

May 2015

## LA GRANGE NEWS



Trip To Paris and connections welcomed into the winners enclosure at Chester.

### *Welcome*

A blink of the eye and we are in June already with the Derby just days away and Royal Ascot creeping ever closer. We have enjoyed an excellent month, saddling five winners including the memorable victory of Trip To Paris in the Chester Cup. The two-year-olds are up and running and we have a live Coventry Stakes candidate in Newbury winner Qeyaadah. Hopefully the good form will continue as the most prestigious prizes are on the horizon.

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# Trainer Talk

Of all the Saturdays in the racing calendar, the first Saturday in June will always be the most important. Speed rather than stamina might be the breeding vogue of modern times, but the preeminent stallions of our era have by and large won, or at least participated in, the Derby. The idiosyncrasies of Epsom ensure this is a unique test, one that would look very different should it be run on the flat, fair landscape of Newbury. However, the race highlights the qualities thoroughbred owners and breeders have deemed valuable for centuries and that is unlikely to change anytime soon.

It is for that very reason that Anthony Oppenheimer, the owner-breeder of Golden Horn, has decided to stump up the not inconsiderable sum of £75,000 to ensure his colt lines up at the weekend. Having originally planned to contest the Prix du Jockey Club, questioning the likelihood of Golden Horn staying the trip at Epsom, an emphatic victory in the Dante at York – easily the most influential trial of the season – has resulted in a change of heart. I, for one, am delighted – it's important for the sport that the very best line-up at Epsom, both for the spectacle on the day and future breeding implications, and I hope Mr Oppenheimer gets a real run for his money.

Eight hours later and 3,500 miles to the west,



American Pharoah seeks his place among racing's immortals by attempting to become the first Triple Crown winner since Affirmed in 1978 by landing the Belmont Stakes. Workmanlike in the Kentucky Derby and imperious in the Preakness Stakes, American Pharoah's test on the dirt in New York will be very different to the one undertaken at Epsom, but they share the same two aims: to create history and to create a stallion. Coolmore have already secured the Pharoah's place in the breeding sheds once his racing career is over, and victory on Saturday would see his value soar.

Two countries, two very different horses and two very different races, but the premise of both the Derby and the Belmont Stakes is the same. And we, as racing fans, get to enjoy the beauty of both on the same day. Some Saturday.



Ed's photography- two year olds picking grass on the Heath



# Photos on the Heath



Mustatrif leads Zauffaly



Toffee Apple leads Gloryette



Chestnut Storm leads Blushes



Amazing Red leads Michael's Mount

*Starting stalls practice for some two-year-olds before they made their debuts this month.  
Kafuo, Girl With A Pearl and Hajeer jump out of the stalls for the first time:*





# News Round-Up

## Royal Ascot line-up:

Royal Ascot plans are now very much in our thoughts and we are beginning to assemble our team for the most important meeting of all. Newbury winner Qeyaadah heads straight to the Coventry Stakes where we all have the Jim Bolger-trained Round Two to beat. Zarwaan, who finished seventh in the Victoria Cup, will revert to six furlongs for the first time since his juvenile days when he lines up in the Wokingham. Red Avenger and God Willing both remain engaged in the Hunt Cup, although neither are certain to get in, while Prince Gagarin could go for either the Tercentenary Stakes or the King Edward VII. We might try and sneak Oasis Fantasy into the bottom of the Duke Of Edinburgh Handicap, Red Cadeaux could go for the Hardwicke and Trip To Paris might be supplemented for the Gold Cup, although the Queen Alexandra is a viable alternative. Fingers crossed they all stay sound for the next two weeks!

## Eight-to-follow leader board:

Georgina Newcombe leads the way after two months of the eight to follow competition thanks to the exploits of Trip To Paris and Kitten's Red. Jamie Strauss is hot on her tail, however, while Georgina's husband Mark shares third place with the Leys Turf Club.

- Georgina Newcombe 120
- Jamie Strauss 115
- Mark Newcombe 95
- The Leys Turf Club 95

## Casualty update:

Mrs D's period of rest and recuperation has lasted longer than she hoped, but we are pleased to report that she is now out of her cast and back on foot without crutches! It will be a little while longer before she returns to horseback, but she is in good spirits as the recovery continues!



Ed and Nick Luck on the Morning Line

# May Winners

## Trip To Paris



Trip To Paris swooped late under a fine ride by Graham Lee to provide the Dunlop team with a first success in the Chester Cup last month, notching his third successive win following victories at Lingfield and Ripon.

Gelded over the winter and rated 88 before the season began, Trip To Paris has progressed out of sight this campaign, and he took his form to a new level when claiming the scalps of market leaders Quick Jack and Zafayan on the Roodee.

Sat towards the rear of the 17-strong field in the early stages, TTP still had more rivals in front than behind as the sedate early gallop began to quicken midway through the final circuit.

After suffering slight trouble in running inside the final half-mile, TTP found himself well adrift of the

leading foursome as they kicked for home.

Stop the race inside the two-furlong marker and only the eternally hopeful would have suggested he could win, but win he did with a powerful late surge that saw him rattle down the home straight, switch to the outside and pick up the leading pair like they were standing still.

Raised to a mark of 103 following that success, TTP looked well worth a crack at Pattern company. While the fairy-tale four-timer was not to be as he finished second in the Henry II Stakes, this rapidly progressive horse proved he can mix it with the best stayers around by chasing home the 109-rated Vent De Force having suffered trouble in running and been forced to make-up ground off a slow early fractions.

Future plans remain fluid, although there are murmurs among his loyal band of owners that a supplementary entry for the Ascot Gold Cup could be on the horizon, while the holy grail of the Melbourne Cup has also been whispered as a potential target for the autumn.

No matter what path is pursued, TTP has proved himself a rising stayer with a turn of foot to whom all ground comes alike, and he is sure to provide the La Grange Partnership with plenty more fun this summer and beyond.



Trip To Paris staying on to win the Chester Cup.



Head Lad, Nikki and Pupil Assistant, Alex with the Chester Cup!



# May Winners continued

## Qeyaadah



One two-year-old runner, one two-year-old winner. That was the state of affairs at Newbury in mid-May as Qeyaadah, an Acclamation first foal out a half-sister to the Group 3-winning sprinter Hitchens, made a successful debut in a warm six-furlong maiden to kick off our juvenile summer in style. Owned by Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum and

ridden by Adam Kirby, Qeyaadah broke smartly from the gates and travelled sweetly through half-way having been briefly squeezed in the early stages.

Brought towards the stands' rail, Qeyaadah was still going best of all approaching the final furlong, and he quickened up smartly when popped the question by Kirby, taking a gap between horses in the style of a thorough professional and only needing to be pushed out under hands a heels to win by a ready neck.

Nelspruit, a well-bred son of Makfi trained by Richard Hannon, finished second and he has won at Goodwood since.

This was a striking debut from a horse who goes nicely at home but who was expected to need his initial experience. The Coventry Stakes at Royal Ascot now beckons.

## Tajathub

Tajathub continued the fine run of the yard when running out a convincing winner of the 7f maiden at Kempton in mid-May.

Once raced as a two-year-old, finishing fourth at Lingfield in a race that has worked out nicely, Tajathub got off the mark at the second attempt under Paul Hanagan, landing the spoils by a length and a quarter having made most of the running.

Despite his wide draw, Tajathub broke smartly and was allowed to stride on by his jockey having proved keen in the early stages. He quickened clear passing the two-furlong marker, with the rest of the field being hard ridden, and while he was tiring a little at the finish, that is understandable on his first start for over 200 days.

Tajathub has been given an introductory mark of 79 and handicap company now beckons. He remains capable of better after only two starts and we think he can progress his way up the ranks. Congratulations to Sheikh Hamdan and all of the Shadwell team.



# May Winners continued

## Scrutinise

Scrutinise got the better of Grey's Angel in a protracted duel up the Chelmsford home straight to open his account at the fifth time of asking in the 1m2f maiden last month.

Partnered by James Doyle, Scrutinise broke smartly from stall eight and gradually worked his way to the front passing the stands for the first time. He looked to have all but one of his eight rivals in



trouble entering the final three furlongs, but Grey's Angel loomed ominously on the outside and the pair sat down to fight it out with the remaining six left toiling in their wake.

Despite being headed inside the last, Scrutinise gallantly rallied under a power-packed Doyle, pinning his ears back and regaining the advantage on the line.

Rated 74 and conceding 10lb to the 68-rated runner-up, Scrutinise was given a 5lb rise for his success. However, the form of his previous two runs has worked out well, with Wolverhampton victor Marma's Boy subsequently landing a hot Newmarket handicap and Dawn Missile, his previous conqueror over course and distance, having finished second in competitive company at York.

Congratulations to all of the partners involved with Thurloe Thoroughbreds, whose famous green and yellow silks frequently grace the winners' enclosure, and Scrutinise should now make an impact in the handicap ranks.

## Kitten's Red

William Twiston-Davies rode his first winner for the yard as Kitten's Red ran out a game winner of the classified stakes at Bath, opening his account at the fourth attempt.

The three-year-old, who is owned by Mr Arculli, had shown some promise in three maidens last year, but he was disappointing on his first foray into handicap company at Windsor in April, finishing eighth.

However the stop-start nature of that contest did not suit Kitten's Red and under a more prominent ride on the south coast, he fended off the late thrust of Ivors Involvement to prevail by a neck. While the bare form is nothing special the pair were nicely clear, and fast ground appears im-

portant to this horse, which reflects his pedigree as a son of Kitten's Joy.

He was given a 2lb rise for that success, taking his mark to 66, and we think he can hold his own in more competitive company.





## 2yo Focus: Breeze-up purchases

### Global Avenger (Kodiac ex Silent Serenade) Colt

#### Owner: Dr Johnny Hon

This colt is by Kodiac, a blistering son of Danehill who has been crowned leading juvenile sire in Britain and Ireland for the past two years, and whose flag has been flown by the insatiable Tiggy Wiggy this summer and last. Global Avenger is from a family filled with black-type and the strength of his dam's page was reflected when her second foal, a colt by Sea The Stars, fetched 160,000 euros at Goffs last November. She is a half-sister to multiple stakes performers, including Group 3 winner Leporello, and Juno Marlowe, herself the dam of the Grade 1-placed Marzelline. This colt was sold to Dr Johnny Hon and is his first horse in training at La Grange.



### On The Bill (Kyllachy ex Secret Flame) Colt



#### Owner: The Old Etonian Racing Partnership

This colt was purchased at the Tattersalls Craven Breeze-Up Sale on behalf of the Old Etonian Racing Partnership, a new venture launched by Ed earlier in the year. By Kyllachy, a tremendous source of blistering speed as the sire of five-time Group 1-winning sprinter Sole Power and Meydan specialist Krypton Factor, On The Bill is a half-brother to five individual winners. His dam, Secret Flame, won once and is a half-sister to the Musidora third Obsessive, herself the dam of Excellent Art, joint Champion Three-Year-Old Miler in Europe in 2007, whose haul included the St James's Palace Stakes at Royal Ascot.



## Canford Cliffs ex Kotdiji Filly

### Owner: Bluehills Racing Ltd

This filly was unsold at the Craven Breeze-Up but was subsequently purchased by Bluehills Racing. She is by Canford Cliffs, regarded by Richard Hannon as the best he has ever trained and a five-time winner at Group 1 level including the Irish 2,000 Guineas and the Queen Anne Stakes. He has already sired three winners from his first crop this summer. This filly has lots of black-type throughout her page, with her half-sister Polly's Mark twice placed at Group 2 level. This filly's dam, the unraced Kotdiji, hails from a tremendous family as a half-sister to 1,000 Guineas winner Ameerat and the Listed-placed Walmooh.



# Vet Corner: Tying-up

*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.*



Exertional rhabdomyolysis (ER), more commonly known as 'setfast' or 'tying-up' is a muscular condition that affects approximately 5% of horses in training.

## **PRESENTATION**

ER most commonly occurs when a horse's exercise level is being stepped up following a period of relative inactivity eg. at the start of the week or following a period of box rest through lameness or disease.

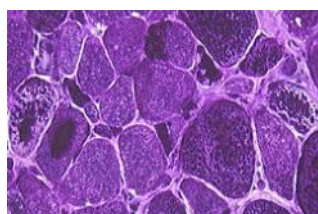
The horse will have trained without incidence but its hind limb gait will have stiffened as it walks home. This presentation of a restricted hind limb action at walk with muscle cramping and discomfort is characteristic of the disease. When the horse is asked to trot it does so freely and without lameness. The muscles over the back and rump are often firm and painful upon palpation. An increased heart rate, sweating, muscle tremors and colic may also be noted in more advanced cases and the most severely affected cases may be reluctant to move and even become recumbent, producing dark urine due to the release of a protein called myoglobin from the damaged muscle tissue. Fillies, two year olds and excitable/nervous horses seem to be over represented in those horses affected by ER.

## **CAUSE**

Whilst no single cause for the disease has been established a number of contributing factors have been identified. There is thought to be an underlying abnormality of muscle contraction and relaxation. Some genetic involvement has also been identified and it is possible that the selective breeding for race performance has led to the trait becoming commonplace.

## **DIAGNOSIS**

The clinical presentation of the stiff horse at walk that trots freely without lameness is usually definitive. If there is any doubt then a blood sample can be submitted to a laboratory to measure creatinine kinase (CK) and aspartate aminotransferase (AST) levels. Marked increases in the levels of these muscle enzymes typify the disease. A muscle biopsy can also be taken to look at the amount of sugar stored as glycogen in the muscle :



*The darker areas in the muscle biopsy on the left indicate the accumulation of excess glycogen and abnormal muscle enzymes. On the right is a normal biopsy for comparison.*

## **MANAGEMENT**

ER can be managed with a well designed exercise programme that avoids sudden increases in the level of work undertaken. In addition the diet can be altered to reduce the level of carbohydrate and increase the level of fat. Horses that have a single episode of ER are usually given pain relief and trained on dantrolene (a skeletal muscle relaxant) for the following few days. Those chronic cases are normally given extra horse-walker exercise in the evening and days off training are avoided where possible.



# Flat Focus: The Oaks



*Chris finishes his four-part Classic series by looking ahead to tomorrow's Oaks.*

Six weeks ago the fillies dominating the market for next week's Oaks were known, by and large, only to their trainer, owner and lad. Now, with trials season over and the Epsom countdown into hours and minutes rather than weeks and days, the betting is very different to what it was on Lincoln afternoon.

This race, perhaps more than any of the other Classics, was ripe for a reshuffle judged on last year's juvenile form and a reshuffle we have experienced as a host of left-field contenders have cemented themselves as genuine players at the fillies' top table.

**Legatissimo** has already proven her credentials as a Classic filly by landing the 1,000 Guineas in fine fashion.



Legatissimo winning the Qipco 1,000 Guineas

An imperious winner of a mile and a quarter Listed contest at Gowran Park on her second start this season, the drop back in trip at Newmarket raised a few eyebrows, but she found the stiff mile to be right up her street, arriving with a powerful late thrust under Ryan Moore to collar favourite Lucida in the final half-furlong.

The form looks particularly solid with Lucida the standout two-year-old and the pair well clear, and she rightly occupies the head of the market with the extra four furlongs no problem on pedigree, her being out of a sister to Gold Cup victor Fame And Glory.

The Tabor silks, already responsible for three Classic winners this year with Gleneagles adding the 2,000 Guineas and the Irish equivalent to Legatissimo's success on the Rowley Mile, are also likely to be carried by **Found**, the Aidan O'Brien-trained filly who topped this market through the winter but has suffered two blots on her copy book in the spring.

A heavy ground defeat at the Curragh preceded her runner-up effort in the Irish 1,000 Guineas and connections are now muting a tilt at the Derby, which would be considered a significant murmur in normal years. But this is no normal year – the wheels have fallen off the Ballydoyle bandwagon – and Found's presence in the colt's Classic would reflect the absence of a standout male from the O'Brien stable than her presupposed superiority over the boys.

O'Brien's hand also consists of **Together Forever**, the Fillies' Mile winner who made an encouraging return to action when running the John Gosden-trained **Star Of Seville** to within a head in the Musidora, conceding four pounds, and **Diamond-sandrubies**, who inflicted a six-length rout on admittedly only moderate rivals in the Cheshire Oaks.

The bare form of all three is at least ten pounds, probably a stone, short of Classic level and while all are capable of better, more pressing candidates lie in wait.

Gosden is also set to saddle **Jazzi Top**, winner of the Pretty Polly Stakes having opened her account at the third time of asking in a Kempton maiden. Her pedigree suggests she's a mile and a quarter filly and the bare form is easily crabbled, with an 85-rated rival back in third. Others make more appeal.

The Jessica Harrington-trained **Jack Naylor** has been the subject of thrifty market support over the course of the last week and it's easy to make a case for the daughter of Champs Elysses, who ran on stoutly to claim fourth in the Irish 1,000 Guineas on her reappearance last month. She holds a victory over Legatissimo to her name in Listed company as a juvenile and the step up in trip looks sure to eke out more with a pedigree full of stamina, while natural progression from her first start of the season is assured. After seven runs, though, her ability to make the requisite improvement to scoop top honours is not guaranteed.

At the opposite end of the experience spectrum lies the incredibly exciting **Crystal Zvedza**, trained by Sir Michael Stoute. Hailing from a superb De Rothschild family as a half-sister to Crystal Capella, Hillstar and Sandor, she landed a Lingfield maiden at two in the style of a horse capable of significantly better, and she confirmed that impression when destroying a field of unexposed fillies in the Haras De Bouquetot at Newbury last month.



Crystal Zvedza

Still last passing the two pole, she was pulled wide by Ryan Moore and quickened past the 12-strong field within 200 yards, not needing to be fully extended to win by three and a half lengths. Neat and well balanced with a striking turn of foot, she seems to boast all of the credentials needed to triumph on the idiosyncratic contours of the Downs.



Lady Of Dubai

The Luca Cumani-trained **Lady Of Dubai** has similarly burst onto the Oaks scene with an eye-catching success, hers being achieved in the Height Of Fashion Stakes at Goodwood. Highly touted as a juvenile, finishing second in the Montrose Stakes which has since thrown up the French 1,000 Guineas second and the Lingfield Oaks Trial winner, the daughter of Dubawi made a mockery of her rivals last month. Bred to strongly appreciate the extra two furlongs, she could be the one, alongside Legatissimo and Crystal Zvedza, to fight out the finish.

Finally **Al Namaah**, the filly for whom only victory in this race could justify her record-breaking 5,000,000 price-tag at Book 1 of the October Yearling Sale in 2013. A sister to Oaks heroine Was, she was led out of the ring at Tattersalls under the ownership of Al Shaqab following a bidding duel that truly confirmed the aggressiveness with which Sheikh Joaan would expand his bloodstock empire. If Andre Fabre deems her good enough to participate then there are few qualified to argue, but on all known form she has plenty to find, even if this might not be a vintage year.



# Photos Of The Month



Cheeky On The Bill!



Owners admiring Field Of Light after a gallop on the Al Bahathri.



Johnny very happy to be riding Blushes!



1st lot pick of grass



Tegan and Sharaakah posing for the camera



James finishing the Heath race in style!



Nikki watching Josh ride Alqubbah home



Invula turned out



Work morning with help from Moore, Hills and Atzeni.



Vicky and Harlestone Hopes





Molly watches over the two-year-olds in the outdoor trotting ring



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