



## FACEBOOK POLLS

Even if you are not an avid Facebook user you may be interested in joining the NRC Facebook page to keep up to date with racing news and views and not least our weekly polls where members can vote on the main topics in racing.

In recent polls, the majority of members felt there was too much summer racing. They also felt that it was best to run 'consolation' handicaps on the same day as the main race (unlike Matt Chapman of ITV). As regards the BHA, members felt they needed to do more to discourage the flood of non-runners on most days and they also felt the BHA was wrong to stop Gina Mangan riding in the Derby! So, get voting to tell us your views!

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2** Heritage H/cap Scores & Royal Ascot Preview
- 3** Racing Spotlight by Brian Goodwill
- 4-9** Gordon Armistead's Racing Diary
- 9** British TRC Open Day – 19<sup>th</sup> August
- 10** A 'Grand Day Out' by Jennifer Suggitt
- 11** NRC Events & Competitions
- 12** Arabian Racing – by Michael Wheeler
- 13** Staying Racing Club by Jane Maggs
- 14** A Day At The Races by Dennis Nolan
- 15-16** From Chester to Taunton by Alan Hill
- 17-18** Trainer Traits & Committee Panel



**Nick Rust** (Chief Executive of the BHA) is under the spotlight in this edition of Racin – see page 3.

## MEMBERS FEEDBACK REQUIRED

To help the club plan for the future we really need more feedback from members.

Firstly, tell us what you think about the current offering of events, website and magazine and secondly tell us what new events or other racing activities you would like to participate in.

It is a while since we arranged a 'Racing Weekend Break' for example so have members any ideas for such an event?

Is there a racing stable you would love to visit but have never got around to it?

Are you still trying to tick off visiting all the UK racecourses but still have a few far-flung ones to visit and would like to get a little group together to tick these off?

Besides preview nights would you like to enjoy a meal as a group with a guest speaker?

Please contact Phil Evans with any suggestions.

## HERITAGE HANDICAPS COMPETITION

After week 8 the leading scores were as below:

108.4	Ted Halewood
57.9	Brendan O'Mera
53.9	Les Taylor
52.6	Gordon Armistead
44.3	Jason Sandland
44.1	Harry Sandland
43.1	Rob McDermott
43.1	Ken Unsworth
41.2	Phil Evans
40.4	Jim Flanagan
39.7	Guy Weaver
39.6	Helen Goodwill
39.3	Mike Campbell
37	Peter Flynn
36.1	Gary Mellor

The Exacta/Trifecta table is also set out below:

337.2	Ken Unsworth
337.2	Harry Sandland
82.5	Mike Campbell
82.5	Gordon Armistead
82.5	Ian Hazell
54.5	Les Taylor
54.5	Ray Squire
54.5	Alan Preston
54.5	Gary Mellor
54.5	Jane Maggs
42.8	Eunice Flynn

## ROYAL ASCOT PREVIEW NIGHT

Whilst we would have liked a bigger turnout for this event, that aside, the evening went down very well!

Besides our 'own' Kieran Rowbottom we were delighted to welcome SIS commentator Gary Leonard to our panel.

On the opening day both Kieran and Gary were keen on Ribchester (11/10) with Gary also giving the forecast with Mutakayef (5/1) in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Kieran was again on the mark with Lady Aurelia (7/2) in the Kings Stand Stakes with Gary giving Profitable (2<sup>nd</sup> 14/1) in the same race. No doubt the two paid a healthy dividend for the forecast!

On Wednesday both panellists were strong on Le Brivedo (2/1) and Qemah (5/2) which provided a nice double! In the Queen Mary Stakes Gary felt Now Your Talking was over-priced and a 4<sup>th</sup> place at 66/1 would have been rewarded by many bookmakers who paid out on 4<sup>th</sup> place.

Whilst day 3 was a quieter one for winners all the panels selections were placed and using them all in a placepot would have required just two lines and paid out two winning lines at £447 per line!

Friday's hotpots (Caravagio & Winter) both obliged for the panel whilst Gary also found 6/1 winner Permian.

By the time we got to Saturday quite a lot of the selections were not running but both managed to find the 9/2 winner The Tin Man.

Gary's nap of the week was The Tin Man (9/2 winner) whilst Kieran selected Secret Advisor (3<sup>rd</sup> 10/1) so over the meeting both panellists did us proud! Both fully deserved their thank you gifts of a bottle of finest quality Irish Whiskey!

Whilst the Alex Bird competition usually covers Royal Ascot this was moved to Goodwood this year, due to holidays of our scorer!

We did however run a mini league in the Telegraph Royal Ascot competition which was won by Charles Rear on 1328pts who just held off the challenge of Adele Brown on 1318pts. A small prize was awarded to Charles for his efforts!

# RACING SPOTLIGHT – NICK RUST

Compiled by Brian Goodwill

## YOUR HAPPIEST MOMENT IN RACING

A few weeks ago when the European Commission cleared the replacement Levy, meaning we can look forward to considerably improved funding for our sport.

## YOUR SADDEST MOMENT IN RACING

I think probably the day Freddie Tylicki sustained his injuries at Kempton last year.

## THE FIRST HORSE YOU OWNED/ PART OWNED

Snow's Ride, bought by Micky Hammond at Tattersalls Horses in Training sale on 2004. He had been with William Muir and won a couple of staying races on the Flat. I was introduced to Micky by a friend and took a third share in the gelding. He won a novice hurdle at Sedgefield in May 2005, and I'll never forget that day. He went on to win 4 more hurdle races for us.

## YOUR FIRST DAY'S WORK IN A BETTING SHOP

Absolutely terrifying and magical in equal measures! I loved the atmosphere and dealing with all sorts of customers, but it was quite intimidating just how much there was to learn. I started by "marking the board" before the electronic screens were installed - it was great fun being out in the customer area sharing the banter as I marked up the latest betting shows and results.

## YOUR MOST MEMORABLE BET AS A YOUNGSTER

I think I was underage and I backed Waajib for one of the big handicaps at Goodwood. I had £8 on at 14/1, and Muis Roberts steered in home to win me more than a week's wages.

## WERE YOUR PARENTS INTERESTED IN RACING

My Dad had an interest, partly because his father did before him. My grandfather was passionate about racing and was also a GP. He combined the two as a racecourse doctor at a few tracks in Yorkshire. My Mum and Dad are now annual members at Kelso

## YOUR HOBBIES OUTSIDE OF THE SPORT

Stamp collecting, golf, travel

## WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS FOR THE REST OF YOUR TENURE AT THE BHA

Lead the organisation to play a key role in the industry's effort to grow the sport, working with Horsemen and Racecourses. Develop the fixture list to make it more commercially successful in driving more revenue from betting, more racegoers, more fans and more efficiencies for the sport. Embed the new Disciplinary Panel and build our reputation for good regulation. Deliver a plan for continuous improvement for the welfare of our horses and the sport's human workforce.

# GORDON ARMISTEAD'S RACING DIARY

## Saturday June 10th Haydock

A very moderate Group 3 contest for the Pinnacle Stakes but the soft ground really suited French challenger Bateel as she took the race very easily. When she has stepped up in class on good ground she has been well beaten and it would be interesting to see how she would go against better mares on soft or heavy.

The other Group 3 on the card the John of Gaunt was also moderate for the grade. Absolutely So was winning for the first time in two years and I don't think I would trust the next three home Jallota, So Beloved, and Mitchum Swagger to give their all for a win.

Easily the best from the handicaps was Mjjack who took the seven furlong 0-85 easily. He was a decent looking sort and while the handicapper will not be kind he is an improver and obviously suited by soft ground.

## Tuesday May 23rd Hippodrome d'Evantard- Angers

Anyone who follows racing in France could do a lot worse than live around Angers with the two local regional federations (Anjou-Maine and West) governing over a hundred courses. Many of those are trotting only venues but there are any number of courses within a couple of hours drive that have at least some gallop only days and many more with mixed trot/gallop days. On top of that it only an hour and a half from on the TGV train to Paris for the big meetings there.

Angers is about 300 kilometers south west of Paris and is the capital of the Maine et Loire Department. In pre-revolutionary times, it was the capital of Anjou the home territory of the Plantagenet family that ruled England for three centuries until Henry VII dispatched Richard III at Bosworth. The main focal point of the city is the Chateau built on a high cliff about the River Maine. It's an impressive structure and was still used by the French military until 1947. Inside the defensive walls are a number of buildings including one built in the 1950's to hold what is known as the Apocalypse Tapestry. Commissioned by Louis I and given to Angers Cathedral in 1474 it is a massive work over a hundred metres long and nearly five metres high and is based on passages from the Book of Revelation. Without going into the religious aspects, it is an impressive piece of work. There are certainly some very weird images and some of the panels could easily have been created by Salvador Dali or other surrealist artists.

While not actually on the River Loire Angers is also be a good base for exploring the Loire Valley and the many Chateaux to the east of the city.

The racecourse dates from 1837 and races under all the codes of flat, jumps and trotting with 20 days racing this year of which 18 are covered by the national PMU. Of the 20 there are 9 trotting only days, 3 that are jumps only with 7 mixed flat/jumping and 1 mixed trotting/ jumping. Racing takes place from February to May and then from October to December. In 2015 the course staged its first Group 3 race when the Prix Andre Baboin which moves round some of the major provisional courses was staged here. Between 1995 and 2005 major work was carried out at the course resulting in a new grandstand, a new trotting track and the building of the chase track.

The course is right handed and the flat / hurdles track which runs around the outside is 1,800 meters for a circuit with about a 400 metre run in. The chase track runs inside with two separate lines of fences down the back straight while fences in the home straight are not taken on the last circuit as races finish on the flat track over two hurdles.

The grandstand has a decent amount of outside stepping but there is also a large seated area inside behind glass. The top floor has a panoramic restaurant while near the paddock is a snack bar.

Having arrived in town late the night before there was just enough time after breakfast to pick up the car and head for the course with the first race off at 11.55. Luckily it was easy to find right beside junction 14A of the ring road. €6 for entry (€35 for the full year) which included a free race card and form guide.

A couple of odds on shots to start things off with neither appearing to have much opposition. In the two-year-old race however the jockey of Different League made things unnecessarily exciting by giving the other five runners a good start. Different League already a winner at Lyon Parilly on her only other run lived up to her name both in the parade ring and the race and while it's anybody's idea what the form is worth but she is obviously useful. She is from the first crop of Dabirsim who was unbeaten at two winning two Grade 1's but was retired after flopping in the French 2,000 Guineas for which he started 6/5 favorite.

The main race of the day was the Prix d'Eventard a conditions race for three-year old's over 1,600 metres. Odds on was Wren's Day for Andre Fabre and Godolphin who had won his only race at St Cloud. I didn't like the horse in the parade ring and there were a couple of obvious alternatives. The one I liked best was the Jean-Claude Rouget runner Relief Quest which had won twice at two and looked fit enough on her seasonal debut. She looked to be given plenty to do as the seemingly well exposed Gris d'Argent got first run with Relief Quest second and the favourite a well beaten and one paced fourth.

After six flat races, there were two hurdle races and plenty of jumping to be done with eight flights per circuit. A couple of familiar names on the race card for the 4,100 metre claiming hurdle and while Ferdy Murphy's intended runner was a no-show Peter Carberry had a ride for his sister in law Louisa's stable. It was a moderate event which saw first passed the post Nickland demoted to third for something that British stewards would simply not even have looked at.

The second jump race was over 3,800 metres for four-year-old AQPS horses that hadn't won €9,000 in prize money but was in effect a maiden hurdle. The nicest horses were the two Francois Nicolle runners Demi-Sang having its first run since September and Dear Dragon making its debut. Both looked like they would come on for the run which left it a wide-open race. Winner Damiel was having her fifth hurdle start having won a bumper at Argentan twelve months ago and she led nowhere apart from on the line to beat Disco Mome another bumper winner. They went a good gallop so it is probably good form at its level. Demi- Sang ran a decent third while Dear Dragon tipped up early on.

### **Thursday May 25th Hippodrome de L'Isle Briand Le Lion d'Angers**

They have been racing on the Isle Briand since 1874 but the racing society at the time moved away after only a few years and it wasn't until 1945 when two local societies merged that they returned to the site. New courses were developed in the 1970's and the stands were upgraded on several occasions up to the turn of the century. In 2005 the course founded its signature race in the Anjou- Loire Challenge Cross Country Chase. The most famous horse to race at the track is superstar broodmare and Arc winner Urban Sea who won here three months before winning at Longchamp. There are ten meeting this year all being mixed flat and jumps and its one of the few provisional tracks that holds no trotting races. It does however hold other equine events including each October an international three day event and it was here that top British rider William Fox-Pitt was badly injured a couple of years ago. The second of the grandstands is two sided with the side away from the racecourse overlooking the show jumping ring.

Le Lion d'Angers is a small village on the banks of the River Oudon about 20 kilometres north of Angers and like many French villages is dominated by a huge church. It was a bank holiday for Ascension Day and although the first race was scheduled for 4.10 the gates opened at 10.30 with at 11.30 a race for horses representing the villages of the region. Not thoroughbreds but Bretons, Percherons and Normandy Cobs and the horses were paraded through the village before arriving at the course.

I wasn't there for that but did arrive a couple of hours before the first and there was already a big crowd (I saw an estimate of 10,000 for the day) on what was probably the hottest day I have ever been racing with the temperature pushing 40C late in the afternoon. By the time the main racing started the stands were packed but just how anyone could stay on the stands all afternoon as some did I don't know. I was waiting for the announcement of three minutes to the off to go out and then getting back into the shade straight after the finish. Luckily around the parade ring and pre parade there were plenty of trees for shade. The main grandstand was a good size with an upper level of seats and there was another large stand further down the track but it was also packed on the grass in front of the stands.

There were three pony races in the lead up to the main meeting. The first two passed uneventfully but the third was a pony cross country race over 2,700 metres and it was all action. Twelve runners and while not jumping some of the bigger fences they jumped many that would be taken in the main event and it was soon clear it was not going to be a tactical affair. By the fourth fence the saddle on the leader had slipped forward and the young jockey was perched up between his pony's ears but he was obviously going to keep going. At about the eight fence the pony in sixth place slammed on the breaks and all those behind were taken out. The leader just kept going and by the time they went up the steep hill at the far end of the track only one other runner was anywhere near. It was looking like an amazing win but just before the second last the weight cloth and number cloth came off. Even with seemingly just the stirrups left he carried on to ride a finish and be passed the post in first place. The horses that had been baulked early in the race continued to finish for three of four minutes afterwards all getting applause from the crowd.

Seven races on the mixed card- a hurdle, two flat races, two over the cross-country fences, a standard chase, and a bumper. The flat and hurdle tracks are left handed with the circuit being about 1,600 metres. The chase and cross-country races finish left handed but more on those courses later.

The flat races were a 1,400 metre event for horses that hadn't won a race this year but with penalties for prize money won since March 2016 and an amateur rider race over 2,000 metres with penalties for prize money won since January 2016.

Both had double figure fields, wide open betting, and tight finishes and show you don't need handicap after handicap like we have in Britain to make competitive races.

There was an Irish challenger in the first of the cross-country races (4,500 metres) in Need to Know a horse I had seen on the opening day at Punchestown when he ran fourth in the Lady's Cup over the banks before he came out and beat a tribe of Enda Bolger horses on the final day.

The cross-country course features a whole variety of challenges far more varied than Cheltenham including a water splash, a variety of different banks and a very steep uphill and downhill run. You would need to watch several races to even begin to pick up the route and yet despite all the turns it seems to flow along without any ridiculously sharp bends.

It was very hard to weigh up how the Irish form fitted in against the locals but jockey Brendan Walsh was very positive and had Need to Know up with the pace all the way. He stretched it out in the last third of the race and had it won a fair way from home. A solid Irish pointer he was 0 from 17 under rules before winning at Punchestown.

The €112K Prix Anjou-Loire Challenge over 7,300 metres and no less than fifty jumps was the fifth race on the card off at 6.30. Twelve runners and six had run in the trial race three weeks earlier. The winner of that race Kick On won this in 2015 but had missed nearly two years before returning in March to take his winning streak to seven and was odds on here under multiple champion jockey Davis Cottin. No British or Irish challengers this year but in previous years Any Currency and Maljimar have placed third and others have finished down the field.

Uroquois in the same colours as the favourite forced the pace early on but with about a quarter of the race left second favourite and 2014 winner Posilox went to the front and was sent for home. Only Kick On could follow but before turning for home he began to struggle and over the last two Posilox just powered away to win by twenty lengths.

Things did not go to plan after the race and showed what a good decision it had been take the finishers in the Grand National straight to a cool down area. In a scene reminiscent of the 2007 National when Graphic Approach collapsed from heat exhaustion in front of the stands fourth placed Bourgueil went down near the winning line. The presentations were due to take place on a trailer in front of the stands which was duly pulled into place. The ceremony obviously didn't take place as twenty metres away the vets tried to save the horse and a steady stream of water buckets crossed the course. After about an hour the horse eventually got to its feet and was slowly walked away with several intravenous drips attached. He was still walking around the pre-parade ring an hour and a half later looking slightly perkier.

The maiden bumper eventually went off about an hour and a half after the big race and they didn't look a bad bunch with many having been placed on multiple occasions. Winner Della Perla was having her seventh run and is a daughter of Grade 2 hurdle winner Balko sire of Scilly Isles Chase winner Gitane Du Berlais. She along with runner up Defy De Mee (a half-brother to Grand Sefton winner As De Mee) should pay their way.

It was getting well on for nine o'clock by the time of the six runners for the four-year-old 3,400 metre chase went to post and I had imagined that it would be straightforward after the meandering of cross country circuit. Not to be however. As the runners came down the straight for the first-time claimer Cedric Baboneau was merrily heading for the water three lengths clear when the other runners swung to the left. Realising his mistake Baboneau went hard to port and while he avoided the water he disappeared into bullfinch fence on its inside. The others jumped the fence inside of that and then did a loop which took them back to jump the bullfinch from which Barboneau had reappeared and he just managed to lead his horse away as the runners headed towards him. The course was basically a figure of eight on the first circuit but on the second when they did jump the water it was just left handed but all very tight. The action was not yet over as Johnny Carron bought the horse I had backed Angela Cara with a perfectly timed run to take it up at the last only for the horse to plough through the jump. Carron somehow stayed on board but the race went to Diva Du Grand Val who was giving away seven kilos in penalties for prize money won.

**Update July 6th** Defy De Mee is sold at Arqana Sales to join Willie Mullins for €190,000.

### **Saturday May 27th Hippodrome de la Metairie-Neuve Chateaubriant**

Chateaubriant would probably be known in England as an historic market town. Situated about equal distances (70 to 80 kilometres) from Nantes, Angers and Rennes it serves as the main focal point to a large rural area. The town of about 12,000 inhabitants is inundated each September by 50,000 visitors to the Foire de Bere a fair held in the town since 1050.

Lying on the border of Brittany the local chateau was fought over on several occasions while in more recent times the town was the site of a prisoner of war camp early in World War 2 which morphed into a concentration camp mainly housing gypsies, black marketers, and communists.

The racecourse is a modern addition to the town dating from 1980 and lies about 5 kilometres north of the town centre in a very nice parkland area. It's free entry to all Chateaubriant's fifteen meetings (9 trotting, 5 flat/jumping, and 1 trot/jumping) but there is a €2 charge for the race card/ form guide. The course had its first national PMU meeting in 1997 and now nine of the meetings are covered nationally. The best horse to race here is multiple Grade 1 winner Whipper who started his career at Chateaubriant.

The flat/ hurdle course is 1,600 metres around and right handed with the 1,400 metre trotting track on the inside. Plenty of room on the wooden grandstand which has a panoramic restaurant and behind the stand is a large covered area for the food outlets, small bar and pari-mutual.

First race was due off at 5.50 and it was thankfully cooler than at Le Lion d'Angers with the result board showing just the 32 degrees. Eight races on the card with a couple of hurdle races, four maidens and two divisions of a 1,950 metre handicap. The opening hurdle race was for juveniles with the Francois Nicolle trained Tulira a winner at Le Teste in at about even money. She is only small but won easily from the other winner in the field Countess Allegro with the others beaten a long way. Nicolle doubled up in the second hurdle race when eight race maiden Cercycoise a faller in three of her last four runs (two over fences) beat 0 from 10 over jumps Vauquoise in a modest event.

Eleven in the 1,100 metre two-year-old maiden with nothing seemingly too fancied and debutante Double Variance (a half-sister to three-time winner and group placed Post Var) ran out a ready winner. She looked like she would improve for the run and should get a bit further.

Only Godolphin could name a horse after a heroic British Queen and have it trained in France. Queen Boudica was odds on for the fillies 1,950 maiden and much as I would have liked to take her on (she had already been beaten in a modest event at Nancy) the opposition looked very poor. Claimer Nicolas Barzalona missed the break and tried his best to get boxed in but the daughter of Prix de l'Opera winner Satwa Queen had too much class and won eased down by six lengths.

The colt's maiden over the same trip also had an odds-on Godolphin runner in Bounderby a half-brother to some minor winners. From the list of relatives in the Paris-Turf the only name I recognised was the very moderate Overtures who raced for Gigginstown and even Gordon Elliot couldn't get him to win. I didn't like Bounderby as an individual and there were some decent looking sorts against him of which the Aga Khan's Sajjad (a half-brother to Grade 1 winner Sageburg) was top of the list. His two runs included a second at Deauville before a poor run here on his last run but at a big double figure price he was worth the risk. Barzalona again missed the break on the favourite but this time his partner was not good enough to get him out of trouble. Mickael Berto on Sajjid sat in second and before the turn in it looked how far as the pace setter Agostino was a huge price. He however didn't know that and kept pulling it out when Sajjid challenged and in the last hundred metres he pulled away.

The last race was a maiden over 2,600 metres and another moderate looking favourite in the Andre Fabre trained Aurelian who had finished only sixth here when even money on his last run. Again, the Aga Khan runner Sajida was paddock pick and this time Berto set off to make all and just held on by a head from a fast finishing Presidente Line. She has probably done her job by winning as I doubt she can step up much in class.

This is an excellent little track maybe a bit on the sharp side but obviously some of the top trainers have no problem sending runners here.

### **Sunday May 28th Hippodrome de la Foret du Gavre- Blain Bouvran Le Gavre**

Blain, Bouvran and Le Gavre are three villages about 40 kilometres north of Nantes with the racecourse situated between Blain and Le Gavre on the edge of the forest of Le Gavre. Blain is by far the biggest of the three and in older times was an important centre for the region and sits on the major waterway of the Nantes- Brest canal. La Gavre and the forest is a popular area for camping and walking. Bouvran has the most interesting recent past. On the edge of the village stands a large monument which carries the words "On May 11, 1945, it was here that the Second World War ended in Europe". This commemorates the surrender of the St Nazaire pocket and came three days after VE Day. One report states that this took place on the Grand Clos Racecourse and this could be another case of two racing societies merging after the war and would explain why Bouvran is included in the racecourse name as it a good 15 kilometres away.

The course which opened in 1888 will this year hold six meetings. Three mixed flat and chase/cross country cards in April and May and three trotting cards in August. The flat track is right handed and 1,450 metres per circuit and is used for the trotting as well. The chase track runs up the inside of the flat track up the straight and then weaves around both on the infield and outside the flat track and is about 1,500 metres per circuit. The cross country track only has one extra fence which is a on and off bank but many of the chase fences are jumped in both directions. There are some tight bends on the

chase track and after morning rain several horses slipped and one came down in the first chase. No doubt the jockeys at Windsor would have been on their way home very quickly but here they just carried on.

Another early start with the first race off at 12.05 as the first four races were filling in a gap on the national PMU schedule. After those races, there was a seventy-minute gap before the fifth. A seven-race card made up of two chases, two cross country races, two flat races and a bumper. The normal charge for entry would be €5 but no charge today and no charge for the race card. No form in the race card or Paris-Turf so it was just the form figures in the race card for a guide and paddock inspection. There is an excellent wooden stand for a small track with a covered area behind for the catering and pari-mutual.

A big shocker in the opening four-year-old novice chase with winner Axedo du Pavoil paying €61 on the PMU. Looking at his form when I got home he had beaten just two horses from twenty-five opponents in his two bumpers and then finished last beaten seventy-five lengths in his one hurdle. Here he was always prominent and won cosily on his first start for owner/trainer Gerard Lecomte who was having his first winner of the year. The second chase winner was easier to find as the mare Gipsy Rain was the only runner to have won a race this year and started favourite at 32/10. She was probably expected to be running somewhere higher up the pyramid as her dam won ten races and she is by Great Pretender the sire of Great Fields.

The tight track looked like it would suit front runners for the flat races and Wataany under Emmanuel Etienne made all in the 2,650 metre conditions race. Having seen that he knew what was required I was happy to go along with the same jockey on Change of Gold in the 1,950 metre claimer and he followed up in identical fashion. It may have been a very moderate race but the owner and trainer were ecstatic having also had the runner up and they got both horses and jockeys in for the after-race photos. Most of the runners in the bumper had already tried the jumping game without any success (eleven runs resulting in five pulled ups and five falls). The one previous winner Costa Baie easily gave away the penalty by ten lengths with big margins all down the field. No doubt this was low grade racing but nothing wrong with that and there was a decent crowd considering the weather had taken a turn for the worse in the early part of the day.

### **Saturday July 8th Haydock**

I was hoping there might be some future novice hurdlers in the one mile six three year old handicap and maybe there was in the runner up Dominating. Now with Mark Johnson his owner Alan Spence has jumpers with Nicky Henderson but the horse looks to have more improvement in him on the flat so maybe it will be the 2018/19 season. The one horse already with a jumping trainer Jukebox Jive for Anthony Honeyball lacks any scope for the winter game. Race winner Zenon is a really close coupled sort who took time to get going and looks a real stayer.

Abingdon favourite for the Lancashire Oaks is a big girl who wouldn't look out of place in a mare's chase but the slowly run race was not to her liking and she was outpaced from two out by The Black Princess. The winner is probably on a par with recent winners of the race and not up to Group 1 level.

The handicappers were four seconds faster in the Old Newton Cup and plenty had chances at various times in the straight but former Italian Group 1 winner Dylan Mouth powered clear in the last furlong. He hasn't been good enough in Group and Listed races recently but he might have to go back to then after this off top weight. Runner up Soldier in Action ran a super race always up with the pace and keeping on. He won his novice hurdle before finishing last in the Triumph Hurdle and off a mark of 141 he should be up to winning a handicap over hurdles if upped to two miles four. Most of the rest finished in a heap but it was another poor effort from Cosmeapolitan who beat only one home having never got in the race.





Photos are (1) Angers (2) Lion d'Angers (3) Chateaubriant (4) Le Gavre

## THE TRC OPEN DAY & COUNTRY FAIR - AUGUST 19<sup>TH</sup> AT 10.30AM



This is not a NRC event but well worth supporting!

This will include displays by the Nottingham Knights Horseball Team and also Dartmoor Hawking.

There will also be a mini farm for children and other stalls and displays.

No booking required. Donation of £10 per car required.

Address is The British TRC, Aughton Rd, Lancaster LA2 6PQ.

# A Grand Day Out!

By JENNIFER SUGGITT

A question from my nieces: "What are you going to do for your 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, Auntie Jen?" Well – what would you do if you had a big birthday coming up? Mmm.... Well, of course, the answer is obvious – A Day At The Races!

The thought of such a day out seemed like a bright idea – but Where? How? When? I wanted to invite all my close family and have the day as near as possible to my birthdate, and this led me to thinking of Ripon racecourse, a delightful venue, which would be convenient for travel and had a meeting scheduled for July 22<sup>nd</sup>. I reckoned the cost would be about the price of a holiday or two.

Several phone calls to Ripon later, and planning really began to take shape. A hospitality box would give us a base and would cover us in case of bad weather. I also wanted to sponsor a race, to be named after my late sister, and this was agreed – "The Ruth Gibbons' Family Handicap". I didn't want it to be a memorial race, because I wanted our day to celebrate our family, past and present.

All set – and the day began with a very wet start. Thirty adult guests and 12 children arrived from north, south, west and New Zealand! The sun came out as we gathered in our room and we never stopped talking all afternoon. Most people had never been to a race meeting before but it was amazing how quickly they found out how to bet! Cousins returned with the news that they had won £40, nephews were £32 up, son-in-law had won £25...

I think the highlight for most of us was the sight of my 95-year-old uncle, getting out of his wheelchair to see each race, with obvious delight. He recalled how in his youth, he was sent to put on bets for his older workmates – not realising what it was all about, and what's more, illegal!

Another great moment was when my daughter came in with a wonderful cake, specially made with a racing scene on the top, with two jockeys, one even wearing Elite Racing Club colours, and the other the old Laurel Racing Club's yellow and black (my current and former clubs).

Ripon is such a nice, colourful racecourse, compact and friendly, with excellent facilities, and our party enjoyed exploring – the children found the play area, and my one-year-old grandson loved the band. Everyone was thrilled to see the horses and learn more about the sport.

In the past, I think some had wondered what it was we found so enjoyable in our "hobby" – now they know. We had such a great day – the catering for our buffet was superb and very efficiently staffed, and the management at Ripon were brilliant, so attentive and helpful. When it came to the time of "our" race – the sixth of seven – we were made to feel very special, with a select group of us being taken to the parade ring to pick the "best turned out" runner.

The race was won by Indy, trained by John Quinn at Malton, and ridden by Jason Hart. It stayed on well to win easily by three lengths and was 5/1 at the off. Did any of us back it? Sadly, no. After the race there was a memorable moment when my sister's eldest grandson Joe, aged 13, presented the prize to the winning owners, and then we were invited to share a celebratory drink with the successful connections.

And just to get back to betting – we had heard in the past that the system to follow at Ripon is to back horses with the fifth letter R in their name. It may sound silly – but on Saturday there were three horses that fitted the bill. One came eighth, one came seventh, but the other one won at 10/1, so if you'd placed a bet on all three ... do the maths!

(L) Jennifer and Joe ready to present the race trophy in the unsaddling area. (R) Jason Hart, winning jockey.



# NRC FORTHCOMING EVENTS

## IAN WILLIAMS STABLE VISIT - MONDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER

As this is quite a long trip for most of our members a date has been chosen when there is also racing on at nearby Worcester racecourse to make it a full day out!

A provisional start time of 10.30am is expected although this will be firmed up nearer the time.

Please reserve your place(s) by contacting Dave Bates – see last page of Racin' for details.

As usual the club will be collecting £5pp from members attending so that we can pass the funds onto stable staff for giving up their time to accommodate our visit.

Apologies for those who cannot make it on a Monday but there are only a few fixtures left at Worcester in the Autumn. Shared transport may be available – please ask Dave if you are interested.

## 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.

**June 3<sup>rd</sup> (#48) – Andy White from Rochdale**

**July 1<sup>st</sup> (#06) – Tony Jarvis from Durham**

If anyone else wants to join we currently have numbers 53-54- 57-58-59 available!

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

### SUMMER BOOK COMPETITION

The aim of the competition is to draw up a 'team' of 11 jockeys/trainers whose name/initials are the same as well-known footballers. Besides the names please also include the club/country that the footballer played for.

Here are some examples R Moore (West Ham/England), R Charlton (Man Utd/England), J Hart (Man City/England).

Please send your lists to NRC at 53 Dalebrook Rd, Sale, Cheshire M33 3LB or e mail [info@northernracingclub.com](mailto:info@northernracingclub.com)

Closing date is Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

As usual a prize will be given to the winner – if more than one entry has the same number of names on then a draw will take place to determine the winner.

# Arabian Racing by Michael Wheeler

The UK Arabian racing season runs from early May until September and takes place on British racecourses under the same, albeit slightly modified, rules as thoroughbred racing. It is governed by the Arabian Racing Organisation (ARO). The UK is the only country in the world to hold all Arabian race meetings although most races are staged singly either at the beginning or the end of a thoroughbred card and you may have noticed these races published in the Racing Post.

The Arabian horse is recognised worldwide as the purest and oldest of all horse breeds. Hailing from the Middle Eastern deserts its stamina was an invaluable asset, ensuring it could carry its rider at speed across miles of open desert with little food or water.

Today, almost every breed and type of horse has traces of Arab blood and all English thoroughbreds are descended from three horses: Byerley Turk, Darley Arabian or Godolphin Arabian, which were imported to Britain in the early eighteenth century.

Despite the irony that Arabian blood was introduced to the original thoroughbreds to impart speed, Arabian racehorses are slower than modern thoroughbreds by around one second per furlong.

Arabian horses have a striking appearance with small, refined heads which are concave in shape, large eyes, large nostrils and a high tail carriage. They are known for intelligence, courage, loyalty and a spirited yet gentle disposition. For centuries, the Bedouin peoples treated their horses as members of the family so that foals were raised with their children, and the mares sought shelter in their tents. Over time this became a genetic characteristic of the breed and one of its most endearing traits. Arabian horses therefore bond strongly with humans and have a keen desire to please, they actively seek affection and return it in kind.

One of the most noticeable differences with Arabian flat racing is that there are generally no starting stalls and the horses begin from a walking or 'flip' start behind elasticated tape, the same as in National Hunt racing. An exception to this are the more prestigious Group races where stalls are used to ensure an even start and also enable accurate timing of the race. All ARO races are open to amateur riders but for 'Pattern' races, professional jockeys may usually be booked.

The biggest event in the UK Arab racing calendar is the Sheikh Hamdan Bin Al Maktoum sponsored Dubai International Arabian Race Day. It is held annually at Newbury racecourse and this year takes place on Sunday 30th July; admission is free and it features multiple Group one races.

The most successful British Arabian trainer is James Owen, based in Newmarket who also pre-trains thoroughbreds and specialises in the rehabilitation of horses following injury. He is a former amateur jockey who was East Anglian point-to-point champion for nine consecutive seasons as well as riding over fifty winners in Arabian flat races. James used to be assistant trainer to John Ferguson and has a Godolphin connection as many of his Arabian string are owned by Sheikh Hamdan. The stable won the 2016 ARO trainers championship and currently lead the 2017 table with fourteen winners.

Races coming up include the following fixtures: August 2nd Goodwood; August 4<sup>th</sup> Bath; August 12<sup>th</sup> Newbury, August 19<sup>th</sup> Newbury, September 16<sup>th</sup> Chelmsford & Doncaster; September 23<sup>rd</sup> Huntingdon.



# FOREWARNING AND THE STAYING RACING CLUB-UPDATE

Forewarning (3yo bg Cacique-Buffering by Beat Hollow) is progressing well. He was ridden for the first time at the beginning of July. He has a lovely athletic walk and trot but also a penchant for dropping his rider. The jury is out on whether his second career could be dressage or rodeo.



**Forewarning in dressage mode**

Staying Racing Club will become live shortly and Forewarning will be its first horse, trained by Susan Corbett at Girsonfield, Otterburn, Northumberland. The idea is to have him ready to run in 3yo NH flat races towards the latter part of the year. Depending on how he gets on, he could stay in that sphere (Susan) or race on the flat (me). Look out for his half-brother, Roller, trained by Mick Easterby, who is running in 1m Class 3 handicaps at present.

To join will cost £50 per month for approximately 30 members. Girsonfield is a very friendly yard and visits are encouraged. Race days are also very enjoyable group occasions. Susan has had an influx of very nice horses to look out for and Girsonfield will be much more visible in the coming season.

In the four years she has held a full licence horse numbers have risen from eight to about thirty-five, excluding breeding stock. James, her son, is an extremely capable and underrated jumps rider. Girsonfield is also a stud and stands two stallions, Kutub and Proclamation. My mare, Ogaritmo, who is in foal to Ruler of the World, lives there too. She and the other mares are all living out on the hill at present.

If anyone would like to visit Girsonfield or would be interested in joining Staying Racing, please contact me by email at [wildandfruitful@gmail.com](mailto:wildandfruitful@gmail.com) or by phone on 016973 44304. Jane Maggs

## A DAY AT THE RACES WITH DENNIS NOLAN

Three tough looking Yakuza [Japanese Mafia } are sweeping out the Nomiya next door to the beauty salon as their boss leans against the shop front outside picking at a handful of melon seeds. "You know this town , Its unique " he says. "There's nowhere else like it anywhere in Japan."

The unique thing about Kotobuki a rough slum district in Central Yokohama is the Nomiya. In most parts of Japan a Nomiya is a place to drink, a bar. But in Kotobuki the word and meaning is different. Here the Kanji translate it not as a drinking shop, but a swallowing shop and what usually gets swallowed is one's wage packet. For these Nomiya are not bars, but gambling dens, illegal off-course bookmakers. There are 16 of them in Kotobuki but none anywhere else in Japan. There is a laundry with a Nomiya in the backroom behind the washing machines. It is quite a large room, completely bare but for a few battered video machines, a couple of stools and a desk where Yakuza sell betting slips. The customer can choose between horse racing , bicycle racing or power boat racing on the river outside Tokyo. These are the three K,s of Japanese gambling. Kelba ( horses ) Keirin ( Bicycles ) and Kyotel ( Boats ). As a punter I am handicapped by a complete ignorance of all three sports, but I am not deterred. The walls of the Nomiya are clad with hardboard on which pages of the sporting press are pinned up. Here I can learn the opinions of dozens of racing experts and if I am good enough to read Japanese I can walk away a richer man, my winnings not subject to the Governments extortionate 25 per cent betting tax.

A voice comes floating over the closed circuit radio, "And it's a beautiful day here at Helwajima on the river, not a breath of wind as we wait for the start of the seventh race". Now is the time to make my mind up There is only one kind of bet to make at a Nomiya and that is a quinella. You pick the first and second finishers. The odds are calculated by a computer totalizer at the course and transmitted to the Nomiya by radio or closed circuit TV. I opt for rank outsider Tatsuji Tone followed by the fancied Hideo Takayama,. I approach the Yakuza at the desk and profer a 1,000 Yen note. Will he do business with me?. Yes, Godzilla could come stomping into Kotobuki and gamble if he had 100 Yen to spare. He writes out my betting slip 7R 2-6.10, the seventh race Boat 2 followed by Boat 6,10 units of 100 Yen. Exited commentary comes rattling out of the radio. Day labourers strain to hear, old men cup their ears, slumming businessmen feign indifference. Tone finishes last but one. I screw up my slip and throw it on the floor like a lot of others do. Next I put 1,000 Yen on local boy Kunio Fujita to win the bicycle race at Kagetseun followed by Massaki Kitamura (3-6). My third bet is for Aoshima to hold of Ishil in the eighth at Omiya( 2-1). The betting is illegal but it is said that the local police are soft, still they come around a few times and make a few token arrests. Yakuza get fines of 300,000 to 500,000 Yen, punters holding betting slips pay 50,000 to 100,000 Yen. If you cannot pay you go to prison one day for every 2,000 Yen unpaid. It is yet another gamble. I place my fourth bet at the Nomiya in front of a snack bar. Fujino Legend to win the 2.30 at Tokyo, followed Super Popo(1-6). A bull-necked gentleman sticks out a podgy hand to take my 1,000 Yen and gives me a betting slip. It is actually a shop receipt. As I walk out they write up the latest from Kagetseun 3-6.Amazingly I have won. With my 1,000 Yen investment I can now return to the laundry and pick up 3,000 Yen. On the way I call in on a wooden hut on the car park and put 1,000 Yen on 1-2 in the ninth at Tamagawa. After a while you lose track of the names.

At the laundry I present my winning slip.." Well, well, so the Gaijin won" says the shaven bouncer at the pay-out desk . I pop off to the Inshoku – Gai, a little alley full of tiny bars . One of the Gangs headquarters are in a smart new house here and they have a little Nomiya out back . I put 1,000 Yen Koyama followed by Hiraoka (1-3) in the tenth at Helwajima. A tabby cat sits on the counter yawning unimpressed. The crowd is listening to the big bike race at Omiya. Aoshima wins, Ishil comes second, I'm up another 3,000 Yen.

And so the afternoon wears on, I wander from shack to tent , to table , betting on a horse here, a boat there , a bicycle elsewhere. Suddenly as everything is looking good, I lose the lot. Fujino Legend does the business but Super Popo is nowhere. Having won two bets and lost nine I reach my last bet of the day, down 4,200 Yen. Its dusk and my final call of the day is the Nomiya by the beauty salon. I mull over the last race at Katgetseum with an old lady who has just become 40,000 Yen richer. My confidence is battered by eight straight defeats so I put 1,000 Yen on the favourite followed by the second favourite (3-6). " Gyaku desu ne " (other way round) croaks the old lady and promptly plonks 10,000Yen onto the desk (6-3).We sit in the half- light listening to the commentary. At the finishing 6 pips 3 by three quarters of a length. My bet goes down, the old lady collects 18,000 Yen. "See" she says," I generally win". Is it strategy or luck" I ask, "Luck" she replies.

And so it is with all of us. The odds work well, back favourites and you win small, back outsiders and you win seldom. At the end of the day only one person can deprive the Nomiya management of its daily profit-Lady Luck. I have a funny feeling I met her in Kotobuki.

# FROM CHESTER TO TAUNTON – BY ALAN HILL

It all began on a summer evening in 1965 and ended on a sunny afternoon in 2017. Fifty-two years to get from Chester to Taunton incorporating fifty-nine other racecourses in Great Britain in between. It was a great journey with lots of ups and downs, punting wise more downs than up, but I loved every minute of it, the mug punters lot is a happy lot whenever he goes racing.

That first visit to Chester was with my dad when I was eighteen years old, “Your old enough to have a pint and a bet now” he said, little did he know! For about ten years or so after that we had we always had a week’s holiday during the first week in May so we could attend the three-day meeting. We always went with my dad’s friend Peter who had a car, a bit of a luxury in those days and always stopped for a meal and a pint somewhere on the way home. The highlight was being in the Abbots Well motel just outside Chester after ATTIVO had won the Chester Cup, and who should be in there but the late Sir Peter O’Sullivan himself who owned it. We had a five-minute chat with him about the race and it confirmed just what a true gentleman he was, memory’s like that never fade.

Other highlights include five out of six winners at Perth, five out of seven at Redcar, a lucky fifteen at York which paid just over a thousand pounds, and a placepot at Haydock which paid just over six hundred, I shall not bore you with rest of my financial successes’!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Money isn’t everything is the mug punters motto and losing has never spoilt a good day at the races, and memorable days are too numerous to mention but some never leave you.

One, or more patently three were spent with two fellow members of Northern Racing Club, Phil Evans and Dave Bates. We left very early on a Monday morning for Plumpton, after an hour’s breather admiring the static traffic on the M25 we just made it for the first race. After racing we headed for an overnight stay in Folkestone before attending their very last meeting the following day. After racing we then headed for Ross-On-Wye for another stop over before calling in at Hereford on the way home. Another interesting weekend with this intrepid duo involved visiting Kelso on a Friday, a two-night stopover in the centre of town then watching the rugby team on the Saturday and then a trip to Musselburgh for another days racing on the Sunday, enjoyable days everyone.

As with most racegoers days at the big meetings such as York, Cheltenham, Ascot, Goodwood etc are big favourites as these are the ‘crème de la crème’ of the sport and the excitement and experience plus the romance these festivals generate are something to behold.

Myself I also love the small country courses as they are unique in themselves, in so much as you still have, albeit on a smaller scale, the same excitement and atmosphere you get at the big courses but it does not diminish the fact that they are all part of The Sport of Kings. Take Bangor, Hexham, and Cartmel for instance, they are fabulous days out when the sun is shining and the weather is warm, alas not so much on a rain sodden day when the wind is freezing, but for the true race goer this is all part of the fun.

All weather racing on the sand is not favourable to everybody but for me racing is racing (I can pick losers on any surface) and good days and evenings can be had at Chelmsford, Kempton, Lingfield, even Newcastle now, Southwell and Wolverhampton. Chelmsford was particularly nice but no doubt being new it did have that spotless look about it and the staff as with most courses were pleasant and cordial.

Probably my worst or should I say most embarrassing experience came at Wetherby a couple of years ago, I was there with three other ‘friends’ and come the third race I backed two horses both to win and done them both in a reverse exacta. Approaching the last fence these two animals were twenty lengths clear of the field and neck and neck together, then like a fool I shouted, “I don’t care which one wins”, and I know what you’re now thinking, they both fell, well they didn’t. What they did do was jump the last together and collide in mid-air jettisoning both jockeys out of the side door. I immediately went into Victor Meldrum mode “I don’t believe it”, while all around me there was mass hysteria from friends and strangers alike. To make matters worse my ‘friends’ are still dining out on this tale.

One last hard luck story (I have a million of em) occurred at Kempton on the Boxing Day that Florida Pearl won the King George. We left at six o'clock that morning, best drive down we've ever had, and I had the first five up in the placepot, with two runners in the final leg I was preparing to form an orderly queue at the tote window as one was ridden by a certain A P McCoy and the other by Mick Fitz. A formality one would think, and there ended my Christmas spirit for that year, neither of them in the first half dozen.

Everyone will have their own favourite courses and while the top course's will be at the top of most people's lists a top ten list would probably have a widespread difference as most people's opinion vary a great deal, anyway here are mine, a tough choice to pick ten from sixty-one, but I loved them all, even the one that came 61<sup>st</sup> to a small degree

1<sup>st</sup> Cheltenham and York. I cannot split them, one for the winter and one for the summer, bliss

3<sup>rd</sup> Perth - I loved everything about it, the course, the city for a night out after racing and the people, brilliant

4<sup>th</sup> Salisbury - A lovely course with some great racing and a nice setting, a small profit always helps

5<sup>th</sup> Fakenham - Three of us went and had a superb day out, we all enjoyed it immensely and agreed if we lived local a member's badge would be a must, a no brainer

6<sup>th</sup> Thirsk - Always an enjoyable day out and the Yorkshire food always spot on, burp

7<sup>th</sup> Aintree - Favourite local course where the racing and atmosphere is great, unique in itself

8<sup>th</sup> Cartmel - Not everybody's cup of tea, but different in every way to your usual racecourse, once again unique in its own inimitable way

9<sup>th</sup> Nottingham - Did not know what to expect but pleasantly surprised and impressed. Have been back there again and seen nothing to change my mind, recommended.

10<sup>th</sup> Taunton - Gets in at number ten as it was my final course, four of us went, my wife and two of our friends. My wife hardly ever comes racing but made an exception as it was my final one and we had a table in the restaurant for the day and were looked after superbly, the journey of a life time.

Footnote, Ripon could regain their place in my top ten as I believe they are reverting to the tote and scrapping their own betting system that Bangor and Chester have.

Now to sign off by revealing who came 61<sup>st</sup>, unfortunately that is Worcester. I will not elaborate as I don't like to crab any racecourse, but suffice to say, Nightmare.

**Editor's note** – I was at Worcester last year and had a great day out. The sun was shining (in late Autumn) and there were plenty of tables and chairs set out near the parade ring with a great view and in between races you can watch the boats chugging down the river behind you. Only downside is getting off the racecourse car park in the rush hour!



# TRAINER TRAITS

A brief extract of upcoming flat races later in August is set out below. To qualify a trainer must have won the race three times in the last ten years. Dates are as run in 2016 and generally are 6 days later in 2017. For full bi-monthly lists of both flat and jumps races please visit [www.northernracingclub.com](http://www.northernracingclub.com)

**Wednesday Aug 17<sup>th</sup> York – Gr 2 Great Voltigeur Stakes over 1m 4f:** J Gosden has 3 wins (in 2007, 08 & 12) including *Lucarno* who went on to win the St Leger at Doncaster after winning here. All were rested between 40-61 days and were fairly easy to back with odds of 7/2 to 12/1.

**Wednesday Aug 17<sup>th</sup> York – Gr 1 Juddmonte International Stakes over 1m 4f:** A P O'Brien has won 4 times (in 2008\*, 10, 13 & 14). All were aged 3/4yo and had odds of 7/1 or shorter – with three of the four starting as favourites. A 4<sup>th</sup> place or better was seen with all the winners. \* Race run at Newmarket.

**Wednesday Aug 17<sup>th</sup> York – 6f Nursery Handicap (2yo):** R Fahey has 3 wins (in 2012, 15 & 16). All last ran 20-30 days earlier.

**Thursday Aug 18<sup>th</sup> York – DBS Premier Yearling Stakes over 6f for 2yo:** W Haggas has won for 3 consecutive years (2013-15). All were drawn high in stalls 13,14 & 17.

**Thursday Aug 18<sup>th</sup> York – Gr 2 Lowther Stakes over 6f for 2yo Fillies:** R Hannon won in 2014 & R Hannon Snr in 2008 and 2011. All were 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> on last race and were rested at least 33 days since their last run.

**Thursday Aug 18<sup>th</sup> York – Gr 1 Yorkshire Oaks over 1m 4f for 3yo+ Fillies:** A P O'Brien has won 3 times (In 2007, 14 & 16). All were 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> on their last run and were aged 3yo.

**Friday Aug 21<sup>st</sup> Hamilton –1m 1f Maiden for 3/4yo fillies:** M Johnston has won for 3 consecutive years (2011-13). All were aged 3yo and were 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> favourites.

**Friday Aug 21<sup>st</sup> Killarney – 8.5f Nursery Handicap for 2yo:** A P O'Brien has won 3 times (2012-14). All started as 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> favourites having finished 3<sup>rd</sup> or better on their last run.

**Friday August 21<sup>st</sup> Salisbury – 1m Nursery for 2yo:** R Hannon has won 3 times (in 2009, 11 & 12). All were 6<sup>th</sup> or better on last run having had 3 previous runs. In the betting, most were easy to back with odds ranging from 4/1 to 20/1.

**Friday August 21<sup>st</sup> Salisbury – 6f Maiden for 2yo:** R Hannon has won 3 times (one division in 2012 and both divisions in 2013). All were 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> favourites and came from low stalls 2/4/5.

**Friday August 21<sup>st</sup> Salisbury – (Listed) 1m Stonehenge Stakes for 2yo:** R Hannon has won 4 times (for 3 consecutive years (2009-11) and in 2013). All were 4<sup>th</sup> or better on last run within the last 21-34 days. In the betting, all were well backed with odds of 4/1 or shorter – three of the four starting as favourites.

**Friday August 21<sup>st</sup> Sandown – 5f Nursery for 2yo:** M Channon has won 3 times (in 2007, 11 & 12). All were 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> on last run 7-13 days earlier and had odds of 3/1 to 5/1.

**Friday August 21<sup>st</sup> Sandown – 5f Nursery for 2yo:** M Channon has won 3 times (in 2007, 11 & 12). All were 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> on last run 7-13 days earlier and had odds of 3/1 to 5/1.

**Saturday August 20<sup>th</sup> Chester –7f Maiden for 2yo:** R Hannon won in 2014 and R Hannon Snr in 2007, 2008 & 2013. All were 6<sup>th</sup> or better on their last run, had odds of 4/1 or shorter and came from stall 5 or lower.

**Saturday Aug 20<sup>th</sup> Curragh – Gr 3 St Leger Trial over 1m 6f:** A P O'Brien has won for 3 consecutive years (2014-16). Two were aged 4yo and the other 3yo with odds of 4/6 or shorter. Race Fact: *Order of St George* won the race in 2015 before winning the Irish St Leger. Both *Leading Light (2014)* & *Order of St George (2016)* won here after winning the Gold Cup at Royal Ascot.

**Saturday August 20<sup>th</sup> Sandown – (Listed) Atlanta Stakes over 1m:** Sir M Stoute has won 3 times (in 2009, 12 & 13\*). All were aged 3yo and sent off as favourites. \*2013 winner was in a dead heat.

**Sunday Aug 21<sup>st</sup> Curragh – Gr 3 Royal Whip Stakes over 1m 2f:** A P O'Brien has won 5 times (in 2007, 08, 10, 14 & 15). All were aged 3/4yo with only one failing to start as favourite.

**Sunday Aug 21<sup>st</sup> Curragh – Gr 2 Futurity Stakes over 7f for 2yo:** A P O'Brien has 4 wins (in 2009\*, 13, 14 & 16). All were sent off as favourites. \* Race run at Fairyhouse in 2009. Race Fact: This race has been won by several classic winners in recent years including: *New approach, Cape Blanco & Gleneagles.*

**Sunday Aug 21<sup>st</sup> Curragh – Gr 2 Débutante Stakes over 7f for 2yo fillies:** A P O'Brien has won 5 of the last 10 races (in 2009\*, 11, 13, 15 & 16). All the winners had started as race favourites and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> or better on their last run. \* Race run at Leopardstown in 2009.

**Thursday Aug 25<sup>th</sup> Tipperary – 7.5f Maiden for 2yo:** A P O'Brien has won 4 times (in 2007, 12, 13 & 16). All had odds of 2/1 or shorter with the last 4 winners starting as 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> favourites.

**Thursday Aug 25<sup>th</sup> Tipperary – Gr 3 'Fairy Bridge' Stakes over 7.5f:** D K Weld has won 3 times (2014-16). All were 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> favourites.

**Friday Aug 26<sup>th</sup> Hamilton – 1m 4f 'Lanark Bell' Handicap:** M Johnston has won 4 times 9in 2011, 13, 14 & 15). All carried a weight of 9st 1lb or less.

**Friday Aug 26<sup>th</sup> Newmarket –7f Maiden for 2yo fillies:** Sir M Stoute has won in 2008, 10, 15 & 16. Three started as sole/joint favourites whilst the other was making its début and easier to back at 10/1.

**Friday Aug 26<sup>th</sup> Newmarket –1m Nursery Handicap for 2yo:** R Hannon won in 2014 & 2016 and R Hannon Snr in 2012 & 2013. All last ran 14-22 days earlier.

**BH Sunday Curragh – 8.f Maiden for 2yo C&G:** A P O'Brien has won 3 times (in 2011, 14 & 15). Two were making their débuts and the other was 6<sup>th</sup> on its only start. All had a middle-high draw.

**BH Sunday Curragh – Gr 3 Tower Stakes over 6f for 2yo:** J S Bolger has won 3 times (in 2008, 12 & 15). All were ridden by K Manning.

**BH Sunday Goodwood – Gr3 Supreme Stakes over 7f:** R Hannon has won 3 times (in 2009, 11 & 12). All finished no better than 4<sup>th</sup> on last run although were reasonably backed with odds between 7/2 & 5/1.

## NRC COMMITTEE/OFFICIALS 2017

---

Kieran Rowbottom	Chairman	01606 46765	
Phil Evans	Dep Chairman	0161 973 5921	info@northernracingclub.com
Helen Goodwill	Membership Secretary	0161 928 0213	cheshirecherry@hotmail.co.uk
Ken Unsworth	Newsletter Production	0151 526 9107	ken_unsworth@yahoo.co.uk
Dave Bates	Stable Visits	01925 574140	bates270@btinternet.com
Richard Mattinson	Treasurer	01772 322095	rmattinson@virginmedia.com
Ray Squire	General Assistant	0161 764 3304	breederscup@hotmail.co.uk
Colin Stanton	General Assistant	01925 266953	colin363@btinternet.com
Alan Preston	General Assistant	01925 261751	alaval@ntlworld.com
Alan Hill	General Assistant	01942 883402	albern19@aol.com
Charles Rear	General Assistant	0161 962 5595	kandc@fsmail.net
Michael Wheeler	General Assistant	07429 488735	michaelrosieandspot@hotmail.com

*Next copy deadline date is on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September*