



KEEPING UP WITH JONES



The up-and-coming Jack Jones (click for video) | Tattersalls

By Emma Berry

British horseracing may have its fair share of issues, but that does not appear to be a deterrent to a swathe of young trainers, and one of the newer names to appear in race cards is Jack Jones, who has just celebrated his first full year with a licence. A former point-to-point rider who has cut his teeth by working for a wide variety of trainers internationally, including David Simcock, Richard Spencer, Ger Lyons, Mikel Delzangles and Chris Waller, Jones has notched four wins so far in 2023 from 14 starters. His most recent success came last Friday with Shot (GB) (Acclamation {GB}) on his first appearance for the trainer. Jones has also recently taken charge of Winter Moon (Ire), a twice-raced daughter of Roaring Lion owned by Barbara Keller, Cambridge Stud and David Redvers.

"I think if I look back to a year ago, from where we started, I'd have to be very happy," says Jones, who is based within Rae Guest's Chestnut Tree Stables close to Newmarket's Rowley Mile racecourse. "Last year, we had lots of seconds, but, bar a little two-year-old filly, everything we had was placed, so they were running well. In a way last year was a little bit frustrating, but I probably learned a lot through doing different things through the summer. They were running well, and Chagall was our first winner in November, which was great. We got him from Ireland, and he's been a great addition. He's finished second again twice and the plan is to go to Bath with him on the seventh for the Good Friday meeting. [Cont. p3](#)

GOOD GUESS CAUSES UPSET IN DJEBEL

By Tom Frary

Helped by the stands rail which is always a boon on the straight track at Deauville, Hisaaki Saito's **Good Guess (GB)** (Kodiac {GB}) sprang a minor upset in Thursday's G3 Prix Djebel. Trying seven furlongs for the first time, having last been seen finishing third in the Listed Prix Zeddaan here in October, the Fabrice Chappet-trained bay followed the early leader **Belbek (Fr)** (Showcasing {GB}) with Stephane Pasquier holding back for the inevitable sprint. Finding an ideal seam up the fence as **TDN Rising Star Breizh Sky (Fr)** (Pedro The Great) challenged out wide, the 9-1 shot forged ahead inside the last 50 metres to score by half a length, with Belbek eventually a length away in third.

Successful on his first two starts over sprint trips at Chantilly in the summer, Good Guess had also been ninth when Belbek was fifth behind The Antarctic (Ire) (Dark Angel {Ire}) in the G3 Prix de Cabourg here in August. The next furlong of the Poule d'Essai des Poulains may be beyond him, but Chappet is happy that it is within his compass. [Cont. p4](#)

IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

KEENELAND KICKS OFF FRIDAY

Keeneland's 15-day Spring Meet kicks off with its opening day feature, the GI Central Bank Ashland S.



Good Guess upsets Thursday's G3 Prix Djebel | ScoopDyga

Cont. from p1

Not only has Jones worked for a range of trainers, but he also has several in his pedigree. His grandmother Gill Jones trained from Upton-on-Severn in Worcestershire, while his father Nick trained point-to-pointers, including Real Milan (Ire), who was ridden to victory by Jack on five occasions. Jones's mother, also named Jill, was racing secretary to David 'The Duke' Nicholson, while his uncle Tim Jones is well known to many with the racing and breeding industry.

"I've always been based around horses at home, mum and dad were involved in hunting and racing and my grandmother used to train," he says. "When I went to uni, but I was lucky enough to ride out for Nicky Henderson during the week. I also had two stints with Paul Nicholls and Kim Bailey and then had a year working out in Australia, which was awesome. Great fun."

"Then I've been in Newmarket ever since. I had two and a half years with David Simcock and then before I set up training I was with Richard Spencer as well, so I've learned a bit about both sides of town, which was good."

No trainer is likely to forget their first winner, and for Jones it was particularly memorable as the horse in question, Chagall (Ire) (Slade Power {Ire}), won from 10lbs out of the handicap, with his lowly mark when he joined the stable being just 36. "I wouldn't say I've got a five-year plan as such, but we're here

with 14 boxes, a small barn. We'll grow as and when. We'll continue to have more horses in, slowly upgrading the quality. Look, Chagall and Navy Drums, they're rated in the mid-to-low 50s but they're in the right grade," he says with a healthy dose of realism.

"Navy's won two and finished second, Chagall has won two and finished second twice, so they're in the right grade and hopefully they can keep progressing.

"This new year everything has fallen into place. Navy Drums we picked up cheap online and, again, he's been a great addition."

The stable has grown steadily from the handful of horses under the trainer's care last spring, and he's not afraid to utilise his old riding skills when required.

"With the sort of scale of operation we are, it's a lot of hard work. I'm not going to pretend it's not," he says. "When we had only a handful of horses, myself and Polly, my other half, were doing a lot of the work ourselves, which is great because you are saving, and I'm lucky enough that I can still ride out. But it's about getting a balance.

"I think at the stage where I started--small scale, low overheads, renting a barn from Rae Guest--I'm very pleased to be getting that filled now and then hopefully we can start to build and grow from there."

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Pedigree Notes

Showway, the fifth of six foals, is one of three scorers produced by G3 Prix Miesque runner-up Show Gorb (Spa) (Caradak {Ire}), herself the leading performer out of a multiple-winning half-sister to G3 Somerville Tattersall S. victor Ashram (Ire) (Indian Haven {GB}) and G3 Burj Nahaar second Blackat Blackkitten (Ire) (Inchinator {GB}). The bay, a descendant of Prix de Diane and Grosser Preis von Baden heroine Dushka (Fr) (Scratch {Fr}), is a full-sister to the unraced 2-year-old colt Showgali (Fr).

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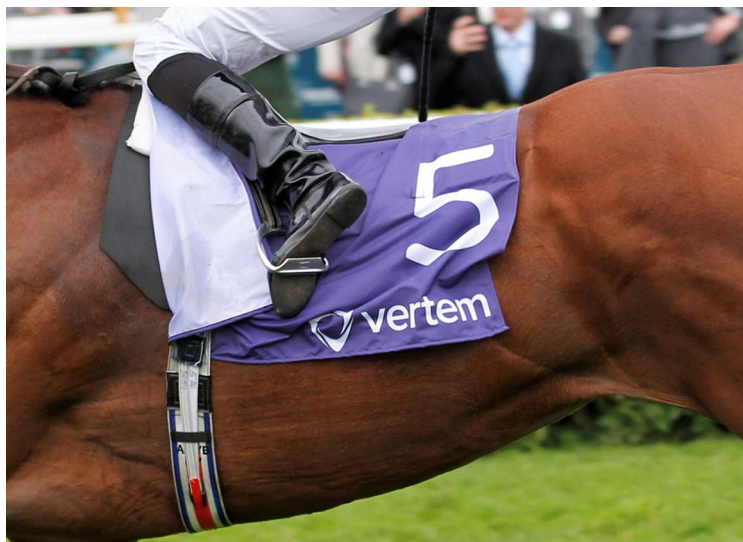
The owner-trainer combination enjoyed a winner on Wednesday when Harlem Nights (Ire) won at Wolverhampton, bringing their tally for 2023 to two winners from 12 runners. The pair enjoyed 18 winners together in 2022.

Along with Horton and Paul Nicholls, trainer of Bravemansgame, Dance had runners with Karl Burke, Tom Dascombe, Richard Fahey, Charlie Hills, Jedd O'Keeffe and Hugo Palmer last year.

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EUROPEAN NEWS

RACING SPONSOR VERTEM ORDERED TO CEASE OPERATIONS



Vertem: major sponsors | *Racingfotos.com*

Vertem Asset Management, the company that sponsors the G1 Futurity Trophy at Doncaster, has been ordered to immediately cease carrying on all regulated activities by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).

A 48-year-old man was arrested and questioned under caution in connection with the move the authority took "following serious regulatory and operational issues coming to light".

Vertem, which trades under WealthTek LLP, was founded in 2010 by prominent racehorse owner John Dance, whose colours were carried by a number of high-profile horses, including multiple Group 1 winner Laurens (Fr) and this season's King George winner and Gold Cup runner-up Bravemansgame (Fr).

Dance's horses are based at Manor House Farm in Middleham, where former assistant to Sir Michael Stoute, James Horton trains for the owner.

POINT-TO-POINT WINNER TOPS THOROUGH BID SPRING SALE



Hypersonic Missile | *ThoroughBid*

Hypersonic Missile (Califet) went to trainer John McConnell for £34,000 at the ThoroughBid Spring Sale Thursday. The 4-year-old gelding, a Point-to-Point winner on debut, was consigned by Maddie Hand.

"With Irish Point-to-Points being so hard to buy out of, you have to go elsewhere," said McConnell. "This is a nice horse who ticks the boxes and has plenty left in the tank. He could be anything and I'm glad to have found him in the Spring Sale."

A total of 16 of 19 lots sold for an 84% clearance rate. Several of the pointers are eligible for ThoroughBid's popular £5,000 Point2Rules Bonus, including Hypersonic Missile.

"With Hypersonic Missile, we'll be trying to win first time out and will try him in a bumper," added McConnell. "I haven't bought him for anyone in particular so, if anyone's interested, get in touch!"

Other notable horses sold in the Spring Sale included Irish pointer **Moorefields**, who sold to Tom Malone Bloodstock for £22,000 and two hurdlers, **The Priests Leap** and **What an Ocean**, who were bought by Aidan 'Mouse' O'Ryan.

[Cont. p8](#)

