

FABRE FAVOURITES STAND GROUND FOR FRENCH CLASSICS



Victor Ludorum | Scoop Dyga

Eleven runners remain in the potential line-up for the G1 Poule d'Essai des Poulains and 16 for the G1 Poule d'Essai des Pouliches, both of which are to be run on Monday at Deauville.

With French racing remaining restricted to domestic runners until mid-June, all foreign-trained horses have been removed from the initial list of entries. A notable domestic defector among the colts is the G1 Prix Morny and G1 Middle Park S. winner Earthlight (Ire) (Shamardal), who was scratched from his intended comeback run in the G3 Prix de Fontainebleau on May 11 with a sprained fetlock.

His trainer Andre Fabre, who notched his first victory in the race in 1984 with Siberian Express (Caro {Ire}) and struck for the seventh time last year with Persian King (Ire) (Kingman {GB}), has three remaining in the list, including the favourite, Godolphin's G1 Prix Jean-Luc Lagardere winner **Victor Ludorum (GB)** (Shamardal). The runner-up in that race, the Gestut Schlenderhan homebred **Alson (Ger)** (Areion {Ger}), is also still engaged at the latest forfeit stage along with the Coolmore-owned **Arapaho (Ire)** (Lope De Vega {Ire}), winner of the Listed Prix du Pont Neuf on May 14.

Carlos Laffon-Parias could be double-handed in the colts' Classic with the Wertheimer-bred duo of **Ecrivain (Fr)** (Lope De Vega {Ire}) and **Twist (Fr)** (Pivotal {GB}), while Henri-Alex Pantall, who won the Poule d'Essai des Pouliches last year with Castle Lady (Ire) (Shamardal), is represented by the impressive G3 Prix de Fontainebleau winner **The Summit (Fr)** (Wootton Bassett {GB}). **Cont. p2**

PINATUBO: IT'S A YES FROM SMULLEN

By Emma Berry

Ahead of the return of racing in Britain and Ireland, former Irish champion jockey and TDN columnist Pat Smullen has shared his thoughts with us on an action-packed June and beyond, which you can read here or listen to via the audio link later on in this story.

One of the most anticipated returns to the racecourse in Europe this season will be that of **Pinatubo (Ire)** (Shamardal), whose unbeaten campaign in 2019 saw him crowned European champion 2-year-old with a rating of 128, the highest awarded to a juvenile in 25 years.

As ever, with a horse of such calibre who also showed great precocity, debate has continued through the winter and spring as to whether Pinatubo can continue his dominance through his 3-year-old season and, for Smullen, he's still the one to beat.

Cont. p2

IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

HORSES ON ARKANSAS DERBY CARD TEST POSITIVE

Two horses that raced on the May 2 GI Arkansas Derby card have tested positive for an illegal substance. **Click or tap here to go straight to TDN America.**

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Tropbeau | Scoop Dyga

French Classics Cont. from p1

He is one of two potential runners for Wootton Bassett, who is also the sire of the Jean-Claude Rouget-trained **Helter Skelter (Fr)**.

Fabrice Chappet has **Celestin (Fr)** (Dabirsim {Fr}) remaining in the Poule d'Essai des Poulains and he also trains four of the fillies remaining in contention for the Poule d'Essai des Poulisches. Chappet gained his first Classic victory in the latter in 2017 with Precieuse (Ire) (Tamayuz {GB}) in the second year the French Guineas were staged at Deauville while the ParisLongchamp renovation was being completed. While racing is suspended in France's coronavirus red zone in the north-east of the country, they will again be run in Normandy.

The Chappet-trained quartet is comprised of Precieuse's half-sister **Porcelaine (Ire)** (Kodiac {GB}), owned and bred by Brendan and Anne-Marie Hayes of Knocktoran Stud, **Secret Time (Ger)** (Camacho {GB}), **Mageva (GB)** (Wootton Bassett {GB}) and **Speak Of The Devil (Fr)** (Wootton Bassett {GB}).

The convincing G3 Prix de la Grotte winner **Tropbeau (GB)** (Showcasing {GB}) heads Andre Fabre's two entrants, while another impressive recent winner, the Aga Khan's **Simeen (Ire)** (Lope De Vega {Ire}), and **Emoji (Ger)** (Soldier Hollow {GB}) have also stood their ground for Jean-Claude Rouget and Francis Graffard, respectively.

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Pat Smullen Cont. from p1

"I'm very much a 'yes' man," he says of the Charlie Appleby-trained colt. "My opinion hasn't changed just because we're not going to see him for a delayed period of maybe six weeks [from the original date of the 2000 Guineas]. He was of the highest quality with an extremely high rating from last year and he was hugely impressive in all his starts. It's good to read that he has been away from home and had a couple of racecourse gallops, including at Chelmsford, so he's going to be ready for when the Guineas is run and he is still the one that everybody has to beat. There are great reports of **Arizona (Ire)**, and he's working extremely well from what I gather, but Pinatubo has the most solid form in the book."

Since his retirement from race-riding in May 2019, Smullen has been employed as a racing advisor by Eva-Maria Bucher Haefner of Moyglare Stud and he also has his eye on a 3-year-old sister to last year's Irish St Leger winner Search For A Song (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}) and three-parts sister to G1 St James's Palace S. winner Free Eagle (Ire) (High Chaparral {Ire}) who has entries in the Irish 1000 Guineas and Irish Oaks.



Click above to listen to Irish Champion Jockey Pat Smullen speak about the upcoming June racing action with the TDN's Emma Berry

He says, "On a personal level there's a filly of Moyglare's trained by Dermot Weld called **Amma Grace (Ire)**. She's got an extremely good pedigree—a Galileo filly—and was impressive in her maiden win at Leopardstown on the back end of last year. We'd be hopeful that she will return at a decent level. So I'm looking forward to her, and Arizona is another that I'm really looking forward to seeing."

The delayed start to the season has caused consternation for owners and trainers alike, making it, for a few months at least, an even more delicate balancing act than usual in preparing potential Classic horses for a seasonal resumption on an unknown date. **Cont. p3**

★ **TDN RISING STAR** ★

Threat (Ire) (Footstepsinthesand {GB})

Owner: Cheveley Park Stud
Breeder: La Lumiere Partnership (Ire)
Trainer: Richard Hannon



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Pat Smullen Cont.

In recent weeks, the Guineas at Newmarket have been confirmed for June 6 and 7--providing racing in Britain does indeed resume on Monday, June 1. The first Irish Classics will be run at The Curragh almost a week later on June 12 and 13.

Smullen's own Classic record from more than two decades as stable jockey to Dermot Weld extends to 11 victories in Ireland and Britain, and most recently he achieved a long-held dream by winning the Derby on Harzand (Ire) (Sea The Stars {Ire}) in 2016. So he will be all too familiar with the work which goes into ensuring that these young colts and fillies peak just at the right time for their big-race assignments.

"We can do a certain amount of homework to prepare the horses but there is no substitute for a run," he notes. "I know it has become more and more common to go to the Guineas without a prep race. Trainers can do that and get horses ready for their first run but in general people like to see how they get on with their first run and progress from there. It's just a totally different year and it is going to be that way until the end of the season now. It's something we've never experienced before. Everyone is in the same boat and they are just going to have to get their horses as fit as they possibly can at home and then just get them out and get running."

He continues, "There's probably going to be an advantage to some trainers who are a little bit harder on the horses at home and will have them fitter than others, but I'm sure the other trainers that are happy to have their horses prepared to whatever percentage, maybe 80% fit for their first run, will get rewarded as the year goes on and the horses progress.

"With the Guineas running at a later date in June rather than in May, that [extra] month or six weeks will be beneficial to some more than others. The more precocious 3-year olds which would have been up and ready from quite an active 2 year-old career would have an advantage in early May and now the pendulum is going to start to swing in favour of the later-maturing horse, but that is just the situation that we're in."

Unsurprisingly, Smullen reports that his former weighing-room colleagues are eager to return.

"From the jockeys' perspective, having spoken to a lot of my friends and past colleagues, they are just desperate to get back racing," he says. "It's going to be totally different to how it's ever been before. We were lucky in Ireland to have had a little bit of a test with the 10 race days behind closed doors [in March]. So that structure and the protocols are already in place. They are pretty much ready to go again in Ireland but obviously racing behind closed doors with no atmosphere and no one in attendance is quite different, as the lads were telling me. That's as you'd expect but at this point everybody is just desperate to get back in whatever form it is in." **Cont. p4**

IN TDN AUS/NZ TODAY

MITHEN HAPPY WITH ONLINE RESULTS

Anthony Mithen of Rosemont Stud was pleased with the results of the Magic Millions online sale. **Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Aus/NZ.**

Pat Smullen Cont.

Smullen continues, "We're lucky that there is a good expanse, a lot of room on the racecourses and they can spread the jockeys out so they are not sitting on top of one another. There's ample space for social distancing and for the jockeys to prepare for their rides without coming too close to each other."

He also feels that racing owes a debt of gratitude to the owners who have kept horses in training during the uncertainties of the coronavirus pandemic. Smullen says, "Regardless of whether it's a Pattern performer or low-grade handicapper--that's irrelevant--owners have been paying bills and have been extremely understanding and patient over the last 2 1/2 months when there

didn't seem to be any idea when we would return. But they have continued to pay training fees and kept lots of trainers' businesses going, and in turn that has kept people in jobs. The owners have been the vital cog, as they always are in racing, especially in this difficult time that we had they really kept the whole thing going."

Smullen has spent lockdown at his home in Ireland with his wife Frances Crowley and their three children, and they have had plenty to keep them busy with the arrival of two foals to boost the equine numbers on their farm.

"We took the decision to buy a few foals to pinhook last year so we have two yearlings that we bought and two that we bred," explains Smullen who last year, while undergoing treatment for pancreatic cancer, launched a charitable campaign which raised more than €2.5 million for Cancer Trials Ireland.

"The timing hasn't been brilliant as we have four yearlings to sell and I think it's going to be very difficult to sell horses this year. We also have two broodmares with two foals at foot. I've found it very beneficial to have the farm and the horses and it has kept us occupied through this difficult period."

In Smullen's weekly column for *TDN Europe* last season he spoke of his desire to see the racing and breeding communities help to make the sport more accessible through an increase of social media exposure. The enforced COVID-19 lockdown, though far from ideal in many regards, has brought with it a rise of racing-related content in the absence of any on-course action.

"It's been everything that I had hoped for when we spoke about this before," he says. "What Jamie Osborne has been

doing is nothing short of extraordinary. It's hugely entertaining and it really shows the camaraderie in yards between the staff in a very difficult period. I think it's been amazing and it shows the enjoyment that can be had working in a racing stable. It has also

highlighted how well both the staff and the horses are cared for. I think Jamie should be seriously commended for it and I'm sure he'll be repaid with some new owners in the future, because if I was wanting to put a horse in training for a new owner entering the sport and you'd watched that, you'd be putting Jamie Osborne to the top of your list."

He continues, "Another account that has been really informative has been Thoroughbred Tales with various different people

taking up the account each week and showing all the different aspects of breeding and racing. That has also been very positive in my opinion. Johnny Hassett has been doing an excellent job and with the extra time that people have had on their hands through not going racing they've used it to the full advantage and sold the sport in a very positive way, which can only be beneficial to everybody."

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Pat Smullen feeding his yearlings

EUROPEAN NEWS

KAMEKO ON SONG FOR GUINEAS

Trainer Andrew Balding had a positive report regarding G1SW **Kameko** (Kitten's Joy) in advance of the G1 English 2000 Guineas on June 6, *Racing TV* reported on Tuesday. The Qatar Racing runner galloped at Kempton last week. A last out winner of the G1 Vertem Futurity Trophy S. over the Newcastle all-weather, the big bay opened his career with a debut win at Sandown, before a pair of runner-up efforts in the G3 Solario S. and the G2 Royal Lodge S.

"He had a gallop at Kempton last week and I couldn't be happier with the way he went," Balding said in a press conference, held on Zoom, arranged by QIPCO British Champions Series on Tuesday afternoon. "He looks magnificent and is a lovely horse to have anything to do with. I hope and think he's the best we've had here for a good long while."

Kameko | *Racing Post*

Kameko Cont.

“We are all in the same boat [in terms of the horses all making their reappearances] but he’s had three or four serious pieces of work since mid-March, albeit at staggered times, and his preparation is as good as it could have been. We are all excited.

“He’s a big-framed horses, not the flashiest in his routine exercise but always type that every time when you ask him for a little bit more he’s given and improved for it. Oisin [Murphy] was always saying that Roaring Lion seemed to thrive on racing and I think this horse is very similar.”

Added Murphy, who rode Qatar Racing’s late champion Roaring Lion (Kitten’s Joy), “We didn’t do anything silly, but he had a good blowout. He has a lovely turn of foot, as we all saw in his starts last year, but he’s also very relaxed. You can put him anywhere, so from a jockey’s point of view that is exciting as it leaves you with plenty of options. He goes there with a massive chance.”

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GERMAN RACING RESTRICTS INTERNATIONAL RUNNERS

Following a decision taken at a meeting of the Deutscher Galopp board on Monday night, German races will remain closed to international starters from nations which currently do not allow foreign runners. This will include the first Classic of the German season, the G2 Mehl-Mulhens-Rennen (2000 Guineas), which is set to be run on Monday at Cologne.

A statement released on the German racing authority’s website read, “Deutscher Galopp is clearly and unreservedly committed to an open Europe. The free movement between partnered racing nations is a cornerstone of thoroughbred breeding, which has always been international. With the controlled opening, foreign starters can now be admitted to German races. However, this does not apply to those racing

nations that unfortunately currently deny German horses permission to start. Unfortunately, the British Horseracing Authority, France Galop and Horse Racing Ireland have decided to take this step.

“Deutscher Galopp will continue the constructive dialogue with the sister associations in order to achieve mutual opening as soon as possible and thus return to the international normality which prevailed before the coronavirus pandemic. Until then, horses from these countries cannot start in German races.”

British-based trainer Marco Botti has won the Mehl-Mulhens-Rennen twice in the past with Excelebration (Ire) in 2011 and Knife Edge (Ire) five years later. This year he had been planning to run **Malotru (GB)** (Casamento {Ire}), the winner of the listed Spring Cup at Lingfield in February. The colt is owned by The Hon Earle Mack and Les Boyer and also won last season’s G3 Premio Primi Passi in Milan before finishing fourth in the G2 Gimcrack S. back in England.

Botti said, “It’s a difficult situation now because obviously the horse is fit and that was the race that we were really looking forward to running him in. I haven’t spoken to his owners yet and I will be asking their thoughts are as well. The plan is for him to go to America in the summer but my understanding is that at the moment it wouldn’t be so easy to travel. There is a race at Belmont on 20th June but I believe it wouldn’t be that easy at the moment to send the staff to America.”



Marco Botti won the German 2000 Guineas for the first time in 2011 with Excelebration | *Racing Post*

He continued, “I’m also considering whether he should run in the English Guineas. While he’s fit and he’s had a run, I know it’s a really tough race but we’ve got to June and other horses haven’t run and you never know. I’m just looking at all the options for the owners.” [Cont. p6](#)

German Racing Cont.

He added, "There's also Royal Ascot of course, the Jersey or the St James's Palace. Maybe we should take advantage as he has had a run—you could go to Newmarket and other horses might need the run. So we just need to reconsider basically. If he hadn't finished his race so well at Lingfield it's something I would never do, to go to the English Guineas. The plan was to step up to a mile and run on a flat mile with a bend rather than a straight course, but then unfortunately this year it's just difficult to plan anything."

Deutscher Galopp President Dr. Michael Vesper said that he regretted the fact that runners from Britain, Ireland and France could not compete in Germany in the short term. He added, "Controlled opening is best suited to the interests of both owners and active participants in these very challenging times."

With British racing set to resume on Monday, international runners will only be allowed to take part in the three Group 1 races in the first fortnight—the Coronation Cup, 2000 Guineas and 1000 Guineas. Thereafter, foreign-trained runners will be accepted for group and listed races. In Ireland, where racing is scheduled to restart on June 8, international competitors will be accepted in Group 1 and 2 races only until the end of June. France Galop is expecting to be able to accept overseas horses from mid-June but none will be permitted for the first two French Classics, the Poules d'Essai, this coming Monday at Deauville.

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BREEZE-UP SEASON BEGINS ONLINE AT OSARUS

French sales company Osarus stages the first sale of the delayed breeze-up season on Wednesday and, in a **first for European sales**, the auction will be conducted entirely online from 1:30 p.m. local time.

There have been 20 withdrawals from the original catalogue of 79 juveniles but a further 10 2-year-olds have been added to the sale as supplementary lots. These include a colt by Sea The Moon (**lot 14b**) out of the winning Cape Blanco (Ire) mare Casablanca (Ire) offered by Larissa Kneip's Haras de Saint Arnoult, which is also consigning a colt and a filly by leading young sire Wootton Bassett (GB).

All horses in the sale have been prepared in France bar two consigned by John Burke of Ireland's Hyde Park Stud, which will offer fillies by Outstrip (GB) (**lot 75**) and Tamayuz (GB) (**lot 78**). Photographs, breeze videos and vet reports are available for each horse on the [Osarus website](#).

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Lot14b, a colt by Sea The Moon, is one of 10 supplementary lots

Osarus Breeze-Up Sale Outs: 1, 6, 13, 15, 16, 21, 22, 25, 35, 38, 39, 51, 53, 56, 67, 68, 71, 76 77, 79

REDUCED EBF 2YO NOMINATION FEE

The nomination cost for a 2-year-old to the European Breeders Fund for 2020 has been reduced from \$6,000 to \$4,500, the EBF announced on Tuesday. Also, the deadline at this fee has also been extended to Aug. 31 or prior to entry in an EBF race. This nomination stage applies to 2-year-olds by a sire not registered to the EBF and standing outside of Europe and which has not been nominated at the previous deadline. Approximately 1,000 races throughout Europe are confined to EBF eligible runners and have added prize money as a result, with a total of €5.1 million being contributed to assist during the current crises—€2.5m from the Irish EBF, and £1.68m from the British EBF, with France's EBF (FEE) also using additional funds to boost prize money when needed.

"Given the current challenges that owners are faced with due to the cancellation of racing the EBF committee felt it was appropriate to offer this reduced fee for 2020 only," said EBF Chief Executive Kerry Murphy. "With breeze up sales being delayed and a late start to 2-year-old campaigns we felt it important to offer this opportunity to owners, particularly purchasers at the breeze up sales. Whilst the large majority of horses campaigned in Europe are already qualified due to the sire being registered to the EBF, we would not want an owner to be excluded from EBF races and this stage gives them that option. This year will be an all time high of €5.1million added to prizemoney by the EBF."

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IRELAND

RTE TO OFFER MORE TV COVERAGE OF IRISH RACING

A series of new one-hour evening programmes on Irish racing on consecutive Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays in June and early July on RTE television have been confirmed by Horse Racing Ireland and RTE on Tuesday. These new programmes, to be broadcasted on RTE2 and RTE Player with 10 extra meetings confirmed up to mid-July, will be held from 7-8 p.m. on Fridays and from 5-6 p.m. on Saturdays/Sundays. Hugh Cahill will be the main presenter, with guest analysts joining regulars Jane Mangan, Ted Walsh and Ruby Walsh. All of RTE Sport's racing coverage will comply with HRI's COVID-19 protocols around social distancing for behind closed doors meetings. Irish racing resumes on June 8 after it ended in March due to the coronavirus outbreak. Live RTE coverage begins for the first Classics of the Flat racing season at The Curragh for the G1 Irish 2000 Guineas and G1 Irish 1000 Guineas on June 12 and 13, respectively.

The programme schedule is as follows:

- Friday 12th June, The Curragh
- Saturday 13th June, The Curragh
- Friday 19th June, Gowran Park
- Saturday 20th June, Naas
- Sunday 21st June, Leopardstown
- June 26th - The Curragh
- June 27th - The Curragh (The Irish Derby)
- June 28th - The Curragh

HRI Chief Executive Brian Kavanagh said, "RTÉ has always been very supportive of racing in Ireland and today's announcement confirms that commitment. The new one-hour evening programmes are an opportunity for Irish racing to attract people to our sport and educate those new fans on what makes racing so exciting. We appreciate the flexibility shown by the RTÉ team around the new dates for the Irish Guineas in June and really look forward to their live coverage of our opening Classics, as well as this new departure."

"Live Sport is an integral part of Irish life and RTÉ Sport is delighted that it is returning across all RTÉ platforms," said RTE Group Head of Sport Decan McBennett. "Horse Racing in this country is a key component of that and Horse Racing Ireland are to be commended for getting racing back in a safe and responsible manner."

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FRANCE

CONDITIONS RESULTS:

4th-Dieppe, €15,000, Cond, 5-26, 4yo/up, 12ft, 2:36.87, sf. GOLDEN WOOD (FR) (g, 10, Gold Away {Ire}--Twisting {Fr}, by Pivotal {GB}) Lifetime Record: MSW-Fr, 41-13-7-4, €427,780. O-Mme Christian Wingtans & Nicolas Caullery; B-Jo Awouters (FR); T-Nicolas Caullery.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Bliss for Ever (Fr), c, 4, Slickly (Fr)--Marital Bliss (Fr), by Double Bed (Fr). Dieppe, 5-26, 8ft, 1:53.45. B-Haras d'Ecouves & Henri de Pracomtal (FR). *1/2 to Kasbah Bliss (Fr) (Kahyasi {Ire}), G1SW-Fr, \$1,799,43.

AUGIER LIKELY NEW PMU BOARD CHAIRMAN



Philippe Augier | Scoop Dyga

PMU Chairman of the Board Bertrand Meheut has resigned, France Galop and LeTROT announced on Tuesday. France Galop President Edouard de Rothschild and LeTROT President Jean-Pierre Barjon, after consulting with the public authorities, have decided to support the candidacy of 70-year-old Deauville mayor Philippe Augier at the upcoming PMU board meeting on June 9. Augier is "appreciated," said the *Jour de Galop*, "for his passion, his energy and his ability to get things done."

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BRITAIN

FINALISTS ANNOUNCED FOR LYCETTS TEAM CHAMPION AWARD

The two shortlists for the 2020 Lycetts Team Champion Award were announced by the National Trainers Federation (NTF) on Tuesday. The award celebrates the UK racehorse training yards that have developed a strong team ethos through the highest standards of staff management and safe working practices. All the shortlisted yards scored gold accreditation on The Winning Approach assessment criteria. The finalists for yards with over 40 or more horses are: Roger Charlton, William Haggas, Jonjo O'Neill, and Bryan Smart. For yards that have fewer than 40 horses, the yards on the shortlist are Susan Corbett, Dan Kubler, Richard Phillips, and Suzy Smith. The winners will be announced in June.

“We would like to thank the yards who all put considerable effort into their nominations,” said the NTF Chief Executive Rupert Arnold. “It shows that even under the stress caused by the pandemic, trainers and staff are keen to publicise how they are adopting best practice and pulling together to promote staff retention.”

There will also be a Farm & Stable Innovation and Wellbeing Award given, new for 2020, which focuses on how trainers are demonstrating how their businesses are changing, the steps taken to enhance the environment for their staff and how they support their local community.

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Stanley Ho hailed: trainer John Moore pays tribute to billionaire horse owner—'he only wanted the very best' Casino Tycoon Stanley Ho passed away at the age of 98 and he will be long remembered for his passion for racing and his superstar galloper. **Sam Agars, South China Morning Post**

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MITHEN HAPPY WITH ONLINE RESULTS



Lot 40, Gold Rush | Magic Millions

By Paul Vettise

Rosemont Stud principal Anthony Mithen admitted his head was still spinning at the end of his farm's Exclusive Online Sale successfully staged on the Magic Millions Platform. With a top price of \$295,000 achieved during Rosemont's Unreserved Sale, Mithen was more than happy with the outcome of Tuesday's auction and the results would be celebrated accordingly.

Not surprisingly, the sale-topper was the stakes-winning mare **Gold Rush (NZ)** (So You Think {NZ}), who was purchased by Auckland bloodstock agent Paul Willetts on behalf of an undisclosed overseas breeder.

"I've never put 93 horses through a sale ring through the course of a full day let alone a few hours. It was like speed dating on steroids. The activity was really good and plenty of bidders from all over country," Mithen said.

The Rosemont auction rounded out with a gross of over \$2.5 million with an average price of \$30,945.

"It was pleasing to see horses sold right around the country and indeed a number to international clients," Magic Millions Managing Director Barry Bowditch said. "The team from Rosemont Stud showcased their draft incredibly well and we received so much positive feedback from winning bidders and prospective buyers alike.

"The new Magic Millions Online Platform worked well again for our second auction and we look forward to our next internet-based sale from June 2 to 4."

United Approach

Mithen paid tribute to the efforts of his staff and to the team at Magic Millions.

"Overall, I'm really pleased and proud of the team effort-- everyone from the truck driver here at Rosemont to our causal staff who came in and gave us a hand through to Magic Millions, who made it all happen in really quick time," he said.

The top-sellers in both the broodmare and weanling divisions came as no surprise to Mithen.

"They were quality mares and quality weanlings and they made their money. They were at their valuations and no great surprises where that top end sat," he said. "It was interesting. I thought in that market with that amount of horses you might find a couple of people over-valued some and there might be a nice surprise, but there wasn't that moment in the sale.

"Maybe that's a reflection of where we're headed in these economic times. Still, there was healthy competition and I've got no complaints.

"Congratulations to Magic Millions for running such a seamless exercise, a big pat on the back to them. We'll have a few beers around the camp fire, with social distancing rules in play of course, to celebrate everyone's efforts."

With the help of an obliging client prepared to dig a little deeper, Willetts secured the top offering when he went to \$295,000 for Gold Rush, Lot 40.



Anthony Mithen | Bronwen Healy



Lot 12, a colt by Zoustar | Magic Millions

The mare, who won the G2 Matamata Breeders S. as a 2-year-old, was sold in foal to the multiple champion sire Savabeel. Gold Rush is a sister to Gold Rocks (NZ), who also won an edition of the Breeders' S., and a pedigree update was recently provided when her half-brother Tommy Gold (NZ) (Sacred Falls {NZ}) won a juvenile race in Sydney last week for trainer John O'Shea.

"I thought it was a very attractive package deal. She obviously had a few little issues going into the sale with colic and what have you and that might have put a few people off," Willetts said. "Savabeel stands at NZ\$100,000 + GST and I thought anything under \$250,000 was good buying. Luckily, my client decided to go a little bit over that to get her."

Gold Rush's immediate future has yet to be determined but there is a possibility she will remain in New Zealand.

"We'll wait for the dust to settle, but we may possibly keep her here for one more year and cover her by a New Zealand stallion and then maybe shoot her back to Australia. That's still up in the air at this stage."

While online sales were borne out of the restrictions of COVID-19, Willetts said there was a plus side.

"I said to my partner that this is quite good--we can go down to the coffee shop every now and again and then come home to try and buy a horse."

The second-highest price in the broodmare division was the \$245,000 paid by Grand Parkview Stud for **Split Lip** (Your Song), Lot 69, sold in foal to Zoustar.

The mare won the Listed Dequetteville S. as a juvenile and is a multiple stakes placegetter out of a three-quarter sister to the G1 Fruit 'n' Veg S. winner Blevvo (Blevic {Ire}) and the Singapore black type winner Oneninefiftyfive.

Yarramalong Park went to \$95,000 to secure **Goldie River** (I Am Invincible), Lot 41, an unraced half-sister to the black type winner Ragged Rascal (Denman) in foal to Russian Revolution. They are out of a sister to the G1 Queen of the Turf S. winner and G1 Coolmore Classic placegetter Diamond Drille (Al Maher) and the family of the influential sire I Am Invincible.

Zoustar Colt Shines

The top-priced weanling was a son of Zoustar, Lot 12, who sold to FT Racing for \$125,000. He is out of the winning Forestry (USA) mare Nobody Gets, whose three foals to race have all been successful. The dam is a half-sister to the G3 Vanity S. winner Musidora (Rock Of Gibraltar {Ire}), whose daughter Tulip (Pierro) was a dual Group 3 winner and her half-sister Sacred Eye (High Chaparral {Ire}) also won once at that level. Significantly, it is also the family of the Group 1 winners and champion stallions Encosta De Lago and Flying Spur.

A son of Deep Field, Lot 22, had his share of admirers before he was knocked down for \$85,000 to Matt Laurie Racing. He is out of the unraced Sorpesee (Exceed And Excel), who is a daughter of the G2 South African Oaks winner Candy Critic (Arg) (Candy Stripes {USA}) and a family littered with Argentinian Group winners.

The \$85,000 price paid for the Deep Field was matched by OTI Racing for Lot 29, an Exceed And Excel colt, who is a half-brother to the G3 Carbine Club S. winner Acatour (Sebring). Their dam is the unraced Adonia Queen (USA) (Cherokee Run {USA}), a daughter of the dual Group 1 winner Queens Court Queen (USA) (Lyphard {USA}) with the G1 Santa Anita H. winner and sire Mr Purple (USA) also featuring in the pedigree.

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Spring Carnival Upheaval on the Table

Major TAB Job Losses Confirmed

2020 Announced Stallion Fees

Trainer Michael Costa Enjoys Group Success

ARKANSAS DERBY DAY RUNNERS TEST POSITIVE



Start of Arkansas Derby | Coady

by Bill Finley

The Arkansas Racing Commission has confirmed that two horses that raced on the May 2 card at Oaklawn Park, including one in the GI Arkansas Derby, have tested positive for an illegal substance. When reached by the *TDN*, Bernie Hettel, Arkansas's state steward declined to name the horses or the substance involved. He did confirm that both positives involved the same trainer and that the matter involved only one of two divisions of the Arkansas Derby.

The *Daily Racing Form's* Jay Privman, citing "multiple sources" reported that one of the horses in question was **Charlatan** (Speightstown), who won a division of the split Arkansas Derby for trainer Bob Baffert.

The *Louisville Courier Journal's* Tim Sullivan also reported Tuesday that the horses in question were trained by Baffert and that they had tested positive for a "banned substance." Baffert won both divisions of the Arkansas Derby, taking the second division with **Nadal** (Blame). Baffert also won an allowance race on the card with **Gamine** (Into Mischief). The *Courier Journal* story did not specify which of the Baffert horses had tested positive.

Baffert issued a statement Tuesday that read: "The rules of the Arkansas Racing Commission mandate confidentiality concerning any investigation into an alleged rule violation until there is a written decision of the Stewards. I am extremely disappointed that, in this instance, the Commission has not followed its own rules on confidentiality." **Cont. p3**

NURSERY'S PATIENT NURTURE OF EQUINE SAPLINGS

by Chris McGrath

The man who plants a tree knows he may never enjoy its deepest shade. But he still gets much in return: above all, a length of perspective that can absorb success and failure with the same, dispassionate sense of their transience. You could ask no better mindset of a horseman. And, sure enough, a Thoroughbred could wish for no better environment than the farm that shares its site with--and owes its name to--the oldest arboreal nursery in Kentucky.

True to its heritage, John Mayer presides over the mares and foals of Nursery Place with the same temperate hand that he applies to the planting of saplings, over two centuries after the birches sown by its founders, or indeed to the patient building of stone walls in midwinter--the only window in a calendar dominated by the perennial cycles of foaling, prepping and sales. **Cont. p4**

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Wednesday, May 27, 2020



A profile of Horsephotos' founder *Harold Roth* kicked off our *Behind the Lens* series on racing photographers, but during the pandemic, Roth has turned his sights to other subjects, including the soothing sights and sounds of Malibu Beach near his California home. [Click here](#) or on the photo above for a minute of calming ocean vibe. | Getty Images

ASMUSSEN FINED, IOWA DERBY RUNNER-UP DQ'D

8

The stewards at Prairie Meadows disqualified the second-place finisher in the 2019 Iowa Derby Monday, ruling a post-race positive test for the beta-blocker drug Atenolol was likely the result of "inadvertent exposure."

STEEPLECHASE RACING LOOKS FOR A WAY BACK

9

In any other year, the spring steeplechasing season would have concluded last week with the races at Fair Hill, Maryland, but the chaos caused by the coronavirus pandemic has officials looking for a way back for the sport.



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Arkansas Derby Day Card Positives *(cont. from p1)*

Baffert's statement continued, "I am hoping for an expedited investigation and look forward to being able to speak soon about any written decision of the Stewards, if and when it becomes necessary and I'm allowed to under the Commission's confidentiality rules."

The *TDN* sent a follow-up text to Baffert asking what drug was involved. He did not respond.

Hettel said split samples of the tests had either been sent to a referee laboratory or would be on their way shortly.

"As of today, a referee laboratory has been offered, selected and accepted by the Baffert group," Hettel told the *TDN*. "Other than that we will have to wait for the result to get back from the referee."

Hettel said getting samples tested has been difficult during the coronavirus and he did not know how long it would take before receiving tests results from a referee lab.



Charlatan | Coady

A final ruling cannot be reached until after the results of the split sample test become known.

"If the test is confirmed, we will continue on," Hettel said. "If it can't be confirmed, we will drop the case. We will have to wait on that. It's a matter of how long it takes."

He added that he has been in touch with the trainer involved.

"I have had multiple conversations over this past weekend with that trainer," Hettel said. "And I have told him exactly what the result was, asked if he wanted a copy of the lab work that was done and then told him of the availability of laboratories for confirmation."

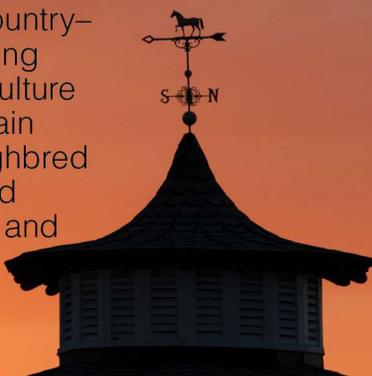
Baffert has said that both Nadal and Charlatan may have their next starts in the June 20 GI Belmont S. Charlatan earned 100 Kentucky Derby points with his six-length win in the Arkansas Derby, the only points on his record as his two prior wins came in a maiden and an allowance race.

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Nursery's Patient Nurture of Equine Saplings

(cont. from p1)

"So I lay rock in the snow," Mayer says wryly. "It's kind of nice. The quietness, the concentration, the way the weather can slip up on you..."

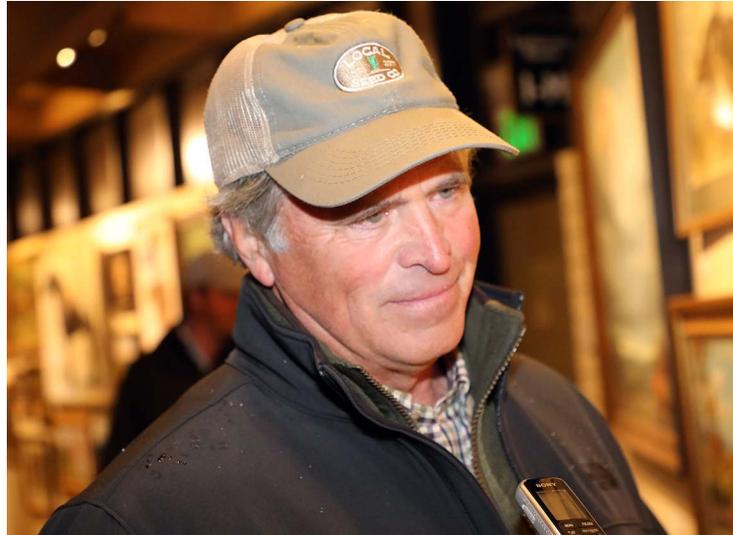
His son Griffin remembers being made to help with the planting of trees as a kid. Now his own children climb on them.

That's one measure of this very special family enterprise: a place of unhurried sensitivity to the rhythms of nature, from the buds of springtime to the weaning of foals, while also fully attuned to the imperatives of the 21st Century bloodstock market.

The Mayers--Griffin's brother Walker is also integral to the team--had a wonderful 2019 at Keeneland. Their small November draft, comprising just three weanlings, achieved the highest average of the entire auction: a \$500,000 Kitten's Joy colt; a son of Ghostzapper that made \$395,000; and a Munnings

filly sold for \$395,000. The half-dozen yearlings they targeted at Book 2 in September, equally, put all the big, glossy brands in the shade. Each made six figures, for an aggregate \$1.94 million, headed by a \$900,000 Quality Road colt.

He was out of a typical Nursery Place mare in Hot Spell (Salt Lake), bought for \$85,000 at the 2015 January Sale and owned in partnership by John, Griffin and Walker; their uncle Happy Broadbent; and friend Logan Voss. It was equally characteristic, however, that John Mayer was reluctant to be featured by *TDN* in the immediate afterglow of those successes. Not that there's anything reserved or discouraging about this relaxed, rather dashing figure, lolling in his office chair. It's just that he



John Mayer | Keeneland photo

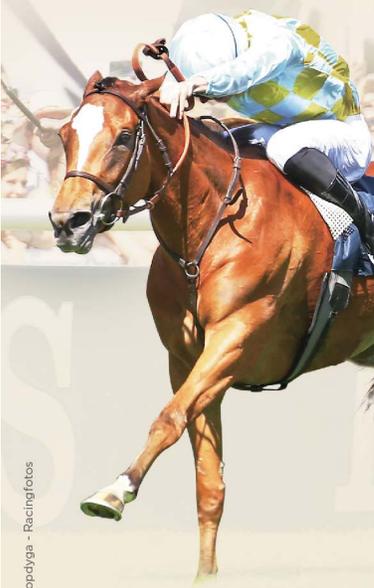
knows the Thoroughbred to be the ultimate tutor in humility, and has due distaste for the conflation of luck with genius.

Cont. p5



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It is men of this reflective, understated stamp, however, who reliably yield the most profound insight. You can wager that more would be learned in a single morning following John Mayer through the Kentucky River Palisades, among creeks and forest and cliffs, than from a fortnight with the braggarts of the Keeneland pavilion bar.

"I don't know how that happened in September," he says with a shrug. "Things just lined up. I mean, yes, everybody worked really hard. But it was just a group of really nice horses that we managed not to screw up. There's not a right way and a wrong way. There's just a way we want to do it. But those good horses, they're gifts. Plain and simple."

Nonetheless, the fact remains that more industrial operations could never function like Nursery Place. For one thing, it's labor intensive even by the standards of our unusually cumbersome industry, and duly contingent on the loyalty and commitment of its long-serving staff. Griffin reckons to lose 10 pounds of winter waistline every year, by hand-walking yearlings.



\$900,000 Quality Road colt at Keeneland | Keeneland photo

Around a quarter of the foals--from a roster of around 40 mares--tend to be sold either as weanlings or short yearlings.

"Because truthfully, the way I want to do it, I don't want to prep more than about 30 yearlings," John says. "Other people can prep a lot more. Don't ask me how. I don't want to know. We're really blessed to have this pool of help, families that have been here for 25, 30 years. Everybody knows what's coming in April, or May, or June.

"I don't consider myself a real bright guy. I'm a paint-by-numbers guy. Like Dec. 1, the maidens and barrens are under the lights. [In a normal year] Apr. 15, if we're going to Saratoga, those horses are starting to walk. By May 15, the September horses are starting. The babies, Aug. 1. The sun's going to come up over there in the morning, it's going to go over, and go to bed over there at night." **Cont. p6**



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John continues, "So, you don't wait until you have to sign on the dotted line. You just get started. Because if you go early enough, you're not under the gun if you get a problem."

Every farm claims attention to detail, but things just can't be done quite this way except at a place like this. Griffin says that nothing vexes his father like those rare occasions when forced to delegate the dawn feed round.

It's an environment that develops tone and agility by imperceptible increments. The pasture, for instance, is expansive and undulating; and the walking machine is kept to a minimum. A hand-walked yearling, the Mayers argue, is a very different specimen from the robot honed by the numbing routine of the machine or pool. Again, it's all about patience: another stone in the wall.

"When they're out there on the end of the shank, at the sale, they just drop their heads," Griffin explains. "Horses on the machine, you'll see them a little more... You wouldn't say tight, but..."

"A little choppy," suggests John.

"Yeah, and they don't have the depth of hip or gaskin of a hand-walked yearling. And when you swim a horse, you get all the muscle you want—but he's been swimming. So what about when you're running over the ground and hitting that surface?"



Griffin Mayer | Keeneland photo

They are wary, too, of the mental impact of the machine.

"Hand-walking, you're building a trust relationship with the guy who's going to go out there and show the horse," Griffin says. "We start at the beginning of the summer: 'Who's going to be on this guy? Who would get along good with that filly?'"

This literal "hands-on" quality extends to the farm's own grass bedding, around 9,000 bales a year. In the middle of the prep season, for three weeks, there's hand-walking all morning and then baling grass all afternoon.

"It's tough for everyone," Griffin says. "But the longer they've been here, seeing how the wheel turns and what the results are, the more it makes sense to them."

Yes, of course, they have colics; but far fewer than on straw. The fields benefit, from the rotation; and a lot of mares would rather browse their bedding than finish hay imported from Ohio.

Seeing the Mayers share in all this labor doubtless helps to knit team spirit. But then John Mayer was raised to match words with deeds. His father was a Colonel in the Marines, for one thing, while the family's roots in this soil go back to pioneering days. They came out of Virginia in 1792. One brother built a red timber cabin, still standing, another established the house where Griffin now raises the next generation.

John's grandfather raised cattle, hogs, sheep, corn, tobacco. He was also a Master of Hounds for 40 years in glorious hunting country. But gradually the foxes were moved on by coyotes, the city limits began seeping outwards and "pretty soon the farmer didn't have anything to sell but his land."

Today, nature's precarious hold on the Palisades must be jealously defended, tree by tree, against suburban development. But the fragmentation of the original estate has been arrested and even reversed, somewhat, with the 600 acres of Nursery Place now encompassing an adjacent tract salvaged against development.

It was not until John came back from college, about 40 years ago, that it became a pure horse farm. Even then, his sense of vocation was gradual. There had been the foxhunting, as a kid, but his father's military approach to equitation had taken some of the fun out of riding.

Cont. p7

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"He had trained with the French Olympic team," recalls John. "He was very disciplined and that's the way we were taught to ride: forget the reins, forget the stirrups, use your knees, lean. But I talked to Mr. Boone, who owned Wimbledon, and said we had this land out here. I didn't necessarily know I wanted to be in the horse business. I just wanted to stay on the farm. And he said, 'When you get out of school, come here and work under Ted Bates.'

"At that time they were probably foaling 150 or 160 mares. They had this Wall Street money coming in, they had Relaunch and Sensitive Prince and Tim the Tiger in the breeding shed. It was spectacular. I remember going over to Creekview and getting the dam of Mt. Livermore. Ted was very quiet, but a really nice man and a good teacher. Though his damned poodles... The smell of that car! Anyway, like a young, dumb S.O.B., I left after six months. Said, 'I got this.'"

He came back and converted an old hunters' barn built into the side of a hill. The next phase of his education, being based on trial and error, really would require him to be a fast learner.

"The stove is hot," says John with a grin. "I did touch it three or four times before I figured it out..."

Numbers got "stupid" at one point, and there were various failed experiments. What did work, however, and for a long time, was a program of buying or claiming racemares whose pedigrees were heating up, to sell

on with a commercial cover. But the turnover was exhausting, and John finds that pedigrees today have lost definition. In the old days, marquee stallions would seed marquee families.

"You could easily identify them," says John. "But now it's getting pretty tough, because they're coming out of nowhere, anywhere."

That has duly become a lesser part of the program, and the boarding of mares has largely been phased out too—even though Paul Robsham kept Pretty Discreet (Private Account) on the farm, and she delivered two Grade I scorers in Discreet Cat (Forestry) and Discreetly Mine (Mineshaft). Nowadays, the game-plan is to have a little skin in the game.

"Look, I admire these guys that can make a great living boarding horses in large numbers," says John. "But I just don't want to do that. When you get to a certain number, that's what it is. A number. It's no longer a horse. It's just a revolving door."

As it is, the Thoroughbred saplings of Nursery Place reliably tend to take root and bloom on the racetrack. That's obviously been trickier than normal, this spring, albeit Linny Kate (Tonalist) won her only start at Gulfstream and another farm-bred, Taishan (Twirling Candy), has been rubbing shoulders with some of the leading sophomores. Everyone is looking forward, meanwhile, to the return of Selflessly (More Than Ready). Consigned as a yearling, she broke her maiden in the GII Miss Grillo S. before running a close fifth in the GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies' Turf.

Understanding the market as they do, last year the Mayers sent around half the mares to fashionable new stallions. But they do at least try to prove young mares with established sires, and vice versa.

"I do think that the stakes-producing mares have an air about them," John suggests. "I know that sounds crazy—but there's 25,

30 of them on the farm now, and you can kind of pick them out. They may not always be correct, but the mechanics are there, the walk, the balance. And I do think there's something about the way they carry themselves.

"Though one of the best mares we ever had was crooked as a snake. I bought her as a yearling, crooked, but it was one of W.T. Young's families I was dying to get into. She never did make it to the races, but she was very fast. And her second foal was



Selflessly | *Coglianes*

Wiseman's Ferry (Hennessy)."

He became the sire of Wise Dan, whose trainer Charlie LoPresti has served the Mayers well—not just as trainer of the occasional retained filly, but also as mentor for Walker's racetrack apprenticeship.

"You got to love it first," stresses John. "I've tried to tell both boys, if you're doing it just for the money, you need to do something else. Because while I don't perceive it as hard, it is every day and obviously there are a whole lot more lows than highs. But you kind of find something... It's not just going to Keeneland, or Saratoga. You can just love the getting up in the morning, and being tired at night. Because, like I said, these good horses are gifts."

That lesson has not been wasted on Griffin.

Cont. p8

"It's those little wins," he says. "A mare in foal. A live foal. It's a great feeling when you have a foal, and everything goes right, and we wait 30 minutes and it gets up. And you walk out the barn, and look at the stars, and you're like, 'Here I am. It's the middle of the night. But I'm happy.'"

So let's put it to them this way. When your life is your work, and your work is your life, it doesn't mean you're working all the time. It means you're living all the time.

"Pretty fair statement," says John. "There's a lot of ways to skin a cat. And this is just a way that works for us. And, yes. It's a way to make a living from a way to live."

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ASMUSSEN FINED \$1,000 FOR BETA-BLOCKER POSITIVE; RUNNER-UP DQ'D FROM 2019 IOWA DERBY

by T.D. Thornton

The stewards at Prairie Meadows disqualified the second-place finisher in the 2019 Iowa Derby Monday. They ruled that a post-race positive test for the beta-blocker drug Atenolol was likely the result of "inadvertent exposure," yet because of mitigating factors that included the "extensive medication violation history" of trainer Steve Asmussen, the Hall-of-Fame conditioner would be fined \$1,000.

Atenolol slows the heart rate and decreases blood pressure when prescribed in humans for various cardiac ailments. The Association of Racing Commissioners International (ARCI) lists it as a Class 3, Penalty B substance in its model rule guidelines.

The ARCI's recommended penalty for Atenolol is a 15-day suspension absent mitigating circumstances and up to a 60-day suspension if there are aggravating factors. The administrative penalty is a minimum fine of \$500 absent mitigating circumstances, and a maximum of \$1,000 if there are aggravating factors.

Asmussen was not suspended for any period of time. It was not immediately known if he would be appealing the fine.

Shang (Shanghai Bobby) triggered the positive. The 10-1 shot endured a rough trip and crossed the finish line third in the \$250,000 stakes July 5, 2019, but was elevated to second when his rider claimed foul against the winner, resulting in a disqualification.

The post-race lab test reported Atenolol at 1.99 ng/ml in urine. Asmussen chose to send his split sample to a referee laboratory that confirmed the split sample of Atenolol at 1.2 ng/ml in urine and at 12 pg/ml in serum, the ruling stated.

"There is no acceptable level for Atenolol in any sample, as there is no screening limit," the stewards' ruling stated, noting that Asmussen, at a May 15, 2020 telephonic hearing with his attorney present, "did not dispute the positive test result, but rather provided evidence as to the potential cause."

One of those potential causes included evidence that purported to show Atenolol to be in the local water. Yet the stewards noted that, "Mr. Asmussen's horse shipped in three days prior to the race [while] horses who were located at the track for the entire racing season experienced no exposures that showed up in any positive post-race tests."

Another potential contamination cause was allegedly related to a human handler, possibly from an employee urinating in stalls, a practice that Asmussen testified is "impossible to stop," according to the ruling.

"There are mitigating factors which cause the stewards to impose no suspension penalty against Mr. Asmussen's license in this matter. The mitigating factors are as follows: The amount of the drug found was extremely low, and there was substantial persuasive evidence provided showing Atenolol can be an environmental substance," the ruling stated.

"The board believes it was an inadvertent exposure, and not a deliberate administration," the ruling stated. "The board feels the contamination most likely came from a person closely associated with the horse, and not from the local water. [However] this disqualification is justified due to the irrefutable drug positive. Although it is likely that the horse carried the drug in his system due to an inadvertent exposure, he nonetheless carried the drug in his system, which necessitates the disqualification to ensure the integrity of racing and to instill confidence in the betting public."

In addition to the forfeiture of \$49,700 in purse money, the ruling stated that Shang has been placed on the veterinarian list and must pass a commission-approved exam before being eligible to run. However, nearly a year has passed since the race in question. Shang was off for six months after the Iowa Derby, won a comeback allowance race at the Fair Grounds in January, and has subsequently started three more times at various tracks, running fifth once and second twice.

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Life's Work: John Williams

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Keeneland Life's Work Project No. 7

SHUT DOWN BY CORONAVIRUS, STEEPLECHASE RACING LOOKS FOR A WAY

BACK by Bill Finley

In any other year, the spring steeplechasing season would have concluded last week with the races at Fair Hill, Maryland, the latest hunt meet to draw a large and energetic crowd, there for the party as much as the races. Instead, the jump racing community is trying to figure out how it can salvage what has so far been a lost year.

No slice of Thoroughbred racing has been hurt more by the coronavirus than steeplechase racing. With 14 of the 16 spring meets having been cancelled due to the pandemic, there has yet to be a single jump race contested in the U.S. this year. And the path back is not clear. The majority of the funding for the hunt meets comes from admission and parking. Most have no betting and the ones that do on the spring schedule limit wagering to on-track fans.

“We are the antithesis of what’s going on in the rest of racing,” said National Steeplechase Association (NSA) Director of Racing Bill Gallo, Jr. “We depend on large crowds as the only revenue source we have other than sponsorships. So, it’s been a challenging spring for us.”

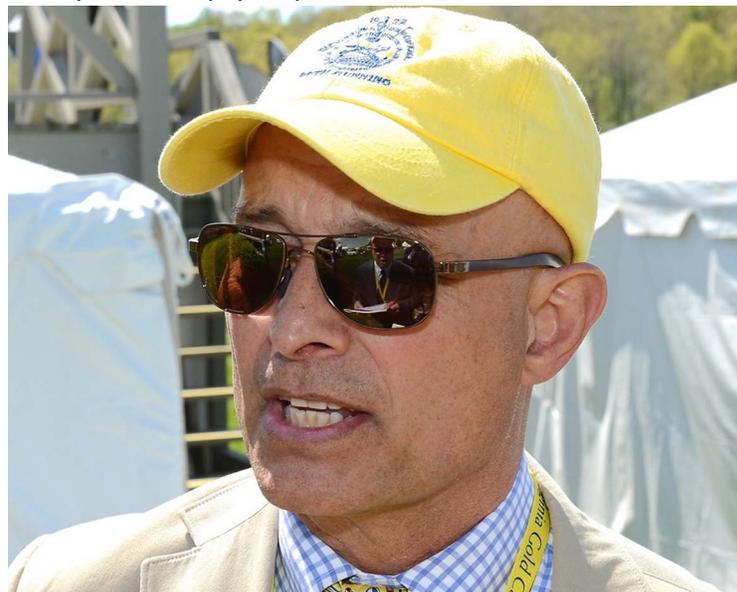
Gallo is hoping that something from the spring season can be salvaged. The NSA has rescheduled the Middleburg (Va) Spring Meet for June 13 and the Virginia Gold Cup for June 27 and has requested that the state give it permission to run spectator-free. The Virginia Gold Cup normally draws a crowd of more than 50,000 and has been in operation since 1922.

“Even though two meets doesn’t sound like much, it will be a huge step if we can do this,” Gallo said. “The horsemen are desperate to run the two Virginia meets.”

If able to run, the two meets will give away a combined \$375,000, which, Gallo says, will represent a reduction of about 30 to 40%. Nonetheless, trainers are eager to start racing again.

“No doubt, this has been debilitating,” said trainer Kathy Neilson. “There have been no opportunities. We’ve all been training, schooling, trying to get ready for any opportunities we might have. It’s going to be really tough going for a while.

The steeplechase season is divided into three parts, the spring hunt meet season, summer races at flat tracks like Saratoga and the fall hunt meet season. The spring races start in South Carolina and include meets in Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Delaware and Pennsylvania. The crowds are large and the admission and tailgate parking spots are not cheap. General admission at the Virginia Gold Cup is \$25 for an individual, \$85 for a car and hospitality tents sell for as much as \$22,500. The money is used to pay for purses and donations to local charities.



NSA president Al Griffin, Jr. | Douglas Lees

Earlier this month, NSA President Al Griffin, Jr. reached out to Virginia Secretary of Agriculture Bettina Ring and sought permission to run the two meets with a limited amount of spectators. When told that wasn’t feasible, the NSA amended its request to holding spectator-free racing. The organization is awaiting an answer from the state.

Spectator-free racing will mean virtually no revenue and a guarantee that the hunt meets will lose money, but Gallo said it was important for the sport to start up again.

“Our president, Al Griffin, is committed to our horsemen that have been training these horses since January for a 16-meet schedule that didn’t happen,” Gallo said. “In his mind, we owe the owners, the trainers, the grooms, everybody who has been working with the horses. There won’t be any fans and therefore no revenue. It’s going to cost Middleburg some money and it’s going to cost the Virginia Gold Cup some money.”



The Iroquois Steeplechase in Nashville | Horsephotos

The summer season may include as many as 12 races at Colonial Downs and nine at Saratoga. There doesn't appear to be any reason why those races won't take place.

The bigger question is what will happen to the fall races? Starting in Lexington at the High Hope Steeplechase meet, there are 12 hunt meetings scheduled for the fall. That includes the meet at Far Hills, New Jersey, which attracts more than 40,000 people. Tickets to the meet are available at the race course's web site, but it is not known yet if they will be allowed to have fans for the Oct. 17 races.

"Unfortunately, I think we are going to have to write this year off," said trainer William Dowling. "Even when we get back to racing, I think we will be doing it behind closed doors the rest of the season. The whole world is going to be different for a while. I can't see there being any big outdoor events."

Gallo is holding out hope that at least some of the fall meets will be run before fans. If not, coming up with purse money is going to be a problem.

"I'm not quite sure what they will look like," Gallo said of the fall meets. "I don't think there will be any cancellations, but it will be challenging. We are trying to race with crowds, not without crowds. We don't have the luxury of pari-mutuel gambling or having our races on the ADWs. We are trying to figure it all out."

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MCGREEVY TO BUY FOR BREEZE EASY

Prominent bloodstock agent Tom McGreevy will begin selecting horses on an exclusive basis for Mike Hall and Sam Ross's Breeze Easy LLC starting with next month's OBS Spring 2-Year-Olds in Training Sale, it was announced Tuesday.

"We are delighted that Tom will be working with Breeze Easy as we continue to develop our racing and breeding operation," said Breeze Easy managing partner Mike Hall.



Tom McGreevy | Fasis-Tipton Photo

Breeze Easy racing manager Mike Mollica added, "Tom's track record and reputation go before him, and we are extremely fortunate that the opportunity for him to join our team presented itself."

Best known as the longtime bloodstock advisor to Rick Porter's Fox Hill Farm, McGreevy is credited with selecting the likes of Horse of the Year Havre de Grace (Saint Liam), Eclipse Award winners Songbird (Medaglia d'Oro) and Midnight Lute (Real Quiet) and Breeders' Cup winners Battle of Midway (Smart Strike) and Round Pond (Awesome Again).

"I am excited to work with Mike and Sam and also thankful for the opportunity," said McGreevy. "Our goal is to get to the big races on Saturday afternoon."

Since its emergence several years ago as a major force in the bloodstock market, Breeze Easy colorbearers include last year's GII Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf Sprint hero Four Wheel Drive (American Pharoah) and graded/group stakes winners Late Night Pow Wow (Fiber Sonde), Imprimis (Broken Vow) and Shang Shang Shang (Shanghai Bobby).

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DATA FOCUS OF PETERSON SURFACES PRESENTATION

Dr. Mick Peterson, Executive Director of the Racing Surfaces Testing Laboratory and Professor, Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering, University of Kentucky gave a presentation entitled "Track Surfaces: International standards for racing surfaces and the expansion of the Maintenance Quality System" Tuesday as part of the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation's weekly webinar series. The series was developed to make up for the cancellation of the ninth Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Peterson's presentation was divided into three parts--"current best practices for testing and documentation of racetrack maintenance;" "recent developments in industry standards and adoption of international test standards" and "the future of racing surface testing" and featured video interviews with Glen Kozak, NYRA's Vice President of Surfaces and Facilities; Jim Pendergest, General Manager of The Thoroughbred Center and Director of Surfaces at Keeneland; Dr. Stephanie Bonin, Biomedical Engineer at MEA Forensic; and Dennis Moore, Track Superintendent at Del Mar and Santa Anita.

Much of the focus was centered around the implementation and continued development of the Maintenance Quality System (MQS), a comprehensive system developed by Peterson and incorporated by a number of tracks for the collection and analysis of data related to track surfaces. Peterson said the ultimate goal was for the MQS to become a “black box” for analyzing exact conditions under which catastrophic incidents and injuries occur. He noted that for the MQS to reach its full potential, work must still be done on the automation and standardization of data along with an overall improvement on the quality of data.

“If you had asked me 10 or 15 years ago, horse racing was well behind other sports [in compiling and analyzing safety data],” Peterson said during a question-and-answer segment. “Right now, I think that we have some of the best protocols and standards--and data--and I’d certainly say that the Equine Industry Database is a key element of this. The data that we’re acquiring from horse racing, I would put up against any sport. Certainly we have privacy issues for the jockeys, but we have much better tracking for the horses.”

Next week’s webinar will be “California Necropsy Program: Lessons learned from Dr. Sue Stover’s research” moderated by Dr. Jennifer Durenberger, The Jockey Club Steward, New York Racing Association and featuring Dr. Sue Stover, Professor of Surgical and Radiological Sciences at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine.

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KEENELAND TO SPONSOR MAKEOVER INITIATIVES

Keeneland will be a sponsor of prominent equine safety and welfare initiatives at the Retired Racehorse Project’s Thoroughbred Makeover this year: the Arrival Exam and the Finale Jog.

The Arrival Exam was instituted last year at the Thoroughbred Makeover and National Symposium, presented by Thoroughbred Charities of America, and required each horse to have proof of current vaccinations, vitals within a normal range, be scanned for a microchip that has been registered with The Jockey Club, pass a walking soundness exam and score a four or higher on the Henneke Body Condition Scale.

This year, RRP will institute a jog for all Thoroughbred Makeover Finale qualifiers, with the top five finishers from each of the 10 disciplines offered being asked to present their horses in-hand at the jog for a ground jury consisting of at least two veterinarians and the chief steward the day prior to competing in their respective discipline championships.

“So much time, effort, patience, skill, money and more goes into bringing a young Thoroughbred, whether it’s leading up to their first race or after their final start as they are being retrained for a new career,” said Jen Roytz, executive director for the RRP. “Keeneland and the Retired Racehorse Project are committed to setting the standard for equine welfare and safety of these athletes in their on-track careers and off, and initiatives like these will continue to help us raise the profile of Thoroughbreds in the sport horse world.”



A horse's vital signs are checked at the 2019 Arrival Exam
Giulia Garcia

Keeneland President and CEO Bill Thomason added, “Keeneland is pleased to support the outstanding work of the Retired Racehorse Project and the Thoroughbred Makeover in showcasing these talented horses. Keeneland is committed to the safety and welfare of horse and rider, not just on the race track but in all disciplines. We applaud the Arrival Exam and the Finale Jog, two industry-leading initiatives that promote healthy second careers for these equine athletes.”

The 2020 Thoroughbred Makeover and National Symposium is scheduled for Oct. 7 through Oct. 10 at the Kentucky Horse Park.

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Saturday, Churchill Downs, post time: 4:08 p.m. EDT

WINNING COLORS S.-GIII, \$100,000, 4yo/up, f/m, 6f

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Sneaking Out	Indian Evening	KMN Racing LLC	Hollendorfer	Ortiz	120
2	Break Even	Country Day	Klein Racing	Cox	Rosario	120
3	Princess Causeway	Giant's Causeway	Winchester Place Thoroughbreds LLC	Wilkes	Landeros	120
4	Bell's the One	Majesticperfection	Lothenbach Stables, Inc.	Pessin	Lanerie	120
5	Unique Factor	The Factor	Pantofel Stable, Wachtel Stable and Deutsch, Peter	Miller	Geroux	120
6	Take Charge Angel	Will Take Charge	Sheffer Racing, LLC	Colebrook	Leparoux	120
7	Spiced Perfection	Smiling Tiger	Haruya Yoshida	Casse	Castellano	122
8	Mia Mischief	Into Mischief	Stonestreet Stables LLC	Asmussen	Santana, Jr.	122
9	Lady Suebee	First Defence	Hronis Racing LLC	Sadler	Baze	120

Breeders: 1-KMN Racing, 2-Richard Klein & Bert Klein, 3-Calumet Farm, 4-Bret Jones, 5-Sebastien G Murat, Martin Keogh, Justin Wojczynski & Gemma Freeman, 6-Sheffer Equine Partners LLC & Ronald Stocks, 7-Premier Thoroughbreds LLC, 8-Spendthrift Farm LLC, 9-Claiborne Farm

Saturday, Churchill Downs, post time: 6:16 p.m. EDT

OLD FORESTER MINT JULEP S.-GIII, \$100,000, 4yo/up, f/m, 1 1/16mT

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Juliet Foxtrot (GB)	Dansili (GB)	Juddmonte Farms, Inc.	Cox	Geroux	120
2	Beau Recall (Ire)	Sir Prancealot (Ire)	Slam Dunk Racing and Medallion Racing	Cox	Bridgmohan	120
3	Winning Envelope	More Than Ready	Lothenbach Stables, Inc.	Block	Leparoux	120
4	She'sonthewarpath	Declaration of War	Low, Lawana L. and Robert E.	Margolis	Sutherland	122
5	La Signare (Fr)	Siyouni (Fr)	Madaket Stables LLC, Cambron, Tim, Cambron, Anna and Bradley Thoroughbreds	Walsh	Santana, Jr.	122
6	Nay Lady Nay (Ire)	No Nay Never	First Row Partners and Hidden Brook Farm	Brown	Ortiz	120
7	Secret Message	Hat Trick (Jpn)	Madaket Stables LLC, Heider Family Stables LLC	Motion	Velazquez	120
8	Altea (Fr)	Siyouni (Fr)	ERJ Racing, LLC, Elayne Stables and Bouchey, Steven	Brown	Rosario	120
9	Varenka	Ghostzapper	Swift Thoroughbreds, Inc., Madaket Stables LLC and Doheny Racing Stable	Motion	Castellano	120
10	Hanalei Moon	Malibu Moon	Augustin Stable	Casse	Gaffalione	120
11	Zofelle (Ire)	Zoffany (Ire)	Stonestreet Stables LLC	Walsh	Lanerie	120
12	Coco Channel	English Channel	Heider Family Stables LLC	LoPresti	Bejarano	120
13	Elizabeth Way (Ire)	Frankel (GB)	Calumet Farm	Attfeld	Hernandez, Jr.	122
14	Mitchell Road	English Channel	John J. McCormack	Mott	Talamo	120
			Shields, Jr., Mrs. J. V. and McFadden, Jr., E. J. M.			

Breeders: 1-Juddmonte Farms Ltd, 2-Tom Wallace, 3-Ramspring Farm, 4-Robert Low & Lawana Low, 5-Moussa Mbacke, 6-Stephen Sullivan, 7-Allen Tennenbaum, 8-Carlos Vazquez Gonzalez, 9-George Strawbridge Jr., 10-Stonestreet Thoroughbred Holdings LLC, 11-Fullbury & Minch Bloodstock, 12-Calumet Farm, 13-Godolphin, 14-J. V. Shields Jr.



Leading Fourth-Crop Sires by YTD Earnings

for stallions standing in North America through Monday, May 25

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

Rank	Stallion	BTW	BTH	GSW	GSH	G1SW	G1SH	Starters	Wnrs	Highest Earner	Earnings
1	Paynter (2009) by Awesome Again FYR: 2015 Stands: WinStar Farm KY Fee: \$10,000	4	7	1	2	--	--	144	51	136,989	2,084,024
										Ring Leader	
2	Violence (2010) by Medaglia d'Oro FYR: 2015 Stands: Hill 'n' Dale Farms KY Fee: \$25,000	1	4	--	1	--	--	136	49	130,866	1,681,350
										No Parole	
3	Flat Out (2006) by Flatter FYR: 2015 Stands: Mighty Acres OK Fee: \$3,000	1	4	--	1	--	--	119	37	118,050	1,413,062
										Piece of My Heart	
4	Take Charge Indy (2009) by A.P. Indy FYR: 2015 Stands: WinStar Farm KY Fee: \$17,500	--	1	--	--	--	--	106	33	71,740	1,066,562
										Bronx Bomber	
5	Orb (2010) by Malibu Moon FYR: 2015 Stands: Claiborne Farm KY Fee: \$10,000	1	5	--	4	--	--	86	26	100,000	1,015,405
										Whoa Nellie	
6	Alternation (2008) by Distorted Humor FYR: 2015 Stands: Pin Oak Stud KY Fee: \$10,000	2	3	1	1	--	--	76	19	270,733	914,894
										Serengeti Empress	
7	Oxbow (2010) by Awesome Again FYR: 2015 Stands: Calumet Farm KY Fee: \$10,000	--	1	--	--	--	--	85	30	68,400	771,079
										Blackberry Wine	
8	Point of Entry (2008) by Dynaformer FYR: 2015 Stands: Adena Springs KY Fee: \$15,000	--	1	--	1	--	--	74	20	57,000	745,187
										Admission Office	
9	Overanalyze (2010) by Dixie Union FYR: 2015 Stands: WinStar Farm KY Fee: \$7,500	1	2	--	1	--	--	86	23	96,250	741,189
										Piedi Bianchi	
10	Brethren (2008) by Distorted Humor FYR: 2015 Stands: Arindel Farm FL Fee: \$7,500	1	1	1	1	--	--	75	22	93,403	708,488
										Cookie Dough	
11	Graydar (2009) by Unbridled's Song FYR: 2015 Stands: Milky Way Farm CA Fee: \$4,000	--	3	--	2	--	--	89	23	62,450	693,151
										Dream Marie	
12	Smiling Tiger (2007) by Hold That Tiger FYR: 2015 Stands: Harris Farms CA Fee: \$7,500	1	2	--	--	--	--	46	15	133,620	634,341
										Smiling Shirlee	
13	Poseidon's Warrior (2008) by Speightstown FYR: 2015 Stands: Equistar PA Fee: \$5,000	1	1	1	1	--	--	74	19	150,000	591,474
										Firenze Fire	
14	Justin Phillip (2008) by First Samurai FYR: 2015 Stands: The Quarter Company NM Fee: \$3,000	1	2	--	--	--	--	60	22	92,800	577,709
										Just Might	
15	Jimmy Creed (2009) by Distorted Humor FYR: 2015 Stands: Spendthrift Farm KY Fee: \$15,000	--	--	--	--	--	--	66	16	56,184	559,584
										Whistling Birds	

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NORTH AMERICAN RACING



WEDNESDAY INSIGHTS: \$750K VERRAZANO FILLY DEBUTS IN TAMPA FINALE



Completed in the ring at Fasig-Tipton Saratoga | Fasig-Tipton

9th-TAM, \$20K, Msw, 3yo, f, 1mT, 5:00 p.m. ET

Bridlewood Farm went to \$750,000 at Fasig-Tipton Saratoga in 2018 to secure **COMPLETED (Verrazano)**, the highest price ever paid at auction for a progeny of the 2013 GI Wood Memorial S. and GI Haskell Invitational hero, and the Jonathan Thomas trainee makes her career debut on turf in the last of nine races Wednesday at Tampa. A half-sister to multiple Grade I-winning 'TDN Rising Star' Separationofpowers (Candy Ride {Arg}) and turf SW Empire of War (Declaration of War), the dark bay shows a steady worktab over the local main track going back to early March, highlighted by a sharp half-mile breeze in :47 4/5 (2/30)

Apr. 29. **TJCIS PPs**

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SECOND-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

Gleneagles (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}), Coolmore Stud, \$35,000
223 foals of racing age/26 winners/3 black-type winners
9-Tampa Bay Downs, Msw 1mT, CHECKSANDBALANCES (Ire), 7-2
200,000gns TAT OCT yrl



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UPCOMING MAJOR NORTH AMERICAN STAKES

<u>Date</u>	<u>Race</u>	<u>Track</u>
May 30	GIII Old Forester Mint Julep S.	Churchill
	GIII Winning Colors S.	Churchill
	GIII Honeymoon S.	Santa Anita
May 31	GII Santa Maria S.	Santa Anita
June 6	GI Santa Anita Derby	Santa Anita
	GI Gold Cup at Santa Anita	Santa Anita
	GII Santa Anita Oaks	Santa Anita
	GIII Dogwood S.	Churchill
June 7	GII Triple Bend S.	Santa Anita
June 13	GIII Louisville S.	Churchill
June 14	GIII San Francisco Mile S.	Golden Gate
June 20	GII Wise Dan S.	Churchill
	GIII Lazaro Barrera S.	Santa Anita
	GIII Wilshire S.	Santa Anita
June 21	GIII American S.	Santa Anita
	GIII San Juan Capistrano S.	Santa Anita
June 27	GII Stephen Foster S.	Churchill
	GII Fleur de Lis S.	Churchill
	GIII Regret S.	Churchill
	GIII Bashford Manor S.	Churchill

Click [here](#) to access the TDN graded stakes calendar.