

September 2015

LA GRANGE NEWS



Trip To Paris, Manndawi and Red Cadeaux ready to represent Team Great British Racing in Australia

Welcome

Dare we dream? The time of year when Melbourne preoccupies the mind has come around again and with Red Cadeaux and Trip To Paris on the Cup trail, excitement is building around the yard. That said, there is plenty still up for grabs on home soil and we continue to roll out our two-year-old brigade, while we are not far off bringing the first of the yearlings in to be broken. Much to play for and much to do – just how we like it.

[Contents](#)

[Trainer Talk](#)

[Photos of the Month: 2YOs At Exercise](#)

[Newmarket Open Weekend](#)

[Trip To Melbourne](#)

[September Winners](#)

[Times Up: Farewell To A Great](#)

[Two-Year-Old Focus](#)

[Autumn: Five Key Moments](#)

[Eight To Follow Leaderboard](#)

[Photos Of The Month](#)

Trainer Talk



Dark mornings and dark evenings are becoming disconcertingly common, but there remains plenty to brighten up even the drabest autumn day around here as all the talk has turned to Melbourne. It has been a privilege to oversee Red Cadeaux in his four Melbourne Cup bids so far, and his astonishing record in the great race reflects his wonderful character as a racehorse and the skill of Robin, Steve and all the team behind his preparation.

The old boy is by no means out of things this time around despite Father Time doing what he inevitably does, while the emergence of Trip To Paris as a top-class stayer has undoubtedly been the story of our year. To go from Kempton on the opening day of the season to Flemington on the first Tuesday in November, with the small matter of the Gold Cup sandwiched in between, has been a truly remarkable transformation, and he is a four-year-old who we have not seen the best of yet.

And we must not forget Manndawi, who won't be on the Cup trail but will be chasing prestigious middle-distance prizes across the Spring Carnival for his Australian-based owners, Jon Haseler and OTI Racing, who are no strangers to success across this wonderful few weeks of racing. Our journey to Australia this year promises to be the most memorable yet and we are all incredibly eager to get the show on the road.

Back in the northern hemisphere, the action comes thick and fast with all eyes on Treve at the weekend before Newmarket, Ascot and then the Breeders' Cup. We also have the small matter of the October Yearling Sales at Tattersalls to wade our way



The Melbourne Cup: yet to be captured by a British-based trainer

through, so while this might be considered a time to reflect on the season and look ahead to next year, there isn't that much space to contemplate just yet.

That said, this time next month life will be winding down quite considerably, and for those whose pre-occupation lies with the Flat the time for switching the mind off is a welcome one. As is the opportunity to reflect, with change inevitable in the autumn as the HIT Sale looms and the yearlings begin to poke their heads over the doors of their new homes.

There is always a degree of uncertainty, too, but one thing we do know is Times Up won't be joining us next season having bowed out in the Doncaster Cup, but he has enjoyed a glittering career and we owe him plenty - enjoy retirement old friend!

For now, though, we must concentrate on the present and let's hope the final few weeks of hard work can yield significant results. The very best of luck to all of our owners chasing the final frontier – hopefully the Cup will be heading 12,000 miles north next time we speak.

Photos Of The Month: Two-Year-Olds At Exercise



Swiftee nearside, Zauffaly far side



Blushes leads Dora's Field



Gloryette leads Timia



Al Hamd leads On The Bill



Archimento, Charioteer & Swiftee



Dora's Field far side, Sagely near side



Al Hamd



Vivre Pour Vivre

Newmarket Open Weekend



Karin (Mrs D's mum), Martha and the cakes



Busy around here: the horses get plenty of pats from their fans

Newmarket was transformed mid-month as the annual Open Day morphed into the inaugural Open Weekend on Saturday 19 and Sunday 20, and the crowds once again flocked into the yard on the traditional Sunday morning slot to stroke the horses and sample the fineries of the staff's baking skills.

After Saturday racing on the Rowley Mile was sweetened up by the commentary exploits of seven local trainers, including the dulcet tones of Sir Michael Stoute and the lucid delivery of David Simcock, Sunday morning saw almost 1,000 people pass through the gates of La Grange, and most left rather more fulfilled having bought confectionary on behalf of charity, guessed the weight of Smiley and met the trainer himself.

More fun and games followed back at the racecourse in the afternoon, including the racing celebrities' show jumping competition. Smiley was once again the star attraction as the mount of the first three home, with Michael Hills landing the spoils and Jenny Simcock and Maureen Haggas filling the places. She was suitably showered with well-done pats while a special mention must go to Harriet, who does a fine job riding Smiley in Martha's absence.

All in all this was a hugely successful weekend in aid of three wonderful local charities. Congratulations to Sara Cumani and the organising committee, whose tireless hard work made an already enjoy day into something even bigger and better. Here is to next year already.



Smiley the show jumping champion, Eddie emulating Ryan Moore and affection for Archimento



Guess the weight of Smiley, Jaro and Luke don silks for the morning, how to tack up a racehorse and a shoeing demonstration

Trip To Melbourne

Melbourne in the autumn has become customary for us at this time of year, but to travel three horses to the Spring Carnival is very much a first. Red Cadeaux, whose second home is the International Horse Centre at Werribee, boarded his sixth flight Down Under on Thursday 24, and he was joined by young Cup pretender Trip To Paris and fellow Carnival hopeful Manndawi. Manndawi will be competing in the feature middle-distance contests over the next couple of months before leaving us to be based permanently in Australia.

Seasoned travellers Robin and Steve once again oversaw quarantine preparations at Side Hill Stud in Newmarket, while it was a maiden Melbourne voyage for La Grange stalwart Darkie, who has been the man responsible for riding TTP all year and what a job he has done!

The trio of horses and humans landed in Australia on

Saturday 26 to spend two weeks' under lock and key before the action turns up a notch. As is the norm, Red Cadeaux will head straight to the Melbourne Cup, while Trip To Paris will take in the \$3,000,000 Caulfield Cup en route to the most prestigious prize of all. Manndawi has been pencilled in to begin his campaign in Geelong Cup on October 21 and there are plenty of options for horses of his profile.

It is both hugely exciting and a great honour to have the calibre of horse capable of competing at the Spring Carnival, and we are set for nerve-wracking and tension-filled couple of weeks as the countdown to the race that stops a nation gathers significant momentum.

[CLICK HERE](#) to check out ITV Anglia's Melbourne Cup piece, featuring Red Cadeaux and Trip To Paris.



RC's big interview with Donovan Blake for ITV Anglia



Team GBRI– Trip To Paris, Manndawi and Red Cadeaux



The boys settled in to quarantine at Side Hill Stud as RC talked them through what was in store for them down un-



Taking it all in his stride: The photogenic RC as he steps off the plane in Melbourne with Robin

September Winners

Scrutinise

Owned by: Thurloe Thoroughbreds XXXIV

5th September – Thirsk & 23rd September - Goodwood

September proved all about Scrutinise as the three-year-old enhanced his upwardly mobile profile with a brace of victories at Thirsk and Goodwood, taking his handicap mark to 91 and igniting thoughts of lucrative autumn prizes given his love of soft ground.

He kicked off the month with a facile success in the historical Hambleton Cup at Thirsk, which commemorates the former Hambleton Hills racecourse that hosted equine action from its inception by James I until 1775. Rarely can a three-year-old have landed the spoils so easily, Scrutinise scything through the field under Paul Mulrennan to win by two and a half lengths.

Things weren't so straightforward at Goodwood, however, as Scrutinise lined up against battle-hardened older horses in a race that became par-

ticularly tactical inside the last quarter mile.

But in his usual customary fashion, Scrutinise answered every rallying call of jockey Paul Hanagan, sticking his neck out and flapping his ears back, steering a course between horses to battle to the front with 100 yards left to run. His jockey only needed to resort to hands and heels in the end, with the winning margin a comfortable neck.

Scrutinise holds an entry in the valuable Old Rowley Cup on Friday, which could be a potential next step, while the November Handicap would seem a logical end-of-season target for such an upwardly mobile type. However, the horse also holds an entry in the HIT Sale so it will be his owners – Thurloe Thoroughbreds – who steer a course through the autumn. One thing for certain is that the hat-trick is very much on the cards.

To find out more about this horse please click on the image below:



September Winners

Pyla

Owned by: The Hoofmark Partnership

12th September – Bath

Pyla confirmed herself to be on an upward curve when notching a second win in as many starts at Bath on Saturday 12, adding to last month's Lingfield success with a gritty display in the mile handicap that concluded the card.

Raised 3lb for her opening victory, which appeared fair considering she had suffered a hefty bump inside the two, Pyla was sent off 11-8 favourite following the defection of her two chief rivals on account of the quickening ground and she made no mistake in the hands of George Baker.

Sat off the leaders as the six-strong field went only a moderate gallop early on, Pyla could be spotted travelling ominously well entering the last quarter mile, and she was forced to hit the front earlier than ideal as nothing could tow her into the race

for any longer.

While Light Of Love fought on gamely in second and Call Me Crockett made ground from the rear, Pyla battled well inside the last furlong and was always doing enough to prevail by a neck.

A mile on quick ground appear her optimum conditions so hopefully the rain stays away for a little while longer, while Pyla would have benefitted from a more truly-run race, so she looks capable of winning again despite having finished a hampered sixth at Beverley midweek.

Congratulations to the Hoofmark Partnership, who have had fun with this filly, and there is no reason why she should not continue to progress throughout the autumn.

To find out more about this horse please click on the image below:



September Winners

Clarentine

Owned by: Bluehills Racing Ltd

22nd September – Lingfield

She might have been a 16-1 shot and unfancied by the punters, but Clarentine belied her long odds to secure a first success in competitive handicap company at Lingfield towards the end of the month.

Dropped back to a mile for the first time since her racecourse debut over course and distance in February, Clarentine travelled smoothly in the hands of Adam Kirby. Asked to quicken rounding the home turn, she led inside the furlong marker and won going away, putting a length between herself and nearest pursuer Lord Reason.

This was a deserved first victory for a filly who has either bumped into a good one or had viable excuses this year, and her clear liking for artificial surfaces could pave the way for a fruitful winter.

Congratulations to Mr Goulandris, Valerie and all at Bluehills Racing, Clarentine being a homebred first foal out of their smart mare Clarietta, who was a dual winner for John Dunlop while also being Listed placed.

Clarentine was handed a 2lb rise for her victory, which seems a relatively lenient reassessment given this nine-runner handicap was a warm affair for the grade, the second being an unexposed sort while the fourth was a in-form horse who had won at Wolverhampton in the summer before chasing home a handicap blot at Kempton next time out.

However, we will certainly not be chastising the handicapper for his decision as Clarentine can continue to run in the 0-75 bracket. She ought to remain very competitive off her new mark.

To find out more about this horse please click on the image below:



Times Up: Farewell To A Great



After seven seasons, three Group 2 victories and almost half-a-million pounds in prize money, Times Up ran his final race at Doncaster on Thursday 11, ending his career in the race he landed back-to-back renewals of in 2012 and 2013 – the Doncaster Cup.

While the fairy tale farewell was not to be, Times Up bows out as a nine-year-old with a reputation undiminished. A progressive handicapper during the early years, including success in the November Handicap at the end of his four-year-old season, he would develop into one of the best stayers in the country during his pomp, pummelling ten rivals in the 2012 Lonsdale Cup before grinding out success on Town Moor the following month.



That win proved the final high-profile success for legendary trainer John Dunlop, who would retire six weeks later at the end of the Flat season, but Times Up continued his love affair with the course 12 months on, repeating the dose for Ed on what was a similarly emotional afternoon.

He has been a special horse for his connections, Mrs Jane Stewart-Brown and Mr and Mrs Michael Meacock, while this is a bloodline they know very well having bred and raced Times Up, his siblings and many members of the further family.

Following the announcement at Doncaster, which was broadcast across the course via the public address system, Ed said: "It has been privilege to be have played a small part in the career of this horse, who has provided a hatful of memories for myself, my father and all of the Dunlop family. He retires in one piece and looking half his age, while his exuberance and boyish behaviour at home remain undiminished.

"He has been the most wonderful servant to so many people, not least his fabulous owners, and I'm sure he will continue to remain eternally youthful in the next phase of this life. We wish him a long and happy retirement and we will, of course, keep you updated on where he heads to next."



Two-Year-Old Focus: Four Homebred Fillies

Alqubbah (Arcano x Musharakaat)

Owner: Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum

By Prix Morny winner Arcano, Alqubbah is the first foal out of the May Hill-placed mare Musharakaat, who Ed trained and was rated 97 at her peak. She has run four times this summer, opening her account at the third attempt when fending off subsequent winner Fourth Way in a warm fillies' maiden at Yarmouth. She then finished second, pulling clear of the remainder, in conditions company at Newbury. Rated 88, Alqubbah remains capable of better and she ought to improve again next season.



Alqubbah following her Yarmouth win

Flinty Fell (Rock Of Gibraltar x Manoeuvre)

Owner: St Albans Bloodstock LLP

Flinty Fell is by high-class stallion Rock Of Gibraltar, who has produced 11 individual Group 1 winners including Eclipse Stakes-victor Mount Nelson, current stallion at Newsells Park Stud. She is a half-sister to the winner Pereira while her dam, the unraced Galileo filly Manoeuvre, is a half-sister to Astrophysical Jet, who won a brace of Group 3 contests during her 19-race career. Further back in her black-type-studded page lies Blueprint, who won the Group 2 Jockey Club Stakes in Britain and a pair of Grade 2 contests in the US.



Dora's Field (Rip Van Winkle x Rydal Mount)

Owner: Mr Reg Gifford

This filly is out of four-time winner Rydal Mount, who was also owned by Reg Gifford, and she is named after the field purchased by William Wordsworth in the early nineteenth century while he lived in the nearby Rydal Mount. Following the death of his daughter, Dora, in 1847, Wordsworth renamed the field in her honour and planted hundreds of daffodils as a memorial. Dora's Field made her debut earlier this month, running promisingly in a warm fillies' maiden on the Rowley Mile, and her jockey William Buick was suitably complimentary about her in the aftermath. She will improve for that experience.



Dora's Field and her Cumbrian horticultural namesake

Social Media (New Approach x Mischief Making)

Owner: Cliveden Stud

This filly is from a family Ed and owner Philip Freedman know extremely well. She is out of the 100-rated Lemon Drop Kid mare Mischief Making, who won four times including a Listed contest on the all-weather. Her second dam, Fraulein, was a revelation during her three-year-old career in the summer of 2002, winning the Listed Valiant Stakes at Ascot in June before ending her time of the track by landing the Grade 1 EP Taylor Stakes at Woodbine in the September.



Autumn: Five Key Moments

Chris discusses the five feature meetings of the coming six weeks

1. The Arc

Twelve months ago and the majority of the racing world, Criquette Head-Maarek, her illustrious father and Thierry Jarnet aside, thought the brilliance of Treve was simply a fleeting memory of her three-year-old career. Now, two Arc de Triomphe's later and on the back of an unbeaten season which included a dazzling success in the Prix Vermeille, she is best-priced even money to record the historical hat-trick and cement her claims to immortality. Golden Horn and New Bay, two mighty fine three-year-olds who have lit up the summer with Classic glory, might stand in her way, but at Longchamp on Sunday the crowd will be cheering for one horse only. Pray God she can cross the final frontier. Allez Treve!



Treve: seeking an unprecedented third Arc success

2. Future Champions Weekend

Returning the Middle Park to its original home two weeks before the Dewhurst will not yield immediate results this year, with Saturday's victor Shalaa reportedly finished for the season, but the autumn programme now has a more definitive shape to it and the inaugural Future Champions Weekend at Newmarket promises to be a thriller. The Dewhurst should quite rightly prove the highlight,

particularly if the clash materialises between Champagne Stakes winner Emotionless and National Stakes victor Air Force Blue, with the winner guaranteed to be the solid winter favourite for the 2,000 Guineas.



Air Force Blue: set to clash with Emotionless in the Dewhurst

3. Champions Day

The debate about the ground will never properly subside, but even the most ardent sceptic can't fail to appreciate the quality of the spectacle over the last few years. Even in the post-Frankel era the day has gone from strength to strength, and the addition of the Balmoral Handicap last year was the icing on the cake. The presence of Jack Hobbs in the Champion Stakes would be the most fascinating dimension this year, while Muhaarar will bid to close his spectacular season – and career – in the Sprint.



Muhaarar: bids for a fourth Group 1 win in the Sprint

4. The Pharoah

The Travers Stakes at Saratoga, the 'graveyard of champions' which has claimed plenty of good ones in the past, might also have swallowed up American Pharoah in August, but the beast will be back for one final hurrah in the Breeders' Cup Classic and his Triple Crown-winning summer would be capped by victory in the most prestigious dirt race of them all. A shot in the arm for the flailing industry that is US racing, the Pharoah story has been a personal highlight of the summer and all credit to his owner, Ahmed Zayat, for resisting the temptation of retirement to give the racing world one final sight of his marvellous thoroughbred.



American Pharoah in full flight

5. Paddy Power Meeting

Ok, ok I know the Flat continues to take precedence, but the spirit of jumping is reignited at this time of year and the long road to the Festival begins again very shortly. Three Guinness-fuelled days at the home of jump racing set the tone for the winter ahead, and we have an extra incentive to welcome back four-foot hedges as Gold Cup winner Coneygree is part-owned by pupil assistant Alex. The Hennessy or the Betfair Chase is mooted as his first port of call, and given his exploits as a novice last year, perhaps there will be more improvement to come from this thoroughly tough, likeable and talented chaser.



Coneygree jumps the last in the Gold Cup

8-To-Follow Leaderboard

Mike Shepherd has extended his lead at the top of the table with six weeks of the season left to go, while we have a number of new faces making one late last lunge for glory.

1. Mike Shepherd 260

2. Wayne Cox 195

3. Robert Gray 190

4. Georgina Newcombe

=5. Mark Newcombe, Jimmy Strauss, The Leys Turf Club

Photos Of The Month



James & Senior Whim on Warren Hill



Fog looms over the workers on Racecourse Side



Kimberley and TTP



Otto continues to grow rapidly



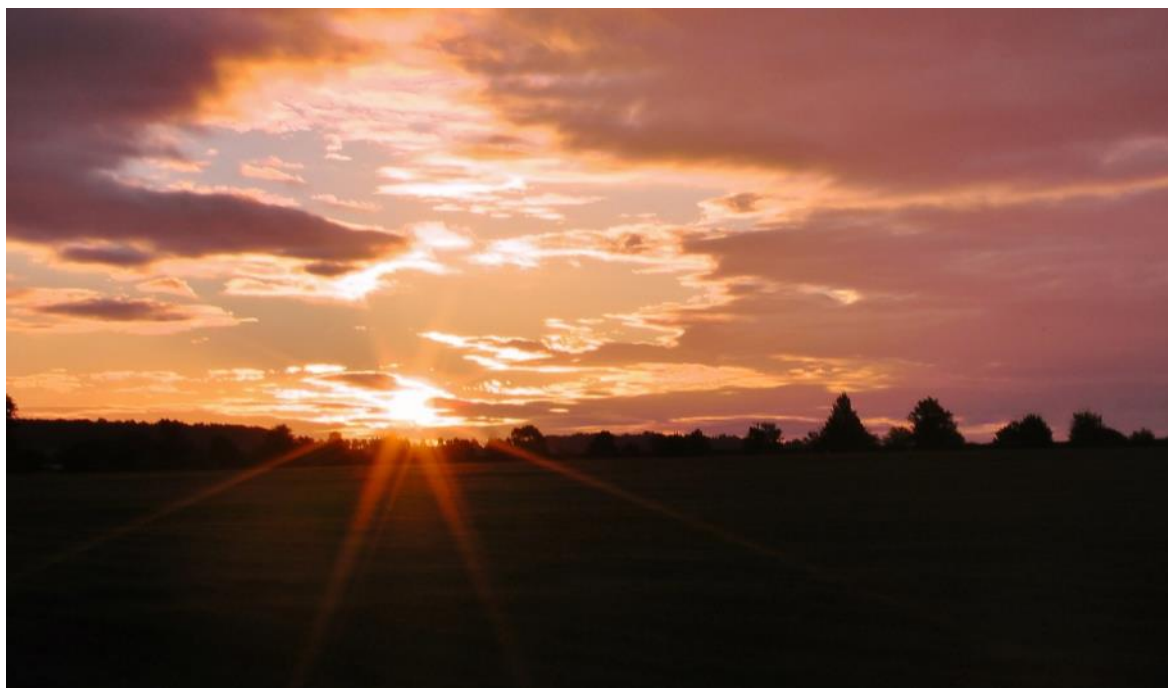
Australia-bound Libran



Newmarket down to a tee: there is only priority afforded around here



Third lot walking home. Taken by Anne Perry, our treadmill operator



The perks of the job: a glorious autumnal morning on the Limekilns



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