

PURSES UP, HANDLE DOWN IN 2019



Racing at Saratoga | Sarah Andrew

by Bill Finley

According to figures released Monday by Equibase, handle on U.S. racing dipped slightly in 2019, down 2% from 2018 numbers. The decline reversed a 4-year trend in which handle had risen every year from 2015 through 2018.

When factoring in a decrease in number of races run, from 36,586 to 36,207, handle also declined, but by just 1%. A total of \$11.04 billion was wagered in 2019.

"I think it is extremely worrisome," said Marshall Gramm, the Professor and Chair of the Department of Economics at Rhodes College and a horse owner and gambler. "We had a short-term spike after the changing of the tax law, but that has dissipated with competition from other forms of wagering like sports betting. When field size goes down, and it continues to fall year after year, it becomes harder and harder to find value in the pools. When fields are big, takeout is still meaningful but less meaningful because there is the opportunity to throw out horses and the opportunity to find value. The combination of decline in field size, rising host fees and competition from other gambling ventures creates a situation that is real cause for concern."

There was better news for the sport in terms of gross purses, which totaled \$1,117,743,340, establishing a new record for U.S. purses and a 4.49% increase. Purses have now risen for two straight years for an 8.1% increase over 2017 figures. **Cont. p3**

DAM OF WORLD OF TROUBLE SUPPLEMENTED TO KEENELAND JANUARY

Meets Expectations (Valid Expectations--Meetmeontime, by General Meeting), the dam of multiple 2019 Eclipse Award finalist World of Trouble (Kantharos), headlines the latest round of supplements to Keeneland's January Horses of All Ages Sale, to be held Jan. 13-17, Keeneland announced Monday. Hunter Valley, agent, consigns Meets Expectations (**Hip 398L**), in foal to Uncle Mo. She is a daughter of Valid Expectations and a half-sister to multiple Grade II winner Bucchero (Kantharos). Also the dam of stakes winner Money Or Love (J Be K) and 2019 winner Alfie Solomons (Kantharos), she is scheduled to sell during the first session. World of Trouble was a Grade I winner on dirt and turf in 2019 with victories in the GI Carter H. and GI Jaipur Invitational S. during his undefeated campaign. He is a finalist for an Eclipse in two categories: champion male sprinter and champion male turf horse. **Cont. p4**

IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

BROODMARE SIRES OF 2019: A PIVOTAL HAT TRICK

Cheveley Park Stud's **Pivotal (GB)** (Polar Falcon) topped the European Broodmare Sires' List for 2019. John Berry has the details. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Europe.](#)

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Sue Morris Finley @suefinley
suefinley@thetdn.com

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

Gary King @garykingTDN
garyking@thetdn.com

EDITORIAL

editor@thetdn.com

Editor-in-Chief

Jessica Martini @JessMartiniTDN

Managing Editor

Alan Carasso @EquinealTDN

Senior Editor

Steve Sherack @SteveSherackTDN

Racing Editor

Brian DiDonato @BDiDonatoTDN

Deputy Editor

Christie DeBernardis @CDeBernardisTDN

Associate Editors

Christina Bossinakis @CBossTDN

Joe Bianca @JBiancaTDN

News and Features Editor

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ADVERTISING

advertising@thetdn.com

Director of Advertising

Alycia Borer

Advertising Manager

Lia Best

Advertising Designer

Amanda Crelin

Advertising Assistant/Dir. Of Distribution

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Amie Morosco

Photographer/Photo Editor

Sarah K. Andrew @SarahKAndrew
photos@thetdn.com

Social Media Strategist

Justina Severni

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Vicki Forbes

customerservice@thetdn.com

Marketing Manager

Alayna Cullen @AlaynaCullen

Director of IT/Accounting

Ray Villa

rayvilla@thetdn.com

accounting@thetdn.com

WORLDWIDE INFORMATION

International Editor

Kelsey Riley @kelseynrileyTDN

kelseynriley@thetdn.com

European Editor

Emma Berry

emmaberry@thetdn.com

Associate International Editor

Heather Anderson @HLAndersonTDN

Newmarket Bureau, Cafe Racing

Sean Cronin & Tom Frary

caferacing@thetdn.com

60 Broad Street, Suite 100

Red Bank, NJ 07701

732-747-8060 | 732-747-8955 (fax)

www.TheTDN.com

Tuesday, January 7, 2020



Weanlings play in the snow last month at Blue Stone Farm in Cambridge, NY. | Mia Gallo

WORLD OF TROUBLE TO SHUTTLE

4

Hill 'n' Dale Farms' World of Trouble (Kantharos), whose dam was supplemented Monday to the upcoming Keeneland January Sale, will stand the Southern Hemisphere breeding season at Cornerstone Stud in South Australia.

PAT CUMMINGS SHARES HIS GOALS FOR 2020

6

Pat Cummings, the executive director of the Thoroughbred Idea Foundation, chimes in with his goals for 2020, calling for a far more serious approach to the way horse races are adjudicated.



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Average field size fell by 0.93%. There were, on average, 7.59 starters per race in 2019 and 7.66 in 2018. It was the fifth straight year in which average field size declined. Gramm said the industry should be concerned that purses are rising but field size is on the decline.

“I’m not sure breeders are responding to higher purses, and that’s because they may not believe they’ll be there in five years,” he said. “If we don’t have more horses or figure out how to get the ones we have to race more often, we have real problems.”

Eric Hamelback, the CEO of the National Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association, contended that the industry should not be alarmed by the figures released Monday.

“When I look at numbers, overall I don’t like to compare year to year,” he said. “I try to look at at least a five-year picture, if not longer. We have stability and, in my mind, that means something. It’s positive that purses continue to go up. As far as handle goes, these are fairly stable numbers and that’s why I feel positive about them. We are getting a lot more competition for the entertainment, gambling dollar and I think that is going to increase with more states making sports betting legal. If you do compare year to year, you had a Triple Crown winner in 2018 I think that gives some leeway in justifying a small decrease in overall handle.”

THOROUGHBRED RACING ECONOMIC INDICATORS FOR 2019

Indicator	U.S. Wagering*	U.S. Purses	Race Days
2019	\$11,038,790,395	\$1,167,921,650	4,425
2018	\$11,263,943,823	\$1,117,743,340	4,432
% Change	-2%	+4.49%	-0.16%

Stats provided by Equibase Company

**Includes worldwide commingled wagering on U.S. races.*

One bright spot out of the numbers released Monday was that handle was up slightly in the fourth quarter of 2019, showing a 0.85% increase.

“While the 2019 economic indicators reflected a decline in handle, the industry rallied in the second half of the year to regain much of the momentum that was built over the past five years,” said NTRA President and CEO Alex Waldrop. “The growth in purses continues to show the positive impact of alternative gaming options at racetracks, including historical horse racing. Going forward, the industry will return to positive growth if, among other things, we demonstrate the willingness and ability to do everything we can to prevent horse injuries and fatalities.”

Cont. p4

TAPIT

EMERGING SIRE OF SIREs

TOP FRESHMAN SIREs IN AMERICA BY # WINNERS

1st-Crop Sires	Winners	SWs
CONSTITUTION (Tapit)	29	5
TAPITURE (Tapit)	27	2

Stats per TDN as of 1/5/2020

Tapit’s progeny earnings now exceed
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Purses Up, Handle Down cont.

Looking beyond a 5-year window, the 2019 handle figures indicate a sport that has not been able to grow since 2003, when a record \$15.18 billion was wagered. When adjusting for inflation, 2003 handle figures translate to \$21.22 billion in 2019.

Along with the increased availability of sports betting and smaller fields, the negative publicity that surrounded the sport due to a rash of breakdowns at Santa Anita may have affected handle.

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Meets Expectations Supplemented to KEEJAN cont.

Keeneland will continue to accept approved supplements until the January Sale begins. To view the catalog, including all supplements thus far, [click here](#).

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WORLD OF TROUBLE TO SHUTTLE TO AUSTRALIA



World of Trouble | Sarah K Andrew

World of Trouble (Kantharos--Meets Expectations, by Valid Expectations), a Grade I winner on turf and dirt and who stands his first season at stud in 2020 at John Sikura's Hill 'n' Dale Farm in Lexington, will shuttle to Cornerstone Stud in South Australia for the Southern Hemisphere breeding season. The deal, brokered by de Burgh Equine, will see World of Trouble command a fee of A\$22,000 (including 10% GST).

A first-out graduate by 14 lengths as a summer 2-year-old, World of Trouble set a Tampa track record in making the Pasco S. his first stakes success, the bay won a pair of listed turf sprints before just failing in the GI Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint, earning a 118 Beyer Speed Figure. **Cont. p5**



SUPPLEMENTS TO THE CATALOG

HIP 398L

MEETS EXPECTATIONS

Dam of 2019 Carter (G1) and Jaipur Invitational (G1T) winner World of Trouble, a two-time Eclipse Award finalist for Champion Male Sprinter and Champion Male Turf Horse. Half-sister to Grade 2 winner Bucchero is offered in foal to Uncle Mo.

HIP 398K

DYNADRIVE

Temple City gelding offered as a racing prospect. Dynadrive has two wins in four career starts on turf, scoring a 4½-length maiden win in September at Monmouth and winning his most recent race, a 1-mile allowance, in December at Tampa Bay Downs.

HIP 398M

UNBRIDLED REWARD

Full sister to stakes winner Souper Charlotte and from the family of Grade 1 winner Mani Bhavan. Offered in foal to Kantharos.

HIP 398N

CLARE'S DOWERY

Stakes-placed daughter of Jump Start. Offered as a broodmare prospect.

HIP 398O

TOBAGO

Daughter of Pioneer of the Nile who is a half-sister to Grade 3 winner Mo Tom, stakes-winning Breeders' Cup runner-up Beautician, Grade 2 winner Red Ruby and stakes winner Bella Castani.

HIP 795M

SIDE OF SASS

Racing or broodmare prospect by Mineshaft from the family of Storm Flag Flying.

HIP 795N

SLAP HAPPY (IRE)

Broodmare prospect by Kodiak (GB) from the family of Grade 1 winner Creaking Board (GB).

[VIEW CATALOG](#)



Looking For Black Type?

V I N N I E

28

**INDIVIDUAL
STAKES
WINNERS**

IN 2018/19 SEASON
**BREAKING SNITZEL
& DANEHILL'S**
RECORD OF 26

45

BLACK TYPE

PLACINGS IN THE
2018/19 SEASON
WITH **EARNINGS**
OVER \$8 MILLION

18

OF HIS PROGENY
HAVE EARNED
\$500k OR MORE
IN PRIZE MONEY

53

LOTS CATALOGUED
FOR THE 2020
MAGIC MILLIONS
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World of Trouble To Shuttle cont.

He closed off his career on a five-race winning streak, collecting his first Grade I in the Carter H. on the dirt last April before capping his resume in the Jaipur S., stopping the timer in 1:06.37.

“In the 60 years our family have been standing stallions, this will be the fastest horse to step foot on our farm,” said Cornerstone’s Sam Hayes. “How many horses can run 1:06 [and change] over six furlongs?”

Produced by a half-sister to the dam of dual graded-stakes winner Bucchero (Kantharos), World of Trouble is standing his first year at Hill ‘n’ Dale for an advertised fee of \$15,000.

Read more at [TDNAusNZ](#).

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DERBY WINNER ALWAYS DREAMING’S FIRST FOAL A FILLY

Always Dreaming (Bodemeister–Above Perfection, by In Excess {Ire}), the 2017 GI Kentucky Derby winner, was represented by his first foal Monday, Jan. 6, when Lemon Liqueur (Exchange Rate) delivered a filly at Delia Nash’s Dromingrove Farm. Bred by Nash, the filly is the third produce from Lemon Liqueur, a multiple stakes-placed half-sister to GISP Nan (High Yield), dam of Grade III winner Power Gal (Jpn) (Empire Maker).

“She is very attractive just like her daddy,” Nash said. “We are very pleased with her. She has all the attributes you hope for when you breed to a Kentucky Derby winner. We are looking forward to watching her develop.”

Lemon Liqueur’s produce of 2018, a filly named Bleeker Street (Quality Road), was a \$400,000 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga purchased by Peter Brant’s White Birch Farm and will be trained by Chad Brown.

Always Dreaming, who was bred to 165 mares in his first year at stud in 2019, will stand the 2020 breeding season for a fee of \$25,000 S&N at WinStar Farm.

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Uncle Mo shattered records as he led the freshman sire list in 2015 and is now reaping some of the results of that early success.

Nicole Russo, DRF.com Dec 8th



*Eclipse Award finalist **BAST**, winner of 3 G1s at 2 years, went straight to the top of the Kentucky Oaks leaderboard with victory in the G2 Santa Ynez Stakes on Sunday*



*Eclipse Award finalist **MO FORZA**, winner of his last 4 starts including the G1 Hollywood Derby and G2 Mathis Brothers Mile Stakes on Dec 28th*

UNCLE MO

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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2020 GOALS

It's no secret that racing had a tough year in 2019. We asked a cross-section of participants what their number one goal is to make racing better in 2020. (Want to participate? Email suefinley@thetdn.com)

PATRICK CUMMINGS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THOROUGHBRED IDEA FOUNDATION



Pat Cummings

Despite the raft of negativity that has surrounded the sport in North America, racing on this continent suffers from a general malaise that can best be described as follows--we simply don't take our sport seriously enough.

If we did, many of our smaller problems, head-scratching status-quo situations or even more troubling occurrences would not be on the radar.

Think back to the strangest 22 minutes in 2019 horse racing. The first past the post in the Kentucky Derby was demoted because of interference suffered to the 17th place finisher, following an objection by that horse's jockey which was never announced to any of the 150,000 soaked attendees on course or the tens of millions watching from afar. The stewards never launched or announced their own inquiry and a still-ongoing legal case has kept the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission from revealing any details about the process or future upgrades to ensure greater clarity and transparency in the future.

It's an easy argument that the right decision under Kentucky rules was made, but the steps to get there--the optics--are terrible. **Cont. p7**



THE FACTOR

War Front - Greyciousness, by Miswaki

TOP SIRE WITH TOP VALUE

"Of the top 15 sires on the 2019 North American General Sire List, 13 are covering in 2020. Only 1 of those under \$40,000."

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The most head-scratching 124 seconds since then may have come in the aftermath of a truncated, then hastened Haskell Invitational day at Monmouth, where an inquiry was announced after a far-turn bumping incident involved Maximum Security. Before Luis Saez was ever questioned about the incident, the inquiry was dismissed, cuing a trophy presentation where one of Gary West's attorneys in the then active case against Kentucky from the Derby ruling presented West with the Haskell trophy.

The outcome may have been perfectly understandable, but the optics are terrible.

What gives?

How can these be acceptable executions of a racing inquiry (or lack thereof) of any type? Forget the actual outcomes--our processes are sorely lacking. They have not evolved over decades. Racing in North America lacks transparency on these and many related matters. If we don't take our own sport seriously, how can we expect others to do the same, particularly when we are faced with myriad issues that have spread into public discourse?

Every other major sport not only adjusts its rules regularly, but has opened its officiating to become far more transparent today than at any other point in history. Our stewards should be more public, question trainers and jockeys regarding performances, tactics and in-race decisions and report the outcomes in a timely fashion. This is just one of many refinements, which could be posed as long-missed evolution, that our sport can begin to implement in 2020.

For those of us based in North America, the even more frustrating consideration is that the vast majority of racing jurisdictions overseas have these more transparent measures in place.

One positive development in 2019 that may have been missed by many came from The Jockey Club, which announced funding for an exchange program to send American stewards on placements overseas to understand comparative adjudication methods. We need homegrown stewards to embrace these techniques and jurisdictions--be it a combination of racetracks and/or commissions--to implement updates to how our sport is adjudicated.

Confidence lost, everything lost. Let's get it back and emerge from 2020 with a far more serious approach to the adjudication of the sport.

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APP UPDATE

For those subscribers who have been having problems opening the TDN in the app, there is now an update in the App Store. Please update your app, which will fix the bug.

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1st dam

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GUN RUNNER (c. by Candy Ride (ARG)). 12 wins in 18 starts, 2 to 5, 2018, \$1,988,500, in N.A./U.S., horse of the year, champion older dirt male, Pegasus World Cup Invitational S. [G1] (GP, \$7,000,000), Breeders' Cup Classic [G1] (DPR, \$3,300,000), Whirlaway S. [G1] (SAR, \$650,000), Woodward Stakes [G1] (SAR, \$500,000), Stephen Foster H. [G1] (CD, \$300,700), Clark H. [G2] (LA, \$200,000), Louisiana Derby [G2] (FG, \$600,000), etc. Sire. Dam of 10 foals, 6 to race, 4 winners--



2nd dam

QUIET DANCE, by Quiet Storm. 2 wins in 12 starts, 2 to 4, \$19,170, PIM, \$19,170, 2nd...

SAINT LIAM (c. by Saint Liam). 14 wins in 20 starts, 1 to 4, \$2,400,000, year, champion older dirt male, Classic [G1] (GP, \$2,400,000), Stephen Foster S. [G1] (SAR, \$650,000), Donn H. [G1] (GP, \$300,000)-ntr, 1 1/8 mi, 2/5, BEL, \$300,000), etc. Sire. Dam of 10 foals, 6 to race, 4 winners--

FUNTASTIC (c. by Fun Time). 4 wins in 12 starts, 2 to 4, \$409,943, in N.A./U.S., Unified Nations S. [G1] (GP, \$410,711), etc. (T...)

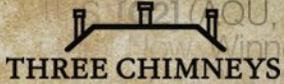
QUIET GIANT (f. by Quiet Storm). 7 wins in 12 starts, 2 to 4, \$405,389, Hill 'N' Dale Molly Pitcher S. [G2] (MTH, \$150,000), etc. Sire. Dam of 4 foals, 3 to race, 2 winners--

CONGRESSION HONOR (c. by Quiet Storm). 2 wins in 12 starts, 2 to 4, \$2,413, Bay Meadows Derby [G3] (FG, \$600,000). Sire. Dam of 10 foals, 6 to race, 4 winners--

DANCE QUIETLY (c. by Quiet Storm). 2 wins in 12 starts, 2 to 4, \$123,000, Busanda S. (AQU, \$39,000), 2nd Ladies H. [L] (AQU, \$20,000), etc. Sire. Dam of 10 foals, 6 to race, 4 winners--

Miss Besilu (f. by Miss Gypsy). 2 wins in 12 starts, 2 to 4, \$29,000, 2nd Ginger Brew S. (C... 3rd America S. (C... \$600), etc. Sire. Dam of 10 foals, 6 to race, 4 winners--

American Dance (c. by American Pharoah). 2 wins in 12 starts, 2 to 4, \$119,390, 3rd Remsen S. [G2] (AQU, \$200,000), etc. Sire. Dam of 10 foals, 6 to race, 4 winners--



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Edited Press Release

Thoroughbred Charities of America was named the charitable beneficiary of the Thoroughbred Club of America’s annual holiday giving campaign. More than \$5,000 was raised and will be used for 2020 grant making to qualified and approved organizations that work on behalf of Thoroughbreds and the people who care for them.

“We greatly appreciate the support of the Thoroughbred Club of America,” said Erin Crady executive director of Thoroughbred Charities of America. “The Thoroughbred Club’s far-reaching membership represents all branches of the Thoroughbred industry and we are honored to be recognized by this prestigious audience.”

Added General Manager Laura Gardner: “The Thoroughbred Club is honored to once again support Thoroughbred Charities of America through our Member’s holiday donations. By aiding charities such as these, TCA is upholding its mission of promoting, fostering, and encouraging closer cooperation within the Thoroughbred horse industry.”

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IN SOUTH KOREA:

Mark Story, g, 3, **Currency Swap**--Dreamlicious (MSP, \$227,350), by Ecclesiastic. Seoul, 1-4, Hcp. (\$64k), 1200m. B-RGP Ocala Holding Inc (KY). *Won by 11 lengths to remain undefeated in three career starts. **\$11,000 RNA Wlg '17 KEENOV; \$9,000 RNA Ylg '18 OBSJAN;\$20,000 Ylg '18 OBSOCT; \$50,000 2yo '19 OBSAPR.

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Dynamic Coming, c, 3, **Gemologist**--Storm Coming, by Hard Spun. Seoul, 1-4, Hcp. (\$51k), 1300m. B-Fred W Hertrich III (KY). *\$20,000 Ylg '18 KEESEP.

TAYLOR MADE FOR YOU!

Moonhak Mischief, f, 3, **Into Mischief**--Usrah, by Tiznow. Seoul, 1-5, Hcp. (\$64k), 1000m. B-Tom Grether Farms & Martha Jane Mulholland (KY). *1/2 to Dawly (Awesome Again), SP, \$591,830. **\$185,000 Ylg '18 KEEJAN; \$235,000 RNA Ylg '18 KEESEP; \$50,000 2yo '19 FTMMAY.

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Geuma Agile, g, 3, **Shackleford**--Sarahcarolu, by Songandaprayner. Seoul, 1-4, Hcp. (\$64k), 1000m. B-Richard Perkins (KY). *\$40,000 Ylg '18 FTKOCT.

IN PANAMA:

Capocostello, c, 4, **Cross Traffic**--Ad Litem, by Successful Appeal. Presidente Remon, 1-1, Clasico Ano Nuevo, 2000m. B-C Kidder & N Cole (KY). *\$25,000 RNA Wlg '16 KEENOV; \$16,000 Ylg '17 FTKOCT. **VIDEO**

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IN SOUTH KOREA:

Adele Spike (Kor), f, 3, **Competitive Edge**--Ice Curlin, by Curlin.

Busan, 1-5, Hcp. (\$34k), 1300m. B-Cheju Livestock Development Co. *\$60,000 in utero '16 KEENOV.

Dream Po Re (Kor), c, 3, **Shackleford**--Make It Anywhere, by Empire Maker. Seoul, 1-5, Hcp. (\$34k), 1000m. B-Cho Chang Seok. *1ST TIME STARTER. **\$38,000 in utero '16 KEENOV.



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Cont. p2

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 9-Parx Racing, Wmc 6 1/2f, FASTROADAHEAD, 10-1
 \$7,000 KEE SEP yrl

Danza (Street Boss), Fair Winds Farm, \$2,500
 139 foals of racing age/12 winners/1 black-type winner
 9-Parx Racing, Wmc 6 1/2f, ALLGUSSIEDUP, 15-1

Daredevil (More Than Ready), Turkish Jockey Club, private
 157 foals of racing age/14 winners/1 black-type winner
 3-Mahoning Valley, Msw 6f, SYL THE TOMCAT, 8-1

Imagining (Giant's Causeway), Anchor & Hope Farm, \$7,500
 97 foals of racing age/5 winners/1 black-type winner
 9-Parx Racing, Wmc 6 1/2f, YOURINDENIAL, 20-1
 \$2,000 EAS OCT yrl

Race Day (Tapit), Spendthrift Farm, \$7,500
 145 foals of racing age/18 winners/4 black-type winners
 3-Mahoning Valley, Msw 6f, IT'S A MANS WORLD, 2-1

Summer Front (War Front), Airdrie Stud, \$10,000
 180 foals of racing age/18 winners/2 black-type winners

9-Parx Racing, Wmc 6 1/2f, ROSIE SUMMER, 12-1
 \$27,000 RNA KEE SEP yrl; \$20,000 OBS APR 2yo

Tapiture (Tapit), Darby Dan Farm, \$7,500
 246 foals of racing age/27 winners/2 black-type winners
 9-Parx Racing, Wmc 6 1/2f, PRINCESS TAPIT, 15-1
 \$19,000 RNA KEE JAN wnl

SECOND-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: TUESDAY, JANUARY 7

Can the Man (Into Mischief), Spendthrift Farm
 185 foals of racing age/47 winners/2 black-type winners
 9-Parx Racing, Wmc 6 1/2f, TALIA LADYBUG, 15-1
 \$20,000 EAS MAY 2yo



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First/Second-Crop Runners cont.

Goldcents (Into Mischief), Spendthrift Farm, \$25,000
 345 foals of racing age/97 winners/6 black-type winners
 9-Parx Racing, Wmc 6 1/2f, PROUD SUPPORTER, 20-1
 \$14,000 RNA OBS OCT yrl; \$10,500 EAS MAY 2yo

Strong Mandate (Tiznow), Three Chimneys Farm, \$5,000
 200 foals of racing age/46 winners/2 black-type winners
 4-Mahoning Valley, Alw 6f, ATTACK ANGLE, 7-2
 \$12,000 RNA KEE NOV wnl; \$80,000 FTK JUL yrl



ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

7th-Parx Racing, \$63,416, (C)/Opt. Clm (\$50,000), 1-6, 4yo/up, 1m 70y, 1:43.94, ft.

WAIT FOR IT (g, 5, Uptowncharlybrown--Kimberley Diamond, by Posse) Lifetime Record: SP, 19-7-4-2, \$307,078.

O-Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC; B-Fantasy Lane Stable (PA); T-Edward J. Coletti, Jr.

8th-Parx Racing, \$61,010, (C)/Opt. Clm (\$50,000), 1-6, 4yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:12.85, ft.

MESS'N AROUND (m, 5, Messner--She Is a Lioness, by Lion Heart) Lifetime Record: MSP, 20-8-2-4, \$229,477. O-Mason Dixon Stable; B-Donald L. Brown (PA); T-Timothy C. Kreiser. *Full to Wildcat Combat, SW, \$332,485.

2nd-Mahoning Valley, \$35,500, (NW3X)/Opt. Clm (\$25,000), 1-6, 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:11.77, gd.

TRUE CINDER (m, 6, Alcindor--Be True, by Shakespeare) Lifetime Record: MSW, 27-10-8-3, \$522,500. O-Michael L. Rone; B-Larry Byer (OH); T-Penny Rone.

6th-Mahoning Valley, \$31,300, (S), 1-6, (NW2L), 3yo/up, 6f, 1:14.40, gd.

TIGER TRAIL (g, 3, City Weekend--Shesmorethanatiger, by Tiger Ridge) Lifetime Record: 3-2-0-0, \$36,540. O-Marion F. Gorham; B-R Gorham (OH); T-Robert M. Gorham.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Johnny Podres, c, 3, Grazen--Malibu Holiday, by Harlan's Holiday. Golden Gate Fields, 1-5, 1m (AWT), 1:38.44. B-Nick Alexander (CA).

I Recall, f, 3, Misremembered--Real Distinctive, by With Distinction. Mahoning Valley, 1-6, (S), 6f, 1:14.34. B-Lowell F. Allen & W. John Bourke (OH).

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Tuesday, January 28th
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in welcoming **Dr. Rana Bozorgmanesh** for a presentation on *Triage and Care of the Neonatal Foal.*

Registration with cash bar begins at 6:15 P.M.
Dinner and discussion begins at 7:00 P.M.

Everyone must register and pay online prior to this event.

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- No RSVP's will be taken after the deadline.
- RSVP's must be in by 5 p.m. Friday, January 24, 2020
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Please submit questions for discussion to info@ktfmc.org.



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- ALCINDOR**, True Cinder, m, 6, o/o Be True, by Shakespeare. AOC, 1-6, Mahoning Valley
- CITY WEEKEND**, Tiger Trail, g, 3, o/o Shesmorethanatiger, by Tiger Ridge. ALW, 1-6, Mahoning Valley
- GRAZEN**, Johnny Podres, c, 3, o/o Malibu Holiday, by Harlan's Holiday. MSW, 1-5, Golden Gate
- MESSNER**, Mess'n Around, m, 5, o/o She Is a Lioness, by Lion Heart. AOC, 1-6, Parx Racing
- MISREMEMBERED**, I Recall, f, 3, o/o Real Distinctive, by With Distinction. MSW, 1-6, Mahoning Valley
- UPTOWNCHARLYBROWN**, Wait for It, g, 5, o/o Kimberley Diamond, by Posse. AOC, 1-6, Parx Racing

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Wait For It (Uptowncharlybrown) takes his earnings over the \$300,000 mark in a Parx allowance.

BROODMARE SIRES OF 2019: A PIVOTAL HAT-TRICK



Pivotal | Cheveley Park Stud

By John Berry

Through the 2019 season we seemingly never had to wait too long for the next big-race triumph for a son or daughter of a mare by **Pivotal (GB)** (Polar Falcon). It is no surprise, therefore, that the 27-year-old Cheveley Park Stud patriarch has ended the year not merely completing a hat-trick of titles as Champion Broodmare Sire of Great Britain and Ireland but also topping the European table too.

One of Pivotal's principal advantages as a broodmare sire is, of course, that Sadler's Wells does not appear in his pedigree, which means that the majority of Pivotal mares are compatible with Galileo (Ire) and his sons. Pivotal's daughters were collectively responsible in 2019 for eight individual Group 1 winners in Europe who between them won 12 Group 1 races. Three of the eight are by Galileo: Magical (Ire), Hermosa (Ire) and Love (Ire). Furthermore, Cheveley Park Stud's homebred G1 Tattersalls Falmouth S. heroine Veracious (GB) is by Galileo's best son Frankel (GB).

It would, though, be grossly unfair to Pivotal to attribute his success as a broodmare sire solely to the fact that his daughters are generally compatible with Galileo. For one thing, a mare has to be high-class to merit a place in Galileo's book, whoever she is by; secondly, Pivotal's daughters regularly produce good horses from a broad spectrum of stallions. [Cont. p2](#)

12 HORSES STOLEN FROM AL SHAAB STUD

A dozen horses, both stallions and in foal mares, were stolen from Libya's Al Shaab Stud on Saturday, the stud's General Manager Dr. Amad Eshab announced via Twitter on Sunday. The raid was conducted by militia loyal to the Libyan National Army which opposes the current interim government. The largest Thoroughbred breeding operation in the country, Al Shaab Stud was home to the stallions SW **Eavesdropper** (Kingmambo)—a half-brother to Horse of the Year and top sire A.P. Indy (Seattle Slew), Australian Group 2 winner **Churchill Downs (Aus)** (Danehill), G3 Solario S. hero **Raise a Grand (Ire)** (Grand Lodge), the winning pair of **Backdraft (Aus)** (Testa Rossa {Aus}) and **Brut Force (Aus)** (Giant's Causeway), and **Metternich** (Seeking the Gold). The story was first reported in *Bloodhorse*.

"I am so sad and my heart is broken [and that of] my family," tweeted Eshab, who also serves as the stud's veterinarian. "It is my life's work, for my country and countrymen. I preserve the national heritage and now this terrible assault. It is too cruel."

The militants came from the Libyan city of Tarhuna and also looted everything from veterinary equipment to furniture, generators, jars and water pumps according to Eshab.

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Raise a Glass | *Racing Post*

IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

PURSES UP, HANDLE DOWN IN 2019

Following the release of the latest economic indicators, handle on U.S. racing dropped by 2% in 2019. Bill Finley has the full report. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN America.](#)

Broodmare Sires of 2019 Cont. from p1

G1 Investec Coronation Cup winner Defoe (Ire) is by Dalakhani (Ire) whose pedigree is not merely devoid of Galileo: it is devoid of Northern Dancer entirely. Showcasing (GB), Kodiak (GB) and Fastnet Rock (Aus), sires respectively of Advertise (GB), Fairyland (Ire) and One Master (GB), are similarly free of Galileo, notwithstanding that all three hail from the other branches of the Northern Dancer sire-line.

To put Pivotal's achievement of three consecutive Broodmare Sire Championships of Great Britain and Ireland into perspective, he ranks as only the third horse since the start of the 20th century to have topped the table three years running, following St Simon (five consecutive seasons, 1903 to 1907) and Sadler's Wells (seven consecutive seasons, 2005 to 2011). Company does not come any more elite than that.



Galileo | Coolmore

Taking minor honours in the British and Irish broodmare sires' table were two father-and-son pairs: the next four places behind Pivotal were filled by **Danehill Dancer (Ire), Galileo (Ire), Sadler's Wells** and **Danehill**. All four horses have, like Pivotal,

now been regulars in the upper reaches of the table for years. Remarkably, the same five horses filled the first five places in 2016, when Danehill Dancer stood at the head of a father-and-son quinella with Danehill in second; third, fourth and fifth places that year were held by Pivotal, Galileo and Sadler's Wells.

Danehill's regular presence among the leaders is easy to understand when one bears in mind that the most obviously successful nick of the current century has been 'Galileo over a Danehill mare', a recipe which has yielded 15 individual Group 1 winners headed by Frankel.

Cont. p3



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Vice President, International Operations

Gary King
 Twitter: @garykingTDN
 garyking@thetdn.com
 + 1.732.320.0975

International Editor

Kelsey Riley
 Twitter: @kelseynrileyTDN
 kelseynriley@thetdn.com

European Editor

Emma Berry
 Twitter: @collingsberry
 emmaberry@thetdn.com

Associate International Editor

Heather Anderson
 Twitter: @HLAndersonTDN

Marketing Manager

Alayna Cullen
 Twitter: @AlaynaCullen
 alaynacullen@thetdn.com

Contributing Editor

Alan Carasso
 Twitter: @EquinealTDN

Cafe Racing

Sean Cronin
 Tom Frary
 caferacing@thetdn.com

Irish Correspondent

Daithi Harvey

Regular Columnists

Chris McGrath | John Berry
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Broodmare Sires of 2019 Cont.

Danehill was Champion Broodmare Sire during Frankel's final season of racing in 2012 (thus ending the seven-year reign of Sadler's Wells) and then topped the table again in both 2014 and '15.

Perennial Champion Sire Galileo has understandably never been Champion Broodmare Sire. For obvious reasons, no stallion has ever been Champion Sire and Champion Broodmare Sire in the same season (although Galileo came close in 2018 when second in the Broodmare Sires' table). On this basis, one would say that, if Galileo is ever to become Champion Broodmare Sire, it is unlikely to happen for some time yet. One can, though, envisage him following in the footsteps of his own sire Sadler's Wells, who was Champion Sire for the 13th and final time in 2003 and then won the first of his seven Broodmare Sires' titles in 2004.

It is, incidentally, remarkable that Sadler's Wells was able still to take such high rank in the Broodmare Sires' Table 38 years after his birth, but being damsire of the mighty Enable (GB) (Nathaniel {GB}) obviously helps. One might make a similar comment about Danehill, who was born in 1986 (five years after Sadler's Wells) and died in 2003. Danehill's best representative as a damsire in 2019 was G1 Juddmonte Grand Prix de Paris and G1 Juddmonte International winner Japan (GB), one of three Group 1 winners of 2019 bred on the tried-and-tested Galileo x Danehill cross which also struck gold with G1 Comer Group International Irish St Leger heroine Search For A Song (Ire) and Cape Of Good Hope (Ire), a stakes winner during the year in both England and Australia. Galileo also regularly gets good results from Danehill Dancer mares and this cross yielded two top-class 3-year-olds of 2019: G1 St James's Palace S. and G1 Prix du Moulin de Longchamp winner Circus Maximus (Ire) and G1 Dubai Duty Free Irish Derby winner Sovereign (Ire).

In the European Broodmare Sires' Table, the same four horses followed Pivotal home with one addition thrown in. Galileo, Danehill Dancer and Sadler's Wells came in second, third and fourth with Danehill sixth. Nestling in among these greats is another legend: **Monsun (Ger)** occupied fifth place thanks to the G1 Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe winner Waldgeist (GB) (Galileo {GB}) whose earnings account for more than half of his maternal grandsire's total. Galileo's higher placing in the European table than in the British and Irish one can largely be attributed to the seven-figure bankroll accumulated by G1 QIPCO Prix du Jockey-Club winner Sottsass (Fr) (Siyouni {Fr}).

Oasis Dream (GB) and **Shamardal** deserve credit as the only two horses in the top 10 in the GB/Ire table aged less than 20. (They were born in 2000 and 2002 respectively).

IN TDN AUS/NZ TODAY

TUBBA LEAPS INTO AQUIS ROLE

Bren O'Brien chats with new Aquis Farm CEO Tony 'Tubba' Williams. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Aus/NZ.](#)



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Broodmare Sires of 2019 Cont.

Oasis Dream finished sixth in that table and eighth in the European table, one place behind the ever-reliable **Dansili (GB)**, with G1 Phoenix S. winner 2-year-old Siskin (First Defence) his principal earner. Shamardal, of course, had a fantastic season as a sire of racehorses thanks to his three Group 1-winning 2-year-old colts headed by the champion Pinatubo (Ire) but, already well established as an extremely good broodmare sire, he also featured prominently in this role, his grandchildren headed by G1 Betfair Haydock Park Sprint Cup S. winner Hello Youmzain (Fr) (Kodiac {GB}).

One could highlight several other broodmare sires who had very solid seasons, but overall the season was all about Pivotal. By topping the table in Great Britain and Ireland for a third

consecutive year he has, as highlighted above, joined an elite band alongside St Simon and Sadler's Wells. Those two could be described as all-rounders, having been multiple champions as both sire and broodmare sire; whereas Pivotal's niche in the

history books will revolve particularly around his role as a sire of broodmares, notwithstanding that he has produced at least 27 individual Group/Grade 1 winners over the years and currently has several very good sons at stud. As regards his place among the broodmare sires' pantheon of the modern era, he has now put himself alongside the legendary Habitat (Champion Broodmare Sire of Great Britain and Ireland in 1987, '94 and '96) and ahead of

both Darshaan (GB) and Rainbow Quest (GB) who each topped the table twice.



Danehill | Bronwen Healy

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3rd Richmond Stakes-Gr.2
- ROYAL LYTHAM** 1st July Stakes-Gr.2
3rd Phoenix Stakes-Gr.1 – beaten a length by Siskin
- SOUTHERN HILLS** 1st Windsor Castle Stakes-L. – from subsequent Stakes winner Platinum Star
- PRECIOUS MOMENTS** 2nd Airlie Stud Stakes-Gr.2 – beaten ½ length by subsequent Gr.1 winner Albigna
- TABERA** 3rd Preis der Winterkonigin-Gr.3
- HIGHLAND CHIEF** 3rd Chesham Stakes-L. – to European Champion 2yo elect Pinatubo
- LIPS EAGLE** 3rd Youngster Cup-L.

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SIoux NATION'S FIRST FOAL A FILLY

Sioux Nation (Scat Daddy–Dream the Blues {Ire}, by Oasis Dream {GB}), a winner of the G1 Phoenix S. at The Curragh for Aidan O’Brien and Coolmore, sired his first foal on Jan. 4, Coolmore announced Monday. The bay filly, a half-sister to three juvenile winners, is out of Italian listed heroine Samaden (Ire) (Ad Valorem).

“I’m very happy with the foal,” said Irish breeder Richie Fitzgerald of Ballinasla Stud. “She has class, is correct and moves well.”

The Coolmore sire, who also triumphed in the G2 Norfolk S., stood for €12,500 in 2019 and commands the same price this year.

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Sioux Nation | [Racingfotos.com](https://www.racingfotos.com)

DSCHINGIS SECRET CELEBRATES FIRST FOAL

A chestnut filly out of Brigh (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}) is the first foal for Haras de Saint-Arnoult sire **Dschingis Secret (Ger)** (Soldier Hollow {GB}), *Jour de Galop* reported on Monday. She was born at Larissa Kneips Saint-Arnoult operation on Jan. 3. The German/Italian highweight and G1 Grosser Preis von Berlin hero stands for €5,000.

As part of a breeding incentive bonus, €5,000 will be paid for his first three Flat and National Hunt winners, €10,000 will be awarded for his first Flat and jumps listed winners and €25,000 for his first group/graded winners under each code.

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BRITAIN

CONDITIONS RESULTS:

7th-Wolverhampton, £19,000, Cond, 1-6, 4yo/up, 9f 104y (AWT), 1:58.40, st.

GLOBAL GIANT (GB) (h, 5, Shamardal--Aniseed {Ire} {MSP-Eng}, by Dalakhani {Ire}) Lifetime Record: SW & GSP-Ire, GSP-Eng, 13-3-2-2, \$103,675. O-Isa Salman; B-M J & L A Taylor LLP (GB); T-John Gosden. *120,000gns Wlg ‘15 TATFOA; 185,000gns Ylg ‘16 TATOCT.

3rd-Wolverhampton, £5,300, Nov, 1-6, 3yo/up, 6f 20y (AWT), 1:13.06, st.

WILL TO WIN (GER) (c, 3, Showcasing {GB}--Win for life {Ger}, by Dubawi {Ire}) Lifetime Record: 3-2-0-0, \$9,252. O-Mohammed Al Suboosi; B-Stiftung Gestut Fahrhof (GER); T-Simon Crisford. *€58,000 RNA Ylg ‘18 BBAGS; 18,000gns RNA Ylg ‘18 TATDEY; £56,000 2yo ‘19 GOFBRE.

FRANCE

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Pocker (Ire), c, 3, Manduro (Ger)--Jona (Fr), by Dylan Thomas (Ire). Lyon-La Soie, 1-6, 10f 165y (AWT), 2:14.92. B-Haras de la Perelle (IRE). *€15,000 Ylg ‘18 AROCT.

Style Setter (Fr), f, 3, Style Vendome (Fr)--Almaardiyah (Ire), by High Chaparral (Ire). Lyon-La Soie, 1-6, 10f 165y (AWT), 2:15.33. B-Al Shaqab Racing (FR).

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WORLDWIDE NEWS

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR RACEHORSE AFTERCARE TO BE HELD AS PART OF ASIAN RACING CONFERENCE

The fourth International Forum for the Aftercare of Racehorses (IFAR) will be held in conjunction with the Asian Racing Conference (ARC), which is scheduled for Feb. 18-23, 2020, in Cape Town, South Africa. Both events are being hosted by the Asian Racing Federation (ARF) and the ARC local organizing committee, consisting of Phumelela Gaming and Leisure, the Racing Association, Gold Circle Racing and Gaming Group, Kenilworth Racing, and The National Horseracing Authority of Southern Africa.

IFAR will host sessions that span a range of topics related to aftercare, including case studies of aftercare practices in different jurisdictions, challenges facing regulators with regard to aftercare, and a discussion on IFAR's progress since its founding in 2017.

Di Arbuthnot, chair of the IFAR Steering Group, said, "There is a sense of genuine momentum being built up regarding the advance and development of aftercare measures around the world. This is an endorsement for the work done already by IFAR and it is to be hoped that IFAR, and in particular its annual international conference, has an important role to play in sustaining this momentum."

"What is also clear is that there is an increasing focus on equine welfare issues and it is in the interests of racing jurisdictions around the world to be equipped to deal with the inevitable pressure that will at some point be applied to them. In terms of aftercare, this is where IFAR can be of assistance."

Andrew Harding, secretary-general of the ARF, said, "ARF is delighted to include the IFAR conference into this year's ARC main business programme as the care of Thoroughbreds at all stages of their lives is rightfully a prominent issue in the world of racing. By bringing together key representatives from racing authorities, practitioners, and other stakeholders to engage in constructive dialogues, we expect that this will assist to create achievable approaches to improve equine welfare for racing jurisdictions around the world."

IFAR was previously held in conjunction with the European & Mediterranean Horseracing Federation's General Assembly in Oslo, Norway, in May 2019, the Asian Racing Conference in Seoul, South Korea, in May 2018, and the Pan American Conference in Washington, D.C., in May 2017.

For more information about the Asian Racing Conference and how to register, please visit arcsa2020.com.

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2017 Crop Year: Leading Sires by Group Stakes Horses

for stallions standing in Europe through Sunday, Jan. 5

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

Rank	Stallion	BTW	BTH	GSW	GSH	G1SW	G1SH	Starters	Wnrs	Highest Earner	Earnings
1	Galileo (Ire) <i>(1998) by Sadler's Wells Crops: 16</i>	5	12	4	9	1	4	67	22	386,678	1,529,348
				<i>Stands: Coolmore Stud Ire Fee: Private</i>						<i>Love (Ire)</i>	
2	Siyouni (Fr) <i>(2007) by Pivotal (GB) Crops: 7</i>	4	9	3	7	--	2	93	36	153,381	1,260,996
				<i>Stands: Haras de Bonneval Fr Fee: €100,000</i>						<i>Marieta (Fr)</i>	
3	Kingman (GB) <i>(2011) by Invincible Spirit (Ire) Crops: 3</i>	4	7	1	7	--	--	69	32	93,923	823,306
				<i>Stands: Banstead Manor Stud Eng Fee: £150,000</i>						<i>Alligator Alley (GB)</i>	
4	No Nay Never <i>(2011) by Scat Daddy Crops: 3</i>	6	10	4	6	--	3	75	32	361,669	1,635,064
				<i>Stands: Coolmore Stud Ire Fee: €150,000</i>						<i>Arizona (Ire)</i>	
5	Zoffany (Ire) <i>(2008) by Dansili (GB) Crops: 6</i>	1	8	1	6	1	1	94	28	406,371	1,173,640
				<i>Stands: Coolmore Stud Ire Fee: €22,500</i>						<i>Albigna (Ire)</i>	
6	Shamardal <i>(2002) by Giant's Causeway Crops: 13</i>	4	6	3	5	3	3	28	12	892,254	2,117,258
				<i>Stands: Kildangan Stud Ire Fee: Private</i>						<i>Pinatubo (Ire)</i>	
7	Lope de Vega (Ire) <i>(2007) by Shamardal Crops: 7</i>	4	6	3	5	--	--	78	30	106,814	885,102
				<i>Stands: Ballylinch Stud Ire Fee: €100,000</i>						<i>Lope Y Fernandez (Ire)</i>	
8	Cable Bay (Ire) <i>(2011) by Invincible Spirit (Ire) Crops: 2</i>	1	7	1	4	--	--	68	26	183,155	899,882
				<i>Stands: Highclere Stud Eng Fee: £15,000</i>						<i>King's Lynn (GB)</i>	
9	Footstepsinthesand (GB) <i>(2002) by Giant's Causeway Crops: 12</i>	2	4	1	4	--	--	58	18	321,558	882,035
				<i>Stands: Coolmore Stud Ire Fee: €15,000</i>						<i>Threat (Ire)</i>	
10	Gleneagles (Ire) <i>(2012) by Galileo (Ire) Crops: 2</i>	3	7	2	4	--	1	60	25	129,728	800,265
				<i>Stands: Coolmore Stud Ire Fee: €35,000</i>						<i>Royal Dornoch (Ire)</i>	
11	Night of Thunder (Ire) <i>(2011) by Dubawi (Ire) Crops: 2</i>	7	11	3	3	--	--	49	28	170,993	1,163,252
				<i>Stands: Kildangan Stud Ire Fee: €25,000</i>						<i>Under The Stars (Ire)</i>	
12	Dandy Man (Ire) <i>(2003) by Mozart (Ire) Crops: 8</i>	1	7	1	3	--	--	93	37	112,528	952,751
				<i>Stands: Ballyhane Stud Ire Fee: €15,000</i>						<i>Dr Simpson (Fr)</i>	
13	Dark Angel (Ire) <i>(2005) by Acclamation (GB) Crops: 10</i>	1	5	1	3	--	--	101	32	95,404	814,366
				<i>Stands: Yeomanstown Stud Ire Fee: €85,000</i>						<i>Final Song (Ire)</i>	
14	Wootton Bassett (GB) <i>(2008) by Iffraaj (GB) Crops: 6</i>	2	7	--	3	--	--	50	19	110,995	802,477
				<i>Stands: Haras d'Etreham Fr Fee: €40,000</i>						<i>Helter Skelter (Fr)</i>	
15	Areion (Ger) <i>(1995) by Big Shuffle Crops: 17</i>	2	4	2	3	1	1	12	7	319,325	761,906
				<i>Stands: Gestut Etzean Ger Fee: €12,500</i>						<i>Alson (Ger)</i>	



TUBBA LEAPS INTO AQUIS ROLE



Tony Williams | Aquis Farm

By Bren O'Brien

Aquis's new CEO Tony Williams took some time to chat to *TDN AusNZ* about his new role, Aquis's first-season stallions, what he expects on the Gold Coast and the bold ambition of the company.

A move from the depths of the Scottish winter to the heat of summer on the Gold Coast would take anyone some time to adjust to, but back on home soil to begin his new role as CEO with Aquis, Tony Williams couldn't be more ready for the challenge.

'Tubba' as he is known across the industry, has returned to Australia after over three years working as the Managing Director for Goffs UK and approaches his new role with a noticeable relish, describing Aquis as the most exciting thoroughbred business in the Southern Hemisphere.

"It was sad to leave the UK because we really enjoyed our time over there and it was a great company to work for. To have this opportunity to come here and work for an exciting company like Aquis, who have been going forward at a rate of knots, and to be involved with the direction of the company, it is really exciting for me and it's going to be great to be a part of it," Williams told *TDN AusNZ*. "Aquis has taken some amazing steps forward in the bloodstock industry on all fronts, whether it be stallions, the broodmare band or the racing side of the company. To see that develop over the trip and for me to sit

back and look at it from afar, this is the most exciting company in the country and probably the Southern Hemisphere."

It's hard to argue against that case given the massive expansion the Fung family operation has undergone in the past three years. Now a three-state breeding operation with significant racing interests in Australia and overseas, Aquis is the rising force of the Australian industry.

Its ambition was in full force in the pursuit of purchasing one of Australia's leading stallion prospects in **Pierata** (Pierro), a deal that was completed in October.

And it was that ambition which proved a compelling case for Williams to return to Australia.

"To be able to come and to be able to work with the team and to develop that was the driving force in me coming back," he said. "I know this team well. I've worked with a lot of the team over the years and I know how professional and how good they are. It was really a great fit for me to come back."

Gold Coast Baptism of Fire

Having officially started his new role on Jan. 1, Williams has barely had time to get his feet warm under the desk, thrust into the heat of pre-sale parades at the Magic Millions Gold Coast Yearling Sale, where Aquis has 27 yearlings as part of its draft.

But more significantly, it debuts two of its first season stallions, **Divine Prophet** and **Kiss And Make Up**.

One of a record 29 first season stallions represented at the sale, Divine Prophet has 12 yearlings in all and Williams has every faith that they will please the market. **Cont. p2**



Divine Prophet | Aquis Farm

None of us know where the next star stallion is coming from. What we all want as breeders and as studmasters is for our horses to have the best possible [start].

Tony 'Tubba' Williams

Tubba Leaps into Aquis Role Cont. from p1

"None of us know where the next star stallion is coming from. What we all want as breeders and as studmasters is for our horses to have the best possible. He has had that. He got numbers of mares, he got quality mares, but he himself has done the job at this point of time and introducing the quality of physical," he said. "With that combination and to have 12 in a sale like this in his first season in a market where there are a lot of first season sires, I think we stand up really well with Divine Prophet.

"He could be the real deal, because physically, mentally and pedigree wise, he's got everything going for him. He himself with his performance, being a G1 Caulfield Guineas winner, by Choisir, who is turning out to be a very good sire of sires.

"We are really hopeful he is the one that will take the step forward out of the sale and this time next year, we can see him being further elevated up the ladder."

What has impressed Williams since arriving on the Gold Coast and watching the Divine Prophets go through inspections is how well they have handled themselves. Aquis offers three itself in the sale.

It also offers the only two lots by Kiss And Make Up, whose progeny Williams said have also handled the pre-sale demands with aplomb.

"They are good, well-grown earlier types with a lot of strength about them, and again, Kiss And Make Up being a son of More Than Ready, predominately they have good temperaments as well," he said. "In the Australian racing system, the hot horses don't come through it that well.

"The Aquis team have been guided and worked along the lines of getting the horses that they think are the right physicals with the right sirelines and the right pedigrees, but really focussing on temperament. These horses are handling beautifully on the ground."

While he obviously now has a significant interest in the prosperity of Aquis' stallions, Williams does have 'fresh eyes' when it comes to assessing their progeny.

Williams Backs Market Strength

His assessment of the prospects of the market at the Gold Coast Sale are also particularly relevant given his understanding of the global bloodstock industry through his time with Goffs UK and his wealth of experience in Australia.

While there have been notes of caution sounded in the lead-up, with the absence of several buyers at the top end of the market, Williams feels there is enough underlying strength in the market especially with the level of prizemoney available in Australian racing.

"Every year there are people who drop out of the market and every year there is someone else who steps in. We will be missing a few guys that have been top-end buyers over the years, but I would like to think because of where our stakes money is at on a world front, that there will be more international participation from people that have been here before," he said. "They may have put their toes in the water and bought some before but with the departure of one or two big buyers, it creates opportunity for others.

"I would like to think that the market would at least hold. We will know by Saturday night whether that will be the case. Whether it can go up missing those people, I'm not sure but the inspections have been good. The right faces are on the ground and we have a lot to offer here in Australia."

Aquis Investment to Continue

The underlying strength of the Australian yearling market in the past couple of years has been due in no small part to Aquis's continued investment.

"With the enthusiasm of Mr Fung and his family and with the enthusiasm of the team, we can keep growing going forward. We want to be seen as the most transparent farm in the country and as the farm which is good and easy to deal with," Williams said. "We just want to be seen as the driving force, not a follower. We want to go forward. I think there's one simple line that we all should work towards and that is being the best. We want to be the best we can possibly be in every area of the market."

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