

April 2015

LA GRANGE NEWS



Robin, Steve, Red Cadeaux and Ed.

Welcome

A blink of the eye and the Classics are here already with Newmarket abuzz for Guineas weekend. The season has clicked rapidly into gear with plenty of our string having had their first run of the summer. We plan to unleash a number of the more precocious juveniles over the course of the next few weeks and La Grange will be a hive of non-stop activity between now and November. Hopefully we are set for a fruitful six months.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Dunlop'.

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Trainer Talk

At this time of year, the racing world unleashes a collective desire to pinpoint the likely stars of the summer. It is only natural to want to celebrate the very best, to consider that we might be in the midst of greatness, but sometimes this can be unhealthy, with good or very good horses afforded the status of exceptional in order to fill a void left by those who captured our imagination most of all.



True excellence is devalued if we consider every Classic winner a great, and we must be careful of not falling into this trap over the next few months. While we may still stumble upon a 125-plus horse to headline the campaign, trials season has suggested otherwise, with the markets for both Guineas, the Derby and the Oaks given a real shakeup as many of last year's stellar two-year-olds failed to live up to their billing. With the cream of 2014 no longer with us too, as Kingman, Taghrooda and Australia have retired to stud, we could be in for a difficult summer when it comes to the top-end of the sport in both the three-year-old and older horse categories. This is only natural from time to time – a superstar every season is an unrealistic expectation – and it is important that we do not overinflate the credentials of the current crop in order to tell an engaging story that is simply untrue. We all still hope that a diamond has yet to be unearthed, though, and every trainer across the land longs for it to be lurking behind one of their stable doors!

International travel has been a central part of La Grange life over the last decade, with Ouija Board, Snow Fairy, Joshua Tree and more recently Red Cadeaux having travelled the globe in pursuit of riches. However, it is equally wonderful to see foreign trainers planning their campaigns around the focal points of the British Flat season, and Royal Ascot this year promises to be the most global yet. At the latest count, we are expecting raiders from Australia, the US, Japan, France and Ireland and the ante-post markets are dominated by the like of Able Friend, Solow, California Chrome, Hootenanny and Brazen Beau. Our prize money might be poor in relative terms, and we shouldn't fool ourselves into thinking otherwise, but the prestige of winning on these shores still holds plenty of gravitas and long may that be the case.



Marketing initiatives to promote the sport have varied from the good the bad to the balmy in recent years, but the latest idea to promote the rejigged jockeys' championship on the side of Eddie Stobart lorries must be applauded. While those of a more cynical disposition might see an irony in the possibility of certain jockeys being stuck in heavy traffic, or finding trouble when switching lanes, the exposure given to our leading pilots on the length and breadth of British motorways is a real feather in the cap to the sport. Hats off to Andrew Tinkler, CEO of Eddie Stobart, who has been a driving force behind promoting our jockeys in recent years – long may the good work continue.

News Round-Up

Chad Schofield joins Team Dunlop

We are delighted to have welcomed Australian jockey Chad Schofield to our ranks for a three-month stint riding on these shores. Chad, 21, has made a deep impression during his five years in the saddle down under, gaining his highest-profile success when partnering Shamus Award to victory in the 2013 Cox Plate. We are sure Chad will have a successful time over here, riding both for us and for other connections, and we wish him the very best of luck.



Paul Bittar @paulbittar · Apr 15

@Racing What a great opportunity. Given his talents, he's sure to make a mark - and learn a lot! Enjoy. @SchofieldChad @EdDunlopRacing



NEIL EVANS @NeilEvansmail · Apr 16

Racing: What a terrific opp 4 young hoop @SchofieldChad heading to the @EdDunlopRacing stables in the UK I read #turf



Horse Racing Pros @horseracingpros · Apr 15

.@SchofieldChad Let's wish him the best of luck as he is off to England next Sunday to ride for @EdDunlopRacing

Third Time Unlucky for Mrs D

As many of you already know, Mrs D recently suffered a broken ankle (for the third time!) when she took a nasty tumble from her favourite ride, Sagaciously. Thankfully she is on the road to recovery and can't wait to be back on board. A recent delivery from the florist of a beautiful purple orchid cheered her up when the accompanying card read: "So sorry about Thursday. Please forgive me - I hope you'll be riding me again soon. Lots of licks, Sagaciously xxx"



Eight To Follow Leader board:

The flat season is well under way now and so we are 1 month into our competition. As it stands, the leader board seems to reflect the loyalty of owners who back their own horses!:

- 1) Georgina Newcome, Mark Newcombe, Jimmy Strauss and Jamie Strauss with **55 points each**.
- 2) Ian Quy and Matthew Quy with **40 points each**.
- 3) Jane Stewart-Brown and Nigel Lewis with **30 Points each**.

Red Cadeaux: Another Foreign Adventure

He never ceases to amaze us. At the ripe old age of nine, Red Cadeaux continued his love affair with Australia, and for finishing runner-up, when running second in the Queen Elizabeth Stakes at Randwick in the middle of the month.

Having originally planned to contest the Sydney Cup, run over two miles earlier on the card, an eleventh-hour decision to tackle the more lucrative prize over six furlongs shorter was handsomely vindicated as Red found only Criterion too strong among a stellar international field.

Partnered by Kerrin McEvoy, who took over riding duties from the already-retained Hugh Bowman, Red sat mid-division in a properly-run race, but he was shuffled back as the pace increased around the tight turns of Randwick.

It looked as though a midfield position beckoned when he was checked twice in the straight, but granted room to manoeuvre of the rain-softened ground, he powered home to take second behind Criterion, who had enjoyed a trouble free passage throughout.

The bold decision to tackle the more difficult assignment by his owner, Mr Arculli, and the fantastic preparatory work undertaken by Robin and Steve allowed Red to take his overall career earnings to within a whisker of £5million,



all the while cementing his position as Australia's favourite international son and arguably the most famous racehorse on the planet.

While a trip to Hong Kong two weeks later did not work out as planned, with the firm ground and sedate early gallop at Sha Tin not playing to his strengths, Red has enjoyed another magnificent winner and we are delighted to have him back at La Grange. He holds entries at Epsom and Royal Ascot, although we will not commit to a plan for just yet, instead being intent to savour Red's achievements for a little while longer.



Red Cadeaux second to Criterion in the Queen Elizabeth Stakes at Randwick

Double Winner: Trip To Paris

Trip To Paris does the double!

Trip To Paris registered a third career success and the first of his four-year-old campaign when landing a 0-105 handicap at Lingfield in the middle of the month.

Partnered for the first time by Andrea Atzeni, TTP sat mid-division as Notarised cut out a steady early tempo, but when the pace increased coming down the hill he responded generously to his rider's urgings, quickening to lead inside the final furlong before always doing enough to prevail by a neck.

The four-year-old then notched his second victory of the month when scooting clear of a competitive field at Ripon on Saturday 25th. Racing from a 4lb higher mark than when successful at Lingfield, and tackling 2m for the first

time, Paris sat towards the rear of the of the nine-runner field in the early stages before making stealthy headway entering the straight. Given a squeeze by jockey Graham Lee, the response was immediate and Paris swooped past his toiling rivals over a furlong out, only needing to be pushed out hands and heels to score by three and three-quarter lengths.

Paris remains engaged in the Chester Cup at the confirmation stage, where he would carry a 3lb penalty, and we will now give that race strong consideration after such a taking performance at Ripon.

Congratulations to all those involved in the La Grange Partnership, the syndicate responsible for Trip To Paris- we hope there are plenty more moments of celebration still to come!



Trip To Paris winning at Lingfield under Andrea Atzeni

Two-year-old Photos Of The Month



Cogent leads Al Hamd



Ex Manoeuvre leads Alqubbah



Hajeer leads Gabrielle



Alfahad leads Manjaam



Zauffaly leads Michael's Mount



Vivre Pour Vivre leads Opposition



Gabrielle leads Girl With A Pearl and Sharaakah

Two-Year-Old Focus:

Toffee Apple (Zoffany x Myrtle Beach) filly



Owned by: **Mr Peter Goulandris**

By Zoffany, the Phoenix Stakes winner who pushed the mighty Frankel all the way to the line in the St James's Palace Stakes at Royal Ascot, this filly is a half-sister to the Italian Listed winner Dan Grey, herself the dam of fellow Italian Listed winner Grey Greezly. Her dam, who was placed twice in France, is a half-sister to Lady Bentley, the Bellypha filly who the Group 1 Italian Oaks and was runner-up in the Group 1 G.P. del Jockey Club e Coppa d'Oro at Milan.

"She is a strong, well made filly who will more than likely be a mid-season type. We will probably start her over seven furlongs."

Zauffaly (Zoffany x Lady Sadowa) colt

Owned by: **The Octopus Partnership**

This colt is also from the first crop of Zoffany. He is a half-brother to the Italian winner Nik Sadow, being out of the triple Italian winner Lady Sadowa. His dam is a half-sister to multiple winners, including the five-time victor and 22-times placed mare Sadowa Destination. His second dam, Sadowa, boasts the best form on the page as a six-time winner, who gained her most prestigious success when triumphing in the Group 2 Italian 1,000 Guineas.



"He is a powerful, neat colt who will shortly start doing fast work. He also looks like a six to seven furlong colt."

Hajeer (Cape Cross x Mejala) filly

Owned by: **Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum**

By Cape Cross, the stallion best known in these parts as the sire of Ouija Board, Hajeer is out of Mejala, who won a 1m2f handicap at Goodwood when trained by Ed's father, John. She is the second foal to be produced by the dam, the other being Thanaaya, who raced once as a two-year-old and has run creditably in maidens this year as a three-year-old. Mejala is half-sister to Sudoor, who won three times for John including Listed success, Mudaaraah, who was also a Listed winner for John and the Listed-winning Ethaara, who was trained by William Haggas.



"This filly is a strong, masculine type who has pleased us in her work and will hopefully run in the next six weeks."

Shafafya (Shamardal x Tanagham) filly

Owned by: **Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum**

Also owned by Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum, this filly is by European Champion Shamardal, the sire of current second-season stallion Lope De Vega, whose first crop made a striking impact on the racecourse last summer. She is a half-sister to Tactic, who won the 1m6f Group 3 Curragh Cup and the 1m4f Listed Grand Cup alongside the 1m2f Listed-placed Zahoo and the 1m4f Flat and 2m hurdle winner Taaresh. Her dam, who was Listed placed over 1m4f, is a half-sister to 1m2f Italian Group 2 winner Najah, herself the dam of the 1m4f Listed-placed Tameen.



"This is a lovely, scopey filly who recently joined us from Dubai. I am sure she will be a later season filly."

Staff Profile

Nikki Himsworth

Position: Head Lad

Age: 29 years-old

Started at EDR: June 2014

What experience did you have in racing before? I started out as a stud hand at Cheveley Park Stud, then I was Andrew Balding's pupil assistant before joining Robert Cowell where I was assistant for two years.

How did you get interested in racing? I was fascinated with racing from a young age but was a bit too big to ride so I went on the National Stud apprenticeship course where my love for racing grew.

Which is your favourite racecourse and meeting? That's easy, York racecourse, Ebor meeting.

Who is your favourite racehorse of all time? George Washington is my all time favourite; he was a bit like me, extremely talented but a bit quirky. More recently, Sea The Stars.

What do you most enjoy about your role at Ed Dunlop's? Seeing young horses mature and become successful. I also love being part of a team who all have a common goal and working hard to get results.

If you could change anything within racing what would it be? I'd have the fixture list rearranged, I feel there are too many good races condensed into feature Saturdays. I'd also have geldings eligible to run in the l'Arc.

What are your hobbies outside of racing? Socialising, dog walking, golf and racing.

What is the best bet you've ever had? When



Nik and Prince Gagarin

Jwala won the Nunthorpe at 40/1.

Who is your racing hero? Always has been Sir Michael Stoute

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time? I'd either like to be training myself or become a successful breeze-up consignor.

If you weren't working in racing what would you be doing? I used to have my own window cleaning business so I'd have probably carried on with that!

Any pets? My girlfriend and I own a Chihuahua named Henry and an ex race horse called Peter's Pleasure.

Horse to follow for 2015 (general): Arab Spring

Horse to follow for 2015 (Ed Dunlop horse): Naizah →



Flat Focus: The Derby

Chris focusses on the third instalment of our Classics preview; the greatest, and most unusual, race of them all—the Derby.

It seems a matter of course, as it has for so long now, that Aidan O'Brien will win the Derby, but which of his pantheon will pass the post in front? The market, the shrewdies and most of the racing world spent the winter adamant that the answer was John F Kennedy, but his bubble was dramatically burst in the Ballysax Stakes two weeks ago.



John F Kennedy in the Ballysax Stakes

Sent off shorter than Mattie Bachelor sitting down, the doppelganger of that great US leader proved reluctant to load, didn't travel with much zest and stopped quicker than had he been shot from a grassy knoll. O'Brien's horses often improve for the run, and they have a habit of making the sceptics look silly, but he has plenty to prove now.

Nevertheless, the Ballydoyle bandwagon rolls on. Those unfortunate enough to have read my 2,000 Guineas preview (hopefully not whilst in the bathroom before giving the paper a second home!) will know the esteem with which I hold Ol' Man River. Nothing has changed that bullish opinion and I am delighted he is having a crack

at the 2,000 Guineas en route to Epsom. He's wonderfully classy and has a ton of boot – stamina could prove a question mark, but he'll stay in my eyes until I see otherwise.

Stable companions Highland Reel, Sir Isaac Newton and Gleneagles make up the next line of the betting. The latter is Guineas bound and carries a reputation as formidable as the 18 holes from which his name originates, while Sir Isaac Newton is once-raced maiden who bumped into imperious Leopardstown 2,000 Guineas Trial winner Zawraq at that course last autumn. An eye-watering purchase at 3,600,000 guineas, he has Epsom in his blood as a brother to Oaks runner-up Secret Gesture. A once-raced maiden he remains, though.

Highland Reed, however, is a different proposition. The Vintage Stakes he landed at Goodwood has thus far failed to live up to its title, although the runner-up there managed to snatch second in an average running of the Free Handicap last month. Yet it was hard not to be impressed by Highland Reel, who travelled with devilish ease and quickened with little fuss. He's a Galileo with milers on the dam's side, and time might tell that a mile a quarter is his optimum trip, but he would warrant serious respect should he test his credentials around Epsom. Longchamp beckons first-up given the latest reports.

Just for good measure, O'Brien also houses Jamaica, Giovanni Canaletto and Aloft amongst others, who lurk suspiciously towards the head of the market with little having been said of their credentials over the winter. The trials next month ought to provide a clearer pecking order.

Zawraq is also worthy of a more thorough examination. Dermot Weld started the campaign with the bang we have become accustomed to, so there is a line of thinking that this colt was simply more forward than his opponents, but he was also much the best of a useful-looking bunch on paper at Leopardstown. He will be fascinating to following whichever route he takes, be it Newmarket, Epsom or both.

Elm Park, the Racing Post Trophy winner who looked a colt with real middle-distance potential last season, has been declared for the Guineas this weekend, although connections are doubtful of his participation with the ground on the fast side and a lack of rain forecast.

While his victory in the Royal Lodge was achieved on good to firm ground, stamina rather than speed strike as his forte and it seems unlikely he could play a role in Classic company over one mile without plenty of cut underfoot. That said, Epsom is a very different test and the trip should be well within his compass, although carrying his big frame around the cambers might prove problematic. Long term, the St Leger might just see him at the peak of his powers.

Despite the Ballydoyle bubble, John Gosden is beginning to show a potentially strong Classic hand himself and he boasts a number of fascinating contenders. Feilden winner Golden Horn had sectional-timing enthusiasts weak at the knees when surging late to gain a debut victory at Nottingham, and he once again impressed with his turn of foot when scoring on the Rowley Mile, looking momentarily in trouble entering the Dip but proving comfortably on top at the line. Much more is required on the bare form to triumph at Epsom, and he would need supplementing, but the times he has recorded accompanied by the manner of his successes

suggest there is more to come. Potentially much, much more.

Stable companion Christophermarlowe, who extends the grip of Coolmore on the race by carrying the colours of Michael Tabor, boasts a faultless record in three starts to date and he has shown Epsom to be no inconvenience by winning twice at the venue. He remains progressive, but whether he is good enough is a major sticking point.

Finally, the darkest horse of them all, or at least the darkest until his Sandown romp—Jack Hobbs—could be poised to usurp the likely suspects following his devastating performance on Classic Trial afternoon.

A Wolverhampton maiden in December, comfortably beating our own Dutch Uncle despite doing everything wrong, he was backed like a mark of 85 was a clerical error when pummeling a strong-looking field last month despite being keen on the outside. Raised a mere 24lb for that victory, his future seems very bright indeed.

Perhaps, then, it will be Gosden rather than O'Brien who lands the spoils in a little over four weeks time. We might not have a superstar who need only be turn up to be crowned, but an intriguing race lies in wait nonetheless.



Jack Hobbs winning at Sandown in April

Photos Of The Month



Callum riding Island Authority



Mr John Dunlop came to visit and see his horses



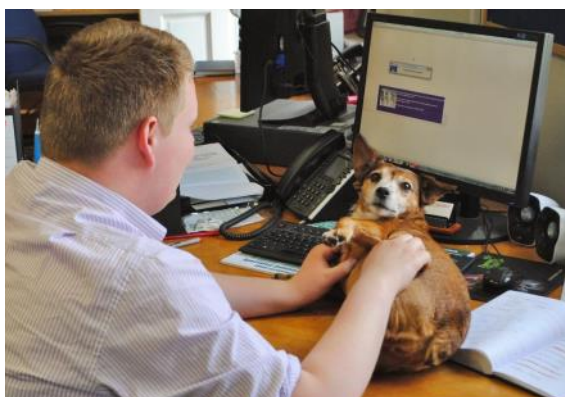
Trip To Paris pulling faces at the camera!



Beautiful blossom; a picturesque La Grange Stables



Johnny grooms Ex There With Me



Molly; a welcome distraction in the office!



Ed playing grounds man



Ex Hold Off making a mess!



A lovely shot of the three-year-olds walking home taken by Gerry Weatherhead.



Ed, David Hayes and Charles Gordon-Watson at Sha Tin Racecourse



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