

# Racin'



Issue 357

June/July 2019

## 2019 MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Members will need to use our new password on the members only sections of the club website at [www.northernracingclub.com](http://www.northernracingclub.com) with effect from June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The new password will be **Ruby2019** as a tribute to one of the best jump jockeys of all time who retired during the Punchestown festival in May.

Until then, the old password of **champion18** can continue to be used.

Thanks to all existing members for continuing their support for another year and to those newer members that have recently joined the club. Please keep spreading the word!



Above: **Anthea Morshead** is 'Under The Spotlight' with Brian Goodwill see page 4/5 for the fuller details.

Below: **Frank Dever** is mentioned in Harold Heys latest article. For further details please see pages 11/13.



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2** Competition News and Results
- 3** Heritage Handicaps Competition, 2019
- 4/5** Racing Spotlight with Brian Goodwill
- 5/11** Racing Diary with Gordon Armistead
- 11/13** 'Amateur Days' by Harold Heys
- 13** 'When To Bet' by Dennis Nolan
- 14** Racing in the UAE by Tommy Buckley
- 15** 'Go Pointing' by Rory Alkin
- 16/17** Overbury Stud (Part 2) by Kate Austin
- 18** Members Charitable Donations in 2019
- 18** Club officials 2019

# 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 shortly.

**April 6th 2019 ~ 21 ~ Terry Dickinson** from Clitheroe.

**May 4th 2019 ~ 41 ~ Ray Squire** from Bury.

However, we do still have one available number at present, number 40, so if you want to join the draw now is your chance! 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!

## SATURDAY NAPS COMPETITION 2018-19

Round 4 of this winter's challenge finished on Grand National Day and the winner is now confirmed as **Ray Squire** from Bury (£100 prize) with the runner up being **Richard Claydon** from Carlisle (wins a pair of tickets for Kelso).

The leader's scores in Round 4 were as follows:

Tot	Name
15.9	Ray Squire
15.5	Richard Claydon

Our seasonal winner after 20 weeks was **Linda Boswell** from Southport, who wins a cash prize of £150 plus £100 of Betfred vouchers

Those in 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> positions also receive

valuable prizes! The seasonal leaders were as below in a very tight finish:

Tot	Name
29.5	Linda Boswell
28.5	Eunice Flynn
26.0	David Edge
25.2	Phil Evans

Thanks to all our entrants and to all our sponsors including **Betfred** and the following courses: **Aintree, Bangor On Dee, Cartmel, Catterick, Haydock, Hexham, Kelso, Ludlow, Sedgefield & Worcester.**

## ALEX BIRD TIPSTER COMPETITION 2019

Congratulations to **John Boswell** from Southport who won the Aintree Round of this year's competition. In second place was **Martin Withinshaw** from Chepstow.

After the two National Hunt rounds are completed the leaders scores are as follows:

JOHN BOSWELL 1	354
PHILLIP DOYLE	343.5
FRANK TURLEY	342.5
TED HALEWOOD	329
PAUL WALKER	322
JIM AITKENHEAD	316.5
COLIN MALONE	298
BRENDAN O'MEARA	297
EDDIE CARSON	295.5
MARTIN WITHINSHAW	294
KEN UNSWORTH 1	285.5
JOHN BOSWELL 2	285.5
ROB MCDERMOTT	275.5
BRIAN JAMES	269
GARY MELLOR	267
TIM COGAN	265
LES TAYLOR	264.5
ALAN PRESTON	260
ALAN HILL	257
MICHAEL WHEATER 1	255.5
COLIN STANTON	255.5
CHRIS MACKENZIE	252.5

# HERITAGE HANDICAPS CHALLENGE 2019

The Heritage Handicap Competition is back soon for another season, a challenge for all you flat racing fans. It will run through the Flat Season starting with the Epsom Dash on the Saturday 1st June and ending with the Balmoral handicap at Ascot in October on Champions Day.

Just select 3 horses to be placed in the first four (or three if 15 runners or less) for each of the selected Heritage Handicap races each Saturday (full list of races will be provided to entrants).

Points will be awarded as per the Betfred tote pool dividend (win and place). If you select more than one placed horse, you will score the points gained from all placed horses. A league table will be compiled with the total points scored.

To add a bit of extra skill, those who successfully pick the exacta and trifecta of any particular race will go into another league. This will be run separately to the main league.

The prize money will be divided as follows: 80% of the entry fees will go into the main competition with 20% being given to the winner of the exacta/trifecta league. If nobody selects an exacta/trifecta throughout the whole season, the prize money for that league will be given to the Injured Jockeys Fund.

It costs just £10 to enter for the whole season with all entry fees added to the prize fund. If you wish to send entry fee electronically please e mail [info@northernracingclub.com](mailto:info@northernracingclub.com) for details.

To enter please complete slip below and return to North & Midlands Racing Club at 124 Lindsell Rd, Altrincham, Cheshire. WA14 5NZ Selections are accepted via text, email or answer phone. Each entry will be acknowledged and an entry number allocated.

If entrants also require a paper copy of the rules please send a SAE with the entry form - internet entrants will receive confirmation via e mail of course.

- Members who miss the start date of the competition can still enter until after the first two races are run. If you miss any of the two early races you will receive points on the basis that your selections did not run (first three in the betting).

---

## HERITAGE HANDICAP ENTRY FORM 2019

Please accept this entry for the 2019 Competition. I am also enclosing entry fee of £10 per person (payable to North & Midlands Racing Club).

Name.....Address.....

.....

Phone/Mobile.....E mail.....

.....

# RACING SPOTLIGHT – ANTHEA MORSHEAD

## WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER OF RIDING YOUR FIRST WINNER?

My first winner was in a Point to Point at Brockelsby Park in 1980 on a lovely grey mare called Avocet Tracey. She was a big outsider in the Ladies Open, but surprised everyone, especially me. However, there was no big celebration as hot favourite and prolific winner Sporting Luck had unseated in the Men's Open in the race before, and everyone was very disappointed and concerned for him, so I sat on the ramp of the lorry eating a sandwich and drinking tea with my Mum's terrier to celebrate!

## WHAT WAS YOUR BEST DAY ON A RACECOURSE AS A JOCKEY?

Winning on JJHenry in the 1991 John Hughes Memorial at Aintree. The race has since reverted to its previous name of The Topham Trophy, and is run over 2m6f of the Grand National course. I had ridden Henry in nearly all his races since his debut in Point to Points as a 5year old, and am very grateful to owner breeders, Josie Knowles and Judy Plummer, who were very kind to give me the ride. I won 11 'Chases on him and at least half a dozen point to points but this was our best day. He had so much scope and jumped like a hero. In the run up to the race, he had suffered with a corn, and we had to swim him to keep him fit, so he had only been ridden once in the 10days prior to the race. He was the first horse to put my father Peter Beaumont on the map, winning his first 6 'Chases, and was a great favourite with us all.

## WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER OF YOUR FINAL WINNER?

My final winner was at Perth, for great friend Dorothy Thompson on a horse called Peggy Gordon. I remember that the race was run too fast, and that Peggy Gordon stayed on through beaten horses to win, making it look like an immaculately timed run! What Dorothy didn't know was that I was pregnant with son Henry at the time!

## WHEN DID YOU FIRST WANT TO BECOME A CLERK OF COURSE?

I had always hoped to train and take over from father Peter Beaumont, but moved up to Perth with husband Sam when Henry was born, and had to change direction. It was at a time when Managers were realising that their role had expanded, and they needed a separate Clerk, so I trained as a Clerk of the Course. Once qualified I wrote to all the Scottish Clerks and Managers offering to cover any sickness/holidays etc. My first job was at Perth, and soon afterwards I also became Clerk at Musselburgh. I was very lucky and it was a case of being in the right place at the right time really, like so many things in life.

## WHAT DO YOU DO TO RELAX AWAY FROM RACING?

I love to hack out on a nice horse! All the usual things too like seeing Dad and Henry, supper with friends, walking my terrier Jack, and holidays with partner Chris Leigh.

## DID YOU LIKE RIDING CARTMEL/KELSO/YORK AS A JOCKEY?

All three courses are very different, not just in terms of code and layout, but in atmosphere on the day. Kelso is a proper winter NH course and I always looked forward to riding there. I was fortunate to ride Jodami in his first bumper and first Novice Chase there, and have many happy memories. Cartmel was always great fun with an end of term feel at the May meeting, when there used to be a 6-week break in the NH season soon afterwards. I rode a little mare for Ronnie Barr who loved it round there with the tight turns and held the Course record for a 3m hurdle for a while. It was a treat to ride at York at such a historic track and on such a big stage, and although I had a couple of rides in the Queen Mothers Cup and in the Ladies International that used to be held there, I sadly didn't ride a winner on the Knavesmire.

## YOUR FAVOURITE HORSE EVER?

There are just so many, as you can't help letting these beautiful animals get under your skin and into your heart, so I will go with my first pony, a 12 hand Dartmoor called Tosh!

## WHAT ARE YOUR CAREER HOPES FOR THE FUTURE?

I just hope to be able to remain being a part of the team on each course, developing and delivering fantastic racing under both codes. I work with some very talented people and consider myself lucky to work on my three favourite racecourses.

## WERE YOU SADDENED OR RELIEVED WHEN YOUR SON HENRY RETIRED FROM RACE RIDING?

I was sad for Henry that his increasing weight meant he was unable to realise an ambition that he had held since riding ponies, but I was relieved for myself! It is a punishing life, and although it can bring great rewards with huge highs, the inevitable lows combined with injury and a punishing regime required to keep at the required weight is not something you want to see your nearest and dearest endure on a daily basis.

## WAS FINDING JACK AFTER HE HAD BEEN MISSING FOR OVER A WEEK ONE OF THE HAPPIEST DAYS OF YOUR LIFE?

It really was! He had been missing for 10days, and everyone in Cartmel had been so kind in looking everywhere for him, and putting posters in their windows etc, yet there was no sighting of him at all. I had had to return to Yorkshire, and was actually judging Retrained Racehorses at Malton Show on a Sunday morning when I received a call to say that Jack was back on the racecourse at Cartmel safe and well. I have to say that Jack still likes to disappear down rabbit holes, but thankfully, as his age creeps up to nearly 13, he prefers to come back after an hour or two! A great character, he still goes everywhere with me.

- Compiled by Brian Goodwill

# GORDON ARMISTEAD'S RACING DIARY

Thursday April 4th Aintree

There have been some very wet days for this meeting over the years but today was as bad as it gets with the wind and cold adding to the rain.

### Manifesto Novice Chase

La Bague Au Roi was not at her best with a few small mistakes and she was outpaced from two out. I think we can take it that Kalashnikov won't be going right hand again after his two moderate efforts that way this season. He will need to improve to take on the best in open company next season but this was much better. Bags Groove's efforts in Grade 1's have been poor and he might struggle in handicaps off his mark in the 150's. That remark might also apply to Glen Forsa with the handicapper taking his win at Sandown at face value as he was poor here.

### Anniversary Juvenile Hurdle

I got this totally wrong with Pentland Hills showing great resolution to confirm his Triumph Hurdle form. How he will fit in open company we will see next season. Runner up Fakir D'oudairies made most and really battled when headed. He will be a stayer. Third home Christopher Wood stepping up in class ran just O.K. He will be

in handicaps next season. Favourite Band of Outlaws didn't jump as well as at Cheltenham and maybe the ground was a bit too soft.

## **Bowl**

A very easy win for Kemboy who was the stables third string in the Gold Cup on jockey bookings. It will be interesting at Punchestown when he takes on Al Boum Photo as he looked good here. Runner up Clan Des Obeaux was beaten too far out to have run to form as was Bristol De Mai in fourth. Quite where this run from Balko Des Flos came from after a series of poor efforts is anybody's guess as he would have been a clear second but for a bad mistake at the last. Elegant Escape ran like he had well had enough for the season.

## **Aintree Hurdle**

It looks like it is not just Buveur D'Air's jumping that is the problem as he ran well below his best and found precious little from two out here. Supasundae had run his first poor race in a long time at Cheltenham but was right up to form here at what is probably his best trip. He will probably take on Melon again at Punchestown over two miles and that horse was running well when coming down three out.

## **Foxhunters**

Any jockey that could persuade Go West Young Man to win a race as Tabitha Worsley did last summer must be good. This was winner number fourteen under rules and easily the biggest. She has been riding mainly for the Morgan sisters who are both making a good start to their training careers. (120-point profit for this season backing all their runners). Top Wood is better than at any time of his career and battled back well to beat the very reluctant Burning Ambition.

My fancy Road to Riches at 20/1 was running an excellent race till hitting four out and losing his place. He got back into it at the last but the mistake had taken its toll. Road to Rome probably left this race at Cheltenham where he had a hard race over a distance too far.

## **Red Rum Chase**

Not the best renewal and winner Moon Over Germany had not impressed me either when a beaten favourite at the Dublin Festival or when last of four at Thurles. He had this won a long way out but whether you trust him to follow up is a different matter. Lady Buttons ran her race as she always does but none of the others looked a winner waiting to happen.

## **Nickel Coin Bumper**

Owner Kenneth Alexander has the best mare's novice hurdler in Ireland with Honeysuckle and they must think plenty of Minella Melody as she was backed off the boards for this. She came up short against The Glancing Queen who has been taking on the geldings since her win at Cheltenham in November. Both should do well in mare's novice hurdles next season and look above average. Third home Daylight Katie stayed on and looks more of a stayer. Her owner David Dunsdon has only ridden in bumpers this season so she may also have improvement if professionally ridden.

## **Friday April 5th Aintree**

### **Merseyrail Handicap Hurdle**

Canardier was my nap of the meeting beforehand but I feared the downpour on Thursday had done for his chances as he is best on quickish ground. In the end he ran a fine race coming from well off the pace to hold every chance at the last but he didn't quite get home on the ground. The winner provides another example of how Gordon Elliot can rejuvenate horses. Three Musketeers was one of the first graded horses for Dan Skelton but had looked unenthusiastic of late but here he was battling like a good one from the last.

### **Top Novices Hurdle**

Having tried to get him to settle (with poor results) connections let Felix Desjy lead in the Moscow Flyer Hurdle and it improved him no end. He didn't lead at Cheltenham but I was hopeful they would revert to front running here and he was given an easy time of it. A bad jump at the fourth was worrying but that apart he never looked in danger. He will go chasing next season and could be an exciting watch. Runner up Aramon came from off the pace to be a clear second. He is more a hurdler and will struggle against the best next season. Itchy Feet was always struggling while the step up in class was too much for Precious Cargo who is a big chasing sort.

### **Mildmay Novices Chase**

I had this down as a 50/50 match between Topofthegame and Lostintranslation. One was odds on and one 7/2 so the bet was obvious and from a long way out the result was not in doubt. The step up to three miles was always going to suit Lostintranslation and he will join the first three from the RSA in stepping up to open company with every chance of being very competitive. Topofthegame was below his best and only just got up for second from front runner Top Ville Ben who will no doubt be aimed at some of the decent three-mile handicaps next season. Mr Whipped had sprouted cheek pieces despite his win at Haydock and will be off to the sales as his owners sell up in May. Chris's Dream ran poorly on ground that should have suited.

### **Melling Chase**

A total walkover for Min who never appeared in any danger. Probably Politologue did not run up to form and he reportedly burst but this was a career best for Min and doubts about his effectiveness at this trip can be laid to rest. Waiting Patiently was very poor and was in trouble with a circuit left. He had gained cheek pieces since his Ascot run and maybe his very hard race at Ascot last season when he beat Cue Card has left its mark.

### **Topham Trophy**

The two I had fancied here O Seven and Peregrine Run are much better on good or faster and neither ever held out much hope. I had Cadmium down as being badly handicapped but he jumped for fun and won eased down. He will go up another ten pounds into the 160's and I cannot have him that good. Runner up Sub Lieutenant was struggling before halfway and was never nearer than at the end. He cannot be trusted to put two races together.

### **Sefton Novice Hurdle**

The doubts about Champ in this three miler were about whether he would settle enough to get the trip. For the first time this season he didn't pull and after a slowly run race he only had to be ridden out for an easy win. No doubt he will be in staying novice chases next season. Runner up Emitom usually makes one bad mistake but didn't today and will more the sort to go down the staying hurdle route. He will need to improve but might well be able to. After Cheltenham this was a better effort from Lisnagar Oscar and fourth home Walk Away should also have a decent future. Dallas Des Pictons was virtually pulled up on the run in as if something was amiss.

### **Wetherby's Bumper**

McFabulous battled on well to take this. He was the best of these in the paddock as well so hopefully he will make a decent hurdler next season. Runner up Thebannerkingrebel had been off for more than a year and looks to have improved for the break. It was surprising to see the mare Santa Rosa run here instead of on Thursday but she ran well in third while Dewcup in fourth should also have a future and these four were well clear.

## **Saturday April 6th Aintree**

A super days racing both from the betting point of you and being there to see Tiger Roll do the double.

## **Gaskells Handicap Hurdle**

Sire Du Berlais was favourite to follow up from Cheltenham but they were claiming off him today after he needed all of Barry Geraghty's strength to get home there. Aux Ptits Soins up eight pounds for his New Year's Day win had missed Cheltenham and looked overpriced at 14/1. Held well off the pace he led two out and won well. He might struggle in handicaps now and has been found out in graded company. The favourite made two bad mistakes and was well beaten.

## **Mersey Novices Hurdle**

I didn't want either talking horse Angels Breath or second favourite Brewin'Upastorm and those just behind the favourites didn't make any appeal. Reserve Tank stood out like a beacon in the parade ring and at 28/1 was worth a small bet. In a race run at a pretty moderate pace Robbie Power sat second most of the way and was first to go for home three out and never looked like getting caught. Talk was of a novice chase career next season but he is only five and there aren't many staying hurdle candidates around. Brewin'Upastorm ran a decent race in second while Angels Breath pulled too hard and will have lots to prove over fences next season. One For Rosie looks like he will be better for three miles.

## **Maghull Novice Chase**

There could easily have been a battle for the lead here but Ornuu got an easy time of it in front and had it won two out. He doesn't look up to Champion Chase standards. Us And Them second again in a Grade 1 needs another half mile. Destrier was stepping up in class but looked in super nick and ran his race. As long as the handicapper doesn't go mad with him, he should find a decent two-mile handicap. The rest were well beaten including Lalor who looked so good on his first run this season but has lots to prove now.

## **Liverpool Hurdle**

Three races in and three winners so a tiny investment on Apples Jade to keep the hope of going through the card going as I didn't fancy any of her opponents. She was again well below her best but was part of a tremendous race and great finish. This was Sean Bowen's first of many Grade 1's as he has gone about learning his job properly since he burst onto the scene three or four years ago. If The Cap Fits really battled on after his mistake at the last but will have to improve again to get near Paisley Park next season. Roksana ran her race in second but again shows this was below stayer's hurdle form. The three were well clear of two good handicap winners with lots of those who disappointed at Cheltenham again well beaten.

## **Betway Handicap Chase**

The two decent novices had this between them and the one with more speed came out on top as Kildisart improved for the step up in trip. Apart from the National only two of the selections I gave at the preview night ran today. Ornuu was one and Mister Malarky was the other and he found this right at the bottom end of his preferred trip. He is only six so next year might be too soon but he looks a National horse for the future. Oldgrangewood can find a handicap this spring.

## **Grand National**

It's a different race nowadays but it was still a great moment to see a dual winner and it was not in doubt from a fair way out. It looks like he will not be back for the hat trick bid and that he will be retired after the cross-country race at Cheltenham next season.

Only injury prevented Red Rum trying to win a fourth race in 1978 while the owners of Reynoldstown the winner in 1935 and 36 refused to enter him again as they knew he would be asked to carry twelve stone seven. Before that Manifesto winner in 1897 and 1899 (non-runner injured in 1898) ran third under twelve stone thirteen, twelve stone eight, and twelve stone three before finishing eighth under just the twelve one at the age of sixteen in his eighth national trying for the third win.

Tiger Roll was the first non-debutante winner in ten years so looking amongst the beaten horses for next year is probably not a good idea.

My main fancy Dounikos was always just behind the leaders but seemed not to get home and looked like the heat had got to him as he was led back having pulled up two out.

### **Pinsent Mason Handicap Hurdle**

With the Irish winning most of the handicaps they were obviously the ones to look at. Scheu Time may well have won this last year but for falling at the last but he was in form then so the Elliot runner Chief Justice got the vote. They went very fast and Jamie Codd came from well off the pace and just lasted home from Thistimenextyear. The winner has been really consistent since making his jumps debut here last June but will go into the 140's after this. Thistimenextyear should find another race soon and his jockey Darragh O'Keeffe who has had fourteen winners in his first season could well be challenging for the Irish conditionals title next season.

### **Wednesday April 17th Cheltenham**

The opening novice hurdle looked below its usual standard but winner Dasher Drasher is a tough sort who made all again and never looked in much danger. He will go chasing in the autumn and has the scope for it.

Only eight in the Grade 2 Two-mile four handicap chase but it was wide open with three 4/1 co favourites. Mister Whitaker was beginning to look disappointing but with cheek pieces added he ran on well here. Quite whether he can cut it with a 155 rating might be open to question. Highway One O One might have had enough for the year.

Despite having won at three miles Minella For Me appeared not to get home in the three one novices handicap chase having just about travelled best for most of the way. All his good form has also been on flat tracks.

### **Thursday April 18th Cheltenham**

The second year of the mares only meeting and again it was lacking any real class. By far the best race was the listed two-mile four handicap hurdle. My fancy the Irish runner Augusta Gold travelled well all the way but as she went for home the Henderson runner Sunshade swept by for an easy win, This was only her second run of the season and if the handicapper doesn't over react she can follow up this spring.

### **Saturday April 20th Haydock**

The hardest day of the season to pick winners with seven wide open handicaps. Most runners were handicapped up to their best and there were no real eye catchers for the future. The Tim Molony Chase the one non challenger final had five out of form runners and all five looked less than enthusiastic about being racehorses for the day. Minella Daddy looked promising once but he really made James Bowen work here backing off most of the fences, ballooning others but he still had too much for Lough Derg Farmer who was pumped along for over three miles of the trip by Danny Cook.

### **Monday April 29th Naas**

The last two winners of the six furlong two-year-old filly's maiden were Fairyland and Alpha Centauri so something to live up to. Favourite So Wonderful for Aidan O'Brien is a big sort and looked the winner when going on just before the furlong pole. She was run down by second favourite Peace Charter with the pair clear. They are no doubt both very useful and will be heading into Group races with the runner up probably having more room for improvement. Down the field I liked But You Said to improve for the outing.

Jack Yeats took the ten furlong three-year-old maiden for Aidan O'Brien but I doubt he is anything special and could end up in a decent handicap.

### **Tuesday April 30th Punchestown**

#### **Champion 2 Mile Novice Hurdle**

Felix Desjy set off to do the same as he did at Aintree but Ruby Walsh was not going to let him build up too big a lead and he and Klassical Dream swept by turning to set himself up for a Champion Hurdle challenge next season. He is a bit of a handful in the preliminaries but has improved as the season has gone on and likes give in the ground. Felix Desjy ran his race and was well clear of the rest. Aramon had probably had enough for the season while Quick Grabim is better than he showed here after a lengthy break.

### **Champion 2 Mile Chase**

Un De Sceaux won his twenty third race in great style and he is a real trier who just likes to get on with it. His run at Cheltenham was his first time out of the first two in a chase when he has stood up and connections were evidently thinking he might have had enough but this disproved that and they will be hoping for a wet winter next season. Min could just never get to him and the speed caused him to make minor mistakes. It now looks like he needs the two and a half and while his old adversary Altior might be stepping up to three miles at Kempton maybe he will be too.

### **Champion 3 Mile Novice Chase**

The three-mile novice chasers look a very good bunch and RSA third Delta Work bolted up here. It had poured down before this race and on soft ground which suits him, he jumped better than at Cheltenham. Discorama in second stayed on resolutely after being outpaced at halfway and looks the sort for the Irish National next season. A Plus Tard was disappointing and was beaten before the longer trip was the problem. Connections felt he may need to go left handed but it was not an obvious problem. Drovers Lane was probably not good enough in fourth but a drop in trip wouldn't harm him and hopefully his trainer will aim him at the BetVictor in November.

### **Other Races**

Back in October I saw Pearl of the West win at Cheltenham and dropping in class from the Scottish Champion Hurdle she looked overpriced at 16/1 in the two-mile handicap hurdle. Ridden with more restraint than normal Robbie Power swept her around the outside turning in and she scooted clear She will a contender for the good handicap hurdles at the summer festivals. Runner up Cosmo's Moon was back down in trip from his maiden win and he ran like the extra half mile would suit him better.

The field for the valuable Goffs Land Rover Sales Bumper didn't look a great bunch and finished spread all over Kildare. Winner Festival D'ex came from virtually last and won very easily. The first four in the maiden bumper all looked nice sorts and the winner Front View had chased home Cheltenham runner up Blue Sari on his debut. Jungle Junction, Farceur Du Large, (will need a trip) and Stand Off should all make hurdlers.

## **Wednesday May 1st Punchestown**

### **Punchestown Gold Cup**

I was only at Punchestown for the last two days of the meeting in 1999 so just missed Ruby Walsh's first Punchestown Gold Cup victory on Imperial Call as but it was great to be there for his last. The race itself was a super contest with Definitely Red probably forcing Kemboy to go slightly quicker than his jockey wanted. He still had more than enough when he went for home to hold off Al Boum Photo. The runner up made a couple of small mistakes and probably ran just below his Cheltenham form but ran a fine race. It was miles back to the rest with Bellshill running well below his best. The first two are only seven and with the four good staying novices for next season it will hopefully be a vintage season for the staying chasers.

### **Grade 1 Novice Hurdle over 3 Miles**

This was also a great race as Minella Indo proved his Cheltenham win was no fluke in confirming form with Allaho who is a great big brute of a horse. Both will be going chasing next season as will third home Carefully Selected who was having only his second hurdle run. First Approach put his poor Cheltenham run behind him in fourth but the race was a disaster for Gigginstown with both Commander of Fleet and Defi Bleu pulling up lame.

## Champion Bumper

It was last season's bumper form that came out on top with Colreevy seventh at Cheltenham 2018 making all. The next three Abacadabras, Beacon Light, and Embittered ran just about to form from their Dublin Festival runs behind Envoi Allen.

## Other Races

The top bumper horse of the season may well have run later in the card in the mare's Grade 3 where Gypsy Island strolled in again. She was ineligible for the championship races as she ran in a maiden hurdle earlier in the season but has cruised home in all her four bumpers including beating Colreevy easily. I thought she looked useful when I saw her land a gamble first time out at Ballinrobe last August and hopefully she will be better on her second attempt at hurdling next season.

Another horse I liked earlier in the season is Zero Ten who won his maiden hurdle at Galway in September. He was a short price for the new two-mile four auction series hurdle final and he never really looked in much danger. The owners always aim their horses at the Galway Festival and Zero Ten will no doubt be going for the Galway Hurdle. Runner up The Big Dog found this trip too short.

### Saturday May 11th Haydock

Whisper returned after over a year off in the two seven handicap hurdle and was easily the best horse on the card. He showed precious little and we will see if connections keep him going for next winter.

The Swinton was really wide-open renewal. Mister Fisher looked a poor favourite and after chasing the clear leader he fell away from two out. Le Patriote did it well under top weight and will go up into the 150's and there might not be anything for him over the summer. Thistimexnextyear who ran well at Aintree was running on when brought to a complete standstill two out as Arthington pulled up injured. Christopher Wood did nothing for the standing of the four-year-old hurdlers finishing last of those to finish.

# Ah, those heady, happy, amateur days of long ago

By HAROLD HEYS

RACING CLUB stalwarts Phil Evans and Brian Goodwill were discussing Lancashire permit-holders and bemoaning how few trainers and permit-holders there are these days in the Red Rose county. Very few – at least compared to, say, 60 years ago.

Brian was reading about Frankie Dever in Jockeypedia and among permits handed out to Lanky enthusiasts in the 50s and 60s were those to a couple whom Dever used to ride for – William Whewell, a chemical manufacturer, who operated from close to the Bury football club ground off Manchester Road and Leslie Taylor who had a farm high on the moors above Darwen. Whewell's best horse was Nore Buoy who won him 15 races: Taylor just had one good 'un, Pas Si Beau.

Brian thought I might be the expert on current trends among amateur racing enthusiasts around the once-smokey hills of East Lancashire's cotton belt. Sorry, Brian. Can't think of one. But here's a tale about Dever to follow on from the five wins on Taylor's Pas Si Beau some 60 years ago, recounted in Jockeypedia.

It should have been six with the addition of the Mildmay Chase on the eve of Merryman's 1960 Grand National win. Now that would have been a triumph for a small, farming family whose main interest was running a pies and cakes shop. Racing these days isn't the rather odd game it was, especially over the sticks. Much too commercial – and not half the fun.

Here's the tale of a young permit holder who helped out in the family confectioners in between training high on the western edge of the Pennine moors – and how he got close, very close, to The Big Time.

DARWEN'S rugged, windswept moors have little in common with training centres such as Newmarket and Lambourn where highly-prized racehorses are put through their paces.

But one smart young steeplechaser made quite a name for himself on the Northern courses – after a training regime above Bold Venture Park and almost under the shadow of Darwen's famous Tower.

The Taylor family lived at a remote moorland farm, Jennett House, and the brown gelding Pas Si Beau joined them there in late 1958. It would have been rather a strange experience after a more relaxed time cantering around the rolling emerald-green turf of Co. Kildare ...

The family were well known in Darwen and ran Hargreaves Confectioners in Railway Road. Leslie Taylor and his father Alf were keen sportsmen and Leslie, in his mid-twenties, took on the role of owner-trainer.

Pas Si Beau had got off to a promising start as a novice in Ireland, trained at Naas by J W Osborne, and had coasted in to win a four-year-old hurdle at Kilbeggan. But several more runs early the following season in Ireland were disappointing.

Leslie and Alf must have seen something in the horse as they bought it cheaply and it had its first run for them at Ludlow in February 1959 ridden for the first time by Frank Dever who worked on the farm and who lived just down the hill in Buff Street. The horse moved up to steeplechasing and began showing some promise.

It couldn't have been easy for Pas Si Beau who must have wondered what he was doing as he went through his paces, galloping over the heather and the cotton grass of the wild moorland around Jennett House. He certainly wouldn't have had time to enjoy the striking view from the Tower.

Something must have fired a spark, because the next season Pas Si Beau was something of a revelation. After two seconds the gelding won a hat-trick of chases – at Liverpool, Catterick and Haydock, and again at Haydock before the Grand National meeting came into view at the end of March, 1960.

The target was another of the big Aintree races, the Mildmay Chase, and Leslie was confident of a bold showing. The six-year-old was backed down to 11-2 second favourite and a chunk of the money for it came from Darwen.

Take a look at the accompanying photo (below) of the last fence. Pas Si Beau and regular jockey Dever, sporting the Taylor colours of maroon, yellow cross belts and striped cap, had been left in front two fences out when Beldon Hall fell and they were still clear at the last from Cupid's Charge (Arthur Freeman) in black with red hooped sleeves and Quick Approach (Johnny Lehane) in blue with a green sash.

High in the stands Leslie Taylor was counting his winnings. And then – disaster! Pas Si Beau came down a little too steeply and crumpled, pitching Dever headlong on to the turf. Cupid's Charge struggled on to win narrowly from Quick Approach.

Pas Si Beau had never fallen before. Leslie was disappointed but, says his widow, Sally, who still lives in Darwen, he was typical of those involved in the sport. "That's racing," he'd say with a wistful smile.

I didn't see the Mildmay Chase on the Friday, but I was there the following day to see Merryman II win the Grand National. And I was one of many local folk there still wondering what would have happened if Pas Si Beau, full of running, had taken the last fence cleanly and raced on ...

Pas Si Beau won another race at Birmingham the following January but his career came to an end when he fell a second time at Cheltenham that April.

Leslie Taylor had a lot of fun with Pas Si Beau and he was always ready to talk of the day they nearly won the Mildmay – with a horse trained high on the West Pennine moors up by the Tower!

- Frank Dever became a trainer after retiring from the saddle, and later managed the Northern Racing School in Yorkshire. He died in a Nottinghamshire nursing home aged 72. A Leyland man, he had suffered from motor neurone disease for 16 years. The name of the horse (translated) means 'Not So Beautiful', poor thing!



## TO BET OR NOT TO BET – BY DENNIS NOLAN

Every day hundreds of people approach the bookmakers with lots of enthusiasm only to have their pockets picked by the Artful Dodger. Below I have listed a few points that were given to me. They will probably not make you a fortune but could help you stem the tide and give your confidence a boost.

**TYPE OF RACE.** This has to be more a personal choice but try to avoid the early 2yo races and maidens along the flat and any race where half the field have only had a smattering of runs and the other half have never seen a race course, the bad (selling races and claimers are best left to those in the know. At this point I can hear some of you saying 'But I backed that good thing last week in a seller. Well maybe you did, but over a period of time the form of these events is as slow as a puncture. **GROUND, DISTANCE, TRACK.** The horse you are considering to bet on must have shown ability on the ground, over the distance, and on a similar course, if not the same course over which it is being asked to race. If not then you are guessing and that could lead to an empty pocket. **TRAINER FORM.** It is a good sign if your selection is from a yard that is having a fair share of recent winners as stablemates tend to go in and out of form together. This is not written in tablets of stone but it does help your confidence. **VALUE.** This is a hard topic to discuss as everyone's opinion of value is not the same. It depends on whether you think the price on offer is worth the risk. If you do then take it. A word of warning though, backing odds on shots can be a costly business. Finally, genuine **INSIDE INFORMATION** is worth its weight in gold but what is genuine and what is not? That is what you should ask yourself before parting with hard earned cash. Remember all that glitters is not gold.

**Editor's Note:** Wise words from Dennis who has been a punter for many decades. I would also add don't follow newspaper tipsters blindly and study their success rates closely before following their selections



## RACING IN THE UAE BY Tommy Buckley of @WeLoveBettingUK

### "Royal Ascot - Blue Point & Calyx are ready for take-off!!!

Every sport has its iconic event or meeting that takes that sport to the next level to reach a far great audience and for flat turf racing that event is most definitely Royal Ascot.

Royal Ascot represents a five-day celebration of the finest, highest quality turf racing action anyone can see as the very best horses, jockeys and trainers gather to do battle for the honour of being a Royal Ascot champion.

Beginning on the Tuesday and ending on the Saturday, from distances of 5 furlongs up to over 2 miles, Royal Ascot provides a magical mix of high quality, seriously competitive racing that excites and entertains, it's just all so enthralling and intoxicating.

As a big flat turf racing fan Royal Ascot is definitely a key highlight of the year for me and I look forward to all the different races, but this year I'm especially looking forward to watching the all speed Group 1 contests that are the **King's Stand Stakes and the Commonwealth Cup**.

Those particular contests greatly excite me because the incredibly exciting & high-class speedsters **BLUE POINT and CALYX** are all set to go and, in my opinion, go to Royal Ascot as rock solid favourites.

**BLUE POINT** won the Group 1 5-furlong King's Stand Stakes last year and excitedly has looked even more impressive this year after 3 very smart wins in Meydan, one win in a Group 2 over 5 furlongs and then two wins in Group 1's over 6 furlongs.

**BLUE POINT** is brilliant over both 5 furlongs and 6 furlongs, the confident nature in which connections talked of **BLUE POINT** this season suggest he's better than ever and he'll surely take all the beating again this year, I think he'll defend his King's Stand Stakes crown in style.

**CALYX** has been on the racing world's radar since impressively winning on debut last year and then he followed that up with an even more impressive win in the Coventry Stakes at Royal Ascot, decisively winning a race that has worked out well since.

Unfortunately, **CALYX** then suffered setbacks and was unable to run until making a reappearance at Ascot a few weeks ago, but the layoff hasn't appeared to have done any harm as he simply blew away a very strong field to win a solid looking Group 3 over 6 furlongs contest in devastating style, his acceleration was something to behold.

**CALYX** now heads to Royal Ascot as a very strong favourite for the Group 1 Commonwealth Cup and assuming he's on form it will take a seriously, seriously good performance to stop him winning.

**BLUE POINT** is generally a 7/2 shot for the King's Stand Stakes and **CALYX** generally a 6/4 shot, the double works out around 10/1 and I'm already on. I really can't wait for the speed rockets to lift off!!!

- Editor's note – Tommy's last Meydan piece highlighted X Y JET as an each way bet at 8/1.

# Go Pointing with Rory Alkin – End of Season Review

The 2019 season is due to finish in a few weeks, and while it has been a good season for records, the future and sustainability of the sport are under discussion.

Two of the best riders for quite some time have had memorable seasons to date. Will Biddick, who had relatively quiet times in recent seasons, is firmly on course to win the Men's Jockey title (with a commanding lead when going to press). He also broke Richard Burton's record in the UK of riding the most career winners a few weeks ago.

What can you say about the Lady's Champion Gina Andrews? Luckily a brief shoulder injury in February coincided with equine influenza and postponed meetings due to bad weather. She has so far ridden 55 winners this season which is a record and is four times her nearest rival.

The sport has to live up to the fact that there are far fewer horses running in 2019 than in previous seasons. With a late Easter, fast ground and multiple meetings some venues had very few runners between the Easter weekend and the May Bank Holiday Monday, which leaves a bad impression on the future of pointing. The Point to Point Authority, led by Chairman Peter Wright, is liaising with all stakeholders to investigate how to make the sport more sustainable for the future. There have been two discussion papers released so far, and comments are welcome from all parties.

I highlight two horse's worth following to the end of the season and beyond. Trainer Heidi Brookshaw has had a memorable season, with most of her charges winning. **Bletchley Castle** is entered in a Novice Hunter Chase at Huntingdon on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May, possibly before many of you will read this article. The horse has had medical problems in the past, but these have been rectified mid-season, and his two recent point wins have been exceptional. He has an excellent chance at Huntingdon, and he may be targeted at a summer jumping campaign. With a very low handicap rating of 99, he is definitely one to watch.

At this stage, it's hard to know what will be entered for the end of season Hunter Chase meeting at Stratford on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May. However, the one horse to watch out for is **Caryto des Brosses**. This seven-year-old gelding trained by David Kemp, won here last year and has progressed well this season. He made the Cheltenham Foxhunter winner Hazel Hill pull out all the stops when beaten narrowly by that rival at Cheltenham earlier this month. With a relatively light campaign to date, he will take all the beating in the Champion Hunter Chase if he is declared.



Will Biddick & Gina Andrews (above)

# Overbury Stud — Producing Champion Stock From Champion Sires (Part 2) By Kate Austin

Having discussed Kayf Tara and Jack Hobbs in our last but one issue, let's examine a stallion who provides NH breeders with a useful widening of the gene pool.

**SCHIAPARELLI** has as good a female family as there is. He also represents Germany's Monsun line.

Why is this pedigree so special? Sacarina, his dam, has produced 2 German Derby winners and a German Oaks winner. She is also the grand dam of Sea The Moon, another German Derby winner. Four classic winners under a 1<sup>st</sup> dam is rare!

Importantly, Monsun is also an outcross for the Northern Dancer/Saddlers Wells line. NH breeders need this currently, as there are so many mares by Saddlers Wells stallions (King's Theatre being the best example). Sacarina is by Old Vic, who is by Saddlers Wells, but breeding a mare to him by a Saddlers Wells mare would produce a foal inbred to Saddlers Wells 4 x 3, which isn't too close. (Champion miler Storming Home was inbred to Mr Prospector 2 x 3).

Schiaparelli represents a great opportunity for NH breeders which, luckily for Overbury, they have been keen to take advantage of. The Henry Daly trained Whatmore is proving to be a very useful ambassador for this correct stallion.

## THE FLAT FRATERNITY!

There are so many young stallions retiring to stud each year that breeders can't use them all. They will generally go for the most commercial types that show precocious speed and by currently successful stallions; or the very highest achieving middle distance horses.

Overbury is home to some exciting Flat stallions, including the Roger Charlton trained Cityscape, a half-brother to Bated Breath. When Dan's Dream won the Fred Darling in April, breeders realised that here was a very good racehorse who was also making up to be a solid prospect at stud - at a reasonable fee too.

However, breeders are open to the possibility of any young stallion becoming a success. Later foaling mares won't be booked to a stallion until shortly before they need covering. So, if the mare is covered in, say, the last week in May, they can choose the young stallion whose stock is outperforming the price of their sire's nomination. Effectively, breeders get a good deal - as the fee could increase next season! As the following extract shows this is exactly what happened with Cityscape!

"This year Cityscape covered 75 mares, and ½ of those were booked after Dan's Dream won the Fred Darling on 21<sup>st</sup> April!" Then The Broghie Man doubled Cityscape's black type offspring, winning in Ireland.

Simon Sweeting's goal is to try and get Cityscape's book up to 120 mares in 2019. That way he has more chance to compete with stallions who are more commercially 'obvious' and have more foals on the ground.

Meanwhile, Urban Aspect has been sold to race in Hong Kong, but Simon is particularly looking forward to seeing Urban Icon (R Hannon) and Momentarily (H Palmer) when they come out again.

**DUNADEN**: a true rags to riches story! Costing 1,500 euros as a yearling, Dunaden went on to win over £5,000,000 in prize money, including The Melbourne Cup! He proved that every horse has a chance, however unfashionable they might seem on the day they sell.

He also fired the imagination of the rest of Sheikh Fahad's family when he won the race that stops a nation! In fact, Dunaden is, in a large part, responsible for the enormous investment they have made in UK racing and breeding since then.

Simon says, "I was delighted when I was asked by Sheikh Fahad's team to take him at Overbury. When I sat down with the Sheikh to discuss marketing, I said that he would appeal mainly to NH breeders, even though his best performance was over 1 ½ miles in the Caulfield Cup. Unfortunately, it is becoming less and less viable for commercial breeders to breed middle distance horses.

Sheikh Fahad was keen that Dunaden should be given the chance to prove whether he was capable of producing useful flat performers. To encourage breeders to give him a chance we set up the equivalent of the French Breeders prize for Dunaden's first season progeny.

They are now 2-year olds and shaping up really well – we didn't expect much from them until they were 3 years old."

Dunaden has a great temperament to work with and Sheikh Fahad is a true enthusiast. He has bought the best of his stock at the sales and looks set to have a lot of fun with them.

**ARDAD:** Kodiak's speedy son!

The market wants fast, precocious racehorses, preferably by highly successful stallions. Kodiak made an immediate impact at stud, siring a raft of speedy, winning 2-year olds. His untimely death has left a gap in the speedster stallion ranks

Ardad is a typical Kodiak son. He was a Royal Ascot 2-year-old winner who also won the Flying Childers, a G2 over 5 furlongs. He's a handsome horse and if his foals look like him, they will be popular at the sales. More importantly, he'll carry that speed gene on. He has covered 132 mares this year, including some of very high quality. He has every chance of being a success

**HORSECARE:** Naturally, Overbury tries to keep its inmates happy! Horses are herd animals and as Overbury has no separate sires' yard, stallions live in the main yard so are seeing mares, foals, yearlings every day. The Overbury team thinks it's more natural than being separated from the rest and only seeing mares when they are covering.

The stallions go out into a paddock every day for as long as possible. They don't get too fussed over. The emphasis is on simple, natural horse-care.

Future for NH breeding - The NH Mops scheme, and Elite mares' scheme are of huge benefit.

The former will hopefully give some value to fillies. In the past they have been harder to sell than geldings and are mostly financial loss makers. However, we can't carry on breeding without them, and if they aren't raced, we have no way of knowing which are likely to be the best broodmares. This scheme aims to bolster prizes for fillies on the racetrack and therefore encourage more owners and breeders to want to race them. So far it seems to be working.

The Elite mare scheme pays a large % of nomination fees of UK based stallions for fillies and mares that were rated highly enough or have produced foals of a certain rating.

It helps with costs for the breeder and gives the stallions a better chance because they are covering better mares.

Time waits for no man or horse. As Kayf Tara moves towards his twilight years, it's reassuring to know that there are two worthy NH options in his slipstream.

It's also exciting to watch the burgeoning careers of 3 exciting young flat sires. Through his incentive programme for breeders, Prince Fahad is championing the cause of the middle-distance stallion & is to be commended, whilst Cityscape & Ardad are bringing quality & precocity to the covering sheds.

Huge thanks are due to Simon Sweeting & Jo Brown of Overbury for their time, patience and information. It's been a fascinating journey and I hope you've enjoyed it too.

PS - The Kayf Tara ex Lecon Benifique colt foal sold by Broadwell Stud at the Tattersalls Irish Foal Sales made €80,000.

# MEMBERS DIG DEEP TO SUPPORT RACING CHARITIES

The club raffle at the Cheltenham Preview Night raised an excellent £533 for the Injured Jockeys Fund. Thanks to all who bought tickets and especially to **Ken Unsworth** and **Charles Rear** who organised everything on the night.

Members also dug deep for a second time and donated around £350 towards Belinda Rose's target of £1500 raised for a Hereford Hospice in connection with her ride as a jockey in a charity race at Hereford on March 26<sup>th</sup>.

Belinda also arranged a Newmarket tour for some members who donated towards the event, during the Craven Meeting, in April.

Whilst we cannot fit all the photos into this edition of the magazine there are some excellent pictures on the club's Facebook pages from **Christopher Leech** covering the Newmarket tour and **Martin Nott** has also posted some photos of the finish to the Hereford charity race, where Belinda managed a very respectable 5<sup>th</sup> place, riding for Kerry Lee.

Please continue to visit the club's Facebook and Twitter pages which give members regular updates in between the bi monthly edition of Racin' Magazine.

There are links to these pages on the club's main website [www.northernracingclub.com](http://www.northernracingclub.com)

(Once the domain name is next renewed, we shall be updating the website address!)

## N & M RACING CLUB COMMITTEE/OFFICIALS 2019/20

---

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
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 for Racin' will be Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July*

**BeGambleAware.org**®  
Helpline: **0808 8020 133**