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## EURTON READY TO POP MORE 'CHAMPAGNE' IN THE NEW YEAR



Peter Eurton | Benoit

by Steve Sherack

With a personal-best season of \$4.2+ million in stable earnings in 2016, highlighted by **Champagne Room** (Broken Vow)'s 33-1 upset victory in the GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies ([video](#)), trainer Peter Eurton is locked and loaded to keep the momentum rolling into the New Year.

"It was just an amazing year," Eurton said, reflecting on his sixth straight year of bankrolling seven figures in earnings. "I can only be happy to have a carbon copy year like I had last year, but it's going to be hard to do. Finishing it off with 'Champagne' and then with 'Betty' [**Bettys Bambino** (Unusual Heat) coming back like that [to win the GIII San Simeon S. Dec. 26 off a 22-month layoff] was very gratifying."

Champagne Room, also a heroine of last term's GII Sorrento S. and third-place finisher in the GI Del Mar Debutante S., is aiming to make her sophomore debut in the GII Las Virgenes S. going a mile Feb. 5. The **\$310,000 OBSAPR** purchase, campaigned in partnership by Joe Ciaglia, the Alesia family and several others, posted an easy four-furlong move in :49 (26/60), her third workout since mid-December, in Arcadia Jan. 3. Bred in Kentucky by Respite Farm, Champagne Room was produced by the winning Bernstein mare Lucky to be Me.

Cont. p3

## 2016 LEADERS: REPEAT PERFORMANCES

By Bill Oppenheim

It's now official: Coolmore's **Galileo** was the leading North American/European sire of 2016 by worldwide progeny earnings from Northern Hemisphere-sired crops (click [here](#)), with 2016 worldwide progeny earnings of \$30,086,073. For at least the third consecutive year (*TDN* has archived these figures beginning in 2014) he was the leading NA/EU sire in all six black-type categories we designate, with 39 Black-Type Winners (BTW), of which 30 were 2016 Group/Graded SW (GSW), and 14 were Group 1/Grade I winners (G1W). He had a total of 71 Black-Type Horses (BTH), of which an amazing 54 were Group/Graded Stakes Horses (GSH), and an even more amazing 24 were Group 1/Grade I horses (G1H). He is the champion British/Irish sire for the eighth time. He was also leading European sire of 2-year-olds again last year (click [here](#)), with 12 2-year-old BTH (tied with War Front for the lead among all NA/EU sires), three 2-year-old Group 1 winners, and seven 2-year-old Group 1 Horses. **Cont. p5**

## IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

### A MORNING WITH MARCO BOTTI

Emma Berry chats with Newmarket trainer Marco Botti, who will be sending a string of horses to the Dubai International Racing Carnival. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Europe.](#)

## INTO MISCHIEF

### #1 JUVENILE SIRE in 2016

	Wnrs	BTW	Earnings
Into Mischief	36	6	\$3,128,120
Galileo (Ire)	27	6	\$2,748,783
War Front	25	8	\$2,468,518

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**Wednesday, January 4, 2017**



**Phirst Pharaoh.** A bay colt believed to be the first foal of the first crop of Triple Crown winner American Pharoah was foaled Jan. 3 at Brookdale Farm in Versailles, KY. The colt's dam, Kakadu (Tizway), is owned Oussama Aboughazale of International Equities Holding Co. and is a half-sister to MGSW Protonico (Giant's Causeway). | Image courtesy of Brookdale Farm

**NYRA BONUS FOR JAPAN-BASED BELMONT WINNER 6**

NYRA will offer a \$1-million bonus to any Japan-based Thoroughbred who wins the 2017 GI Belmont S.

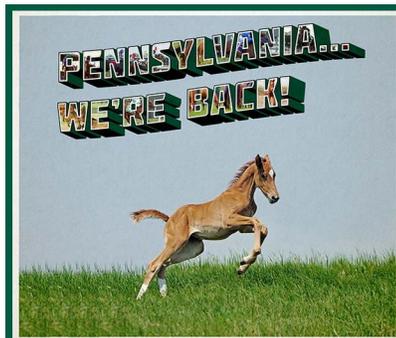
**CARLOS FIGUEROA DIES AT 88 RR2**

New England's colorful 'King of the Fairs' Carlos Figueroa passed away Jan. 3 at age 88.

**TODAY'S GRADED STAKES**

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**Eurton Ready to Pop More ‘Champagne’ in the New Year cont.**

“She’s been doing very well,” the 59-year-old native of the Golden State said. “We gave her a little bit of time off there--not a lot--and just kind of walked her for a few weeks and she’s really enjoying herself right now. The first couple of works back were trying to get her to slow down a little bit, and [Tuesday] I think we accomplished that, especially with the off track, I didn’t want her to go too fast. She went an easy half mile and came home in :24 1/5 and it went very well.”

Eurton will be watching this weekend’s GII Santa Ynez S. with interest. The seven-furlong affair for sophomore fillies could feature a showdown between ‘TDN Rising Star’ Unique Bella (Tapit), a runaway Del Mar maiden winner from the Jerry Hollendorfer barn in late November; and unbeaten GIII Delta Downs Princess S. victress Shane’s Girlfriend (Adios Charlie).

“It will be an interesting race for those other two fillies,” Eurton said. “That will be fun to watch. I’ll just watch those two

run and enjoy it, and about four weeks later will be Champagne’s race.”

**Kobe’s Back** (Flatter), a top sprinter for the Eurton barn with wins in last term’s GII Palos Verdes S. and GII San Carlos S., is on the comeback trail. The stretch-running 6-year-old gray, off since a third-place finish as the 9-5 favorite in Santa Anita’s GI Triple Bend S. June 25, covered four furlongs in :48 (5/60) at the Great Race Place Jan. 3.



**Kobe’s Back** | *Benoit*

“It’s so nice to see him training again,” Eurton said of C R K Stable’s millionaire. “He had a few months off. He just needed a little break. We’ll be trying to get that elusive Grade I with him hopefully in the [GI] Triple Bend in early March [Mar. 11]. Unless he gets fit quicker than I think, there’s also the six-furlong [GII Palos Verdes S.]

Feb. 4. With the rain and everything though, we’ll just have to see--he’s had some wonderful gallops and a beautiful half mile [Tuesday]. He looked so strong, but he still has a little ways to get him more fit.” **Cont. p4**

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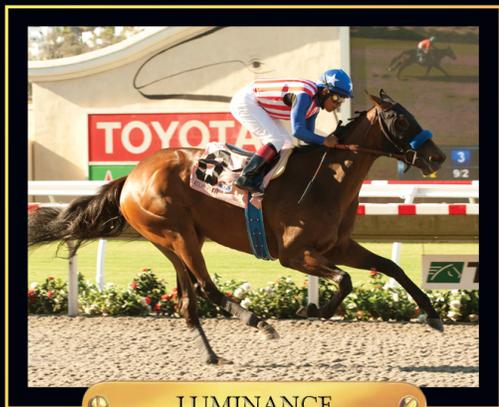


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**Eurton Ready to Pop More ‘Champagne’ in the New Year cont.**

The 6-year-old California-bred gelding **Ashleyluvssugar** (Game Plan), a two-time Grade II on the lawn in 2016 and a last out runner-up in the GII Hollywood Turf Cup S. Nov. 25, will return



**Ashleyluvssugar** | Benoit

to action in the \$250,000 California Cup Turf Classic Jan. 28, per Eurton.

With a stable of 45 head in training at Santa Anita, the jockey-turned-trainer has also saddled the likes of recent Grade I winners Weemissfrankie (Sunriver)

and the ill-fated Dance With Fate (Two Step Salsa). What's it been like campaigning his first Breeders' Cup winner and being able to look ahead to races as prestigious as the GI Kentucky Oaks?

"It's pretty nice," he said with a laugh. "I really think she should get better and better as an older horse when she learns how to run. She's still very aggressive as you saw [when fourth after pulling early] in the [GI] Chandelier. In the Breeders' Cup, she had her trip and she had so much horse. It was nice to see her get a chance to run free, and that's what she wants to do. She might become a little more push button as she gets older, but right now the 'on' button is always on."

Eurton concluded, "It's so much to look forward to, to see what she can do as a 3-year-old. It's not going to be easy, but it's going to be a lot of fun to shoot for the Oaks. There's also a ton of grass in her pedigree. It could be down the line, but we could also be looking at races like the [GI] Belmont Oaks in the latter part of the year as well."

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**Champagne Room** | Eclipse Sportswire

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From the desk of...

# BILL OPPENHEIM



**Continued from p1**

Chris McGrath reviewed Galileo's history in some detail in Sunday's paper (click [here](#)), and it has to be said, just as his predecessor at Ballydoyle, Vincent O'Brien, is forever identified with Northern Dancer, so Aidan O'Brien will be forever identified with Galileo, so when McGrath cites what Aidan O'Brien says about Galileo, it's worth paying attention.

Up until the end of last week some of the real greats were archived in the TDN Cumulative General Sire List, but somehow



Galileo | Coolmore

with the changing of the year the data generated by TJICIS (The Jockey Club Information Systems), which populates these tables, no longer includes Sadler's Wells, Danehill, Storm Cat, or Danzig. However, their statistics haven't changed in the last

week, so let's look at Galileo's lifetime Northern Hemisphere-sired statistics in comparison to some of the other greats of the last 25 years:

**Average foals per crop:** Galileo 145, Danehill 102, Sadler's Wells 95, Storm Cat 67, A.P. Indy 65

**Percentage of GSW/named foals:** Galileo 7.78%, Sadler's Wells 7.66%, Storm Cat 7.58%, A.P. Indy 7.43%, Danehill 7.37%

**Percentage of GSH/named foals:** Sadler's Wells 14.72%, Galileo 14.07%, A.P. Indy 13.26%, Storm Cat 13.10%, Danehill 12.79%

**Percentage of G1W/named foals:** Sadler's Wells 3.35%, Galileo 3.26%, Danehill 2.92%, Storm Cat 2.48%, A.P. Indy 2.45%

**Percentage of G1H/named foals:** Sadler's Wells 7.38%, Galileo 6.06%, A.P. Indy 5.57%, Danehill 5.35%, Storm Cat 4.04%

The ultimate champion by percentages among sires listed in the cumulative table is **Danzig**, who averaged just 45 named foals per crop, and whose comparable figures were: 10.52% GSW; 18.06% GSH; 4.28% G1W; 7.26% G1H. Not that this is a scoop either, but it does illustrate that when foal crop sizes doubled the percentages fell. In any case, all this helps quantify how Galileo rates among the recent greats. In 12 crops of foals to date, Galileo has sired 207 BTW, 345 BTH (that's nearly 30 a crop!); 136 GSW (more than 11 a crop), 246 GSH (more than 20 a crop); 57 G1W (almost five a crop; McGrath credited him with 62, which will include Southern Hemisphere-sired etc.), 106 G1H (almost nine per crop).

In North America, Gainesway's Tapit recorded his third consecutive wide-margin sires' championship with his third consecutive record-breaking year by progeny earnings (click



Tapit | Mathea Kelley

here). In 2014, the first year he was champion sire, Tapit had 150 winners and earners of \$18.6-million, over \$5-million clear of runner-up **Giant's Causeway**. In 2015 he sired 175 winners and the earners of

\$19.1-million, \$5.5-million clear of runner-up **Medaglia D'Oro**; and, in 2016, Tapit again broke his own record, siring 149 winners and the earners of \$19.9-million, over \$7-million clear of runner-up **Curlin**. Message: at this moment, Tapit is in a class of his own among North American sires. He's been an average of nearly \$6-million clear of three different runners-up in the last three years. We spell that d-o-m-i-n-a-n-t.

Claiborne's **War Front** nipped Tapit by number of 2016 BTW by a North American sire, 22 to 21, but Tapit was once again the leading North American sire in all the other black-type categories, with 15 GSW and five Grade I winners (tied with Curlin), and 53 BTH, including 36 Graded SH and 10 Grade I horses. Cumulatively, from 967 foals in nine crops of racing age (107/crop), Tapit has sired 599 winners and the earners of \$107.4-million, of which over half has come in the last three years; and arguably, since 2017 is just Tapit's third year as a \$300,000 stallion



War Front | Claiborne

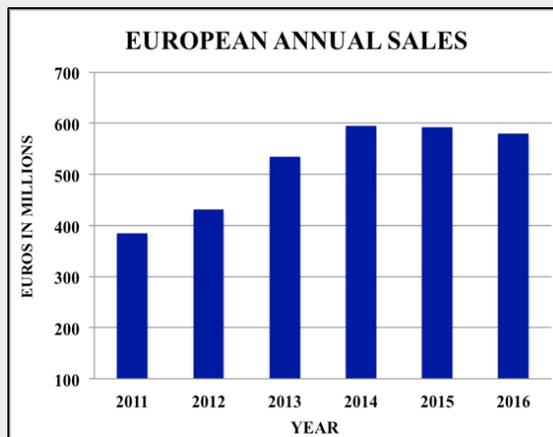
(meaning his first sired at that fee are just yearlings of 2017), Tapit may only really be just getting started as a dominant sire. As long as he sustains the percentages he has racked up in the last three years, Tapit could easily be champion sire for another five years. He's only really just getting started as a sire of sires and broodmare sire, as well.

**Cont. p6**



**TOTAL US ANNUAL SALES**

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>CAT</u>	<u>RING</u>	<u>SOLD</u>	<u>% W/D</u>	<u>% S/R</u>	<u>% S/C</u>	<u>GROSS</u>	<u>AVE</u>
2016	20,483	16,035	11,736	21.7%	73.2%	57.3%	\$ 884,724,100	\$ 75,385
2015	20,143	15,876	12,105	21.2%	76.2%	60.1%	\$ 916,578,700	\$ 75,719
2014	20,191	16,420	12,613	18.7%	76.8%	62.5%	\$ 907,352,700	\$ 71,938
2013	18,160	14,885	11,982	18.0%	80.5%	66.0%	\$ 890,471,450	\$ 74,317
2012	18,207	14,881	11,536	18.3%	77.5%	63.4%	\$ 701,787,900	\$ 60,835
2011	19,951	16,101	12,351	19.3%	76.7%	61.9%	\$ 709,162,250	\$ 57,417



**TOTAL EUROPEAN ANNUAL SALES**

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>CAT</u>	<u>RING</u>	<u>SOLD</u>	<u>% W/D</u>	<u>% S/R</u>	<u>% S/C</u>	<u>GROSS</u>	<u>AVE</u>
2016	15,976	13,535	10,689	15.3%	79.0%	66.9%	€579,862,034	€54,248
2015	16,138	13,472	10,780	16.5%	80.0%	66.8%	€592,734,687	€54,985
2014	15,276	12,797	10,581	16.2%	82.7%	69.3%	€594,724,222	€56,207
2013	14,445	12,201	9,891	15.5%	81.1%	68.5%	€533,937,627	€53,982
2012	14,265	12,033	9,478	15.6%	78.8%	66.4%	€431,311,204	€45,507
2011	13,700	11,549	8,798	15.7%	76.2%	64.2%	€384,456,484	€43,698

JANUARY 2017

# TDN WEEKEND

**HARRY  
HERBERT**

*has The Last Word*



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**Oppenheim cont.**



Into Mischief | Spendthrift

**Other Leading Sires of 2016...**

**Leading Sire of 2-Year-Olds in 2016:**

**NA:** Spendthrift's **Into Mischief**, ultimately by well over \$600,000 over War Front, and Into Mischief was also leading sire by 2-year-old winners, with 36; I call that a remarkable achievement with his first big crop of 2-year-olds.

**EU:** **Galileo**, with three 2-year-old Group 1 winners, including top European 2-year-old, Churchill.

**Leading Freshman Sires of 2016:**

**NA:** Darby Dan's **Dialed In**, a son of Mineshaft who won the 2011 GI Florida Derby, had a BTW at Laurel Dec. 31 and finished up with a margin of \$95,000 over Lane's End's 2011 GI Champagne S. and 2012 GI Belmont S. winner **Union Rags** (Dixie Union) (click [here](#)). Union Rags has bigger crops out of better mares to follow, but Dialed In looks absolutely for real.

**EU:** Juddmonte's **Frankel** (Galileo), by a mile (click [here](#)), his six GSW including a Group 1 winner in Japan. They only have to train on, with no doubt some new additions from his first 3-year-olds, for him to be the most exciting new stallion, well, maybe ever.

**Leading Second-Crop Sires of 2016:**

**NA:** Coolmore's **Uncle Mo** (Indian Charlie) sired the earners of \$12.5-million in 2016 (click [here](#)), including 18 BTW (10 GSW, two GI winners), 31 BTH (19 GSH, 5 GIH). He ranked 3rd on the North American 2016 General Sire List. That takes him to a total of 22 BTW, of which 12 are GSW and three are Grade I winners, with his first two crops, through the end of 2016. He could be the next dominant sire in North America.

**EU:** Haras D'Etream's **Wootton Bassett** (Iffraaj), sire of Europe's top 3-year-old of 2016, Almanzor, leads Coolmore's **Zoffany** (Dansili) by 2016 earnings (click [here](#)). Zoffany is the cumulative leader by earnings, and by all black-type categories, with 10 BTW (6 GSW) and 15 BTH (9 GSH). They are the only two European second-crop sires of 2016 with a Group 1 winner so far.

**Leading Third-Crop Sires of 2016:**

**NA:** Lane's End's **Quality Road** (Elusive Quality) and Coolmore Ashford's **Munnings** (Speightstown) are the two standouts here. Quality Road led the 2016 North American third-crop list with the earners of \$6.4-million (click [here](#)), including five GSW and three Grade I winners. Munnings led 2016 NA third-crop sires with 10 BTW and leads the cumulative NA 3rd-crop list with 19 BTW, and is some \$200,000 ahead of Quality Road by cumulative progeny earnings, both over \$11-million.



Quality Road | Lane's End

**EU:** Ballylinch's **Lope De Vega** (Shamardal) was the clear leader among European third-crop sires in 2016 (click [here](#)), and is the overall third-crop European leader by earnings and by all black-type categories, including 20 BTW and 11 GSW. Contact Bill Oppenheim at [bopp@erb.com](mailto:bopp@erb.com) (cc [suefinley@thetdn.com](mailto:suefinley@thetdn.com)).

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**NYRA TO OFFER BONUS FOR JAPAN-BASED BELMONT WINNER**

The New York Racing Association will offer a \$1-million bonus to any Japan-based Thoroughbred who competes in and wins the 2017 edition of the \$1.5-million GI Belmont S. June 10. The entire \$1-million bonus would be awarded to the winning horse's connections in addition to the \$800,000 winner's share. In the event of a dead-heat for the win, the bonus will be \$600,000. **Cont. p7**



The Japanese-bred Lani (Tapit) was third in the 2016 Belmont S. | Christie DeBernardis

**NYRA to Offer Bonus for Japanese Based Belmont Winner cont.**

"With Japan opening their simulcast markets to the world on a limited basis, we believe this has the potential for incredible growth for racing here in the U.S.," said Martin Panza, NYRA's Senior Vice-President of Racing Operations. "In NYRA's talks with Japanese officials, they have conveyed to us that races with Japanese horses would be preferred for simulcasting. Japan has some of the most enthusiastic racing fans in the world and we've been working on this with Churchill Downs officials, who have implemented the 'Japan Road to the Kentucky Derby' this year, as a way to help attract these horses to the United States, enhancing the entire Triple Crown program."

To qualify for the bonus, a horse must have made at least three starts in Japan prior to starting in the Belmont and be nominated to the Triple Crown series. The deadline for early nominations for the Triple Crown is Jan. 14. Late nominations will be open through Mar. 20.

NYRA will be adding traveling incentives to further entice Japanese horses for other races, such as the GI Belmont Derby/Oaks and the GI Metropolitan H.

"The New York Racing Association is one of the few organizations in the U.S. that has the ability to offer racing on an international level," said Panza. "NYRA has done a good job of attracting European runners and now we will make a concerted effort to bring horses from Japan to both Belmont Park and Saratoga Race Course. We look forward to working with the Japan Racing Association in these efforts."

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**DAN LIEBMAN**

I read with great interest the [letter](#) penned by Rinaldo de Gallo III (Jan. 1) regarding the offspring of Cara Rafaela. The dam of Bernardini was euthanized last week because of the infirmities of old age. She was 23.

Cara Rafeala (Quiet American) was bred to Tapit, his grandsire A.P. Indy and A.P. Indy's sire Seattle Slew.

Gallo asks since she produced foals from the same sire line are the foals considered more than half-siblings? Are they, he inquires, three-quarter, five-eighth or even nine-sixteenths "in blood."

He also notes that Cara Rafaela's full sister, Well Related, had offspring by A.P. Indy and Tapit...thus are those foals more closely related.

This interesting question has been debated by Thoroughbred breeders for many years, and I personally examined it twice while at *The Blood-Horse*.

When I joined the publication in 1992 as Research Director, it was still researching the statements claimed in every single advertisement. As part of that exercise, the publication consistently made advertisers change the wording every time they claimed foals to be anything other than full or half-siblings, which was the editorial policy.

Years later, as the Executive Editor, I oversaw the updating of the magazine's stylebook, which covered not only things like punctuation and grammar, but more importantly points that covered styles specific to the Thoroughbred industry. Things like whether foals could be more than full or half-siblings.

I discussed this, and many other subjects related to breeding, with John Gaines, who had a fascination with genetics. Gaines, who died in 2005, took over a successful Standardbred operation begun by his grandfather and began a Thoroughbred division of Gainesway Farm in 1962. Gaines endorsed the publication's position, he explained to me, because no one could agree on what defined a three-quarter sibling.

Is it when a mare is bred to a sire and that sire's son? Is it when a mare produced foals by full brothers? What about full sisters bred to full brothers? What about half-sisters covered by the same sire?

Two foals by the same sire and dam are full siblings. Two foals out of a mare by any two stallions are half siblings.

That we can agree on.

Anything else is just fodder for an interesting discussion.

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**IN OTHER NEWS** A DAILY ROUNDUP OF RACING ARTICLES IN OTHER MEDIA

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**Scott Ostler, San Francisco Chronicle**

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## ESPN, NBC SPORTS WIN MEDIA ECLIPSE AWARDS

ESPN and NBC Sports have both been awarded Media Eclipse Awards for Television, the National Thoroughbred Racing Association (NTRA), *Daily Racing Form* and the National Turf Writers and Broadcasters (NTWAB) announced Tuesday. The DRF has also won a Media Eclipse Award in the Audio/Multi-media and Internet category.

ESPN won in the feature programming category for its news magazine program E:60 feature “Barnyard Buddies,” on the unusual relationships between racehorses and stable companion animals. This is the second Eclipse Award for E:60, which won the Television Features category in 2012 for “Notinwildestremz,” about an abandoned and neglected Thoroughbred retuning to the races. It is also the sixth overall Feature Television Eclipse Award for ESPN.

In “Barnyard Buddies,” the E:60 team traveled to California, New York and Kentucky to gather stories on how goats, chickens, donkeys and other animals can be invaluable companions to Thoroughbreds. One example of this is Sancho, a cat who partnered with champion sprinter Runhappy. The feature, narrated by reporter Ryan McGee, contained interviews with Triple Crown-winning trainers Bob Baffert and Billy Turner, and Michael Blowen of Old Friends Farm.

“We wanted to produce a fun, light-hearted story, but at the same time explain that horses are ‘pack animals’ that tend to get nervous,” said Tonya Malinowski, E:60 associate producer. “They need companions to keep them calm and travel with them, and a calm and happy horse performs better.”

In addition to Malinowski, Heather Lombardo and Mike Johns were supervising producers, and Megan Anderson was the field producer. Nate Hogan was the editor. Andy Tennant is Executive Producer of E:60.

Runner-up honors in the Feature television category went to Comcast Sports Philadelphia for “The Horse of a Lifetime-- American Pharoah,” produced by Greg Magruder, which aired Jan. 16, 2016.

NBC Sports won its Media Eclipse in the Live Race Programming category for its broadcast of the 2016 GI Breeders’ Cup Classic Nov. 5. This is the 13th Media Eclipse Award in this category for NBC. The one-hour prime time telecast included post-race analysis by winning jockey Mike Smith with winning trainer Bob Baffert.

“Nearly 40 cameras were deployed to showcase two incredible days of racing set against the beautiful backdrop of Santa Anita Park and the San Gabriel Mountains,” said Rob Hyland, coordinating producer of NBC Sports Group’s horse racing coverage. “Our production team did an excellent job covering the dramatic finish of the Breeders’ Cup Classic between California Chrome and Arrogate. NBC Sports is fully committed to growing the sport of horse racing, and I am extremely proud of the high standards and passion our entire production team has for this sport.”



Arrogate (L) beats ‘Chrome’ in the Classic | Benoit

The Breeders’ Cup World Championships broadcast was produced by Billy Matthews and was directed by Jeff Simon. NBC Sports Group’s coverage of the Breeders’ Cup Classic was hosted by Mike Tirico and Tom Hammond, a veteran NBC Sports commentator; analysts were Randy Moss and Jerry Bailey, the Hall of Fame jockey and five-time Breeders’ Cup Classic winner; handicappers Bob Neumeier and Eddie Olczyk; reporters Donna Brothers, Nick Luck, Carolyn Manno, Laffit Pincay III and Kenny Rice. Larry Collmus was the race caller.

THE DRF won a Media Eclipse for “[Time Bandits](#),” which profiled the longevity of Hall of Fame jockeys Alex Solis, Mike Smith and Gary Stevens. The story concept, text and rider profiles of “Time Bandits,” which first appeared June 6, were written by Executive Columnist Jay Hovdey, who has won four previous Media Eclipse Awards for writing. Barbara Livingston, a three-time Eclipse Award winning photographer, contributed the main photographs for the entry. Molly McGill produced the video elements of the piece.

“It was a chance to put a spotlight on the mental and physical challenges that jockeys have as they age, especially those accustomed to such a high level of achievement,” said Hovdey. “These are three fascinating guys who have written a lot of racing history.”

Also contributing for *Daily Racing Form* on “Time Bandits” were Web Producers Neil Bisman and Matt Brennan; Jim Sewastynowicz, Photography Editor; Jody Swavy, Editor in Chief and Irwin Cohen, Senior Editor.

Honorable mention in the Audio/Multi-Media and Internet category went to Horse Racing Radio Network (HRRN) for its live coverage of the 2016 GI Kentucky Derby, which aired May 7, 2016; and to the *Louisville Courier-Journal* for its “24 Hours at Churchill Downs,” a multi-media presentation which appeared on the publication’s website May 3.



Runhappy & Sancho

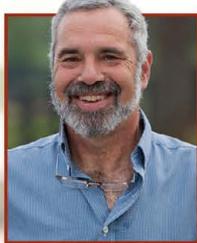
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**UPDATE:**

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## NEW ENGLAND'S COLORFUL 'KING OF THE FAIRS' DIES AT 88

By T.D. Thornton

Thoroughbred racing at New England's county fairs died in 2004 with the closure of the region's last-remaining half-mile track. Yet against long odds, the colorful, bombastically charismatic horseman who personified the hardscrabble spirit and ragtag allure of the storied bullrings managed to outlive the leaky-roof circuit where he thrived by more than a dozen years.



Carl Figueroa | Bud Morton

The death of Carlos "The King of the Fairs" Figueroa was confirmed Jan. 3 by the New England Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association. The Salem, N.H., resident was 88 and had been recently hospitalized because of complications from various illnesses, including pneumonia. Funeral arrangements are pending.

Racing enthusiasts outside of New England are unlikely to recognize Figueroa's name, and his "career statistics" posted on Equibase (846 wins) only go back as far as 1976, thus omitting the bulk of his training career, which dates to 1949.

But anyone who ever attended the old Massachusetts fairs circuit, which in its heyday was comprised of summertime stops at Marshfield, Weymouth, Brockton, Middleboro, Topsfield, Northampton, Great Barrington, and Berkshire Downs, knew the larger-than-life Figueroa well.

With his wide Panama hat, blindingly loud Hawaiian shirts, starched white pants, pencil-thin moustache, and dark, oversized sunglasses, Figueroa was easily recognizable as the unabashedly self-aggrandizing seeker of all forms of "fame and glory"--even if his notion of those attributes was rooted in long losing streaks or a "run 'em often" training mindset that might not pass muster in today's more welfare-centric era.

Figueroa's reign as the King of the Fairs (he coined the title himself and had large signs affixed to his barns to let everybody know) dates to at least 1963, when he purchased a no-hope horse named Shannon's Hope for \$70 because he knew the animal would otherwise meet an untimely demise (or so the story goes).

Shannon's Hope went right out and won five races over the span of six racing dates on the fairs circuit in Massachusetts. Midway through the much-ballyhooed winning streak, the state animal welfare agency sent a representative to check on the well-being of the horse.

Shannon's Hope was sound, The King insisted, and to bolster

his argument, he pointed out that history was on his side: Paul Revere, the Revolutionary War patriot, once rode a horse across the state with 200 pounds on his back to warn everyone that the British were coming, and Massachusetts made a hero out of him. Figueroa insisted that a statue should also be erected in his own likeness on the State House lawn because he had saved the life of Shannon's Hope, and, unlike Revere, only ran the horse on an even dirt strip with a light jockey on his back.

"That was Carlos," said former *Boston Globe* reporter Michael Blown, who was inspired to found the Old Friends retirement farm in Kentucky after volunteering, on a whim, to groom and hotwalk horses for Figueroa at Suffolk Downs in the 1990s. "No matter how upset you might be with him, no matter how much he frustrated you, no matter how much you thought he was crazy, his sense of humor and his joie de vivre were totally distinctive."

Blown continued, "Personally, I'm just very grateful, because if it wasn't for Carlos, we wouldn't have all these horses here at Old Friends, because he taught me everything. Just hanging around with him and being able to see horse racing from that end of the spectrum was completely invaluable. He was one of the brightest, funniest people I've ever met, and under other circumstances he might have been in the Hall of Fame. But those circumstances never showed themselves."

"I talked to him a few days ago," Blown recounted, "and he said, 'I think this is the end of the road.' So he was fully aware of his circumstances."

A native of San Juan, Puerto Rico, Figueroa first worked on the backstretches of New York tracks before shifting both his horse business and home to New England in the 1950s. Many of his Thoroughbreds raced in the brown-and-yellow striped silks of his wife, Pearl, who survives him.

For anyone who knew Figueroa at Rockingham Park and Suffolk Downs, the two main tracks at which he was stabled for decades, conversations with "King Carlos" often involved being shouted at in heavily accented English while trying to avoid his wildly gesticulating arms. He was forever phoning the Suffolk press box with good-natured demands for publicity and press coverage, and Figueroa liked to regale anyone who would listen with outlandish, difficult-to-document claims, like the time he allegedly singled all the winners in the very first Pick Six in the country when Rockingham offered the bet in the 1960s.

His annual win totals ranged from three to 40 in the 1970s and 1980s, but in the 1990s Figueroa began winning races in bunches and attracted several new clients, including the controversial horse owner Michael Gill. The New England Turf Writers Association honored Figueroa in 1994 with a lifetime achievement award, and around that time he occasionally started horses at Saratoga Race Course, which he immensely enjoyed even though his runners were hopelessly outclassed.

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Also during that decade, Figueroa mounted an unsuccessful bid for election to the New Hampshire House of Representatives, based on a platform that consisted entirely of legalizing a racino at Rockingham.

By the turn of the 21st century, Figueroa's on-track fortunes regressed to their previous means. His health began to decline, and his stable would be defunct by 2010.

In 2001, when Figueroa was in the midst of a 146-race losing streak that he claimed was a record, King Carlos embraced the notoriety, telling *ESPN.com*'s Bill Finley, "This is a record that nobody will ever break. I've got lots of records for winning and now I got one for losing. To me, horse racing is a game. You win, you lose. I'm on a losing streak. As long as I'm alive, I'm happy."

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## WESTERN U.S.

### Sunland Park Restricts Louisiana Horses:

Sunland Park is now restricting horses from Louisiana following the EHV-1 outbreak at the Fair Grounds. No horses that have been in Louisiana for the last 30 days will be permitted on the grounds until further notice. Oaklawn Part, Delta Downs and Sam Houston have begun similar restrictions.

## OPEN HOUSE

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### First-crop starters to watch: Wednesday, January 4

*Sire (Sire's Sire), current farm, 2013 Fee, # foals of racing age/Winners/*

*BlackTypeWnrs \* Race #-track, race type, distance, runner, odds (if available)*

**BODEMEISTER** (Empire Maker), WinStar Farm, \$30K, 262/15/1

7-GP, Msw 5 1/2f, Wahoowah, \$250K FTF MAR 2yo, 15-1

**GEMOLOGIST** (Tiznow), WinStar Farm, \$15K, 204/13/2

7-GP, Msw 5 1/2f, +Diamond Jim, \$120K EAS MAY 2yo, 4-1

**REDDING COLLIERY** (Mineshaft), Red River Farms, \$2K, 64/4/0

3-DED, Msw 1m, Amp'd Up, \$75K OBS OPN 2yo, 2-1

**SHACKLEFORD** (Forestry), Darby Dan Farm, \$20K, 208/20/1

7-GP, Msw 5 1/2f, Lenstar, \$130K KEE SEP yrl, 9-2

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7-GP, Msw 5 1/2f, Malagacy, \$190K EAS MAY 2yo, 5-2

7-TP, Msw 1m, Lady Shackelford, \$70K RNA OBS MAR 2yo, 5-1

**SKIPSHOT** (Skip Away), Considine Farm, 29/1/1

7-TP, Msw 1m, Routetoo, 20-1

**STAR GUITAR** (Quiet American), Clear Creek Stud, \$4K, 80/3/0

3-DED, Msw 1m, Big Joe, \$6K BSC YRL yrl, 5-1

**STATELY VICTOR** (Ghostzapper), OH, \$5K, 17/1/0

7-TP, Msw 1m, Double Oaked, \$20K KEE NOV wnl, 4-1

**TAPIZAR** (Tapit), Gainesway Farm, \$15K, 181/15/1

7-GP, Msw 5 1/2f, +Valdocco, \$140K KEE SEP yrl, 10-1

## BREEDERS' EDITION

### ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

**6th-SUN, \$34,456**, 1-3, (NW2X), 4yo/up, f/m, 1m, 1:39.86, gd.

**ZASHA (m, 6, Desert God--Thanks for Smokin, by Smoke**

**Glacken)** Lifetime Record: SW, 18-7-0-1, \$377,523. O-C. Donnell Echols; B-Joe Allen (NM); T-Joel H. Marr.

### ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

**Tia Gego**, f, 3, **Archarcharch**--It's Witchcraft, by Fly So Free.

MVR, 1-3, (S), 6f, 1:15.39. B-Born To Run Farm (OH). \*\$12,000 Ylg '15 KEESEP.



## 2016 General Sire List by Earnings

for stallions standing in North America through Saturday, Dec. 31

*Earnings and Black-type represents North American and European figures for the entirety of 2016*

Rank	Stallion	BTW	BTH	GSW	GSH	G1SW	G1SH	Starters	Wnrs	Highest Earner	Earnings
1	<b>Tapit</b> <i>(2001) by Pulpit FYR: 2006 Crops: 9 Stands: Gainesway Farm KY (\$300,000)</i>	21	53	15	36	5	10	279	134	\$1,582,000 <i>Creator</i>	\$16,739,844
2	<b>Curlin</b> <i>(2004) by Smart Strike FYR: 2010 Crops: 5 Stands: Hill 'n' Dale Farm KY (\$100,000)</i>	15	28	7	18	5	7	173	111	\$2,598,000 <i>Exaggerator</i>	\$12,340,704
3	<b>Uncle Mo</b> <i>(2008) by Indian Charlie FYR: 2013 Crops: 2 Stands: Ashford Stud KY (\$75,000)</i>	18	31	10	19	2	5	147	82	\$3,575,600 <i>Nyquist</i>	\$12,083,230
4	<b>Candy Ride (Arg)</b> <i>(1999) by Ride the Rails FYR: 2006 Crops: 9 Stands: Lane's End Farm KY (\$60,000)</i>	15	22	8	11	2	5	268	156	\$1,970,880 <i>Gun Runner</i>	\$11,076,493
5	<b>Kitten's Joy</b> <i>(2001) by El Prado (Ire) FYR: 2007 Crops: 8 Stands: Ramsey Farm KY (\$100,000)</i>	17	32	10	19	3	3	307	141	\$868,865 <i>Camelot Kitten</i>	\$10,537,691
6	<b>City Zip</b> <i>(1998) by Carson City FYR: 2003 Crops: 12 Stands: Lane's End Farm KY (\$40,000)</i>	13	28	6	9	2	4	267	154	\$1,154,033 <i>Catch a Glimpse</i>	\$10,065,586
7	<b>Medaglia d'Oro</b> <i>(1999) by El Prado (Ire) FYR: 2006 Crops: 9 Stands: Darley KY (\$150,000)</i>	15	32	6	18	3	6	196	86	\$2,210,000 <i>Songbird</i>	\$9,918,389
8	<b>Unbridled's Song</b> <i>(1993) by Unbridled FYR: 1998 Crops: 17 Stands: Taylor Made Stallions USA (Dead/Ret/Exp)</i>	7	15	4	4	3	3	164	75	\$4,084,600 <i>Arrogate</i>	\$9,717,675
9	<b>Giant's Causeway</b> <i>(1997) by Storm Cat FYR: 2002 Crops: 13 Stands: Ashford Stud KY (\$85,000)</i>	12	27	6	14	1	4	279	129	\$678,000 <i>Destin</i>	\$9,411,022
10	<b>Bernardini</b> <i>(2003) by A.P. Indy FYR: 2008 Crops: 7 Stands: Darley KY (\$100,000)</i>	15	31	10	21	1	7	211	105	\$1,125,000 <i>Cavorting</i>	\$9,304,553
11	<b>Malibu Moon</b> <i>(1997) by A.P. Indy FYR: 2001 Crops: 14 Stands: Spendthrift Farm KY (\$95,000)</i>	11	22	5	9	2	2	290	131	\$905,160 <i>Stanford</i>	\$9,205,678
12	<b>Scat Daddy</b> <i>(2004) by Johannesburg FYR: 2009 Crops: 6 Stands: Ashford Stud USA (Dead/Ret/Exp)</i>	17	33	8	13	5	6	259	133	\$607,025 <i>Celestine</i>	\$8,623,590
13	<b>Flatter</b> <i>(1999) by A.P. Indy FYR: 2005 Crops: 10 Stands: Claiborne Farm KY (\$30,000)</i>	10	24	5	11	2	6	227	120	\$482,500 <i>Upstart</i>	\$8,028,934
14	<b>War Front</b> <i>(2002) by Danzig FYR: 2008 Crops: 7 Stands: Claiborne Farm KY (\$200,000)</i>	22	40	11	26	2	9	176	91	\$525,166 <i>Avenge</i>	\$7,793,877
15	<b>Harlan's Holiday</b> <i>(1999) by Harlan FYR: 2005 Crops: 10 Stands: WinStar Farm USA (Dead/Ret/Exp)</i>	8	22	4	11	--	4	325	159	\$463,000 <i>Lightstream</i>	\$7,674,168

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## A MORNING WITH MARCO BOTTI



Marco & Lucie Botti w/Frankie Dettori

Story and Photos by Emma Berry

While we were celebrating Christmas, Marco Botti was celebrating his 40th birthday, but a rather more important milestone for the trainer is notching up his first decade in Newmarket.

With Botti hailing from Italy and his wife and right-hand woman Lucie from the Czech Republic, it is perhaps no surprise that the couple has reached for broader horizons than just the famed turf of British racing's headquarters, with their major winners spreading the word of their training talents across continents.

'Have horse, will travel' has very much been the Botti motto in the 10 years since Sesmen (GB) (Inchinor {GB}) became the stable's first group winner. Her victory in the G3 Prestige S. at Goodwood inspired the name of the state-of-the-art yard, Prestige Place, built from scratch on former Kremlin Stud land four years ago.

Major subsequent victories have included a first top-level strike with Gitano Hernando (GB) (Hernando {Fr}) in the GI Goodwood S. at Santa Anita, a German Classic success and G1 Prix du Moulin victory for Excelebration (Ire) (Exceed And Excel {Aus}), Joshua Tree (Ire) (Montjeu {Ire})'s GI Canadian International of 2012 and a GI Beverly D S. victory for Euro Charline (GB) (Myboycharlie {Ire}), who recently sold to Japan for 750,000gns. **Cont. p2**

## MAURICE TO STAND AT SHADAI STALLION STATION IN 2017 by Alan Carasso

**Maurice (Jpn)** (Screen Hero {Jpn}--Mejiro Frances {Jpn}, by Carnegie {Ire}), the reigning Japanese Horse of the Year who capped off his brilliant career with a smashing success in G1 Longines Hong Kong Cup at Sha Tin Dec. 11, will enter stud at Shadai Stallion Station for the 2017 Northern Hemisphere breeding season. He will command ¥4,000,000. A retirement ceremony will be held for the champion at Nakayama Jan. 15. Winner of his career debut at Kyoto in track-record time of 1:20.6 for 1400 metres, Maurice became an unstoppable force at age four in 2015, with six wins from as many trips to the post, including, in succession, Japan's top early-season mile event, the G1 Yasuda Kinen, followed by a victory in the G1 Mile Championship when first up for over five months last November.

Cont. p4

## IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

### OPPENHEIM: REPEAT PERFORMANCES

**Galileo (Ire)** (Sadler's Wells) was the leading North American/European sire of 2016 by worldwide progeny earnings from Northern Hemisphere-sired crops. **Click or tap here to go straight to TDN America.**

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# EUROPEAN NEWS

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## A Morning With Marco Botti Cont. from p1

Two American St Leger S. wins with Jakkalberry (Ire) (Storming Home {GB}) and Dandino (GB) (Dansili {GB}), the globe-trotting pair who were also placed in the G1 Melbourne Cup and G1 Caulfield Cup, respectively, have added to a highly respectable worldwide record which saw Botti named International Trainer of the Year at the HWPDA Derby Awards of 2012.

Along with regular forays to continental Europe and North America, Botti runners have long been a feature of the Dubai International Racing Carnival and in the dying days of 2016, the trainer is busily preparing his team for the forthcoming carnival, with five horses set to leave Newmarket on the first flight on Jan. 7 and another three to follow a few weeks later.

"For a number of the clients we have--American, Dubaiian--they enjoy having runners abroad," says Botti. "Sheikh Khalifa likes to target horses for Dubai and [Team Valor principal] Barry Irwin likes to have runners in America. We've been lucky in that we've had decent success abroad--it's not the priority but we enjoy travelling horses and going for good prize-money."



**Euro Charline** | *Racing Post*

continue to send horses to America and Dubai."

Last year's Carnival saw the Botti stable head into the turf season at home with \$1 million in the bag, thanks to Euro Charline's second-place finish in the G1 Dubai Turf, a win for Fanciful Angel (Ire) (Dark Angel {Ire}), who returns to Dubai this time around, and several other decent place-getters.

"Over the years, a lot of our horses have done well there and I am keen to take a few of 3-year-olds there this time, such as Magical Forest (Ire) (Casamento {Ire}), who was second the other day at Kempton," the trainer says. "She's rated 75 and would probably win a Class 4 in England but we nominated her for Dubai and she's been invited so we are keen to take our chance. Hopefully if she does well it would be fantastic to run in

He continues, "We don't have anything for Australian Thoroughbred Bloodstock this year, so unless we can find another suitable horse, it might be a while before we go back to Melbourne but otherwise we will

the UAE 1000 Guineas. We encourage our owners to send horses to Dubai if we think they will handle the dirt or fast ground."

In recent weeks, Botti has taken charge of five horses from Italy, previously trained by his brother Stefano, including last year's G3 Premio Pariolo (Italian 2000 Guineas) winner Poeta Diletto (GB) (Poet's Voice {GB}). The chestnut colt will not be among the Dubai raiders, but the classy treble Group 1 winner Dylan Mouth (Ire) (Dylan Thomas {Ire}) will be, as well as multiple listed winner Brex Drago (Ity) (Mujahid) and Scuderia Blueberry's homebred Kyllachy Gala (GB) (Kyllachy {GB}).

"We have a good team for this year with a few ex-Italian-trained horses," Botti notes. "Brex Drago been placed



**Zumurudee**

in group races and shouldn't mind fast ground. Kyllachy Gala is rated 105 and is a miler, so there will be a few races for him. Naadirr (Ire) (Oasis Dream {GB}) is a good sprinter, perhaps not a proper group horse in England,

but he will be competitive.

"We're also taking Qatar Man (Ire) (Archarcharch), who won at Kempton in November and will be aimed at the [G3] UAE 2000 Guineas, while Zumurudee (Stormy Atlantic), who belongs to Sheikh Khalifa, will probably go for Super Saturday with a view that if he does well, we will aim him at the [G2] UAE Derby on World Cup night."

Along with the horses goes Botti's wife Lucie and their two children Matteo and Valentina, while the trainer remains in Newmarket to oversee a team which includes last year's all-weather champion and the stable's current top earner, Grendisar (Ire) (Invincible Spirit {Ire}). A lucrative campaign last February and March saw him string together wins in the Listed Winter Derby Trial followed by the G3 Winter Derby then the Coral Easter Classic on the All-Weather Finals day at Lingfield. Bought by



**Unabated & Grendisar**

Middleham Park Racing last summer, the 7-year-old's targets will be very much the same for this year, and he has recently notched two placed efforts at his favourite course after returning from a seven-month break on Nov. 12. **Cont. p3**

# First winner is a G1 prospect!

**Tulip**, a filly that cost **\$400,000** at the New Zealand Premier Sale, is suddenly not only a very cheap purchase, but **nominal favorite for the \$1.5million Group 1 Blue Diamond Stakes** at Caulfield in February...**Tulip**, as jockey **Craig Williams** noted, just "oozed class" as she posted a stunning win in the IPrint Plate (1000 m) at Moonee Valley

Source: [g1x.com.au](http://g1x.com.au)



"TDN Rising Star"

**Tulip** wins easily on debut for the Hayes/Dabernig partnership

On New Year's Eve, just a week and a half out from the start of the 2017 Magic Millions Yearling Sale, Champion 2YO **Pierro** has posted his first winner and she's an absolute cracker!

"...she's certainly one of our better two year-olds," said **Tom Dabernig**.

"She's the first winner for **Pierro** and we have half a dozen of them at home that all look smart.

At the upcoming sales, his stock will really be something to look at."

Source: [breednet.com.au](http://breednet.com.au)

# PIERRO

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## A Morning With Marco Botti Cont.

Botti says, "I'm not disappointed in his two recent runs. Last year at this stage he took a while to get to the peak of his form and those two races didn't go quite to the plan we wanted. But Grendisar retains his ability and will go for the Winter Derby Trial in February and then the Winter Derby and Finals Day on Good Friday, so he is our main player for the all-weather championships. The prize-money is fantastic and we also have a couple of 3-year-olds in mind to try to qualify for the finals."

And while the 40 or so yearlings at the stable have just officially become 2-year-olds and are still just nascent racehorses, it is the burgeoning potential of his 3-year-olds that is keeping the trainer warm through the current cold snap in Newmarket.

"In 2016, I always felt that we were going to have a better season towards the end of the year because our 2-year-olds were big, strong colts and a bit backward but nice types for next year," he says. "We ran a few and we did well and we probably



Lucie & Marco Botti

still have a handful of 3-year-olds who will be nice horses for this year, including two Dubawi (Ire) colts. We also have a Mayson (GB) colt called Mio Ragazzo (GB) for Scuderia Blueberry--he hasn't run yet. He's a huge horse so we've given him some time but when we've done a little bit of faster work with him he's suggested that he has plenty of ability so he could be an interesting

horse to follow. We'll see over the next six or seven weeks as we step them up in faster work but I think we'll have a better team of 3-year-olds this year than we did last year."

As already noted, as well as support from the Middle East and America, over the last decade Botti has been fortunate to retain his ties with his homeland and to have received a steady supply of horses first from his father's stable and later from his brother, who took over the training operation in Italy several years ago and is the country's leading trainer.

He explains, "The Italian horses I am sent have done well there and have a high-enough rating to do well in foreign races. At the same time it is becoming more difficult to sell older horses in Italy--the market is very quiet there and it's hard to get those horses sold. With the Italian authorities being slow to pay

prize-money a number of owners decide to take the chance to send them abroad, so I'm in the lucky position that I get nice horses sent to me. Some of them are perhaps too highly rated but we've seen in the past that they can do well if they go to Dubai as they are used to running on fast ground.

"My parents and my brother are really a team and work very closely together. It helps me to have the inside knowledge of these horses when they are sent to England, and they are here to race but also to trade."

Botti's decision to base himself in Britain has clearly worked well not just for himself but also for the family firm, and he insists there's no sibling rivalry.

"My brother and I get on really well because we are in two different countries. He's doing really well in Italy, though competition there is not as tough as in England, but we speak a lot and I'm very pleased when he has all those big wins in major races and vice versa."

If recent years are anything to go by, we can expect the Marco Botti stable to be at the forefront of some major races way before the British turf season comes out of hibernation in late March.

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Ed Chamberlin | *Racing Post*

"The thing that disappoints me is the racing people who don't get or support what we are trying to do. Racing is lucky to have terrestrial TV coverage and could so easily disappear off the sporting map for good if people don't embrace and support it."

Ed Chamberlin reflects on his ITV debut (courtesy of [www.sportinglife.com](http://www.sportinglife.com) Click [here](#) for more.)

# BRITAIN

 Destination Europe  
www.destinationeuropetraining.com

## Goffs UK Adds Two Dispersals to January Sale:

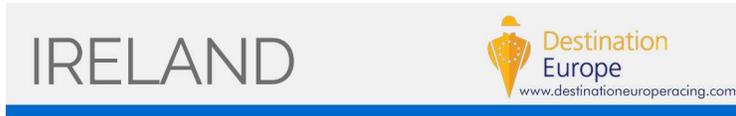
The Goffs UK Sale Horses-in-Training portion, scheduled for Jan. 24-25, will boast two dispersals, the sales company announced Tuesday. 14 lots from the estate of former leading owner Graham Roach have been added, as well as 17 lots from trainer Victor Thompson, who is retiring. Entries close Jan. 6, with the catalogue available Jan. 11. For more information, go to [www.goffsu.com](http://www.goffsu.com).

**British Report Cont.**

**ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:**

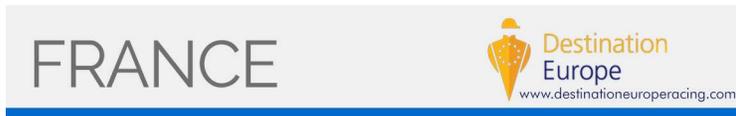
**Glorious Politics (GB)**, c, 3, **Delegator (GB)**--Pelican Key (Ire), by Mujadil. NC, 1-3, 6f (AWT), 1:16.85. B-Trickledown Stud Ltd (GB). \*26,000gns Wlg '14 TATFOA; 45,000gns Ylg '15 TATOCT.

**Diamond Kut (GB)**, g, 4, **Rock of Gibraltar (Ire)**--Diamond Line (Fr), by Linamix (Fr). NC, 1-3, 10f 42y (AWT), 2:15.47. B-Barry Walters Farms (GB). \*£19,000 Ylg '14 DNPRM.



**Goffs February Sale Extended to Three Days:**

The Goffs February Sale, comprised of weanlings, 2-year-olds, older horses and horses in training across both disciplines, as well as a third day devoted to breeding stock, will run from Feb. 7-9, Goffs announced Tuesday. Originally slated for Feb. 7-8, increased demand for places in this year's sale resulted in the expansion. The catalogue will be available Jan. 6. For more information, go to [www.goffs.com](http://www.goffs.com).



**ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:**

**Filante (Ire)**, f, 3, **Harbour Watch (Ire)**--Frangy (GB), by Sadler's Wells. PTB, 1-3, 8 1/2f (AWT), 1:43.79. B-East Bloodstock Ltd, Ecurie des Monceaux & David Redvers (IRE). \*1/2 to Forte dei Marmi (GB) (Selkirk), Ch. Grass Horse-Can, GISW-Can, GSP-Eng & US, \$1,054,061; Savarain (GB) (Rainbow Quest), SW-Eng, \$147,001; and Wallis (GB) (King's Best), SW-US.

**Frosty Bay (Fr)**, g, 3, **Silver Frost (Ire)**--Grosgrain, by Diesis (GB). PTB, 1-3, 8 1/2f (AWT), 1:43.52. B-John Dawson Cotton (FR). \*1/2 to Golbahar (Ire) (Holy Roman Emperor {Ire}), SP-Fr, \$133,360.



**Maurice to Stand at Shadai Stallion Station Cont. from p1**

That race set up a clash with Hong Kong Horse of the Year Able Friend (Aus) (Shamardal) in the G1 Longines Hong Kong Mile. Sent off the second betting choice to that long odds-on favorite, Maurice conceded first run to his older rival, but fought back

doggedly beneath Ryan Moore and, as HKJC commentator Brett Davis said, 'a star was born.'

Considered for a run in the G1 Dubai Turf, Maurice instead made his 2016 debut back at Sha Tin, with yet another



Maurice | HKJC photo

imperious success in the G1 Champions Mile ahead of solid runner-up efforts first in defense of the Yasuda Kinen and then when the ground was against him in the G2 Sapporo Kinen (2000m). He dispelled any rumours that he does not run a strong mile and a quarter when accounting for none other than Dubai Turf hero Real Steel (Jpn) (Deep Impact {Jpn}) in the G1 Tenno Sho (Autumn) and proved he could handle the trip in the G1 Longines Hong Kong Cup in no uncertain terms.

By a G1 Japan Cup winner and out of a mare by a G1 Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe winner, Maurice was trained by Noriyuki Hori for Kazumi Yoshida and retires with a record of 18-11-2-1 and earnings of about \$9,314,966.

imperious success in the G1 Champions Mile ahead of solid runner-up efforts first in defense of the Yasuda Kinen and then when the ground was against him in the G2 Sapporo Kinen (2000m). He

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**COSGRAVE TO RESUME RIDING IN DUBAI**

Jockey Pat Cosgrave will resume riding in Dubai Jan. 5, having settled his differences with the Emirates Racing Authority, *Racing Post* reported Tuesday. Cosgrave was originally hit with a six-month improper riding ban in 2014 after riding what amounted to team tactics on the Mike de Kock-trained Anaerobio (Arg) (Catcher In The Rye {Ire}) in the G1 Jebel Hatta.



Pat Cosgrave | Racing Post

He shifted his mount off the rail, allowing stablemate and favourite Vercingetorix (SAF) (Silvano {Ger}), ridden by Christophe Soumillon, up the inside for a clear victory ([video](#)). The ERA placed Cosgrave on the forfeit list, after resisting a demand for nearly £35,000 toward the costs of the appeal. His ban stretched past the initial six months, as he was unable to ride in the UAE until he paid.

**Cont. p5**



**Cosgrave to Resume Riding in Dubai Cont.**

“It was originally £35,000, but owing to the different exchange rates, it came to nearer £45,000,” Cosgrave told *Racing Post* from Dubai. “That’s a lot of money, but I’m only 34, so could be riding another 16 years or so, and I want to be riding in the big races.”

Cosgrave has already secured mounts with de Kock and Saeed Bin Suroor for Thursday’s Meydan card. Besides that pair, he is expected to also ride for trainer William Haggas, who is planning to field runners at the carnival. His highlight Thursday will be aboard Listed Singspiel S. runner Silent Attack (GB) (Dream Ahead) in the Godolphin blue for bin Suroor.

“William is bringing horses out and I’ve already got rides for Mike de Kock and Saeed [bin Suroor]. It’s nice to be back and I’m really looking forward to Thursday.”

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**JAPANESE GROUP 1 RACES – 2017**

Date	Race	Track
Feb. 19	February S.	Tokyo
Mar. 26	Takamatsunomiya Kinen	Chukyo
Apr. 2	Osaka Hai	Hanshin
Apr. 9	Oka Sho (1000 Guineas)	Hanshin
Apr. 16	Satsuki Sho (2000 Guineas)	Nakayama
Apr. 30	Tenno Sho (Spring)	Kyoto
May 7	NHK Mile Cup	Tokyo
May 14	Victoria Mile	Tokyo
May 21	Yushun Himba (Oaks)	Tokyo
May 28	Tokyo Yushun (Derby)	Tokyo
June 4	Yasuda Kinen	Tokyo
June 25	Takarazuka Kinen	Hanshin
Oct. 1	Sprinters’ S.	Nakayama
Oct. 15	Shuka Sho	Kyoto
Oct. 22	Kikuka Sho (St Leger)	Kyoto
Oct. 29	Tenno Sho (Autumn)	Tokyo
Nov. 12	Queen Elizabeth II Cup	Kyoto
Nov. 19	Mile Championship S.	Kyoto
Nov. 26	Japan Cup	Tokyo
Dec. 3	Champions Cup	Chukyo
Dec. 10	Hanshin Juvenile Fillies	Hanshin
Dec. 17	Asahi Hai Futurity S.	Hanshin
Dec. 24	Arima Kinen	Nakayama
Dec. 28	Tokyo Daishoten	Ohi

**MOORE RUNNERS SHINE AT THE TRIALS**

by Alan Carasso

With the Hong Kong International Races now nearly a month in the rear view, the focus shifts to the Triple Crown, both for the older generation and for the Classic crop, and a number of horses, including a good many from the formidable stable of John Moore, took part in a busy morning of trials Tuesday at Sha Tin Racecourse.

Just as the sun was coming up over the mountains, those who made the early trek out to the track were treated to a strong performance from former Horse of the Year **Able Friend (Aus)**



**Able Friend (cheekpieces) | HKJC photo**

(Shamardal) in the morning’s first trial. Drawn gate one (i.e. furthest from the stands) in the 1000-metre heat, the hulking chestnut jumped alertly beneath Joao Moreira and attended the pace under a long hold. He

drew upsides the leaders nearing the final furlong and reported home a 3/4-length winner, then strode out nicely into the backstretch ([video](#)). Most recently sixth in the G1 Longines Hong Kong Mile, Able Friend will make his next start--third off an injury-enforced absence--in the G1 Stewards’ Cup Jan. 30. Stablemate **Eagle Way (Aus)** (More Than Ready), the 2016 G1 Queensland Derby winner who landed his Hong Kong debut impressively Dec. 11, missed the break slightly in the same trial, raced in Able Friend’s slipstream and was given an easy time of it in sixth before also galloping out with good energy.

“Joao came back with...a smile from ear to ear,” Moore said of Able Friend. “That’s what we wanted to see. He pulled up great, definitely improving. He’s been off the scene a long time, there’s a lot of muscle tone we’ve got to work on, but the trial was good and he’ll still be a force to reckon with in the Stewards’ Cup. But there’s much better to come, too. We saw what Eagle Way can do first-up so it’s just about keeping him ticking over.”

**Rapper Dragon (Aus)** (Street Boss) is the highest-rated runner headed towards the Derby on a rating of 114, courtesy of a strong 3-year-old season capped by a win over future Hong Kong Mile hero Beauty Only (Ire) (Holy Roman Emperor {Ire}) in the Lion Rock Trophy H. When last he trialled, he was effectively eased when traveling apparently uncomfortably, but the chestnut went much better Tuesday, finishing an on-pace third and working strongly around the clubhouse turn ([video](#)). **Cont. p6**

**Moore Runners Shine at the Trials Cont.**

A sneaky-good fifth in his seasonal debut on the International Races undercard Dec. 11, he joins Eagle Way in the Hong Kong Classic Mile Jan. 22.

“He trialled well and Joao [Moreira] was very happy with that,” Moore said. “With the setbacks, which were just nuisance stuff,



Rapper Dragon (hood) | HKJC photo

he’s doing well. As I’ve always said to the press, he’s one of the cleanest-winded horses I’ve come across so I’m expecting him to be close in the Classic Mile. It’s going to be a gun race, but I think he’ll be a force to be reckoned with in that race, for sure.”

People’s Knight (Aus) (Exceed and Excel {Aus}), winner of two straight races,

is also Classic Mile-bound after a sound third in trial nine Tuesday ([video](#)).

“Good trial from People’s Knight, very good,” Moore said of the A\$1-million Inglis Easter graduate. “Why not run him in the Classic Mile? He’ll run at Happy Valley next Wednesday [Jan. 11] and then he should be cherry ripe for the Classic Mile.”

A three-time winner of the Classic Mile, including Able Friend in 2014, Moore has saddled four Derby winners, including Werther (NZ) (Tavistock {NZ}) last year.

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**TURN ME LOOSE EYES FUTURITY DOUBLE**

New Zealand champion **Turn Me Loose (NZ)** (Iffraaj {GB}) is in great form since an abbreviated spring campaign, with connections already eyeing potential prizes across the Tasman sea, *Racing And Sports* reported. The 2014 G1 New Zealand 2000 Guineas hero rolled a pair of eights in the 1100-metre G2 Schillaci S. at Caulfield Oct. 8 and in the 1200-metre G1 Darley



Turn Me Loose | Racing And Sports

Classic Nov. 5, respectively, both short of his ideal trip. Wet weather curtailed any further racetrack appearances, but co-trainer Murray Baker is optimistic about his stable star.

“He’s going as well as he’s ever gone,” Baker told *Racing And Sports*.

“He’ll trial at Cambridge on Jan. 10 and then he’ll possibly go to

Australia, though we’re undecided yet, because he’s still in the [G1] Telegraph [at Trentham Jan. 21].”

If Turn Me Loose forgoes the Telegraph, he could instead reappear in the G2 Australian S. at Moonee Valley on Jan. 27, before the 1400-metre G1 CF Orr S. at Caulfield Feb. 11 followed by a second run in the Feb. 25 Futurity S. there going that trip a fortnight later.

“He ran well in both those races last year and we think he’ll go just as well this time around,” Baker concluded.

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Thursday, Meydan, United Arab Emirates, post time: 8:50 p.m. (11:50 a.m EDT)

AL MAKTOUM CHALLENGE R1 PRESENTED BY ELEGANCE IN EQUESTRIAN-G2, \$250,000, NH 4yo/up & SH 3yo/up, 1600m

PP	HORSE	SIRE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	WT
1	Le Bernardin	Bernardini	O’Shea	Al Rayhi	125
2	Munaaser (GB)	New Approach (Ire)	Crowley	Al Rayhi	125
3	Lindo Amor (Arg)	Dynamix	Soumillon	de Kock	125
4	Cool Cowboy 🇺🇸	Kodiak Kowboy	Hitchcott	Watson	125
5	Gold City (Ire)	Pivotal (GB)	Mullen	Seemar	125
6	Long River	A.P. Indy	Barzalona	bin Ghadayar	125
7	Polar River 🇺🇸	Congrats	Dobbs	Watson	121
8	Fitzgerald	Elusive Quality	Fresu	bin Harmash	125
9	Frankyfourfingers (Fr)	Sunday Break (Jpn)	O’Donoghue	bin Ghadayar	125
10	Emotionless (Ire)	Shamardal	Buick	Appleby	125

Wednesday, Happy Valley, Hong Kong, post time: 9:15 a.m. ET

JANUARY CUP H.-G3, HK\$3,000,000 (£315,410/€368,968/ A\$536,338/US\$386,859), 3yo/up, 1800mT

PP	HORSE	SIRE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	WT
1	Basic Trilogy (NZ)	Mastercraftsman (Ire)	Moreira	Moore	116
2	Horse of Fortune (SAf)	Stronghold (GB)	de Sousa	Millard	133
3	Romantic Touch (Aus)	Northern Meteor (Aus)	Chadwick	A Cruz	129
4	Renaissance Art 🇺🇸	More Than Ready	So	Fownes	113
5	Flame Hero (NZ)	Savabeel (Aus)	K Leung	Ho	129
6	Circuit Land	Mizzen Mast	Badel	Shum	126
7	Helene Super Star	War Front	Callan	Cruz	119
8	Gonna Run (Fr)	Hurricane Cat	Ho	Fownes	113
9	Twin Delight (NZ)	Perfectly Ready (Aus)	Clipperton	Fownes	119
10	Packing Dragon (NZ)	Mastercraftsman (Ire)	M Leung	Yiu	113
11	Harbour Master	Mizzen Mast	Purton	Moore	123



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