

Racin'



Issue 352

August/September 2018

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Important changes will soon be taking place regarding both the name and the structure of the club.

For fuller details please see page 13

We also have some events planned for September & October and hope to see as many members there as possible.

Don't forget to keep up to date with NRC news via either our Facebook or Twitter pages.

You will find links to both of these sites via the club's main website at:

www.northernracingclub.com



Above: **Bryony Frost** in the subject of Harold Heys article. For fuller details see page 4.

Below, **Martin Greenwood** is put under the spotlight by Brian Goodwill on page 3.



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COMPETITION NEWS & RESULTS

59's DRAW RESULTS UPDATE

The latest '59's' winners are as follows – these winners will receive the usual monthly £50 prize.

June 2nd ~ 13 ~ John Jarvis from Durham.

July 7th ~ 1 ~ Debbie Kirkwood from Merseyside.

However, we do have a few available numbers at present, so if you want to join the draw now is your chance! We currently have numbers 51-52-56-58 available

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

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

ALEX BIRD CHALLENGE

ROYAL ASCOT ROUND SCORES

Well done to **Alan Preston**, from Warrington, who has won the third round of this year's challenge!

ROYAL ASCOT ROUND RESULT

ALAN PRESTON 148
MICHAEL WHEATER 143
PHIL EVANS 138
MIKE ASHWOOD 131
HAROLD WOODWARD B 130
BRIAN JAMES 125
ALAN HILL 123
TED HALEWOOD 123
TIM COGAN 118
MIKE CAMPBELL 2 116
JOHN BOSWELL 1 111
FRANK TURLEY 110

After the three rounds of the competition the

leader board looks like this with flat meeting at York (Ebor) still to come:

CUMULATIVE SCORES AFTER 3 ROUNDS

ALAN PRESTON 469
TED HALEWOOD 454
MIKE CAMPBELL 2 435
LINDA BOSWELL 432
MICHAEL WHEATER 431
KEN UNSWORTH 424
TIM COGAN 420
COLIN MALONE 405
FRANK TURLEY 403
DAVID EVANS 401
MIKE ASHWOOD 399
ROB MCDERMOTT 399
HELEN GOODWILL 393

HERITAGE HANDICAPS COMPETITION

After week 8 of the competition the leaders are as below – with such difficult races to fathom out there will be plenty of twists and turns before the season finale on Ascot Champions Day.

107 Cieran Cassidy

54.2 Peter Flynn

46.7 Jane Maggs

38 Jason Sandland

37.9 Maureen Dawson

37.4 Gordon Armistead

36.5 Brendan O'Meara

33.8 Ken Unsworth

32.8 Tony Coleman

32.1 Diane Bates

RACING SPOTLIGHT – MARTIN GREENWOOD

Compiled by Brian Goodwill

Martin Greenwood is under Brian's spotlight this time. Previously a guest of NRC at preview nights, Martin now has the job of keeping the Gigginstown Stud boys happy each April!

WHAT FIRST SPARKED YOUR INTEREST IN RACING?

Being taken as a very young child to Ponty, Donny, and Wetherby by my dad

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB IN RACING?

Started as an office junior at 16 at Timeform. Ended up there 18 years and senior NH Handicapper

WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT ROLE?

Recently appointed chase team leader after BHA Handicappers restructure. Formally a senior handicapper who dealt with staying hurdlers

WILL YOU BE DOING THE GRAND NATIONAL WEIGHTS?

Yes, 2018/19 will be my First National weights for the BHA though I assessed several at Timeform

IS IT TOO LATE FOR A PROPER JOB?

Probably! Tour guide/moderate musician/sports reporting/military historian if not!!!

HANDICAPPERS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BET ON RACING. ANY BETS THAT YOU FONDLY REMEMBER FROM YOUR TIMEFORM DAYS?

Definitely Mtoto winning the eclipse followed by something trained by Fetherstone-Godley winning the last on the same card at 20/1. See editors note below.

IF YOU COULD CHANGE ONE THING IN RACING WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Less moaning more co-operation!

WHEN DID A TRAINER LAST MAKE YOU LAUGH?

Any trainer trying to bluster their way through why a horse should be lower. Some have Baftas in it.

WHAT GIVES YOU JOB SATISFACTION?

Competitive betting and finishes.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE RACECOURSE AND WHY?

Think Kelso and Ludlow are the prettiest, but Wetherby and Ponty given my childhood years.

Editors Note: I have assumed that Martin's win on Mtoto was the 1987 one when a 6/1 shot, rather than the following year when a 6/4 favourite! I remember vividly watching it on TV when on holiday in Guernsey that year. I did try to find the name of the 20/1 winner as well but as the Racing Post search data only goes back to January 1988 I have struggled in this area. Can any reader out there try and find the name of the Featherstone-Godley winner? I know Mike Campbell and Harold Heys like a challenge!

GORDON ARMISTEAD'S RACING DIARY

Saturday May 26th Haydock

Three good sprints starting with a good bunch of three year olds in the Group 2 Sandy Lane Stakes. The first two Sands of Mali and Invincible Army had a real battle and pulled clear and must be strong contenders for the Commonwealth Cup at Ascot.

The Temple Stakes didn't look the greatest contest and Battaash just gave away his Group 1 penalty after looking like winning far more easily. Runner up Washington DC had looked exposed at this level. In the fillies Cecil Frail I was seeing Different League in a third country and while she looked better than she had at Naas she looked short of pace at this six furlongs in what was an ordinary listed contest.

Tuesday May 29th Strasbourg- Hoerd

Strasbourg in recent times has become known as one of the homes of the European Parliament and several other European institutions. While we think of the Rhine as a German river Strasbourg is the second largest port on the river. It is also the birthplace of two people who made their name in England- Madame Tussaud and Arsene Wenger.

The original racecourse for Strasbourg closed in 1939 and the present one in the village of Hoerd (about 15K north of Strasbourg) dates from 1970. There was a major building project around the turn of the century incorporating the old viewing area but putting on a new roof with a panoramic restaurant and upstairs viewing area. All the French disciplines are catered for-flat, hurdles, chases, cross country, and trotting. Seventeen meetings of which seven are gallop only, five trot only and the rest mixed.

I originally intended to travel here on the train from where I was staying in Baden Baden into the city and then a regional train from Strasbourg to Hoerd but the French railway strikes put a stop to that idea. I therefore came by car (it was only about 45 Kilometres) and it was an easy course to find off the A35 Auto route junction 49 and then after only a couple of hundred metres towards Hoerd it was the first right. Hoerd itself is now mainly a commuter village for Strasbourg but is also the centre of an agricultural area famous for its asparagus. The terrain is flat and the track is left handed with 1,700 metres per circuit on the flat and about 100 metres less for the hurdles and chases. Five Euros for entry and two for the race card.

No trotting today with six flat races, a hurdle and a chase with the main race of the day being the €52K Prix de la Musique the first division of the 3,000 metre handicap. French flat races are often run at a crawl with the field quickening in the straight but here they went off at a real pace and winner Mortree was a struggling last of sixteen with a circuit left and had passed nothing leaving the back straight. They stopped in front and Mortree swept around the outside to win by a head for local trainer Jess Parize. Parize doubled up in the lesser division of the handicap when they went even faster and winner Simano came from fully twenty lengths off the pace to win eased down by eight.

The four year old conditions hurdle over 3,500 metres looked to concern only two runners. Guillaume Macaire's runner Villa Navarre had mixed fences with hurdles since winning at Clairefontaine last June while Eros D'Allier for Eric Clayeux had won his only race in a hurdle at Hyeres in March. I liked Eros D'Allier far more in the parade ring and he was 3/1 against his rival at 1/2. Villa Navarre set off in front and jumped much better than Eros D'Allier and there was eight lengths between the pair at the line with a big gap back to the rest.

The chase over 4,200 metres was a modest handicap for horses that hadn't won €10K in prize money this year. Most of the form was from here or the nearby courses at Wissembourg and Nancy and Bonfou D'Airy had won a similar race here earlier in May by fifteen lengths. He didn't win by as far today but he had it won a long way out for owner trainer Guy-Claude Rudolf who has just a couple of horses.

One jockey at the meeting seemingly has no problems with his weight. I saw him leaving the catering kiosk with sausage, chips and a large coke!

Wednesday May 30th Rennbahn Iffezheim Baden Baden

The first thing to deal with is probably the name of the racecourse. Newspapers and the formbook call it Baden Baden but the race card only refers to it as Iffezheim which is the village where the course is situated about half an hour's drive from Baden Baden.

People have been taking the waters in Baden Baden since at least Roman times and during the mid nineteenth century it was a regular haunt of the Kings and Queens of Europe. The town is really pleasant with a large park the Lichtentaler Allee at its heart. Traffic has been more or less eliminated from the centre of the town by the building of the three kilometre Michaelstunnel which takes all the north south traffic under the town and up into the mountains of the Black Forest which covers about 5,000 square kilometres in south west Germany.

The racecourse was founded like the course I visited a couple of years ago at Vichy as an additional source of entertainment for visitors to the spas of the town. It hardly got off to a good start when the first race in 1858 ended up being a walkover. There was a seven year gap from racing during World War 1 and another during the World War 2 from 1939 to 1948 except for 1940. During the 1960's the main German yearling sales started in conjunction with the October meeting. In 2009 the course had a major crisis as the club which had run it since 1872 went bankrupt and a new company Baden Racing was formed to take over the running of its three meetings covering twelve racings days. Four at this meeting, six in late August early September and two days in October. Their first aim according to the official press release at the time was to upgrade all the facilities which had become rundown. Their other prime aim was to turn it into a family friendly site.

There are a dozen Group races spread across the meetings with the only Group 1 being the Grosser Preis von Baden run on the last day of the summer meeting with the best recent winner being Danedream who won it twice. There is only one Baden in the title of the race which started in 1858 as the second Baden of the town's name was only added in 1931 to differentiate it from other Badens around Europe.

The course is left handed and pan flat with the main circuit being about 2,200 metres on the main circuit with a sprint course of 1,200 metres which features quite a dog leg where it meets the round course. Races of between 1,600 metres and 2,000 metres starting in the back straight go slightly to the right at the end of that straight and take a separate outside but tighter bend to join the sprint track with about the 900 metres to go and also have the dog leg to negotiate. There are still signs of an old chase track which was certainly in use up to 2008 and was probably a casualty of the new management.

Today it was six Euros to get into the general enclosure but this varies up to fifteen for Grosser Preis day. That gives you access to the Iffezheimer Tribune and the Kincsem Turn which are both all seated and are the two stands furthest down the track. They aren't at the greatest angle for the course but the view from the top level of the Kincsem Turn was excellent. The other four grandstands you pay more for either a guaranteed seat or restaurant place. The newest stand the Benezet tribune opened in 2005 houses the club enclosure. If you want to join the members club it's just €3,570 plus €1,190 joining fee or a day members badge costs between €250 and €350.

As you can imagine with six grandstands extending down the track the enclosure is large and it also has plenty of depth with all sorts of catering and tote betting outlets. There are also lots of trees around which were very welcome to shelter from the sun.

The racing started at 5.20 and having been out early walking in the Black Forest I thought I would get to the course a couple of hours before racing started to study the form in the local racing paper Sport Welt and get something to eat. No need to go into the course as situated outside is the Iffzer Halle a warehouse size building open on two sides with benches for at least a thousand where you could get food and a drink. It was open all day and used on none race days by local sports clubs and societies.

The eight race card opened with a four year old maiden over 1,400 metre. For some reason the obvious form horse Kinetic Cross was not favourite but he won nicely and ran right to form with runner up Joplin from when they were second and third at Munich earlier in the month.

The 2,400 metre three year old maiden had two that were still in the Deutsches Derby and two that were still in the Preis der Diana the German Oaks. It was the fillies that came out on top as Ocean of Love and Breezy Bell filled the first two places. The winner was hard to fancy having finished last of five at Dortmund on her one run only three weeks before and the runner up had only one place from five attempts so it hardly looks form to take to a classic.

Boy Charlton was only one win from eighteen runs but was the only one in the betting for the big field 1,200 sprint handicap and was five lengths clear 200 metres out but he tied up badly and was beaten a head by Modina under Sibylle Vogt who is the leading female rider so far this season.

Lord Rodrick's win in a €52K handicap at Chantilly last season read O K and he was paddock pick for the 1,600 metre handicap and overpriced at about 8/1 for my second winner of the evening. There should have been a third with La Magique in the mile maiden but jockey Marc Lerner's foot slipped out of the stirrup in the last two hundred metres and he was still only beaten a length. Lord Roderick carried colours of white, man holding binoculars with blue sleeves, blue bowler hat, blue binoculars, blue chin and blue mouth, blue and white check cap, blue diamonds on sleeves.

Thursday May 31st Rennbahn Iffezheim Baden Baden

I had thought there was a big crowd the previous evening but it was much larger for this afternoon meeting. Virtually all traffic going to the course has to pass through the Iffezheim village and I imagine I was a bit lucky not getting held up leaving either day. While generally an agricultural area Iffezheim lies right in the River Rhine and is the site of one of the largest locks on the river and a couple of kilometres outside lies a large area of gravel extraction and a concrete plant.

Nine races today and as on the first day the card started with a four year old maiden this time over 1,800 metres. Form horse Montana took it easily by five lengths with the placed horses now being 0 from 25 it was nothing special. The obvious form horse also took the second race easily as nine year old Viscount Vert took the 1,600 metre handicap.

Race three was the first feature race in the listed Preis der Baden-Badener Hotellerie and Gastronomie for four year old and up fillies and mares over 2,200 metres. It was billed as a match between the Andre Fabre French challenger Palombe and local Diana Storm after both were placed in a listed race at Longchamp in April. Highest prize winner in the field was Dorcia who won both the Swedish Derby as a 50/1 shot and Swedish Oaks at 2/5 in 2017 and is now trained in France.

It turned into a tremendous race with five battling it out a hundred and fifty metres out before Alicante stormed passed them all to win by half a length. She was ninth of the ten runners in the betting and hadn't won since she was a two year old so was a hard one to find. A head, short head and neck separated the next three with Palombe taking second place.

An English challenger in the big race of the day the Group 2 Badener Meile in the Ed Walker trained Stormy Antarctic already a winner in France this season. The home challenge was led by Wonnemond who had won two Group 3's this season and Palace Prince who won this race last season. Stormy Antarctic went off an 11/10 shot and came with a powerful run to win well by a length and a half. Chasing him home was Va Bank who was an unbeaten Triple Crown winner in Poland before his transfer to Germany where he has understandably found it harder. Palace Prince ran a fair race in third but Wonnemond ran no sort of race back in seventh.

Ryanair fly into Baden Baden/Karlsruhe airport but only from Edinburgh and Stansted and also into Strasbourg from Stansted. I flew with them from Manchester to Stuttgart and then took the train which takes about an hour

direct but more than likely you would need to change at Karlsruhe. On race days there is a special bus service running from Baden Baden railway station to the course.

Saturday June 9th Haydock

God Given looked a real mess before the Group 3 Pinnacle Stakes but she battled well to outstay Crimson Rosette close home. It's doubtful if she can progress up to a higher grade but as a half sister to Postponed she is worth plenty when retired to stud.

Muthmir is on the downgrade but was still good enough to just take the listed six furlong Achilles Stakes. Runner up Alpha Delphini should find a race at the level and there are plenty to choose from, The second Group 3 looked below standard and short priced favourite Dutch Connection with everything in its favour was well beaten and looks past his best. This is probably as good as it gets for winner D'Bai.

For the future the sprint handicap was the most interesting race with the improving Summerghand winning like he can go in again in a good handicap and runner up Mickey can also find a race soon.

Wednesday June 13th Haydock

No stars in any of the novice races. Caliburn took the three year old mile and a half race nicely and will go into handicaps while runner up Guardsman was a clear second after a dreadful first effort and will find a race. The three year old mile race went to Swiss Affair who must have looked better as a yearling to fetch the thick end of half a million at the sales but showed a decent attitude on his second start while still running a bit green. The best news of the day was that repairs are under way on the Newton Stand after it has been out of use all year.

Saturday July 7th Bellewstown

Racing on the hill since 1726 it says on a sign in the self serve restaurant. The hill in question is the Hill of Crockafotha with the Dublin Gazette carrying a report of racing here in August of that year. About 35Kilometes north of Dublin the village of Bellewstown holds just the two meetings a year with four days (expanded from three this year) at the beginning of July and two at the end of August. All the meeting are held in the evenings on the flat and over hurdles with chases no longer being run here.

In 1975 the course was the scene of one of the biggest of Barney Curley's betting coups when Yellow Sam won an amateur riders handicap hurdle at 20/1. The course only had two phone lines and with the one used by bookmakers out of order (probably with the line cut) and an accomplice turning in a performance that could have won an Oscar in the public phone box (pretending to talk to a hospital about a dyeing relative) none of the off course money could get back to shorten the S.P. The course has played up its part in the coup and the main bar is named after Yellow Sam which provided a good place to watch the England v Sweden quarter final before racing.

The track is about nine furlongs around and undulating and after two days of flat racing and a mixed card on Friday tonight were hurdles and a bumper.

From the grandstand you can see out to sea and all the way to the Mountains of Mourne in Northern Ireland. As far as viewing the racing it's not so good and it's impossible to see three parts of the back straight because of trees and bushes in the centre of the track. At the back of the stands the second last hurdle was also blocked by the Ice Mountain ride in the funfair with a large picture of a very ferocious looking young lady holding two equally ferocious looking wolves. Quite what she has to do with ice or mountains I have no idea and what happens in the ride I will leave to others to find out. There was a big crowd on and few bothered with the stands and most watched the races on the big screen.

Three winners soon put any problems with the viewing out of mind with the first one coming in the two mile maiden hurdle run in memory of Peter Casey one of the great characters of Irish Racing. Local trainer Gavin Cromwell was zero from plenty at his local track since he started training including five seconds this week but

his runner Political Policy had won nine on the flat and had run a good third at Fairyhouse on his one hurdle run. He led from the second hurdle and just held on from the Joseph O'Brien runner Paris Texas to give Ger Fox his first winner since returning from his drugs ban. The winner can win again and the runner up should find a maiden hurdle as they were well clear of the pack. O'Brien and jockey Mark Walsh went one better half an hour later when Monarch came with a late run to take the two mile handicap hurdle. He had a bit of a reputation for not finding much in a finish but did nothing wrong here and probably just needs to come late.

The third winner was a bit luckier. 12/1 shot Running in Heels in the three mile handicap was being pushed along in fifth place two out when clear leader Roi de Dubai unseated Donal McInerney, The riderless horse then carried the new leader Le Braye off to the left leaving a running on Canny Tom in front a hundred yards out before Running on Heels went through a gap between the pair to get up in the last twenty yards to give Gavin Cromwell a double. There were great scenes in the winners enclosure after the race as the Running in Heels syndicate was made up of about twenty young ladies and conditional jockey Brien Kane got a hug and a kiss off just about all of them before he could go and weigh in.

Kane had earlier ridden a really lazy sort in Damut I'm Out in the conditional's two four handicap. He was shoved along from before the first but Kane persevered and got his mount into second behind Mister Butler who gave Shaun Mulcahy a first career win. The winner was trained by the excellent Denis Hogan who later in the evening also gave his cousin amateur Jack Hogan his first career winner on Macgiloney in the bumper.

Sunday July 8th Limerick

From a course hundreds of year old to one of less than twenty years. Opened in 2001 the track in Greenmount Park replaced the previous Limerick track which closed in 1999 after 130 years due to flooding problems and traffic congestion. Part of the old site eventually became Limerick Greyhound Stadium opening in 2010 at a cost of €18 Million and I am sure any greyhound fans in the UK must be envious of that amount of money being spent on their sport.

This is one of Ireland's busiest courses with eighteen meetings under both codes. The main meeting is the four day Christmas Festival but there are graded jump races in both the spring and autumn and the €100K Munster National in October. On the flat the listed mile and a half Martin Malony Stakes (recently downgraded from Group 3) is the main race. There are four music nights in the summer at which the admission cost is exactly the same as for all the other fixtures. Membership costs €120 and includes a free race card and a free coffee and of course a whole host of reciprocals.

The track is right handed about ten furlongs around depending on where the rails are as the track is very wide. An inner hurdle track used for some of the lower level all hurdle meetings is about a furlong shorter. There is a steady drag up the back of the course and then a sweeping downhill run into the straight. It's an easy course to find just a mile off junction 4 of the M20 and I was expecting a bigger crowd for what was branded family fun day but the attendance was pretty modest.

The meeting opened with another winner for Denis Hogan with Storm Rising in the two mile maiden hurdle on his thirteenth attempt over jumps. He has a rating of 111 so is nothing special but will go into handicaps in form. There should be a summer maiden in third home Reaver twice a winner on the flat who travelled well until the last when he was just outpaced.

Neverushacon has been mixing the flat and hurdles over the last few months but returned to fences in the two four conditions chase and won with plenty in hand. Talk was of the Galway Plate but this probably didn't take much winning and he wouldn't be one I fancy there.

The winner of the two mile six Plate trial Supreme Vinnie will be lucky to make the cut for the big race but is a solid performer at his level. Whether he should have won this race is open to question as there is little doubt that third home Snugsborough Benny did not get the best of rides from Denis O'Regan. Coming from off the pace O'Regan took a pull on his mount at the second last lost all momentum and had no time to make up the

ground lost. The stewards noted an explanation about thinking the horse might run out and having no luck in running but it just seemed a bad case of misjudgement.

While Classic Theatre took the two mile two novice chase easily some of those behind could well be interesting in handicaps later in the summer. I backed third home Konig Hall place only at about 7/1 and he was never nearer than when he moved up to third at the last. He jumped well and is well up to adding to his flat and hurdles wins. Back in fifth Successor was nearest at the finish after a bad mistake early on and has plenty of scope for chasing.

A really well bred mare in the two miles four bumper in Malior a half sister to Altior racing for her breeder. They will be desperate to get in win into her but the fact she was going a trip at this time of year and was well beaten does not look promising.

Monday July 9th Roscommon

Another of Ireland's summer courses with nine meetings between May and late September /early October all on Mondays and Tuesdays with most being held in the evening. It's both flat and jumps with the Grade 3 Kilbegnet Novice Chase and the Connaught National being the main jump races and tonight's listed Lenebane Stakes being the main flat race.

It's a super country track with an excellent grandstand. Just over a mile around with a steep downhill run in the back straight and then a drag up the home straight which gets steeper in the last furlong. It was quick ground but nothing was sprinting to the line up the hill.

The course's website says it is about one kilometre from the town centre to the track but it is nearer to five. Lady's night and a very good crowd for an all flat card. Five in the opening two year old seven furlong maiden and Aiden O'Brien's Christmas under son Donnacha was in at 4/11. He was sweating and the least impressive in the parade ring but made all. For the future the runner up Mofakker will win his maiden and longer term third home Always Running looks a very nice sort for handicaps in time. The O'Briens had another odds on shot in the fillies three year old one mile two maiden with Queen Iseuit but after leading for a mile Hypnotic Force under champion jockey Colin Keane went by to win nicely in what was probably an ordinary race. Donnacha wanted to make all again in the mile two three year old handicap on Conclusion but his partner was not too interested in racing at all coming out of the stalls until he had his mind made up for him. He again had to be encouraged down the back straight but led to two out and then once headed to give him his due he fought back and battled well to win by half a length. He is another of the Japanese Deep Impacts at Ballydoyle and while obviously quirky he has some size about him and could be the sort to go hurdling with Joseph in the winter. His fellow Deep Impact Saxon Warrior gave me no sort of run for my 33/1 in the Derby beaten before his stamina was tested. It is a shame that Donnacha's career will probably be even shorter than his brothers due to his weight problems as he has improved no end in the last year and it looks like he is going all out for the jockey's title.

Two fillies taking on the colts in the listed Lenebane Stakes over just under a mile and a half and the Aga Khan's Kalaxana proved well up to the task stepping up from a handicap in the Ulster Oaks and a rating of just 93, She is a big strong sort and Mick Halford will surely find a Group race for her. Third home Family Tree is one of the horses owned by the Coolmore partners with the corrupt South African businessman Markus Jooste. All his nearly five hundred horses are in the process of being sold to offset some of the billions he owes.

Tuesday July 10th Roscommon

An all jumps card tonight but the two chases on the original program were abandoned a week before the meeting due to the firm ground so this was just a hurdle card with a two bumpers.

Santiago De Cuba was odds on for the conditionals two four maiden hurdle but I had seen him turned over at a short price in a bumper at Killarney and he had already failed at odds on over hurdles. Licklighter looked the

obvious one to take him on with for Pat Kelly who had three in the race. The favourite led for much of the race but dropped away two out and Licklighter came to win the race but his stable mate Gaillimh Abu under Katie O'Farrell ground him down in a slow motion finish in the last half furlong. Third home was a seemingly unfancied Gordon Elliot runner Serious Ego who showed much improved form and can win his maiden.

The early odds for the five runner two mile four rated novice hurdle had three in at 5/2. I fancied Amschel even though he drifted right out to 6/1 in spite of looking in super nick in the parade ring. After being settled in last early on Rachel Blackmore moved him up on the home turn before a mistake three out knocked him out of his stride. His jockey is really riding well and she forced him back into contention at the last and he out battled Boot Camp and Davy Russell close home. Another winner later on put her six clear at the top of the jockeys table and while it's doubtful she will stay there stranger things have happened. Amschel has now won three out of four and I imagine he will step up to a decent handicap maybe at Galway.

The mare's bumper went to the Willie Mullins runner Supreme Trix under Paul Townend's sister Jody on her first ride for the stable. The mare wasn't anything special to look at but she should improve as she ran very green in the last half furlong.

Galvin took the second bumper for Gordon Elliot with Lisa O'Neill making it five wins for the female jockeys on the night. He was a decent sort and should go on. Paddock pick was the Pat Kelly runner Paranoid a big chasing sort in the colours of stable star Presenting Percy. He appeared clueless in the race being shoved along from early on by Finny Maguire who let him come home in his own time from the home bend.

Baden Baden



Baden Baden



Strasbourg



Bubbly Bryony hurt – as work on new rehab centre gets under way

BRYONY FROST took a good kicking at Newton Abbot early in July but brushed it off in hospital and reckoned she would be back in action at Worcester a couple of days later. Yeah, Right.

As Racin' went to press over three weeks later bubbly Bryony was still on the sidelines. As her saddle slipped before the last and she crashed to the ground half-a-ton of racehorse slammed a hoof firmly on her tummy – and it did some serious damage.

She gave a run down on her injuries a couple of weeks later. "I had an unusual injury to the artery to my pancreas," she said. Evidently, the artery was one of the various bits of Bryony that were trodden on heavily and at speed. It "started to swell, causing a sac called an aneurysm." Fortunately, she added, it did not leak." Very fortunate. It can be life threatening.

Only a week or so before her accident, the first footings were being cut at the British Racing School site at Newmarket for the third rehabilitation and fitness centre for injured jockeys. First was Oaksey House, opened at Lambourn in 2009 and then came Jack Berry House which opened in Malton three years ago. This new centre, named after journalist and charity fund-raiser Peter O'Sullivan, will open late next year. It will cost over £6million.

The Injured Jockeys Fund has led the way with the three centres and now they are seeking donations towards the building of this third centre and the upkeep of the first two.

They have come up with a novel scheme to encourage donations from racing fans everywhere. For donations over £100 supporters will be allocated a horseshoe in recognition of their support, which will be used to create a 'Horse Shoe Sculpture' in the grounds of Peter O'Sullivan House.

This sculpture, created by renowned steel sculpture artist, Tom Hill, will be made up of approximately 800 horseshoes which have been worn by racehorses from the Newmarket racing yards and which are kindly being donated by the town's racing farriers, trainers and owners. The sculpture will be a life-sized racehorse and jockey, galloping, and will provide a lasting visual focus at the centre.

Donations will be recorded in a formal journal, located within the Peter O'Sullivan Atrium, which supporters will be able to come and visit. Names will also be listed in a commemorative online book on their website.

Meanwhile, everyone hopes that Bryony recovers soon and gets back to action. She was a breath of fresh air last season, chatty and chirpy, and rode some very good winners. Probably her best run was when she came fifth in the Grand National.

Anyone interested in making a donation to the IJF should have a look at their web site. It's packed with background and information. **Harold Heys**

This is how Peter O'Sullivan House at Newmarket will look when it opens next year.



WAIT WATCHERS as seen by LOU KERR

Has anyone noticed how many winners either dictated the pace or were up with it and the so called hold up horses could not get a blow in. Myself I believe in the old adage that you can give weight but you cannot give a start.

Anyway what is a so called hold up horse? Often you hear someone say this horse needs to be held up to get the trip, what does it mean? More to the point does it work? When a horse is said to be a doubtful stayer I assume it means it is likely to find the race distance stretching its stamina. It is then restrained near the back of the field and asked to do all its work in one short burst near the end of the race.

Many of you will have seen a jockey steadying a doubtful stayer in the early stages of the race, wasting a few lengths at the start and then asking the horse to accelerate as the race is reaching its climax. Surely this puts the emphasis more on acceleration than on stamina.

Has anyone ever asked why waiting tactics should conserve a horse's stamina? Perhaps it is because there is no logical argument to back up the theory. After all once the field has sorted itself out the runners at the back are going at the same speed as those at the front, unless of course they are getting further behind. In that respect there is nothing to be gained by hanging around way off the pace.

What is more, the horse is asked to produce a winning spurt just as its stamina is beginning to run out. Logically this would suggest that the horse would be better in a handy position near the front of the field than amongst the back markers, and not the other way round.

A straight course is likely to catch out a horse that doesn't truly stay but when racing around bends the pace relents a little bit putting less concentration on a horse's staying power.

So my opinion is, waiting tactics when used to help a doubtful stayer get the trip do not really work. The horse either stays or it doesn't

TELEGRAPH FANTASY RACING – ROYAL ASCOT

Congratulations to Phil Evans who won the NRC 'mini league' from a total of 25 entries. Phil received a prize of a brace of 'Cartmel' sticky toffee puddings for his efforts, kindly donated by Brian Goodwill. The table below shows our top four entries with Phil 423rd of about 10,000 UK entrants. In the league of leagues table NRC finished 16th in the UK!

Details of future racing competitions will be posted on the NRC website and Facebook page.

ENTRANTS	NAME	STABLE NAME	TOTAL	SATURDAY	UK POS
1	Philip Evans	Pep's Picks	1277.40	145.70	423
2	Adele Brown	Up A Gear	1265.50	202.00	472
3	Paul Walker	Noggin the Nog	1212.80	271.00	702
4	Brian Goodwill	First Choice	1197.20	115.70	797

ALL CHANGE AT NORTHERN RACING CLUB

Some major changes will soon be taking place in respect of how the club will be run going forwards. These changes are due to take place with effect from 1st October 2018 when the new winter jumps season starts.

First of all we shall be changing the name of the club to **North & Midlands Racing Club**.

As Midlands Racing Club folded a couple of years ago this has led to us getting more members from that region of the UK and to allow us to continue in that vein, the new name will be more appealing to those wishing to get involved with the club.

Whilst we already hold stable visits in the Midlands it will certainly help us to 'open more doors' with both local racecourses and local trainers if our name reflects what areas we cover.

The next important change is that club online/electronic membership will become **Free** to both new and renewing members after 1st October this year. Existing 'electronic newsletter' members can still use their £5 'e-vouchers' until 1st March 2019 but after that they will only be available to those who have paid for an online/electronic 'life membership' or until any existing '5 year memberships' expire.

For those who still prefer to receive a paper copy of the club magazine there will be a **simple £10 membership** fee for both single/joint memberships at the same address. This may fluctuate in future if printing/postage costs increase.

It is hoped that these changes will both simplify the club's membership arrangements but also help grow our membership numbers significantly. A larger membership should also open up more opportunities to arrange more events in future years, especially as the membership growth outside the core area of the North West evolves.

Action required by members is as follows:

1. Online/electronic members who pay by bankers order should cancel these payments immediately. All unused e-vouchers for this year need to be used by 1st March 2019.
2. Postal members who pay by bankers order should leave their payments in place (or modify to £10pa if joint members). For those who pay by other means the usual renewals will be sent out before 1st March 2019.
3. Life Members who take the magazine electronically will continue to receive one e voucher each year.
4. Existing 5 year members who take the magazine electronically will continue to receive one e voucher each year until that membership lapses and will then become a 'free member'.
5. Life/Five year members who receive their club magazine in the post will continue as before. No new life or 5 year memberships will be created after the existing ones expire.
6. Passwords on the club websites will remain in place at least until the end of the current membership period (1st March 2019).

The club has always operated on a 'not for profit' basis. This will continue in the future.

As long as there is sufficient demand, the paper magazines will continue as long as they are covered by the subscriptions for this version.

Other club events will still need to be 'self funding' by collection of entry fees etc.

The cost of the electronic memberships are very modest and will be covered by events such as the monthly 59's draw and the Cheltenham Preview Night in March each year.

DOES RACING AND POP CONCERTS FIT TOGETHER WELL?

In the summer months, many other sporting venues also hold concerts including cricket, football and other similar venues. However, to the best of my knowledge, only racing holds them on the same day as the sporting event itself.

The impact of this is that the ticket price will escalate and the crowd size will be much greater, making enjoyment of the actual racing much more difficult for spectators.

At bigger courses like Haydock, Newmarket etc they have so many meetings that losing one or two to a pop concert, for a real racegoer, is not a major issue - especially as the racing on these nights is often poor quality races with small fields.

However, at my favourite course, Cartmel, they only hold nine meetings a year so proportionally the loss of one meeting to visit is disappointing if it clashes with a concert.

Whilst there is nothing to stop a true racegoer attending, but leaving after racing (not staying for the concert), there is the small issue of ticketing prices. These events invariably have a 'dual event' ticket so attending one or the other is not possible from that perspective.

Most courses charge a high premium for these events but Cartmel's prices were by far the highest I have seen for similar events with course tickets usually £15 on the day (paddock £24) but on the day for Boyzone in June it was £55!

Without being disrespectful, I doubt many racing fans would pay £55 to watch racing at Cartmel for a basic ticket, so this means that virtually all those who attended went for the music as well (or for many their only reason for attending).

So you end up with thousands of true racing fans not attending, because of the price, whilst those waiting for the concert to begin are often uninterested in the racing. There will be an element of the crowd there for both of course. I would draw a venn diagram here if I could remember how to!

Haydock also holds a cheaper event with 'tribute acts' on after racing and the pricing of these events is much less of a barrier.

In the past Cartmel has held pop events on non racing days (Jools Holland) so that is another option.

In a poll of NRC Members on our Facebook page the initial votes showed a 14:2 majority preferring to have concerts held on non racing days so both racing & pop fans only pay for what they want to see/hear.

Even then, if the weather is bad and the stars cannot fly in from London by helicopter they may not have a concert to watch anyway! When they do refunds, as York and Chester no doubt have done, will they refund all or just part of the ticket price?

Phil Evans



Cartmel rocks!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday September 12th – Martin Todhunter stable visit.

Martin is a dual purpose trainer (flat/jumps) operating from stables at Orton, Cumbria.

At the time of going to press Dave had not managed to finalise that time of the visit although it will be mid-morning so we can also catch the racing at nearby Carlisle in the afternoon.

If you would like to attend please reserve your place(s) via Dave Bates – contact details as below. Bookings will be taken after 18th August once the date/time has been firmed up. As usual we shall collect donations of £5 per adult on the day to pass onto the stable staff for taking time out to accommodate our visit.

Dave Bates Stable Visits 01925 574140 bates270@btinternet.com

Racing Trip to Hexham & Kelso - Oct 5th-7th .

This is a weekend racing trip that I have been on several times before and would recommend it to other NRC members.

We usually stay at the George Hotel in Chollerford (dog friendly) which is on the banks of the River Tyne. We have always found it comfortable and it also had a good leisure/swimming facility.

It is about 15 minutes from Hexham and an hour's drive to Kelso so acts as a great base for the weekend. On the non racing day a trip to the nearby Hadrian's Wall attractions is an option.

Prices for a 3 night break for two people start at £235 (room only), £289 (bed/breakfast) and £343 (dinner bed & breakfast). However you can save 20% if booking by 19th August (see below).

If you are interested in going please book directly. To receive the 20% discount plus a free bottle of wine you need to book by 19th August and quote discount code **DCC831D**.

To book by phone call 01942 412570 or to book online visit coastandcountryhotels.com

If you wish to join up with other NRC members when you are there please contact Phil Evans.



October 16th or 17th (Tuesday or Wednesday) – Racing Authors Night.

An early 'heads up' for this event. We have invited two great racing authors to join NRC members to talk about their various works and what is entailed in researching, writing and publishing their books.

Chris Pitt will be known to many as the author of 'A Long Time Gone' which covers closed racecourses over the years. His latest work was published a few months ago and covers the history of Worcester Racecourse.

John Pinfold is currently researching a book about the history of Haydock Park (he was featured on ITV Racing recently on Old Newton Cup day). His past works also cover the history of Aintree amongst others.

Fuller details, including the venue, will be available in the next edition.

Telegraph Fantasy Football Mini League

Helen Goodwill has kindly set up a fantasy football league for members to join in again. Whilst this is a non racing event we know that many members will be following the football once the season kicks off on Friday 10th August.

As with similar racing competitions if we get a decent entry we shall again offer a prize to the winner of our mini league.

Our league is called Northern Racers 8043333 with pin 6669

<https://fantasyfootball.telegraph.co.uk/premier-league/splash>

NORTHERN RACING CLUB COMMITTEE/OFFICIALS 2018/19

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Phil Evans	Dep Chairman	0161 973 5921	info@northernracingclub.com
Helen Goodwill	Membership Secretary	0161 928 0213	cheshirecherry@hotmail.co.uk
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Next copy deadline for Racin' will be Sunday 23rd Sept.