

HERBERT RELISHING SAUDI ADVENTURE



Harry Herbert | racingfotos.com

by Chris McGrath

For those staging the richest race in the sport's history, in Saudi Arabia Feb. 29, a dramatic cut this week to the purse for the GI Pegasus World Cup Invitational S. has promised immediate dividends. Gary West, owner of Maximum Security (New Year's Day), described the slashing of the Gulfstream fund as "an absolute game-changer", asking why he should run the most accomplished colt of his crop for \$3 million when he can contest a \$20 million prize a month later.

Admittedly, West would no longer have to pony up \$500,000 for a gate in the Pegasus, but the Riyadh package was already all-expenses-paid. And while it is also true that the Saudis carefully positioned their meeting as a potential staging post between the Pegasus and the Dubai World Cup, three races divided between Florida and the Middle East would plainly consume more of a horse's reserves than two in the same neighborhood and climate.

Harry Herbert, Global Ambassador for the Saudi Cup, is too diplomatic to identify this abrupt shift in the landscape as a fairly stunning boon. Welcoming *TDN* to his office in England--on a dark, damp winter afternoon in the Berkshire countryside, a world apart from the Arabian sands--he instead stresses that the idea had always been to co-operate as much as to compete.

Cont. p3

DAMS OF RECENT GRADED STAKES WINNERS AMONG KEEJAN SUPPLEMENTS

The dams of two recent graded stakes winners--**Inflamed** (Unusual Heat), whose first foal, Mo Forza (Uncle Mo), won the Nov. 30 GI Hollywood Derby at Del Mar, and multiple graded stakes winner **Pomeroy's Pistol** (Pomeroy), dam of Dec. 7 GI Los Alamitos Futurity winner Thousand Words (Pioneer of the Nile)--have been supplemented to the Keeneland January Horses of All Ages Sale, to be held Jan. 13-17 in Lexington. Glen Hill Farm has consigned Inflamed, in foal to Tapiture, while Brookdale Sales, agent for Hardacre Farm, has consigned Pomeroy's Pistol. Both mares will be sold on the Jan. 14 second session of the five-day auction. Another notable supplement is **Enaya Alrabb** (Uncle Mo), a Grade I-placed filly by Uncle Mo and from the family of Horse of the Year Rachel Alexandra (Medaglia d'Oro). *Cont. p6*

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BIZAKOV EXCITED ABOUT NEW FRENCH VENTURE

Emma Berry chats with Nurlan Bizakov, the new owner of Haras de Montfort & Preaux. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Europe.](#)



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IT IS OBVIOUS THAT A CASE SHOULD BE MADE FOR MITOLE AS THE HORSE OF THE YEAR IN THE U.S.

-JAMES WILLOUGHBY,
THOROUGHBRED RACING COMMENTARY



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CHURCHILL DOWNS S.-G1

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BREEDERS' CUP SPRINT-G1

Defeated Shancelot, Catalina Cruiser, etc

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Wednesday, December 18, 2019



2019 in Photos: May 25. Synchrony (Tapit) and Trevor McCarthy take flight before the GII Monmouth S. | Sarah Andrew

RACEHORSE DEPRECIATION EXTENSION PASSES HOUSE 6

A provision that extends three-year tax depreciation for all racehorses through 2020 passed the House of Representatives Tuesday as part of a larger tax package.

HANDLE STEADY FOR WOODBINE WHIP EXPERIMENT 10

Bill Finley reports on the handle results from Woodbine's recently-concluded meet, which included severe limitations of whip use for riders.

The Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association congratulates PA-Bred

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on his win in the GIII Valedictory Stakes

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Herbert Relishing Saudi Adventure cont. from p1

“When we were over for the Breeders’ Cup, we met up with Belinda Stronach and Prince Bandar had a really good conversation with her,” Herbert says. “The Saudi Cup’s position obviously allows you to go Pegasus, month; Saudi Cup, month; and on to the Dubai World Cup. So if you’ve got the right horse, and the horse can stay sound, then the earning potential is simply gigantic.”

The synergy with Dubai, moreover, is not confined to the practicalities of proceeding from one side of the desert to another. For the whole Dubai experience, pioneering as it was, has helpfully cleared a path for the Saudi Cup and its lavish, diverse undercard. Originally a radical challenge to western preconceptions, Dubai has matured into a fixed and credible highlight of the international calendar, rendering familiar and unafrightening the idea of flying top-class horses to what had

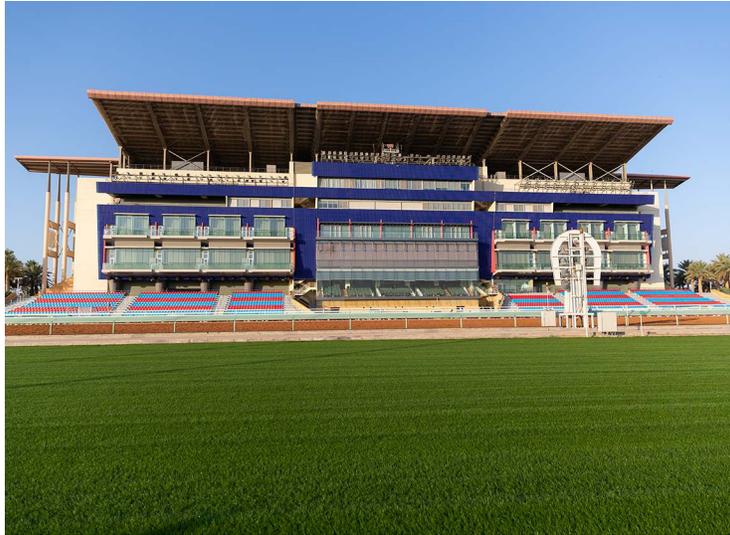
seemed an alien environment.

“There’s no question about that,” Herbert agrees. “And there’s fantastic co-operation between Dubai and Saudi Arabia on this whole project. If you’re going to go from America to Saudi, and then Saudi to Dubai, you have no issues moving around between the two and back home.”

Nonetheless, he could understand if there was a degree of skepticism about the candidly ambitious schedule for completion of the turf track, in particular--still to be laid at the time of the meeting’s European launch in September.

“That work was only initiated a few months ago, and people were concerned,” Herbert admits. “It was [Godolphin trainer] Charlie Appleby who

came up to me at the launch and said, ‘Harry, I’m the converted. I see it happen every year!’ And of course now there is the most beautiful turf track.” **Cont. p4**



King Abdulaziz racetrack | The Saudi Cup

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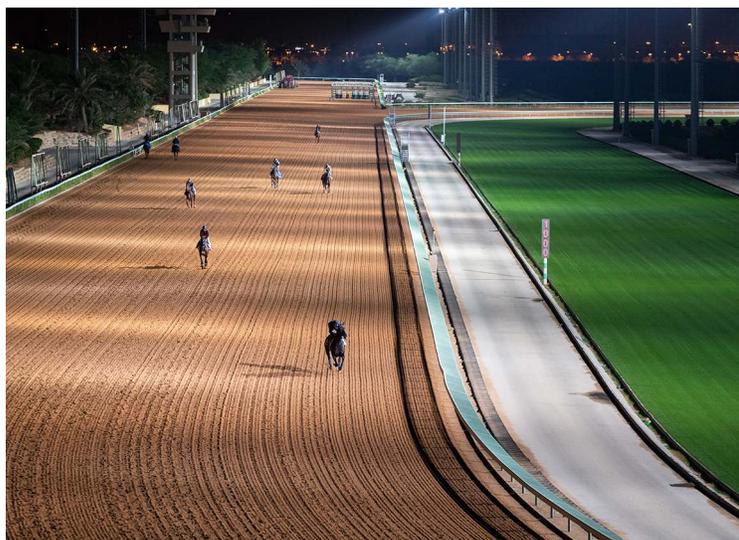
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“I was out there recently and it was incredible: what I saw in July, and this lush grass I’m looking at now,” he continued. “The STRI Group do Wimbledon, and football stadiums, and so on: this is their expertise, and it’s stunning to see it all come to fruition.”

But while the turf track demanded something of a leap of faith, the existing dirt circuit--modeled on Belmont--has been enthusiastically endorsed by Frankie Dettori as a match, in texture and configuration, for any in the world.

“It’s a stunning racetrack,” Herbert says. “The infield is beautiful anyway, and now suddenly you add the green of the turf and the whole thing is lifted even further. So it’s all very exciting. It was an immensely ambitious project, given the timescale, but it is incredibly impressive how the right people--led by Tom Ryan [Director of Strategy & International Racing]--are absolutely bringing the whole thing together.”



King Abdulaziz racetrack | *The Saudi Cup*

Herbert himself was first invited aboard just before Royal Ascot, when approached by Paul Roberts of Turnberry Consulting--whose previous assignments had included redevelopment of the royal racecourse itself. Having only recently ended a four-year stint working for Al Shaqab, Herbert initially asked himself whether he wanted to resume regular travel to the region.

“But when we sat down on the first day of Ascot--Prince Bandar, Prince Abdulaziz and Prince Abdullah--I was so impressed with their enthusiasm,” he recalls. “There was no question in my mind that this was going to be well done.”

There is, of course, significant political energy behind a project intended to dovetail with the Saudi “Vision 2030”. Some in the west have cautioned against sport, seduced by lavish funding, allowing itself to endorse values antithetic to its own culture. But Herbert argues that these events actually serve the very opposite purpose. He urges horse racing professionals to

embrace an opportunity to share in opening up the kingdom, and helping the most progressive elements of its hierarchy to dismantle cultural barriers. Indeed, he feels that racing should be proud to have been identified as an appropriate vehicle for bringing nations together, in a world full of division.

“Sometimes people can be incredibly cynical, not gripping that whole scenario,” Herbert remarks. “Of course there are divisions, we all have them--in our own country, and other places. But when something like this is taking place, I think it has to be right. Racing is a fantastic diplomatic sport for crossing divides, whether social divides or divides between countries and how countries present themselves.

“I mean, I’d never been to Saudi Arabia myself. I’ve had two or three trips now and couldn’t have found everyone more welcoming. The intent here is really genuine, and that is to open up--to create this incredible raceday, where all worlds can come together. As with Dubai, in the old days, it’s about coming to see another country, another culture.”

As an example of the way assumptions can be challenged, Herbert extols the international jockeys’ challenge scheduled for the eve of the meeting. Some westerners will doubtless be amazed to discover that the four races will be contested by seven male jockeys--and seven females.

Even within the narrow perspectives of horse racing, there are preconceptions to unravel. **Cont. p5**

“Often stated, ‘timing is everything’ and I believe it sure helps!”

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is ideal with the emphasis of turf racing and aged turf stallions.”

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Few outside Saudi Arabia have much sense of the sport as it is already established there, with a population of around 6,000 Thoroughbreds—whether of the ambitions nursed for the local breeding program, or the leadership being shown in prohibition of medications.



Prince Bandar | *The Saudi Cup*

“There’s been horse racing in Saudi Arabia for 50 years,” Herbert stresses. “But now there’s that willingness for it to become a showcase for the people of Saudi Arabia. Getting the right protocols in place, the right stewarding, every single detail to carry off a major international meeting like this—it’s all fantastic for the sport there, highlighting how well it can be done. Because this is just the start, as Prince Bandar has always said. This is not a one-day wonder.”

So much for the big picture. The logistics and planning, in contrast, are all about the closest attention to detail. Some things simply can’t be accounted for, in advance. The organizers must do all they can to ensure fields are adequately subscribed, for instance—but then need a plan for sieving them down, if oversubscribed. To that extent, it is very convenient to have the spill-over option of the Dubai Carnival.

“Well, it’s a free entry Jan. 7, and there will be just under \$30 million in prize money on the day,” Herbert says. “So if you have a horse that is sound, well and in some sort of training, then you’d have to be pretty bonkers not to consider these races. You have to enter. It doesn’t cost you anything. But what we’re picking up—through the I.R.B., and through Bradley Weisbord who’s helping us in the States—is incredibly positive. Right now we’d have well over 150 horses giving it serious consideration, across the different races. And it could be much bigger than that. The market’s been full of chat about horses changing hands, people trying to buy horses.”

The meeting’s premise might be borrowed from the baseball film *Field Of Dreams*. “Build it, and they will come.”

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“Definitely—and there are ambitious plans for the future,” enthuses Herbert. “Prince Bandar is thinking well ahead, with all sorts of initiatives that could be tied into the race meeting; things you could do around it, in business and so on, to get people there. Young people in racing, for example, is something he’s very keen to encourage.”

The Prince’s personal engagement has conspicuously animated the team, albeit he would evidently demur if described as the driving force for the enterprise.

“If he was standing here now, he would say, ‘Absolutely not,’” Herbert says. “Because he’s fantastically modest. It’s the Jockey Club of Saudi Arabia, and it has support from the very top. But yes, he’s the chairman of the board, if you like. And incredibly active, and completely on every detail. For everyone working on the project, having someone like him around really fires you up.” On the face of it, you might think that the hosts would have been prudent to give themselves an extra year to inaugurate the meeting.

“But there’s no doubt in my mind that you would be getting exactly the same issues and panics,” Herbert says. “I think by compressing the timeframe, you can’t waste a moment. Seeing Tom out there, you think, ‘Oh my Lord, this man is working 18-hour days.’ But he’s got incredible energy and drive, and is a real people person. He’s making it happen.” **Cont. p6**

“When you call him now, you hear the excitement in his voice,” Herbert continued. “You know things are moving along. “Of course, there’s lots still to do between now and the end of February. But the pieces of the jigsaw are all in place: the right people to carry this off, and make it a really spectacular event. “We know that people will always chase the big money. And when everything’s paid for, with no cost to the owner, it’s pretty compelling to say: ‘Have a horse, will travel.’ Everywhere we’ve been, everyone we’ve spoken with, there’s great appetite from folks to go on this adventure.”

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KEEJAN Supplements cont. from p1

Second in the 2018 GI Starlet S. and 2019 GII Las Virgenes S., Enaya Alrabb is consigned by Paramount Sales, agent, and cataloged as a broodmare prospect.

[Click here](#) to view the updated January Sale catalog. Keeneland will continue to accept approved supplements until the January Sale begins.

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RACEHORSE DEPRECIATION EXTENSION PASSED BY HOUSE

A provision that extends three-year tax depreciation for all racehorses through 2020 passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 297-120 Tuesday. The racehorse provision is part of a larger tax package agreed to by Republican and Democratic leaders and now expected to be taken up by the Senate in the next several days.

Uniform three-year racehorse depreciation was among numerous tax provisions across many industries that either expired at the beginning of 2018 or this year, or were set to expire as of Jan. 1, 2020. The bill reinstates the three-year schedule for all racehorses retroactive to 2018. The provision allows taxpayers to depreciate, on a three-year schedule, racehorses 24 months of age and younger when purchased and placed into service, as opposed to a seven-year schedule.

“Reinstatement of three-year depreciation for all racehorses helps attract and retain investment in the horse racing industry,” said NTRA President and Chief Executive Officer Alex Waldrop. “We appreciate the House’s work to include this important provision.”

Three-year racehorse depreciation was most recently available to the industry in 2017, but Congress did not renew it for 2018 as part of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) passed in December 2017. The TCJA did include 100% bonus depreciation and a \$1-million Sec. 179 expense allowance for qualified depreciable property, two important investment incentives that lessened the



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need for three-year depreciation in many cases. However, three-year depreciation continues to be a beneficial option for many racehorse owners, especially racing partnerships with multiple passive owners, as it better aligns deductions with corresponding income opportunities on an annual basis.

The Senate has until Friday, Dec. 20, to pass the legislation.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RACING'S RED FLAG WARNING

Richard B. Shapiro, Former Chairman and member California Horse Racing Board (2004-2008)

Anyone with a pulse has been heartbroken with every one of the too many horse fatalities that has transpired at racetracks around the world. While Santa Anita has been the main focus here in the “States”, the current debate surrounding horse racings problems and challenges go well beyond one track; the situation is intolerable and unacceptable.

Having been involved in horse racing my entire life, it has been a lifelong passion and it is so very hard to sit on the sidelines and not want to try and help address this very complicated problem.

Cont. p7



JANUARY

HORSES OF ALL AGES SALE



SUPPLEMENTS TO THE CATALOG

HIP 795E | INFLAMED

Dam of Hollywood Derby (G1) winner Mo Forza and a full sister to Grade 2 winner Burns. Offered in foal to Tapiture.

HIP 795K | POMEROYS PISTOL

Multiple Graded Stakes winner and dam of Los Alamitos Futurity (G2) winner Thousand Words.

HIP 795D | ENAYA ALRABB

Grade 1-placed filly by Uncle Mo and from the family of Horse of the Year Rachel Alexandra and Grade 1 winner Rachel's Valentina.

HIP 398A | PROMISE ME JOY

Daughter of Kitten's Joy in foal to Astern (AUS).

HIP 398B | ROYAL SPUN

Daughter of Hard Spun in foal to Astern (AUS). She is a half-sister to Grade 3 winner Savedbythelight.

HIP 398C | SEND THE LIMO

Daughter of Tiz Wonderful in foal to Street Boss. She is a half-sister to Grade 3 winner Shared Property.

HIP 398D | '19 HARD SPUN - SEND THE LIMO

Yearling filly out of Send the Limo, a half-sister to Grade 3 winner Shared Property.

HIP 398E | THE MAGIC STONE

Daughter of Malibu Moon in foal to More Than Ready. She is a half-sister to Irish highweight Spirit of Valor.

HIP 398F | WALTZING AMORE

Daughter of Peticionville in foal to Empire Maker. She is a full sister to group/graded stakes winner Two Step Salsa.

HIP 398G | INCENTIVE

Daughter of Mr. Greeley in foal to Gun Runner. She is a half-sister to graded stakes winners Winchester and Middleburg.

HIP 398H | NANTUCKET RED

Daughter of Get Stormy cataloged as a racing or broodmare prospect.

HIP 398I | SHEHASTHERITESTUFF

Winning daughter of Unusual Heat from the family of champion Acclamation cataloged as a racing or broodmare prospect.

HIP 398J | STORMY EMBRACE

Multiple Grade 2-winning daughter of Circular Quay cataloged as a broodmare prospect.

HIP 795A | '19 CUPID - PERAZZI

Yearling filly out of the Curlin mare Perazzi.

HIP 795B | SUMMER SHAMAL (FR)

Daughter of Wootton Bassett (GB) in foal to Goldencents.

HIP 795C | ACT NOW

Daughter of Street Sense in foal to Kitten's Joy.

HIP 795F | LAND OF LIBERTY

Filly by Uncle Mo who is a half-sister to Grade 3 winner Gunmetal Gray. Cataloged as a broodmare prospect.

HIP 795G | MADAME MAYRA

Daughter of Scat Daddy in foal to Lookin At Lucky.

HIP 795H | MAID OF HONOR

Filly by Medaglia d'Oro who is a half-sister to multiple Grade 3 winner Thiskyhasnolimit. Cataloged as a broodmare prospect.

HIP 795I | MISS GRIDLEY

Daughter of Street Boss in foal to Stormy Atlantic.

HIP 795J | '19 MORE THAN READY - MISS GRIDLEY

Yearling colt out of the Street Boss mare Miss Gridley.

HIP 795L | '19 CUPID - PERDY

Yearling colt out of the Tale of the Cat mare Perdy.

[VIEW CATALOG](#)

The reality is there is not one solution, there is not any easy fix, and there are no silver bullets that will solve the situation. Those that think there is neglect, a lack of compassion, or criminality involved might be well intentioned but profoundly misguided.

Just over a decade ago, I was the Chairman and a member of the California Horse Racing Board. I had a pulpit from which to speak and was very outspoken over the same issues then that we are all witnessing today. Unfortunately, going back in time you will realize that the current catastrophic injury rate existed back around that time. Everyone was alarmed and many felt that the track surface at Santa Anita and other tracks were the main cause of the problems. The industry came together, and most people will say that I led the charge to change the dirt racing surfaces to new synthetic surfaces that were comprised for the most part as a combination of sand, carpet fiber, rubber and wax.

With the support of all of the various stakeholders, with near unanimity, the Racing Board mandated that the dirt surfaces be replaced with synthetics. Santa Anita, Del Mar, Hollywood Park and Golden Gate all installed synthetic surfaces, but regrettably each track chose a different vendor, a different variation of a synthetic surface.

At first the industry was pleased, and everyone was hopeful

that a partial solution had been found. And, in fact the rate of fatalities did decrease significantly; fewer horses were dying. But, as time went on the new tracks fell out of favor for a variety of reasons. Some trainers felt that while fewer horses were dying on the tracks there were more soft tissue injuries, there were respiratory problems for both horse and rider and the tracks themselves were very difficult to maintain or provide a consistent surface from morning to evening in a single day. Some trainers felt the surfaces were worse than dirt, and within a relatively short period of time all of the tracks except for Golden Gate went back to dirt racing surfaces. In hindsight the first version of the synthetics did have flaws, but just going back to dirt and not trying to come up with better synthetics, perhaps more hybrids of the original versions could have been a more successful option than just going back to square one.

Since I “left” racing, I got involved in riding Hunter/Jumpers. And to my surprise every arena at every show was on a synthetic surface. Climb aboard a horse and jump just a four foot fence and you will feel the impact of a horse landing only on its two front feet. The force of that landing is enormous. If you attend any top level jumping competition you will see horses jumping six to seven-foot high fences where they land on their front feet and none of them break down. How is that possible? Is it the surfaces they use? **Cont. p8**

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Is it that different breeds of horses are stronger? There is something to learn here, but who is looking and studying what racing might learn or adopt from this equine sport.

So here we are again. Only this time the politicians, district attorneys, and the public are all watching with outrage and wanting to abolish the sport. Abolishing the sport is not the answer for a multitude of reasons. With approximately 27,000 race horses born each year, where would all of the hundreds of thousands of unwanted race horses go? I shudder to think of what might lie ahead for them. And, the economic impact would be devastating to the tens of thousands of people whose livelihoods depend on horse racing. The sport is at a crossroad, but let's be proactive rather than reactive and find solutions to the challenges facing racing today so tomorrow can be better for all.



Richard Shapiro | *Horsephotos*

Let me be clear, I have no agenda, I am not aligned with any segment of the industry, I don't own or breed any horses: I don't have a dog in the fight other than for my life long love of the sport. My only desire and purpose of writing this is my profound sorrow for the horses and jockeys, and what is continuing to take place in the industry. I want to see the fatalities disappear but not the industry.

Racing needs a singular governing body that unifies the 37 or so states that conduct horse racing. Racing is a fragmented industry and it needs uniform rules that can unify and govern the industry including permissible and non permissible medication usage, acceptable and unacceptable medical procedure applications, transparent veterinarian records for all horses, and pre-race protocols and examinations of all horses. Fatalities will never be zero, lets be realistic, but they can be far less. Just look overseas and you will find that in Europe the fatality rate is half of what it is in the States. We need to learn what they are doing that we aren't. **Cont. p9**



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Racing needs to also recognize and accept that the Thoroughbred of today is simply not as durable as the breed used to be. Horses are more fragile today; just look at how many fewer races a horse races in their career than in past decades.

The truth is that the golden ring in the sport is the sales ring not the winner's circle. Win a Kentucky Derby, and well, you've hit the jackpot because the off spring of that horse will bring in boatloads of money from its offspring in the horse sales arena. The breeding business is big business and it is time to also look at pedigrees and durability of the horses being raised today. Once foals are born that are headed to a sales arena, the goal is to make sure that horse has the best possible conformation. Medical procedures are performed almost immediately so that when the horse lands in the sales ring he looks as perfect as possible. Who is studying the correlation between medical procedures and eventual breakdowns to see if this could be a contributing factor? No one would be my guess.

Kudos should be given to the industry participants who are doing everything in their power to lessen racing and training fatalities, and their willingness to do any forensic or diagnostic testing possible to reduce the number of horse deaths.

California has for years been performing necropsy exams on all racing fatalities, but what have we learned from them that will prevent future deaths? What changes in racing and training

protocols have been suggested or developed? It's useful to know what happened but what about how to prevent them from happening? And what about new advancements to save the horse rather than euthanize them? What is being done to find new alternatives that could allow horses to recover rather than be euthanized? Racing must think out of the box, the status quo just isn't going to work.

I am glad the situation has finally reached a fevered pitch because it turns my stomach and breaks my heart every time I see a horse go down. These horses are athletes and injuries occur in every sport, let's not expect to be perfect, but surely racing must do better. Don't just look at the track surface, or medication usage, look at everything, put everything on the table, as the saying goes "look under every rock." Let's not let another decade go by just to be in the same place as we are today; if not extinct.

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HANDLE HOLDS STEADY DURING WOODBINE WHIP EXPERIMENT

by Bill Finley

North American horseplayers made no significant changes to their betting habits this fall at Woodbine after that track put in place an experiment that severely limited the use of the whip. In fact, when measuring betting in terms of average amount wagered per race, handle went up 6.5% after the new rules were instituted.

Woodbine's experiment, which began Oct. 18, allowed for only underhanded use of the whip and prohibited jockeys from reaching back and striking horses from the cocked position. With racing commissions and racetracks in several states ready to issue rules of their own in 2020 that will curb whip use, the Woodbine experiment serves as a template so far as to how well racing will operate if jockeys



Sarah Andrew

are forced to cut out or cut back on the use of the whip. And based on the handle numbers that came out of Woodbine when the meet ended Sunday, one thing racetracks need not worry about is that horseplayers will abandon their product if whips are only allowed for safety reasons or jockeys can only hit underhanded.

A California Horse Racing Board rule allowing for only underhanded use of the whip has cleared the first stages. It is more restrictive than the Woodbine rule in that jockeys can only hit a horse six times during a race and no more than twice in succession. The amount of times a jockey could hit a horse at Woodbine was unlimited.

Due to cancellations, field size and the number of races held per day, a precise comparison between 2018 and 2019 betting

figures is difficult to make, but most metrics show that changes to the whipping rules did little, if anything, to change the habits of the bettors. **Cont. p11**

MOMentum!



UNCLE MO



His top performers since the start of November include:

BAST	1 st Starlet Stakes- Gr.1
(3x Gr.1 wnr)	3 rd BC Juvenile Fillies- Gr.1
MO FORZA	1 st Hollywood Derby- Gr.1
	1 st Twilight Derby- Gr.2
DONNA VELOCE	2 nd BC Juvenile Fillies- Gr.1
	2 nd Starlet Stakes- Gr.1

Yearlings in 2019 sold for:

\$900,000, \$750,000, \$750,000, \$725,000, \$675,000, \$650,000, \$650,000, \$650,000, \$575,000, \$510,000, \$500,000, \$500,000, \$500,000, \$500,000 etc.

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Not including days when the card was cancelled midway through due to weather issues, there were 32 racing programs held during the period when the experiment was in place and the total handle for those cards was \$119,694,593 for an average of \$3,740,456.

During the same time period in 2018, Woodbine held 34 full cards and the betting totaled \$130,882,791, for an average daily handle of \$3,849,493.

However, far more races were run during that time in 2018 when compared to 2019. The 303 races run during the experiment averaged \$395,031 in handle. In 2018, there were 352 races held during the same period in the calendar and they averaged \$370,772 in wagering.

The new whipping rules also showed no signs of creating less formful racing. According to stats provided by Equibase, the percentage of winning favorites from the time the experiment was implemented through the end of the meet was 37.5%. It was 34.6% under the old set of rules.

While jockeys continue to argue that limiting their use of the whip will cause safety issues there did not appear to be any serious incidents during the races that may have resulted from the experimental whip rules.

“All in all, it went OK from a rider’s standpoint,” said Jockeys’

Benefit Association of Canada Executive Director Irwin Driedger. “Do they like it? No. But it went OK.”

The whipping rules have yet to be finalized for the 2020 meet at Woodbine and permanent changes can only be instituted by the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO), which will receive feedback from track management. It is widely expected that the AGCO will change the regulations to make the experimental rules permanent.

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LEGENDS SERIES RETURNS TO KY DERBY MUSEUM

The Legends Series: Bourbon Master--a three-part bourbon tasting series featuring leaders of the bourbon industry--will return to the Kentucky Derby Museum in 2020. The series will be led by master bourbon taster Peggy Now Stevens Jan. 23; Buffalo Trace’s Freddie Johnson Jan. 30; and Heaven Hill’s Conor O’Driscoll Feb. 6. **Cont. p12**



2019 in photos: May 18. John Berry’s string come home along the Bury Road horse walk in Newmarket. | Emma Berry

Each session in the series will be hosted by *Wall Street Journal* Best-Selling Author, Fred Minnick. Minnick, the Museum's own bourbon authority, is a bourbon curator and tasting expert. Each evening, the attending bourbon master will hand-pick a selection of bourbon tastings, and share their expertise as they taste fine bourbons and appetizers. For more information, visit www.derbymuseum.org.

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Churchill Downs gets OK for a \$30-million Track Expansion

Louisville Metro planning officials have signed off on Churchill Downs Inc.'s \$300 million plan to expand its historic racetrack at 700 Central Avenue to add a hotel, permanent seating and a historical horse racing venue with slot-like machines.

Chris Otts, WDRB.com

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Leading Third-Crop Sires YTD

for stallions standing in North America through Monday, Dec. 16

Earnings represent worldwide figures, stud fees listed are 2019 fees.

Rank	Stallion	BTW	BTH	GSW	GSH	G1SW	G1SH	Starters	Wnrs	Highest Earner	Earnings
1	Take Charge Indy (2009) by A.P. Indy FYR: 2015	5	14	1	3	--	1	163	94	597,584	5,991,919
										Long Range Toddy	
2	Paynter (2009) by Awesome Again FYR: 2015	4	12	1	3	--	--	190	105	266,040	5,870,838
										A Bit of Both	
3	Violence (2010) by Medaglia d'Oro FYR: 2015	2	13	1	6	--	--	189	93	195,720	5,448,223
										Denver Tesoro	
4	Flat Out (2006) by Flatter FYR: 2015	4	11	--	1	--	--	186	112	274,420	5,025,744
										Forewarned	
5	Point of Entry (2008) by Dynaformer FYR: 2015	2	8	1	3	--	--	128	59	1,584,000	4,572,824
										Plus Que Parfait	
6	Jimmy Creed (2009) by Distorted Humor FYR: 2015	5	15	2	5	--	--	128	73	312,620	4,438,086
										Casa Creed	
7	Graydar (2009) by Unbridled's Song FYR: 2015	3	8	--	1	--	--	143	78	787,010	3,949,356
										Gray Magician	
8	Overanalyze (2010) by Dixie Union FYR: 2015	2	9	1	2	1	1	168	84	486,300	3,808,566
										Hog Creek Hustle	
9	Alternation (2008) by Distorted Humor FYR: 2015	3	6	1	1	1	1	108	58	1,254,250	3,607,967
										Serengeti Empress	
10	Orb (2010) by Malibu Moon FYR: 2015	1	3	--	--	--	--	154	70	155,521	3,248,450
										Mrs. Orb	
11	El Padrino (2009) by Pulpit FYR: 2015	2	4	--	--	--	--	83	46	201,127	2,681,786
										Taco Supream	
12	Morning Line (2007) by Tiznow FYR: 2015	3	7	1	2	--	--	83	42	448,951	2,625,314
										Stubbins	
13	Brethren (2008) by Distorted Humor FYR: 2015	2	7	--	1	--	--	97	47	157,625	2,551,694
										Scraps	
14	Smiling Tiger (2007) by Hold That Tiger FYR: 2015	4	9	1	1	1	1	85	49	592,000	2,521,753
										Spiced Perfection	
15	Justin Phillip (2008) by First Samurai FYR: 2015	2	5	1	2	--	--	91	54	239,150	2,447,521
										Lady T N T	

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IN ORDER OF PURSE:

3rd-Parx Racing, \$48,850, Msw, 12-17, 2yo, 1m, 1:40.97, sy.
MAX PLAYER (c, 2, Honor Code--Fools in Love {SW, \$240,746}, by Not For Love) raced wide and well back in his debut here Nov. 12, but produced a strong late rally to finish second, beaten just a half-length. Adding blinkers this time around, the even-money favorite raced two-wide in fifth through a first half-mile in :48.88 over the sloppy going. Charging up three wide to take control approaching the far turn, the dark bay rolled clear in the lane for a decisive 4 1/4-length victory over Irish Cork (Flat Out). The winner is a half to Seahenge (Scat Daddy), GSW & G1SP-Eng, \$136,394. Fools in Love, who is a half-sister to MGSW millionaire International Star (Fusaichi Pegasus), did not produce a foal in 2018, but had a Ulysses (Ire) colt in 2019. Sales history: \$150,000 RNA Ylg '18 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: 2-1-1-0, \$36,000. [Click for the Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton](#).

O-George E. Hall; B-K & G Stables (KY); T-Linda Rice.



FIRST-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: WEDNESDAY, DEC. 18

Bayern (Offlee Wild), Hill 'n' Dale Farms, \$15,000
 95 foals of racing age/22 winners/0 black-type winners
 5-Mahoning Valley, Alw 1m, DREW, 5-2
 \$5,000 KEE SEP yrl; \$9,000 RNA BAR OCT yrl

The Big Beast (Yes It's True), Ocala Stud, \$6,000
 69 foals of racing age/15 winners/0 black-type winners
 6-Charles Town, Msw 4 1/2f, PAPPAROXY, 7-2
 \$32,000 EAS MAY 2yo

Bourbon Courage (Lion Heart), Anchor & Hope Farm, \$5,000
 46 foals of racing age/6 winners/1 black-type winner
 6-Charles Town, Msw 4 1/2f, SMOOKIE, 9-2
 \$6,500 EAS DEC yrl

Commissioner (A.P. Indy), WinStar Farm, \$7,500
 94 foals of racing age/17 winners/2 black-type winners
 5-Mahoning Valley, Alw 1m, ROMPED, 20-1
 \$28,000 RNA EAS MAY 2yo

High Constable (Duke of Marmalade {Ire})
 3 foals of racing age/0 winners/0 black-type winners
 6-Charles Town, Msw 4 1/2f, SHOW ME THE BEST, 10-1

Medal Count (Dynaformer), Spendthrift Farm, \$3,500
 61 foals of racing age/5 winners/0 black-type winners
 5-Mahoning Valley, Alw 1m, APPLETON SPECIAL, 7-2
 \$3,000 KEE SEP yrl; \$8,000 OBS OPN 2yo

Palace Malice (Curlin), Three Chimneys Farm, \$15,000
 123 foals of racing age/19 winners/2 black-type winners
 5-Mahoning Valley, Alw 1m, GAGLIANO, 6-1
 \$7,500 KEE SEP yrl; \$4,000 OBS OPN 2yo

Tapiture (Tapit), Darby Dan Farm, \$7,500
 123 foals of racing age/26 winners/2 black-type winners
 5-Gulfstream, Msw 1m, POINT DRIVEN, 9-2
 \$47,000 OBS WIN wnl; \$70,000 KEE SEP yrl; \$160,000 OBS APR 2yo

SECOND-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: WEDNESDAY, DEC. 18

Cross Traffic (Unbridled's Song), Spendthrift Farm, \$25,000
 162 foals of racing age/52 winners/6 black-type winners
 5-Gulfstream, Msw 1m, RINGLE BELLE, 20-1
 \$1,700 KEE SEP yrl



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Max Player (Honor Code) graduates decisively at Parx.



ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

1st-Mahoning Valley, \$32,700, (S), 12-17, (NW3L), 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:14.17, sy.

STATUS SYMBOL (f, 3, Jimmy Creed--Roxanne O, by Rock Hard Ten) Lifetime Record: 13-3-5-0, \$86,929. O-Sheppell, Peter J. and Girten, Tim; B-Peter James Sheppell (OH); T-Candace M. Huffman. *\$37,000 RNA Ylg '17 FTKOCT. *Full to King Creed, SP, \$153,232.

3rd-Zia, \$32,340, 12-17, (NW1X), 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:08.63, ft.
INTO MYSTIC (f, 3, Into Mischief--Loveofalifetime, by Medaglia d'Oro) Lifetime Record: 7-2-1-1, \$92,018. O-Coleman, George Chris and King, Brad; B-Runnymede Farm Inc. & Catesby W. Clay Investment 2 LLC (KY); T-Todd W. Fincher. *\$650,000 2yo '18 OBSAPR.



7th-Mahoning Valley, \$30,500, 12-17, (NW1X), 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:13.48, sy.

OFFLEE SILKIE (f, 4, Offlee Wild--My McKenzie, by Dixie Union) Lifetime Record: 29-9-6-3, \$188,420. O/B-Robert Trench (OH); T-Jevon D. Crumley.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Estrella de Dane, g, 2, Kentucky Dane--Rio Branco (GB), by Efisio (GB). Mahoning Valley, 12-17, (S), 6f, 1:15.38. B-Mr. & Mrs. Joseph A McFadden Jr. & Mr. & Mrs. Melody K Fewster (OH). *\$1,200 Wlg '17 PEDOH.

Top Draw, c, 2, Into Mischief--Silverest (SP, \$106,959), by Congrats. Zia, 12-16, 6f, 1:11.90. B-Henley Farms and Jeff, Teresa & Marilyn Little (KY). *\$300,000 Ylg '18 FTKJUL; \$31,000 2yo '19 KEENOV.



Artemis Rising, f, 2, Talent Search--Miss Foreesta, by Grand Slam. Parx Racing, 12-17, (WC), 6f, 1:12.91. B-Glenn E. Brok LLC (PA). *1/2 to Driven to Compete (Overdriven), MSP, \$185,025.

HONOR CODE, Max Player, c, 2, o/o Fools in Love, by Not For Love. MSW, 12-17, Parx Racing

INTO MISCHIEF, Into Mystic, f, 3, o/o Loveofalifetime, by Medaglia d'Oro. ALW, 12-17, Zia

INTO MISCHIEF, Top Draw, c, 2, o/o Silverest, by Congrats. MSW, 12-16, Zia

JIMMY CREED, Status Symbol, f, 3, o/o Roxanne O, by Rock Hard Ten. ALW, 12-17, Mahoning Valley

KENTUCKY DANE, Estrella de Dane, g, 2, o/o Rio Branco (GB), by Efisio (GB). MSW, 12-17, Mahoning Valley

OFFLEE WILD, Offlee Silkie, f, 4, o/o My McKenzie, by Dixie Union. ALW, 12-17, Mahoning Valley

TALENT SEARCH, Artemis Rising, f, 2, o/o Miss Foreesta, by Grand Slam. WMC, 12-17, Parx Racing



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BIZAKOV EXCITED ABOUT NEW FRENCH VENTURE



Nurlan Bizakov | Tattersalls

By Emma Berry

Within European bloodstock, one of the major themes of the last decade has been the resurgence of the French breeding industry. A perfect storm of exciting young stallions and decent prize-money in relation to its neighbouring countries, not to mention the envied premiums scheme, has led to a vibrant upturn in investment in the French programme, often through multi-national partnerships. One man, however, has taken it a step further.

As the 10th anniversary approaches of his purchase of Hesmonds Stud from Peter Goulandris, Nurlan Bizakov has recently increased significantly his bloodstock-related portfolio. Last month it was announced that the Kazakhstan-born owner-breeder had bought Haras de Montfort & Préaux in Normandy from Sylvain Vidal, who, in a little over a decade, has expanded what was initially a small boarding farm known as Haras de la Cauvinière into one of the most successful breeding operations in France. That expansion was helped in no small part by another owner-breeder, Gérard Augustin-Normand, and his 2009 Prix du Jockey Club winner Le Havre (Ire), now one of the most sought-after stallions in the country who has spent his entire career at the farm just outside Notre Dame de Courson.

Neither Vidal nor Augustin-Normand is deserting Montfort &

Préaux: the former will stay on as a consultant and the latter as a major client with boarding mares, while the farm's affable and bilingual frontman Mathieu Alex has been promoted to stud director.

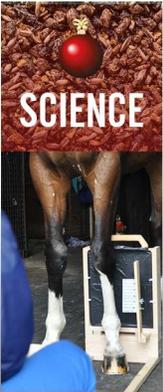
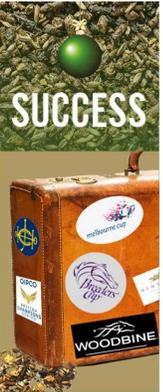
"It's not just a new farm for me, it's a new business—the stallion business—and I'm quite excited about that," says Bizakov during a break from inspecting the first foals by the stud's other stallion, Recorder (GB), during the recent Arqana Breeding Stock Sale in Deauville. "We have two stallions—one established stallion who made the farm and then a young stallion, Recorder, owned by the Queen. I hope he will be lucky as well."

With manager Tony Fry at the helm, the 700-acre Hesmonds Stud on the Sussex Downs in the south of England has undergone significant renovation during Bizakov's tenure. It has been home to a 25-strong broodmare band which has been responsible for producing his homebred stakes winners such as Nausha (GB) (Kingman {GB}), Altyn Orda (Ire) (Kyllachy {GB}), Tomyris (GB) (Invincible Spirit {Ire}) and Anipa (GB) (Sea The Stars {Ire}). [Cont. p2](#)

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Nurlan Bizakov Cont. from p1

Now, though, adding a more commercially-run enterprise to a private stud brings about the potential for a slight change of tack.

Bizakov says, "I'm proud of the work we've done with Tony at Hesmonds. It's been a private farm up until now but the French farm has done very well with its clients and we could change a few things in England and maybe take some mares for Mr. Augustin-Normand next season if that's what he decides to do. I don't want to say that Hesmonds will become a commercial farm but we may take a few mares for existing clients of Montfort & Préaux."

He adds, "Montfort & Préaux is an established commercial farm and we would like to keep the business as it is. I am very grateful that Sylvain and Mathieu will stay on as they know everyone and they built the business. Every year they have produced good horses at Group 1 level—it is good land with good people."

Bizakov's introduction to the team at Montfort & Préaux came about through his appreciation of their flagship stallion. "We've been fans of Le Havre for a while," he says. "I bought a share in him through Arqana's online auction and then we came to see

him and we met Sylvain and Mathieu. Then when Sylvain decided to put the farm on the market we reached an agreement. Now we will send three or four mares to Le Havre next year—we haven't finalised all our plans yet—but we will also use Recorder. He's an unusual son of Galileo as he was fast and precocious."

He continues, "At Hesmonds we built three new barns and put in 60 miles of fencing, and here at Montfort & Préaux, it's a big farm, but we might try to buy some extra land. I would like every single foal

that I breed to be eligible for French premiums, so we have brought all of our in-foal mares to France. The French prize-money is a lot better than in England."



Nurlan Bizakov with Nausha | *Racingfotos.com*

Cont. p3

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Le Havre | Haras de Montfort et Preaux

Nurlan Bizakov Cont.

With such a change afoot, the current trainer roster for the Hesmonds homebreds has been doubled. To the existing team of Roger Varian and Archie Watson has been added the champion trainer John Gosden, while with an increasing emphasis on the French scene, Bizakov has recently sent two horses to Francis Graffard.

“At the moment we race almost everything we breed and just sell one or two,” he explains. “Now that we are in the stallion business, the cheapest way is to produce our own stallions. So we will send some horses to John Gosden for the first time.”

In his native country, Bizakov’s business interests revolve around the phosphates and oil industries, and his sporting interests have progressed from football to horseracing. And, like so many involved in this sport, his initial purchase of one horse has expanded notably in the last decade.

“Kazakh people have a love of horses and racing and my interest started some years ago when I bought a horse from Russia to run in our national races,” he recalls. “At that time I owned a football club in the premier league and I gave that up and decided that instead of running a football club it was better to own a racehorse.

“The filly I bought was very successful and we set up a Jockey Club in Kazakhstan to arrange some Flat races—Guineas, Oaks, Derby, St Leger—but actually it wasn’t a success as we didn’t have the right infrastructure. But at that time I went to Tattersalls and bought six horses from the Horses-in-Training sale—just cheap ones—and then I realised that it was a real market. The next year I bought my first horse [to race in England] from Book 2 and he was a good stayer, Askar Tau. Then the next year I bought some more, and in 2010 I bought Hesmonds Stud from Mr. Goulandris, who bred some really good horses there.” **Cont. p4**

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	Roaring Lion	130
	Ulysses	130



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Nurlan Bizakov, Tony Fry & Ed Dunlop | Emma Berry

Nurlan Bizakov Cont.

The initial thrill of owning not just a decent filly in his home country but then the Marcus Tregoning-trained G2 Doncaster Cup and G2 Lonsdale Cup winner Askar Tau (Fr) (Montjeu {Ire}) as his introduction to British racing clearly had Bizakov hooked. From a modest start the numbers have grown, but are being kept in check.

When quizzed on the number he currently has in training, he says with a smile, "In Kazakhstan we don't count kids or horses but I think we should have 20-plus horses in training. The intention was to keep around 25 mares and to focus on quality, and this year we decided not to sell any mares because of the stallions here."

Bizakov, who spends most of his time at Hesmonds but is planning on making plenty of trips to France, adds, "It's not about numbers, it's about quality, so if we end up with more mares it will be because they are good mares. The intention is to be disciplined. We might make mistakes by selling good ones but that happens for every breeder, even very clever breeders like Juddmonte.

"I will now be spending a bit more time in France as I love to see the foals. We have a nice bunch of yearlings and 2-year-olds to go to war with so I am really looking forward to next year."

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RACETECH AND JOCKEY CLUB RACECOURSES REACH AGREEMENT

RaceTech and the Jockey Club Racecourses have agreed upon a new long-term partnership. The outside broadcast and technical service provider to racing has signed a five-year deal with the Jockey Club Racecourses to cover public address, photo finish, racecourse TV and starting stalls.

"I am delighted we have signed this agreement that supports our vision to be the technical partner of choice for UK Horse Racing," said RaceTech Chief Executive John Bozza. "RaceTech has unrivalled experience in the delivery of these essential raceday services and we look forward to continuing and growing, our long standing relationship with The Jockey Club."

"RaceTech do a fantastic job of helping us deliver nearly 350 fixtures a year, a quarter of all racedays in Britain," said Jockey Club Racecourses Chief Executive Paul Fisher. "RaceTech are responsible for so much of what goes on behind the scenes at our racecourses and we're delighted to continue to work with them."

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FIRST-SEASON SIRE WITH RUNNERS

Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2019:

UNITED KINGDOM

Brazen Beau (Aus) (I Am Invincible {Aus}), Dalham Hall Stud
78 foals of racing age/14 winners/1 black-type winner
12:40-LINGFIELD PARK, 7f, BRAZEN SHEILA (GB)
9,000gns RNA Tattersalls October Yearling Sale 2018 - Book 3
12:40-LINGFIELD PARK, 7f, CRISEYDE (GB)
9,000gns Tattersalls October Yearling Sale 2018 - Book 3

Cable Bay (Ire) (Invincible Spirit {Ire}), Highclere Stud
114 foals of racing age/25 winners/1 black-type winner
12:40-LINGFIELD PARK, 7f, MISTRY GIRL (GB)

Cappella Sansevero (GB) (Showcasing {GB}), Bridge House Stud
60 foals of racing age/6 winners/1 black-type winner
17:15-NEWCASTLE, 6f, QUEEN MOYA (Ire)
€2,500 RNA Tattersalls Ireland Flat Breeding Stock Sale 2017;
€1,000 RNA Goffs Open Yearling Sale 2018

Fountain of Youth (Ire) (Oasis Dream {GB}), Bearstone Stud
71 foals of racing age/4 winners/0 black-type winners
16:15-NEWCASTLE, 8f, ITWOULDBERUDENOTTO (GB)
16,000gns Tattersalls October Yearling Sale 2018 - Book 2
17:15-NEWCASTLE, 6f, RIVER CAM (GB)
15,000gns Tattersalls October Yearling Sale 2018 - Book 3;
20,000gns Tattersalls Guineas Breeze-Up & HIT Sale 2019
16:45-NEWCASTLE, 6f, VENTURA RASCAL (GB)
€35,000 Goffs UK Premier & Silver Yearling Sale 2018

Free Eagle (Ire) (High Chaparral {Ire}), Irish National Stud
87 foals of racing age/11 winners/1 black-type winner
17:15-NEWCASTLE, 6f, PROCLAIMER (GB)
36,000gns Tattersalls October Yearling Sale 2018 - Book 2
14:15-LINGFIELD PARK, 8f, SWOOPING EAGLE (Ire)
€45,000 Goffs November Foals Sale 2017; €45,000 Goffs Orby
Yearling Sale 2018

Hallowed Crown (Aus) (Street Sense), Kildangan Stud
77 foals of racing age/4 winners/0 black-type winners
16:45-NEWCASTLE, 6f, KILCONQUHAR (GB)

Hot Streak (Ire) (Iffraaj {GB}), Tweenhills Stud
79 foals of racing age/10 winners/1 black-type winner
17:15-NEWCASTLE, 6f, BALLYARE (GB)
4,000gns Tattersalls December Foal Sale 2017; €1,650
Tattersalls Ireland September Yearlings 2018

Ivawood (Ire) (Zebedee {GB}), Haras de Mont Goubert
100 foals of racing age/14 winners/2 black-type winners
17:15-NEWCASTLE, 6f, ASSTECH (Ire)
€10,000 Goffs November Foals Sale 2017
16:45-NEWCASTLE, 6f, COCK A HOOP (Ire)
£9,000 Goffs UK Premier & Silver Yearling Sale 2018; 45,000gns
Tattersalls Guineas Breeze-Up & HIT Sale 2019
12:40-LINGFIELD PARK, 7f, EVER AMBER (Ire)
€4,000 Goffs November Foals Sale 2017; £8,000 Tattersalls
Ireland Ascot Sept. Yearling Sale 2018

Outstrip (GB) (Exceed And Excel {Aus}), Dalham Hall Stud
106 foals of racing age/22 winners/1 black-type winner
12:40-LINGFIELD PARK, 7f, PERFECT OUTING (GB)
23,000gns Tattersalls October Yearling Sale 2018 - Book 3

Supplicant (GB) (Kyllachy {GB}), Haras des Trois Chapelles
7 foals of racing age/1 winner/0 black-type winners
16:45-NEWCASTLE, 6f, BAILEYS BLUES (Fr)
15,000gns Tattersalls December Foal Sale 2017

FRANCE

Red Dubawi (Ire) (Dubawi {Ire}), Haras de la Croix Sonnet
35 foals of racing age/2 winners/0 black-type winners
4-CROISE-LAROCHE, 1100m, RED GOLD (Ire)



Hot Streak is aiming for his 11th winner at Newcastle on Wednesday.
 Tweenhills

SWITZERLAND

ENTRIES REVEALED FOR GRAND PRIX OF ST. MORITZ

St. Moritz plays host to a trio of White Turf meetings in February next year (Feb. 2nd, 9th and 16th), with 24 horses already entered in the 81st running of the Longines Grand Prix of St. Moritz. on Feb. 16th. Among the field are the last three winners of Switzerland's richest race, worth SFr111,111. Racing, a mix of flat, trot and skijoring, takes place on the unique frozen lake with 20 races spread out over the three meetings. Safety of the participants is guaranteed in 2020, with geo-radar and infrared thermal imaging cameras being employed.

"We are very pleased to have so many entries," said Annina Widmer, Head of Racing of White Turf. "The Swiss delegation will be led by the 2018 winner and last year's third-placed Nimrod from the stables of 23-time champion trainer Miro Weiss. With eight entries from the island in 2020, there are more English racing teams than there have been in a long time."



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WORLDWIDE NEWS

DEE EX BEE JOINS BIN GHADAYER YARD

MGSW and MG1SP **Dee Ex Bee (GB)** (Farhh {GB}) has joined the yard of Salem bin Ghadayer in Dubai for the winter months, *Racing Post* reported. The Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed Al Maktoum runner, who was a last out third in the Oct. 5 G1 Qatar Prix du Cadran, was formerly trained by Mark Johnston and will return to Johnston's yard after a crack at the G2 Dubai Gold Cup on Dubai World Cup night. Runner-up in the 2018 G1 Derby, the 4-year-old was shipped with fellow Johnston/Sheikh Hamdan runners Matterhorn (Ire) (Raven's Pass) and Charles Kingsley (GB) (New Approach {Ire}).

"We're used to having horses join Godolphin from here over the years, but Salem bin Ghadayer is Sheikh Hamdan's main trainer out there, so I understand Dee Ex Bee and the others have joined him," Johnston told *Racing Post*.

"We've been told we'll be getting them back next year and hopefully they'll do well out there. There looks as if there's only one main race that Dee Ex Bee can go for which is the G2 Dubai Gold Cup on World Cup night."

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JAPANESE GROUP RACES -2019/2020		
Date	Race	Track
Dec. 21	Hanshin Cup (G2)	Hanshin
Dec. 22	Arima Kinen (G1)	Nakayama
Dec. 28	Hopeful S. (G1)	Nakayama
Jan. 5	Nakayama Kimpai (GB)	Nakayama
	Kyoto Kimpai (G3)	Kyoto
Jan. 12	Shinzan Kinen (G3)	Kyoto
Jan. 18	Aichi Hai (G3)	Chukyo
Jan. 19	Keisei Hai (G3)	Nakayama
	Nikkei Shinshun Hai (G2)	Kyoto
Jan. 26	American Jockey Club Cup (G2)	Nakayama
	Tokai S. (G2)	Chukyo



2019 in photos: Magna Grecia (Ire) (Invincible Spirit {Ire}) and Donnacha O'Brien winning the G1 Qipco 2000 Guineas at Newmarket. Racingfotos.com



FIELD OF DREAMS



Bruce Slade & Henry Field | Bronwen Healy

By Trevor Marshallsea

Henry Field's rise through the ranks of Australian breeding to emerge as an extremely potent figure has been steered by a guiding principle from Arthur B. Hancock III.

"You'll raise much better trout in the lakes of Alaska than you will in a goldfish bowl,"--Arthur B. Hancock III.

Hancock is a man held in great esteem in the Thoroughbred breeding world, which sounds like a far different kettle of fish. But his point remains, and it's been one of the guiding principles that have helped Henry Field rise through the ranks of the hopefuls in Australian breeding to emerge as an extremely potent figure himself.

Field, managing director of the Hunter Valley's Newgate Farm, has been among the top few grossing vendors at the Magic Millions Yearling Sale for the past three years, ranking second, sixth and then third. Unusually, he's also been in the sale's top five buyers. And all this only five crops after hitting top gear in his long-craved dream of making racehorses.

Still only 36, Field will straddle the fence at the Magic Millions again in January, with 57 yearlings to be sold, and upwards of a dozen to be bought, as befits Newgate's business plan.

"I've never kicked myself about the one that got away," he says. "The yearlings we sell and those we buy--it's two totally separate structures. We'll sell 100 yearlings next year. It's a core part of our business, so selling the good ones is essential. We put them on the market and we're very transparent about it. We sell the cream of our crop, so the idea is to sell good ones, and we're proud to do that."

Many breeders inherit their operation. Some fall in almost by accident. Field is the son of a cattle farmer, and though carrying a dash of equine pedigree--grandfather Tig Moses imported Star Kingdom (Ire) to Australia--he's taken this particular bull by the horns to uncompromisingly blaze his own trail. His strengths include hard work, and an ability to listen, learn, and think differently. And he's studied under the best, taking lessons under Coolmore in Ireland, Ashford Stud in the US, and from a major influence on his life, Gai Waterhouse.

Were you to bet on a group of young sires from which the next big thing might come, you might box up Capitalist, Deep Field, Russian Revolution, Extreme Choice, and one or two others. And if you took a stab at the next human equivalent, you'd do worse than nominate the driven young man in charge of those four, and more.

That line from Hancock has been just one of the theories to shape Field's approach. And in these relatively early days for Newgate, it has helped rear a handful of Group 1 winners in the past few years, like Coolmore S. winner Exceedance (Exceed And Excel), Shadow Hero (Pierro), Foxplay (Foxwedge) and Awesome Rock (Fastnet Rock).

For all the money, science, guesswork and finger-crossing in the world won't count for anything without that factor that means the most.

"At the end of the day," Field says, "the key to the business is one thing - the winning post. If you're breeding, training, riding, I firmly believe if you focus on the winning post the rest will follow."



Arthur Hancock | EquiSport Photo

The Winning Post

That quote from Hancock, with whom Field spent some time with recently, is not only part of the reason why Newgate yearlings present in such appealing shape, but why it has so swiftly built a reputation for producing winners.

“What I’ve noticed in America,” says the man who’s there several times a year, “is so many farms have been focused on breeding horses for the sales ring. The ones who were breeding for the racetrack were far more successful.”

Might this explain some of racing’s greatest, and costliest mysteries? Why some of the world’s best-bred horses had no thirst for competition? Were they thought so precious they were cotton-woolled to the point that they didn’t know what competition was? And that by the time they were of racing age, it was all too late? It evokes a child psychologist’s line: treat your kids like they’re made of glass, and they’ll think they’re made of glass.

“I’ve no doubt there’s a correlation,” Field says. “When you start treating horses like showhorses, that’s what’s gonna happen. Sometimes farms breed horses they think are too valuable to leave out in the hills with the other horses. That’s got to disadvantage the horse. If it can’t gallop and build muscle, bone, cardio vascular capacity at a crucial developmental age, you’ll make it very hard for them.

“Horses want to be horses.

They want to live in big paddocks, play with their friends, and grow naturally.”

Newgate raises large groups of yearlings in roomy 50-acre paddocks at its main 1000-acre property, which used to be historic Brooklyn Lodge. Six years ago it was bought by Field and partners Matthew Sandblom and Gavin Murphy, for whom Field is eternally grateful.

“When we prepare yearlings for sales, they’re outside more than inside,” says Field, who doesn’t mind seeing some argy-bargy at the feed trough, in a colt or a filly, for the sake of some extra “mongrel” on the track. “We can’t make a bad horse good, but I hope this might make a difference in a photo finish. I’ve no doubt that’s been a key reason why we’ve been so fortunate to raise so many good horses.”

Field might not own the copyright on this idea, but other factors have also helped Newgate get places quickly, parts of a whole that began building when he was a boy learning horses

from his grandfather. Tig Moses’s friendship with Tommy Smith led to a vital association with Smith’s now famous daughter from early on. Field gained work experience at Waterhouse’s in high school and joined up full-time on graduating. In 2003, her recommendation helped him, at only 18, into Godolphin’s “Flying Start” program for youngsters with designs on the industry. He remains its youngest draftee to this day.

“Gai was instrumental in teaching me about how a business can run successfully in the horse industry, about horsemanship, getting horses fit; how racing works from the ground up,” says Field, who learnt on his travels that “stallions were probably the most lucrative part of the business.”

With help from Sandblom and Murphy--ultra-successful businessmen in education and finance respectively--Field leased Wakefield Stud. A leg-up came through the chance to syndicate Foxwedge as a stallion. His success helped bring Brooklyn Lodge,

and Field went looking for a flagbearing stallion. He learnt a blunt lesson.

“I’ve never tried so hard in my life to buy a stallion as Pierro,” he recalls. “I travelled to Japan, New Zealand, Europe and America to raise capital to buy him. I bid as much as I could possibly bid on a horse - and still got beaten. By Coolmore. When you’re David against Goliath, you’ve got to think differently.”

So he did, establishing a plan which endures, of buying yearling colts he hopes will become sires. You might say it’s gone alright. In partnership with

breeding bigwig James Harron he bought Capitalist for \$160,000. He won the Golden Slipper, now stands at Newgate for \$55,000 (inc GST). With the China Horse Club he bought Russian Revolution for \$320,000. He won two Group 1s and is producing “outstanding foals” at Newgate for the same fee. Field and the China Horse Club also paid \$165,000 for Cosmic Force (Deep Field), who’ll likely stand at Newgate. (That partnership also acquired Dissident--now another Newgate sire--before the former Horse of the Year won the last three of his five Group 1s.)

“Buying those yearlings allowed us to buy really high level stallion prospects at a price where we could make it work,” says Field. “Some you get right and some you get wrong, but we’ve got to back our judgement to get the horses we think can make the greatest stallions in Australia.”



Henry Field & James Harron | Bronwen Healy



Capitalist with Blake Shinn aboard | Bronwen Healy

And then there's the 9-year-old with whom the young breeding tyro shares a "surname". Deep Field was 11th last season among Australian 2-year-old sires, and is currently seventh among Australian 3-year-old sires.

"What I love about him is all the key trainers in the country pretty much have one by him who can gallop," Field says. "That's a great sign for any young sire."

With a strong band of some 120 broodmares, Field is well set to present some of Australia's most sought-after drafts of yearlings for many years to come.

"There's some great young people in the industry, and Henry is at the forefront of that," says Magic Millions Managing Director Barry Bowditch. "He's an incredibly motivated person, with a lot of integrity, and he just presents yearlings that people want to race."

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AUSTRALIAN GROUP STAKES 2019/2020

<u>Date</u>	<u>Race</u>	<u>Track</u>
Dec. 21	G2 Ted Van Heemst S.	Ascot
	G3 Grand Prix S.	Eagle Farm
Dec. 26	G3 Summer Cup	Randwick
Dec. 27	G3 Belle of the Turf S.	Gosford



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