can imagine, I was green as grass and had to follow orders. I recall it was raining and I wasn't wearing gloves which made the reins slippy. Persian King took a good hold, and having been told to drop him in, I suddenly found myself going quicker than I wanted to and making up ground. Anyway, by the time we reached the last hurdle in the back straight, there were several horses in front of me and I eventually finished 7th. The horses next run was at Market Rasen in a Selling Hurdle but this time he was to be ridden by Tommy Stack. At that time I was earning the princely sum of £10 a week and had all my wages on the horse only for him to fall. The next race was at Catterick, another Selling race but this time for 'Opportunity Riders'. Like my first ride, it was all a bit of a blur and things seemed to happen so quickly when you are so inexperienced but the result was that the horse won in a photo finish from one of Arthur Stephenson's ridden by Mark Lowry. The owner had had a few quid on so he was happy but I travelled back to Melton Mowbray in the car with Walter and he bollocked me almost all the way. 'Christ lad, you played it a bit cool didn't you' was what he kept saying and it wasn't until we pulled into the yard that he finally said 'well done, at least you've had a start'.

## **DID YOU EVER CONSIDER TRAINING?**

I enjoyed training a mare for the Edinburgh Woollen Mill to win a couple of Point to Points but in truth I always felt that I didn't have enough money to get started and if I do anything I always want to do it right. To train on a shoestring was not what I wanted to do.

## **TELL US A PRINTABLE STORY FROM YOUR TIME IN RACING**

It was 10 days before the 1984 Gold Cup and I was riding a novice chaser for Gordon Richards at Sedgefield. I came to the last fence in the back straight and the horse fell with me getting a kick in the face. I was on my hands and knees when the St John's Ambulance attendant got to me. I asked him if he thought I'd broken my nose and he said yes he thought I had. It was only when I got back the weighing room that Alan Brown said 'f\*\*\*\*\*g hell Tucky, I wouldn't say you've broken your nose but you're smelling through your left ear'. I had it operated on in Stockton on Tees and when I went back to see the surgeon some days later, he looked at me

and said' if you were an actor, I would reset it, but as you are a jockey you will probably get it kicked back the other way. Sadly I never did and it remains bent to the side. The same fence at Sedgefield cropped up another time too. I was riding another novice chaser for Peter Easterby and as he wouldn't be at the races, I called to ask how to ride the horse. 'Oh just ride a normal race on him' said Peter, adding 'mind don't let the big bugger lie on you or you'll never get up'. He was travelling like a winner up until that point but then fell. Fortunately he didn't lie on me and I came away unscathed.

# GORDON ARMISTEAD'S RACING DIARY

## **Saturday September 30th Haydock**

The heavy ground put pay to anything as good as last year's winner Barney Roy running in the mile two year old maiden but winner Real Gent showed plenty of stamina and should make a decent handicapper. In the fillies equivalent debutante Pioneer Spirit is probably better than the bare form would indicate.

The rest of the card was six impossible looking handicaps including the rerouted Ayr Gold Cup which runner up Stake Acclaim really should have won.

## **Wednesday October 18th Wetherby**

The two three novice chase was a strange affair with rank outsider Popelys Gull overcoming a slight mistake at the last to out battle Cooking Fat. 0 from 13 over hurdles connections will hope the handicapper doesn't take the result at face value. Third home Cracking Find was the first of the Sue Smith runners on the day that looked like they would come on for the run while Cyrius Moriviere jumped poorly and odds on favourite Minella Aris was beaten when falling two out.

The two four novice hurdle was just an average affair but the first three should be have a future at a fair level. Winner Barton Knoll idled a bit on the run while runner up Judge Earle did little wrong under his inexperienced rider on his hurdles debut. Third home Atlantic Grey would have been closer but for a mistake at the last and they were clear of the rest.

The most interesting race of the day was the two mile handicap hurdle which should work out. Master of Irony won well and is now three from five over hurdles. Runner up Keep in Line and third Seamour will both appreciate another half mile while the ex Henderson runner Top Ville Ben should also find races over a trip going right handed.

## **Thursday October 26th Chelmsford City**

It was an eon ago that I finished off visiting all the tracks in Britain and then they opened two more just about as far away from home as possible. After Great Leighs opened in 2008 it didn't last long enough for me to get to so finally at the reopened and rebranded Chelmsford City the set is complete again with the hope that any application to open a course in Cornwall is turned down out of hand. The temporary facilities from the original course have been replaced by a single story building that was more than big enough for tonight's crowd but plans are afoot for a five story grandstand to incorporate a casino amongst other things. Quite why they need the height to see thirty metres across to the big screen I don't know. I thought the facilities were pretty good. If you wanted you could see just more than half the track live by standing at one end of the stand but no one did. One thing that did stand out was how friendly and helpful all the staff were.

Communique was the standout in the paddock for the mile two year old maiden. A typical Mark Johnson sort being a bit strong animal P J McDonald kicked him on entering the straight and favourite Dukhan just got to him close home with a good gap back to the rest. He should make a decent handicapper as a three year old and would be suited by a more galloping track and a mile and a half.

There were some well bred fillies for top connections in the seven furlong fillies' novice race many making their debuts but it was Bath and Tennis who had taken seven attempts to win her maiden who made all under her penalty. There will be races at a level for runner up Cwynar and fourth Dance Me but it is hard to see some of the pricier individuals paying for their keep.

## **Friday October 27th Cheltenham**

North Hill Harvey's season fell apart last season after the Greatwood Hurdle but he returned in good form and jumped well to make most in the two mile novice chase. He is not short of pace and saw off Sceau Royal from the last. Sceau Royal did nothing wrong under his penalty but the pair might just fall short in championship races come the spring. Second favourite Movewiththetimes is a stocky sort but does not really look a chaser and I wouldn't take a short price when he turns up in an ordinary novice.

The three mile novice chase saw Black Corton take his fifth chase although he looked beaten before Sizing Tennessee repeated his mistake from the first circuit at the second last this time coming down. An admiral sort the winner's rating of 150 looks patently too high. Favourite Fagan looked one paced. It was interesting to see David Mullins still in for the rides on the Buckley runners for Nicky Henderson. Here he was on Beat That who has not lived up his early promise and who again fell. In Ireland he has gone from Grand National hero riding virtually all of Henry de Bromhead's and a large

proportion of the Gigginstown horses to someone who can barely get a ride from anyone but his father. A broken collar bone here won't help.

Slate House cost a lot of money after his Irish point win and looked the part both before and during his hurdle debut in the two mile novice hurdle. He made all jumped well and won with much more in hand than the three and a bit lengths.

Runner up Dans le Vent should win an ordinary novice while fourth place Point of Principle needs further and an improvement in his jumping but showed promise.

### **Saturday October 28th Cheltenham**

A good staying chase to start the card and Cogry's jumping held up well to run out a good winner. Beforehand Singlefarmpayment looked an obvious one to be involved but he was on edge from as soon as he appeared in the pre-parade ring and never settled down and probably did well to finish second. He needs to calm down to progress. Doing Fine found this three one too short while fourth home Robinsfirth a big nice sort of beast just made too many minor errors. Viconte du Noyer's win here over three miles three last season still looks a mystery as he travelled well till the home bend and looked a patent non stayer.

My one fancy on the day was Foxtail Hill who turned in a super display of front running and jumping to take the two mile handicap chase. Le Prezien the short priced favourite loomed up at the last but when it became a battle there was only going to be one winner. Foxtail Hill will probably try and repeat this in the BetVictor and we will see how the handicapper reassesses him. The runner up will no doubt start short again somewhere but will not carry my money. Down the field it was a third desperate effort from Double W's who now has lots to prove.

A fourth chase win for Double Treasure in the two four novice chase and while his handicap mark may be too high after this he looks a really tough sort. That is more than can be said about runner up Two Taffs who is a real twicer and the mystery is how he won at Ayr last season. Alcalá ran like he had had enough after his busy summer.

Calett Mad is a super looking animal and back over hurdles he made all in the three mile novice. He will evidently go the same route as the same connections Wholestone last season and I probably shouldn't underestimate this horse as much as I did Wholestone. Runner up Robbin'Hannon is a big lump who looks like he will stay all day and the Irish bred Robin des Champs look to be better stayers than those bred when he stood in France.

Some nice sorts in the bumper and the first two Herecomestheboom and Ainchea look above average.

### **Sunday October 29th Aintree**

There is no doubt Gas Line Boy was hacking up in the veterans Staying Chase before coming down three out and he looks as good as ever at the age of eleven. Quite why his jockey chose to look around coming to the fence-when all the dangers were in front of him in the shape of the fences-only he knows. I shouldn't be backing horses ridden by jockey nearing the century of rides without a winner when his confidence must be at rock bottom. The race went to The Romford Pele one of a whole host of horses to have exited Rebecca Curtis over the summer and he is usually best fresh.

On the Blind Side is a good looking sort and looked a useful newcomer in the two four novice hurdle with staying being his game. Runner up Another Stowaway looks to be going to be an improver and he too will stay further. Back in fourth Perfect Harmony is a bit bigger than most of Alan King's and will come on for this.

Bags Grove took the competitive two four handicap hurdle and might start living up to his hype from last season. Runner up Stamp Your Feet is not totally straightforward but can win again while down the field Ballyalton made a pleasing return and Theligny led for a long way and looked like he would improve for the run.

A super field for the Old Roan and while some were ready to run their race a few will come on for the outing. Smad Place doesn't race over this distance often and was down eight pounds from this race last year won well but he will go back up in the weights and winners of this race don't win again in the season. He may have been aided by runner up Cloudy Dream not being as keen as he should be. Five seconds out of six runs begins to tell a story and Brian Hughes rode him like he needed to have his head put in front right on the line. It will be a shame if it carries on as he looked to have grown again into an imposing sort. Third home Oldgrangewood probably ran right up to his best while fourth Traffic Fluid ran like he does. Aso was never closer in fifth and needed it badly while favourite Shantou Village dropped away tamely.

The first two in the mare's bumper pulled clear with the stewards turning the nose verdict for Grageelagh Girl around in favour of Posh Trish. They weren't the best group of horses but these two should be O.K.

### **Saturday November 4th Wetherby**

Not the result most thought would happen in the Charlie Hall but on the soft ground and with doubts about both Coneygree and Cue Card I thought Bristol de Mai looked worth a small investment. He just got the better of stable mate Blaklion and this might be the highlight of his season as I don't think he's a Gold Cup horse. Blaklion ran his race but he struggled from his handicap rating last season and may do so again. They were well clear of Definitely Red who might also struggle of his present mark and Vieux Lion Rouge who looked very much in need of this. Cue Card never looked to be travelling that well and when he falls he makes sure it is a crumper while Coneygree threw in the towel very easily after some poor jumps with the sun being blamed but none of his rivals made the semblance of a mistake down that first line of fences.

The mare Colin's Sister took the West Yorkshire Hurdle well from Wholestone and she might be taking the geldings on for most of the season and the staying hurdlers aren't the greatest at the moment. Lil Rockefeller is such a big animal he probably needed this but he finds it hard to win.

The two mile novice hurdle was a decent event and run at a good pace which sorted the field out before halfway.

Kalashnikov forged clear from the second last without being under much pressure and looks to have a good future.

Runner up Al Shahir now has four seconds from his five runs but was simply beaten by a much better horse here while third home Big Time Dancer looks like being better over hurdles than he was on the flat.

Diamond Fort took the two four handicap hurdle like and improver.

### **Saturday November 11th Aintree**

Some decent looking sorts in the two four novice hurdle but the race was run at a crawl. Winner Hear No Evil looked like he would improve for the outing but had too much pace for the rest and should be OK. Imperial Eloquence had decent bumper form but after a desperate first effort over hurdles improved no end here in second. Third home Spider's Bite is a big chasing sort who looks like he will stay all day. The winner is by Getaway who is being talked up as a future star sire of jumpers. He had three in this and they all looked the part but the other two The Dellerchecker and

Overworkedunderpaid who both made big money after finishing alone in their Irish Points looked to lack any pace.

All four in the three mile novice chase could be given a chance but they finished spread all over the county. Winner Captain Chaos has been disappointing over fences and I wouldn't be carried away by this success. Runner up Coastal Tiep is a lazy sort but it was probably the soft ground that did for him here. Favourite Geordie des Champs didn't look great, might not have liked the ground and made a couple of bad mistakes.

Louis' Vac Pouch looks an improving staying hurdler and took the Pertemps qualifier well despite taking a real pull for most of the race. Hopefully he will settle better in the future. Chaser Vyta du Roc badly needed this and ran well to a point.

A good two mile four handicap chase went to On Tour under a very good ride from claimer Mitch Bastyan. The handicapper might just have runner up Master Dee and third Ballybolley who would be super sort for the Topham.

Gardefort is a super looking beast but doesn't win enough and didn't appear to get home here. Virgilio was disappointing but maybe the ground was too soft.

With novice Ballyhill in at 6/4 it made two mile handicap chase a betting race and Ut Majeur Aulmes at 10/1 under Richard Johnson looked the one. Four lengths up half way up the run in and doesn't win. He will not be backed again.

### **Thursday November 16th Ludlow**

Sunshade saw off decent bumper runner Oscar Rose easily in the two mile mare's novice hurdle and you would imagine that she will be going for one of the plethora of listed mare's races and she may be up to claiming one.

Strange betting in the three mile chase saw the two in form horses Miami Present and The Happy Chappy both in double figures while some very iffy characters headed the market. Having had no real intentions of having a bet on the day I backed the pair and they pulled clear from two out with The Happy Chappy outstaying his rival. He looks like this trip will be a minimum and he could be one for some of the minor regional nationals.

### **Friday November 17th Cheltenham**

Finian's Oscar is one of the big hopes amongst the novice chasers this season and made it two from two in the two four novice. His jumping looked better as the race went on and he stayed on well up the hill to pass Movewiththetimes. Finian's Oscar will need to improve on this performance later in the season as I am not convinced Movewiththetimes is going to make a chaser as he again made plenty of small mistakes.

The Grade 2 two mile five novice hurdle was a decent race and Aintree winner On The Blind Side stepped up and when stamina was needed outstayed his rivals. He will need three mile in time and looks a very good prospect. Momella ran well in second and will find it easier in mare's races while it was another good effort from Poetic Rhythm in third giving weight away all round. Calett Mad down in trip was easily brushed aside from two out.

### **Saturday November 18th Cheltenham**

Apple's Jade's full sister Apple's Shakira looked very useful in taking the Triumph Hurdle trial by a wide margin. The soft ground might have exaggerated her superiority but it will take a good one to beat her.

Black Corton out jumped his two rivals in the staying novice chase and showed he can handle the soft ground. Maybe his 150 rating is not so stupid but Ballyoptic made a couple of bad mistakes and West Approach barely jumped a fence so it should be kept in perspective.

Minella Rocco kept the weights down in the three mile three handicap chase but for a Gold Cup third he never travelled and his jumping problems also resurfaced. Favourite Premier Bond was even worse and as in his final race of last season he never went a stride. Winner Perfect Candidate on the other hand always seems to run his heart out but even he might struggle if he goes up to something near 160. Vicente almost caught him on the run from the last and he too is going to go up again as it was a long way back to Three Faces West who ran well after a year off and can win again maybe back at a flat three miles. Sizing Codelco looked awful in the parade ring and ran like he looked.

The BetVictor was as wide open as I could remember and I only ruled three of four out one of which was the winner Splash of Ginge. I had doubts about both his jumping and attitude. Starchitect ran his race in second while Le Prezien again accepted a place happily. If he can be kept sound Ballyalton will surely find a good handicap at this trip. Posh Trish didn't need the stewards this time to beat Grageelagh Girl and was impressive in the listed mare's bumper. Behind the pair was paddock pick Pineapple Rush making her debut and she will easily win one of these.

### **Sunday November 19th Cheltenham**

North Hill Harvey easily followed up his October win in the Grade 2 two mile novice chase but things were made easier as River Wylde turned in a very tame effort. I had doubts about him after Aintree last season and he was beaten here after half a mile before running on up the straight. Unless some physical problem comes to light he has lots to prove. The other runner Ozzie the Oscar could be just the sort for the Red Rum at Aintree come April if the ground is close to good. Fox Norton was far too good in the Shloer Chase and will be a factor in races from two miles up this season. Cloudy Dream again finished second but at least battled to take that place from Special Tiara. Some good sorts in the listed bumper and the first two Crooks Park and Air Navigator are well above average. I really liked Air Navigator as an individual. He looks a real chaser and he moved so easily through the race before Crooks Park just had too much speed in the last half furlong.

## **Terence the Horse Whisperer** By Terence Slocombe

In 1975, I joined St. John Ambulance Brigade West Derby Division, helped build the Division we were self sufficient, with our own Ambulance and Social Club, but above all the training was first class as a lot of the members were Police Ambulance or Fire personnel We raised funds by trying to visit the 18 to 20 pubs on a Saturday evening twice monthly from September to March, as our main duties were the Everton and Liverpool Football matches, but around about April what came around but the 3 day Grand National.

I attended all 3 days for over 10 years, sometimes riding shotgun on the ambulance (from my cowboy days) or being despatched to a fence anywhere on the course. It was in the late seventies, can't remember the year, about the Grey Sombrero\* time, a horse fell in the straight at a fence the rider was ok and walked away, the horse lay motionless on the turf. Within minutes, activity happened. A person had a gun and was fixing what appeared to be an attachment, a silencer. I approached the man with the gun and said 'What are you going to do'? 'Shoot him' was the reply. I said 'are you going to tell him'. He replied 'don't be ridiculous'. I said 'do you mind if I tell him'? He looked at me as though I was a nutcase, however, I went to the horse knelt down on my knees, said a prayer and whispered in the horse's ear. I said 'I hope you are not messing. They are going to shoot you, please get up. He did. The age of miracles has not gone except for yours truly finding winners!

I started my employment in 1965 as a board boy for a well known Liverpool bookmaker in the phone room, staying with other bookmakers until 1968 when I opened the Liverpool office of PTS Limited in Rumford Place. Owned by Colonel Hughes, whose son John was to later become Clerk of the Course at Aintree, but at the time was at Haydock and Chepstow. A lovely man, his father had a turkey farm so our Christmas gift was, you guessed it, a Turkey.

My great love of Aintree and the continuation of prayer that the course would not close was endorsed. I became a Crabbies race maker in 2015, and when needed I would assist racegoers, particularly those not knowing the area. I often went the extra mile, and even obtained a £100 payout for a lady whose ticket had blown away. I spoke to the bookie concerned who agreed that providing the winnings had not be claimed by someone else he would pay her out after the last race, which he duly did.

However, it turned out I was not wanted for 2016. I gave an honest opinion regarding feedback on the 3 days. Although it did not affect me, they had a bridge built at the entrance, with race makers waving

their arms, those that did it thought it to be dangerous and above all daft. They had young girls doing it eventually. Forget about knowledge of racing, they lacked speaking to the racing public and although they were well paid on about £9 an hour. I would have done it for nothing, because being in uniform all doors open!

I am considering going to-morrow (Saturday Nov 11<sup>th</sup>) as a Racing UK member it is free on the Winter Ticket. I first went to Aintree in 1959 and met Prince Monolulu, although October 2014 was special for me as a guest of M&S. Earlier that year, in June, I was also invited to the Royal Garden Party with The British Red Cross, met another Prince, the future King, and spoke with him at some length. He was amazed at the story of Baby Sam aged 4 weeks old, which helped me obtain the Outstanding Individual Award. For further details of this award visit

<http://corporate.marksandspencer.com/blog/stories/pride-of-mands>

\*Editor's Note: Grey Sombrero fell at the 15<sup>th</sup> fence in the 1973 Grand National.

## **COMING SOON – RACING SYSTEMS ONLINE FROM NRC**

If you prefer to study the form of all races in depth before having a flutter then this will not be of interest to you!

However, if you like following 'statistical systems' to find winners this may well be right up your street.

Early in the New Year I shall be releasing figures compiled over the last four years to help identify where and when to bet bases on certain criteria.

For example you will be able to identify which courses are best for following horses wearing blinkers/hoods for the first time and where it is best to follow horses returning after a long layoff.

Needless to say for flat races you will be able to identify which courses are best to take heed of the draw – all based on a level stakes profit basis. It will also show you where it is fairly safe to assume there is no draw bias. The stats will even show where a certain stall is worth following in races!

Trainer Traits stats are also recorded and once you see them you may change your mind about following trainers with strong records (3+ wins in last 10 years) at Cheltenham!

Where trainers have won races once/twice before in the last 10 years the stats will also show which courses are best to follow trainer patterns.

Stats will also show courses where it is best to follow beaten favourites and also previous course winners.

You will need to view the stats online and download data in 'open office' format (available free to download).

# 2017/8 Point-to-Point season preview by Rory Alkin

I've been an avid point-to-point follower for four decades now and am really looking forward to the coming season. My interest started in Ireland in the late seventies and has continued since moving to the North West in the mid-eighties. I have been a regular contributor to the Sporting Life, Horse and Hound and Weekender over time and more recently to online media like [www.pointtopoint.co.uk](http://www.pointtopoint.co.uk) and [www.jumping4fun.co.uk](http://www.jumping4fun.co.uk).

During that time, I have seen Willie Mullins, Tony Martin and Caroline Robinson (nee Beasley of Eliogarty fame) commence their riding careers in Ireland and then witnessed really excellent pointing jockeys in the UK like Mike Felton, Simon Andrews, Richard Burton, Will Biddick and some top lady riders like Polly Curling, Alison Dare, Polly Gundry and Gina Andrews. It's also been great to witness the graduation of pointing riders through to professional jockeys like Richard Johnson, Robert Thornton, Sam Twiston-Davies, Harry Cobden, Sean Bowen and the latest sensation his brother James Bowen. James was only allowed to start riding last spring once he had turned sixteen and he managed to ride 30 winners as a novice between Easter Saturday and the end of the season in June, which is a record that may never be broken. He is already making giant strides as a top conditional and is an excellent five-pound claimer. Another outstanding conditional is Bryony Frost who was runner-up in the Ladies Championship to Gina Andrews last season and whose highlight was winning the Cheltenham Foxhunters on Pacha de Polder, before joining the professional ranks.

Indeed, it's a sport where people from all walks of life can take part either as a participant, volunteer or spectator and everyone can get close to the action. The quality of horses is generally good with most of them competing at level weights. The novice races tend to produce young horses who go on to better things in national hunt, whilst horses who are finding it hard to compete under rules may go the other way and try pointing. It's also a form of racing where those who put in the form study can prosper in the betting ring as online information is not as readily accessible and many bookmakers do not do their homework!

The season in the UK starts in November and goes through to June with around 200 fixtures taking place throughout the country and up to 10 meetings on a day like Easter Monday. A few good early season meetings for your diary in the northern half of the country take place at Chaddesley Corbett near Bromsgrove on 29<sup>th</sup> December, Sheriff Hutton near Malton on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January and Bangor Racecourse on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February. However, the full fixture list can be found via either of the two websites quoted above.

Some of the horses running in the pointing field will also run in Hunter Chases and these specialist races start on 9<sup>th</sup> January at Taunton and culminate with the final meeting at Stratford on 8<sup>th</sup> June. There is continuing debate as to how the large professional trainers try to farm these races, but there is still room for the true pointing stables to prosper.

For the coming season the Injured Jockeys Fund has brought out The Big Reveal a 2018 point-to-point calendar with good nude but tasteful photographs of lady point-to-point riders taken at various places around a racecourse and in training. It's well worth £10 for a really deserving cause.



# **RACING IN THE UAE** by **CARL TEMPLETON-SMITH**

As the British Flat horse racing season comes to an end and thoughts turn to the All Weather racing or National Hunt racing, it is not only the holidaymakers who head to Dubai for the winter sun. A winter season of top quality Thoroughbred and Purebred Arabian horse racing takes place in the UAE. I have always followed with interest the racing scene in UAE and now having lived in the Middle East for five years it has captured my imagination even more.

## **RACING SEASON**

The season in UAE starts early November at Jebel Ali and finishes with the spectacular World Cup at Meydan at the end of March. There are normally 62 days of racing each season with racing taking place between Thursday and Sunday.

The season really ramps up after Christmas as Meydan host a number of race meetings referred to as The Dubai Carnival with the main meeting known as Super Saturday. These feature meetings have a number of trial races as the season builds up to the World Cup. Although there is a Purebred Arabian race on the card at the World Cup the main race for Purebred Arabian horses in the season is the Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan Jewel Crown which in essence is the World Championship for Arabian horses.

## **RACECOURSES**

There are five courses in the UAE, Meydan (Turf & Dirt), Jebel Ali (Dirt) and Sharjah (Dirt) which are all in Dubai. Al Ain (Dirt) and Abu Dhabi (Turf) which are in Abu Dhabi.

Meydan is the premium track and best known Worldwide. Jebel Ali is a real favourite amongst the locals which has a great atmosphere and a European style uphill finish. Abu Dhabi hosts the richest Arabian horse race in the World in November. All courses have Thoroughbred and Arabian races as well as sprint, middle and long distant races.

## **JOCKEYS**

Champion jockey for 2016/17 was Richard Mullen who was pushed all the way by the previous seasons champion Tadhg O'Shea, just winning by two victories. Other significant jockeys who winter in UAE include Pat Dobbs, Sam Hichcott, Jim Crowley, Royston Ffrench, Pat Cosgrave and Dane O'Neil. Also there are some new stars of the future based in UAE including Antonio Fresu and Conor Beasley.

Once the Dubai Carnival starts and up to and including the World Cup card, jockeys from all round the globe arrive in UAE.

## **TRAINERS**

Champion trainer for 2016/17 was top South African trainer Doug Watson who has really established himself in UAE over the last the few years. The top of the trainers championship is dominated by international trainers, Satish Seemar (India), Eric Lemartinel (France) and Ernst Oertel (South Africa) all establishing a base in UAE.

Notwithstanding that there is also a strong presence of local trainers who send out good quality horses in the season. As with the Jockeys once the Dubai Carnival starts top trainers from all round the World arrive with their horses in UAE.

## **HORSES**

Thoroughbred and Purebred Arabian races you would normally see on the same card. Meydan and Jebel Ali mainly focus their cards towards the thoroughbred races whilst the other three tracks have a greater focus on Purebred Arabian races. The thoroughbred horses usually arrive in the UAE having been campaigned Internationally mainly in the UK, US and France. The Purebred Arabians as you would expect are bred locally.

The list of top quality horses to have raced in UAE is extensive and in recent years has included Arrogate, Gun Runner, California Chrome, Highland Reel, Jack Hobbs, Ribchester and Postponed.

## **OWNERS**

As you would expect the Owners championship is dominated by the UAE Royal households of Khalifa and Maktoum. Without the investment of the UAE Royal family we would not have the quality of racing we see in the region nor probably not have a Dubai World Cup.

## **DUBAI WORLD CUP MEETING**

The finale of the season is the Dubai World Cup meeting at Meydan at the end of March. Prior to this meeting, from January, Meydan host the Dubai Carnival which in essence is the trials for the World Cup meeting.

The World Cup Meeting is made up of nine races, six of which are Group One and finishing off with one of the richest horse races in the World, The Dubai World Cup. To emphasise the International interest of the card, the winners in 2017 where 2 UAE trained, 2 French trained, 2 US trained, 1 UK trained, 1 Japanese trained and 1 Qatar trained.

## **MEDIA**

To back up the strong racing scene in UAE there are a number of good outlets who give the racing extensive coverage. On TV there is the Dubai Racing Channel & YAS TV, both free to air, and in print there is Al Adiyat. Dubai Racing Channel has English commentary and can be viewed online in the UK. As well as covering the racing in UAE it shows live coverage from Racing UK and At The Races.

## **REFERENCES**

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# Viva Zarzuela! By Michael Wheeler

The hipodromo de la Zarzuela is Spain's premier racecourse located on the outskirts of Madrid, so towards the end of October I decided to visit and get some sunshine. The trip was well-rewarded as it's a wonderful venue, featuring iconic grandstands designed by the pioneering structural engineer, Eduardo Torroja, and a beautiful tree-lined paddock. Zarzuela is said to be inspired by the San Siro racecourse in Milan.

I was greatly assisted with guided tours provided by ex-professional jockeys Claudine Cazalis and Isabel Vaquero through their company, Hipotour. Horse racing in Spain is very low key compared to England and France, so the aim of Hipotour is to promote racing to the Spanish public through tours of the training facilities and provide guidance on race days which will hopefully create new racing fans.

Building began on Zarzuela in 1935 when the existing course at Castellana was demolished so that the site could be redeveloped as office buildings. However damage caused by the Spanish Civil War delayed the opening of the new course until 1941.

Eduardo Torroja and his two architects won the design competition for the new course out of the nine teams who presented plans. Torroja was developing a reputation for his innovative, thin-shell structures and for Zarzuela he created a distinctive 'weightless' roof design for the three grandstands.

This example of modernist sports architecture has become a symbol for Madrid and it's also recognised internationally. In 1980 the racecourse was declared a historic and artistic monument and the Eduardo Torroja museum was opened in 2016 to celebrate the hipodromo's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The museum is located below one of the grandstands and it details the construction of the track as well as other famous projects by Torroja.

Since Zarzuela opened there have been ups and downs, from boom times in the 1970's through to bankruptcy in 1997 when the course was forced to close for several years. It reopened again in 2005 with a redeveloped layout, including extra galloping tracks, but recently it closed again for a short period due to mismanagement.

The day before the race meeting, I arranged a training tour with Claudine who spoke good English compared to my basic Spanish and French. Claudine grew up in France and developed a passion for the sport through watching her mum bet on racing. She trained for four years at the national jockey school in Chantilly known as AFASEC which was set up by France Galop in 1988.

Claudine's professional career started with a short stint as a jockey in Tunisia before moving to Spain where she teamed up with a trainer who became her 'boss' for the next 13 -14 years and together they were a successful team. Unfortunately, her boss died in a riding accident three years ago which hit Claudine hard and left her at a crossroads.

Through connections, she came over to Newmarket in the spring of 2015 as a work rider for Marco Botti for six months and repeated this in 2016 for Roger Varian at Kremlin House stables (now at Carlburg stables). This time it was for a longer spell from January to November and Claudine got to work with equine stars like 'Postponed', before returning to Madrid to focus on Hipotour.

The course at Zarzuela is a left handed oval with sharp turns. It consists of two racing tracks, one turf and one all-weather plus two all-weather galloping tracks for the horses to train on and it was here that Claudine brought me to watch the morning workouts as we mingled with jockeys, trainers, bloodstock agents and even a journalist.

The horses often worked in pairs and finished upside each other. Claudine emphasised that it was important for the horses to enjoy their training and not become too disheartened by falling behind their galloping companion.

Away from the gallops action we watched a young horse being 'broken in' and then went to meet a local trainer, Leyla Ennouini. Leyla is Belgian and has been training in her own right for about eighteen months; previously she has worked for Luca Cumani in Newmarket and then as assistant to a leading Spanish trainer.

Leyla trains on site at Zarzuela along with about thirty other trainers. The course covers 110 hectares and its picturesque setting borders the royal palace of El Pardo. There are 48 stables with over 800 boxes available but only 400 are taken. Leyla has a select band of seven horses including Butot, an engaging three year old bay, who had recently finished third in a race at the course.

Butot appeared to have a gentle disposition and soaked up the attention from us, but Leyla said his behaviour on the track can be quite different, often being hard to control. Butot has been with Leyla for about six months and she is working to 'get his mind right'.

Racing in Spain is generally staged just one day a week which is mainly Sunday and there are only a handful of tracks. Apart from Zarzuela, there is San Sebastian in the North, two tracks in Seville and some annual beach events in Andalucia.

The once-popular Mijas hippodrome on the Costa del Sol, swelled by the sizeable contingent of tourists and ex-pat Brits, closed down a few years ago due to financial difficulties. The track made big losses despite attracting crowds over 10,000 in its heyday.

One of the problems with Spanish racing is that the courses are state-run which can lead to under-funding during harsher economic times. However the biggest challenge is betting, or rather the lack of it. There is no off-course betting in Spain, so to place a bet you have to be at the track where the system is similar to the Tote.

Racing at Zarzuela starts in March through to early December and the Mediterranean climate has a major influence. During the summer months it's too hot to race during the day so there are evening and night meetings all on the all-weather surface. This gives the turf track a chance to recover from its weekly spring and autumn schedules.

The Sunday I attended was the biggest meeting of its autumn calendar. The day after Champion's day at Ascot, Zarzuela held its own version, with over 190,000 euros of prize money at stake. It was a seven race card beginning in the morning at 11:30 and a crowd of 5,000 gathered to enjoy the spectacle in a relaxed atmosphere on a lovely, hot day.

I joined up with Hipotour for their raceday-visit which had attracted a large group of participants. Since recently securing a listing on the course's website, the numbers attending the raceday-visits had been steadily increasing.

Claudine introduced me to the other half of Hipotour, Isabel, who was one of the first professional, female jockeys in Spain and rode in almost a hundred races over a seven year period. Although she only had two winners, Isabel describes 'every race as a victory, because it was a very difficult time for women in the Spanish turf.'

The first two races on the card produced decisive winners but the third, over a distance of 1500 metres provided the most thrilling moment of the afternoon. Three horses were involved in a blanket finish with the grey, Singatora, getting up in the last stride, having taken the widest route of all to clinch the narrowest of victories.

Later, the most prestigious race was a listed contest over 2400 metres(1m 4.5f) billed as a rematch between Tuvalu and Parsifal who had fought out the Premio Gran de Madrid in July. The Premio Gran is the nation's most famous race and Tuvalu had triumphed by half a length; this time Parsifal got closer but Oscar Urbina aboard Tuvalu was able to fend off his sustained challenge to prevail by a quarter of a length.

At the end of the meeting Claudine grabbed Oscar Urbina for a quick photo with me and he was good enough to chat for a few minutes. He lives in Newmarket and now mainly work rides for Charlie Appleby but takes the occasional professional ride in Spain. He had flown out to Madrid especially for the mount on Tuvalu, who he had also partnered to success in the Premio Gran.

Oscar explained more about the problems with Spanish racing, there are only 800 horses in training but ideally there needs to be 1200. The limited number of meetings means there is a shortage of opportunities for young Spanish jockeys to develop their race skills and progress their careers. He reiterated that the restriction on betting is a big problem which is really holding Spanish racing back.

Tuvalu (sired by Shirocco) is British bred and Spanish trainers frequently make trips to the Newmarket sales ring for new acquisitions. I spoke to one bloodstock agent who had been involved in the purchase of a two year old, 'Cuppacoffee', from the 2016 Tattersalls Autumn Horses in Training sale. Cuppacoffee, formerly trained by Anne Duffield, had won two Class 5 sprint races and was officially rated 85 before leaving England.

Since moving to Spain, Cuppacoffee has been upped in distance to a mile and run seven times, finishing second on three occasions and collected 25,300 euros for his connections. Prize money in Spain, at least at the lower levels, compares favourably with the equivalent in Britain and this is perhaps the one advantage of having a small number of meetings.

Overall, I was very impressed with Zarzuela. It's a charming course situated just a few minutes away from the centre of Madrid - on race days there is a free bus service via Moncloa interchange whilst hotel Eurostars Zarzuela Park is very close to the track. Training tours can be arranged with Hipotour ([hipotour.com](http://hipotour.com)) on most days – they begin at 10:00 am and last for about 3 hours.

Photos: (1) Zarzeula Grandstand (2) Claudine & Butot (3) Close finish of 3<sup>rd</sup> race (4) Tuvalu enters winner's enclosure.



# XMAS QUIZ 2017 by Phil Evans

As usual a slightly bigger than usual quiz for the festive period! Answer as many as you can then send your entries to NRC, 53 Dalebrook Rd Sale M33 3LB or e mail to info@northernracingclub.com

Closing date for entries is Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> Jan 2018.

The best entry will win a prize as usual, but if we get a decent number of entries additional prizes may be allocated so please have a go as I doubt anyone will get a perfect score??

## BROTHERS

- Q1. Name the NH jockey brothers who both won their first NH race at Cartmel – the youngest brother winning his race in 2017.
- Q2. Which brothers are owners of Arena Racing?
- Q3. Thomas, Toby & Jake – can you name the missing brother – now a trainer?
- Q4. Brother of Philip and has a sister.....who are both jump jockeys as well. The brother you need to identify retired from riding in August 2016.
- Q5. Which brothers did battle in the 2017 Coronation Cup at Epsom?

## RACING IN FILMS & TV

- Q6. In My Fair Lady what did the film makers get wrong when their set was made to replicate Royal Ascot?
- Q7. In The Belles of St Trinian's where do the girls keep a racehorse?
- Q8. In the film 'National Velvet' what is the name of the horse that 'wins' the Grand National but is later disqualified?
- Q9. James Bond author Ian Fleming is the godfather of jump jockey/ITV racing presenter.....and the great uncle of trainer.....
- Q10. In ITV's detective series 'Frost' which racecourse was used to represent the airport buildings at Denton International Airport?

## RACING GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

- Q11. Where are Desert Orchid's ashes buried?
- Q12. Which is the tallest Grand National fence?
- Q13. What type of tree is used to build the Grand National fences?
- Q14. In racing circles where would you find Hamilton Rd?
- Q15. Where did Lester Piggott train from (name of yard required)?
- Q16. Who was the last trainer to use Palace House Stables?
- Q17. Which jockey was known as the 'Head waiter'?
- Q18. Besides Doncaster, the St Leger has been run at Ayr, Thirsk, Newmarket, York and which other racecourse ?
- Q19. Which trainer was tragically shot by a stud groom in 1994?
- Q20. What feat did *West Australian* first achieve in 1853?

