

Racin'



Issue 361

February/March 2020

POSTAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS 2020

This reminder is for the benefit of those who still prefer to receive their copies of Racin' magazine in the post.

Enclosed with this issue of Racin' you will find a separate membership renewal form which can be returned in the post together with your £10 membership fee which is due on 1st March 2020.

For those who have a standing order with their bank for their membership subscription, can you please ensure this is for £10pa. If anyone still pays £12pa in error we shall donate the extra £2 to a racing charity on your behalf.

NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR.

A belated 'Happy New Year' to all members!

Whilst 2020 will no doubt be remembered for 'Brexit', for us it will be remembered for being the 40th anniversary of the Racing Club. In the early years we were called North West Racing Club and later changed to Northern Racing Club to reflect the growing membership in the North East & Scotland. After the demise of the old Midlands Racing Club we changed again to North & Midlands Racing Club in late 2018. With the Yorkshire Racing Club also calling it a day in 2019, we will now try and keep the racing club culture alive in the 'white rose' county as well with the help of 'Go Racing In Yorkshire'

We are delighted that our membership has risen by over 50% in the last year and as our membership area expands, we shall try and arrange more events in these areas. Regional representatives are still required if anyone wants to get more involved.

Our Midlands members can enjoy a stable visit and day at Wolverhampton races in early March whilst our members in the North & Yorkshire can look forward to a stable visit and day at Catterick races in June and a visit to Jack Berry House and York races in July. Not forgetting our core membership area in the North West where we kick off the year with Cheltenham & Aintree Festival Previews.

All our usual club competitions are back in 2020 although we have new scorers lined up for the Alex Bird Challenge this year. Thanks again to John Boswell for his hard work in the past.

Where else can you read about Cheltenham, Point to Point racing and UAE Racing in the same magazine!

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COMPETITION NEWS & RESULTS

59's DRAW RESULTS UPDATE

The latest '59's' winners are as follows:

Dec 7th - 39 – Helen Goodwill (Altrincham)

Jan 4th - 11 – Ken Unsworth (Liverpool)

As we had no winner in November the December 'roll over' prize was £100. The January prize returned to the usual £50.

Number 12 is currently available should anyone wish to join the draw – costs £1pm payable either quarterly or annually. Please contact Phil Evans for further details (contact details on last page).

Thanks to all who continue to support the draw.

SATURDAY NAPS COMPETITION 2019/20

Congratulations to **Paul Middleton** from Crook, Co Durham who won Round 1 of this winter's NH tipping challenge and a £100 prize. **Colin Stanton** from Warrington was runner up in this round and receives a pair of badges.

Whilst the result is still provisional at the time of writing our Round 2 winner is **Charles Rear** from Sale with runner up **Paul Hughes** from Liverpool. Once the scores are confirmed the winners will be contacted regarding their prizes.

Again, whilst still provisional, our bonus prize (leader of the seasonal table after 10 weeks) also looks to be going to **Paul Middleton**. We hope that you will enjoy your day at the Aintree Festival on the opening day of the meeting, courtesy of John Baker, Manager at Aintree Racecourse.

CHRISTMAS FILM & RACING QUIZ ANSWERS

Thanks to Harold Heys for setting the quiz and all those who entered. Firstly, the answers:

- 1: In which 1944 **film** did the Grand National field make a right turn. **NATIONAL VELVET**
 2. Which former jockey won a race in a 1939 **film** which featured Pat Kirkwood opposite him. **GEORGE FORMBY** (in Come on George)
 3. Simon Wincer followed his brilliant **film** Phar Lap with another racing film based on the Melbourne Cup of some years later. Which horse won that race. **MEDIA PUZZLE**
 4. In the 1943 **film** It Ain't Hay, which comedian struggled to mount a racehorse called Tea Biscuit. **LOU COSTELLO**
 5. Which amusing cock-up did the vast team behind the 1964 **film** My Fair Lady make when featuring racing at Royal Ascot. **ROYAL ASCOT APPEARED LEFT-HANDED**
 6. Which racing personality made several cameo appearances in **films** over 40 years including one from 1936 called Educated Evans. **RAS PRINCE MONOLULU**
 7. Shergar was a 1999 **film**. Which jockeys rode the horse in its actual races. **LESTER PIGGOTT AND WALTER SWINBURN** (Half-point each)
 8. In the 1954 **film** comedy Belles of St Trinian's, which veteran nag was credited with playing "The Horse". **WINDSOR COTTAGE**
 9. What character did Groucho Marx play in the comedy **film** A Day at the Races. **DR. HUGO Z. HACKENBUSH**
 10. The photo of a horse wearing red and white colours was **SEABISCUIT**
- The winner drawn out of the hat was **Keith Wood** from Goostrey.

CHEL滕HAM PREVIEW NIGHT

**Monday March 2nd – 7.30pm
Haydock Park Racecourse**

PANEL GUESTS INCLUDE:

**CARL LLEWELLYN (TRAINER)
MICKY HAMMOND (TRAINER)
RYAN WINKS (EX-JOCKEY)
ANDY GIBSON (CHELTENHAM TRAIL)
MARTIN CHAPMAN (STAR SPORTS)
& COMPERE GARETH LEONARD (SIS)**

**TICKETS £10 ~ IJF RAFFLE
CASH BAR & FOOD AVAILABLE**

Copies of both the Racing Post & Weatherbys festival guides can be pre-ordered at £7

Festival guides can also be ordered by members unable to attend by adding £2 to cover p&p.

Postal requests for tickets/books can be sent to N & M Racing Club at 53 Dalebrook Rd, Sale, M33 3LB. If you prefer to send a bank payment, please e mail info@northernracingclub.com

SPECIAL PREVIEW TICKET OFFERS

Buy 4 tickets and receive a free Racing Post/Weatherbys Guide.
Tickets will also give FREE entry to Aintree Preview on Wednesday 1st April.



STAR SPORTS SPONSOR THIS EVENT

OTHER FORTHCOMING CLUB EVENTS

Saturday March 7th - Sarah Hollinshead stable visit & racing at Wolverhampton.

Hopefully we shall see a number of our Midlands based members at this event!

Sarah Hollinshead is the granddaughter of the late great Reg Hollinshead and having started as a jockey has joined the training ranks.

After the visit we shall depart in good time to arrive at Wolverhampton for their biggest meeting of the year including the Wulfruna Stakes and the Lincoln Trial.

Members who pre-book online at the track will find tickets start at £9 (saving £5 from the on the day price).

We have also arranged that members who want to use the restaurant can book that package directly by phone on 01902 390011/12 at £52.50 (includes admission, race card, 3 course lunch, tea/coffee and table for the afternoon). When booking please ask to be seated with North & Midlands Racing Club.

Stable visit starts at 9.45 and racing at Wolverhampton expected to start at 1.30pm (approx.).

Dave Bates will be collecting members details for the visit so please e mail/text him to reserve a place(s). The email address is bates270@btinternet.com and text number is 07483236953. As usual we shall collect voluntary donations on the day to pass onto the stable staff fund after our visit (recommended £5 per adult).

Further events are planned as follows so please make a note in your diaries – full details in next edition of Racin:

Aintree Preview Night – Wednesday 1st April at 7.45pm. Venue will be the Tetley Club in Warrington Entry will be £5 on the night or free if you purchase a Cheltenham Preview ticket. Panel TBC.

Grand National Sweepstake – Back by popular demand. We shall sell 40 tickets at £5 each and the draw will be made on 1st April with the prize fund £200, assuming all tickets are sold. Postal or online entries will be accepted with remaining tickets sold at the Aintree Preview event.

Micky Hammond Stable Visit & Racing at Catterick – Friday 5th June. A chance for our newer Yorkshire members to get involved! Timings TBC and as usual we shall collect donations from members (suggested £5 per adult) to pass onto the stable staff kitty.

Jack Berry House visit & Racing at York – Friday July 10th. Members have generously supported our IJF fundraisers in recent years so we have arranged this visit so members can see at first hand how the funds are being used! Arrival will be mid-morning and we shall depart in good time to get to York races in the afternoon. The IJF have asked us to collect donations (£5 per adult) which will include tea/coffee on the day.

Racing Club 40th Anniversary events – At the recent club AGM a number of suggestions were put forwards as to how the club can mark this milestone. Plans are still in a preliminary stage but we hope to have a number of smaller events in different parts of the area we cover so that as many members as possible can get involved. Whilst the AGM has past, it's not too late to send a suggestion on this topic to any of the club committee members (see last page of Racin' Magazine)

GORDON ARMISTEAD'S RACING DIARY

Wednesday December 4th Haydock

Bumper winner Marie's Rock showed a good turn of foot after the last to take the two-mile introductory hurdle and looks well up to stepping up to one of the many listed mares' hurdles.

Saturday December 7th Aintree

Edwardstone was the standout in the parade ring and took a good grip in the two-mile novice hurdle yet still had plenty left to see off market rival Harry Senior from the last. He was giving away a penalty and looks a decent sort. The runner up should find a similar race while third home Chance a Tune who looked in need of the outing should also have a future.

Another standout in the parade ring was Sammy Bill in the two-mile four handicap chase and he took the race easily. The handicapper will give him another decent hike but he is a rapid improver and should stay three miles. Runner up Fixed Rate made most of the running jumping well and will find easier tasks.

A good renewal of the Becher Chase and after backing him last year I wasn't going to desert Walk in the Mill. He only just made the cut in the National last season but connections should not have to sweat on a run this time around where you would imagine he will run his race and finish about fourth again. Runner up Kimberlite Candy will probably not make the cut come April but fourth home Definitely Red would be a contender. One For Arthur now looks like he needs six miles. With the Pauling stable having a terrible season Le Breuil's run was full of promise.

It was a shame Might Bite got rid of Nico de Boinville so early in the Many Clouds Chase as the race could have told us plenty. Native River had a nice run round anyway to set him up for harder tasks.

Hogan's Height ran out a good winner of the Grand Sefton. It would have looked doubtful if he would make the cut for the National but the handicapper must have rated this run putting Hogan's Heights rating up 12 to 146 which should see him in.

Thursday December 12th Taunton

Election Day. The last time I was racing here Margaret Thatcher was still Prime Minister.

Two divisions of the two-mile novice hurdle both with odds on Paul Nicholls runners trying to defy a penalty. In division 1 Eritage forced the pace and had the field well strung out but he was unable to see off Masters Legacy who forged clear from the last. Both look decent and fourth home When You're Ready will be suited by another half mile. Master Legacy had finished second to Division 2 favourite Wild Max on both their debuts and in a much slower race Wild Max easily carried his penalty. He was useful on the flat in Germany and will surely be stepped up in class now.

Main race of the day was the two-mile two handicap chase and Locker Room Talk was clear from early on and never looked in trouble. Neither owner Carl Hinchy nor trainer Nigel Twiston-Davis were present and with the only stable representative leading up the horse the problem was who was to

receive the trophy. Step forward trainer's wife Sara Hobbs who was enlisted to lead the horse around while the presentation was made and the photos were taken.

Friday December 13th Cheltenham

Point and bumper winner Chantry House was odds on for the two-mile one novice hurdle but had to be ridden out to beat Stolen Silver who was giving away a penalty. Both will be stepping up in class. Third home Pipesmoker was paddock pick and his run was full of promise while a step up in trip would suit.

Pym took the three-mile one novice chase but it all fell apart. He jumps well though which will always be an advantage and is more than can be said about Stoney Mountain on his chase debut.

Saturday December 14th Cheltenham

Botox Has well beaten at the last meeting here was odds on for the Triumph Hurdle trial which said plenty about the standard. He made all for a comfortable win but no great stars here.

Mister Fisher was getting weight off Good Boy Bobby in taking the two-mile four novice chase but had a bit in hand. Through third home Beakstown it comes out just better than stable mate Champ but we will see later in the season.

An ordinary renewal of the Caspian Caviar Handicap Chase. Warthog is a huge lump and looks to have improved this season. It would have been interesting to have heard the explanation for his improvement if Spiritofthegames had hung on to win after not going a stride at Newbury or in the BetVictor. Robin Des Foret just plodded on from the last while the weight hike from Aintree did for Cepage in fourth.

The three-mile Grade 2 novice hurdle had some real chasing sorts in it. It was hard to see Champagne Well not being suited by the step up to three miles but after coming to win the race he failed to get home against Redford Road who idled close home.

The British two-mile hurdlers look ordinary and the International Hurdle hardly boosted prospects for the Champion Hurdle. We know the level of the two eight-year olds Ballyandy and Ch'tibello who placed second and third so winner Call Me Lord makes little appeal at 16/1 for March. Elixir De Nutz missed the back end of last season and made it until the straight. He was seemingly unfancied but is a super looking beast for chasing next season.

Saturday December 21st Haydock

There are far too many listed novice hurdles for mares but the one today over two miles two was at least competitive with most of the field having won a hurdle race. Desarey Girl and Rosie and Millie were always on the pace and left the rest of the field well behind from two out. Both will stay further and should find more races.

It took Lord Du Mesnil fourteen attempts to win his first chase but it all seems to have clicked now and while it wasn't the greatest renewal of the Tommy Whittle Chase, he had it won just after turning into the straight. He was rated 115 at the start of the season but will be near 140 after this and we will see if he is up to it.

Friday December 27th Leopardstown

Chacun Pour Soi only had the two runs over fences last season but beat all the other top two-mile novices at Punchestown and was very short stepping up to open company in the Grade 1 at two miles one. He travelled and jumped well but A Plus Tard had come on for his first of the season to see him off. The winner has looked better at two and a half while they might make more use of Chacun Pour Soi when both probably return here in early February.

The other Grade 1 for two-mile novice hurdlers was disappointing with Abacadabras seeing off the exposed Heaven Help Us as main rival Blue Sari ran a shocker.

With Cheltenham Festival winner City Island jumping poorly and the third favourite falling Melon should have had an easy time of it in the two one beginners chase but he made hard work of beating Gallant John Jo. He jumped well in the main but will need to step up to be an Arkle candidate.

The three-year-old maiden hurdle has had some top-class winners but it looked an average renewal while chasing sort Appreciate It who was backed off the boards in the two-mile four bumper romped home and looked useful.

The Paddy Power Chase is a great sight with twenty-seven runners over three miles and lots still in with chances turning in. Serial dodge Roaring Bull came out on top beating another I wouldn't trust in Fitzhenry. Third home Plan of Attack is still improving while Winter Escape travelled well to the last but didn't get home and Livelovelaugh needed the run.

Saturday December 28th Leopardstown

Two more Grade 1's and the return of Kemboy in the Savills Chase sporting his new colours. He took a keen hold and will probably come on for the run. Winner Delta Work jumped much better than he had at Down Royal. Runner up Monalee likes it here and ran right up to his best. It's getting to be nearly a year since Presenting Percy's trainer Pat Kelly had a winner (80+ runners) and he just ran O K here. Most will be back here in February and you would expect Kemboy to be favourite to reverse placings with those ahead of him today.

Apple's Jade postponed her retirement by running away with the three-mile Grade 1 hurdle but with in form Bacardys running no sort of race it wasn't great event.

The two-mile four maiden hurdle was probably just O K. The winner The Bosses Oscar will stay three miles while the second and third Fun Light and Jon Snow (maybe back at two miles) should find a maiden.

Stayer Allaho was favourite for the two mile five beginners chase but was outpaced from the last by stable mate Easy Game. Allaho will improve for this and needs three miles. I have been hoping Choungaya would get himself handicapped at about 135 and his fourth placed here should ensure that. He looks the sort for a three-mile handicap chase somewhere on good ground.

Ferny Hollow was turned over at odds on on his bumper debut where he pulled far too hard and again at odds on, he took a good tug here before being out battled from the turn in by Forged in Fire. He wouldn't be one to trust at present. The winner who did not run in points was making his debut but Joseph O'Brien had him ready and jockey Neil Bashford claiming seven looked useful.

Sunday December 29th Leopardstown

A strong drying wind and balmy temperatures had dried the ground and non-runners ruined the Grade 1 staying novice chase. Battleoverdoyen who is a big lump beat stable mate Champagne Classic in what was more or less a sprint from two out.

Beating Petit Mouchoir is not on the face of it Champion Hurdle form but Sharjah is a solid customer who usually runs his race and he did it easily in the Grade 1 Matheson Hurdle. The same owners Saldier will hopefully be back for February where their stable mate Klassical Dream will need to step up after an appalling error ended his chances here.

The aptly named The Big Getaway looked set to win the two-mile four maiden hurdle before a mistake at the last meant he ended up fourth. He will stay any trip and runner up Sempo will also be better up in trip doing all his best work late on. Winner Cobbler's Well is on an upward curve and while he may not be graded class over hurdles, he will make a chaser in time.

You would never pick out Stormy Island on looks before a race. She is pony sized, lean, and sweats but she can run and jump and was never in danger in the two-mile four Grade 3 mares' hurdle. This is her level but she will give any mare a race. Runner up Elfie is a more substantial sort and improving and could jump a fence next season.

You want a horse called Eric Bloodaxe to be good and he took the slowly run bumper with ease. He is a real looker who might go straight to Punchestown in April.

Monday December 30th Haydock

Lord Du Mesnil again won with plenty in hand in the Last Fling and will now go into the mid 140's which would see him into the Grand National if connections wish. I can't see him being up to that and his new rating will greatly flatter him.

Wednesday January 1st Cheltenham

Saint Des Saints the sire of Eric Bloodaxe and Lord Du Mesnil started the New Year the way the last ended after Protektorat was reinstated on appeal as winner of the listed two-mile four novice hurdle. It had looked a harsh disqualification as you would see much worse violations going unpunished. He certainly appeared to benefit from going up in trip. Runner up Imperial Alcazar has a solid level of form and ratings in the 130's look very fair. This trip looked too short for Redford Road.

The old adage that the definition of madness is doing the same thing time after time and expecting a different result came to mind as Singlefarmpayment was again made favourite for the three-mile two chase. He actually turned in his poorest effort for some time but who are these people who think he will suddenly want to win. On the visit to Venetia Williams stable the one horse they were looking forward to this season above the others was Commodore who pulled up here and is looking disappointing.

Champ had made a bad mistake at Newbury and didn't look great here before ploughing through the second last in the Dipper Novice Chase. Novices make mistakes but his was a shocker and he has

plenty to prove now. Midnight Shadow picked up the pieces but talk of the JLT (or Marsh as it is now called) looks optimistic.

The two miles four handicap chase was a better race than the December version and a tremendous finish with two noses covering the first three. I had backed runner up Saint Calvados and watching live thought he had been beaten but by third home Lalor not Oldgrangewood. The winner has always looked a flat track horse while Lalor is now a very in and out performer. Saint Calvados proved he needs more than two miles nowadays. Kalashnikov was a crazy price under top weight and a rating of 161 and burst which is worrying for the future while it will surely be the last time Magic Saint goes further than two miles.

It could be the end of the road for Might Bite after he stopped very quickly and pulled up in the three-mile handicap hurdle. He still looks the part but his heart doesn't look in it anymore.

Saturday January 11th Warwick

The staying novice chase here had been raised to a Grade 2 and you could make a case for six of the seven runners. David Bass on Two For Gold rode an excellent race not letting the pace drop when the front running Roll Again faltered and making it a real stamina test. Hold The Note came to win the race but Two For Gold saw him off just outstaying him. It was not RSA form but the winner could be an Aintree horse in time.

The two-mile five graded hurdle winner Mossy Fen seems to be improving physically as the season goes on and just had enough to see off Irish challenger Decor Irlandais. Again, not Cheltenham form but Mossy Fen looks every inch a chaser.

Not a good renewal of the Classic Chase. Kimberlite Candy has not been a favourite of mine but ran out a ready winner and should now get a rating that will see him in at Aintree. The only one from this race that might join him Le Breuil never got involved but will certainly be fitter come April. Favourite The Conditional failed to get home.

Silver Sheen will probably go up enough to make the field for the Pertemps final after winning the qualifier while last year's final winner Sire Du Berlais and Stoney Mountain did enough to qualify without ever being competitive.

Saturday January 18th Haydock

Very small fields for all thee graded races but none of them were easy to work out. Almost three joint favourites in the two four novice chase. Brian Ellison has talked up Windsor Avenue but while better than at Doncaster he again never looked happy before he fell while Knight in Dubai left holes in two fences and outsider Joke Dancer pulled too hard and then dropped away. That left Sam Brown who was under pressure half a mile out to come through when his stamina came into play. It hardly looked top class.

Thebannerkingrebel was evens for the two-mile novice despite being worst in on official figures and having jumping problems. Edwardstone again looked outstanding and came to win the race before being collared by Stolen Silver on the line. Edwardstone could be the sort to just let rip over fences next season and use his stride instead of being held up for a late run. Stolen Silver a size smaller is a well put together beast and is slowly improving but won't be up to taking on the best novices.

As with Cheltenham's International Hurdle and we didn't see a Champion Hurdler in the renamed The New One Hurdle. Pentland Hills was favourite and came to win the race but as soon as he hit the front, he went from cruising to saying no thanks and the game but exposed Ballyandy did him in on the line. Cornerstone Lad came out best at the weights.

An excellent piece of training getting Vintage Clouds back to take the Peter Marsh after his display in the Becher and he was the winner from a long way out. He won't go to Aintree and the handicapper might scupper anything else. Definitely Red and an O K National trial without the risk of his rating going up but the rest of the field showed no promise. The other National hope on display was Takingrisks in the three-mile handicap hurdle and he ran fine in what was probably just a leg stretcher.

Saturday January 25th Cheltenham

On ratings Santini had it to do with Bristol De Mai in the Cotswold Chase. He looked like he would greatly benefit from the run but he is a real stayer and despite a couple of small mistakes he ground it out in a strongly run race. The course suits him but he will need to cut out those mistakes in the Gold Cup. Bristol De Mai made the race by forcing the pace and while you can't say he doesn't act at Cheltenham the hill might not see him at this best. His best run in the Bowl at Aintree was the year he missed the Gold Cup so maybe that would be best for him. Top Ville Ben has a higher rating than he really deserves and was legless on the run in here while the step up in class was too much for De Rasher Counter. Slate House never really went and his Grade 1 novice at Kempton was not strong.

Paisley Park easily took the Cleeve Hurdle and none of the British challengers will rival him at the Festival. If The Cap Fits was just about the first beaten before running past some fading rivals and was disappointing.

The Triumph Hurdle trial was hardly that but winner Galahad Quest was easily the standout on looks and should have a future although the list of good jumpers by 2003 Racing Post Trophy winner American Post is not a long one.

The Ballymore Trial was better but winner Harry Senior will surely find a few to beat him come the festival.

No secrets from the handicapper for the runners in the two-mile five handicap chase and Cepage battled really well to win. Lalor followed up his run in New Year's Day with another good effort and it might even be worth trying him up at three miles.

ANNUAL BADGES RENEWALS

With many of us having just renewed their racecourse memberships I wondered whether those tracks with both flat and jumps racing should offer separate flat/jumps memberships or at least some form of 'season ticket' to those who don't follow both codes?

Our poll held on our Facebook page reveals that 75% of the members who voted agreed that separate flat/jumps badges (or season tickets) should be available at dual purpose tracks whilst 25% felt that if people don't go to both codes they should just 'pay on the day' when they want to go.



Thank you to the North & Midlands Racing Club for extending your reach into Yorkshire. We were saddened to hear of the demise of the Yorkshire Racing Club and delighted that you have stepped in to fill the void. We will be working hard with the existing team to increase the Yorkshire membership with a view to holding events in the county and we look forward to making progress.

At this part of the year, all our attention is focused on the annual season ticket. With nine racecourses in the county we like to make it that bit easier for racegoers to organise their day and the season ticket gives Grandstand & Paddock admission to all Yorkshire race meetings throughout the year. There are 187 meetings scheduled for 2020, so that's a lot of racing!

The two exceptions to the Grandstand & Paddock enclosure are York's Ebor Meeting and St Leger Saturday where season ticket holders will be admitted into the family enclosure but can upgrade to Grandstand & Paddock at a discounted rate by booking through Go Racing In Yorkshire in advance.

There are two types of season ticket, single at £370 or joint - for two people living at the same address, which is £580. The ticket is valid from 1st March 2020 – 28th February 2021 but will be activated from purchase date so new members will be able to go racing immediately with any meetings before 1st March a bonus!

Tickets can be booked online at <https://goracing.co.uk/product/season-ticket/> or simply visit the website to download a booking form and send in a cheque or make payment by BACS. Alternatively if you would like us to send a booking form in the post, please email charlotte.russell@goracing.co.uk or phone the office on 01937 580051.

We have lots to look forward to in 2020. Jump racing is stronger than ever in the county and with three jump courses, Catterick, Doncaster and Wetherby the action is regular and exciting.

Yorkshire based Phil Kirby dominated the major chases in the county over the Christmas period taking the Rowland Meyrick at Wetherby with Top Ville Ben, The Silver Vase at Doncaster with superstar Lady Buttons and more recently the North Yorkshire Grand National at Catterick with Little Bruce. As we edge closer to the Cheltenham Festival, we hope this rich vein of form continues.

We will keep you up to date with everything happening in the White Rose County and look forward to building a strong relationship with the North & Midland Racing Club. Maybe you will even consider another name change in the future?!



Little Bruce wins the North Yorkshire Grand National at Catterick Racecourse for trainer Phil Kirby, jockey Tommy Dowson and owners The Gps Partnership. Picture credit: Louise Pollard.



RACING IN THE UAE BY Tommy Buckley of @WeLoveBettingUK

Dubai World Cup 2020 Ante-Post Focus - Big Guns ready to fire in the Al Quoz sprint

Regular followers of the magazine will know that I'm a huge fan of the racing at Meydan & it doesn't get any better anywhere in the world than the Dubai World Cup night at Meydan at the end of March.

Last year my Dubai World Cup race in focus was the Golden Shaheen sprint and it was fantastic to watch my 8/1 each way selection & Meydan legend X Y JET collect in style, a win that will always be remembered and a Meydan star that won't ever be forgotten.

This year I'm going to look at another Sprint contest, the Al Quoz sprint which is a 6-furlong Group 1 contest held on the amazing Meydan turf track.

To start with here are the winners & placed horses including starting prices since 2015

Al Quoz Sprint - Group 1, 1000m (6f) - Turf: -

2015 Result :- 1st = SOLE POWER 11/2 , 2nd = Peniaphobia 4/1 f, 3rd = Green Mask 33/1

2016 Result :- 1st = BUFFERING at 10/1 , 2nd = Ertijaal at 11/4f, 3rd = Peniaphobia at 5/1

2017 Result :- 1st = THE RIGHT MAN at 12/1, 2nd = Long On Value at 66/1, 3rd = Ertijaal 2/1f

2018 result :- 1st = JUNGLE CAT at 11/4, 2nd = Stormy Liberal at 40/1, 3rd = Conquest Tsunami 25/1

2019 result :- 1st = BLUE POINT at 4/6f, 2nd = Belvoir Bay 66/1, 3rd = Stormy Liberal 9/1

Thoughts for the 2020 Al Quoz sprint :-

As I set out to assess the Al Quoz this year I did have a tinge of sadness at not having the prospect of having the brilliant Blue Point to look forward to but of course after his devastating win in the Al Quoz last year and then his remarkable 4 day Group 1 double at Royal Ascot, Godolphin's superstar sprinter had earned the right to retire with hopes of passing on his brilliance in time.

This year the ante-post markets and a lot of the talk ahead of the Al Quoz evolve around the excitement that Hong Kong superstar **AETHERO** sprinter will head to Meydan on World Cup day to try and reproduce the brilliance he showed when a devastating winner of the Group 2 at Sha Tin, he's a best priced 7/2 and if he does line up that price could look incredible.

Top sprinting mare **BELVOIR BAY** made a mockery of her 66/1 odds last year to finish just under 2 lengths 2nd to Blue Point in the Al Quoz and that's why she's currently a best priced 6/1 this time around, the above results show how horses do repeat good runs in the Al Quoz so she'll command huge respect if she lines up on the big day.

SPACE BLUES is as low as 7/2, although you can get 8/1, and it will be really fascinating if Godolphin do run him in this as he's a horse that started out over 1 mile, then had several runs & impressive performances in Group races over 7 furlongs and finished off last season with a solid 3rd in a Group 1 over 6 1/2 furlongs at Deauville.

EKHTIYAAAR earned his place in the 2019 Al Quoz after a very good 2nd behind Blue Point last year, ultimately he wasn't good enough on the big day and could only finish 9th so he's got to show

improvement this year, thankfully his reappearance win at Meydan a few weeks ago did suggest that a level of improvement has been found and at a best price 7/1 he offers each way appeal as he's highly likely to turn up and he's proven at the course.

EQUILATERAL is a horse who has undeniably greatly excited and frustrated in the last year or so when running in England but his debut run in Meydan last week was incredibly impressive & exciting, it might only have been a listed handicap but he gave weight away to very good horses and beat them in style, he travelled like a dream and quickened when asked, trainer Charlie Hills and all those connected to the horse spoke very excitedly about him afterwards.

The bookmakers are split on **EQUILATERAL** as prices range from 5/1 to 14/1, perhaps that because he's not guaranteed to line up as he's got various options but given that you can get 14/1 is remarkable to me and **as the ante-post market stands right now that 14/1 on EQUILATERAL does really, really appeal as an each way bet worth risking**, I'd imagine he'll be 5/1 at best on the big day if he lines up.

For those that like something at huge odds, the results from recent years show you that huge odds horses get placed in the Al Quoz, then I must say I've seen far worse options than the 100/1 you can get on local favourite **RIFLESCOPE**, Riflescope has beaten Ekhiyaar at Meydan before and Ekhiyaar is rated a 6/1 shot, I know the enthusiastic owners would just love to be there and I hope they get their chance.

Those are my thoughts on the Al Quoz sprint at Meydan on Dubai World Cup night as the markets stand right now, it really will be fascinating to see how the great race lines up on the big day, if you do want to bet then remember to shop around for the best terms & odds.

CHELTONHAM FESTIVAL GUIDES 2020

The club will again be ordering both Racing Post & Weatherbys guides to the Cheltenham Festival.

These will cost £7 (if collected at the Cheltenham Preview Night) or £9 (including p&p) if posted out. Photos below are of the 2018 guides, for illustrative purposes only.

These prices are well below the retail selling prices and to secure your copies please order as soon as possible as we shall only have a limited supply available.

Orders can be paid for by direct bank transfer (e mail info@northernracingclub.com for details) or by post to N&M Racing Club, 53 Dalebrook Rd, Sale, M33 3LB. If sending cheques can these be made payable to North & Midlands Racing Club.



ALEX BIRD TIPPING CHALLENGE 2020

The Alex Bird Trophy, the competition to find the Northern Racing Club Champion Tipster for 2020 gets underway with the Cheltenham Festival. For 2020 we have dual scorers being Dave Bates and Michael Wheater. Dave will be scoring the Cheltenham round and subsequent round entry arrangements will be notified to all entrants

The format of the Competition again covers **all** races on each day of the meetings covered with just the first four days at Royal Ascot. At this stage York is provisional and may change if neither of our 'scorers' are available (due to holidays) so if this is a problem, we may substitute with either Goodwood or Doncaster 'festivals'.

1. The days covered at the meetings will be as follows:

Cheltenham - All 4 days; Aintree - All 3 days; Ascot - First 4 days; York - All 4 days.

2. The points scored will be based the winner and placed horses (2nd/3rd/4th depending on number of runners) with potential bonus points added based on the starting price of the winning horse. Precise scoring details are set out in the full rules (available from Dave/Michael or online at <https://the-nrc.weebly.com/club-competitions.html>).

3. The overall winner and therefore the Champion Tipster will be decided on the total for all 4 rounds and receives the coveted Alex Bird trophy for a period of 12 months.

4. Any entrants who are on holiday etc for a full round may nominate a substitute to send entries on his/her behalf.

5. Entry Fees in 2020 are the same as last year, namely £10 for all 4 rounds, or £5 for the first/last 2 rounds. As previously, entrants may submit up to two entries, as long as all are marked as 'entry 1' 'entry 2' etc and will be scored separately

6. Cash prizes will now be awarded to the overall winner and the winner of the four rounds. The overall winner's prize is guaranteed as a minimum of £100 with the four round prizes guaranteed as a minimum of £50 with the actual prizes confirmed once the number of entries is confirmed.

We hope that this will appeal to loyal members of previous years and to new contestants alike. In due course, your feedback will be welcome. In the meantime, we look forward to your entries and wish everyone the best of good tipping fortune.

ALEX BIRD COMPETITION 2020 – ENTRY FORM

Name..... **Address.....**

Phone/E Mail.....

Please return to David Bates at 44 Burtonwood Rd Great Sankey Warrington WA5 3AJ. Please also enclose your entry fee of £5/10 per entry (cheques payable to N&M RC please).

To make an online banking payment of your entry fee please
Email info@northernracingclub.com for further details.

Go Pointing with Rory Alkin

The point to point season is now in full swing, and we have identified a few horses that are likely to prove interesting to follow for the rest of the season.

Goldenbrave should give the Crazy Dealers Partnership plenty of fun in forthcoming months. The six-year-old gelding trained by Phil Rowley had run in a few Irish points last year and was purchased at the Doncaster August sales for £15,000. Alex Edwards rode him in a Maiden at Bangor and dictated the pace and still had enough left in the locker to beat a fitter rival, Organised Solution by just over a length. He looked like he will progress through the ranks and win again soon.

Another six-year-old that will improve is **Omar Maretti** who toyed with the opposition when winning a Restricted at Sheriff Hutton. The Fame and Glory gelding, owned by Toby Hunt and ridden and trained by Dale Peters, had won a three-runner Maiden last season, but the way he won at the Yorkshire track suggests he will be a force to be reckoned with when upped in grade. He looks the type that may even win a Novice Hunter Chase.

An older horse that will provide fun for his owner Richard Hewitt and trainer Ray Owen is the nine-year-old **Crest**, who was a spare ride for Alex Edwards in the Confined at Bangor. He was quite impressive in staying on strongly to beat two winning chasers Just a Par and Lotus Pond. The former Micky Hammond trained charge should win his fair share of points and provided he is not aimed too high; he is capable of winning hunter chases during the season.

The Cheltenham Foxhunters will take place before the next edition is published, but with nearly six weeks to go until then, it's hard to analyse the race in detail. There is another month of qualification for the race available, so the likely runners are uncertain at this stage. Last year's winner **Hazel Hill** is a worthy ante-post favourite at this stage but does not look great value at 4/1, especially if the ground is riding fast in March. One horse has caught the eye in Hunter Chases run so far and that is the eight-year-old Willie Mullins trained **Billaway**. The gelding has only run ten times in his career and won his first race under rules last year, in a maiden Hunter Chase at Downpatrick. He was very impressive in winning a competitive Hunter Chase at Naas recently, and the way he stayed on strongly from the last fence, suggests that he will be suited to the Cheltenham track. With youth on his side, he is likely to be very competitive on 13th March.

Some of the better points in the North over the next two months are:

Saturday 8 th February	Chaddesley Corbett
Saturday 15 th February	Brocklesby
Sunday 23 rd February	Garthorpe
Sunday 8 th March	Bangor
Saturday 28 th March	Tabley
Sunday 29 th March	Sheriff Hutton



CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 20th JANUARY 2020

Thanks to all who attended the AGM. Brief 'highlights' are as below:

- Registered club membership increased by 50% since last year (excludes followers on Facebook/Twitter).
- Small loss of £181 seen last year but ample reserves still held.
- 'Go Racing In Yorkshire' supporting the club extending activities into Yorkshire since demise of YRC.
- Membership fee (postal magazine) to remain at £10pa in 2020.
- Stronger support for stable visits in 2019 with more planned in 2020.
- Three main competitions to be run in 2020 plus return of Grand National sweepstake.
- For NW members club will hold Cheltenham/Aintree previews. For members in other areas planning stable visits & days at races plus visit to Jack Berry House.
- Ken Unsworth has again generously donated numerous raffle prizes for the IJF raffle held on 2nd March. Over £3,200 raised by the club for Jack Berry House so far. Well done Ken!
- Club's 40th Anniversary will be celebrated by a number of events in different parts of the regions that we cover. More to follow in future issues of Racin'.
- Club constitution revised/approved. A copy will be available on the club website in the near future.
- Additional domain name to be registered reflecting the current club name with old domain name also retained. Details to be advised once registered.
- Existing committee re-elected en bloc for another year. Regional representatives still being sought.

N & M RACING CLUB COMMITTEE/OFFICIALS 2020/21

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
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Charles Rear	General Assistant	0161 962 5595	charlesworear@gmail.com
Michael Wheater	General Assistant	07367 903903	michaelrosieandspot@hotmail.com

Next copy deadline for Racin' will be Sunday 15th March
This is earlier than usual due to the Aintree Festival Dates.