

August 2015

LA GRANGE NEWS



Rock 'n Red, Blushes and Cliff Face on the Cambridge Road Polytrack

Welcome

The old adage tells us that summer leaves on the tail of the last finisher in the St Leger, but that might have to be amended to the Ebor, as the rain has poured throughout the second half of August and there is a real chill in the air once again. I do hope all of you have enjoyed the summer months, weather aside, and September often has the funny habit of being a little warmer. Let's hope that tradition continues as there is plenty to play for in the last quarter of the campaign, and it is always preferable to watch the action through autumnal sunshine than dreary grey skies!

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

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Trainer Talk

Sales, sales, sales. The busy season is back and in full swing and it has been a productive one for us so far. I was fortunate enough to buy a filly from the first crop of Frankel at Arqana and she is a half-sister to Pacifique, whose Dubawi colt stole the show in Deauville when bought by Darley for 2.6million euros. She is also a half-sister to Prudenzia, who has flown the flag for Monceaux in recent seasons by producing Irish Oaks heroine Chiquita. This is a page it is very easy to get excited about and she, alongside plenty of her yearling stable companions, will hopefully provide a warm glow throughout the cold winter months.



Excitement will be the flavour of the bloodstock world in the coming weeks, especially when the best of Frankel go through the ring at Tattersalls. The strength of his allure to the non-racing public can only grow through his sons and daughters, with the media likely to devote plenty of column inches to the eye-watering price tags his first crop will no doubt carry. His impact for the sport on the racecourse was simply unprecedented in modern times, and let us hope that such an influence can be continued in the ring.

Prices at Doncaster might not have been eye-watering in relative terms, but trade was fierce up in the north and it was not easy to buy on spec at bargain prices. Fellow first-season sire Born To Sea proved popular while Mecca's Angel delivered the perfect pre-sale present for her stallion Dark Angel by landing the Nunthorpe at the Ebor Meeting. Buyers reacted accordingly, going to six figures for multiple lots by the son of Acclamation, who continues to produce good-looking and talented stock.

A Travesty in Chicago

No matter how you dress it up, the demotion of Secret Gesture in the Beverly D. Stakes two weeks' ago was an absolute travesty. Yes the Arlington stewards were implementing the rules, but that is not to say the rules are ridiculous. We are too lenient towards offenders in this country, but it was clear the best horse won in Chicago, and it will create a real problem for US racing on the global stage if British and Irish-trained connections become reluctant to travel because the risk of demotion is preposterously high. There is already a problem across the pond with the use of raceday medication, and US racing needs to take a long, hard look in the mirror if it is to continue to thrive on the global stage.

A Good Start for Rust

Nick Rust's tenure at the helm of the BHA remains in the infancy, but his impact on the sport during his first few months in office has been noticeable. The fixture list for next year is already published, a horseracing bettors forum has been established and are due to meet for the first time this month, while plans were launched last week for a consultation amongst the key stakeholders – even if that is a dreadful word – with regards to race planning.

The latter is long overdue and I have used this space before to criticise clashes in the fixture list, both in terms of geography and race type. In an age where we can create a three-dimensional piece of pottery using a printer, it cannot be that difficult to have a balanced race programme. Let us hope the racecourses consent to make the necessary changes and put the good of the sport beyond commercial gain.



Frankel x Platonic

Photos Of The Month: At Exercise



Luke riding Field Of Light



Manjaam (near side) and Vivre Pour Vivre (far



Tory riding Raasmaal and Emma on Archimento



Sagely (near side) and Dora's Field (far side)



Muhhamad riding Alqubbah



Chestnut Storm, Social Media and Rockery



Nikki riding Times Up



Luke riding Biff Johnson



Storm riding Rockery



Tegan riding Pyla

News Round-Up

Red Cadeaux is back

No air-miles and only 135 miles away from home. But the globe-trotting nine-year-old returned to the course at Newbury mid-month, finishing a highly-promising third in the Geoffrey Freer Stakes, continuing his fine record in the race having been fourth last year and runner-up in 2013. A fifth tilt at the Melbourne Cup is now very firmly on the agenda, and as Robin said in the pre-race interview on Channel 4: "He could almost fly the plane himself!"



FlemingtonRacecourse @FlemingtonVRC · Aug 15

It was a terrific run from #RedCadeaux in third @NewburyRacing - great work team @EdDunlopRacing!

👤 You, Newbury Racecourse, Robin Trevor Jones and Racing.com



All about yearlings

Arqana and DBS are done, Books 1, 2, 3 and 4 are looming. We are at the frenetic time of year when yearlings occupy the mind as much as juveniles and older horses, and Ed has already been busy in the ring. Orders are, of course, always welcomed and plenty of youngsters are bought on spec, with details of new purchases emailed around our owners as well as being published online and on the blog. Do get in touch if we can be of any assistance, and don't be afraid to spend the kids' inheritance on a four-legged dream – they might just thank you when you hoist them onto your shoulders in the Royal Ascot winners' enclosure!



8-To-Follow Leaderboard

We have a new leader! Mike Shepherd, Rosssdales' finest, is now top of the tree.

1. **Mike Shepherd 225**
2. **Georgina Newcombe 185**
3. **Mark Newcombe 175**

Open Weekend on the horizon

The Newmarket Open Day has long been one of the highlights September, but thanks to the hard work and initiative of Sara Cumani and her team, we are now just weeks away from the inaugural Open Weekend, run across the 19th and 20th September. From yard and Heath visits to Sir Michael Stoute on commentary duty at the Rowley Mile and Gary Witherford teaching us how to whisper to horses, two spectacular days lie in store. Three charities will benefit greatly from the weekend and we do hope to see as many of you as possible. Our doors will, of course, be open. More information can be found here: <http://www.newmarketopenweekend.co.uk/>

August Winners

Alqubbah (*Arcano x Musharakaat*)

Owner: *Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum*

Sunday 30th August—Yarmouth

Alqubbah became the first winner of the 2015 season at Yarmouth when breaking her maiden tag at the third attempt on the final Sunday of the month.

Following extensive remodelling work to correct the development of ridges which had developed in the straight, Yarmouth had not opened its doors since the autumn. However, the track was in excellent condition for the first fixture back, despite the recent spate of wet weather, and Alqubbah fended off the late thrust of newcomer Fourth Way in the six-furlong heat for juvenile fillies.

The victory was not unexpected, with punters sending Alqubbah off the 8-11 favourite, and she rightly occupied the head of the market following two promising runs, both on debut at Newmarket and when a slightly unlucky third at Newbury last time out.

This, too, was probably a fair race as solid yardstick Aberlady was well held in fourth and the front two pulled nicely clear in the closing stages. Alqubbah travelled strongly in the hands of Paul Hanagan and was able to quicken up on testing ground, traits which bode well for her future both in the autumn and next year.

We will wait for the judgement of the handicapper before making a plan, but this filly won't be over faced for the rest of the campaign as she has the potential to develop into an even better three-year-old.

Congratulations to Sheikh Hamdan and all of the team at Shadwell, while this was an important victory for her dam, the May Hill-placed Musharakaat, with Alqubbah being her first foal.

Please click on the image below to find out more about Alqubbah:



August Winners

Rock Lobster (*Bahamian Bounty x Reeling N' Rocking*)

Owned by: Lowe, Mitchell, Silver, Milmo & Allison

Monday 17th August – Chelmsford

Rock Lobster took full advantage of the drop in class to get off the mark at the sixth time of asking at Chelmsford.

Fourth following a summer break at Haydock earlier in the month, Rock Lobster duly built on that performance under a confident ride by Jim Crowley, travelling strongly on the heels of long-time leader County Wexford before readily asserting in the straight.

The pair had their fellow five rivals in trouble a long way from home, and this was an authorita-

tive performance from a horse who was well handicapped on his Windsor fifth earlier in the season, where the front four home are rated considerably higher now than they were then.

Congratulations to his owners, Messrs Lowe, Mitchell, Silver, Milmo and Allison, it seems sensible to think Rock Lobster can build on this success, with his ability to handle the all-weather a trait we will look to take advantage of in the coming weeks.

Please click on the image below to find out more about Rock Lobster!



August Winners

Pyla (*Footstepsinthesand x Beautiful Hill*)

Owner: *The Hoofmark Partnership*

Saturday 8th August – Lingfield

A slow break, a rough passage and an unfavourable trip. Three factors conspired against Pyla in the mile handicap at Lingfield, but she managed to overcome the trio of obstacles with aplomb, registering her first win at the sixth attempt when fending off Knight Of The Air by half a length.

Ridden for the first time by Oisin Murphy, Pyla was returning from a two-month break having finished third at the course over an extra furlong and a half in June. She was niggled along early following a tardy beginning, but found herself bang in the thick of things when the pace increased well beyond halfway.

Angled out to make her challenge, Pyla was knocked sideways inside the two, surrendering both ground and momentum as the Mick Channon-trained Knight In The Air appeared to have stolen first run. But gathered up by a power-packed Murphy, she made a relentless challenge inside the last, taking the lead inside the final 100 yards and appearing in no danger thereafter.

Congratulations to her owners, the Hoofmark Partnership, who have patiently waited for quick ground and the right race with this filly. Given how the race was run here, and the fact she is a half-sister to the late-maturing Chapter And Verse, it would be no surprise if she proved capable of defying a rise.

Please click on the image below to find out more about Pyla!



Two-Year-Old Focus: Two Of Each

Manjaam (Tamayuz x Priory Rock)

Owner: Mr Mohammed Jaber

By Tamayuz, who won five times during a seven-race career including victory over Raven's Pass in the Prix Jean Prat, this colt is a half-brother to Priory Tale, who won twice in Switzerland as a three-year-old. His dam, the winning-mare Priory Rock, is a half-sister to the Listed winner Kiltubber, herself the dam of Fox Hunt, who developed into a high-class stayer for Mark Johnston, finishing a three-and-a-quarter-length seventh in the 2011 Melbourne Cup. His second dam, Priory Belle, was Joint Champion Two-Year-Old Filly in Ireland during the 1995 campaign, winning the Moyglare Stud Stakes in fine fashion.



Striding out under Amadeo

Ras Al Mal (Tamayuz x Midnight Glimmer)

Owner: Mr Mohammed Jaber

Also by Tamayuz, who stands at Derrinstown Stud and is the sire of Sprint Cup winner G Force and City Of York Stakes scorer Fadhayyil, Ras Al Mal is a half-brother to Midnight Soprano, who won eight times for Paul Deegan including success in Group 3 company at Cork. He is out of the Dr Devious mare Midnight Glimmer, who in turn is out of the Listed winner Nordic Soprano. Further back in his pedigree lies seven-time winner Double Form, who became the highest-rated sprinter in Britain when landing the King's Stand, Sprint Cup and Prix de l'Abbaye in 1979.



Rockery (Fastnet Rock x Rain Flower)

Owner: Sir Peta Vela & Hon Mrs Peter Stanley

This filly is by dual Group 1-winner Fastnet Rock, who won six times during a 19-race career and was a sprinting sensation in his native Australia. Out of the unraced Danehill mare Rain Flower, she is a half-sister to the superb Dancing Rain, who was given an extraordinary tactical ride by Johnny Murtagh to land the 2011 Oaks and repeated the dose in the inaugural renewal of the Fillies & Mares on Champions Day later in the same year. She is also a sister to the Listed winner Sumora, dam of Maybe, who was European Champion Two-Year-Old Filly in 2011 having won Moyglare Stud Stakes.



Cantering up Warren Hill under Storm

Rock 'n Red (Fastnet Rock x Red Fantasy)

Owner: The Hon R J Arculli

Another daughter of shuttle stallion Fastnet Rock, whose progeny include 19 performers with a Racing Post Rating of 115 or higher, this filly is the first foal out of High Chaparral mare Red Fantasy, who was runner-up in the 2010 renewal of the Listed Pretty Polly Stakes at Newmarket. Her second dam, Listed winner Petite Fantasy, has also produced Desert Fantasy, who was a stalwart in Listed company and won the 2003 running of the Belgrave Stakes at the Curragh. This filly made her debut at Ffos Las in August but was unfortunate to encounter bottomless ground. She should fare much better returned to a sounder surface.



Flat Focus: What did we learn from the Ebor Meeting?

Chris picks his top three discussion points from a fabulous four days at York.



Lumiere following her show-stopping debut at Newmarket



Arabian Queen making history in the Juddmonte International

1. Lumiere should be backed to win the 1,000 Guineas

Slash the price if it wins, push it out if it loses. The modern bookmaking vogue is an odd one, but most firms conform to the same simplistic model. A 10-1 chance for Classic success prior to finishing second in the Lowther Stakes, Mark Johnston's juvenile is now almost twice those odds despite enhancing her claims for the 1,000 Guineas at York. Having proved keen enough early on sticky ground, she travelled best of all until swamped by Besharah passing the furlong pole. However, she stayed on with purpose inside the last and was beaten by the best juvenile filly we have seen all year - Acapulco aside - while Easton Angel is a fine yardstick back in third. The winner is a compact, two-year-old sprinter; Lumiere is a leggy daughter of Shamardal who looks every inch a three-year-old. I expect her to win the Rockfel pulling a cart, and with another winter on her back and better ground next spring, I suspect she will turn up to the Rowley Mile as favourite and duly fulfil the lofty reputation that has preceded her from the very beginning.

2. The three-year-olds might not be that good

Remove Arabian Queen from the Juddmonte International picture and the form makes perfect sense. The Derby winner has thumped The Grey Gatsby, a talented older horse over whom he has notched success before, by three and a quarter lengths, while the much-hyped Time Test (I include myself among the hypers) has not yet been able to make the transition to Group 1 company having won only an average renewal of the Tercentenary Stakes. But add the David Elsworth-trained filly into the equation and the picture is far murkier. Beaten three and three quarter lengths by Legatissimo in the Nassau, she was two and a quarter lengths adrift of Ervedya in the Coronation Stakes – form that was well adrift of the required level, at least on paper.

So did de Sousa just out-ride them, ignoring the pacemaker and effectively making all with a tailwind to help? Or did the ground just blunt the second, third and fourth? Or, as might be the case, are the three-year-olds just not that good? Arabian Queen's owner Jeff Smith believes the fillies at least are an exceptional bunch, but past experience tells us when different fillies win on different days – Legatissimo, Diamondsandrubes and Qualify have all tasted victory and defeat at the hands of one another this season, while Pleascach reversed the Irish Oaks form with Covert Love to land the Yorkshire equivalent – they are probably only an average crop.

And if Arabian Queen was able to beat the best of the boys - admittedly Golden Horn endured an unfavourable trip on less than ideal ground - perhaps this season's three-year-olds are nothing out of the ordinary after all? The Arc might prove the ultimate pointer.

3. Punters taking the moral high ground, in all senses of the word, is not justifiable

The groan echoed around the Knavesmire. When racegoers were informed of Gleneagles' withdrawal on the Wednesday morning due to the rain-softened ground, the disappointment was audible across every corner of the course. Much has been made of his non-participation, with most commentators lamenting his absence and criticising connections for not taking their chance.

This is wrong. As fans of the sport and punters, we - I include myself in both brackets - have no divine right to see the best horses take each other on. Of course we would love to see titans clash, but owners invest vast sums into buying and training racehorses and they are perfectly entitled to consider conditions unsuitable or - the gripe that really gets the commentators goat - consider an opponent too formidable and elect to go elsewhere.

Coolmore is the most successful breeding operation in the world and their model is purely commercial. They have experienced decades of success through the savvy campaigning of their horses and Gleneagles is at his most valuable as a stallion if he proves unbeaten at three. To step him up to a mile and a quarter against the Derby winner would have been a bold move regardless, but to do so on unfavourable tacky ground would have been virtually ludicrous. Yes Golden Horn was beaten, but had Gleneagles done anything

other than win - and I couldn't for a second see him winning under those conditions - he would have dented an otherwise perfect campaign. He might not run again this season, indeed ever, and if that is the case so be it. Coolmore don't owe it to us to run their horses where we want and it is petulant to think they do so.

The same rule applies across the whole spectrum of equine ability. We spend hours every day trying to find the easiest opportunities for our owners' horses to win, and while the punter might prefer an ten-runner handicap with a favourite there to be shot at, we want a four-runner race where our horse is an even-money chance.

How is it possible for connections to do this on a regular basis? There is too much racing at the basement level. If fixtures were reduced by say one third, we would be forced to run in large field handicaps through a lack of opportunity. As long as the game is there to be played, racing professionals will play it and punters have no right to criticise them for doing so. If the sport continues to become an unattractive betting medium because the fixture list is poorly constructed, that is the fault of racing's authorities, not those who invest most in the sport.



Soft ground forced Gleneagles out of the Juddmonte International

Vet Corner: Tendon Injuries

Stuart Williamson, vet at RosSDales here in Newmarket and a regular around La Grange, has been good enough to spare some of his time to discuss one of the problems most common in racehorses.



For all involved the diagnosis of a tendon injury comes as a big setback. These are potentially career-ending injuries that require a prolonged time out of training and despite best efforts may recur once the horse re-commences fast exercise.

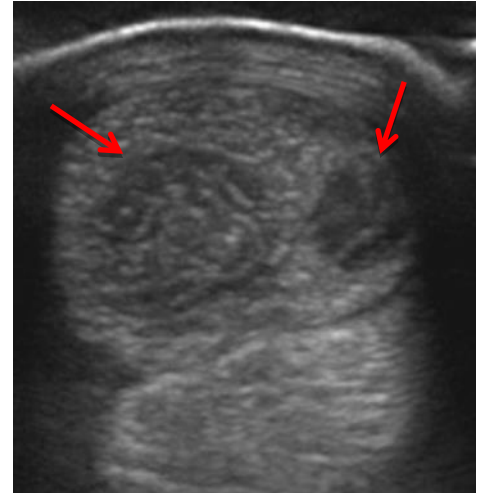
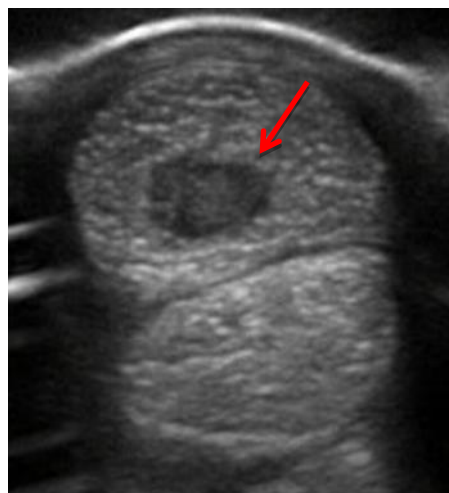
What are tendons?

Tendons are bands of fibrous connective tissue that connect muscle to bone. The most commonly affected tendon is the superficial digital flexor tendon (SDFT), which sits just under the skin at the back of the cannon bone. This is the main load-bearing tendon and runs from the back of the knee in the forelimb and tibia in the hind limb to attach to the bones below the fetlock, acting to support and flex the fetlock. The check ligament and deep digital flexor tendon (DDFT) both lie beneath the SDFT but are less frequently affected. Whilst these structures are present in both the forelimb and hind limb, injury in the hind limb is rare.

Why do tendon injuries occur?

Tendons are elastic structures that respond to the tension placed through them. However, over time and after repeated strain cycles the tendon fibres can wear out, particularly at the middle of the tendon where most of the strain is taken. As a result a tendon can then tear. This tear can range from a small discrete lesion to total tendon rupture.

Any factor that causes a tendon to be stretched beyond its capacity can cause a tear. Fatigue, incorrect shoeing with poor foot conformation and excess high-speed training have all been identified as contributing factors. Traumatic tendon injuries also occur when horses overreach and strike into themselves.



The typical appearance of a 'bowed' tendon A moderate sized central core SDFT lesion Two healing SDFT lesions

Diagnosis

A tentative diagnosis can be made by visualisation and palpation. Swelling and heat will be noted and the horse will often be sore when the tendon is squeezed. When viewed from the side the tendon will often have a 'bowed' appearance.

Treatment

Following diagnosis the initial aim is to limit the inflammatory response and minimise the extent of the injury. The primary repair response within the tendon often results in scarring and adhesions with poorly aligned and weak fibres. Administration of systemic anti-inflammatories is aimed at attenuating this primary response. In addition the horse should receive cold hose therapy 2-3 times daily and a stable bandage should be applied to limit filling in the leg.

Additional therapies such as blood preparations and synthetic products containing repair molecules exist for injection into the lesion. However, none have been found to significantly improve the healing of an injured tendon and consequently their use is variable.

Traditionally, injured tendons may have been fired with the aim of stimulating an inflammatory response and healing within the tendon though little scientific evidence exists to support this theory.

Management

The horse should remain in the stable for this initial inflammatory phase and a period of one months box rest will often be recommended. Following this, many horses will receive a period of turnout before a graded exercise regime commences. It is often 9-12 months post-injury before a horse is cantering again and sequential ultrasound scanning is beneficial to allow reassessment before each level of exercise is increased.



Blood can be harvested from the patient and put through this filtration system to produce platelet-rich plasma (PRP); one of the blood-based products injected into tendon lesions.

Photos Of The Month



Sir Anthony Page-Wood meets Champs Elysees



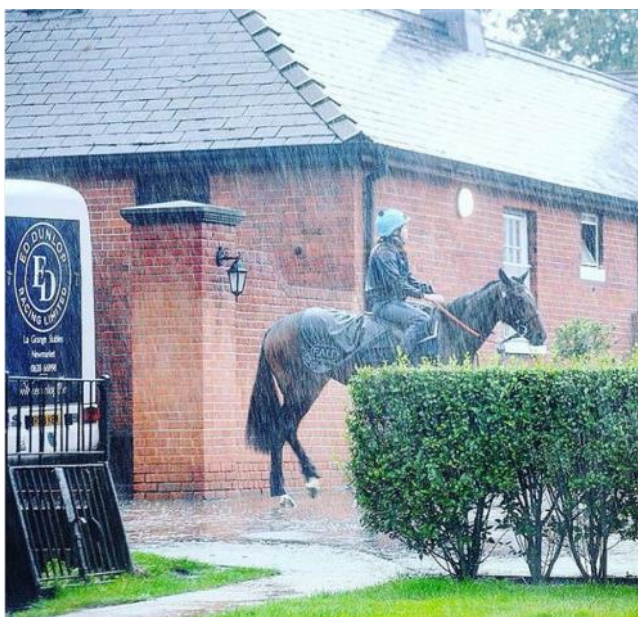
Two-year-olds on Racecourse Side



Red Cadeaux and Steve are always happy to pose



New addition Otto, the trainer and his string, plus a picturesque morning on the Al Bahathri



Come rain or shine it's business as usual!



James and Senior Whim look on.. Silhouettes on the Hill



Chris Kilroy visiting Pyla and Field Of Light



So much for summer: the string head up the Town Canter in the murky August gloom



That's more like it: a rare spot of sunshine bathes the runner on their way to Racecourse Side



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