A STALLION PUTTING HIMSELF ON THE MAP

by Chris McGrath

You have to hand it to Liam’s Map. Besides all his other merits, as a racehorse and now as a stallion, he has an unerring instinct for publicity.

As a freshman, in 2019, the son of Unbridled’s Song mustered only two stakes winners. Nothing wrong with that, from 46 starters. Champion American Pharoah had four, from 72. But when he struck the target at all, Liam’s Map made sure he hit the bull’s-eye. Both those stakes scores came in Grade I races, Basin taking the Hopeful and Wicked Whisper the Frizette.

This time around, with a third wave of juveniles on the launchpad, the Lane’s End stallion has again marshaled his forces for maximum impact. On the final Saturday of the Gulfstream meet, his sophomore daughter Crazy Beautiful won the GII Gulfstream Park Oaks; first-crop son Churn N Burn won the GII Pan American S.; and Basin made a fine start to his own third campaign in the Sir Shackleton S.

If those represented three prongs of an unmissable trident, moreover, the shaft of the spear had been flung nicely forward just the previous week when Colonel Liam, winner of the GI Pegasus World Cup Turf in January, had confirmed his stature in the grass division by winning the GII Muniz Memorial Classic at the Fair Grounds.

Cont. p3

RIGHT ON THE MONEY

by Jennie Rees

A funny thing happened on Chester Thomas’s way to downsizing his large racing stable and equine operation: The Hanson, Ky., entrepreneur became a first-time stallion owner, with five-time Grade III winner and Grade I-placed Mr. Money (Goldencents—Plenty O’Toole, by Tiznow) in his first year at stud at Journeyman Stud in Ocala, Fla.

So while Thomas didn’t buy any 2-year-olds as he has the previous two years, he did acquire 15 mares whose pedigrees worked well with Mr. Money. Had he not suddenly found himself in the stallion business, Thomas said there’s no way he’d have gone on such a broodmare spending spree.

“I’ve been trying to downsize,” Thomas said with a laugh.

Cont. p7

IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

HARRY EUSTACE CONTINUES FAMILY TRAINING TRADITION

Harry Eustace has taken over training duties at Park Lodge from his father James. Emma Berry has the details. Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Europe.
“From the stallions with first foals, Vino Rosso is the one people are talking about this year. You can see why.”

-Nancy Cole, DVM & Chuck Kidder, DVM

VIEW FOAL GALLERY

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Mario Pino resumed his career last week at Gulfstream and is determined to plug away until he gets his 7,000th win. He needs 39 more winners to reach that milestone, something only nine jockeys have ever achieved. “I’m just 39 away and that’s why I am coming back,” he said. “I want to see if I can do it. It’s a goal of mine and I am really close to doing it. I’m still healthy, I feel good and I love riding horses.”

Purse levels for maiden special weight (MSW) races on the Kentucky circuit are projected to push past the $100,000 mark both during GI Kentucky Derby week at Churchill Downs and in September at the Kentucky Downs all-turf meet.
Liam's Map cont. from p1

So while Constitution is perceived as the breakout sire of their intake, Liam's Map not only boasts three Grade I winners against his one, but is now level with six graded stakes winners overall. To be fair to Constitution, they have reached this tally from 16 and nine graded stakes performers respectively, representing 6.4 and 3.6% of named foals. In other words, when Liam’s Map gets a good one, he certainly makes it tell.

Of course, these things tend to even themselves out. And it’s still early days, or should be in a sane world. But we know the ruthless haste with which the commercial market decides the fate of young stallions. Headline horses, or their absence, make a savage difference to momentum.

Liam’s Map was retired to Lane’s End in 2016 alongside two horses that had shared one of the most dramatic races of modern times, when his dazzling exhibition of speed in the GI Whitney S. the previous summer set up the late pounce of Honor Code (A.P. Indy), with Tonalist (Tapit) third. It was hard to choose between the trio, each being blessed with an exemplary pedigree, physique and race record, but Honor Code opened for business at $40,000, Tonalist at $30,000 and Liam’s Map at $25,000.

Honor Code’s first crop included the only colt to beat Horse of the Year Authentic (Into Mischief), while Tonalist has accumulated black-type performers at a more or less identical ratio to Liam’s Map. But Honor Code is now down to $20,000, and Tonalist to $12,500—while Liam’s Map is $30,000. Sure enough, the gray was fully subscribed last year with 156 mares, compared with 85 for Honor Code and 122 for Tonalist.

Now, far-sighted breeders who actually want to breed runners know that the market’s premature conclusions, for better or worse, create value opportunities. There’s no reason at all why
the other pair can’t reward perseverance the way they did on the track—all three, of course, having been older in that memorable Saratoga race than are even their oldest progeny right now. Indeed, we awarded Tonalist gold on our value “podium” for this intake in our annual winter survey of Kentucky stallion options. As things stand, however, it is Liam’s Map who has grabbed the headlines; and that self-fulfilling process is demonstrated right here, as we reward his Gulfstream streak with a closer look at his progress.

In this business, after all, the winds of fortune sometimes just seem to turn your way. That is certainly how things must have felt at Gulfstream for Vinnie and Teresa Viola of St. Elias Stable, who raced Liam’s Map with West Point Thoroughbreds and include him among four graduates of their racetrack program they’re now supporting at stud. For that same afternoon, their silks were carried to success in the GI Curlin Florida Derby by Known Agenda (Curlin), who proceeds to the GI Kentucky Derby already looking assured of a second career himself.

Last week, we spoke with the stable’s bloodstock adviser John Sparkman in examining the pedigree of Known Agenda, and took the chance also to discuss the role of Liam’s Map in the evolution of the St. Elias program. Because these things have a natural progression: each challenge met on the track creates a fresh one at stud; and St. Elias, respected as a model racing partner, has similarly succeeded in making deals with four different farms: sending Liam’s Map to Lane’s End; Vino Rosso (Curlin) to Spendthrift; Always Dreaming (Bodemeister) to WinStar; and Army Mule (Friesan Fire) to Hill ‘n’ Dale.

“You have an owner who really loves his horses and wants to see them succeed,” says Sparkman. “But he’s also a businessman and he prefers, eventually, for it to pay for itself. And how are you going to do that? You’re going to do that by having a
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successful stallion.”

And this objective, in turn, dovetails with the development of the St. Elias breeding program. Because the aspiration to breed quality runners, by recruiting the right mares, also allows the team to help these young sires get established. Known Agenda’s dam, for instance, included both Liam’s Map and Always Dreaming among her first covers.

“Building a top-class breeding program is a 10-year project,” says Sparkman. “And hopefully we’re pretty much on schedule. We keep aiming for 40 broodmares, and keep going over that every year! Without getting into specifics, the numbers are changeable, shall we say. But part of the deal is having these young stallions to support.

“So basically we have a core of 30 to 40 high-quality mares, and then we have another group that we cycle through. Not bad mares, and of course nobody can necessarily predict which will turn out to be the really good ones. Some of those not in our core group right now may end up there. But the idea is to get foals by these unproven horses into the hands of as many people as you can.”

Liam’s Map has managed to find fresh impetus at times when other stallions tend to tread water. Immediately following his debut season at stud, for instance, his brochure was boosted by half-brother Not This Time (Giant’s Causeway), who won the GIII Iroquois S. by nearly nine lengths and then failed by just a neck to run down Classic Empire (Pioneerof The Nile) in the GI Breeders’ Cup Juvenile. Sadly he was then injured and, instead of farther promoting their family, set up into competition at Taylor Made. But his own excellent start there has certainly done no harm to the genetic appeal of Liam’s Map.

In breeding both these horses, the Albaugh Family had sought a balance between Classic two-turn influences and the John...
Liam’s Map winning the Woodward | Coglianese

Nerud-Tartan Farms speed behind their dam Miss Macy Sue (Trippi), a Grade III winner who placed in the inaugural Breeders’ Cup Filly and Mare Sprint. What immediately leaps from the page is the blaring replication, in Miss Macy Sue’s dam Yada Yada (showed little in a light career), of Ta Wee (Intentionally)—the champion sprinter who was preceded to the Hall of Fame by her half-brother Dr. Fager (Rough’n Tumble). Yada Yada was by Ta Wee’s son Great Above; and her dam was out of Ta Wee’s daughter by Secretariat.

That’s a ticking bomb of brilliance, especially when you consider that Ta Wee only produced five named foals. And while it was largely defused by a series of forgettable partners chosen for Yada Yada, Trippi kept the family “live” through Miss Macy Sue—first on the track and now, explosively, thanks to the purposeful matings introduced by the Albaugh Family. We all know that two-turn sires combined with fast families can sometimes produce the worst of both worlds, but they have succeeded in twice achieving the speed-carrying grail.

And their choice of Unbridled’s Song for Miss Macy Sue brilliantly doubled down on the key ingredient of her pedigree. For not only was Dr. Fager the damsire of his grandsire Fappiano; his sire Unbridled brought Aspidistra (Better Self), the dam of Dr. Fager and Ta Wee, right back into play as his fourth dam.

The other flavor that luminously recurs behind Liam’s Map is In Reality. He’s the sire of Unbridled’s second dam; his son, Valid Appeal, is damsire of Trippi; and his sire Intentionally gave us Ta Wee herself. Moreover, Intentionally sired In Reality out of a champion daughter of Dr. Fager’s sire Rough’n Tumble; and (Yada Yada’s sire/Ta Wee’s son) Great Above was by Rough’n Tumble’s son Minnesota Mac.

With this kind of background, Liam’s Map is entitled to sire any kind. Himself an $800,000 yearling, obviously before he had Not This Time to help the page, he carried his speed into a second turn to win the GI Woodward S. (after his Whitney heartbreak) and then dominated the GI Breeders’ Cup Mile.

On the face of it, he had been a relatively late bloomer, only breaking his maiden in late September as a sophomore. “But actually he was right on top of a race as a 2-year-old, and just had a slight problem,” explains Sparkman. “He would have won first out, easy, but he had this minor issue and Todd [Pletcher] decided not to risk him. So we gave him the time off, which obviously proved well worthwhile.”

Sparkman finds it striking that Colonel Liam and now Churn N Burn have given their sire an early impact on grass.

“Liam’s Map, of course, never ran on turf,” he says. “No reason to think he couldn’t, but there was no reason to. And yet, at this moment, if you had to rank the top five older turf horses in America, two are by Liam’s Map. It’s just whatever works. Don’t just look at the pedigree, look at the horse and then decide.”

One way or another, then, these are exciting times for St. Elias: a new Grade I winner on the Derby trail, and Liam’s Map leading the way for a quartet of promising young stallions. Actually, make that five: Battalion Runner, another son of Unbridled’s Song out of a sister to Tapizar (Tapit), runner-up in the GI Wood Memorial S. in the year Always Dreaming won the Derby, is apparently selling himself well as a physical down at Ocala Stud.

But a personal feeling is that any breeder who might retain a filly should be particularly excited by Vino Rosso, given that his sire is out of a Deputy Minister mare while his own second dam is by Touch Gold, himself by Deputy Minister out of a Buckpasser mare. In other words, distaff gold all the way through.

“All of these different farms have done a good job with what we’re trying to do,” Sparkman says. “It was difficult for Always Dreaming, because of that really severe case of ulcers after he
Mr. Money won the Derby, which took a while to catch. I think that really compromised the rest of his career. We kept him in training but he only ran a couple of times, early, and so by the time he went to stud people had forgotten how good he was. But he’s getting very nice foals.

“Army Mule was a brilliant horse and he’s been quite well received. In his first two crops, it was no particular problem to get mares to him. This crop, as usual, it's more difficult. So he’s one we’ve bought a number of mares for. And now there’s Vino Rosso, who’s a very good-looking horse with, as you say, the Deputy Minister in him that’s easy to latch onto.”

It was characteristic of Viola that he invited Monique Delk, appointed the stable’s Executive Director of Racehorse Development after 10 years working with the late Jimmy Crupi, to lead in Known Agenda at Gulfstream. So there will be plenty of people wishing him well with Liam’s Map, the first horse picked out for his stable by Crupi.

“Mr. Viola is a very generous and kind man, and very classy,” agrees Sparkman. “He’s always very much aware of giving credit to the people who have helped. As for Liam’s Map, he’s in that really tough market after their first couple of years. We’ve been supporting him during the time when people are waiting to see, but hopefully at this point they’ve seen that he’s a good horse.”

Mr. Money cont. from p1

“The answer’s not no,” Thomas said. “It’s hell no! But Mr. Money was such a nice horse, and he still is. Everybody who goes out and sees Mr. Money is like, ‘OK, what kind of deal can I get if I bring four mares here?’ He’s going to have a heck of a nice book, and we were three or four weeks late to the game.

“We’re really excited about Mr. Money, and it seems like the folks in Florida are very excited about him. He’s getting a lot of new girlfriends.”

The original plan was to race Mr. Money at age five. That changed after a post-work endoscopic exam in late November revealed a breathing obstruction, which Thomas believes explained a poor performance in the GI Breeders’ Cup Dirt Mile after Mr. Money’s snappy victory in Churchill Downs’ GII Ack Ack H. Rather than roll the dice that a surgical procedure would return the horse to peak form, the decision ultimately was made to retire him. Mr. Money is one of four stallions at Journeyman, standing for $5,000.

Brent Fernung, who with wife Crystal owns and operates Journeyman, had never met Thomas. After more or less rejecting the horse when Thomas’s main trainer, Bret Calhoun, first made an overture, Fernung then looked at Mr. Money’s race videos, loved what he saw “and now I’ve got to crawfish my way out of this mess,” he said. He called Thomas “and he had me talked into it lock, stock and barrel five minutes into the conversation.”

Fernung quickly learned that, given the choice between going small and big, Thomas opts for bigger. Thomas told Fernung he’d breed “10 or 12” mares to Mr. Money. The number for 2021 right now is set at 23. Thomas also funded a substantial advertising campaign.

Owner support “is important anywhere, but it’s particularly important down here in Florida, where if you look historically, stallions have been made by their owners,” Fernung said. “When I heard the enthusiasm that Chester had for this, combined with the quality of the horse, it was a no-brainer for me to want to get involved. Chester has been great. You can’t ask any more of an owner than to support his own stallion. It’s not cheap to do, but it’s a necessity if you really want to make a horse down here.

“I always look for a horse that has something that just makes
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you turn your head. When I got to watching Money’s races, he’s winning by five, six, seven in $500,000 races. He’s beating these horses for fun. He’s got to have enough pedigree to make a stallion, which he does, but they have to rise above just another stakes horse. He certainly did that, the way he won those four races in a row.”

Even with Mr. Money arriving right before New Year’s, whereas Fernung would prefer a new stallion be on hand by early November, he said the reception has been excellent. He expects Mr. Money will be bred to between 75 and 100 mares. He can only hope that Mr. Money mirrors Thomas’s ascent in horse racing.

Four years ago, Thomas decided to switch his focus from mainly a claiming operation and inexpensive auction purchases to investing in better-bred and pricier yearlings and 2-year-olds to upgrade his stock with the goal of participating in racing’s biggest events. With Josh Stevens as his main bloodstock agent, Thomas’s Allied Racing soon reaped the results.

Mr. Money provided Thomas with his first Breeders’ Cup starter, finishing fourth in the 2018 GI Juvenile at Churchill Downs straight from a maiden victory.

In 2019, By My Standards (Goldencents) became Thomas’s first graded stakes winner in the GII TwinSpires.com Louisiana Derby. Mr. Money followed with Grade III victories in the Pat Day Mile, Matt Winn, Indiana Derby and West Virginia Derby. He just missed on bagging the coveted Grade I when collared on the wire of the Pennsylvania Derby by Math Wizard (Algorithms), whom Mr. Money had decisively defeated at Indiana Grand and Mountaineer Park.

Today, Allied Racing is one of the top owners in the country, checking in at No. 13 in purse earnings for 2020, including By My Standards winning a trio of Grade II stakes. In addition, Mr. Big News (Giant’s Causeway) finished third in the 2020 GI Kentucky Derby, giving Thomas a runner in America’s greatest race for the second straight year, following By My Standards’s 11th in 2019.

While upgrading his racing stock, Thomas also began a breeding program, concentrating on Louisiana.

Thomas, who continues to own 75% of Mr. Money to 25% for Spendthrift Farm, believes had Mr. Money held on in the Pennsylvania Derby, he would be residing at Spendthrift in Lexington today. Fernung agrees and says “it was a long neck from Lexington to Ocala,” making it possible for them to have a stallion in Florida with legitimate Kentucky credentials.

“We’re benefitting from the fact that he got snagged at the wire in the Pennsylvania Derby,” he said.

Thomas and his team opted to give Mr. Money the chance to make it big in a regional market rather than getting overlooked in the hyper-competition for mares in Kentucky.

“We want him to be successful,” Thomas said. “There’s nothing like conquering and winning.”

Thomas said he will sell some of his mares in foal at regional markets with the hopes of getting Mr. Money progeny into the northeast. Some will foal in Florida and a few could land in Texas, but the bulk of babies will be born in Louisiana, he said. Under those states’ current rules, those horses can be made eligible for the Florida Stallion Stakes Series as well as Louisiana-bred stakes.

“Florida is a great place for a stallion,” Thomas said. “They’ve got a lot of horses there. They’ve got that stakes series. They have good incentives, stallion rewards. They race year-round down there, so that seemed like a good regional market for us to introduce Mr. Money to. And it’s not that far from Louisiana.

“I really like the Louisiana program. Our Louisiana-bred horses are carrying the weight for us now,” he continued, referencing his racing stable.

Thomas is putting the same calculated acceleration into his newfound stallion operation that he utilized for his racing operation. Having missed out on the early-November broodmare auctions, he worked with highly-regarded pedigree consultant Alan Porter to secure nicely bred fillies and mares via the claim box. He also bought one mare at auction and another privately.

“I am very competitive,” Thomas said. “I don’t like losing. So when I focus on something, I really give it my best... It’s a numbers game. So the more mares they get, especially if they’re the right bloodline crosses, the better odds you get of getting some good racehorses. When you look at the stallion awards, the breeders’ awards, look at the purse money, it makes sense--as much as I like to race horses and as competitive as I am--to support this stallion.

“As an owner, I think some of my most fun years are ahead of
me. It’s 2021. We’ll have foals in ’22 and ’23. It will be 2024 with the first Mr. Money 2-year-olds. The first Mr. Money that wins, now that will be fun.”

WITH THE GOAL OF WINNING 7,000 RACES, PINO IS BACK FOR ANOTHER YEAR

by Bill Finley

When Mario Pino began riding way back in 1977, he figured he’d stick around for a few years and then go off and do something else. Weight was an issue and he wasn’t sure that he had the desire to keep grinding away. Forty-four years later, Pino, 59, resumed his career last week at Gulfstream and is determined to plug away until he gets his 7,000th win. He needs 39 more winners to reach that milestone, something only nine jockeys have ever achieved.

“I’m just 39 away and that’s why I am coming back,” he said. “I want to see if I can do it. It’s a goal of mine and I am really close to doing it. I’m still healthy, I feel good and I love riding horses.”

Born in Wilmington, Delaware, Pino has been a fixture on the Mid-Atlantic circuit since he rode his first horse at Penn National. He has ridden some good horses, most notably Grade I winner Hard Spun (Danzig). He finished second aboard him in the 2006 GI Kentucky Derby and also paired with him to win the GI King’s Bishop S. at Saratoga.

But his career has mostly been about perseverance. Year in and year out, he showed up at places like Laurel, Delaware Park, Colonial Downs and Presque Isle Downs and the wins followed. In 2001, he won 297 races and followed that up with 285 winners the next year. In 2016, he moved past Hall of Famer Jorge Velasquez to become the 10th winningest rider of all time.

“The wins started to add up and I started to get into the history of horse racing,” Pino said. "Considering how many great jockeys there have been, it was incredible to me that I was 10th all time. I just kept going and everything kept snowballing."

He needs just 194 wins to move into sixth place all time, but he doesn’t see that happening. In recent years, Pino has settled on a routine that limits his chances of winning races. He doesn’t ride in the afternoons in the winter and instead gallops horses for Wesley Ward. He starts off his year at Gulfstream in the spring and then heads to Presque Isle in the summer. When that meet is done, he goes back to Florida and gears up to do more of the same the next year.

Every time Pino thinks of retiring, Ward is among those who encourage him to come back for another year.

"I was thinking of calling it a day," Pino said. "I spoke to Wesley about that and he said that, being so close to 7,000, I should keep going. He said that if I didn’t, I’d always look back and think that I should have kept going to get to 7,000. I’m going to push myself to get there."

Soon to be 60, Pino is among a group of riders who seem intent on proving that this doesn’t have to be a young man’s game. Perry Ouutz is still winning races at age 66. Jon Court is 60 and is going strong. Then, of course, there is Mike Smith. As in demand as any rider in the sport, he is 55.

"You see that jockeys are pushing themselves to last longer and one of the reasons is better nutrition and that they know they have to take care of themselves physically," Pino said. "These guys who are lasting longer were all successful earlier in their careers and prolonged their career because they love what they are doing and they’re still good at it. If you take care of yourself physically and mentally, you can keep going. It's the horses that do the running. If you take care of yourself, you can keep riding."
"Physically, I am in better condition now than when I was at 30," Pino said. "Even though I might not be riding as many horses, I always try to be physically prepared. If you talk to any athlete who is getting older, when they get older they work out more, prepare more and take care of their bodies more. When you are younger, you take those things for granted."

Pino won only 21 races in 2020, which had a lot to do with the Presque Isle meet. It is normally 100 days, but was limited to 50 last year because of the coronavirus. This year, the track, which opens July 5, is scheduled to operate for only 52 dates. Pino said that if he gets off to a good start in Florida he may decide to stick things out at Gulfstream.

Pino may or may not get to the 7,000 mark by the end of the year. He says he will retire when he gets to 7,000. That may or may not mean that he will have to return in 2022 to achieve his goal.

In the meantime, he will just do what he's been doing since he was 16. There may not be any graded stakes wins in his future and he won't battle it out for leading rider anywhere. That's fine by him. He's got 39 winners left in him. He feels confident about that.

MSW PURSES TO TOP $100K DURING DERBY WEEK AND AT KY DOWNS
by T.D. Thornton

Purse levels for maiden special weight (MSW) races on the Kentucky circuit are projected to push past the $100,000 mark both during GI Kentucky Derby week at Churchill Downs and in September at the Kentucky Downs all-turf meet.

In addition, Kentucky Downs plans to expand its stakes program to include two new $1-million races in 2021, giving the venue a total of three stakes at that level. (Read more details here).

Ben Huffman, the director of racing at Churchill Downs, confirmed during a video meeting of the Kentucky Thoroughbred Development Fund (KTDF) advisory committee Apr. 6 that MSW purses during Derby week will be $106,000, then $91,000 for the balance of the meet that runs through June 26.

Churchill had closed out its pandemic-affected 2020 spring/summer season at the $79,000 level for MSW races and had boosted those purses to $97,000 for the rescheduled Derby week in September. The balance of September had $75,000 MSW purses; that level rose to $85,000 for the late-autumn meet that ended in November.

Ted Nicholson, the senior vice president and general manager at Kentucky Downs, told the KTDF board that his track's MSW level will be $125,000 for the six-day meet Sept. 5-12. That's up from $90,000 last year.

As for Ellis Park, racing secretary Dan Bork said that "our maidens will probably be just north of $50,000 this year."

The MSW purse levels for the state's remaining 2021 meets beyond September will be discussed by the KTDF at a later date. The KTDF is funded by three-quarters of 1% of all money wagered on both live Thoroughbred races and HHR gaming, plus 2% of all money wagered on Thoroughbred races via inter-track wagering and whole-card simulcasting. The board approved recommending allotments to Churchill, Ellis and Kentucky Downs on Tuesday.

The Dirt on Turfway: Not Any Time Soon

Turfway Park's general manager, Chip Bach, updated the KTDF board on the near-term maintenance for the new Tapeta track that was unveiled in December. He also responded to a KTDF board member's question about the timeline for a proposed inner dirt track by saying it wasn't going to happen anytime soon.

"The opinion of the Tapeta surface has continued to be very positive," Bach said. "There are some plans to do a tune-up, a little remediation. You know, when you're working with a synthetic racetrack, if you do too much too soon you can't undo it. And so they're typically conservative of the elements that they introduce into the surface; see how it responds to weather, see how it responds to the horses.

Bach described that process as a "tweak," adding that the work is likely to be done before July, when horses resume training at Turfway.

As for the additional dirt surface inside the Tapeta course that was proposed as part of the ongoing Turfway rebuild, Bach said this: "The project that's going on right now will contemplate the
ability to put an inner dirt track within the synthetic oval. But that's not intended to happen the first or the second year [of the Turfway rebuild]. We'll have the ability to add that if we decide to. It's being designed with that in mind. But there are no plans for a dirt track in the near future."

HBPA 'Concerned' About Ellis Twilight Posts

Jeff Inman, the general manager at Ellis Entertainment LLC, said his track is in the midst of a three-phase capital improvement plan.

Phase 1 work that is now underway prior to the track's June 27 opening includes drainage and safety improvements to the main track, a backstretch rebuild of the manure pit (required by environmental officials), a new restaurant and an additional bar on the frontside, plus high-definition camera and communication upgrades.

Bill Landes III, the chair of the KTDF advisory committee, wanted to know more about the list of long-term improvements Ellis has slated for the future.

"When do you think that schedule may be fleshed out?" Landes asked. "I love everything [listed]—turf widening, track lighting, grandstand improvements, new tote board—all of them long overdue, and everybody knows it."

Inman replied that the turf course widening is likely to happen first, but not until after the 2021 meet.

"If we regain capital funding, we will start work after the horses leave, [by] late October, early November," Inman said.

Landes underscored what a positive it would be to upgrade the grass course and to add lights at Ellis, because it would allow the track to card some twilight racing in a less-crowded simulcast time slot and feature more grass racing, which is popular with bettors because of the generally larger fields. Racing later in the day could also aid horse health by avoiding running during the searing late-afternoon temperatures that are routine at Ellis in the summer.

Landes said he believed Kentucky Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association officials would agree with him that if "you get twilight racing at Ellis Park and some lights there, there ain't no telling" what might happen, handle-wise. "That would be super—I'm sorry we're not there yet," he added.

KTDF member J. David Richardson concurred: "I do believe Ellis Park has enormous potential to do much, much better with at least some opportunity to run under lights and expand turf racing on a course that's not torn up because you have to overuse it."

But when asked for his opinion, Rick Hiles, the president of the KHBPA (and also a KTDF advisory committee member), said he was "a little concerned" about the ramifications of moving to later post times at Ellis.

Hiles cited the long days that outfits shipping to Ellis from Lexington and Louisville would have to endure.

"Losing an hour in time zones, coming back late at night...I just don't know how [horsemen] are going to react to that," Hiles said.

"Well, you have that issue to a certain extent at Turfway," Landes replied, meaning the night racing. "And [at Ellis] it's either coming in at one or two o'clock in the morning or dealing with 108 or 110 degrees" while shipping before the sun goes down.

"I just don't know," Hiles said. "School, for me, is still out on it."

THREE $1-MILLION RACES HEAD RECORD KENTUCKY DOWNS STAKES SCHEDULE
For the first time in its 31-year history, Kentucky Downs is offering three $1-million races during its six-date 2021 meet. Added to the track's GII Calumet Turf Cup, Kentucky Downs' $1-million trio also will feature the GIII Turf Sprint and GIII WinStar Mint Million.

Kentucky Downs will stage 16 stakes worth a track-record total of $10 million, including $4.85 million in purse supplements for registered Kentucky-bred horses. The all-grass meet runs Sept. 5, 6, 8, 9, 11 and 12.

"Purses are the economic engine of the racing industry, and Kentucky Downs is proud to be a leader helping Kentucky stamp itself as the premier racing circuit in America," said Ron Winchell, Kentucky Downs' co-owner and managing partner with Marc Falcone. "We’re only six days, but winning one of our stakes--or even one of our overnight races--can make the entire year for an owner. Many horsemen tell us that money they earn at our meet gets promptly reinvested in the industry the next week at Keeneland’s September Yearling sale. Such investment impacts countless small businesses that are part of Kentucky's equine agribusiness."

A total of nine Kentucky Downs stakes received purse hikes. That includes the GIII Ladies Turf jumping from $500,000 to $750,000. The Music City for 3-year-old fillies and Untapable for 2-year-old fillies, worth $400,000 in their inaugural runnings last year, now enjoy $500,000 purses.

The Kentucky Downs’ stakes purses reflect contributions of up to 50% from the Kentucky Thoroughbred Development Fund (KTDF) for horses born in and sired by stallions in the Commonwealth. The 2021 meet’s Kentucky-bred stakes supplements were approved Tuesday by the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission’s KTDF Advisory Committee.

The Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation (TRF) will open a first-of-its kind farm designed to give the Louisville community and fans from around the world a direct connection to the horses at the heart of horse racing. The new TRF Sanctuary Farm at Chestnut Hall will be the permanent home of 11 horses from the organization's national herd of 500 retired Thoroughbred racehorses. These “herd ambassadors” will serve as educators to tell the story of the long life and diverse second careers that await these equine athletes when their racing days are done.

Located on nearly 30 acres of historic farmland in Oldham County and featuring a farmhouse restored to serve as an event venue, Chestnut Hall has been created for the express purpose of connecting Thoroughbred horses to the people of Louisville, the Commonwealth of Kentucky and beyond. Starting in mid-May, the farm will be open to the public for tours through Visit Horse Country and will be available as a unique venue for educational events and fundraisers for nonprofits across the Louisville community.

The TRF Sanctuary Farm at Chestnut Hall represents the realization of a dream of Bill Carstanjen, CEO of Churchill Downs Incorporated. The new farm has been created as a gift to the horses of the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation and the citizens of Kentucky. On behalf of his family and community, Carstanjen was moved to purchase the property in Prospect to protect the historic farmhouse and pasture land from residential development. Over the course of the past year, Carstanjen has personally overseen the restoration of the 25+ acre property to its former beauty as an active horse farm.

"Thoroughbred horses have enriched the lives of countless citizens and visitors to Louisville throughout history, but very few opportunities exist for the community to experience and interact with these extraordinary animals," said Kim Weir, the Director of Major Gifts and Planned Giving for the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation. "It is with this goal in mind that Mr. Carstanjen restored the horse farm and historic home at Chestnut Hall with the express intention of giving the gift of the horses to the community of Louisville. Together, it is our hope that the TRF Sanctuary Farm at Chestnut Hall will provide a venue for education, inspiration and imagination for many years to come.”
BREEDERS' CUP LAUNCHES HORSEPLAYERS HAPPY HOUR TOUR

The HorsePlayers Happy Hour Tour, hosted by In the Money Media, will begin Thursday, Apr. 8, at 3:00 p.m. ET, Breeders' Cup announced in a press release.

The HorsePlayers Tour will coincide with the HorsePlayers Happy Hour livestream, featuring ITMM's Matt Bernier, Peter Fornatale and Jonathon Kinchen. Each week fans at home can play along with the ITMM team for a chance to earn tour points and qualify for the season-ending playoffs. One $10,000 Breeders' Cup Betting Challenge seat will be awarded to the player that finishes first on the regular season leaderboard and another will be awarded to the winner of the playoffs.

Breeders' Cup will donate all proceeds from the HorsePlayers Tour online contests to the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance and the Thoroughbred Retirement Fund. In 2020, Breeders' Cup raised over $6,500 for its charity partners through the HorsePlayers Happy Hour program.

"Horseplayers are the heartbeat of our sport and this exciting new format is a great way to keep them engaged all season long and reward them for playing in our online contests," said Justin McDonald, Senior Vice President of Marketing for Breeders' Cup. "Being able to follow along and interact with the In the Money Media team during our weekly livestreams is a unique and fun component of the tour that new and avid fans will really enjoy."
Leading Fourth-Crop Sires by Cumulative Black-Type Horses

for stallions standing in North America through Monday, April 5

Earnings represent worldwide figures, stud fees listed are 2021 fees.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Stallion</th>
<th>BTW</th>
<th>BTH</th>
<th>GSW</th>
<th>GSH</th>
<th>G1SW</th>
<th>G1SH</th>
<th>Starters</th>
<th>Wnrs</th>
<th>Highest Earner</th>
<th>Earnings</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Goldencents (2010) by Into Mischief FYR: 2016</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>29</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>263</td>
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<td>Cairo Prince (2011) by Pioneerof the Nile FYR: 2016</td>
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**Friday, Keeneland, post time: 5:30 p.m. EDT**

**MAKER'S MARK MILE S.-GI, $300,000, 4yo/up, 1mT**

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<tr>
<th>PP</th>
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<td>Get Stormy</td>
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<td>Alvarado</td>
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<td>Geroux</td>
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<td>Big Brown</td>
<td>Skychai Racing LLC and Sand Dollar Stable LLC</td>
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<td>Velazquez</td>
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<td>Sacred Life (Fr)</td>
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<td>Dubawi (Ire)</td>
<td>Qatar Racing Limited and Watership Down Stud</td>
<td>Cox</td>
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<td>Candy Ride (Arg)</td>
<td>Oxley, John C. and My Meadowview Farm LLC</td>
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<td>Gaffalione</td>
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<td>Flying Scotsman</td>
<td>English Channel</td>
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<td>Lanerie</td>
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<td>Dark Angel (Ire)</td>
<td>Peter M. Brant</td>
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<td>Brown</td>
<td>Castellano</td>
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**Breeders:** 1-Hurstland Farm, Inc. & James Greene Jr., 2-Fred W. Hertrich III, 3-Hot Pink Stables & Sand Dollar Stables, 4-Mr. Viktor Timoshenko & Mr. AndriyMilovanov, 5-Watership Down Stud, 6-My Meadowview LLC, 7-Calumet Farm, 8-Dayton Investments Limited, 9-Mark Brown Grier

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**Saturday, Oaklawn, post time: 7:41 p.m. EDT**

**ARKANSAS DERBY-GI, $1,000,000, 3yo, 1 1/8m**

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<td>Santana, Jr.</td>
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<td>Caddo River</td>
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<td>Shortleaf Stable, Inc.</td>
<td>Cox</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Hozier</td>
<td>Pioneer of the Nile</td>
<td>SF Racing LLC, Starlight Racing, Madaket Stables LLC, Stonestreet Stables LLC, Golconda Stable, Siena Farm LLC and Masterson, Robert E.</td>
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<td>Garcia</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Get Her Number</td>
<td>Dialed In</td>
<td>Gary Barber</td>
<td>Miller</td>
<td>Arrieta</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Concert Tour</td>
<td>Street Sense</td>
<td>West, Gary and West, Mary</td>
<td>Baffert</td>
<td>Rosario</td>
<td>122</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Last Samurai</td>
<td>Malibu Moon</td>
<td>Willis Horton Racing LLC</td>
<td>Stewart</td>
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**Breeders:** 1-Pedro Gonzalez & P. J. Gonzalez, 2-Shortleaf Stable, 3-WinStar Farm, LLC, 4-Philip Robertson & Brenda Robertson, 5-Gary & Mary West Stables Inc., 6-Stonestreet Thoroughbred Holdings LLC

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**Saturday, Oaklawn, post time: 7:05 p.m. EDT**

**COUNT FLEET SPRINT H.-GIII, $500,000, 4yo/up, 6f**

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<td>LaPenta, Robert V., Southern Springs Stables and Head of Plains Partners LLC</td>
<td>Moquett</td>
<td>Santana, Jr.</td>
<td>123</td>
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<td>Mojo Man</td>
<td>Stay Thirsty</td>
<td>Dash C. Goff</td>
<td>DiVito</td>
<td>Arrieta</td>
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<td>Strike Power</td>
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<td>Courtland Farms</td>
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<td>Evans, Johnny B. and Eoff, Terry</td>
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<td>Cabrera</td>
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<td>City Zip</td>
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<td>Miller</td>
<td>Geroux</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Mr. Jagermeister</td>
<td>Atta Boy Roy</td>
<td>Boice, Kristin, Cummings, Leslie and Lund, Valerie Lund</td>
<td>Boice</td>
<td>Bowen</td>
<td>116</td>
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**Breeders:** 1-Coteau Grove Farms, 2-John Liviakis, 3-Rose Hill Farm, 4-Courtlandt Farm, 5-W C Racing, 6-Farm III Enterprises LLC, 7-Kristin Boice
IN ORDER OF PURSE:
9th-Parx Racing, $44,280, Alw (NW1X)/Opt. Clm ($50,000), 4-6, 3yo, f, 6f, 1:10.40, ft, 5 1/4 lengths.
DR B (f, 3, Liam’s Map—Boleyn {GSP, $123,886}, by Proud Citizen), who was third in her six-furlong bow at this oval last December, romped by a front-running 9 1/4 lengths over the same Mar. 9. The heavy 1-5 favorite to make it two in a row, the bay filly zipped out to the early lead and was in control through a quarter in :22.72. She skipped further clear after a half in :46.23 and bound home a 5 1/4-length winner. Leader of the Band (Bandbox) was second. The winner is a half-sister to Hi Holiday (Harlan’s Holiday), SW, $112,563. Her 2-year-old half-sister by Practical Joke is catalogued at the upcoming OBS Spring sale as hip 551. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.

Lifetime Record: 3-2-0-1, $53,000.
O-Cash is King LLC and LC Racing; B-Eico Ventures (KY); T-Robert E. Reid, Jr.

IN ORDER OF PURSE:
7th-Parx Racing, $40,250, Msw, 4-6, 3yo/up, 7f, 1:26.70, ft, nose.
KNOW IT NOW (c, 4, American Pharoah—Before You Know It {GSP, $313,083}, by Hard Spun) opened his career with a pair of six-furlong efforts over this track last summer, finishing sixth in his June 24 unveiling and third Sept. 24. Adding an extra furlong in this return effort, the 9-5 second choice battled favored Ruffy (Outwork) on the front end through fractions of :23.66 and :46.98. Know It Now took command nearing the stretch, had a two-length advantage at midstretch and just held off the late-charging Bode O (Bodememeister) to graduate by a nose. Before You Know It, a half-sister to this year’s GIII Holy Bull S. runner-up Tarantino (Pioneerof the Nile), has a yearling colt by Honor Code and produced a filly by Hightail this year. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.

Lifetime Record: 3-1-0-1, $28,650.
O-Jack J. Armstrong; B-Calumet Farm (KY); T-Philip T. Aristone.
Speightster (Speightstown), WinStar Farm, $10,000
228 foals of racing age/27 winners/2 black-type winners
3—Penn National, Msw 5 1/2f, Spirit Or Spite, 5-1
$20,000 KEE SEP yrl; $30,000 EAS MAY 2yo
8—Mahoning Valley, Msw 6f, Twerk, 6-1
$25,000 RNA FTK OCT yrl

Vancouver (Aus) (Medaglia d'Oro), Coolmore Australia
146 foals of racing age/21 winners/1 black-type winner
5—Tampa Bay Downs, Aoc 1mT, Westward Look, 5-2
$30,000 EAS OCT yrl

Biogenic (Tapit)
4 foals of racing age/0 winners/0 black-type winners
1—Keeneland, Msw 4 1/2f, Cachirulo, 20-1
$2,000 KEE SEP yrl

Keen Ice (Curlin), Calumet Farm, $12,500
136 foals of racing age/0 winners/0 black-type winners
1—Keeneland, Msw 4 1/2f, Eli, 20-1

STAKES RESULTS:

CLASICO ANTONIO R. MATOS S., $53,500, Camarero, 4-4, (S),
3yo, f, 1 16m, 1:51.00, ft.
1—TEMPORERA, 118, f, 3, by Hockenheim—Moderadora
(SP-PR), by Newfoundland. O-Sonata Stable; B-Pedro Agustin
(PR); T-Ramon Morales; J-Juan C. Diaz. $31,030. Lifetime
Record: 7-4-1-1, $82,731.
2—Reina Mora, 118, f, 3, Coach Billy G.—Just Plain Wayne, by
Mutakddim. O-Hacienda Basilisa; B-Haras Nortena (PR);
T-Ricardo Negron. $10,700.
3—La Clandestina, 118, f, 3, Tawqet—Time to Jive, by Gilded
Time. O-Establo Torres Pagan; B-Haras Santa Isabel, Inc. (PR);
T-Jose D. Velez. $5,350.
Margins: 1 1/4, 7 1/4, 1 1/4. Odds: 1.65, 35.10, 0.85.

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

10th—Parx Racing, $36,250, (S), (NW2BX)/Opt. Clm ($35,000),
4-6, 3yo/up, 1m 70y, 1:42.09, ft, 2 3/4 lengths.
IRISH CORK (g, 4, Flat Out—Circustown Rose {SW}, by
Wimbledon) Lifetime Record: 14-5-6-3, $217,854. O-Irish Three
Racing LLC; B-Two-Turn Farm LLC (PA); T-John C. Servis.
* $15,000 Wlg '17 KEENOV.

GOTTA SEE RED (f, 3, Pollard's Vision—Gotagogotagogotago
{SW, $201,473}, by Kipling) Lifetime Record: SW, 5-3-0-1,
$102,684. O/B-Hal Browning & Dave Faulkner (OK); T-Kari
Craddock.

8th—Will Rogers Downs, $25,080, 4-6, (NW2L), 3yo/up, 1m,
1m, 1:40.97, ft, 8 3/4 lengths.
EUROEXIT (g, 3, Euroears--Maquita Elaine, by Hard Spun)
Lifetime Record: 10-2-1-3, $48,554. O-Allison Caldwell; B-Rio
Rojo Racing Stables (OK); T-Scott E. Young.

5th—Will Rogers Downs, $22,154, 4-6, (NW1X), 3yo/up, 1m,
1m, 1:40.75, ft, 3 1/2 lengths.
GUIDED MISSILE (c, 4, Tapit—Pussyfoot, by Tiznow) Lifetime
Record: 6-2-0-2, $68,169. O-Beth & Boyd Caster; B-Gary & Mary
West Stables Inc. (KY); T-Boyd Caster.
3rd—Mahoning Valley, $21,200, 4-6, (NW1X), 3yo/up, 1m 70y, 1:45.37, ft, 1 length.

**ENJOY BASEBALL** *(g, 4, Tapizar--Proud Zoe (SW, $241,928), by Proud Accolade)*

Lifeline Record: 26-8-2-4, $79,814. O-Siesta Thoroughbred Racing & Richard Zielinski; B-WD Thoroughbreds LLC (KY); T-Richard Zielinski.

**ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:**

**Larsa,** f, 3, *Birdrun*—Hollywood Reckless, by Tiznow. Mahoning Valley, 4-6, (S), 6f, 1:15.88. Lifetime Record: 5-1-0-0, $18,975. B-Moneyleane Farms (OH).

**Kind Humor,** f, 3, *Distorted Humor*—Kind Words, by A.P. Indy. Parx Racing, 4-6, 1m, 1:40.99. Lifetime Record: 5-1-0-1, $35,600. B-Godolphin (KY). *$16,000 Ylg '19 EASOCT.


**Strummer,** f, 3, *Star Guitar*—Good Human Bean (MSP, $141,160), by Langfuhr. Delta Downs, 4-6, (S), 1m, 1:43.38. Lifetime Record: 6-1-2-0, $52,420. B-Bruttlyn, Inc. (LA). *$22,000 2yo '20 OBSO.

**Enchanted Nile,** f, 4, *Pioneerof the Nile*—Enchantress (GSP, $103,840), by Malibu Moon. Mahoning Valley, 4-6, 1m, 1:43.62. Lifetime Record: 8-1-0-3, $22,707. B-WinStar Farm, LLC (KY). *$375,000 Ylg '18 KEESEP; $20,000 3yo '20 KEENOV; $45,000 RNA 4yo '21 FTKFEB.

American Pharoah, Know It Now, c, 4, o/o Before You Know It, by Hard Spun. MSW, 4-6, Parx Racing

Birdrun, Larsa, f, 3, o/o Hollywood Reckless, by Tiznow. MSW, 4-6, Mahoning Valley

Distorted Humor, Kind Humor, f, 3, o/o Kind Words, by A.P. Indy. MSW, 4-6, Parx Racing

Euroears, Euroexit, g, 3, o/o Maquita Elaine, by Hard Spun. ALW, 4-6, Will Rogers

Flat Out, Irish Cork, g, 4, o/o Circustown Rose, by Wimbledon. AOC, 4-6, Parx Racing

Gemologist, Emerald Forest, c, 3, o/o Papa’s Forest, by Forestry. MSW, 4-6, Delta Downs

Hockenheim, Temporera, f, 3, o/o Moderadora, by Newfoundland. GII Clasico Antonio R. Matos S., 4-4, Camarero

Liam’s Map, Dr B, f, 3, o/o Boleyn, by Proud Citizen. AOC, 4-6, Parx Racing

Pioneerof the Nile, Enchanted Nile, f, 4, o/o Enchantress, by Malibu Moon. MSW, 4-6, Mahoning Valley

Pollard’s Vision, Gotta See Red, f, 3, o/o Gotagogotagogotago, by Kipling. ALW, 4-6, Will Rogers

Star Guitar, Strummer, f, 3, o/o Good Human Bean, by Langfuhr. MSW, 4-6, Delta Downs

Tapit, Guided Missile, c, 4, o/o Pussyfoot, by Tiznow. ALW, 4-6, Will Rogers

Tapizar, Enjoy Baseball, g, 4, o/o Proud Zoe, by Proud Accolade. ALW, 4-6, Mahoning Valley

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EUSTACE CONTINUES FAMILY TRADITION

By Emma Berry

Within the same week that Thady Gosden joined his father John on the joint-training licence at Clarehaven, across town a metaphorical baton was passed from father to son at one of Newmarket’s most historic stables, Park Lodge.

This has been both home and place of business to James and Gay Eustace for a little over 30 years and the time has come for their eldest son Harry to convert his extensive and diverse apprenticeship into becoming a trainer in his own right. James has thus stood aside for Harry to take over the licence and the running of the stable, while he and Gay maintain an involvement as directors of the company.

Despite the fact that training partnerships were recently introduced in Britain, and that the couple’s other son, David, now trains in partnership with Ciaron Maher in one of the most successful stables in Australia, James is content with their new arrangement, which is still very much a family business.

He says. "I think [partnerships are] a very good idea, but we’ve planned this for a few years, really. Obviously, having training partnerships has been a marvellous opportunity for David, our youngest son. He’s got a fantastic position in Australian racing due to training partnerships. Harry is now two years older than I was when I first took out a licence. He’s got an amazing CV, far better than I had. He will make an excellent trainer. And, frankly, it’s his time." Cont. p2

PENELLOPE BREEZE FOR PHILOMENE

There was every reason to believe that a genuine future star of the 2021 Classic season was on display at Saint-Cloud on Tuesday as Godolphin, Ecurie des Monceaux and Ecurie Skymarc Farm’s Philomene (Ire) (Dubawi {Ire}) made light work of the G3 Prix Penelope over the 10 1/2-furlong Prix de Diane distance.

Off the mark by a short neck from the subsequent G1 Prix Marcel Boussac runner-up Tasmania (Fr) (Zoffany {Ire}) in a debutantes contest over a mile at ParisLongchamp in September, the Andre Fabre-trained half-sister to the G1 Irish Oaks heroine and G1 Prix de Diane runner-up Chicquita (Ire) (Montjeu {Ire}) and the G1 MacKinnon S. and G2 Ribblesdale S. heroine Magic Wand (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}), was not asked an early question by Mickael Barzalona sauntering in fourth.

Making up ground on the leaders with ease as they worked over to the stand’s rail, the €1.625-million 2019 Arqana Deauville August Yearling Sale topper drew alongside Incarville (Fr) (Wootton Bassett {GB}) and into the lead passing the furlong pole. Cont. p5

IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

A STALLION PUTTING HIMSELF ON THE MAP

Chris McGrath chronicles the recent success of young stallion Liam’s Map (Unbridled’s Song). Click or tap here to go straight to TDN America.
Eustace Continues Family Tradition Cont. from p1

Eustace senior is good at heaping praise on others, not that his assessment of his son is at all wide of the mark. Harry has more than served his time as understudy, not just by growing up in a stable in the heart of Newmarket, but by working as assistant at home and around the world to William Haggas, Chris Wall, Jeremy Noseda, Lee and Anthony Freedman, Peter and Paul Snowden and Christophe Clement, as well as completing the highly regarded Irish National Stud course. But in a business in which competitiveness, and a potential range of tricky traits that go hand-in-hand with that rivalry, James Eustace has remained the epitome of the type of Englishman which is fast vanishing: charming, decent, honest and, above all, self-effacing.

For example, he says of his Park Lodge predecessor, Ron Sheather, trainer of the top-class sprinter-miler Chief Singer (Ire), "I think Ron trained for 13 years and he trained a group winner every year bar one, and never had more than 30 horses. It took me 13 years to train a group winner. I mean, that is an amazing record. I don't personally think he ever really got the credit he deserved for the quality of trainer that he was."

Of his own stepping down from the limelight, Eustace adds, "I don't need to see my name in the paper. You know, I've been there, done it. I do think one man has got to make the decisions. And, frankly, I'll be very relaxed not having to make the decisions. It's over to Harry now. So in a way, I've got the best of every world. I ride the hack out two lots every day and have all the pleasures, but none of the stress--or a lot less of the stress, anyway."

However steady one's temperament, there is of course no avoiding a certain amount of stress when it comes to the business of training racehorses. Harry appears to have a similarly laidback and friendly approach to life as his father, and he admits that he has plenty to thank his distaff line for as well. His mother Gay is the daughter of Alan and Diane Oughton, and the sister of David Oughton, trainer of G1 Golden Jubilee S. winner Cape Of Good Hope (GB) (Inchinor {GB}). Cont. p3
Eustace Continues Family Tradition Cont.

"Frankly, she's the one with the pedigree," says Harry. "Both her parents trained, and her brother trained very successfully in Hong Kong, and brought a Royal Ascot winner over. She's the one who actually has the background for it, and knows the industry very well. She certainly knows how to run a business impeccably well."

He adds with a grin, "Unfortunately, Mum has introduced monthly accounts meetings, which means I can't get too loose with the spending. So we'll just have to keep track of those. I think for the first 10 years that they trained here, it was, you know, belt-tightening stuff. I'm sure Dad would agree that the reason it managed to keep going in the early days is that Mum ran an incredibly tight ship. So without her, neither of us would be sitting here. Well, that's definitely true for me anyway."

The Eustaces bought Park Lodge Stables from Chief Singer’s owner Jeff Smith, who in turn had taken over its ownership from Richard Galpin of the Newmarket Bloodstock Agency in order to ensure that Ron Sheather could continue to train from the yard adjacent to Newmarket's famous Jockey Club Rooms.

Smith, whose breeding operation is based at Littleton Stud in Hampshire, has remained a loyal supporter throughout the three decades, with his homebred Orcadian (GB) (Kirkwall {GB}) having been trained by Eustace to win five races, including the G3 St Simon S. and Listed August S.

A portrait on the kitchen wall depicts Orcadian with two of his stablemates of the time: the listed winners Welcome Stranger (GB) (Most Welcome {GB}), a homebred for Henry and Rosemary Moszkowicz, and Rachel Wilson's homebred Ruby Wine (GB), who owns a footnote in history as the sole Flat stakes winner for her sire Kayf Tara (GB). Cont. p4

IN TDN AUS/NZ TODAY

$2.5-MILLION SNITZEL COLT TOPS EASTER DAY 1

A colt by Snitzel (Aus) topped the first day of the Inglis Easter Sale at $2.5 million. Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Aus/NZ.
Eustace Continues Family Tradition Cont.

Such owner-breeders have been the mainstay of many of the country’s smaller stables for generations, but as times change all trainers have had to adapt, and syndicates are now a major part of many operations.

One of those at Park Lodge Stables, Blue Peter Racing is a nod to the yard’s most illustrious former resident, Lord Rosebery’s 1939 2000 Guineas and Derby winner Blue Peter (GB), trained by Jack Jarvis. The box from which the colt was trained is now occupied by six-time winner Coverham (Ire) (Bated Breath {GB}), who was James Eustace’s final runner on Mar. 26. The Classic winner’s old stable still has his name painted on the back wall, along with strips of Lord Rosebery’s colours of primrose and rose.

Eustace is a walking history book when it comes to his yard, which dates back to the 17th century and was once owned by William Crockford, who was responsible for starting Newmarket’s gambling halls in the early part of the 19th century. A further link to that history for the current incumbent is that Eustace was introduced to racing by his old schoolfriend and fellow Newmarket trainer William Jarvis, the great nephew of Blue Peter’s trainer.

He says, "Jack Jarvis trained here from the end of the First World War until he died in the winter of 1968, and Sleeping Partner (GB) won the Oaks in 69. He trained here for 50 years and trained a lot of good horses, including Blue Peter, who was odds-on to become a Triple Crown winner but then the St Leger was cancelled because of the outbreak of the Second World War. The [National Horseracing] museum used to have his Gallops Book and it was open at Blue Peter’s last trial before the Leger. There were some amazingly good horses in this trial and Jack Jarvis wrote underneath something like, 'this is the best piece of work I have ever watched."

Eustace continues, "Jeff Smith bought the yard when Richard Galpin had to sell, and that was really in order for Ron to be able to carry on training here. Ron and Jeff were a great partnership and it’s a measure of Jeff Smith that after Chief Singer was syndicated to stud, he said to Ron that he could have the yard as a gift or the equivalent in money."

He adds, "I'm delighted to say that Jeff is carrying on supporting Harry. In fact, all our owners, to a man, have stayed, in spite of Covid and all the rest of it."

As the pandemic first struck, Harry Eustace was wrapping up his tenure with William Haggas by overseeing the training of Addeybb (Ire) (Pivotal {GB}) and Young Rascal (Fr) (Intello {Ger}) in Australia, where they each won group races, with Addeybb notching a Group 1 double. Cont. p5
Eustace Continues Family Tradition Cont.

He has first-hand experience of stables large and small and is relishing the possibility of getting his hands on a classy performer like the stable’s former star War Artist (Aus) (Orpen), who won the G2 Golden Peitsche as well as finishing runner-up in the G1 Golden Jubilee S. for James Eustace.

He says, “The beauty of growing up with Dad is that with a smaller stable, each winner is incredibly precious. Also when a good horse does come around, you know, there’s a stark contrast. So you try and manage them particularly well to make them last as a successful racehorse at their highest level for as long as you can. They’re very hard to come by, so when they do come around, you want to look after them.”

Harry continues, “I also worked for a fantastic horseman in Christophe Clement. He was brilliant with horses and was incredibly patient and allowed horses time to mature. He gave them longevity, which I think is something that now more than ever we need to think about. Certainly on the Flat, because the jumps game has horses people can get behind because they’re around a while, but I think if we can have Flat horses that are around a while, that will only help us.”

While concentrating on his own first days as a trainer, Harry has also been keeping an eye on his brother’s stable, which claimed another Group 1 at the weekend with the imported Sir Dragonet (Ire) (Camelot {GB}).

He adds, “It’s very easy to keep in touch with anyone anywhere now, so we’re always in touch, and it’s equally easy to follow runners and winners. We’re obviously incredibly proud of what he’s done down there. They’ve sort of taken it to another level. They’re so far clear in the Victorian premiership and Sir Dragonet was a real feather in the cap.”

And he is keen to emulate his fellow Newmarket trainers such as William Haggas, Ed Dunlop and Charlie Fellowes in campaigning horses abroad, particularly on his brother’s new patch.

“Travelling horses is the new norm really,” Harry says. “I think it’s what people are always thinking about. For that reason, having worked abroad in most of the major racing jurisdictions, knowing people where your horse is going to run, can only be an added bonus. In particular Australia, having my brother down there will help. So to take a horse down there, that would be the dream.”

In the meantime, Newmarket is about to burst back into life with next week’s Craven Meeting, though the name Harry Eustace could appear on a race card before that as the town’s newest trainer has an entry at Lingfield on Saturday with Potenza (Ire) (Born To Sea (Ire)), already a three-time winner for the stable.

“We’ve got 30 [horses] in and about 35 on the books,” he says. “We’d be about 50/50 2-year-olds to older horses. Predominately the 3-year-olds are quite lightly raced--very kindly, Dad looked after them last year.Hopefully a couple of them can progress. Then we’re just fingers crossed that a 2-year-old can step up and be half decent.”

And despite there being a different name on the licence, there’s very much an echo of the old Eustace modesty and manners that people have become accustomed to as Harry concludes, “But we’re very lucky that everybody stayed and some new people have come in. To back a first-up trainer, I think takes a bit of courage, so it’s very kind of them to do so.”

G3 Prix Penelope Cont. from p1

Hand ridden to score ears pricked by 2 1/2 lengths from that rival, there was the same margin back to Philomene’s Listed Prix Rose de Mai-winning stablemate Anasia (GB) (Intello {Ger}) in third to add ballast to the form.

“I’m delighted with the way she has run—she had a lovely action and is a really nice filly,” Fabre said of the 4-5 favourite. “I will target the Diane with her and she will have a race in between, but it’s too early to say where. She is the only one of the family to have won as a 2-year-old and while she was not that precocious, she has class.”

As the Godolphin website stated, the result also served as a landmark for Dubawi who was becoming the first British stallion to sire 200 stakes winners.

Her jockey added, “I was very impatient to see Philomene back on a racetrack and I am very happy with the way she won today. I am sure she will come forward plenty for it. She is a good filly with a lot of class and is very easy to handle, so that will be a very good point in the big races. Andre Fabre knows exactly the way to bring these fillies along. Philomene broke her maiden last year, beating a promising horse, and we have our fingers crossed that she can keep on improving.” Cont. p6
Pedigree Notes

Philomene was big news before she even set foot into the Deauville sales ring, being the eighth foal out of Skymarc Farm and Monceaux’s Listed Prix de la Seine winner Prudenzia (Ire) (Dansili {GB}) who has achieved significant renown as a broodmare. Her first offering was an instant hit, with the high-class but also quirky Chicquita capturing the aforementioned Curragh Classic having found only Treve (Fr) (Motivator {GB}) too strong in the Diane. That effort followed a remarkable run-out into the hedge when a surefire winner in a conditions event at this venue, but there was no sign of that kind of wayward tendency as she matured. Eventually snapped up by Coolmore for €6 million at the 2013 Goffs November Mares Sale, she went on to finish third in the G1 QIPCO British Champions Fillies & Mares S. and is now the dam of the G3 Silver Flash S. third Secret Thoughts (War Front).

Prudenzia’s third foal was Truth (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}), bought by Minster Stud for €580,000 at last year’s Arqana December Breeding Stock Sale and the dam of Divertissement (Ire) (Shalaa {Ire}) who also contested this race but ran as if something was amiss in last. In 2015, she threw the amazingly consistent Magic Wand, who aside from winning the MacKinnon was also placed in nine other top-level races across the globe. Her next progeny was the G3 Prix de Royaumont third Je Ne Regretterien (GB) by Galileo, while her 2-year-old colt by that giant was the top-priced colt at last year’s Arqana Deauville September Yearling Sale when selling to MV Magnier for €2 million.

Her half-sister Pacifique (Ire) (Montjeu {Ire}) took the G3 Prix de Lutece and was emulated in that feat by her daughter Paix (Ire) (Muhaarar {GB}) last term, while another of her half-siblings is English King (Fr) (Camelot {GB}) who captured the Listed Lingfield Derby Trial last June before failing to hit the expected heights.

The fourth dam Souk (Ire) (Ahonoora {GB}) is the ancestress of the Sadler’s Wells sensation Alexandra (Ire), who like Chicquita annexed the Irish Oaks having dominated the Epsom Classic, and the G1 Melbourne Cup hero Rekindling (GB) by that former Coolmore monarch’s son High Chaparral (Ire).
Wensleydale Cont.

She is a daughter of Goldikova (Ire) (Anabaa), while Al Shaqab’s Paris (Fr) (Shalaa (Ire)), the second foal out of Treve (Fr) (Motivator (GB)), was over eight lengths behind the winner in sixth.

“She is a filly I really like and she came into training very late, so she definitely must have room for improvement,” Devin commented. “She’s a nice scopey filly with a lovely attitude and I’m sure she has a future.”

Wensleydale was a 700,000gns purchase by the operation at the 2018 Tattersalls December Foal Sale, which placed her in the top five lots overall at that auction. Bred by Juddmonte in partnership with Divine’s owners Mohammed Al-Qatami and Khalid Al-Mudhaf, she is the first foal out of the former Mick Channon trainee whose other career achievements include second and third placings in two editions of the G3 Hackwood S. and a win in Pontefract’s Listed Flying Fillies S.

The latter is a race which can serve as an early advert for serious broodmare potential and was also won by this operation’s Arabesque (GB) (Zafonic) prior to her producing the success story Showcasing (GB). The second dam Carallia (Ire) (Common Grounds (GB)) was a listed-placed half-sister to the G1 Prix de la Foret-winning leading Spanish sire Caradak (Ire) (Desert Style (Ire)), while this is also the family of the G1 Nunthorpe S. heroine Margot Did (Ire) (Exceed and Excel (Aus)). Divine’s 2-year-old filly by Oasis Dream (GB) was bought by Ben McElroy for 210,000gns at last year’s Tattersalls October Yearling Sale Book 1, while her 2020 full-brother to Wensleydale was another purchase by Juddmonte at 260,000gns at the latest renewal of the Tattersalls December Foal Sale.

Wensleydale is the newest ‘TDN Rising Star’ | Scoop Dyga
Laurens (Fr) (Siyouni {Fr}), a winner of six Group 1 races, has produced a colt by Invincible Spirit (Ire) as her first foal, owner John Dance announced via Twitter Tuesday morning. Successful in the G1 Fillies Mile at two, she will visit Kingman (GB) in 2021. The bay is also a winner of the G1 Prix Saint-Alary, G1 Prix de Diane, G1 Matron S., G1 Kingdom of Bahrain Sun Chariot S. and G1 Prix Rothschild. It was announced last January that Laurens would visit the Irish National Stud stalwart, having been originally penciled in for Coolmore Stud’s No Nay Never.

“So...he finally arrived, Invincible Spirit x Laurens,” tweeted Dance. “What a stunner.”

**DAM OF ALBIGNA IN FOAL TO CIRCUS MAXIMUS**

Freedonia (GB) (Selkirk), the dam of G1 Qatar Prix Marcel Boussac winner Albigna (Ire) (Zoffany {Ire}), has been scanned in foal to new Coolmore stallion Circus Maximus (Ire).

The Niarchos Family, who bred Circus Maximus and raced the treble Group 1 winner in partnership with the Coolmore syndicate, are also supporting the freshman sire by sending him their European champion 3-year-old filly Alpha Centauri (Ire) (Mastercraftsman {Ire}), who was named Horseracing Ireland’s Horse of the Year in 2018.

Among the other well-credentialed mares already tested in foal to Circus Maximus are Group 2 winner Banimpire (Ire) (Holy Roman Emperor {Ire}) and Bünditten (Ire) (Soviet Star), the dam of G2 Coventry S. winner Rajasinghe (Ire) (Choisir {Aus}). Other mares booked to Circus Maximus are the dams of Group 1 winners Rip Van Winkle (Ire), Trip To Paris (Ire) and Canford Cliffs (Ire).

**NELL GWYN NEXT FOR LOVE IS YOU**

Love Is You (Ire) (Kingman {GB}), trained by Roger Charlton for Normandie Stud, will next appear on the racecourse in the Apr. 14 G3 Nell Gwyn S. Unveiled at Ascot on Sept. 5, the daughter of Fallen For You (GB) (Dansili {GB}) narrowly won going a mile, and followed up with another victory, this time over seven furlongs in the Listed Radley S. at Newbury on Oct. 24. If her Nell Gwyn mission is a success, the May 2 G1 1000 Guineas is next on her dance card at Newmarket.

“Everyone seems happy with her at this stage,” said Roger Charlton. “Preparation has been so far without issues, and the plan is to run in the Nell Gwyn. It’s been a fair winter--luckily we didn’t have snow to hold us up. She’s been ticking along.

“It’s pretty miserable and cold for fillies right now, but that’s also what normally happens at this time of year. It’s never easy, or ideal, but it’s the same for everybody.”

“I think she’s developed well,” he added. “The main competition normally comes from the other side of the Irish Sea--and they’ve got quite a few reserves as well, I suspect. Her last race was run on pretty appalling ground--I don’t think it’s what she needs, particularly, but she did it well. We’ll find out more when she runs at Newmarket, I guess.”
**HENRY CECIL OPEN WEEKEND TO HOST VISITORS IN SEPTEMBER**

The Henry Cecil Open Weekend, slated for Sept. 18-19 this year, will welcome visitors back to Newmarket for the first time since 2019. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic forced the event, which normally features racing and equine enthusiasts visiting training yards, into a virtual format for the first time. A total of £48,000 was raised for its three chosen beneficiaries—Racing Welfare (80%), the British Racing School (10%) and the Racing Centre (10%). This year, Racing Welfare, the newly formed Newmarket Pony Academy and a soon to be announced community project for all residents are the beneficiaries of the fundraiser. For more information, please visit www.thehenrycecilopenweekend.co.uk.

Charlie Fellowes, Chairman of The Henry Cecil Open Weekend, said, “Despite the challenges last year, we were determined to keep the event running and help raise funds for our charities. A huge thanks to everyone who donated money and supported the first Virtual Henry Cecil Open Weekend.

“Following recent Government announcements, we plan to welcome back visitors to Newmarket this September. The Henry Cecil Open Weekend provides a unique insight into racing life at Newmarket and is a highlight for many horseracing fans. We are very much looking forward to the weekend.”

Dawn Goodfellow, Chief Executive of Racing Welfare, added, “Racing Welfare is honoured to once again be one of the chosen charities of the Henry Cecil Open Weekend. Previous funds raised from the Henry Cecil Open Weekend have gone towards the refurbishment of MacDonald Buchanan House in Newmarket into high-quality, safe accommodation for young people entering the racing industry. Any funds raised from the 2021 Henry Cecil Open Weekend will go towards the upkeep of this essential accommodation and the support of the 18 young tenants who live there, helping them to gain independent living skills and giving them a happy, healthy start in their racing careers. We are incredibly grateful to the Henry Cecil Open Weekend committee and to all those who donate to this fantastic weekend of racing entertainment.”

**BRITAIN**

**Tuesday’s Results:**

**3rd-Pontefract,** £19,000, Hcp, 4-6, 4yo/up, 10f 5yT, 2:09.81, g/f.

**WALDKONIG (GB)** (c, 4, **Kingman (GB)**—Waldlerche (GB) (GSW-Fr & SP-Ger), by Monsun (Ger)), who was last seen chasing home fellow **TDN Rising Star** Highest Ground (Ire) (Frankel {GB}) in a Haydock novice in June, raced behind the leading duo early. Delivered wide entering the straight, the 5-4 favourite took over from Kaleidoscopic (GB) (Le Havre {Ire}) approaching the furlong pole and stayed on strongly to score by 3 1/4 lengths.

He was a bit novicey beforehand and on and off in the race too,” jockey Robert Havlin said. “He tended to be on the wrong leg for too long, but when he moved up he put that to bed pretty decisively. He has a big action and wants to get his toe in—the ground is very quick out in the country, but when he was meeting the ground up the straight it was a little bit kinder. I wouldn’t imagine we’ll see him in another handicap.”

Instigating an afternoon double for the G3 Prix Penelope-winning dam prior to the 3-year-old filly **Wildfeder** (GB) (Galileo {Ire}) winning at Saint-Cloud, the homebred is a half-brother to the G1 Prix de l’Arc de Triomphe, G1 Grand Prix de Saint-Cloud, G1 Prix Ganay and G1 Criterium de Saint-Cloud hero Waldgeist (GB), 2x Hwt. Older Horse-Fr at 11-14f, Hwt. Older Horse-Eur & Eng at 11-14f, MG1SW-Fr, MG1SP-Eng, $4,835,981, and to the G2 Prix de Malleret winner Waldlied (GB) (New Approach {Ire}), GSW-Fr, $123,344. The dam, a daughter of the G2 Falmouth S. runner-up Waldmark (Ger) (Mark of Esteem {Ire}), is a half to this stable’s G1 St Leger hero Masked Marvel (GB) (Montjeu {Ire}). She also has a yearling filly by Dubawi (Ire). Sales history: 600,000gns Ylg ‘18 TATOCT. Lifetime Record: SP-Eng, 4-2-1-1, $22,900.

O-Gestut Ammerland & Newsells Park Stud; B-Newsells Park & Ammerland GmbH & Co.KG (GB); T-John & Thady Gosden.
Ardad celebrated his first winner on Tuesday | Emma Berry

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Marlay Park (GB), g, 3, Cable Bay (Ire)--Lovers’ Vows (GB), by Dubawi (Ire). Bath & Somerset County, 4-6, 5f 160yT, 1:12.16. B-Highclere Stud & Jake Warren Ltd (GB). *£40,000 Ylg ’19 GOFSPT; 25,000gns 2yo ’20 TATAH.

Golden Flame (Ire), c, 3, Golden Horn (GB)--Flame of Gibraltar (Ire) (GSP-Eng), by Rock of Gibraltar (Ire). Bath & Somerset County, 4-6, 11f 137yT, 2:32.90. B-Godolphin (IRE).

Buxted Too (GB), g, 3, Ifraaj (GB)--Much Promise (GB), by Invincible Spirit (Ire). Chelmsford City, 4-6, 7f (AWT), 1:28.25. B-Ashbrittle Stud & M H Dixon (GB). *30,000gns Ylg ’19 TAOCT; £55,000 2yo ‘20 TTIGOR.

Spycatcher (Ire), c, 3, Vadamos (Fr)--Damask (Ire), by Red Clubs (Ire). Pontefract, 4-6, 6fT, 1:17.15. B-Tally Ho Stud (IRE). *90,000gns 2yo ‘20 TATBRE. **GSP-Eng.
FRANCE

Tuesday’s Results:

3rd-Saint-Cloud, €27,000, Debutantes, 4-6, 3yo, c/g, 8fT, 1:46.93, gd.

EXCITING (FR) (c, 3, Exosphere {Aus}–Pietra Santa {Fr} {SW-Fr, $150,964}, by Acclamation {GB}), a 9-1 shot, was soon on the lead setting a moderate tempo. Tackled by Miyaz (Fr) (Siyouni {Fr}) and passed with a furlong to race, the bay fought back to regain the advantage in the final 50 metres and score by a neck. The listed-winning dam, whose 2-year-old is a filly by Elusive City, hails from the family of the champion Trillion and several smart Japanese performers including the Deep Impact (Jpn) pair of group winners Boreas (Jpn) and Camino Tassajara (Jpn).

Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, i 13,500. Video, sponsored by TVG.

O-Woodpark Bloodstock Ltd & David Smaga; B-Aleyrion Bloodstock Ltd (FR); T-David Smaga.

4th-Saint-Cloud, €27,000, Mdn, 4-6, 3yo, f, 12fT, 2:39.93, gd.

WILDFEDER (GB) (f, 3, Galileo {Ire}–Waldlerche {GB} {GSW-Fr & SP-Ger}, by Monsun {Ger}), a full-sister to the G1 Prix de l’Arc de Triomphe hero Waldgeist (GB), 2x Hwt. Older Horse-Fr at 11-14f, Hwt. Older Horse-Eur & Eng at 11-14f, MG1SW-Fr, MG1SP-Eng, $4,835,981, was fifth on debut over 9 1/2 furlongs on Chantilly’s Polytrack Mar. 9 and raced worse than mid-division throughout the early stages. Needing all of the straight to enter the fray, the 3-1 favourite eventually wore down Affaire de Coeur (Fr) (Doctor Dino {Fr}) in the final metres for a 1 1/4-length success. This is a family that for whatever reason excels at this venue, with Waldgeist’s career tally also including wins in the G1 Grand Prix de Saint-Cloud and G1 Criterium de Saint-Cloud, while the dam Waldlerche’s own career-defining moment came with success in the G3 Prix Penelope which served as the feature race on this card. Her daughter Waldlied (GB) by Galileo’s son New Approach (Ire) captured the G2 Prix de Malleret also here, GSW-Fr, $123,344. With her talented colt Waldkonig (GB) (Kingman {GB}) getting his 4-year-old campaign off to a flyer on the same afternoon with a win in a Pontefract handicap, it could be that the remarkable Waldlerche may have two more pattern-race performers to boast of come the end of the year. Out of the G2 Falmouth S. runner-up Waldmark (Ger) (Mark of Esteem {Ire}) and therefore a half-sister to the G1 St Leger hero Masked Marvel (GB) (Montjeu {Ire}), her 2-year-old filly is by Dubawi (Ire). Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, €14,850. Video, sponsored by TVG.

O-Newells Park Stud, Gestut Ammerland, Michael Tabor & Susan Magnier; B-Newells Park Stud & Gestut Ammerland (GB); T-Andre Fabre.

5th-Saint-Cloud, €27,000, Mdn, 4-6, 3yo, c/g, 12fT, 2:36.10, gd.

MARTIAL EAGLE (IRE) (c, 3, Adlerflug {Ger}–Montezuma {Ger}, by Monsun {Ger}), who was third on his seasonal bow at Fontainebleau Mar. 12, was slowly away but unhurried in last early. Making smooth progress in the straight, the 7-5 favourite was in front with 300 metres remaining and stayed in second gear to account for Bubble Gift (Fr) (Nathaniel {Ire}) by 3 1/2 lengths. The first foal out of the unraced dam was Adlerflug’s G3 Prix de Lutece winner Moonshiner (Ger), Hwt. 3yo-Ger at 14f+, GSW-Fr, SW & MGSP-Ger, while her second was Monreal (Ire) (Peintre Celebre) who was second in the Lutece. She is a full-sister to the G2 Schwarzgold-Rennen third Meridia (Ger) and a half to the dam of Meergorl (Ger), another Adlerflug who captured the G2 Diana-Trial. Also connected to the European Oaks winners Miss Yoda (Ger) (Sea the Stars {Ire}) and Meridiana (Ger) (Lomitas {GB}), her 2-year-old filly by Australia (GB) is named Mappatassie (Ire). Lifetime Record: 3-1-1-1, €22,510. Video, sponsored by TVG.

O-Gestut Schlenderhan; B-Stall Ullmann (IRE); T-Francis-Henri Graffard.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Singledon (GB), g, 3, New Bay (GB)–Singuliere (Ire), by Singspiel (Ire). Toulouse, 4-6, 10 1/2fT, 2:14.60. B-Ashbrittle Stud (GB).

Wisna (Fr), f, 3, Wootton Bassett (GB)–Heliocentric (Fr), by Galileo (Ire). Toulouse, 4-6, 10 1/2fT, 2:15.10. B-Martin S. Schwartz Racing (FR). *€42,000 Ylg ‘19 AROCT.
$2.5 MILLION SNITZEL COLT TOPS EASTER DAY 1

by Bren O’Brien

A record-breaking opening day for Vinery Stud produced a string of stunning results at the Inglis Australian Easter Yearling Sale, highlighted by the $2.1 million achieved for an Exceed And Excel colt. Hawkes Racing paid the highest price of the opening day, $2.5 million, for a colt by Snitzel from Arrowfield Stud.

At A Glance:
- The $2.5 million pricetag for Lot 45, the colt by Snitzel offered by Arrowfield Stud and purchased by Team Hawkes, represented the highest price for an Australian yearling in two years.
- Vinery Stud’s eight yearlings averaged $816,250, including the $2.1 million Shane McGrath paid for Lot 5, a colt by Exceed And Excel, on behalf of Tony Fung Investments.
- Major players Ciaron Maher Racing, James Harron, Coolmore and Victorian Alliance all bought $1 million-plus lots, of which there were 11 in total.
- The Day 1 Sale average was $368,440, on par with the $369,371 on the first day in 2019 (2020 Sale was held in online mode).
- The median was $260,000, down from the Day 1 median of $280,000 in 2019.
- The overall aggregate was $64.47 million, a daily record and surpassing the previous record of $64.27 million set on Day 1 in 2019.

- The clearance rate was 85%, comparable to the 86% on Day 1 two years ago.

Vinery’s Day Out

Vinery Stud enjoyed a banner first day at the Inglis Australian Easter Yearling Sale, selling three lots for over a $1 million, including the second top-lot of the day, when Shane McGrath paid $2.1 million for Lot 5, a colt by Exceed And Excel.

The top lot on the day was sold by Arrowfield Stud, with Lot 45, a Snitzel colt, selling to Hawkes Racing for $2.5 million, but all the remaining plaudits of the opening day belonged to Vinery. In what amounts to the most successful sales day for Vinery in its 21-year history in Australia, it finished with eight sales at an extraordinary average of $816,250 including two seven-figure lots by Exceed And Excel and one by Snitzel.

Vinery Stud General Manager, Peter Orton, said the quite stunning run of results were reward for the hard work in putting together the draft by his team as well as years of planning in building the farm’s broodmare band.

"It’s been a massive day. We've come along with a good draft, with a very sound draft and we are really proud of the horses we had. It's one of those situations where you put a collection of horses together and you arrive at market as strong as this, so we are having a good time," he said. "The market is all about playing the long game and you can’t sort of jump into it one year and expect to cash-in the next. Those who have been doing at a right level for a time will get the right benefits when markets like this come along. We are under no illusions about that."
"We happened to put a good bunch of horses together that were very sound, and they came together at the right time and the market was strong."

The string of massive sales results come off the back of a successful run from Vinery graduates on the track in recent years such as feature 2-year-old race winners Farnan (Not A Single Doubt), Artorius (Flying Artie) and Exhilarates (Snitzel).

"Your brand is a very important thing, and the market has to respect the brand no matter what business you are in. The farm has got a great history of breeding strong horses and growing and presenting them all," Orton said.

"Our horses are reared in big groups in big paddocks. They have all had the opportunity to be strong and be raised to their optimum, rather than be held back. They are genuine horses and we have had a great run. We have had a Blue Diamond and Golden Slipper and Magic Millions winner from the farm in the past few years.

"We started off at Vinery racing a lot of horses that ran in our colours. We have got strong partnerships and we’ve got some great broodmares around us. Whatever stallions we have, we have to believe in them ourselves, because we use them ourselves.

"It’s not a bad business plan to follow through. You just have to be patient and back the stallions you believe will upgrade your mares and having bloodlines that are most suitable for the strongest level of racing possible."

"Fung/McGrath Get in Early for Exceed Stunner"

It was McGrath, buying on behalf of Tony Fung, who got the ball rolling early for Vinery, going to $2.1 million to secure Lot 5, a colt by Exceed And Excel. The colt, who is out of the stakes winner Peace Force (Bernardini {USA}), was the busiest in terms of inspections all week and expectations were that he’d be near the top of the pricelist, and after a battle with Coolmore, it was McGrath that prevailed in what will provide a further boost to Annabel Neasham’s stable.

"It’s massive for us, to start with a bang like that. We always knew he’d go very well. He’s an outstanding colt, as good a colt that I have anything to do with in any draft. It’s a good team of horses but we knew we’d start off really well with him."

White revealed that the colt had more parades—230—than any other yearling at Riverside Stables this week, and so he always knew he’d be in demand.

"It’s a big thing for a horse to be out 230 times and be put back in their box and be asked to do it over and over again. He handled it to a tee," he said.

"We knew all the right groups were on him, and he sold accordingly.

"I didn’t think he’d go for quite that much. I knew he’d be over the $1-million mark quite comfortably, but I wasn’t sure where he’d pull up after that. When you have got two to three large groups, some strong stallion farms on a horse like that, you are not really sure when they will pull up.

"The horse deserved it, he’s from a fantastic pedigree, he’s got a great attitude and he’s just an athlete."

The colt is the second foal out of Peace Force, who won a G3 Glenlogan Park S. for trainer Gerald Ryan before being purchased by Vinery Stud on behalf of Encompass International at the 2016 Magic Millions Broodmare Sale for $520,000.

Peace Force is a half-sister to five-time Group 1 winner Eremein (Timber Country {USA}) as well as listed winner Gliding (Flying Spur).
Her first foal, a now 2-year-old by Snitzel, was retained, before she was sent to Exceed And Excel.

"We paid a lot of money for the mare off the track when she was racing. She’s a big scopey mare and by Bernardini, who we thought would make quite a good broodmare sire. She was a good running mare and we gave her a good go, sending her to Exceed And Excel in one of her first seasons at stud, and got a great colt, hopefully, he can go out there and do a good job," White said.

"He was a lovely foal and even right through to the weanling stage. It sounds like a bit of a cliché, but you walk into the paddock and he was just a headturner, you’d just look at him and think wow. He’s a ripper."

Since foaling this colt, she had a filly to I Am Invincible last year before getting in foal to Exceed And Excel resident Exceedance.

Exceed Formula Repeated

McGrath returned to the formula again, with Lot 63, another Exceed And Excel colt offered by Vinery Stud, for which he paid exactly half the price, $1.05 million.

He is out of Sanity (Lonhro), who was bought by Laceby Lodge for $800,000 in 2019, and was sold on behalf of A List Stud. Sanity is a sister to Group 3 winner Trim, whose Exceed And Excel filly Manicure has won two stakes races. It is also the family of G1 Makybe Diva S. winner G1 Makge Diva S. winner Gatting (Hard Spun {USA}).

“That is our model, to try and source these colts and we’re fortunate that we have a great team that goes behind the selection process. It’s a huge outlay but at the end of the day, it’s risk versus reward," McGrath said.

"Full credit to Vinery, they are a great farm, and we’ve had a bit of luck buying Farnan out of there, so hopefully lightning can strike twice."

Turbo Colt Heads to Maher

The third million-dollar lot from Vinery, Lot 139, by Snitzel out of Group 3 winner Turbo Miss (Sebring), went to Ciaron Maher Bloodstock for $1.15 million.

Turbo Miss is a half-sister to Group 1 winner and Newgate stallion Russian Revolution, and secured her G3 Francis Tressady S. win at the expense of Rising Romance (NZ) (Ekraar {USA}), the dam of the day's top lot, who was also by Snitzel.

"She belongs to a really good client, Brian Backshall. He bred Russian Revolution too," Orton said. "We had Russian Revolution’s mother on the farm. He obviously kept this daughter of hers. He’s always been a good client of the farm and has always bred a nice horse. We sold Russian Revolution as a yearling as well."

Turbo Miss has a weanling colt by The Autumn Sun and then visited Deep Field last year.

Maher said the colt fitted all the requirements of being a million-dollar yearling who would hopefully convert into a fast and precocious 2-year-old.

"He’s an athletic colt by the right stallion and with a big page. He’s the type of colt that you expect to see here at Easter and we knew he’d have a healthy pricetag. He’s a quality horse and we are rapt to have got him," he said. "He looks that sharp, early Slipper-type of horse."

Vinery Stud also had Lot 89, a colt by I Am Invincible out of Group 1-winning mare Snitzerland (Snitzel) sell to Tom Magnier for $950,000.

Inglis Hails Deserved Success

All in all Vinery’s yearling fetched $6.53 million, which put them well clear on the averages ($816,250), while its aggregate of $6.53 million was behind only Arrowfield ($11,725 million) and Yarraman Park ($7.28 million). Inglis General Manager, Bloodstock Sales and Marketing, Sebastian Hutch, said Vinery’s golden day at the Riverside Stables was very much deserved.

"It’s a really likable group of people. It’s very competitive among the top studs in terms of clientele and horses," he said.

"Chris Russell does inspections at Vinery in the spring and he came back and said Vinery have got a really good group of horses for Easter. Then I spoke to a very prominent buyer a few weeks ago, who went to do the pre-sale inspections there and they said it was as good a draft a yearlings as they have ever seen.

"Then you get to the sale and you have everybody eulogising about their draft. Full credit to them. Denis Griffin (Yearling Manager) has done a fantastic job, they have presented immaculately and it was a pleasure to look at their horses."

"It’s evidence, if any was needed that if you bring the right horse here and you can get some extraordinary results."
Romance Blooms for Team Hawkes

Lot 45, a colt by Snitzel out of Group 1 winner Rising Romance (NZ) (Ekraar (USA)) offered by Arrowfield Stud, carried high expectations into the Sale and his pricetag lived up to that as Hawkes Racing went to $2.5 million to secure him.

John, Michael and Wayne Hawkes train his sister, the promising Yearning, on behalf of a syndicate led by Arrowfield, and fought off a determined challenge from Maher to land the colt on behalf of existing stable clients.

Wayne Hawkes said the colt had made an immediate impression on inspection and they weren't going to miss out on him.

"He just oozed class. We got here last Tuesday and he was the second horse we saw Tuesday afternoon and Dad turned to me and Michael and said we are taking this one home by hook or by crook," he said.

"We just put a heap of stable clients into the horse, and when John Hawkes says 'I want', we have to do our best to put them together. Dad has got such a great record of success out of buying out of this sale and hopefully this guy can go on to be the one." 

Rising Romance won a G1 Australian Oaks and was placed in a G1 Caulfield Cup as well as a host of other top races, but Hawkes said this colt looks much sharper and should be the type that can measure up to the better 2-year-old races.

"He is probably more of a Snitzel type. We've had a bit of luck with them here. Just looking up on the wall at (G1 Golden Slipper S. winner) Estijaab, who was a top-priced Snitzel filly here, and so this guy will be heading down the similar path," he said.

"This guy is a dead-set 2-year-old. He looks like the real deal and he'll be going to get broken in on Monday and it's 49 weeks to the Golden Slipper."

Yearning debuted with fast-finishing second at Randwick last month and contests the G2 Percy Sykes S. this Saturday. Hawkes said while there were similarities between her and her brother, there was much more to their determination to get him than just the connection to the family.

"When you got one at home and you look at this bloke and you look at the physical and you go 'wow', it makes sense," he said.

"But even though they are brother and sisters, you have to like the individual. You don't ever want to get caught up in the buying the full-brother or sister for the sake of it, because Michael looks like an athlete and I don't, it's as simple as that."

A Big Result for Arrowfield

Arrowfield Chairman John Messara hailed a terrific result for the farm with a colt who had been on the market when the bidding reached $1 million.

"He was an ideal colt to be an early goer. He's looks precocious even though he comes from a mare who got up to a mile and quarter, so he's going to be a twin-purpose, I'd say," Messara said.

"He's just a magnificent individual and the sister Yearning has had one start for an unlucky second and now she is in the Percy Sykes, so they had some inside information, if you like.

"He's been very popular all the time. We put what we thought was a sensible reserve on him of $1 million and that's a lot of money in itself but it went straight past that and I'm very pleased that the Hawkes team got him. Our horses have had good success in their stable, so I am really happy."

Arrowfield and its Japanese partners had purchased Rising Romance privately off the track and have sent her to Snitzel all four years to date. She had another colt last year and is in foal to the champion sire again.

"We won't be going far off Snitzel given these first two. I think it cost us about $900,000 or something like that but she's turning out magnificent foals," Messara said.

"Snitzel has won four championships in a row, so he's no slouch."

Indeed, later on in the day, Arrowfield would secure its 12th million-dollar result at this Sale from the progeny of Snitzel when agent Dean Hawthorne paid $1.05 million for Lot 69, a colt out of Secluded (Hussonet (USA)), making him a three-quarter brother to Arrowfield stallion Pariah.

Secluded, who was purchased for $525,000 by Paul Messara as a yearling, is a half-sister to Group 1-winning mare Melito (Redoute's Choice). She visited The Autumn Sun last spring.

Snitzel had 14 yearlings sell on the day for a total of $8.82 million, and an average of $630,000. That put him top on aggregate of all sires and second behind Exceed And Excel ($1.105 million) on averages.

Vinnie Filly Brings Group Together

Coolmore was also involved in the purchase of the top-priced filly of the day, coming together with Hermitage and Guy Mulcaster to pay $1.25 million for Lot 149, an I Am Invincible filly out of Vezalay (Shamardal (USA)) offered by Widden Stud.

Mulcaster said the filly had taken his eye during on-farm inspections before the man who will become her trainer, Chris Waller, inspected her at Riverside on Friday.

"We saw her on the farm about three weeks ago and we really liked her and she's just improved in the prep. We saw her here twice and then I took Chris to see her on Friday and he really liked her," he said.

"We've managed to put a nice group together of Coolmore and Hermitage. It was the top end of our budget, but we're really happy to secure her."
Team Coolmore | Inglis

Widden had paid $1 million for Vezalay, who was a listed winner and stakes-placed on multiple other occasions, in foal with this filly at the 2019 Magic Millions National Broodmare Sale in partnership with David Redvers Bloodstock. Principal Antony Thompson was delighted with the outcome of Tuesday’s sale.

“We loved her from day one. We had very lofty expectations from the moment she was born really having paid so much for mum in foal and by how she looked. For it to all come together here was a great thrill,” Thompson said.

Obviously there was lots of competition and I know there will be lots of disappointed trainers and owners but congratulations to Guy Mulcaster. He pegged her a long time ago. He’d seen her before on the farm and got the sense then that he had her as the best filly he’d seen in a long time. There was a bit of a sense she was a superstar.

“It is not always that easy. There’s a lot water under the bridge and you hold your breath for a long time but it is another stunning result for ourselves and the team involved, Qatar who are also in her with us, David Redvers who trusted me to buy her, there’s a couple of other clients in there, so it’s a great ride for those guys to be a part of that.”

Vezalay had a Zoustar filly last spring and returned to the Widden stallion again last year.

Harron, Coolmore Link Up for Vinnie Colt

James Harron formed a couple of new partnerships to secure seven-figure lots on the opening day, including with the outfit he started his career out with many years ago, Coolmore.

Harron and Coolmore Australia Principal Tom Magnier came together to pay $1.15 million for Lot 173, and I Am Invincible colt out of Zamzam (Redoute’s Choice) who was part of the Shadwell dispersal through Yarraman Park’s draft.

Harron said the opportunity to buy out such a strong family was too good to resist and he and the Coolmore team have worked closely to put together a partnership for this colt.

“It is a real privilege to buy into one of Sheikh Hamdan’s families. He’s been an incredible man in the racing world and hopefully this colt can continue on and do everybody proud,” Harron said.

“We just loved the horse and we’ve bought him in conjunction with Coolmore Australia as well. We came together and absolutely loved him. We thought he was a very sharp colt, he has a very good mind.”

While it is a new association between the prominent bloodstock agent and the global powerhouse in terms of buying yearlings, they have a strong association through the stallion deal with dual Group 1 winner King’s Legacy.

“I’ve got a very long history with Coolmore. I had my first job there when I was 15 years old and I’ve known the guys for a long time. They bought into King’s Legacy this year and I’ve really enjoyed racing him together as a group and we thought it’d be a good idea to buy a colt or two together and he was the one we came up with and let’s hope it’s the start of something exciting for us,” Harron said.

“I was really taken by him when I saw him. He’s very racy, medium size. We’ve been studying and analysing I Am Invincible as hard as we can and I thought he was in that Brazen Beau type mould and hopefully he can be half as good as him.”

Fastnet Filly Catches Eye of Harron

Harron was also active in another partnership with an as-yet-unidentified new client in paying $1.1 million for Lot 53, a Fastnet Rock filly out of Rostova (Testa Rossa), making her a sister to multiple Group 2 winner Anaheed.

This time it was Harron buying from Coolmore, as opposed to buying with them, and he was very happy to pick up such a quality filly from a Group 1-winning mare.
Lot 227 is a colt by Snitzel | Inglis

“I am really glad to get her. Fastnet’s having a really incredible season and as a broodmare sire he’s doing an incredible job. She’s a real collector’s item and a really classy filly,” he said. “I’ve been working on this for quite a while for a new investor and it was great to get her. She took everything in, handled everything and she looks like a filly where we’re going to have to wait a little bit—she’s a November foal—but we’ll be expecting her to be running in races as a late 2-year-old and 3-year-old.”

The filly was also bought with the purpose of developing into a broodmare in time.

“You have to look at this for eight to 10 years and that you will eventually have a beautiful broodmare. We quite like buying them at this stage because you can see exactly what they’re like and generally we’ve had good success doing that. She obviously has a lovely family and, as I said earlier, Fastnet Rock as a broodmare sire does kick a lot of goals,” he said.

Alliance Steps Up for Snitzel Colt and Two Others

The Victorian Alliance headed up by Rosemont Stud and involving a collective of prominent breeders, has been active buying colts throughout the year and filled its order of 11, buying three more on Tuesday, including a Snitzel colt, Lot 227, for $1.2 million.

The colt offered by Yarraman Park as part of the Shadwell dispersal, was knocked down to Rosemont Victorian Alliance, Suman Hedge Bloodstock and David Redvers Bloodstock. He is out of Bulbula, a stakes-winning daughter of Shamardal (USA), from a family full of Shadwell-bred stakes winners, including this colt’s half-brother Aryaaf (Epaullette).

“Shadwell have produced amazing horses for such a period of time, what an honour and privilege to be able to put on our silks and have the opportunity to carry on that tradition,” Rosemont’s Anthony Mithen said. “He looks a fast horse. He’s bred to be fast. He’s got great pedigree. We haven’t got a Snitzel but we have now, and I think we’ve waited till late and bought one of the best Snitzels on offer this season.”

The colt’s trainer will be decided in time as well the trainers for the other purchases on Tuesday.

The Alliance also bought another colt from the Shadwell aspect of the Yarraman draft in Lot 77, the colt out of Written Tycoon out of Shaaheq (Redoute’s Choice), paying $200,000 for him, and Lot 213, an I Am Invincible colt out of Beat The Benchmark (USA) (Speightstown {USA}) from the Coolmore draft, for $525,000.

“I think we are done. We bought three lovely colts. With the bidders that were here today, you really needed to be strong and so hopefully we have been smart and saved our best for last,” Mithen said.

Strong Opening Pleases Hutch

With a record daily turnover of close to $65 million and the average of $368,400 and median of $260,000 very comparable to the opening day of the Sale two years ago, Hutch was very much pleased with what evolved.

“The expectation coming to Easter for anybody is that it will be a strong Sale. It is one of the premier yearling sales in the world, so that is not unreasonable,” he said.

“We do a lot of work to prepare for the sale, but we were very confident that it would be a very fair and true market and that’s certainly how we felt like it played out.

“I think it is very satisfying to have such a diversity of buyers right the way through. I think it bodes well for tomorrow that there are so many people who seem to be disappointed to the point of frustration by the end of the day. People with significant money to buy horses have struggled to buy at the top end.

“On the flipside, there are people who walked out of here feeling like they have stolen horses. That’s the fun of Easter.”

The sale resumes at 10 a.m. AEST on Wednesday morning (8 p.m. EST, Tuesday Apr. 6th).