



## NEW YORK HORSEMEN SOLDIER ON AMID PANDEMIC



Empty stands on the final weekend of racing at Aqueduct | *Chelsea Durand*

By *Christie DeBernardis*

On Mar. 19, the New York Racing Association suspended racing for an undetermined period after a backstretch worker tested positive for COVID-19, which left New York horsemen scrambling to adjust and come up with Plan B for themselves, their horses and their staff. Nine days later--following the announcement that Aqueduct had been approved as a temporary hospital site--NYRA announced that the rest of the Aqueduct winter meet would be canceled and the Ozone Park oval would not host its traditional spring meet, headlined by the GII Wood Memorial S.

“On Mar. 28, NYRA announced the cancellation of live racing at Aqueduct Racetrack through the remainder of the winter and spring meets,” said NYRA spokesperson Pat McKenna. “This action was taken following Governor Cuomo’s announcement that the Aqueduct facility will be converted to a temporary hospital to increase hospital bed capacity in Queens.”

He continued, “As such, live racing is currently suspended through Apr. 19. NYRA is continuing to strategize options for a return to live racing, but any announcements or adjustments to the schedule moving forward will be arrived at only after consultation with state and local health departments. **Cont. p3**

## TDN Q & A: INGLIS’S SEBASTIAN HUTCH

Within the backdrop of a pandemic that has reshaped the lives of people all over the world, the Inglis Australian Easter Yearling Sale, kicks off Apr. 7. It will be an auction unlike any witnessed before.

A day after an announcement from Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison Mar. 25, further tightening restrictions on public gatherings in response to the coronavirus outbreak, officials at Inglis announced that the Easter Sale would go forward in two rounds, the first as a digital auction only, with round two to take place in conventional fashion in early July, conditions permitting.

After consultation with its clients, Inglis announced Apr. 2 **that the Easter Sale would be held as a ‘virtual auction,’** with an auctioneer at the rostrum at the company’s Riverside Stables and bidding taking place online. *TDN* Managing Editor Alan Carasso spoke with Sebastian Hutch, Inglis’s general manager of bloodstock sales and marketing, who took time out of his very busy schedule for a brief question-and-answer session earlier this week. **Cont. p7**

## IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

**CAMARADERIE ABOUNDS AHEAD OF UNUSUAL INGLIS EASTER SALE** Kelsey Riley speaks with Johnny McKeever ahead of the Inglis Easter Yearling Sale, which will take place virtually. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Europe.](#)

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**Friday, April 3, 2020**



**Social Distancing:** The TDN's Christie DeBernardis celebrates having the whole beach to herself as she rides her mare, Satin, on the otherwise empty beach near her home on the Jersey Shore. | Vicki Wright

**SERVIS, NAVARRO ENTER NOT GUILTY PLEAS 9**

Trainers Jason Servis and Jorge Navarro were among 17 individuals arraigned Thursday for their roles in an alleged horse-doping scandal, details of which were released Mar. 9. Navarro, in person, and Servis, via counsel, each entered not guilty pleas, as expected.

**ELLISTON ADDRESSES VIRUS IMPACTS ON PURSES 10**

During a meeting of the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission, Keeneland Vice President of Racing and Sales Bob Elliston told the KHRC's race dates advisory committee that given the nature of the race meet at Keeneland, purses at the track could take a significant hit in the event racing were to continue at any point before an empty grandstand. In a similar vein, Churchill Downs' Kevin Flanery told the committee that the track would be prepared to race spectator-free, if necessary.

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**New York Horsemen cont.**

“The health and safety of the entire racing community is our primary concern as New York continues to face unprecedented challenges and uncertainty due to the COVID-19 pandemic,” McKenna concluded.

This means there will be no racing in the Empire State until Belmont’s spring meet, at the earliest, which is currently scheduled to open Apr. 24. In the interim, trainers have to get creative with their program at home, continue to monitor strings they have at other racetracks and implement new policies to protect their staff’s health, as well as their own.

Since the original positive test on the backside, six more backstretch workers have tested positive for COVID-19 with four recovering off property and three in quarantine at Belmont Park. Many trainers have their staff wearing masks and gloves and have implemented extra sanitization processes to aid in preventing any further spread.

Leading New York conditioner Linda Rice said the humans’ routine at the track has changed much more than the horses’ in light of this pandemic.

“In regards to the horses and their training, there has been very little change to their daily routine. We have had to make some changes as far as the employees,” said Rice, who clinched her second straight Aqueduct winter title during the recently concluded meet. “We had to restrict them from congregating in enclosed areas like the tack room and the room with the facial recognition time clock. There has also been extra time spent on cleanliness and disinfecting all equipment. The staff are all wearing masks and gloves.”

**Cont. p4**



Linda Rice | Horsephotos



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**New York Horsemen cont.**

New York stalwart Gary Gullo has been trying to get the daily barn work done as quickly as possible to protect his staff.

“My main concern is just trying to get my help in and out and not have that many around at once,” Gullo said. “We are doing a little extra work, but we are just trying to make it easier for my staff, so they don't get sick. It is tough for them because they are in close quarters and I worry about that. I have a lot of disinfectants that we use on the shanks and stuff. We are disinfecting everything and everyone has gloves on.”

He continued, “I am just trying to do what everyone is doing and try not to go out that much. We start at 5:30 a.m. and we try to be done by 8 a.m. I go back when no one is there around 11 a.m. and again at 5 p.m. to check the horses and make sure they all ate well and have no issues.”



Gary Gullo | *Coglianese*

Though the humans have been more heavily affected, horses have been impacted as well. Many conditioners are taking this time to freshen up their stock or give them a brief break.

“I did send out a few horses that I had in training for quite some time, such as [MSW] **Newly Minted** (Central Banker),” Rice said. “She had been here [training at Belmont] for over a year. I planned to run her in April and then send her to the farm for the summer. We sent her out last week instead. We had a few horses like that who had been in training for quite a while and were due to get a vacation, so those were the horses we sent out. As for the rest of them, the ones who are on stakes schedules, we backed off their breezes a little bit as we wait for a more definite

schedule for them moving forward.”

**Cont. p5**

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The **Inglis Easter Sale** will go ahead with an **online auction** starting Monday evening (ET). And for those thinking about investing Down Under for the first time, out of uncertainty comes opportunity.

Not only will vendors need to meet the market, the **US dollar is at an 18-year high** against its Australian equivalent. As we continue, we hope some of you will join us on that journey.

Learn more about the online  
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**New York Horsemen cont.**

One of the horses whose breeze schedule was backed up a bit is GIII Withers S. victor **Max Player** (Honor Code), who was scheduled to make his next start in the Wood Memorial Saturday. The dark bay breezed Wednesday, covering six panels in 1:16.44. His last work prior to that was Mar. 18 when he went seven furlongs in 1:27.20.



**Max Player** | Sarah Andrew

“Max Player breezed Wednesday and we are basically in a holding pattern until we hear from NYRA about what the schedule will be at Belmont,” Rice said. “We know the [GI Kentucky] Derby is in the fall [Sept. 5], so we will see if there will be any adjustments to the Belmont schedule.”

Gullo is using the downtime to ease up on his horses’ training, giving them a walk week and then moving on to some jogging.

“What I’m doing is freshening up the horses a little bit,” the conditioner said. “I walked them for a little bit and am jogging them. I am trying to keep them fresh. My guess, which is just my personal opinion, is they are going to open at Belmont around May 1 with no spectators, so I am gauging my horses to run then.”

Gullo continued, “I sent one to the farm that wasn’t going to really run. If I knew it was going to be longer, I would send more to the farm, but the thing is, none of us know what it is going to happen. You have to be ready because once we send these horses to the farm, it is a good two to three months before we will have them ready again. Nobody has an answer as to when this is going to end. We are all in the same boat.”

Gullo commended the NYRA team for their work during this crisis to keep the horsemen and their staffs safe, as well as implement protocol which he hopes can aid in a return to racing.

Cont. p6

# FLASHY TALENT



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**New York Horsemen cont.**

“The only thing I can say is at Belmont, I think these guys are really on top of things,” Gullo said. “Maybe they can make a tent just for valets and have the jockeys go in the jocks room and be separated. No spectators and we can have just the trainers or assistant trainers saddle the horses, put the riders up and just go. If we go to protocol like that, maybe we can start running again sooner.”

While the trainers who stick it out in New York all winter are battering down the hatches and doing their best to weather the storm, those that left the Empire State for sunnier climates have delayed their returns. Typically the first week of April would see a flood of horses and humans returning to the Belmont backside, but most of those operations are sheltering in place at Gulfstream--which is still racing--or one of the Florida training centers surrounding it.



Todd Pletcher | Sarah Andrew

“Things are currently going well,” said Todd Pletcher, who won another championship meet title in Hallandale this winter. “We have horses at Palm Beach Downs and Gulfstream. We are more or less able to maintain our normal routine with common-sense protocols in place, such as making sure employees aren't congregating in tack rooms or hanging around each other too closely. We are making sure they alert us if anyone is not feeling 100%. We have been fortunate here so far.”

After NYRA's decision to suspend racing Mar. 19, Pletcher closed down his Belmont barn, where he maintains a string throughout the winter months under the care of his assistant Byron Hughes.

“There were some cases on the backstretch and some concerns in our barn,” Pletcher said. “We had to quarantine a couple of employees there. One tested negative and we have not received the results on one. It became an environment where some people were concerned about

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—David Meah of Meah/Lloyd Bloodstock

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coming in. With no racing on the horizon, we felt it was the safest thing for our employees to close the Belmont barn and move some horses around. We want to make sure the horses get the best care and are exercised on a daily basis. It just seemed like the responsible thing to do on all angles.”

The horses at the Belmont barn were dispersed based on the individual owners. Some of Pletcher’s owners who operate their own farms, such as Barry Schwartz and WinStar, chose to take their horses home for the time being. Other horses joined Pletcher at Palm Beach Downs or were sent to his father’s Ocala training center. A few of Mike Repole’s New York-breds remained in the Big Apple with trainer Rudy Rodriguez.

In the meantime, Pletcher will remain in Florida and take advantage of Gulfstream and Tampa Bay Downs, which, as of now, will continue to race with no spectators.

“Right now, we are training as though we still have the option of racing at Gulfstream, which is our primary racing place up until April anyway, so nothing has changed much there,” the seven-time Eclipse winner said. “As long as we are afforded the ability to race at Gulfstream, we will continue to do that. We will also consider looking at some races at Oaklawn if we can ship in there and run in some stakes. With Gulfstream and Tampa not too far away, we have enough options to continue training as usual. We will continue to monitor the situation as everyone else.”



Jose Lezcano | Coady

Trainers are not the only ones in New York affected by the suspension of racing. Jockeys are also trying to acclimate by finding new ways to stay fit and bide their time.

“I’ve been painting the house and basically being a handy man,” said Jose Lezcano, who won the spring title at Belmont last year and finished second in the Aqueduct standings this winter. “I’ve been going to the track and breezing some horses to stay fit and will continue to do so whenever I can. It’s just a

wait-and-see process. I talked to my agent about going to Oaklawn Apr. 11, but with the quarantine rules, I’m not sure that is possible.”

Aqueduct winter meet victor Manny Franco, who captured his third straight title for that meet, rode at Gulfstream Saturday, capturing the GI Curlin Florida Derby aboard **Tiz the Law** (Constitution), but has returned to New York and will remain here as he waits for racing to return.

“I’m back home in New York and I won’t be riding until they run back here in New York,” said Franco, who has a young daughter at home.

Reylu Gutierrez had intended to temporarily move his tack to Gulfstream while Aqueduct was shut down, but was unable to do so.

“I couldn’t make the deadline to ride in Florida,” Gutierrez said. “They gave us a short notice and it was a little confusing, but I know they are just trying to enforce health priorities. I had to stay put, so I’m here in New York working horses, staying fit and just waiting it out.”

“Waiting it out” seems to be the key phrase for all of us during this pandemic. With New York being one of the states hit the hardest by COVID-19, Gullo summed up the feeling at Belmont--and across the country--pretty well, when he said, “This is just a scary time for everybody, especially in New York. It is a disaster here right now. It is very tough.”

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TDN  Q & A

Cont. from p1

**TDN:** These are some of the most extreme and bizarre circumstances that you could have for a sale, let alone one of this magnitude. Such as they are, what are your expectations as the sale looms?

**Sebastian Hutch:** I suppose, first of all, we’re very proud of our vendors for the manner in which they’ve worked to facilitate inspections and interest in their stock under these circumstances and in terms of trying to facilitate optimum outcome, whatever that may be. I think vendors deserve a lot of credit for the work they’ve done trying to achieve that.

It’s very hard to get a gauge as to where the market will sit. I think we’ve been pleasantly surprised with the extent the sale has been embraced by parties that we might not necessarily have expected to embrace it. **Cont. p8**



## SO... WHO'S THE LEADING FIRST-CROP SIRE OF 2020?

If you want to call him an under-the-radar sire, I think that **AIR FORCE BLUE** is making a really good impression. He was such a great 2YO himself, so I wouldn't be surprised if that's not a little hint of what might be in store for his first crop.

**Charlie Boden**, March 30th, *TDN*



I'm a big fan of **AIR FORCE BLUE** based on what I was lucky enough to get in my stable... Their shape is enticing, and once we start putting pressure on them, they stride a little bigger, and show a little more brilliance than the horses next door to them.

**Brandon Rice**, March 26th, *TDN*, consignor of the \$390,000 colt out of Dreamy Maiden at OBS March



**AIR FORCE BLUE**... He was a very good 2YO in Ireland and War Front seems to be a good sire of sires. My favorite horse at the sale at OBS March was Hip 27, a son of Air Force Blue out of Dreamy Maiden. He ended up selling for \$390,000.

**Jamie McCalmont**, March 25th, *TDN*



I'm going to go with **AIR FORCE BLUE** as an under-the-radar horse... War Front is emerging as a sire-of-sires and this horse was very well bred and well thought of by the Coolmore and Ballydoyle bunch. We bought a filly by him at the last sale that I think is magnificent. I'm really excited about her. She's a queen. I've seen a few others at the yearling sales and in my travels. I didn't set out to find them, but I always wound up with a few of them on my short list.

**David Ingordo**, March 31st, *TDN*



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**TDN Q&A cont.**

By the same token, a lot of money has been through the market already this year and inevitably, it's going to place inhibitions and restrictions on people. We're just trying to facilitate a market bearing in mind those factors.



Inglis's Sebastian Hutch | Bronwen Healy photo

**TDN: What has been the reception among vendors in terms of the foot traffic on their farms, viewings, inspections etc.?**

**SH:** Geographically, there are a broadly spread group of vendors outside of the traditional Hunter Valley belt. Some of those vendors--it's just not practical to facilitate inspections. For instance, the Queensland border has restrictions placed on it, so that has effectively ruled out any Queensland vendor who's looking to stay in Queensland. A couple of our Queensland vendors have relocated--Highgrove and KBL--but it meant that a couple of others could not participate. *(Ed's Note: Queensland borders New South Wales to the north).*

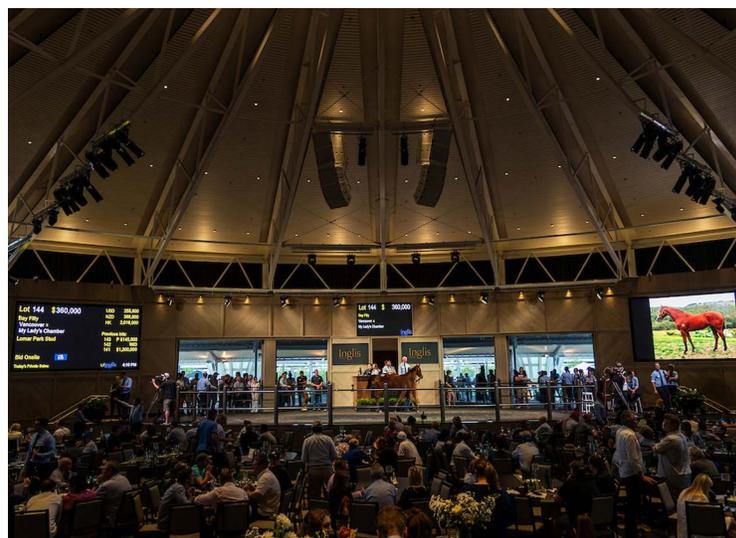
But under the circumstances, people--particularly agents and trainers--have been very dogged in their determination to get around and try to inspect as many horses as they can and to take advantage of what looks a good opportunity in the market. Vendors have been very accommodating in terms of parade times and adjusting traditional schedules, early in the day, late in the afternoon, and I think that's obviously going to help the market.

**TDN: You have seen a good amount of participation in years past from outside of Australia. You've seen the likes of John Moynihan (on behalf of Stonestreet), WinStar Farm in partnership, those sorts of buyers. What is your sense of their potential for participation this year?**

**SH:** I think the benefit of having had a number of significant U.S.-based investors participate in sales in Australia over the last number of years means they've developed relationships with people here that meant that, under these circumstances, they might be in a position to remain active even though they aren't in the country or on the grounds. You take a number of our stallions, they have some U.S. involvement or U.S. interest--Newgate in particular springs to mind. Coolmore have always had a variety of partners and clients in the U.S., as have a number of smaller farms.

I think with the currency sitting the way it sits--the Australian dollar versus the U.S. dollar presents an opportunity to U.S. investors as it does to European investors. The quality of stock at Easter, in terms of both pedigree and conformation, is the very best that's on offer in Australasia, effectively in the Southern Hemisphere. I can say that definitively. I think people from other parts of the world will look at a sale like this and say, 'Australia's got a great racing structure, it's a tremendous spectacle.' Even in hugely challenging times, we have managed to maintain racing, admittedly with no crowds. And when we do see the end of the ramifications of this pandemic, I think we're all confident that the sport is going to bounce back into an extremely strong position and on that premise, the Easter Yearling Sale 2020 might look like an opportune time to accumulate stock and reap the benefits of that in subsequent years.

**TDN: The Easter Sale speaks for itself in terms of its quality--it really has become a can't-miss sale for buyers from all over the world. That certainly must inspire a fair bit of confidence from the perspective of the auction house. Cont. p9**



The Inglis Sales Pavilion will be empty for the 2020 Easter Sale  
Bronwen Healy

**TDN Q&A cont.**

**SH:** Absolutely. I'd be lying if I said there weren't mixed emotions about the circumstances we find ourselves in. We are in a position to facilitate a sale like this and it appears no other jurisdiction can do that at the moment. Reading about the sales schedule in the rest of the world, there is great uncertainty about it, so the fact that we can facilitate a market is fantastic and a great opportunity for both vendors and investors under very trying circumstances.

By the same token, we set ourselves an objective 12 months ago to accumulate horses to run the best Easter Yearling Sale that we possibly could, so the people could look at it and say that it was something they needed to be participating in. The vendors responded extremely positively to that and as a consequence, we have assembled what is a pretty extraordinary group of horses.

Part of me is disappointed that we won't be able to showcase those horses for vendors in a manner that we would in a conventional auction, but by the same token, their work in terms of getting the videos done, providing the necessary veterinary information while disclosing huge volumes of information to prospective purchasers--huge amount of transparency around the stock--means that they're working very hard to facilitate sales. There are mixed emotions, but we're working around it to get it done.



**Merchant Navy (Aus) (Fastnet Rock {Aus}), an A\$350,000 graduate of the 2016 Easter Sale, shown here winning the G1 Diamond Jubilee S. at Royal Ascot | *Racing Post***

**TDN:** The Easter Sale took something of an unexpected hit when Arrowfield decided to withdraw its draft of 63 horses once it was announced that the sale was to be held digitally, or not conventionally. Can you reflect on that decision?

**SH:** We respect the decision they've made--that's not to say we have to agree it was the right one--but we respect the decision that was made. Arrowfield for a long time have been tremendous clients of Inglis's and I'm sure that relationship will continue into the future. They have had many successful graduates come out of the sale, but similarly, as have any number of other vendors. The quality of the stock and the sale stands firm irrespective of their involvement. Obviously they have a number of their stallions well represented in other drafts as well. Under the circumstances, I suppose it was a challenging development at the time, but we adapt and move on hopefully we achieve a positive outcome for those vendors who are still in the sale.

A test auction, including auctioneer audio and yearling videos, will be held between 2 p.m.-3 p.m. (11 p.m. ET Thursday-12 a.m. ET Friday). To register to bid, click [here](#).

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**SERVIS, NAVARRO PLEAD NOT GUILTY**

*by Bill Finley*

Trainers Jorge Navarro and Jason Servis entered not guilty pleas to the charges of drug alteration and misbranding during an arraignment Thursday before United States District Judge Mary Kay Vyskocil. Due to the coronavirus, the arraignment was held via teleconference.

Servis and Navarro were among 17 individuals arraigned Thursday for their alleged roles in a horse doping scandal. All 17 pleaded not guilty. The not guilty pleas were not a surprise as it is rare for defendants in a criminal case to plead guilty at the arraignment phase. **Cont. p10**



**Jorge Navarro | *Sarah Andrew***

### Servis, Navarro Plead Not Guilty at Arraignment cont.

Navarro has been charged with two counts of misbranding and Servis has been charged with one count of the same offense. Misbranding carries a maximum prison sentence of five years for each count. Servis and Navarro were among 27 people arrested Mar. 9 after an investigation into the use of performance-enhancing drugs in Thoroughbred and Standardbred racing.

Navarro took part in the teleconference. Servis did not, but was represented by counsel.

While the arraignment focused on those who have already been indicted, Assistant U.S. Attorney Andrew Adams said more names could surface as the FBI and Department of Justice are continuing their investigation. When asked by Judge Vyskocil whether or not he expected there would be additional charges or new defendants, Adams replied: "We are certainly considering that."

"The investigation, I will note, continues," Adams said. "As what I will describe as part of discovery, there are still documents and records coming into the government from various parties, people who have received search warrants or subpoenas. Of course, there are quite a few electronic devices in FBI control to which warrants have been obtained and now the execution of warrants is underway."

The next step in the legal process will be the discovery stage, where the government must produce any evidence it has against the defendants to their attorneys. Because the case involves so many defendants and so much evidence that was collected through wiretaps of the defendants' phones, both sides agreed that it would be six or seven months until the discovery hearing could be held.

"We're looking at reviewing tens of thousands of conversations," said Robert Baum, the attorney for Alexander Chan.

Vyskocil set aside the date of June 30 for a conference to be held among the involved parties. The judge believed such an interim conference is necessary because of the massive amount of evidence that the case involves. She did not set a trial date and said she will not do so until the fall.

The difficulty of holding an arraignment, one that included some 20 attorneys, over the phone became apparent during one light moment during the proceedings. The hearing was put on hold momentarily as one unidentified person blurted out "I took a shower. I have been showering every day." The strange statement was followed by laughter.

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## SALES CYCLE DISRUPTION, SPECTATOR-FREE RACING PROJECTED TO IMPACT KEENELAND PURSES

by T.D. Thornton



Bob Elliston | Keeneland photo

Thursday was supposed to be opening day at Keeneland's spring meet, which has been canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Instead, officials who oversee the association's racecourse and sales company spent their afternoon on a video conference call with the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission (KHRC)'s race dates advisory committee explaining how Keeneland will face a situation that is markedly different from the state's other four Thoroughbred tracks when emergency public health mandates are relaxed enough to allow live racing to resume.

Bob Elliston, Keeneland's vice president of racing and sales, told KHRC committee members that because the track is so heavily reliant on revenues related to on-track attendance, he can't predict what a retooled racing schedule might look like in terms of purses and dates if the circuit has to rearrange its traditional rotation. For the spring meet, he said, Keeneland was projected to pay out about \$12 million in purses.

Elliston said that right now Keeneland has around \$2 million of the association's cash and Kentucky Thoroughbred Development Fund money set aside for purses, and that figure is typical for the start of the spring meet.

But over the course of the 17-date spring meet, Elliston explained, Keeneland usually makes up that roughly \$10 million difference in purse funds fairly rapidly based on revenues generated from betting handle, sponsorships, dining, concessions, gate receipts and seating fees.

## Kentucky Dates Committee cont.

“I think that demonstrates, on a normal course of business, how much money is generated within our live race meet,” Elliston said. “We have dramatic attendance numbers, more so than a normal racetrack around the country. That generates the best margin of wagering revenues [because] we keep it all right here, and that’s about 19.5 cents on every dollar that we are able to generate.”

If Keeneland had to go ahead with some form of a race meet without spectators because of contagion protocols—like several other Kentucky tracks have either already done (Turfway Park) or expressed a willingness to do (Churchill Downs)—that would make it difficult for a boutique meet at the Lexington track to sustain such a high level of purses.

“Our purse agreements are different than most tracks,” Elliston said. “Rather than 50 or 51% of those revenue streams going to purses, every bit of it goes to [purses].... So we quickly ramp up from \$2 million to \$12 million. And we know we are unique.

“So as we think about trying to be part of the circuit as those opportunities present themselves, in whatever form it presents itself, purse creation and live racing versus spectator-less racing is going to determine what we can do in terms of the amounts of purses and the number of days that we can run.”

Elliston continued: “We completely understand the economic cycle that’s created through those significant purses, and putting them in the hands of folks to buy feed and buy hay and pay their help, and hopefully try to get a reinvestment on the significant capital that owners have put at risk.

“In addition to that, that cycle affects our sales. It affects the sales cycle this fall—the largest sale in the world, perhaps the most significant, as you well know. The yearling sale is dependent upon on not only the 2-year-old sales cycle that’s disrupted now, but also the racing and the capabilities of those horses to earn resources to be reinvested. Everybody in this business looks to reinvest, and that’s what’s unique about it.”

The management at Churchill Downs, which has already received commission approval to move the entire template of the GI Kentucky Derby week to early September, told the KHRC on Thursday that it would be willing to race in front of an empty grandstand as a COVID-19 precaution if it was granted permission to open later this spring.

“If we are asked to run spectator-less, then we will be prepared to do that,” said Kevin Flanery, the senior vice president of Churchill Downs, Inc. (CDI) “Whatever scenario is put forward to us, we’re trying to work through those [conditions] and be ready to run at the right time.”



Kevin Flanery | *Coady*

But when asked if Apr. 14 was still a viable date for the opening of Churchill’s stabling, Flanery said he wasn’t sure in light of the President’s recently announced federal recommendation to extend social distancing protocols to Apr. 30

“I think within the next few days, no later than Monday or Tuesday of next week, we will gather all of the information, talk to the folks that we have been talking with, and see what we want to do,” Flanery said. “Obviously, we want to give enough time for folks to be able to mobilize when the time comes to actually move. But I’m getting the same information that everybody else is getting as far as when the curve will flatten, so stay tuned over the next few days.”

Currently, Keeneland and Turfway Park are the only tracks in the state housing Thoroughbreds and humans on their backstretches.

Bill Thomason, Keeneland’s president and chief executive officer, told the KHRC there are 600 horses on the grounds, with 150 backstretch employees living in on-site dormitories.

No new ship-ins to Keeneland are currently allowed, with the exception of those from several year-round outfits who are stabled at the Rice Road barns and have already been granted permission to bring in horses from Florida.

Elliston added that those incoming horses must be cared for by stable employees who either already live on-site or do not plan to reside in the Keeneland dorms, because no new residents will be admitted to the property.

Turfway, where the winter meet ended prematurely, still has 800 horses and 120 workers living on the backside, with no new ship-ins allowed. The track is owned by CDI, and Flanery said the planned demolition of the grandstand is continuing as scheduled as part of a major renovation that is in the works there.

**Kentucky Dates Committee cont.**

Ken Mimmack, the head of project development for Ellis Entertainment LLC, reported that limited staff are on the grounds working on backstretch maintenance, although the multi-phase construction work on renovating the plant has been halted. Ellis was supposed to open stabling May 14 for the June 28 start of the summer meet, but those dates too are now in limbo.

Ted Nicholson, Kentucky Downs' senior vice president and general manager, reported that a "skeleton crew" has been retained to keep the turf course there in good shape for the September meet.

After listening to the testimony, KHRC chairman Frank Kling, Jr., read a prepared statement prior to adjourning the meeting:

"We are unable at this time to suggest a timeline for the reopening of live racing. Not knowing that timeline will challenge our ability to have resources in place and horses ready to return to racing when government officials give us the thumbs up. However, we are all in this together, and together we will best shape our future by being flexible and responsive to the changing situation. All stakeholders working in the same direction with the same goals, as always, will best serve the industry. We will continue to meet as the criteria evolves in order to properly address public health and economic pressures. I'm encouraged by what I hear today, and I look forward to resuming live racing as soon as possible."

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**GOLDEN GATE FIELDS SHUT DOWN**

Pursuant to guidance issued Thursday morning by the Alameda County Public Health Officer, Golden Gate Fields in Albany, CA, will shut down temporarily for live racing effective immediately as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

A release from the track reads:

"At Golden Gate Fields, the health, safety and welfare of every person and every horse in our community is our top priority. At this time, there are no known cases of COVID-19 at Golden Gate Fields. This measure is being taken in response to a mandate from Alameda County officials.

"At Golden Gate Fields, there are over 1,200 horses stabled who require daily care. That care is provided by the 400 backstretch team members, most who live on-site and have been operating under stringent new measures for protection aligned with the best guidance from local and international health and government authorities on COVID-19. The track has been closed to the general public and to closed all but essential personnel since Mar. 12, 2020.

"We will continue to work with authorities to familiarize them with the protocols which have been put in place to protect the health and safety of those who work with the horses and the horses themselves.

"We look forward to the return of live racing at Golden Gate as soon as approval is received from local regulators."

Golden Gate Fields is owned by The Stronach Group, which also shut down racing at Santa Anita Park Friday, Mar. 27.

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**TAYLOR MADE FARM SEES THE BRIGHT SIDE WITH VIRTUAL TOURS** *By Katie Ritz*



Click the play button to see scenes from the Taylor Made Facebook tour | Taylor Gilkey photo

If it's a tour featuring a barn where none other than American Pharoah was raised, you can guarantee racing fans are going to eat it up. Taylor Made Farm conducted their third live virtual tour Monday, Mar. 30 with a walk through their Yearling Complex, where so many eventual GI winners--including the Triple Crown Champion--have grown and developed. As with the rest of the Visit Horse Country virtual tours, this one was a hit. Within just the first two hours after the video was posted, it had received 4,000 views. Fans tuned in everywhere from Texas to Minnesota to Canada.

Taylor Made Farm's Mark Taylor is as excited as any viewer about the online series, despite the negative circumstances that made it necessary. "For our guests that can't do the Horse Country Tours now, this is a way for them to get a little look inside the backstage of Taylor Made even though they can't be here physically. This is something that can distract people. It's entertaining and it's positive, as opposed to just being tuned into the 24-7 news cycle of negativity."

## Taylor Made Virtual Tours cont.

For Taylor and his brothers, the Yearling Complex holds a certain sense of sentimentality. "If you look at it now, it looks like a lot of barns in Central Kentucky," Taylor said. "But my dad was well known for his talent in barn design and farm layout. When he built this barn, it was the first time he had the resources to do it right. This whole place is designed for horse safety and efficient handling. This was his showcase."

Taylor continued, "I was in middle school when he designed it and I remember him sitting in the barn every night sketching out how the paddocks would fit together, measuring everything and laying it out. Every time I drive through it I think about my dad."

Led by Assistant Experience Director Carly Moulden, the live tour kicked off with a visit with the yearling full brother to two-time Eclipse Champion Songbird (Medaglia d'Oro), before going through the barn and peaking into the tack room and feed room. Fans also got to meet special guest and resident barn cat Sancho. As the yearlings were turned out, viewers got a look at the exercise walker and learned about the yearlings' turnout schedule and exercise regimen.

While many racing fans are taking advantage of the learning opportunities these videos provide, Taylor said that he sees the potential for this series to be educational for Taylor Made clients as well.

"In these virtual tours, we talk quite a bit about the routine the horses go through every day," Taylor said. "As I was watching our first tour of the nursery, I was thinking that it could be a great watch even for our customers. A lot of them pay their board bills and they're invested from afar, but there are certain parts of their horses' routines that they might not be aware of. They might think, 'Oh that's a pretty cool schedule my horse gets to live through every day. They get to go outside and play, and they have a pretty cool life.'"

Prior to the Yearling Complex feature, Taylor Made conducted two other virtual tours. The first, a look at the nursery facility and a visit with Grade I winner Dream of Summer, the dam of three graded stakes winners including Grade I winner Creative Cause (Giant's Causeway), along with her 2020 Uncle Mo filly. And next, a visit to the Aaron and Marie Jones Barn, where many graded stakes winners have been raised including three Breeders' Cup winners in Ashado (Saint Ballado), Drosselmeyer (Distorted Humor), and Speightstown (Gone West). These virtual tours can be found here:

Nursery tour: [Click here](#)

Aaron and Marie Jones: [Click here](#)

Taylor Made will continue their series this week on Thursday at 2 p.m. with a Handicapping 101 class held by Medallion Racing Manager Phillip Shelton.

While it's not how the farm would like to be showing off their facility, Mark Taylor and the rest of the team are making the most of it and choosing to look at the bright side.

"If there's one positive development to come of this whole situation, I think it's that the sense of community is stronger than it was before," Taylor said. "I think everybody is looking for ways to lift others up, and this is just one way for us to do that. I can look out my window and see mares and foals out grazing, and they're completely oblivious to what we're dealing with. I think this is a time when you can look at these animals and see how their quality of life is pretty high. They don't have to deal with any of this stuff, they're just taken care of by a bunch of humans who are completely devoted to them, and they get to look at the world from a different perspective."

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## GODOLPHIN FLYING START CONTINUING REMOTELY

Despite the coronavirus outbreak, the Godolphin Flying Start program continues remotely, with the majority of the participants logging in from their homes all over the world.

"Most of the trainees have returned to their home countries in Australasia, Europe, the USA and Japan and they have shown their maturity and resilience in coping with the change in their learning environment," said Clodagh Kavanagh, executive director of GFS. "We are using technology to build our online community, stay engaged and deliver meaningful learning experiences as well as challenging assignments to the first and second trainees for the foreseeable future."

She added, "The challenge has caused us to innovate and to discover new ways of doing things, some of which we intend to build on along with our traditional methods. Most importantly, the trainees and the Flying Start team are in good health and are adhering the best-practice health protocols in their local areas at the moment."

Second-year trainee Annise Montplaisir recently returned home from Dubai.

"I will be isolating at my home near Fargo, North Dakota," she said. "Completing Godolphin Flying Start remotely will be a unique learning experience of integrating new technologies into our lives that we can apply in future careers. Today's world is large and small all at once, which is amazing. In addition to coursework, the bulk of which is our University College Dublin Entrepreneurship module and Business Plan assignment, I will spend my time at home writing and blogging, and developing a new non-profit."

**Cont. p14**



Godolphin Flying Start trainee Annise Montplaisir

Victoria Canessa is a first-year trainee from Argentina and is riding out the coronavirus storm in Lexington.

"With today's technology, it is so easy to stay connected with everyone across the globe and it will be our means of communication until the end of the USA phase, as we continue to move forward with Godolphin Flying Start. This clearly involves great team effort, commitment, and support from all of those involved in the scholarship, providing us with different assignments, the USA conference, as well as video lectures and online material which will allow us to successfully continue with the remainder of this phase."

Godolphin Flying Start is a two-year, full-time Management and Leadership training programme that specializes in the international Thoroughbred racing and breeding industry. For more information, please visit [www.godolphinflyingstart.com](http://www.godolphinflyingstart.com).

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*"We are the silver lining in any and every dark cloud we could ever find. There is no need to go looking for the light when you bring it with you." -Tyler Knott Gregson*

TDN Intern Katie Ritz polled a series of industry members to see if they had found anything good that has come out of the current crisis. Their responses will appear every day in the TDN. To submit your own, email [suefinley@thetdn.com](mailto:suefinley@thetdn.com)

**CRAIG BERNICK**

For me, it has been nice to be back in Ocala enjoying the farm with my family. We don't live here full-time anymore, so when we are here, I'm typically busy in the barns talking to everyone that works on the farm. While I've missed out on being able to do that, it's been fun to hang out with my wife, Lindsey, and our three girls, Cora (6), Edie (4), and Lettie (1) at the farm.

My extended family uses this farm as a vacation place and we've sort of gone that route and made the most of it. Last week, my 6-year-old learned how to ride a bike without training wheels and already she can ride two miles around the farm.

In the early evenings when it has cooled off and everybody has left work, I take a walk around the farm and just see the horses in their paddocks and that's been really nice.

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 April 1, 2020  
**Sackatoga Stable's Jack Knowlton Talks Florida Derby Winner Tiz the Law**

NEWS ROUNDUP

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**TAA ISSUES GRANTS EARLY**

The Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance issued its second round of grant checks early in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The grants totaled \$1.7 million.

TAA President John Phillips issued the following statement:

"Amid a global crisis, even one that closes the doors to many businesses, horses still need care.

Thanks to our supporters, industry partners, sustainable funding programs, and rigorous financial discipline throughout our history, the TAA is able to continue its mission of accrediting and funding aftercare organizations, even during this difficult time.

More than ever, work of aftercare is essential for the survival of our industry. While our doors may be currently closed to the public, the work of the TAA has not stopped. And even more significantly, the work of our accredited organizations has not stopped.

During this period of economic uncertainty, we have made the decision to issue our second round of grants early. This round

totals approximately \$1.7 million, which is awarded to accredited organizations for the care of Thoroughbreds. Organizations should receive these funds in the next few days.

However, for us to continue our mission and for organizations to continue their high standards of equine care, the TAA and our organizations need your support. We gratefully note that the recently enacted CARES Act allows all taxpayers an above-the-line deduction for personal charitable contributions of up to \$300. The Act also increases the annual contribution cap for individual itemizers from 60% of adjusted gross income to 100% in 2020 for cash donations made directly to public charities like the TAA and our accredited organizations. And for corporations, the cap on these same contributions is increased from 10% to 25%.

The TAA plans to be here for the industry. If you would like to help us continue our mission, please visit: [thoroughbredaftercare.org/donate](http://thoroughbredaftercare.org/donate).”

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### TCA TO HOST FUNDRAISING WEBINAR

Thoroughbred Charities of America will host a webinar entitled “Fundraising in Challenging Times” Friday, Apr. 3 at 2 p.m. EST to aid nonprofit organizations amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

“When the pandemic hit, we reached out to our grant recipients to ask how they were doing,” said Erin Crady executive director of TCA. “One of the biggest concerns among grantees was about lost revenue due to cancelled fundraisers and events so we thought we could help by providing an educational resource that will assist in making a shift to digital fundraising.”

Fundraising experts from Giving Tree Associates in Chicago will share their expertise during the 60-minute free webinar that is open to all non-profits. Registration is available [here](#).

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### AMERICA’S DAY AT THE RACES TO CONTINUE TO BE BROADCAST ON FS1

Produced by NYRA in partnership with FOX Sports, America's Day at the Races will air on FS1/FS2 Saturday and Sunday for a combined 11 hours of national television coverage. On Saturday, it will air on FS1 from 1:30 to 6 p.m. and then will move to FS2 from 6 to 7 p.m. On Sunday, coverage begins on FS2 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., moves to FS1 from 2:30 to 6 p.m. and returns to FS2 from 6 to 7 p.m.

With racing at Aqueduct Racetrack currently suspended due to the coronavirus pandemic, live racing from Tampa Bay Downs and Oaklawn Park will feature on the weekend broadcasts

highlighted by Saturday's \$100,000 Purple Martin S. at Oaklawn. Hosted by Greg Wolf, this weekend's broadcast team includes Gary Stevens, Michelle Yu, Laffit Pincay III, Tom Amoss and Jonathon Kinchen.

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### AIKEN CUTS USAGE FEE FOR TRAINERS DUE TO CORONAVIRUS

The Executive Committee of the Aiken Training Track cut the track usage fee in half for horses training on the surface Monday in light of the COVID-19 crisis. The monthly track usage fee of \$200 per horse has been dropped to \$100, at least through the month of April 2020.

“We want to help our loyal trainers at this time of economic uncertainty. We plan to watch over our monthly track usage fee with an eye to assisting our hard-working trainers as they try very hard to withstand the numerous changes in the racing business caused by this Coronavirus pandemic. Racing meets have been cancelled, important thoroughbred sales have been cancelled, even restrictions on where horses can ship have emerged,” said Bill Gutfarb, President of the Aiken Training Track and a member of the Executive Committee. “Owners, trainers and staff have been seriously impacted. We are trying to help them.”

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Metric	Change	2019	2020
Pageviews	up 41%	1.8m	2.6m
Unique Users	up 66%	453k	754k
28 Day Active Users	up 111%	196k	413k
PDF Downloads	up 3%	-	-

## 2020 Leading Dirt Sires of 3YOS

for stallions standing in North America through Wednesday, Apr. 1

Earnings represent worldwide figures, stud fees listed are 2020 fees.

Rank	Stallion	BTW	BTH	GSW	GSH	G1SW	G1SH	Starters	Wnrs	Highest Earner	Earnings
1	<b>Into Mischief</b> <i>(2005) by Harlan's Holiday Crops: 9</i>	6	10	2	4	--	--	66	19	300,000	1,681,192
				<i>Stands: Spendthrift Farm KY Fee: \$175,000</i>						<i>Authentic</i>	
2	<b>Uncle Mo</b> <i>(2008) by Indian Charlie Crops: 6</i>	4	6	4	5	--	--	47	18	377,400	1,455,225
				<i>Stands: Ashford Stud KY Fee: \$125,000</i>						<i>Modernist</i>	
3	<b>Constitution</b> <i>(2011) by Tapit Crops: 2</i>	2	5	1	3	1	1	40	12	598,300	1,219,984
				<i>Stands: WinStar Farm KY Fee: \$40,000</i>						<i>Tiz the Law</i>	
4	<b>Munnings</b> <i>(2006) by Speightstown Crops: 7</i>	3	5	3	4	--	--	36	9	291,600	1,018,716
				<i>Stands: Ashford Stud KY Fee: \$30,000</i>						<i>Bonny South</i>	
5	<b>Blame</b> <i>(2006) by Arch Crops: 7</i>	1	2	1	2	--	--	16	3	753,000	994,511
				<i>Stands: Claiborne Farm KY Fee: \$35,000</i>						<i>Nadal</i>	
6	<b>Lookin At Lucky</b> <i>(2007) by Smart Strike Crops: 7</i>	1	2	1	2	--	--	12	2	801,600	915,862
				<i>Stands: Ashford Stud KY Fee: \$20,000</i>						<i>Wells Bayou</i>	
7	<b>Speightstown</b> <i>(1998) by Gone West Crops: 13</i>	--	--	--	--	--	--	25	6	506,328	890,351
				<i>Stands: WinStar Farm KY Fee: \$70,000</i>						<i>Full Flat</i>	
8	<b>Tonalist</b> <i>(2011) by Tapit Crops: 2</i>	1	2	1	2	--	--	33	9	213,110	705,179
				<i>Stands: Lane's End Farm KY Fee: \$15,000</i>						<i>Tonalist's Shape</i>	
9	<b>Tapit</b> <i>(2001) by Pulpit Crops: 13</i>	1	5	1	4	--	--	31	8	220,000	692,651
				<i>Stands: Gainesway Farm KY Fee: \$200,000</i>						<i>Enforceable</i>	
10	<b>I'll Have Another</b> <i>(2009) by Flower Alley Crops: 5</i>	--	--	--	--	--	--	53	10	82,524	689,118
				<i>Stands: Ballena Vista Farm CA Fee: \$6,000</i>						<i>Utamaro (JPN)</i>	
11	<b>Carpe Diem</b> <i>(2012) by Giant's Causeway Crops: 2</i>	--	3	--	1	--	--	42	11	66,245	609,016
				<i>Stands: WinStar Farm KY Fee: \$15,000</i>						<i>Train Bearer</i>	
12	<b>Tapiture</b> <i>(2011) by Tapit Crops: 2</i>	2	4	--	--	--	--	47	15	90,000	607,943
				<i>Stands: Darby Dan Farm KY Fee: \$7,500</i>						<i>Steph'sfullasugar</i>	
13	<b>Liam's Map</b> <i>(2011) by Unbridled's Song Crops: 2</i>	--	1	--	1	--	--	36	12	100,000	580,775
				<i>Stands: Lane's End Farm KY Fee: \$35,000</i>						<i>Basin</i>	
14	<b>Curlin</b> <i>(2004) by Smart Strike Crops: 9</i>	--	3	--	3	--	--	35	10	105,000	575,870
				<i>Stands: Hill 'n' Dale Farms KY Fee: \$175,000</i>						<i>Fire Coral</i>	
15	<b>Khozan</b> <i>(2012) by Distorted Humor Crops: 2</i>	1	3	--	2	--	--	36	10	109,000	574,232
				<i>Stands: Journeyman Stud FL Fee: \$8,500</i>						<i>Liam's Lucky Charm</i>	

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**IN ORDER OF PURSE:**

**8th-Oaklawn, \$61,000, Alw (NW1\$X)/Opt. Clm (\$80,000), 4-2, 3yo, f, 6f, 1:10.27, ft.**

**QUICK DECISION (f, 3, Istan--Tell Me Again, by Majesticperfection)** went wire-to-wire to take her debut over this same track and trip Feb. 17. The 7-1 shot was hustled out to the early lead and pressed Summer Fortune through an opening quarter in :21.41. Summer Fortune inched away on the far turn, but Quick Decision clawed her way back on top after a half in :44.78. Misty Blue ranged up three wide at the top of the stretch and looked to briefly head the bay filly, but Quick Decision battled back gamely to win by 3/4 lengths. Tell Me Again's colt by Upstart RNA'd for \$35,000 at last year's Fasig-Tipton October Yearling Sale. The mare, a half-sister to graded stakes winner Letgomyecho (Menifee), produced a colt by Cairo Prince in 2019 and was bred back to Creative Cause. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.** Lifetime Record: 2-2-0-0, \$87,600. O/B-Brereton C. Jones (KY); T-J. Larry Jones.



**Quick Decision** | *Coady Photography*



**IN ORDER OF PURSE:**

**7th-Gulfstream, \$38,000, Msw, 4-2, 3yo/up, f/m, 1 1/16m, 1:43.51, ft.**

**ENVOUTANTE (f, 3, Uncle Mo--Enchante {MSP, \$153,172}, by Bluegrass Cat)**, who was third as a 23-1 outsider in her one-mile debut over the lawn, stumbled badly at the break and raced greenly down the lane, but still finished second when switched to the dirt last time out Mar. 8. The 2-1 favorite went quickly to the lead and battled Assume (Candy Ride {Arg}) through fractions of :24.15 and :47.90. She took control approaching the stretch and was briefly challenged by Token (Curlin), who had extricated herself from traffic to make a three-wide bid for the lead. Envoutante shrugged off that foe and strode clear down the lane to win by 6 1/2 lengths. Token had 1 3/4 lengths on third-place finisher Assume. The winner was a \$250,000 KEESEP yearling. Enchante's filly by Frosted sold for \$160,000 as a yearling at last year's Fasig-Tipton February sale before RNA'ing for \$185,000 at the Fasig-Tipton July Sale. The mare produced a colt by Classic Empire last year and was bred back to Mendelssohn. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.** Lifetime Record: 3-1-1-1, \$35,700. O-Walking L Thoroughbreds, LLC & Three Chimneys Farm; B-Jumping Jack Racing LLC (KY); T-Kenneth G. McPeck.

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*Mimina's Team (Uncle Mo) graduates at Gulfstream Park Thursday.*

# BEEAUTIFUL

## FIRST FOALS

Colt o/o Shirl's Soul



Colt o/o Bourbon Gleam



Colt o/o Risky Agenda



## BEE JERSEY

**FAST WINNER OF THE MET MILE (G1)**  
**FROM THE SPEIGHTSTOWN LINE**

JERSEY TOWN - BEES, BY RAHY | FEE: **\$5,000** S&N

Photos by Frances J. Karon



Contact Ryan Norton: (859) 254-0424

**4th-Gulfstream, \$38,000, Msw, 4-2, 3yo, f, 1mT, 1:35.75, fm.**  
**MIMINA'S TEAM (f, 3, Uncle Mo--Queen of The Night {GB}, by Sadler's Wells),** a \$110,000 KEESEP yearling, opened her sophomore campaign with runner-up efforts over this course and distance Jan. 19 and Feb. 23. Sent off at 5-2, the bay filly was away well and was taken in hand to rate off the early pace. Within striking distance on the turn, she darted up five wide into the lane and powered to the lead at midstretch before just holding off the late-charging Too Sexy (Quality Road) to win by a half-length. Favored Cat Lady (Kitten's Joy) pressed the pace before tiring to sixth. Altaf (Medaglia d'Oro) was seventh. Queen of the Night, a half-sister to MG1SW Falbrav (Ire) (Fairy King), produced a filly by Practical Joke last year and a colt by Union Jackson this year. Her Practical Joke yearling RNA'd for \$65,000 at this year's Keeneland January sale. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**

Lifetime Record: 5-1-2-0, \$41,920.

O-Grupo 7C Racing Stable; B-Queen Of The Night Syndicate (KY); T-Francisco D'Angelo.

**9th-Gulfstream, \$38,000, Msw, 4-2, 3yo, 1 1/16mT, 1:41.76, fm.**

**EVER DANGEROUS (c, 3, Kitten's Joy--The Rahy Angel, by Rahy),** a \$135,000 KEESEP yearling, was let go a 14-1 in this bow. The dark bay colt angled over from his outside post to chase the early leaders into the first turn and settled in third along the rail down the backstretch. He reeled in pacesetting Bear Alley (Will Take Charge) turning for home, took charge with a furlong to run and bound clear to an easy four-length victory. The Rahy Angel, with the winner in utero, sold for \$35,000 at the 2017 Keeneland January sale. Her colt by Air Force Blue sold for \$60,000 at last year's Keeneland September Yearling Sale. The mare produced a colt by English Channel last year and was bred back to that stallion. Ever Dangerous's third dam, The Caretaker (Ire) (Careleon), produced multiple Group 1 winner Mutafaweq (Silver Hawk) and Grade I winner Dimitrova (Swain {Ire}). **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.** Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$22,800.

O-Reeves Thoroughbred Racing and R. A. Hill Stable; B-Knowles Bloodstock, Inc. (KY); T-George Weaver.



LANE'S END SALES GRADUATE



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### SECOND-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: FRIDAY, APR. 3

**Constitution** (Tapit), WinStar Farm, \$40,000

233 foals of racing age/40 winners/5 black-type winners  
 4-Kentucky Derby Future Wager, \$3000K GI Kentucky Derby Future Wager Pool 4, 1 1/4m, GOUVERNEUR MORRIS, 30-1 \$200,000 KEE SEP yrl; \$600,000 FTF MAR 2yo  
 4-Kentucky Derby Future Wager, \$3000K GI Kentucky Derby Future Wager Pool 4, 1 1/4m, TIZ THE LAW, 6-1 \$110,000 SAR AUG yrl

**Honor Code** (A.P. Indy), Lane's End Farm, \$30,000

213 foals of racing age/19 winners/1 black-type winner  
 8-Golden Gate Fields, Msw 1m, DON'T UNZIP ME, 4-1 \$130,000 KEE NOV wnl  
 4-Kentucky Derby Future Wager, \$3000K GI Kentucky Derby Future Wager Pool 4, 1 1/4m, HONOR A. P., 12-1 \$850,000 FTS AUG yrl  
 4-Kentucky Derby Future Wager, \$3000K GI Kentucky Derby Future Wager Pool 4, 1 1/4m, MAX PLAYER, 50-1 \$150,000 RNA KEE SEP yrl

**Karakontie (Jpn)** (Bernstein), Gainesway Farm, \$10,000

130 foals of racing age/16 winners/3 black-type winners  
 4-Kentucky Derby Future Wager, \$3000K GI Kentucky Derby Future Wager Pool 4, 1 1/4m, SOLE VOLANTE, 30-1 \$6,000 KEE SEP yrl; \$20,000 OBS APR 2yo

**Liam's Map** (Unbridled's Song), Lane's End Farm, \$35,000

232 foals of racing age/27 winners/2 black-type winners  
 4-Kentucky Derby Future Wager, \$3000K GI Kentucky Derby Future Wager Pool 4, 1 1/4m, BASIN, 30-1 \$150,000 KEE SEP yrl

**Mr Speaker** (Pulpit), Lane's End Farm, \$10,000

79 foals of racing age/15 winners/1 black-type winner  
 4-Kentucky Derby Future Wager, \$3000K GI Kentucky Derby Future Wager Pool 4, 1 1/4m, THREE TECHNIQUE, 50-1 \$50,000 KEE NOV wnl; \$180,000 FTK JUL yrl

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**Summer Front** (War Front), Airdrie Stud, \$10,000  
 181 foals of racing age/25 winners/3 black-type winners  
 4-Kentucky Derby Future Wager, \$3000K GI Kentucky Derby  
 Future Wager Pool 4, 1 1/4m, ETE INDIEN, 20-1  
 \$85,000 RNA KEE NOV wnl; \$80,000 KEE SEP yrl

**Tonalist** (Tapit), Lane's End Farm, \$15,000  
 179 foals of racing age/25 winners/1 black-type winner  
 6-Gulfstream, Msw 1 1/16m, WIND RIDGE, 15-1



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**CAN THE MAN**, Living Vicariously, c, 3, o/o Miss Livona, by Dixie Union. MCL, 4-2, Gulfstream  
**CANDY RIDE (ARG)**, Dixieincandyland, f, 4, o/o Dixieinyankeeland, by Dixie Union. ALW, 4-2, Gulfstream  
**ISTAN**, Quick Decision, f, 3, o/o Tell Me Again, by Majesticperfection. AOC, 4-2, Oaklawn  
**KITTEN'S JOY**, Ever Dangerous, c, 3, o/o The Rahy Angel, by Rahy. MSW, 4-2, Gulfstream  
**OLD FASHIONED**, Savedbyanangel, m, 5, o/o Threelittleangels, by Bluegrass Cat. ALW, 4-2, Oaklawn  
**UNCLE MO**, Envoutante, f, 3, o/o Enchante, by Bluegrass Cat. MSW, 4-2, Gulfstream  
**UNCLE MO**, Mimina's Team, f, 3, o/o Queen of The Night (GB), by Sadler's Wells. MSW, 4-2, Gulfstream



**ALLOWANCE RESULTS:**  
**6th-Oaklawn, \$61,000, (S), 4-2, (NW1\$X), 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:12.08, ft.**  
**SAVEDBYANANGEL (m, 5, Old Fashioned--Threelittleangels, by Bluegrass Cat)** Lifetime Record: 9-2-1-2, \$134,742. O-John & Linda Prather; B-John H Prather (AR); T-John Henry Prather, Jr.  
**8th-Gulfstream, \$39,000, 4-2, (NW1\$X), 3yo/up, f/m, 5fT, :55.02, fm.**  
**DIXIEINCANDYLAND (f, 4, Candy Ride {Arg}--Dixieinyankeeland, by Dixie Union)** Lifetime Record: 7-2-2-1, \$85,699. O-Russell S. Davis; B-Crossed Sabres Farm (KY); T-Eddie Kenneally. \*\$95,000 RNA Ylg '17 KEESEP; \$60,000 3yo '19 OBSWIN.

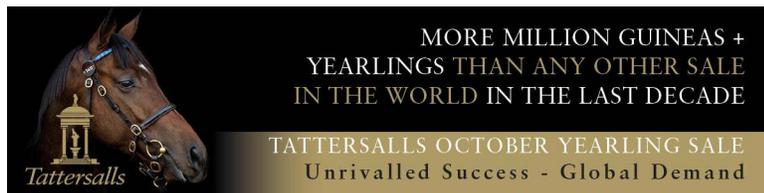
**ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:**  
**Living Vicariously, c, 3, Can the Man--Miss Livona, by Dixie Union.** Gulfstream, 4-2, (C), 5fT, :55.86. B-Melissa Webb (KY).

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## CAMARADERIE ABOUNDS AHEAD OF UNUSUAL EASTER SALE



Johnny McKeever says agents have shared information, helped each other out ahead of next week's virtual Easter sale | *Alayna Cullen*

*By Kelsey Riley*

New South Wales, the Australian state with the highest number of confirmed coronavirus cases, was placed into lockdown on Tuesday, with residents warned they could face a fine or jail time if they leave home without a good reason.

Fortunately for the nation's yearling sale market, inspections for the virtual Inglis Easter yearling sale on Apr. 7 and 8 has been deemed a good enough reason.

Newmarket-based bloodstock agent Johnny McKeever has been Down Under since January—partially by design, partially by circumstance—and earlier this week he was working through his second round of inspections on Hunter Valley farms, having been on the road for two weeks.

“We are allowed to drive from farm to farm to do the inspections,” he said. “We are allowed out, which makes a difference. If I was a lawyer I’d just be told to sit in my office or home and not move, but because it’s our job to get out and see the horses it’s ok to be out on the road.”

While the Hunter Valley is a quiet place at the best of times, McKeever said it is now a virtual ghost town. [Cont. p2](#)

## KAMEKO READY, WAITING FOR RACING RESUMPTION *By Kelsey Riley*

Last year's G1 Verterm Futurity Trophy winner **Kameko** (Kitten's Joy) is, like the rest of the Classic cohort, ticking over in winter quarters as connections await news of the resumption of racing. David Redvers, advisor to owner Sheikh Fahad's Qatar Racing, said on Thursday that the dark bay is in “incredibly good form” at trainer Andrew Balding's Kingsclere stable as he prepares for a run in the G1 2000 Guineas on a date yet to be confirmed.

“We couldn't be happier with the horse; he's done magnificently physically,” Redvers said. “He's really strengthened up. If anything he looks faster than he used to. He's gotten more muscular and he seems to be in a very good place in his mind, which seems to be very typical of Kitten's Joys, so it's always good to know that you're working with horses of that sort of temperament. But just like everyone else, we're sitting and waiting to hear what the plans are and then we'll be ready to go.” [Cont. p4](#)



Kameko training at Kingsclere | *Courtesy Kingsclere*

## IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

### NY HORSEMEN SOLDIER ON AMID PANDEMIC

Horsemen in New York are adjusting to the new “normal” in the wake of Aqueduct's shutdown due to the coronavirus. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN America.](#)

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2020 b c Expert Eye - Daring Life (Cape Cross)

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2020 b c Expert Eye - Precious Gem (Sadler's Wells)

*“We are thrilled with our Expert Eye colt, who is very strong, well-made with lots of quality. The stallion is a no-brainer as he was a high-class 2YO who did it at the highest level as a 3YO. And Juddmonte know how to make stallions.”*

JOHN & PETER FAGAN, DEERPARK STUD

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*“We felt that Expert Eye was the best looking, best performed and best value first season sire to retire in 2019 and we are delighted with the result. This is a correct, great walking filly, who, hopefully, will promote the legacy of her grandam Time Charter.”*

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2020 b f Expert Eye - Time Honoured (Sadler's Wells)

*“We are really happy with the filly. She is a good size for a first foal and has a lovely eye. Hopefully she will inherit some of the natural speed and ability of her sire.”*

TIM GREDLEY, STETCHWORTH & MIDDLE PARK STUDS

2020 b f Expert Eye - Roulette (Poet's Voice)

*“From day one the reports on this foal were very positive and we are delighted. We were very keen to use Expert Eye when he went to stud. His Vintage Stakes win was the best 2YO performance of the season, in my opinion, and to follow up at Royal Ascot and again at the Breeders' Cup really showed his brilliance. He is also a great looking horse with a big walk.”*

TROY STEVE, BLOODSTOCK AGENT FOR CASTLE ESTATES LTD

2020 b c Expert Eye - Oeuvre D'Art (Marju)

*Pictured*



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JUDDMONTE

**Camaraderie Abounds Ahead Of Unusual Easter Sale Cont.**

“There’s nothing open here,” he said. “Coffee shops are open—you can buy a coffee or get a takeaway somewhere, but that’s about it. Ninety-nine percent of restaurants are just shut. From a small population of about 24-million, one million have already lost their jobs in the last week. It’s pretty devastating.”

After the government placed strict bans on mass gatherings, Inglis announced on Mar. 26 that its flagship Easter Yearling Sale would be conducted partially online on Apr. 7 and 8, with the remainder of the yearlings set to be offered at a tentative traditional auction on July 5. Perennial leading vendor Arrowfield Stud promptly pulled all 64 of its yearlings from the sale to instead offer privately, and there have been plenty more withdrawals, but a number of key vendors have stood strong and McKeever reported a real sense of community around keeping trade turning over.

“The market is bound to be pretty depressed,” he said. “But I’ve seen a hell of a lot of nice horses. There will only be about 20 or 30 major lookers I’d think, ie. the major racing operations, managers and some bloodstock agents and a few trainers who

have managed to get away. So the word has to get around about what is a nice horse; if you’re going to spend A\$200,000 or A\$300,000 on a yearling most people want to see it once or twice. To bid online on something you’ve never seen at all for that kind of money, it’s going to be a challenge I think.”

McKeever advertised on Twitter on Mar. 24 that he would share information on his inspections free of charge, and Inglis has kept a **running list** of

agents and trainers that have been on the road.

“Myself and a lot of other agents, we’ve all rung each other up saying, ‘have you gone to this area or that area? We didn’t manage to see that farm, did you?’” McKeever said. **Cont. p3**



**Johnny McKeever** @johnnymckeever1 · Mar 24  
 With the announcement the @inglis\_sales Easter now on line maybe it was luck I've been in Aussie all the while. I've inspected so far at least 70% of the yearlings at farms. More to see over the next few days. Anyone I can help with my appraisals feel free to ask pro bono



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## **Camaraderie Abounds Ahead Of Unusual Easter Sale Cont.**

“Everyone’s kind of saying, ‘yeah, this horse is worth looking into, that horse is worth looking into.’ A lot of agents are helping each other, sharing their information, not worried about getting money out of it but just trying to get deals done.”

Vendors have pulled together too, with New South Wales nurseries accommodating sellers from Victoria, Queensland and further afield to stable their yearlings and allow them to be inspected.

“Some of the Victorians and Queenslanders have managed to get their yearlings into New South Wales, so that’s really why we’re now doing a second trip, to see those that we missed because we couldn’t get out of state,” McKeever said. “They are allowing out of state travel, but it was just a bit impractical to go down to Victoria for two days to see 20 horses.

“We’ve been quite lucky. We’ve managed to see practically the whole book from New South Wales. We have about 30 or 40 more horses to look at then we’ve done everything that could be done. Obviously we’ve not seen the New Zealand ones, as they’re on total lockdown there; the people aren’t even allowed to leave the farms. Some have withdrawn and some are going to try online, but I don’t think they’re very hopeful. It’s going to be too difficult. It’ll be very tough.”

Online auctions have actually been a mainstay in Australia for a number of years now, but those offerings have typically been restricted to horses in training, breeding stock and the like. Participating in a yearling sale online is completely uncharted territory for all involved, including McKeever.

“All I’ve ever done in the past is wave a book at an auctioneer,” the agent admitted. “I have bought the odd thing online, like a filly with a bit of pedigree for very small money. A lot of people are very dubious about how the online thing will work, but it has to work because it’s the only method they have of having the auction.”

“The Inglis guys have been absolutely fantastically helpful overall in this,” McKeever added. “I have a particular guy who said he’s going to give me a tutorial on how it works and I think a lot of the agents are in the same boat. But the Australians are slightly more technical than we are up in England, I think. I don’t think there will be too much of a problem. It’s just the fact that people can’t physically see the horse in front of them. We’ve all looked at horses on videos and it’s difficult to get that feeling off the video as opposed to when you’re physically standing next to it.”

McKeever said he expects the challenges of the online format to lead to the kind of polarization that those in the Northern Hemisphere are so familiar with.

## **IN TDN AUS/NZ TODAY**

### **WATSON BACKS INDUSTRY TO WEATHER STORM**

Mill Park’s Chris Watson believes the industry has the resilience to ride out the challenges posed by coronavirus. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Aus/NZ.](#)

**Cont. p4**

A world map in a light tan color, overlaid with a network of white lines and circular nodes, suggesting global connectivity and technology.

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The **Inglis Easter Sale** will go ahead with an **online auction** starting Monday evening (GMT). And for those thinking about investing Down Under for the first time, out of uncertainty comes opportunity.

Not only will vendors need to meet the market, the **Australian dollar is at near-historic lows** against the Euro and British Pound. As we continue, we hope some of you will join us on that journey.

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### Camaraderie Abounds Ahead Of Unusual Easter Sale Cont.

“The word will go around on the star horses; the experts will have seen them and they’ll be well checked out and they’ll continue to sell well,” he said. “But if a horse is a bit incorrect and doesn’t get great inspection notes, those might be the ones that are very hard to sell because you can’t grab someone and say, ‘come down and look at my filly. I know she’s a little offset but she’s a great sort.’ None of that is going to be able to happen. Getting your sale done after not getting your reserve in the ring is going to be very difficult to do. I suspect the sellers will set very realistic reserves. Nobody really knows because it’s a first for everyone.”

While the depressed general economy is likely to affect trade too, McKeever said those in a position to spend could find themselves in a good position.

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A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE VERY DUBIOUS ABOUT HOW THE ONLINE THING WILL WORK, BUT IT HAS TO WORK BECAUSE IT’S THE ONLY METHOD THEY HAVE OF HAVING THE AUCTION.

Johnny McKeever

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“I reckon there’s going to be some great bargains,” he said. “That’s one thing I’ve been telling people: even if you think you might be out of the market, you may not be. There will be people from the internal market, like breeders who may be well-off who need to replenish on broodmares; there are some fillies with huge pedigrees in the catalogue and they could be much cheaper this year than they normally are.”

McKeever advises a number of clients based in Hong Kong, and he said it will be a positive for the Australian market that racing in that nation has soldiered on.

“They’re a very important market for the Australians and the fact that their racing is still going, we hope that will give a bit of backbone to the sale,” he said.

Racing remains on the go in Australia, too, albeit like Hong Kong and other venues around the world, behind closed doors.

“We’re very lucky here that we have racing in Victoria and New South Wales still going,” McKeever said. “That has been a great help. The Australian government seems to be very supportive in keeping the industry going as much as we can as

long as we’re virus-free, which touch wood we appear to be at this moment in time, but that’s very delicate. Everyone has been awfully careful and I think it’s going as well in the circumstances as it could possibly go.”

McKeever has certainly not been vacationing during his extended stay Down Under, having done deals on 29 yearlings already since arriving in January, and he said his trip is going to be extended a bit longer. But with no racing on in Europe, he is in no hurry to rush back to Newmarket.

“It’s all up in the air,” he said with regards to his travel plans. “We had a flight but it was cancelled, and my wife doesn’t want to travel anyway because she would be a high-risk category and she doesn’t want to sit in an airplane for 24 hours. So we’re going to hang in here and see how we go. We’re stuck, but we love Australia, so being stuck here is not a big hardship.”

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### Kameko Ready, Waiting For Racing Resumption Cont. from p1

“We’re just frustrated at the moment because we don’t really know—and we’re hoping to learn in the next couple days—exactly what the BHA’s plans are for the resumption of racing,” Redvers added. “We don’t at this moment know whether the Guineas will happen on its allotted date—its historical date—or whether it will end up being postponed a fortnight, a month; we just don’t know, and the BHA to be fair doesn’t know either at the moment. We just have to track virus spreads and what the stats are telling us and what’s happening with the dreaded numbers. But it’s easy to focus on the numbers and forget that there is a human tragedy attached to a lot of them.”

Kameko, a \$90,000 Keeneland September yearling signed for by Redvers in 2018, won going seven furlongs on debut at Sandown last July. He was second in the G3 Solario S. and the G2 Royal Lodge S. beaten a nose and a neck, respectively, before taking the Vertem Futurity Trophy over a mile on the Newcastle all-weather on Nov. 1.

“Andrew has him exactly where he would have wanted him if he was going to run in a trial in 10 days’ time,” Redvers said. “It might be a case that we end up having to take the foot off the gas a bit just because there isn’t anywhere for him to go. At the moment he’s all dressed up with no party to go to, but we’re all keeping a close eye on the developments.”

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# EUROPEAN NEWS

## BRITISH JUMP RACING TO BREAK UNTIL JULY



**NTF President Emma Lavelle says immediate focus should be on Flat racing | *Racing Post***

Following Wednesday's announcement by Horse Racing Ireland that the Irish National Hunt season has been ended prematurely amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the British Horseracing Authority (BHA) has now announced that jump racing in Britain will break until July 1. The move has been instigated following a proposal put forward by the National Trainers Federation (NTF) in order to provide clarity to trainers and owners in the jumping sector.

The 2019/20 National Hunt season would normally have ended at Sandown on Apr. 25, but that meeting has been lost during the current temporary shutdown, along with Aintree's flagship Grand National meeting, which was set to start on Thursday.

The BHA has assembled a Resumption of Racing Group of key stake holders which is currently making plans for the sport to get underway again, possibly from May 1. If indeed racing is able to resume on that date, it will take place behind closed doors initially with a limited number of Flat fixtures.

"The decision to lose jump racing until July was not one which was taken lightly and we are very conscious of the impact this will have on many across our sport," said the BHA's chief operating officer Richard Wayman.

"We are working closely with the horsemen, racecourses and Levy Board to ensure the sport is ready for a resumption of racing at the earliest possible opportunity. Our planning is progressing well, and it is important that we keep everybody

informed as it develops to help them with their own decision-making."

He continued, "The plan involves a phased return of racing, as well as increasing the jump programme in late summer and early autumn. With that in mind, we wanted to ensure that those who own or train jumps horses have a clear a picture of how we are planning to proceed in the coming months.

"Additionally, we were keen to minimise the risk of any unnecessary expenditure by confirming that there will be no jump racing before 1 July. This will allow horses to have breaks away from training yards if owners wish them to."

National Hunt trainer Emma Lavelle, who is also president of the NTF, added, "Having canvassed the opinion of jump trainers, we felt a break in jump racing until 1 July would bring clarity for owners, trainers and staff, and allow the immediate focus to be on Flat racing, which is already losing a major part of its core season.

"There was a willingness to engage in constructive conversation amongst the BHA and other stake holders and flexibility to produce a programme that will give plenty of opportunities to the summer jump population later in the year."

With 141 wins to his name this season, Brian Hughes will be crowned champion National Hunt jockey for the first time, taking the title from Richard Johnson, who finished in second place in the table. Nicky Henderson is the champion trainer for the sixth time, with his stable having earned prize-money of £2,533,863, a little over £200,000 more than defending champion Paul Nicholls. JP McManus, with whom Henderson teamed up to win the Champion Hurdle with Epatante (Fr), is the leading National Hunt owner for the season.

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### ALINA

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At just 10 years old, Alina has already paid her way and then some as a broodmare. **Cont. p6**



**Barney Roy** | *Mathea Kelley*

**MOTM: Alina Cont.**

From five registered foals she has produced three winners, including dual Group 1 winner Barney Roy, who was last seen winning the G1 Jebel Hatta on Super Saturday at Meydan. Her other winners include Thames River (GB) (Free Eagle {Ire}), who is in training with Joseph O'Brien and won as a 2-year-old last year, and Wisdom Mind (Ire) (Dark Angel {Ire}), who is also listed placed.

Alina is out of the Group 3 winner Cheyenne Star (Ire) and when she first entered a sale ring as a foal, she fetched €200,000. She only raced a couple of times at two in France but while her racing career was unremarkable, she certainly seems to have imparted ability to her progeny. She was bought by Sun Bloodstock, formerly Eliza Park International, in 2013 with Barney Roy in utero for 65,000gns.

He has subsequently become her flag-bearer on the racecourse, winning the G1 St James's Palace S. at Royal Ascot as well as finishing second in the G1 2000 Guineas behind Churchill (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}) when trained by Richard Hannon. An injury at the end of his 3-year-old career meant he got the call to join the Darley stallion roster. However, poor fertility meant that he rejoined the racing world, this time under Charlie Appleby's tutelage. Since returning to training, he has won the Listed Prix de Montretout at Longchamp and the G2 Al Rashidiya earlier this year before a near two-length victory in the Jebel Hatta.

In the sale ring in recent years, Alina's progeny have been in demand, especially given her first progeny's exploits. Qatar Queen (GB), a daughter of Kodiak (GB) owned by Qatar Racing, topped the Tattersalls December Yearling Sale bought for 400,000gns, and last year Alina's yearling colt by Dubawi (GB) brought the top price of 3,600,000gns at the Tattersalls October

Yearling Sale when bought by Godolphin.

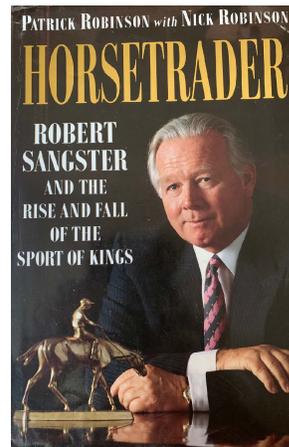
Alina currently boards with Adrian and Philippa O'Brien of Hazelwood Bloodstock near Newmarket and she has a return date to Dubawi (Ire) booked for her 2020 cover.

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— **THE GREAT RACING READ** —

**Horsetrader: Robert Sangster and the Rise and Fall of the Sport of Kings**

*By Patrick Robinson with Nick Robinson*



Unsurprisingly we have had several recommendations for the superb Horsetrader. Below, syndicate manager Sam Hoskins and Godolphin Flying Start trainee Isabella Paul tell us why they enjoyed it so much.

**Sam Hoskins:** Co-written by Kennet Valley Thoroughbreds' founder Nick Robinson, who I believe was partly responsible for introducing Robert Sangster to racing, this book would be high up there for me as it really sets

the scene to today's racing and breeding world. The incredible bloodstock market and ups and downs make for thrilling reading. These 'good old days' were well before my time but the excitement and energy are so apparent.

**Isabella Paul:** I read Horsetrader having just arrived in Kentucky as part of the American phase of Godolphin Flying Start and I did not regret it. This may seem like an obvious choice but it's a brilliant account of a bygone era in Thoroughbred racing, breeding, and sales. It harks back to the early days of Coolmore and the crucial role that Robert Sangster and his Vernon Pools fortune played in the development of the industry that we know today.

The book explores the height of the buying war between Sheikh Mohammed and Coolmore and the way in which "men from old Bluegrass families" began to "live their lives in a way they thought befitted their status as the prime movers in the most glamorous business on earth." You can't help but be drawn in by the extraordinary highs that Kentucky farms enjoyed before it inevitably all came crashing down. For anyone invested in the industry as an employee, fan, or other, it's a book that absolutely must be read.

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# ASIA

## Thursday's Result:

**MARINE CUP-Listed (Jpn-G3)**, ¥42,500,000, Funabashi, 4-2, 3yo/up, f, 1600m, 1:40.10, sy.

1--**SALSA DIONE (JPN)**, 121, m, 6, Gold Allure (Jpn)

1st Dam: Salsa Queen (Jpn), by Lindo Shaver

2nd Dam: Seaside Angel (Jpn), by Judge Angelucci

3rd Dam: Shadai Hamanasu (Jpn), by Northern Taste

O-Hirotaka Sugawara; B-Araya Farm (Jpn); T-Chiaki Hori; J-Takayuki Yano. ¥25,000,000. Lifetime Record: GSP-Jpn, 29-6-4-1.

2--**Memory Ko (Jpn)**, 121, m, 5, Espoir City (Jpn)--Memory Cap (Jpn), by Captain Steve. O-Shinzan Club; B-Taihoku Farm (Jpn); ¥8,750,000.

3--**Smart Fleurette (Jpn)**, 121, f, 4, Gold Allure (Jpn)--Bel Air Meydan (Ire), by Shamardal. O-Toru Okawa; B-Takamatsu Farm (Jpn); ¥5,000,000.

Margins: 2, 1HF, 6. Odds: 5.70, 3.10, 3.70.

Click for the [JRA chart & video](#).



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## WATSON BACKS INDUSTRY TO WEATHER STORM



Chris Watson (right) | Bronwen Healy

By Bren O'Brien

Mill Park General Manager Chris Watson believes the Thoroughbred industry has the resilience to ride out the turmoil caused by coronavirus as he oversees the preparation of an elite quartet ahead of the Inglis Easter Yearling Sale.

In a business that experiences so many ups and downs, could it be that the Thoroughbred industry is better placed than most to weather the current coronavirus crisis?

That interesting contention is posed by Mill Park principal Chris Watson as he considers the response the broader industry has made to the economic and social upheaval caused by the virtual shutdown of society over recent weeks as the world seeks to contain the spread of COVID-19.

A crisis of this nature has not been experienced for a century and has left many industries reeling. The Thoroughbred industry too has been hit with a hammer blow, but Watson told *TDN AusNZ* that he believed the character-building nature of day-to-day business of the Thoroughbred game will put those involved in good stead to weather the storm and make the changes needed to press on.

"Our industry is so resilient and people are so used to the trials and tribulations that occur. We are used to rejigging and changing our approach to the situation very quickly," he said.

He sees the upcoming Inglis Australian Easter Yearling Sale, which will be held as a 'virtual' sale after coronavirus protocols prevented a traditional live auction, as an example.

"I think with the circumstances of this virus and the way we have had to sell these horses, we have had to have that ability. Everybody has shown they can change on the move very quickly and ensure the process continues," he said.

Certainly Watson is living that mantra in his day-to-day work at Mill Park at the moment. Confined to his South Australian home by strict border controls put in place by the state government, he has been getting the job done over the phone as his draft of four is readied for the Easter Sale from Sledmere Stud in the Hunter Valley.

"We are pretty much in lockdown here and it's only Victoria and New South Wales that don't have interstate travel restrictions. If I was to go outside the state, I'd have to quarantine for two weeks," he said. "I'm trusting implicitly the guys up there at Sledmere to show our horses to the best of their ability. I'm much better use being on the phone and chatting to perspective buyers and our clients as well. That's something I can do from home and still get the same end result."

Watson had initially intended on sending his draft to the Riverside Stables at Warwick Farm but when it became clear that the Easter Sale wouldn't proceed as it usually would and that inspections were instead being conducted in the Hunter Valley, he had to redirect them.

Mill Park has an excellent relationship with Sledmere Stud at Scone, and Watson arranged with Royston and Catriona Murphy to host his four yearlings for parades ahead of the Sale.

### ***Graduate Success Powers Interest***

Mill Park's draft has been in hot demand as its reputation for producing stakes-winners continues to grow. G1 Victoria Derby winner Warning (Declaration Of War {USA}) and R.Listed Magic Millions 2YO Classic winner and G1 Golden Slipper S. runner-up Away Game (Snitzel) are among their successful graduates of recent times, while Mill Park was the leading vendor by average at this sale 12 months' ago.

Watson hopes that reputation will give them some buffer against the expected headwinds in the market.

"You've got buyers that have consistently bought off you over the years and have had great results," he said.

"The track record we have of producing stakes winners from relatively small numbers, it will certainly encourage people, regardless of the circumstances, to keep coming back. They know when they come to us at Mill Park, they will be able to source quality and most people are willing to pay the right amount of money for that product."

### **An Elite Quartet**

Quality product is certainly what Mill Park bring to the market at Easter this year with three yearlings by Yarraman Park's star stallion I Am Invincible as well as a colt by Newgate's first-season sire Capitalist who is a three-quarter brother to a Group 1 winner.

Lot 83 is a filly by I Am Invincible out of Molto Bene (Royal Academy {USA}), who won a G3 SA Sires' Produce S. and is a half-sister to Group 1 winner Mourinho (Oratorio {Ire}) and Listed winner Classic Weiwei (Shamus Award).

"She's a pretty typical I Am Invincible filly, more in the classic mould. I think she is going to be a sprinter-miler. She has a lovely bit of quality to her, plenty of size and scope and great length of leg to her. She moves beautifully. She should be well received," Watson said.

The other I Am Invincible filly, Lot 490, is also by a stakes-winning mare, Hussy By Choice (Hussonet {USA}) and is a sister to the three-time winner Zac Attack as well as an as-yet unnamed Not A Single Doubt 2-year-old filly who fetched \$725,000 at last year's Magic Millions Gold Coast Yearling Sale. Hussy By Choice is out of Little Flower (Redoute's Choice), who is a half-sister to Group 1 winning pair Maid Of Heaven (Smart Missile) and Castelvechio (Dundeel {NZ}).

"This mare has been fantastic for us. She continues to produce

beautiful types. This is her third foal, and again, she is another gorgeous looking horse. Her results in the sales ring have proven how nice her progeny are," Watson said. "We are getting great reports on her as well. She's a bit more forward, is very strong

with great bone and is a good-looking style of horse."

The I Am Invincible colt, Lot 308, is out of Listed winner Affable (Husson {Arg}), who has produced one winner from one to the track.

"He's out of a really nice family, going back to horses like Turffontein. Again, he is from a stakes-winning mare who was super fast. He's got a lovely bit of quality to him and I'm sure will be well-received. He will furnish into a really lovely horse," he said.

Lot 111 is probably the highlight of the draft, being by a Golden Slipper S. winner in Capitalist, out of Noondie (Flying Spur), who has already produced a winner of the G1 Oakleigh Plate in Booker (Written Tycoon) as well as her stakes-winning brother Banquo, who was recently placed in a Group 2 race at Caulfield.

"This has been one of the great colts that we have had on the farm all the way through. He's just had that great bit of quality to him and with Banquo coming along and updating the pedigree as well, that has been great too," he said. "He's probably more in the mould of Booker. He's got a fantastic hindquarter and gaskin to him. He's a little more compact and he looks like he will go early and I'm sure he will be well received. He's a really good-looking colt."

### **Ready to Sell**

Knowing what to expect in the market is next to

impossible, but Watson said his horses were there to sell and would have fair reserves.



Lot 83 | Inglis



Lot 111 | Inglis

"We've been through the process with our partners and owners ahead of this sale and have had a few withdrawals. That unknown factor has affected a few of our clients and they have been not wanting to risk it. They have withdrawn them and opted to race them themselves," he said. "The ones we have continued with, they are there for sale, but our clients value their horses very well and won't be giving them away. They will be realistic with their reserves," he said.

Click [HERE](#) to read today's edition of   
 Highlights Include:

- [Inglis Easter Will Be a Virtual Sale](#)
- [MagicMillions Shifts Sale to July](#)
- [Stud Fees Set for Twin Hills Stud](#)
- [TDN AusNZ–Coronavirus Daily Update](#)
- [Quick Thinker in Fine Form](#)

AUSTRALIAN GROUP 1 RACES – 2020		
Date	Race	Track
<b>THE CHAMPIONSHIPS</b>		
Apr. 4	G1 The Star Doncaster Mile S.	Randwick
	G1 T J Smith S.	Randwick
	G1 Harrolds Australian Derby	Randwick
Apr. 11	G1 Inglis Sires' S.	Randwick
	G1 Longines Queen Elizabeth S.	Randwick
	G1 Schweppes Sydney Cup	Randwick
Apr. 18	G1 Heineken 3 Australian Oaks	Randwick
	G1 Coolmore Legacy S.	Randwick
	G1 Moet & Chandon Champagne S.	Randwick
May 2	G1 TAB Classic (Robert Sangster S.)	Morphettville
	G1 Schweppes Oaks	Morphettville
May 9	G1 TAB Doomben 10,000	Doomben
	G1 TAB South Australian Derby	Morphettville
May 16	G1 Doomben Cup	Doomben
	G1 The Fuhrfy Goodwood	Morphettville
May 23	G1 TAB-Kingford-Smith Cup	Eagle Farm
	G1 Moet & Chandon QLD Derby	Eagle Farm





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