

March 2015

## LA GRANGE NEWS



*Thanaaya, Pyla and Tocaroro*

### Welcome

A warm welcome to the third newsletter of the year, and this really is the most wonderful time to be part of our great sport. The Flat season has officially begun, the Classic and all the drama of their preceding trials are on the horizon, while jumping enthusiasts are kept royally entertained with the splendour of Aintree and, to quote my old boss Nicky Henderson, a “liver-thumping” week at Punchestown. The weather is beginning to improve so, with the clocks having sprung forward at the weekend, we can settle in for seven months of the very best entertainment. Enjoy!

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Ed Dunlop.

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# Trainer Talk

The Flat is back. Well, sort of. We are almost a week into the new season and after an explosive start, which comprised of three domestic meetings on Saturday, including a new fixture at Chelmsford, the action this week has proved something of a damp squib in relation.

I do not want to dwell on the negatives for too long, because this a wonderful time of the year, but the pre-Lincoln hype, which quite rightly builds anticipation for the coming seven months, fades rather alarmingly in the early part of April.

This will be the second year in which we race on Good Friday, helping to rectify the situation somewhat, but an all-weather card at Kempton on the second Saturday of the campaign won't get too many enthusiasts jumping out of their chairs, and we continue to stutter towards the Craven meeting as the attention swings back towards Aintree.

Simple changes could yield significant results. For example, Chelmsford's fixture on Saturday, while offering excellent prize money, would have been much better placed this weekend, providing a more balanced spread across the opening few weeks. Such a move would also have helped us on the jockey front, with almost 20 British-based riders in action at Meydan on World Cup night last Saturday.

However, let's be jovial as the sun begins to shine. Our horses have been running well, touch wood, for the last few weeks and we were by and large pleased with how events unfolded on Saturday.



Obviously we would have loved to win the Lincoln, but Zarwaan travelled like the good horse we think he is for much of the journey on Town Moor, and his effort inside the last furlong suggests a strongly-run straight mile might just stretch his stamina. We are likely to revert to seven furlongs with him now and have pencilled in the Victoria Cup at Ascot as his next port of call.

We have plenty to think about before then, with trials season about to begin as the Classics loom large, while one of my favourite meetings of the year is staged this month. It may come as a surprise, but Epsom on Great Metropolitan afternoon is my idea of paradise!

While a new chapter on the level is beginning, a whole book is about to reach its conclusion over jumps as AP McCoy calls time on his astonishing career. It would be fitting should he bow out by riding the Grand National winner and we will all be cheering him home.

I am pleased that the Channel 4 executives have seen sense, with Nick Luck quite rightly set to front the coverage from Aintree. Three fine days lie in wait. And the Flat season proper is on the horizon. Let the games begin.



# Photos Of The Month: Warren Hill



*Field Of Light leads Tartoor and Sporting Prince*



*Ex Dispute (near side) and Shurfah (far side)*



*Dutch Uncle (near side) and Sagaciously (far side)*



*Opposition leads the Archipenko x Caribana colt*



*Queensbury Odyssey leads Cogent*



*Island Remede leads Red Galileo*



*Toffee Apple leads Hajeer*

# News Round-Up

## Red Cadeaux to go straight to the Sydney Cup

Red Cadeaux has now been in Australia for six weeks, running once when finishing an excellent fifth in the Australian Cup in mid-March. He did have the option of running in the BMW Stakes last weekend, but we decided to skip that race and go straight for the Sydney Cup over 2m on April 11. He is in fine form with himself and he should have plenty in his favour when seeking to gain an elusive first victory down under on Saturday week.



## An action-packed beginning...

With the horses healthy and well after a smooth winter, we plunged ourselves straight in at the deep end as the season officially got underway at Doncaster, saddling seven runners across the weekend. We were represented at all three domestic fixtures on Saturday, with Zarwaan heading northwards to Town Moor where he ran a highly-creditable sixth in the Lincoln. Red Galileo and Trip To Paris made their reappearances at Kempton, with the latter running a particularly eye-catching race, much to the delight of the five members of the La Grange Partnership who were in attendance. Red Avenger had his second run of the campaign at Chelmsford, but he was unsuited by the deep nature of the surface there. On Sunday, we headed back to Doncaster with three runners. The unraced Dark Red made a fine introduction in division one of the seven-furlong maiden, running green early but making stout progress late, eventually finishing fourth in what appeared a hot contest. Mulhaam ran in division two of the race, travelling exuberantly for a long way before understandably getting a little tired, but that was also a pleasing race-course introduction. Finally, Island Remede ran a superb race in the Doncaster Shield, boxing on gamely to find only St Leger fourth Windshear too good. A pleasing weekend all round.

## Three shares remaining!

Our Authorized ex Grand Lucre two-year-old filly has proved popular following her syndication in last month's newsletter, but we still have three shares remaining for those looking to get involved. You can find out further information by visiting the following link:

[http://www.edunlop.com/horses/for-sale,authorized-grand-lucre\\_178.htm](http://www.edunlop.com/horses/for-sale,authorized-grand-lucre_178.htm), or by phoning the office on 01638 661998.

## 39 entries for the 8 To Follow

Many thanks to all who entered our annual competition. We will keep you updated on how the scoring is progressing with an initial leader board in next month's edition.



# March Winner: Verismo

Verismo broke his maiden tag at the third time of asking when landing a 1m4f Wolverhampton maiden on his seasonal reappearance. Partnered for the first time by Joe Fanning and upped significantly in trip, Verismo travelled kindly in mid-division throughout the contest, quickening to lead as the field entered the straight before going on to win comfortably by a length and a quarter without being asked any serious questions. Twice raced as a juvenile, Verismo's maiden form on turf is very solid. His second run at Newmarket, where he finished third, was behind two well-bred colts hailing from powerful yards, while the fifth – Tempus Temporis – is now rated 102 and heads the market for the Three-Year-Old All-Weather Mile contest at Lingfield on Good Friday.

Verismo has been allotted a mark of 78 and he will be a fine middle-distance handicap prospect for the turf season, having shown enough pace for 1m2f contests while also appearing to stay very well. We were delighted to provide his owner, Mr Benny Andersson, with his first winner of 2015. As many of you will know, Benny was one-quarter of the legendary Abba, so there are plenty of puns we could use to describe winners taking all, but we will refrain from being so corny!



# Two-Year-Old Focus: Bred For Speed

## Lilbourne Lad x There With Me Colt

### Owned by: Mr Wayne Cox

This colt is by Lilbourne Lad, the Richard Hannon-trained sprinter who raced only as a juvenile, achieving his best form when finishing runner-up in Group 1 Middle Park Stakes. He is a half-brother to the Listed-placed sprinter Give Me The Night, who was trained by Ed. His dam, There With Me, was a winner over 6f while she was a half-sister to 10-time US winner Afleet Lass, who was successful in Listed company.



**"I thought this colt would be an early two-year-old, but as the photos show he has lengthened, strengthened and changed over the past few weeks. Thankfully, Wayne is a patient owner and we look forward to getting him on the track."**

## Kafoo (Dansili x Nidhaal)

### Owned by: Mr Hamdan Al Maktoum



Kafoo is by leading sire Dansili, whose progeny include the recently-retired four-time Group 1-winning mare The Fugue and Group 2-winning sprinter Bated Breath, who lowered the colours of sprint sensation Sole Power in the Temple Stakes at Haydock. Out of the Listed-winning Nidhaal, who was also trained by Ed, Kafoo is a half-sister to Burwaaz, the fine sprinter who retired from training at La Grange last summer having achieved his best form as a juvenile when a short-head second in the Group 2 Flying Childers Stakes at Doncaster.

**"I obviously know this family very well and it might be a little surprising to see a Dansili colt in a speed-based feature, but the mother and all her progeny have been very quick and this colt, who is already completing half-speeds, looks to have similar talent."**



## Qeyaadah (Acclamation x Effervesce) Colt



### Owned by: Mr Hamdan Al Maktoum

This colt is by Acclamation, who has been a terrific source of sprinters as the sire of Equiano, a dual winner of the Group 1 King's Stand at Royal Ascot, Dark Angel, winner of the Group 1 Middle Park Stakes and now an exciting stallion, as well as Lilbourne Lad, another high-class juvenile sprinter who now stands at Rathbarry Stud. He is the second foal out of Effervesce, who is a half-sister to triple Group 3-winning sprinter Hitchens and the Listed-placed miler Grand Marque.

**"I liked this colt at Book 2 and was kindly allowed to buy him on behalf of Sheikh Hamdan. He looked to show plenty of speed, but has recently grown a little and he might not be as precocious as we thought. However, with some strengthening up he should be a 6f type."**

## Mustatrif (Bahamian Bounty x Little Annie) Colt

### Owned by: Mr Abdullah Saeed Al Naboodah

Mustatrif is by longstanding National Stud stallion Bahamian Bounty, the sire of July Cup winner Pastoral Pursuits and last season's progressive four-year-old Breton Rock, who won the Group 2 Hungerford Stakes at Newbury. He is a half-brother to White Dog, who has raced three times, while his dam is a half-sister to the Listed-placed Golden Accolade. She is also a half-sister to the winning mare Lauren Louise, who is the dam of the Kevin Ryan-trained duo Bogart and Blaine, who won Listed and Group 2 contests respectively, as well as successive renewals of the opening sprint handicap of the Ebor Festival, Bogart triumphing in 2013 and Blaine repeating the dose last year.



**"This colt has shown plenty of speed and precocity and he is certainly the right shape to be an early sort. He is another who has been completing half-speeds and we will look at 6f races in June and July for him."**

# Staff Profile

## Alex Crean: Pupil Assistant

**DOB:** 25<sup>th</sup> March 1993

**POSITION:** Pupil Assistant

**STARTED AT EDR:** November 2014

March has been a particularly exciting month for one of our Pupil Assistants, Alex Crean as he became a Gold Cup-winning owner and also celebrated his 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday!

Alex spent four months at La Grange without mentioning owning a share in Coneygree, he finally let slip a week before the big day that his Grandmother had bought the share for him as a gift for his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday four years ago!

Coneygree of course went on to carry out the most spectacular round of jumping for a novice in the Gold Cup and we were all absolutely delighted for Alex and all connections - results like those help us remember why we are in the game!

### ***How did you first get into racing?***

My parents own a share in Curruthers and so going to watch him racing has always been exciting! I also grew up hunting and competing at pony club, I have always been around horses.

### ***Where else have you worked previous to Ed Dunlop's?***

Highclere Stud, Eve Johnson-Houghton and Coolmore Australia.

### ***What do you enjoy most about your role at Ed Dunlop's?***

Getting to know the horses individually and being part of a team who will hopefully produce a good number of winners this year!

### ***Who are your racing heroes?***

Sea the Stars/ Denman

### ***If you weren't working in racing what would you do?***

I'd possibly join the Army

### ***What has been your most exciting moment in Racing?***

That's an easy one- Coneygree winning the Gold Cup of course!

### ***Which is your favourite racecourse?***

I think I'll go with Salisbury

### ***What are your hobbies outside of racing?***

Watching films, hunting and rugby.

### ***Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?***

I'm not sure where but hopefully successful...





# More Photos Of The Month



*Fieldsman and Tom McLaughlin*



*Tegan and Ex Dispute*



*Biff Johnson enjoying his Sunday lie-in!*



*Trip To Paris leads Rock Lobster up Warren Hill grass track*



*One of many artistic shots taken by Ed Dunlop himself!*



*Zarwaan ridden by Richard Hills*



*Cheeky God Willing*



*Johnny un-tacking Ex There With Me*



*Callum on Martha's pony- Smiley*





*Tegan and Luke enjoying a cool down in the covered school*



*Zarwaan leaving for Donny*



*Tartoor trying to escape!*



*Mrs D riding Bidaaya, chaperoned by Nikki and James*



*Lauranne and Island Remede*



*Puddle and Molly sunbathing on the lawn*



*James leading the string down Fordham Road*



# Vet Corner: Gastric Ulcers

*Stuart Williamson, vet at Rosssdales 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.*



Gastric ulceration affects approximately 90% of racehorses at some stage in their training career. Whilst this figure is commonly documented in the literature, the number of horses displaying clinical signs associated with gastric ulceration seems less.

## THE EQUINE STOMACH

The stomach is divided into two distinct zones:

**The glandular portion** accounts for approximately two thirds of the stomach and contains the acid-secreting glands that function to continuously produce acid to aid in the digestion of food material. A protective layer prevents this portion from ulceration.

**The non-glandular portion** sits above the glandular portion. This area has no defense mechanisms and so it is here that ulceration most commonly occurs.

## CLINICAL SIGNS

The presenting signs of a horse with gastric ulcers are wide-ranging and include a decreased appetite, mild colic, a dull coat and poor performance. The severity of ulceration does not always correlate with the clinical signs. For example, an individual with severe bleeding ulcers may display only mild colic, often around feeding time.

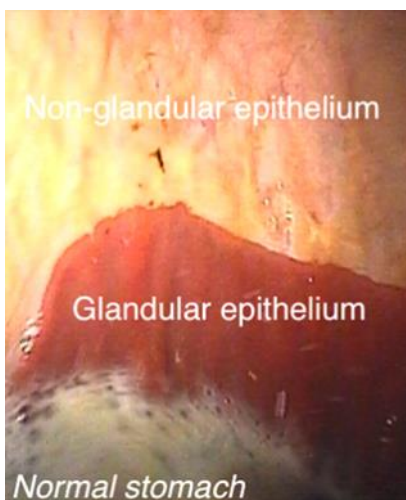
## CAUSES

Horses have evolved as continuous grazers; grass and saliva are always present to buffer the acid produced by the stomach. The modern racehorse however, lives in a stable with a comparatively high carbohydrate, low roughage diet. This, combined with the stresses of training stimulates further acid production, the end result being ulceration of the stomach.

The prolonged use of NSAIDs (Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs e.g. Bute) can also cause ulceration. These drugs are known to cause a decrease in the blood flow to the stomach and so a decrease in the production of the protective layer of the glandular portion, making it susceptible to ulceration.

## DIAGNOSIS

Definitive diagnosis requires gastric endoscopy. A three metre endoscope is passed into the stomach of the sedated horse and the lining of the stomach is visualised. If ulcers are identified they are then graded according to severity from grade 1 (mild) to grade 4 (severe).



## TREATMENT

Treatment is with omeprazole (e.g. Gastrogard™ or Peptizole™). This drug binds to the pumps producing stomach acid and decreases production.

Management must also be considered. Feeding should be at regular intervals with a plentiful supply of roughage. At La Grange the horses are fed four times daily thus reducing the amount of time that a horse has no food in its stomach. The early morning feed is especially important and it should contain a good proportion of roughage. This is important before exercise as racehorses have an increased incidence of 'splash pattern' ulceration that has been linked to exercise on an empty stomach causing increased movement of gastric acid.

# Flat Focus: 1,000 Guineas

*Chris turns his attention to the 1,000 Guineas in the second instalment of his Classic previews.*

Can she possibly stay? That has been the most tantalising 1,000 Guineas conundrum since the autumn drew to a close and it remains the case as the Flat season begins again. If **Tiggy Wiggy**, last year's stand-out juvenile speedball who blew apart the sprinting ranks, is capable of channelling her energies over one mile then we could be on the verge of witnessing something very special. Her thumping success in the Lowther Stakes at York, beating subsequent Group 1 winner Cursory Glance in a race where the front three all broke the track record, was simply sublime. She ended her campaign by fueling her merry bandwagon further when blitzing eight rivals in the Cheveley Park Stakes on the Rowley Mile.

But she is not bred to be a miler, nor does she run like that trip would suit. Punters are in agreement, making her a general 20-1 chance for Classic success, calling on past experience which suggests horses with such explosive gate speed, front-running panache and ability to quicken rarely make it to the top of the three-year-old pile. Perhaps the inaugural renewal of the Group 1 Commonwealth Cup, a six-furlong three-year-old contest at Royal Ascot, will be more suitable, and a British-trained sprint sensation would be a welcome development given how light that department has proved in recent years. But one could not crab connections for testing the water over further at least once. That appears likely with the Fred Darling at Newbury having been pencilled in as a potential stepping stone to the 1,000 Guineas.

So if the filly with easily the best juvenile form has been neglected by the market as she looks far from a Classic prototype, where does that



***Tiggy Wiggy**- Weatherbys Super Sprint winner*

leave us in regards to decoding the riddle?

**Cursory Glance**, who won the Moyglare Stud Stakes having chased home Tiggy Wiggy, has been ruled out of the race through injury by her trainer Roger Varian and she is set to reappear in the Coronation Stakes at Royal Ascot. The form of the precocious **Anthem Alexander**, third at York having previously got the better of Tiggy Wiggy in the Queen Mary, plateaued somewhat towards the end of the campaign, suggesting her contemporaries had bridged the maturity gap. She, too, is far from certain to stay the trip.

One mile will not prove problematic for **Found**, the general 3-1 market leader who forms part of Aidan O'Brien's exciting pantheon of three-year-olds to be unleashed this year. Three-quarters of a length behind Cursory Glance in the Moyglare having previously landed a Curragh maiden over one mile, Found signed off her campaign with an imperious performance on Arc afternoon, quickening two and a half lengths clear of smart French filly Ervedya in the Prix Marcel Boussac.





*High Celebrity racing at Newmarket's July course.*

By Galileo out of Lockinge winner Red Evie, Found has Classic credentials in her blood, but she strikes as more of an Oaks than a Guineas type and her price is very much on the skimpy side at this stage.

That French form might not prove the decisive pointer, although France could once again hold the key to the race, courtesy of the Andre Fabre-trained **High Celebrity**. Having won the 1,000 Guineas last year with Miss France, who completed the full Classic set for the French master, Fabre looks to have another potent challenger this time around through his daughter of Invincible Spirit.

High Celebrity might have been beaten in both of her British starts, succumbing to Arabian Queen in a messy renewal of the Duchess Of Cambridge Stakes before running third in the Cheveley Park, but she is a scopey, well-made filly who promises to be far better at three. In addition, she is bred to

excel when tackling one mile and it is fascinating that her trainer gave her sighter of future tests on the Rowley Mile by running her there in the autumn, as he did with Miss France. Her strength in the market since the turn of the month has been telling and she appears the most likely winner at this stage.

**Together Forever** tasted success at Newmarket when landing the Fillies' Mile on Future Champions afternoon and she is a highly-creditable second string for Ballydoyle. However, her grinding success in testing ground on that occasion was some way off the form required to take a leading role in Classic company, and improvement is needed from two to three.

Among the beaten horses on that occasion were **Lucida**, trained by Jim Bolger for Godolphin. She had previously landed the Rockfel Stakes following her runner-up effort in the Moyglare and, while she failed to run to form on this occasion, the testing surface is the most likely explanation for that below-par performance. She remains capable of significantly better this term.

However, runner-up **Agnes Stewart** could be the most interesting of that bunch having run on stoutly off a sedate early gallop. She impressed with the way she travelled when landing the May Hill on good ground at Doncaster previously so, while her pedigree screams Oaks, a strongly-run straight mile should prove an excellent starting point to her Classic summer. Her trainer, Eddie Lynam, enjoyed an astonishing year on these shores in 2014 through his sprint sensations Sole and Slade Power, and Agnes Stewart could continue that success over the next six months.

Finally, there are a number of lightly-raced types who impressed in maiden company in the autumn, such as the Luca Cumani-trained **Pamona** and the Sir Michael Stoute-trained **Sympathy**, so it would come as no surprise if there was at least once major market mover in the coming weeks as trials season gets underway.

# Sire Focus: Dalakhani

*The third edition of our pedigree page focuses on Aga Khan stallion Dalakhani, the dashing near-white grey who has made waves both on and off the racecourse.*



## Pedigree

Dalakhani hails from a wonderful Aga Khan family as a son of Darshaan, who won the Group 1 Criterium de Saint-Cloud as a juvenile and achieved Classic success as a three-year-old when triumphing in the Prix du Jockey Club. Dalakhani is out of the Listed-winning Miswaki mare Daltawa, who has proved one of the flagship broodmares of the modern era having also produced Daylami, a six-time Group 1 winner whose victories included the King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Stakes at Royal Ascot and the Breeders' Cup Turf at Gulfstream Park.

## Race Record

Trained by Alain De Royer-Dupré, Dalakhani made a striking introduction as a two-year-old, landing a Deauville maiden by three-quarters of a length before progressing to land the Group 3 Prix des Chenes at Longchamp. Sent off the odds-on favourite for the Criterium de Saint-Cloud, Dalakhani emulated his father by landing the prestigious autumn Group 1, prevailing by a neck from Chevalier in desperate ground.

Campaigned as a middle-distance Classic prospect throughout his three-year-old season, Dalakhani cemented the impression he created as a juvenile by winning the Group 2 Prix Greffuhle at Longchamp on his reappearance. He returned to that venue four weeks later to land his second top-tier prize, the Prix Lupin, and such was the manner of his victory that punters sent him off the astonishingly-short 4/11 favourite for the Prix du Jockey Club at Chantilly. Once again, Dalakhani followed his father's footsteps, recording a very comfortable two-length success from Super Celebre, who had previously chased him home in the Lupin.

On his next start, his first and only venture outside of France, Dalakhani contested the Irish Derby, with punters expecting the winning run to continue as he was once again a short-priced favourite. However, he would taste the only defeat of his nine-race career when succumbing by a half-length to the John Oxx-trained Alamshar following a protracted battle up the Curragh straight. There was still plenty of reason to celebrate for the Aga Khan, though, who also owned the winner, with the pair having pulled well clear on a memorable afternoon.



Following a two-month break, Dalakhani regained the winning thread in the Prix Niel on his first start over 1m4f. He returned to that course and distance three weeks later and, sent off odds-against for the first time that season, captured the most prestigious prize of all when defeating Muhtaker in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. Five-time Group 1 winner High Chaparral was five and three-quarter lengths away in third. Time was then called on Dalakhani's stunning career, which had also yielded five top-flight wins and over £1,400,000 in prize money.

### **Stud Record**

Dalakhani has proved an excellent source of high-class horses, with stamina often the order of the day among his progeny. His sons include Conduit, winner of the St Leger and King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Stakes who landed back-to-back renewals of the Breeders' Cup Turf. Dalakhani has also produced Prix du Jockey Club and Australian Group 1 winner Reliable Man, alongside Yorkshire Cup and Irish St Leger winner Duncan. In terms of

the fairer sex, Dalakhani has sired dual Group 1-winning mare Integral and seven-time scorer Chinese White, whose finest hour came when landing the 2010 renewal of the Pretty Polly Stakes.

### **Our Horses**

We have four of Dalakhani's progeny in training across the whole age spectrum. The 114-rated Manndawi, a five-year-old formerly trained in France by Alain de Royer-Dupré, joined us at the end of last season and he achieved high-quality form as a three-year-old, finishing runner-up to Flintshire in the Grand Prix de Paris. He is owned by Mr Jon Haseler & OTI Racing. We also have Mubaraza, the hugely consistent stayer who finished fourth in the Chester Cup in 2014, and he is owned by Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum. The twice-raced Clarentine is our sole Dalakhani three-year-old, and she acquitted herself well when finishing runner-up in a Lingfield maiden in March. She is owned by Bluehills Racing Ltd. Finally, we have a fabulous-looking juvenile in the form of Highclere's Opposition, a grey son of Sandown maiden winner Censored.



***Opposition (Ex Censored)***



***Clarentine (Ex Clarietta)***



***Mubaraza (Ex Mocaraba)***



***Manndawi (Ex Minty Fresh)***





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