A PENN FULL OF THINK

by Chris McGrath

Well, okay, maybe he has retired--but Frank Penn has never quit. “You know the problem with life?” he asks with a chuckle. “By the time you know everything you need to know, you’re too damn old to do anything with it.”

But that won’t keep the rest of us from profiting. We’re not here to learn about the half-dozen mares Penn still shares with brother John and nephew Alex, over at their place near Paris, nor about the show horses keeping him interested in his own paddocks. Instead we’re at chez Penn, on the Mount Horeb Pike outside Lexington, simply because few in our community bring longer experience to the ever-renewing challenges of the Turf.

He’s served 17 years on the city planning commission, twice as many as trustee of Georgetown College. He was one of the founding fathers of Horse Country, and has been with the KTA/KTOB forever. Nowadays, even at 78, he’s helping the Agricultural Finance Board in Frankfort.

Still immersed, then, in the 21st Century Bluegrass. But have any of you, for instance, lately worked a sale the way he did, half a century ago--when Penn Brothers sold 70 yearlings in a single afternoon at Keeneland?

“It was unbelievable,” he recalls. “We had every third horse that went through. Never worked harder in my life. Talk about learning how to do things, how to cut and cover. We couldn’t clean stalls. All we’d do is pitch it up in the corner and put more bedding in.”

Cont. p3

TOM LUDT JOINS THE TDN WRITERS’ ROOM

Tom Ludt has worked for many organizations in the horse racing industry, but never one as ambitious and willing to think outside the box as the National Thoroughbred League (NTL). A group of investors who are planning to bring the team concept that is the backbone of the four major sports to racing has hired Ludt to be the league’s president of horse operations. With the job, Ludt will be in charge of all things racing, including acquiring the horses that will make up the league. With the NTL set to launch at Kentucky Downs over the Labor Day weekend, it was a good time to have Ludt join our team on the TDN Writers’ Room podcast sponsored by Keeneland. He was this week’s Green Group Guest of the Week.

When the formation of the NTL was announced it was met with a lot of skepticism, especially on the snake pit that is social media. He said he knew that was coming, but said he wasn’t prepared for the resistance he faced from within the industry.

Cont. p8

IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

MOSTFAHDAF DOMINATES PRINCE OF WALES’S

Mostahdaf’s victory in Wednesday’s G1 Prince of Wales’s S. gives his sire Frankel his 30th Group 1 winner.

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COULD CHURCHILL FATALITIES HAVE BEEN PREVENTED?

A StrideSAFE research team concludes the sensor data on the majority of the recent musculoskeletal fatalities at Churchill Downs showed pre-existing conditions.

TODAY’S GRADED STAKES

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A Penn Full of Think (cont. from p1)

“Now, we didn’t prep these horses like you do now. In the wintertime we ran them like cattle, put a halter on literally a month before the sale. We had catch-pens, we’d put a halter on, trim them, worm them, turn them back out. Of course when we got them up there [to Keeneland], you’d have three or four getting loose, running over the hill. But everybody’s did that. And everybody sold their whole draft.”

After all, he never saw a horse with bad feet in the Pampas, when he had a chance to see how they did things down there.

“But I guess they were just bred different then,” he says with a shrug.

So, too, were the horsemen. As he puts it himself, Penn became an economic asset at 14. Bear in mind that his father and two uncles bought their farm at the end of the 1920s, even as all hope, all belief, was being gnawed out of their generation. “They paid $350 an acre for 200 acres,” Penn explains. “They put 160 of those acres in tobacco and it brought a dollar a pound. A year later, it brought a quarter a pound. On the other hand, during the Depression they had all the help they could hire. So they just kept expanding. They were three risk-takers, and they knew how to work.”

By the time young Penn was putting his shoulder to the wheel, they had 480 steers—and a couple of hundred Thoroughbreds. “They’d bought a farm that had horses on it,” he says. “Belonged to an Oklahoma oilman. So they just started boarding them. That’s when they learned to be horsemen. And Oscar, the oldest brother, he really got into it. He studied it and decided that we needed two stallions. Well, we needed two stallions like we needed a hole in our head. But we’d set tobacco till noon, go in, eat right quick, go breed two mares, set tobacco till dark, breed two more mares.”

Penn was actually raised downtown. By living there, his family could share the same commute as the labor, day-hires who climbed onto the canopied pick-up at designated street corners every morning. By 14, Penn was leading a tobacco-topping gang. A year later, he was helping to haul lumber out of the mountains to construct huge barns. For years, “tobacco supported our horse habit.”

But so, too, did the steers—in the sense that one kind of husbandry supported another. A man won’t panic, foaling, if he’s pulled plenty of calves as a boy. Penn learned the hallmarks of good land, too. He knew, for instance, to be wary when cedars thrived in dry weather.

“Cedars only grow on marginal land,” he explains. “I learned all that stuff, growing up. These were three old, cynical men. But they knew land, and knew that’s what they needed to produce the animals they wanted, the tobacco they wanted. Same with this land here.” Cont.
Frank Penn, cont.

Penn continues, “The number of good horses raised by the Elkhorn Creek is staggering. Lee Eaton taught me that. I used to think it was crazy. Then I saw Bold Forbes, and all the rest, and started believing it.”

Penn had grown up chain harrowing, soil testing, just doing what farmers did. Nowadays he sees people coming into the Bluegrass and feeding high-protein alfalfa. He can spot those easy enough.

“All you got to do is go around and see which ones have all that mud [i.e poultice] on their legs,” he says. “Pythiosis. Way too much in the feed tub. That grass out there, if it heads out, it’s 18% protein. That’s why you keep topping your pastures, you don't want it to head out.”

They bought weanlings before the word “pinhook” had entered the bloodstock lexicon, with only Stanley Petter ahead of the curve. Besides foaling out 50 mares, then, they would buy 20-odd weanlings.

“We found out that you could buy a weanling for $300 to $500 and sell it for $2,500 to $5,000,” he says. “You could raise those babies like you raised steers, but the profit per horse was so much better.

“We'd bed those weanlings on tobacco stems. We had a tobacco warehouse, so we could get carloads of that stuff. It was one of the cleanest things you could use at the time, when we didn't have woodchips or shavings. And then you'd take it out and spread it as fertilizer.”

But whatever Penn learned from steers, it was horses that taught him love. He bought his first mare at 16, as soon as he had a driver's license. For a while the Penns had a satellite farm in Ocala, and that was another vital chapter in his adolescence: selling 2-year-olds at Hialeah. Cont.
In a thrilling finish, Kentucky-bred CRIMSON ADVOCATE won the Queen Mary S. (G2) for 2-year-old fillies at the prestigious Royal Ascot meet on Wednesday, defeating 25 rivals and following in the footsteps of Kentucky-bred LADY AURELIA, who captured the Queen Mary in 2016.
Frank Penn, cont.

“We’d raise 15 or so down there, broke them, did the whole thing,” he recalls. “So really I got baptized pretty good, pretty young, though it wasn’t as speed-crazy as now. Anyway I learned about sand colic, about fire ants, all that kind of stuff. It was all experience, and it served me well.”

Knowing what he wanted to do in life, it was only to please his mother—so that she could say that he’d “attended” college—that he consented to a single semester at Georgetown. But then he got his Vietnam draft number, and it was the kind that made you gulp. Suddenly he had to engage.

“Every hour I wasn’t in class, I was in the library catching up,” Penn recalls. “Because if I flunked out, 90 days later I’d be in a rice paddy.”

Whether or not Georgetown College saved his life, it certainly changed it. He has been serving that institution in various roles ever since graduating in 1968. Around that time his father and uncles began to dismantle their partnership, and help the next generation on its way. His parents gave Penn the downpayment on an 87-acre plot, the core of which is where he remains today.

“But I soon found that my tobacco wasn’t supporting my horse habit,” he recalls. “And then I got married, had kids, and had to find another way. I started boarding horses, and found out right quick that the only people you board horses for are the ones that can pay you. The economics I’d learned in college taught me that it’s all about cashflow. You could be worth $2 million, but if you don’t have cashflow, it doesn’t matter. All you’re doing is borrowing and paying.”

What got the household on an even keel was an unraced Pretense mare Penn bought for $34,000. She turned out to have a son in training with Wayne Lukas. He won the GI Remsen S. and started among the favorites for the Kentucky Derby. Penn rolled the dice, managed to get a season to Seattle Slew, and sold the mare for seven figures to Juddmonte.

He paid his $450,000 covering fee, took the rest to the bank, and discovered the pleasant novelty of solvency.

“My friends and family all said, ‘You’re stupid to sell that mare,’” he recalls. “But the time to get out of debt is when you can. And a couple of years later I could have bought that mare back for $50,000. She never threw another horse that could run.”

They built their house, and built a client base: a small, loyal group that thought the same way. When Penn packed up, his newest customer had been there 20 years.

“We were lucky enough to board horses for people that wanted to enjoy the life with us,” he reflects. “They became like family, watched your kids grow up.”

These included Janis Whitham, her late husband Frank and their son Clay. The Whithams imported a Hall of Famer-in-the-making in Bayakoa (Arg), but thereafter it has all been acorn-to-oak stuff. Cont.
Frank Penn, cont.

“Jan’s a very intelligent lady,” Penn marvels. “She and Frank started out raising pinto beans. There’s one stoplight where they live, and it’s 25 miles to a grocery store. Jan trained Quarter Horses, raised five kids. And, to this day, she hasn’t bought a mare. They had Bayakoa, and the Nodouble filly [Tuesday Evening], and one other, and just built up those families. She’ll nick them on the bottom, she’ll nick them on the top; and she’s still doing it.”

The Whithams were determined to get one of Bayakoa’s daughters to Mr. Prospector’s last son in Kentucky, the unfashionable E Dubai. And that was how they got GI Breeders’ Cup winner Fort Larned. From the Tuesday Evening line, meanwhile, came Four Graces (Majesticperfection), sold at Keeneland last November for $2.3 million.

But if Penn’s professional career is rooted in the land, so too is his service to the community. When he bought his farm, straight out of college, he paid $2,000 an acre—“and that was $500 more than it was worth.” The value of land would soar, however, as developers realized they could get 10 perimeter acres for the price of one downtown. All around, the countryside was being cut to ribbons, in tracts too small to farm and too big to make communities.

“We were panicking,” Penn admits. “Go through other counties and you'll see it, all these 10-acre piano keys all down the road. Well, that’s a terrible way to use land. We were able to convince the Lexington-Fayette County Urban Government to make the minimum subdivision 40 acres. And we’ve now preserved 32,000 acres. If you add what the Bluegrass Conservancy has been able to do, we saved 52,000 acres in Fayette County. Out of roughly 250,000. It’s been a 22-year fight, but I feel good about where it is now, because I think people now understand the value of living here.” Cont.

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NTRA FUNDRAISING PROGRAMS — WHAT’S THE DIFFERENCE?

The NTRA fundraises through two distinct programs, the Legislative Action Campaign and Horse PAC, the political action committee of the NTRA. Below is a comparison of the two initiatives.

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<th>Political Action Committee</th>
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<td>Supports federal political candidates and parties</td>
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<tr>
<td>How to participate</td>
<td>Buyers and sellers may contribute 1% of the price of a horse sold at public auction through NTRA sale company partners; there is no contribution limit</td>
<td>Personal payments with a $5,000 limit per individual per year; contributions from corporations are not accepted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Citizenship</td>
<td>Open to U.S. citizens and foreign nationals or permanent resident aliens</td>
<td>Contributors must be U.S. citizens</td>
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For more information contact Joe Bacigalupo joeb@ntra.com.
Frank Penn, cont.

And not just the economic value of the industry and its ancillaries. It was also about cultural identity and, what then remained latent, the resulting potential for tourism.

“John Gaines had it right,” Penn says. “He used to say that we live in the largest privately owned, privately maintained park system in the world.” He gestures towards the pike. “The city doesn’t mow any of this. We mow all the rights of way. And why do we do that? Because our neighbor does. It’s pride.”

Penn has stepped back from KEEP because it’s time for the next generation to inherit the responsibilities that come with land.

“The average age of the Kentucky farmer is 60-plus,” he remarks. “A lot of land is going to change hands in the next 10 years or so. And how do you keep farmers, if farms are cut up in 10-, five-, even three-acre tracts? You don’t produce anything. And who’s going to come in and buy those tracts and put them back together, when each has its own house? The houses elevate the price of the land, and that price doesn’t justify farming it.”

The Purchase Development Rights program, redressing the difference in value, was key to maintaining those 40-acre tracts.

“We were able to make it look like Holsteins versus Dalmatians,” Penn says. “Instead of a piece here, a piece there.”

Penn was part of the team that presented to the tobacco succession program, coming away with $15 million and then got another $20 million from the city. The tobacco money was an apt dividend for a man who had spent much time on the other side of that particular fence, as president of the Council of Burley Tobacco.

Besides his own crop, Penn had managed tobacco for other horse farms, including Calumet. He was ringside as multiple attorney generals sued the cigarette manufacturers, even as the state was figuring out that it could no longer support a proven carcinogenic. During the public furor, Penn had found himself sent out to bat for tobacco.

“So over several years I learned how to handle polarization!” he recalls. “Because the medical community came after you hard. And there I was, on every radio show, every debate, defending this stuff. I’d never say that smoking’s not harmful to you. But I would say it’s a personal choice. I’d say: ‘Nobody ever held a gun on somebody and told them to go buy a pack of cigarettes. Look, half the people in this audience are overweight. The other half drink too much.’ Now all those things are very harmful to you. But the difference was that the government was supporting tobacco. So you could see that it had to stop.”

His tobacco background, incidentally, prompts a fascinating analogy for the modern bloodstock market. Because in terms of prizing speed, Penn reckons that the 2-year-old sales have changed the game much as the cigarette filter did tobacco.

“Before filters, the Burley is what gave the flavor and aroma,” he explains. “The companies needed that tobacco. But once the filter came, they could buy it cheaper all over the world.”

Penn says that if the market is driven by a bullet work, then all pedigrees become the same—much as Rwandan tobacco would now serve just as well as Kentucky’s.

“If we’re basing everything on how fast they can work, then nobody is prizing three or four generations of soundness,” he reasons. “And not only do you have weaker bone, now you also have trainers no longer racing a horse fit. They’re so concerned about their statistics, they won’t run a horse until it’s dead fit. But guess who pays for that? The owners.”

But nor does he attribute soundness solely to genes.

“If we only turn a young horse out for a couple of hours when it’s a pretty day, he won’t run,” he says. “He won’t have bone density. He may grow up to be a beautiful horse. But when you put pressure on him, he’ll fold up like a marshmallow.” Cont.
Crimson Advocate beats the fastest European fillies to win the 26-runner G2 Queen Mary. She’s Nyquist’s 15th Graded/Group juvenile – more at this stage of his career than any other American stallion ever. Just imagine...
Frank Penn, cont.

Obviously producing stock equal to the demands of the racetrack today feels more important than ever. And Penn feels that we can’t complain about federal interference, when we either couldn’t or wouldn’t police the game properly ourselves.

“But I swore I would never be a cynic,” he says. “Because I grew up with three old men that were cynical as can be. I mean, they’d see long-haired hippies and tell you the world’s come to an end. But they taught me how to work and to understand that work is not really work at all, if you enjoy what you do.”

When Penn needed bypass surgery, a decade ago, he was told that it was time to move on his handful of faithful clients.

“Done all I can do for you,” the doctor said. “You got to get away from the stress.”

“I don’t have any stress!” Penn replied. “My farm’s paid for!”

Now he smiles and shakes his head. “Yep, something’s there, when [clients] have five mares on your farm worth a million dollars apiece and no insurance on them,” he says. “But I didn’t see that as stress. I saw that as an opportunity to raise good horses.”

Now the stakes are lower. True, Penn and his brother have an Empire Maker mare whose son Arklow (Arch) won $3 million. But whenever he needs to, he can just stroll to the creek and soon retrieve perspective.

I have a deck built down there,” he says. “And I take my Racing Form or Wall Street Journal, and just sit there and hear that water go by, listen to the birds chirping, and life’s not too bad.

“The point is that we all try to make a business out of it, but really and truly, it’s a sport. It’s an advocacy. And it’s so hard to do that people want to try it. You see them putting millions of dollars into this thing and along comes Rich Strike, Birdstone.

“I’ve always been in love with the horse. Can’t be like that with 400 steers, but go down to the barn and every one of those mares are different. And I’ve been fortunate to be involved in some really neat things. I’m not saying I started any of them. But for whatever reason I was asked to participate, and I never knew how to quit.”

Tom Ludt Joins the TDN Writers’ Room

(Cont. from p1)

“No one wanted to give me a straight answer,” he said when asked why there were tracks that wanted no part of the NTL. “I think it’s all about the word change. This whole answer is an assumption because I’ve point blank asked why they didn’t want to be involved and really didn’t get a direct answer. We pay for the hospitality, we pay for the purses, and we bring people to the track. So I say this as the ex-president of Santa Anita, it’s a brilliant idea, in my opinion. So the only thing I can tell you is I believe it’s fear of change and fear that it’s not going to work.”

Ludt wants people to understand that the NTL isn’t just about horse racing. Its founders believe it can work because an NTL day at the track will be an event, with concerts, food festivals, wine tastings and the like, the type of things that attract younger crowds and people who don’t necessarily follow the sport.

“I go to the racetrack, I get my Form, I might have a drink, and I’m focused on betting multi-leg bets,” he said. “But that’s not what this is about. This league is all about getting the neighbor that you’ve never got to go racing to go racing. This is getting them to come out and have a great time. So the idea behind this is how do we get people to come back out to the track like the good old days? You’re not going to do it every weekend, and we know that. We’re not trying to conquer the world, but we really need that activity back at the track. We’re never going to lose our degenerate gamblers and the person that’s always going to watch racing. We’re trying to find that new audience and people have to understand that’s not easy and it’s not going to be the way some of us want it to be done.” Cont.
**Tom Ludt Joins the TDN Writers’ Room, cont.**

It will be Ludt who will select and purchase the 36 horses that will make up the league, with each team having a roster of six. He said it’s still too early to start buying.

“I have a lot of bloodstock agents that have become my best friend again,” Ludt said. “I’m getting a lot of calls and we are scouting. But now the challenge for me at this point is our first race will be at Kentucky Downs, which is our Nashville team. The race is actually on Sept. 3. The rules of our league will be the horses once they’re purchased only race in our league. So the long answer is I haven’t bought any yet because we don’t want to buy them and sit there and have to just train them for two months without the opportunity to race.

Elsewhere on the podcast, which is also sponsored by Coolmore, the Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association, Kentucky Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders, 1/ST Racing, WinStar Farm, Lane’s End, XBTV.com, and West Point Thoroughbreds, the team of Bill Finley, Randy Moss and T.D. Thornton reviewed last week’s action on the track, including the impressive win by first-time starter and ‘TDN Rising Star’ Muth (Good Magic) in a maiden race at Santa Anita, and an impressive win by up-and-comer Salute the Stars (Candy Ride {Arg}) in the Pegasus S. at Monmouth. There was a preview of the GIII Ohio Derby, which came up surprisingly strong, and a discussion of the demise of Arlington Park, where the demolition of the grandstand has begun.

Click for the video of the latest podcast or the audio-only version.

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**STRIDESAFE TEAM CONCLUDES CHURCHILL’S MUSCULOSKELETAL FATALITY DATA SHOWED PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS**

A research team associated with StrideSAFE, the biometric sensor mechanism capable of detecting minute changes in a horse's gait at high speed, concluded that the majority of the recent musculoskeletal fatalities at Churchill Downs were due to pre-existing conditions. A total of 12 horses suffered fatal injuries over a recent five-week period at Churchill, leading track officials to unveil new safety initiatives and then move the remainder of the current meet to Ellis Park.

A grant was awarded to StrideSAFE by the Kentucky Equine Drug Research Council (KEDRC), prompting a research team to hold a two-day meeting at the company’s headquarters in Midway, Kentucky. In attendance were lead investigators Dr. Warwick Bayly and Dr. Denise McSweeney; co-investigator and StrideSAFE CEO Dr. David Lambert; and team consultants Dr. Mikael Holmstrom, Dr. Kevin Donohue, Dr. Sue Stover, and Dr. Laura Kennedy; as well as Greg Pachman, who represented StrideSAFE management.

The team reviewed Churchill’s recent fatalities, of which eight of the 12 were race-day musculoskeletal events. All eight of the horses were carrying StrideSAFE technology. Seven of the eight musculoskeletal cases showed abnormal sensor readings as soon as they left the starting gate.

“Had the sensors been on the horses in prior races, they could have pointed to an issue the horse was having weeks or even months earlier,” said Lambert. “These results give us great optimism that with consistent use, we should be able to identify issues long before they are discernible to the human eye. StrideSAFE technology will empower trainers and veterinarians with vital information which they can use in their daily efforts to safeguard the welfare of their horses.”

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TURKISH EXPATRIATE EL CORREDOR DEAD AT 26

GI Cigar Mile H. winner and former Hill 'n' Dale sire El Corredor (Mr. Greeley--Silvery Swan, by Silver Deputy) has died at the age of 26 in Turkey, according to Turkish news source Yaris Dergisi. El Corredor has stood since 2015 at the Turkey Jockey Club’s Silivri Stallion Complex until reportedly passing away Tuesday, June 20.

A $110,000 Keeneland September yearling from the first crop of Mr. Greeley, El Corredor was purchased by Bob Baffert and raced in the colors of Hal J. Earnhardt III. The dark bay won the Cigar Mile and GII Del Mar Breeders’ Cup H. at three before adding a second edition of the Del Mar Breeders’ Cup and the GII Pat O’Brien H. at four. Often brilliant but frequently plagued by quarter cracks, the Needham-Betz Thoroughbreds/Liberation Farm-bred retired with a record of 10-7-1-0 and earnings of $727,920.

After standing several years in Kentucky, as well as stints at Questroyal North in New York and The Stallion Station at Copper Crowne in Louisiana, plus shuttling several seasons to Argentina, El Corredor was purchased to stand in Turkey for the 2015 breeding season. He has 33 black-type winners bred in the Northern Hemisphere, including Grade I winners Adieu, Backseat Rhythm, Crisp, and Dominican, and five other graded winners.

HISA’S LASIX ADVISORY COMMITTEE SET

Edited Press Release

The Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority (HISA) announced the members of an Advisory Committee which has been convened to oversee a three-year study on the use of furosemide (also known as “Lasix”) on horses during the 48-hour period before the start of a Covered Horserace, including the effect on equine health and the integrity of competition.

The establishment of this Advisory Committee for the study of furosemide administration and the requirements of the study are specifically mandated and set forth in the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act.

The HISA Board of Directors delegated its authority to select the Advisory Committee members to HISA’s Anti-Doping and Medication Control (ADMC) Committee who did so based on the members’ relevant expertise.

The Advisory Committee will oversee the process of issuing a Request for Proposal to conduct the research, reviewing grant applications from academic researchers and allocating grant funding for the study.

When the independent scientific research has been completed and published, it will be presented to the Advisory Committee who will then relay the findings and their recommendations to the HISA Board of Directors.

The Furosemide Advisory Committee is comprised of the following members:

- Dr. Emma Adam, DVM, Ph.D., is a veterinarian with over 24 years of racing experience in the United States, United Kingdom, France and Australia. She is board-certified in equine medicine from Texas A&M University and surgery from the New Bolton Center at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Adam also received her Ph.D. in musculoskeletal science from the University of Kentucky’s Gluck Equine Research Center.

- Alan Foreman is Chairman of the Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Association (THA) and Vice-Chairman of the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium (RMTC). Foreman is considered one of the leading racing law and equine attorneys in the United States and is an expert on medications used in horse racing.

- Dr. Scott Hay, DVM, is a veterinarian at Teigland, Franklin and Brokken, where he focuses on lameness, performance evaluations and purchase examinations. He also serves on the RMTC’s Scientific Advisory Committee. Dr. Hay previously served as President of the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) and as a member of the Grayson-Jockey Club’s Scientific Advisory Committee.
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Lasix Advisory Committee, cont.

- Dr. Ted Hill, VMD, is a racing steward for The Jockey Club with more than 23 years of experience. He previously served as Chief Veterinarian for the New York Racing Association (NYRA). Dr. Hill received his VMD from the University of Pennsylvania.

- Dr. Rob Holland, DVM, Ph.D., is a respiratory and infectious disease specialist in Lexington, Kentucky and partner at Holland Management Services, Inc., a consulting practice offering solutions in outcomes research and veterinary medicine. Dr. Holland has worked with the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission (KHRC) and is an expert in equine drug testing processes.

- Dr. Heather Knych, DVM, Ph.D., DACVCP, is a Professor of Clinical Veterinary Pharmacology and Head of the Pharmacology Section at the K.L. Maddy Equine Analytical Chemistry Pharmacology Laboratory at the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of California, Davis. Dr. Knych is board-certified in Clinical Veterinary Pharmacology and has an extensive publication record in the areas of pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics. She received her DVM and Ph.D. in Pharmacology and Toxicology from the University of California, Davis, where she also conducted her residency in Veterinary Pharmacology.

- Ryan Murphy is the Executive Director for the Partnership for Clean Competition (PCC), the leading anti-doping research organization dedicated to the protection of clean athletes. Prior to joining the PCC, Murphy served as Program Officer with the Sports Diplomacy division at the U.S. Department of State and prior to that as Senior Manager for Sport & Competition for Special Olympics International. Murphy has also worked as an International Doping Control Officer for International Doping Tests & Management. In addition to his work at the PCC, Murphy serves as an Adjunct Professor for the Sports Industry Management Master's program at Georgetown University.

- Dr. Foster Northrop, DVM, is a practicing racetrack veterinarian with more than 35 years of industry experience. He has served on the boards of the KHRC and American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), as well as the RMTC's Scientific Advisory Committee.

- Dr. Scott Palmer, VMD, is a former President of the AAEP and the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners (ABVP). He also chaired the New York Task Force for Racehorse Health and Safety from 2011 to 2013 and served as a clinician and referral surgeon at the New Jersey Equine Clinic for 38 years. He is currently a member of the RMTC's Scientific Advisory Committee, the Horseracing Testing Laboratory Committee, the Association of Racing Commissioners International's (ARCI) Drug Testing and Standards Committee and the ARCI's Equine Welfare and Veterinarians Committee.

- Dr. N. Edward Robinson, BVetMed, Ph.D., is a nationally recognized veterinarian, academic and researcher who spent nearly 50 years at Michigan State University's College of Veterinary Medicine, during which he spent more than 20 years as the Matilda R. Wilson Professor of Large Animal Clinical Sciences. Dr. Robinson has spent his career researching lung disease in horses. He received his veterinary degree from the Royal Veterinary College in London and a Ph.D. from University of California, Davis.

- Dr. Corinne Sweeney, DVM (HIWU Appointment), is an American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM) specialist and has spent the past 44 years at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. She has served as a member of the Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission since 2008 and previously served as Chair of the ARCI in 2019. She is a certified Organizational Ombuds Practitioner and has served as the Penn Vet Ombuds since 2015.
San Jose horse jockey’s tragic racetrack accident turns into mission to serve others: A former San Jose horse jockey has turned a terrible accident on the race track into a lifetime of giving, and now countless others are benefitting from his perseverance and commitment to helping his community.

CBS San Francisco

BCCA CELEBRATES ANNA HOUSE GRADS
The Belmont Child Care Association, Inc. (BCCA), which provides early childhood education to families who work along the backstretch at Aqueduct, Belmont and Saratoga, celebrated the graduation of its 2023 Anna House students, the organization said in a release Wednesday.

Graduates, who will head to kindergarten next fall, were presented with diplomas by BCCA Founder and Chairman Michael Dubb and BCCA President Libby Imperio in front of their proud families.

This year, the organization recognized one of its earliest graduates, Xochilt, who received a BCCA college scholarship. She will enter a five-year program at Northeastern University to study Civil Engineering and Architecture.

Since its opening in 2002, Anna House has educated over 1,000 students and BCCA has raised over $10 million to cover tuition and operational expenses.

JOCKEYS AND JEANS TO LIVE STREAM ‘MATTRESS MACK’ SPEECH SATURDAY

The ninth annual Jockeys and Jeans fundraiser for the Permanently Disabled Jockeys Fund (PDJF) will feature a live streamed speech from Jim “Mattress Mack” McIngvale, the Jockeys and Jeans Person of the Year. The speech will be broadcast from Caesar’s Palace in Las Vegas this coming Saturday, June 24, at 8:30 p.m. PT/11:30 p.m. ET on the Jockeys and Jeans Facebook page.

“Mattress Mack has always advocated for the safety of riders and horses and is one of very few who understands horse racing from the perspective of an owner, breeder, and bettor,” said Jockeys and Jeans President Barry Pearl. “We believe he will be frank and also helpful in his assessment of the current state of Thoroughbred racing.”

With over 320 tickets already sold, a limited number of seats are still available by calling 855-234-7469 or purchasing online at ticketmaster.com. Single tickets are $125; VIP tickets are $250; and nine-person tables are $1,800 and include being seated with a Hall of Fame Jockey. All proceeds go to the PDJF.
SEPTEMBER DATES ANNOUNCED FOR HORSE RACING WOMEN’S SUMMIT

The Horse Racing Women’s Summit (HRWS) will return to Santa Anita Park from Sept. 27-29 in a homecoming of sorts, one year after the inaugural event was held at the same location. “We are thrilled to be back at Santa Anita Park for the second Horse Racing Women’s Summit at the beginning of the Autumn meet, which will also feature the 2023 Breeders’ Cup World Championships,” said HRWS Chair Stephanie Hronis. “In the past year, we have hosted events at Keeneland Race Course, the Global Symposium on Racing, Gulfstream Park, and upcoming at Saratoga Race Course [Aug. 3]. Our community has grown significantly and we have big plans for when we get together again in September.”

For more information, visit womeninracingsummit.com.

STEPHEN FOSTER REMOVED FROM BREEDERS’ CUP TELEVISION LINEUP

In a modification to the previously announced “Breeders’ Cup Challenge Series: Win and You’re In” television schedule, Breeders’ Cup Limited has eliminated the July 1 GI Stephen Foster S. from television coverage. Logistical challenges arose when the race was moved from Churchill Downs to Ellis Park along with the remainder of Churchill's current meet.

The Breeders' Cup Challenge Series features 80 qualifying races in 11 countries. Many of the races, including the Stephen Foster, will be televised on FanDuel TV with five live programs split between NBC, FOX, and CNBC. The complete Challenge Series television schedule can be viewed at BreedersCup.com/races/challenge-series.
### Saturday, Thistledown #12, post time: 6:20 p.m. EDT

**OHIO DERBY-GIII,** $500,000, 3yo, 1 1/8m

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<td>Bishops Bay</td>
<td>Uncle Mo</td>
<td>Spendthrift Farm, Landers, Steve, Schwartz, Martin Dubb, Michael, Ten Strike Racing, Bakke, Jim, Titletown Racing, Kueber Racing, Big Easy Racing, Kanter, Rick, Caruso, Michael J. &amp; WinStar Farm</td>
<td>Cox</td>
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<td>Hard Spun</td>
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<td>Agnello's Dream</td>
<td>Always Dreaming</td>
<td>Danielle Agnello</td>
<td>Skerrett</td>
<td>Barbaran</td>
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<td>Last Cookie</td>
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<td>Lord Miles</td>
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<td>Hayes Strike</td>
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**Breeders:** 1-Fred W. Hertrich III & John D. Fielding, 2-Troy Rankin, 3-WinStar Farm, LLC, 4-Phillip Sagan, 5-WinStar Farm, LLC, 6-Godolphin, 7-Vegso Racing Stable, 8-Dixiana Farms, LLC

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### Saturday, Ellis #9, post time: 4:55 p.m. EDT

**CHICAGO S.-GIII,** $225,000, 4yo/up, f/m, 7f

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<td>Matareya</td>
<td>Pioneerof the Nile</td>
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<td>Be Like Water</td>
<td>Majesticperfection</td>
<td>St. George Farm Racing LLC</td>
<td>Oliver</td>
<td>Hernandez, Jr.</td>
<td>118</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Stella Noir</td>
<td>Stay Thirsty</td>
<td>Rose Hill Farm, Desormeaux, J. Keith, Detmar, Wayne and Voss, Gene A.</td>
<td>Desormeaux</td>
<td>Graham</td>
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<td>Society</td>
<td>Gun Runner</td>
<td>Peter E. Blum Thoroughbreds LLC</td>
<td>Asmussen</td>
<td>Gaffalione</td>
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<td>Difraros</td>
<td>Kantharos</td>
<td>My Purple Haze Stables</td>
<td>Pompay</td>
<td>Garcia</td>
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**Breeders:** 1-St. Simon Place, 2-Godolphin, 3-St. George Farm LLC, 4-Wayne Detmar, Gene Voss, Keith Desormeaux & Rose Hill Farm, 5-Peter E. Blum Thoroughbreds, LLC, 6-Hidden Springs Farm

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**September Yearling Sale**

**Begins Monday, Sept. 11**
THURSDAY’S RACING INSIGHTS: HIGH-PRICED COLTS DO BATTLE AT ELLIS

by J.N. Campbell

2nd-ELP, $120K, Msw, 2yo, 5 1/2f, 1:14 p.m.

Two high-priced maidens will kick off their careers at Ellis Park Thursday. BC Stables paid $1.35 million for DAILY GRIND (Medaglia d’Oro) at last year’s Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Yearling sale. Trained by D. Wayne Lukas, the bay colt is out of SW Walk Close (Tapit), who also produced his full-brother Anneau d’Or, second-place finisher in the GI Breeders’ Cup Juvenile.

Lambo (Uncle Mo), trained by Steve Asmussen, brought $950,000 from the Heiligbrodts and Jackpot Farm at OBS March after posting a :10 flat move during the under-tack show. He previously brought $360,000 as a KEENOV weanling and RNA’d for $575,000 as a FTSAUG yearling. His unraced dam Sunshiny Day (Bernardini) is out of champion 2-year-old filly & MGISW Storm Song (Summer Squall), who produced Another Storm (Gone West), dam of MG1SW Order Of St George (Ire) (Galileo (Ire)).

1st-BEL, $90K, Msw, 3yo/up, 7f, 1:05 p.m.

COALVILLE (Into Mischief), a $675,000 KEES sale purchase by William H. Lawrence, Jeff Drown, Don Rachel, Don Alberto Stable and Bridlewood Farm, makes his first start for Chad Brown with Jose Ortiz in the irons. The bay gelding, bred in Kentucky by Don Alberto Corp. and Bridlewood Farm, is out of G1 Kentucky Oaks heroine Cathryn Sophia (Street Boss).

4th-ELP, $120K, Msw, 3yo/up, 1 1/16mT, 2:13 p.m.

DAI VERNON (Good Magic), a $500,000 KEES graduate, debuts for Besilu Stables and Brad Cox. His dam is a half-sister to GSW and late sire Laoban (Uncle Mo). This is also the female family of Canadian champion 2-year-old colt Mr. Hustle (Declaration of War) and MGISW I’m A Chatterbox (Munnings).

5th-BEL $90K, Msw, 2yo, 5ft, 3:10 p.m.

Repole Stable purchased NOTED (Cairo Prince) for $200,000 at last year’s KEES sale. Trained by Todd Pletcher, the gray colt’s dam counts G1S Peter Pan S. hero Mark Valeski (Proud Citizen) as a half brother. Also entered are a pair of Wesley Ward-trained firsters--Dark Vintage (Ire) (Dark Angel (Ire)) (320,000gns TATOCT yearling) and Culprit (Justify) ($675,000 KEES yearling). The latter, favored at 5-2 on the morning line, has been working bullets on the grass over Saratoga’s Oklahoma training track.

IN ORDER OF PURSE:

4th-Horseshoe Indianapolis, $34,000, Msw, 6-21, 2yo, f, 5f, :58.78, ft, 6 3/4 lengths.

INTERMITTENT FAST (f, 2, Tapwrit--Lady Mocha, by Tale of the Cat) debuted with a fifth-place finish Apr. 28 at Keeneland, then finished a well-beaten fourth May 26 at Churchill Downs. Shedding blinkers and off as the 7-5 second choice here, the bay dueled while three wide up the backstretch before securing the lead into the far turn. Intermittent Fast sprinted away into the stretch and graduated by 6 3/4 lengths. Unraced Lady Mocha is a full-sister to MSW Resplendency and she just foaled a full-sister to the winner last month. Sales History: $39,000 Wlg ’21 KEENOV; $75,000 Ylg ’22 KEES. Lifetime Record: 3-1-0-0, $28,650. Click for the Equibase.com chart.

O-Selima Holdings, LLC, Allen Greathouse & Mark Arnold; B-C. Kidder (KY); T-John Ennis.
FIRST-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: THURSDAY, JUNE 22
2023 Stud Fees Listed

**Catholic Boy** (More Than Ready), Claiborne Farm, $15,000
104 foals of racing age/0 winners/0 black-type winners
5-Belmont, 3:10 p.m. EDT, Msw 5fT, Rock Star Boy, 7-2
$42,000 RNA KEE SEP yrl; $22,500 OBS MAR 2yo

**Mitole** (Eskendereya), Spendthrift Farm, $15,000
159 foals of racing age/2 winners/0 black-type winners
5-Lone Star, 9:27 p.m. EDT, Msw 5f, Mia Mitole, 5-2
$14,000 KEE NOV wnl

**World of Trouble** (Kantharos), Hill 'n' Dale at Xalapa, $5,000
89 foals of racing age/1 winner/0 black-type winners
2-Ellis, 1:14 p.m. EDT, Msw 5 1/2f, El Peligro, 6-1
$14,000 KEE NOV wnl

SECOND-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: THURSDAY, JUNE 22
2023 Stud Fees Listed

**Good Magic** (Curlin), Hill 'n' Dale at Xalapa, $50,000
237 foals of racing age/49 winners/9 black-type winners
4-Ellis, 2:13 p.m. EDT, Msw 1 1/16mT, Dai Vernon, 9-2
$500,000 KEE SEP yrl

**Good Samaritan** (Harlan's Holiday), WinStar Farm, $7,500
172 foals of racing age/40 winners/1 black-type winner
6-Horseshoe Indianapolis, 4:45 p.m. EDT, Msw 5 1/2f, Mysteriousjustice, 15-1

**Justify** (Scat Daddy), Coolmore Ashford, $100,000
344 foals of racing age/47 winners/9 black-type winners
5-Belmont, 3:10 p.m. EDT, Msw 5fT, Culprit, 5-2
$675,000 KEE SEP yrl

**Mendelssohn** (Scat Daddy), Coolmore Ashford, $25,000
348 foals of racing age/57 winners/3 black-type winners
5-Belmont, 3:10 p.m. EDT, Msw 5fT, Weekend Concerto, 6-1
$67,000 KEE NOV wnl; $130,000 OBS MAR 2yo

**Mor Spirit** (Eskendereya), Spendthrift Farm, $5,000
190 foals of racing age/37 winners/1 black-type winner
1-Belmont, 1:05 p.m. EDT, Msw 7f, Night Chant, 12-1
$145,000 RNA FTK OCT yrl

**Tapwrit** (Tapit), Gainesway Farm, $10,000
177 foals of racing age/30 winners/3 black-type winners
5-Lone Star, 9:27 p.m. EDT, Msw 5f, Haulin Hay, 20-1
$3,700 KEE JAN wnl; $15,000 TTA APR 2yo

IN BRITAIN:

**Crimson Advocate**, f, 2, **Nyquist**. See “Group Results”.

STAKES RESULTS:

**HOOSIER BREEDERS SOPHOMORE H.**, $100,000, Horseshoe Indianapolis, 6-21, (S), 3yo, f, 1 1/16m, 1:44.15, ft.

1--**BLUELIGHTSSPECIAL**, 122, f, 3, by **Super Saver**--Maddy's Way, by Bellamy Road. ($34,000 RNA Ylg '21 FTKOCT; $22,000 2yo '22 OBSAPR). **1ST BLACK TYPE WIN**. O-Contreras Stable Inc. & Knapczyk, Andrew; B-H. Allen Poindexter (IN); T-Cipriano Contreras; J-Emmanuel Esquivel. $58,200. Lifetime Record: 12-5-2-3, $274,215.

2--**Corningstone**, 124, f, 3, **Kantharos**--Ice Women, by Street Sense. ($90,000 Wlg '20 KEENOV; $75,000 Ylg '21 KEESEP). O-Five Fillies Stable LLC and Ballos Racing Stable; B-Deann & Greg Baer DVM (IN); T-Kenneth G. McPeek. $19,400.
3–Honey Red, 118, f, 3, Bucchero--Spousal Privilege, by Successful Appeal. ($48,000 Ylg '21 INDMIX). O-Claramunt, Dennis, Spiess Stable LLC and Klopp, Randy L.; B-Crystal Chapple DVM & Michael G Phelps (IN); T-Randy L. Klopp. $10,670. 
Margins: 3 3/4, 23, NK. Odds: 0.40, 3.70, 36.10.

CHANTILLY S., (NB) C$50,250, Assiniboia Downs, 6-20, 3yo, f, 6f, 1:12.95, ft.

1--SPITTEN KITTEN, 122, f, 3, Air Force Blue--Zahrah, by Kitten's Joy. ($2,500 Ylg '21 ARZNOV). O-Buffalo, Marvin, Buffalo, Deb and Souster, Arnold; B-Richard Barton Enterprises (CA); T-Marvin Buffalo; J-Sven Balroop. C$30,600. Lifetime Record: 7-4-0-0, $58,380.


3--Big Hug, 119, f, 3, Mr. Big--Temeeku, by Unusual Heat. (C$3,500 Ylg '21 ALBMIX). O-Empire Equestrian and Kerredge Farm; B-Chalet Stable (AB); T-Rick Hedge. C$5,100. 
Margins: 1, 2HF, HF. Odds: 4.05, 4.10, 0.80.

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

8th-Parx Racing, $56,000, (NW2X)/Opt. Clm ($35,000), 6-21, 3yo/ up, f/m, 1m 70y, 1:46.58, ft, 5 1/2 lengths.
PISTOL LIZ ABLAZEN (f, 4, Daredevil--Vision of Liz, by Pollard's Vision) Lifetime Record: SP, 11-3-4-2, $138,600. O-Cash is King LLC & LC Racing LLC; B-Peter S. Pizzo Jr., Kyle Falvey & Georgia Welch (KY); T-Robert E. Reid, Jr. *$22,000 Ylg '20 FTKOCT; $30,000 2yo '21 EASMAY.

10th-Parx Racing, $51,500, (S), 6-21, (NW1BX), 3yo/up, 1m 70yT, 1:40.57, fm, neck.

LACCO AMENO (g, 6, Seville {Ger}--Sharp as a Fox, by Sharp Victor) Lifetime Record: SP, 19-3-4-2, $128,188. O/B-Ascoli Piceno Stables LLC (PA); T-Tim Woolley.

9th-Parx Racing, $43,250, (C)/Opt. Clm ($50,000), 6-21, 3yo/up, 6 1/2f, 1:18.60, ft, neck.

BAAFEED (h, 5, Union Rags--Zondaq, by Bernardini) Lifetime Record: 10-3-1-0, $90,115. O-Richard Malouf; B-Kinnickinnic Stables (KY); T-Scott A. Lake. *$39,000 RNA Ylg '18 OBSOCT; $5,000 6yo '23 OBSWIN.

THINK INDIAN CREEK

3rd-Horseshoe Indianapolis, $40,000, (S), 6-21, (NW3L), 3yo/up, 1mT, 1:38.63, fm, neck.

AKAMAI (g, 6, Strong Mandate--Pleasant Mate, by Pleasant Tap) Lifetime Record: 21-3-6-4, $135,954. O/B-Gregory Szymski (IN); T-Robert E. Dobbs, Jr.

7th-Delaware, $39,558, (NW1X)/Opt. Clm ($16,000), 6-21, 3yo/up, 5f (off turf), 59.53, ft, 3 lengths.

RUNAWAY JACK (g, 4, Not This Time--Melody Girl, by Unbridled's Song) Lifetime Record: 6-2-4-0, $110,300. O-Xtreme Racing Stables, LLC; B-Westbury Stables LLC (FL); T-McLean Robertson. *$30,000 Ylg '20 KEESEP.

8th-Horseshoe Indianapolis, $38,000, (NW2$X)/Opt. Clm ($40,000), 6-20, 3yo/up, 1mT, 1:38.26, fm, 2 3/4 lengths.

ARTURO TOSCANINI (IRE) (g, 5, Galileo {Ire}--Snow Queen {Ire} {MGSP-Ire, $119,031}, by Danehill Dancer {Ire}) Lifetime Record: GSP-Ire, 13-3-1-2, $92,245. O-Valerio, Kim and Masand, Prakash Sham; B-Barronstown Stud (IRE); T-Eddie Kenneally. *$62,000 4yo '22 KEENOV.

2nd-Thistledown, $37,000, 6-21, (NW1X), 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:11.04, ft, 3/4 length.

AUJARA (m, 5, Awesome Patriot--Uptown Gal {SW, $140,980}, by Don't Get Mad) Lifetime Record: 24-7-4-4, $181,682. O-Rivera Racing Stables (Nestor R. Rivera); B-Niknar Farm, LLC (OH); T-Nestor Rivera.

3rd-Hawthorne, $36,000, (S), 6-21, 3yo/up, 7 1/2fT, 1:30.72, fm, 1 1/2 lengths.

VITALE (g, 4, Overanalyze--Jabber Dabber Doo, by Pleasant Tap) Lifetime Record: 20-4-3-3, $100,968. O-Reavis, Michael L. and Fraterrigo, Gregory J.; B-Dana Waier Thoroughbreds, LLC (IL); T-Michael L. Reavis. *$5,500 Ylg '20 FTKFEB.

6th-Presque Isle Downs, $34,080, 6-21, (NW1X), 3yo/up, 1m 70y, 1:09.11, ft, 3 1/4 lengths.

CATCH ON EMOTIONAL (g, 6, Uncaptured--Arrumosis, by Hold Me Back) Lifetime Record: 15-3-7-3, $103,960. O-Ascoli Piceno Stables LLC (PA); T-Tim Woolley.

3rd-Presque Isle Downs, $31,880, (S), 6-21, (NW1BX), 3yo/up, 1m 70y (AWT), 1:42.67, ft, 2 3/4 lengths.

WHISKEYMAC (g, 3, Collected--Winter Cheer, by Pioneerof the Nile) Lifetime Record: 10-2-5-1, $69,380. O-Gumpster Stable LLC; B-Forgotten Land Investment Inc (PA); T-Eduardo E. Rojas. *$18,000 Ylg '21 KEESEP; $140,000 2yo '22 OBSMAR.
7th-Thistledown, $29,700, 6-21, (NW3L), 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:10.22, ft, 7 1/2 lengths.
FABRICATE (m, 5, Speightster--Counterfactual, by Scat Daddy)
Lifetime Record: SP, 22-3-1-7, $187,051. O/T-Megan Fadlovich; B-Greydawn Stables & Machmer Hall (KY). *$75,000 RNA Ylg '19 KEESEP.

8th-Finger Lakes, $25,840, 6-21, (NW3L), 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:11.30, ft, 9 3/4 lengths.
SANDY'S GARDEN (f, 4, Conveyance--Lots of Mine, by Mineshaft) Lifetime Record: MSP, 8-3-1-1, $90,730. O-James G. Doyle; B-James Doyle (NY); T-John Tebbutt.

6th-Finger Lakes, $24,700, (S), (NW2BX)/Opt. Clm ($10,000), 6-21, 3yo/up, f/m, 1m 70y, 1:46.59, ft, neck.
B B'S BUSTED (m, 8, Bustin Stones--B.b.'s Maze, by Monarch's Maze) Lifetime Record: SP, 61-7-17-7, $398,950. O/T-Jeffrey S. Englehart; B-John A Witte (NY).

5th-Finger Lakes, $24,258, 6-21, (NW2L), 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:12.58, ft, 4 1/4 lengths.
GOLDEN MOONLIGHT (f, 3, Golddigger's Boy--Working At Night {SP}, by Tiznow) Lifetime Record: 4-2-1-0, $35,510. O-Oh Happy Days Stable and River Card Stable; B-Mary Katherine Haire (PA); T-James S. Acquilano.

3rd-Finger Lakes, $24,000, 6-21, (NW2L), 3yo/up, 5 1/2f, 1:05.98, ft, 1 1/4 lengths.
JOHN'S PROTEGE (g, 4, Tapiture--Mommo, by Speightstown) Lifetime Record: 9-2-3-0, $61,645. O-Sheila J. Englehart; B-Shawhan Place LLC & Al Baldassari (KY); T-Chris J. Englehart.

6th-Fanduel Sportsbook And Horse Racing, $23,500, (S), (NW2L)/Opt. Clm ($10,000), 6-20, 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:13.43, ft, 1/2 length.
MOON PIES IMAGE (f, 4, Flat Out--Oh My Sweetie Pie, by Repent) Lifetime Record: 17-2-4-2, $55,865. O-Shellye Essenpreis; B-Garret A. Sudbring (IL); T-Eddie M. Essenpreis.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:
City of Clouds, g, 3, City of Light--Cloudy Vow (GSP, $128,528), by Broken Vow. Thistledown, 6-21, 6f, 1:11.08. Lifetime Record: 4-1-1-1, $22,860. B-Patricia Pavlish (KY).
Forever Blessed, f, 3, Elnaawi--Red Blend, by Midnight Lute. Horseshoe Indianapolis, 6-21, (S), 5 1/2f, 1:06.81. Lifetime Record: 3:1-1-0, $31,185. B-David Rodriguez (IN).
Green Amazon, g, 3, Jimmy Creed--Kodiak Kocktail, by Kodiak Kowboy. Assiniboia Downs, 6-20, 5 1/2f, 1:07.88. Lifetime Record: 11-1-1-1, $17,619. B-Spring Farm (ON). *C$3,000 Ylg '21 CANSEP.
Rush Center, g, 3, McCraken--Silent Street (SP, $111,583), by Street Cry (Ire). Parx Racing, 6-21, 1m, 1:43.21. Lifetime Record: 6-1-1-2, $59,260. B-Whitham Thoroughbreds, LLC (KY).
Castle Magic, f, 3, Palace Malice--Prettiereverydave, by Midnight Lute. Horseshoe Indianapolis, 6-21, (S), 5 1/2f, 1:05.75. Lifetime Record: 7-1-4-1, $54,360. B-Christopher Steven Hancock (IN).
Anjaway, m, 5, Monba--Strawberry Quake, by Richter Scale. Horseshoe Indianapolis, 6-20, (S), 5 1/2f, 1:05.93. Lifetime Record: 4-1-0-2, $30,992. B-Phillip Clark (IN).

AIR FORCE BLUE, Spitten Kitten, f, 3, o/o Zahrah, by Kitten's Joy. Chantilly S., 6-20, Assiniboia
Awesome Patriot, Aujara, m, 5, o/o Uptown Gal, by Don't Get Mad. ALW, 6-21, Thistledown
Bustin Stones, B B's Busted, m, 8, o/o B.b.'s Maze, by Monarch's Maze. AOC, 6-21, Finger Lakes
City of Light, City of Clouds, g, 3, o/o Cloudy Vow, by Broken
Vow. MSW, 6-21, Thistledown

**Collected**, Whiskeymac, g, 3, o/o Winter Cheer, by Pioneeroft the Nile. ALW, 6-21, Presque Isle Downs

**Conveyance**, Sandy's Garden, f, 4, o/o Lots of Mine, by Mineshaft. ALW, 6-21, Finger Lakes

**Daredevil**, Pistol Liz Ablazen, f, 4, o/o Vision of Liz, by Pollard's Vision. AOC, 6-21, Parx Racing

**Elnaawi**, Forever Blessed, f, 3, o/o Red Blend, by Midnight Lute. MSW, 6-21, Horseshoe Indianapolis

**Flat Out**, Moon Pies Image, f, 4, o/o Oh My Sweetie Pie, by Repent. AOC, 6-20, Fanduel Sportsbook And Horse Racing

**Galileo (Ire)**, Arturo Toscanini (Ire), g, 5, o/o Snow Queen (Ire), by Danehill Dancer (Ire). AOC, 6-20, Horseshoe Indianapolis

**Golddigger's Boy**, Golden Moonlight, f, 3, o/o Working At Night, by Tiznow. ALW, 6-21, Finger Lakes

**Jimmy Creed**, Green Amazon, g, 3, o/o Kodiak Kocktail, by Kodiak Kowboy. MSW, 6-20, Assiniboia

**McCranken**, Rush Center, g, 3, o/o Silent Street, by Street Cry (Ire). MSW, 6-21, Parx Racing

**Mission Impazible**, Forward Motion, g, 8, o/o Satin Sheeks, by Elusive Quality. ALW, 6-21, Finger Lakes

**Monba**, Anjaway, m, 5, o/o Strawberry Quake, by Richter Scale. MSW, 6-20, Horseshoe Indianapolis

**Not This Time**, Runaway Jack, g, 4, o/o Melody Girl, by Unbridled's Song. AOC, 6-21, Delaware

**Outwork**, Fiery Heart, g, 4, o/o Say's Who, by Yes It's True. ALW, 6-21, Finger Lakes

**Overanalyze**, Vitale, g, 4, o/o Jabber Dabber Doo, by Pleasant Tap. ALW, 6-21, Hawthorne

**Palace Malice**, Castle Magic, f, 3, o/o Prettiereverydave, by Midnight Lute. MSW, 6-21, Horseshoe Indianapolis

**Seville (Ger)**, Lacco Ameno, g, 6, o/o Sharp as a Fox, by Sharp Victor. ALW, 6-21, Parx Racing

**Speightster**, Fabricate, m, 5, o/o Counterfactual, by Scat Daddy. ALW, 6-21, Thistledown

**Strong Mandate**, Akamai, g, 6, o/o Pleasant Mate, by Pleasant Tap. ALW, 6-21, Horseshoe Indianapolis

**Super Saver**, Bluelightspecial, f, 3, o/o Maddy's Way, by Bellamy Road. Hoosier Breeders Sophomore H., 6-21, Horseshoe Indianapolis

**Tapiture**, John's Protege, g, 4, o/o Mommo, by Speightstown. ALW, 6-21, Finger Lakes

**Tapwrit**, Intermittent Fast, f, 2, o/o Lady Mocha, by Tale of the Cat. MSW, 6-21, Horseshoe Indianapolis

**Uncaptured**, Catch On Emotional, g, 6, o/o Arrumosis, by Hold Me Back. ALW, 6-21, Presque Isle Downs

**Union Rags**, Baafeed, h, 5, o/o Zondag, by Bernardini. AOC, 6-21, Parx Racing

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**Listen to the TDN podcast on Apple Podcasts and Spotify Podcasts.**
MOSTAHDAF DOMINATES PRINCE OF WALES’S, FRANKEL’S 30TH G1 WINNER

by Tom Frary

Paying tribute to his G1 Dubai Sheema Classic conqueror Equinox (Jpn) (Kitasan Black (Jpn)), Shadwell’s Mostahdaf (Ire) (Frankel (GB)–Handassa (GB), by Dubawi (Ire)) blitzed his better-fancied rivals to register a clear personal-best in Wednesday’s G1 Prince of Wales’s S. to become his remarkable sire’s landmark 30th Group 1 winner in this qualifier for the $1-million GI Breeders’ Cup Turf at Santa Anita in November. Anchored in last early by Jim Crowley, the 10-1 shot who had been freshened up since his fourth in that Meydan feature swung wide of the warring Luxembourg (Ire) (Camelot (GB)) and Adayar (Ire) (Frankel (GB)) entering the straight. Blowing by them two out, the Gosdons’ surprise package registered an impressive four-length success from the 2-1 favourite Luxembourg, who had half a length to spare over Adayar.

John Gosden, who was saddling his fifth winner of the race, admitted to an element of surprise. “I was expecting him to pick up well in the straight, but not to make them look like they were standing still,” he said. “He did that in Riyadh; he won the Neom Cup and just flew away. When the ground dries up, he’s a brilliant horse. If you check the form book, he took on a certain Japanese horse in the Sheema Classic and a mile and a half is beyond him—he’s a mile-and-a-quarter horse, but he was the one who put it up to them and gave it his best go.” Cont. p3

ROYAL ASCOT: “HIS PROFILE IS ON THE RISE.” GOLD CUP BECKONS FOR ELDAR ELDAROV by Tom Frary

If there is a trend for the G1 Gold Cup that can’t be ignored, it’s the potency of 4-year-olds in recent times and Thursday’s renewal features a trio who all carry much intrigue into the contest. In a race void of the benchmark horse Stradivarius (Ire) (Sea The Stars (Ire)) and 2022’s emerging force Kyprios (Ire) (Galileo (Ire)), the most open Gold Cup in years is once again there for the young fledgling stayers. Since 2012, there have been nine individual winners and all bar Big Orange (GB) (Duke Of Marmalade (Ire)) were coming out of their Classic season which bodes well for KHK Racing’s TDN Rising Star Eldar Eldarov (GB) (Dubawí (Ire)). Like Estimate (Ire) (Monsun (Ger)), Leading Light (Ire) (Montjeu (Ire)) and Stradivarius, he already has a G2 Queen’s Vase on his resume and his success in the G1 St Leger reads ever stronger with each passing month. Cont. p17

IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

A PENN FULL OF THINK

Chris McGrath speaks with long-time industry veteran Frank Penn, whose family has been involved in the horse business for decades.

ROGUE MILLENNIUM

WINNER OF THE G2 DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE S. AT ROYAL ASCOT

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CRIMSON ADVOCATE HOLDS ON IN QUEEN MARY

Nyquist’s Crimson Advocate gives Team USA its fifth U.S.-trained G2 Queen Mary S. winner.

LIVING THE AMERICAN DREAM AT ASCOT

Headed by the G2 Queen Mary victory recorded by U.S.-based Crimson Advocate, Royal Ascot contenders with American ties gave their motherland reason to celebrate Wednesday.

TALKING POINTS: KEANE OFF THE MARK

Brian Sheerin reflects on several of the highlights at Royal Ascot Wednesday.
Left out of most equations heading to this, Mostahdaf, who is a son of Shadwell’s amazing producer Handassa, had continued to improve in the background this Spring while his key rivals slugged it out at Newmarket, the Curragh, Newbury and ParisLongchamp. This was not the same horse who a year ago had been blown away by Bay Bridge (GB) (New Bay {GB}) in Sandown’s G3 Brigadier Gerard S. and who had flopped so markedly in the G2 Princess of Wales’s S. at Newmarket’s July Festival. This was the Mostahdaf who put Dubai Honour (Ire) (Pride Of Dubai {Aus}) in his place under a penalty in the G3 September S. on Kempton’s Polytrack and who was so rampant in Saudi Arabia in February.

What was so remarkable about this renewal was the fact that the front-running Luxembourg, Adayar who blew the start and My Prospero (Ire) (Iffraaj {GB}) failed to register a split after the first two furlongs under :12 seconds, with Bay Bridge only just dipping below as he tried to make up ground from rear to two out. Mostahdaf, on the day the only true mile-and-a-quarter horse in the field, destroyed his rivals with splits of :11.66 and :11.80 between the three and the furlong pole and was still faster throughout the final furlong.

With such an audacious display of superiority, the now fully-mature winner fits into the best at this trip with only stablemate Emily Upjohn (GB) (Sea The Stars {Ire}) and the 3-year-old generation to fear. “What’s the plan now? That might have been the plan!,” Gosden, Sr added. Cont. p4
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Royal Hunt Cup, Heritage Handicap

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SARACEN HORSE FEEDS
He added, “I always find the Eclipse comes too close. I’d wait for the Juddmonte International; that would be the race for me. He likes to run fresh, so that should be the big target.”

Jim Crowley said, “He bolted in in Saudi over a mile and a quarter on fast ground and didn’t quite stay against Equinox [in the Dubai Sheema Classic at Meydan] when he served it up to the winner, went after him and then got tired. John and Thady brought him back fresh and he was bouncing coming into the race today. From my draw, I went with Plan B, took a sit and it worked out really well. We went an even pace and he took he into the race extremely well. I may have gone for home too soon, but I didn’t want to disappoint him and he wanted to go. I didn’t expect him to win like that, although we’ve always held him in high regard. He’s a son of Frankel and probably only just coming to himself now.”

Luxembourg had no excuses and shaped like a step up in trip is in order. “He ran very well, we are very happy,” Aidan O’Brien said. “The plan was that we would have a look at the King George after today anyway, so it’s possible, but we will see how he is. He is always going to get a mile and a half well, as we know.”

That will also be the plan for Adayar, with Charlie Appleby setting his sights on a repeat of his 2021 success in the July showcase. “The set-up of the race didn’t probably work out for Adayar and they went steady enough,” he said. “Take nothing away from the winner, who has picked up well, but on that evidence it looks as though we will step back up to a mile and a half for the King George. We have always wanted to try and win over a mile and a quarter, because we know for his CV it would be a good feather in the cap. As we know for all those Derby winners, everyone wants to see them drop back to the 10 furlongs. We’ve tried, tested and unfortunately at the top level, we haven’t succeeded.”
**Pedigree Notes**

Handassa, who scored at listed level, first made her mark as a broodmare when her daughter Nazeef (GB) (Invincible Spirit {Ire}) captured the G2 Duke of Cambridge S. at this meeting three years ago before going on to score in the G1 Falmouth S. and G1 Sun Chariot S. After Mostahdaf is the 3-year-old TDN Rising Star Mostabshir (GB) (Dark Angel {Ire}), who was sixth in Tuesday’s G1 St James’s Palace S. but who could be destined for greater things if he follows the same trajectory as his half-siblings.

Handassa, a bargain 100,000gns purchase by Shadwell from Red House Stud at the 2009 Book 1 Sale, is a half-sister to the GII San Gabriel S. winner and GI Frank E. Kilroe Mile-placed Desert Stone (Ire) (Fastnet Rock {Aus}).

She is also a granddaughter of Star (GB) (Most Welcome {GB}), who produced the pair of Group 1-winning sprinters in Pastoral Pursuits (GB) and Goodricke (GB) from matings with Bahamian Bounty (GB). Handassa’s 2-year-old Mutaawid (GB) is a full-brother to the winner, while she also has a yearling colt by Kingman (GB).

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**FRANKIE OFF THE MARK WITH GREGORY IN THE QUEEN’S VASE**

by Tom Frary

It had to come and, despite the drama of the opening day, Frankie’s winner at his last Royal Ascot was on the board towards the end of day two as Wathnan Racing’s unbeaten Gregory (GB) (Golden Horn {GB}–Gretchen {GB}, by Galileo {Ire}) made virtually all in the G2 Queen’s Vase. Bought by his new owners from the breeder Normandie Stud after his win in the Listed Cocked Hat S. at Goodwood last month, the heavily-supported even-money favourite had to battle to see off Saint George (GB) (Roaring Lion) but was not prepared to let the moment slip away.

Despite the game effort of Qatar Racing’s runner-up in the final furlong, Gregory was a match for his rider’s demands and asserted late to score by 1 1/2 lengths, with Chesspiece (GB) (Nathaniel {Ire}) 3 3/4 lengths back in third.
“I thought it was never going to come this year,” Dettori, who is debating appealing a nine-day suspension incurred in the Listed Wolferon S. on Tuesday, said. “I knew this horse was good enough, but I wasn’t so sure about his experience. He is very laid-back at home and I thought if he doesn’t jump he will get lost but he jumped great, I got him to the front and I knew he would stay very well.”

“He was like a sleeping giant in the yard and all of a sudden he’s a Royal Ascot winner,” the rider added after widening the gap again to Ryan Moore on 78 Royal winners. “Potentially, he could be a nice St Leger horse for the end of the season, but John and Thady will work something out. Ascot very kindly gave me a box for my family today and most of them are here, so I’m glad I could ride a winner in front of them.”

Thady Gosden added, “He’s by Golden Horn out of Gretchen, a very good family for this sort of distance and possibly further. He’s also a horse who likes top of the ground as well, so it’s all worked out. The ultimate target we are looking at is the St Leger and we will see where we go before that—we could possibly drop him back in trip.”

Saint George’s trainer Andrew Balding said, “He has run a great race. He’s still relatively inexperienced, as is the winner, but he’s improving with every run, so it’s exciting.”

**Pedigree Notes**

Gregory is a half-brother to last year’s Cocked Hat winner Lionel (GB) (Lope De Vega {Ire}), out of the aforementioned G2 Park Hill S.-winning Gretchen who also has the yearling colt Kenneth (GB) (Kingman {GB}) and a colt foal by Pinatubo (Ire) named Humphrey (GB). The second dam Dolores (GB) (Danehill) was successful in the Listed Conqueror S. and was second in the Sun Chariot when it was a Group 2 and third in the G1 Coronation S. at this meeting.
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SARACEN
HORSE FEEDS
Australian sprinter Artorius was third at last year’s Royal Ascot and comes back this year in better form. He is set to run in the G1 Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee S. and his trainer, Sam Freedman, tells TDN Europe about his chances.

Emma Berry

She was responsible for the G1 Irish St Leger dead-heater and outright G2 Yorkshire Cup and G2 Prix Foy winner Duncan (GB) (Dalakhani {Ire}), the G2 Doncaster Cup scorer Samuel (GB) (Sakhee) and the stakes producer Deirdre (GB) (Dubawi {Ire}) who finished third behind Snow Fairy (Ire) (Intikhab) in the Listed Height of Fashion S.

Wednesday, Royal Ascot, Britain
QUEEN’S VASE-G2, £265,000, Ascot, 6-21, 3yo, 14f 34yT, 3:03.13, gd.
1--GREGORY (GB), 128, c, 3, by Golden Horn (GB)
   1st Dam: Gretchen (GB) (GSW-Eng, $127,958),
   by Galileo (Ire)
   2nd Dam: Dolores (GB), by Danehill
   3rd Dam: Agnus (Ire), by In The Wings (GB)
   1ST GROUP WIN. O-Wathnan Racing; B-Normandie Stud Ltd (GB); T-John & Thady Gosden; J-Lanfranco Dettori. £150,282. Lifetime Record: 3-3-0-0, $266,139. *1/2 to Lionel (GB) (Lope De Vega {Ire}), SW-Eng. Werk Nick Rating: A++. Click for the eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree, or the free Equineline.com catalogue-style pedigree.

Purchased by Blandford Bloodstock
2--Saint George (GB), 128, c, 3, Roaring Lion--Lady Dragon (Ire),
by Galileo (Ire). **1ST BLACK TYPE; 1ST GROUP BLACK TYPE.**
O-Qatar Racing Ltd; B-The Lady Dragon Partnership (GB); T-Andrew Balding. £56,975.

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**Cheepiece (GB), 128, c, 3, Nathaniel (Ire)--Royal Solitaire (Ire), by Shamardal. 1ST BLACK TYPE; 1ST GROUP BLACK TYPE.**
(€100,000 Ylg ‘21 ARQDOY). O-Godolphin; B-Ammerland Gmb & Co KG (GB); T-Simon & Ed Crisford. £28,514.
Margins: 1HF, 3 3/4, 1 1/4. Odds: 1.00, 10.00, 5.50.

Also Ran: Circle Of Fire (GB), Etna Rosso (Ire), St Vincents Garden (Ire), Peking Opera (Ire), Sumo Sam (GB), Think First (Ire), Batemans Bay (Fr), Hadrianus (Ire), Nurburgring (Ire), Ndaawi (GB), Steven Seagull (GB). **VIDEO.**

**ROGUE MILLENNIUM TAKES THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE by Tom Frary**

Paying back her supplementary to Wednesday’s G2 Duke of Cambridge S. in spades, The Rogues Gallery’s **Rogue Millennium (Ire)** (Dubawi (Ire)--Hawaafez (GB), by Nayef) was steered to a surprise 10-1 success for the Tom Clover stable by one of the meeting’s recent success stories Danny Tudhope.

Dropped to a mile after chasing home Free Wind (Ire) (Galileo (Ire)) in the G2 Middleton Fillies’ S. over an extended 10-furlong trip at York last month, last year’s Listed Lingfield Oaks Trial winner raced off the pace early and was delivered with perfect timing to collar the long-time leader **Random Harvest (Ire)** (War Front) inside the final 100 yards for a neck verdict, with one of the 100-30 co-favourites **Prosperous Voyage (Ire)** (Zoffany (Ire)) a length away in third.

“This was the shortest trip she had ever run over and they went quite steady, but she picked them up nicely,” Tudhope said after guiding his 11th Royal winner. “She ran a cracking race last time at York and it was a big ask bringing her back in trip here today, but it was the right thing to do.”

One of the Shadwell cast-offs that the operation will regret, Rogue Millennium had by her second start already shown her 35,000gns price tag at the 2021 Tattersalls December Sale to be all wrong. That Lingfield Oaks Trial win put her into the Oaks picture, but she was probably ill-equipped stamina-wise and wound up seventh before running second in the G3 Hoppings Fillies’ S. on Newcastle’s Tapeta. Third in testing ground in the G3 Prix Allez France at ParisLongchamp in April prior to her dust-up with Free Wind at the Ebor Festival, she showed here she has the ability to produce miling splits with her :11.15 from the three to the two the decisive one before her stamina helped her to the line.

“It’s just been amazing. It’s what we all do it for,” Clover said. “I love the filly, I love training for The Rogues, and she’s just the most wonderful filly. She is gorgeous to look at and she’s just improved from three to four. In her work at home early on, she was travelling really well behind six or seven-furlong horses and finding it very easy. Danny got it absolutely spot on. He’s a classy jockey and his record here speaks for itself. I didn’t put her in the Falmouth, so we might go to Deauville.”

Ed Walker said of Random Harvest, whose rider Saffie Osborne was able to get away with relatively soft fractions in front, “This time last year, she was just touched off in the Kensington Palace on a mark of 81, so she’s come a long way since then. Saffie is class—she’s gutted, but gave her a very good ride. I reckon we will go to the Falmouth, why not? There’s nothing to lose, even if she gets placed in a Falmouth, that’s massive and she’s getting better with every run.”

**Pedigree Notes**

The G3 Cumberland Lodge S. and Listed Aston Park S.-winning dam Hawaafez, who was also offloaded by Shadwell for just 14,000gns when knocked down to Blandford Bloodstock at the 2022 Tatts February Sale, is descended from the Gill Monrovia H. and G3 C L Weld Park S. winner and G1 National S. and G1 Phoenix S.-placed **Wedding Bouquet (Ire)** (Kings Lake). A half-sister to the great Generous (Ire) and the Oaks and Irish 1000 Guineas heroine Imagine (Ire), she is also the second dam of the multiple Group 1 winner Moonlight Cloud (GB) (Invincible Spirit (Ire)). Her 2-year-old filly Kafiyah (GB) is by **Kingman (GB)**, while she also has a yearling colt by Masar (Ire) bought for 110,000gns by Yeomanstown Stud at the Tattersalls December Foal Sale.

Share this story 📣
Wednesday, Royal Ascot, Britain
DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE S.-G2, £235,875, Ascot, 6-21, 4yo/up, f, 8fT, 1:41.33, gd.
1-- ROGUE MILLENNIUM (IRE), 128, f, 4, by Dubawi (Ire)
   1st Dam: Hawaafez (GB) (GSW-Eng, $111,512), by Nayef
   2nd Dam: Merayaat (Ire), by Darshaan (GB)
   3rd Dam: Maddelina (Ire), by Sadler's Wells
   1ST GROUP WIN. (35,000gns 2yo '21 TATMA). O-The Rogues Gallery; B-Shadwell Estate Company Ltd (IRE); T-Tom Clover; J-Daniel Tudhope. £133,765. Lifetime Record: GSP-Fr, 10-3-3-1, $291,613. Werk Nick Rating: A+. Click for the eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree, or the free Equineline.com catalogue-style pedigree.

2-- Random Harvest (Ire), 128, m, 5, by War Front--Seta (GB), by Pivotal (GB). O/B-Lady Bamford (IRE); T-Ed Walker. £50,713.


Margins: NK, 1, 1 3/4. Odds: 10.00, 20.00, 3.33.
Also Ran: Jumbly (GB), Potapova (GB), Lightship (Ire), Queen Aminatu (GB), Grande Dame (GB), Honey Girl (GB), Internationalangel (Ire). VIDEO.

QUEEN MARY SUCCESS FOR CRIMSON ADVOCATE by Tom Frary

After an agonising pause following Wednesday’s G2 Queen Mary S., it was a case of USA off the mark at Royal Ascot 2023 with Crimson Advocate (Nyquist--Citizen Advocate, by Proud Citizen) nosing out Relief Rally (Ire) (Kodiac (GB)) in a head-bobbing finish.

Using the speed that had seen her book her transatlantic ticket in Gulfstream Park’s Royal Palm Juvenile Fillies S. last month, the George Weaver-trained chestnut kept finding for Johnny Velazquez as the Haggas filly bore down on her with the line approaching. Relief Rally was in front a stride before and after the line, but when the photo was taken it was the 9-1 shot who had her noseband inches ahead. The 11-4 favourite Beautiful Diamond (GB) (Twilight Son (GB)) was a further two lengths away in third.

“We came here eight years ago with a horse that wasn’t good enough and wanted to come back with one that was, so it feels terrific and very gratifying,” Weaver said of the winner. “My wife is a tremendous horsewoman, she knows more about horses than I’ll ever know. She took a fall a year ago, she had a dramatic brain injury and it was a very scary time, so it’s been a tough year for all of us. It’s a miracle. At some points we didn’t know if she’d live or have any quality of life. This is her first trip away from home since. I had a lot of help getting to where we got and I appreciate it all.”

“I have so much respect for the horses over here. It always seems like the European horses are better grass horses than what we have, but I knew our filly was very talented and I was hoping that she would be able to get the job done,” Weaver added. “You can feel the electricity when you’re here and how special it is and it’s a beautiful feather for us to have in our cap. I’ve had some great moments, but this ranks right up there.”

Building on a debut third over 4 1/2 furlongs at Keeneland in April to put Wesley Ward’s Ocean Mermaid (GB) (Kingman (GB)) in the shade at Gulfstream, Crimson Advocate had registered a time over a second faster than stablemate No Nay Mets (Ire) (No Nay Never) in the colts’ division on the card. Providing an instant boost to the Gulfstream initiative, which guarantees an automatic start in one of this meeting’s 2-year-old races and a $25,000 travel stipend, she had the right man on board here with Velazquez proving key.

Crimson Advocate (left) | Megan Ridgwell
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John Velazquez was celebrating his fourth Royal Ascot victory in the Queen Mary.

Registering the fastest opening furlong of :13.63, she was able to ease off a touch at the head of the stand’s side group until winning it with the field’s joint-fastest split of :10.81 from the three to the two. Although she was paying for that late as the runner-up closed the gap, the winner had been subject to a masterclass from her rider who was making it Royal winner number four.

“I knew she was going to be fast, it was all about if she handled the turf here,” he said. “It’s a little bit better than yesterday, it was a bit soft for the Americans yesterday, but she handled it very well and held on. It’s very hard when they come from America, there’s also the second hill close home they have to handle. She’s so nice, she handled everything nicely, in fact she was so calm I had to take her away from the others to wake her up a bit! She was a little too quiet, but behind the gates she was very nice.”

“She was going so well and in hindsight I almost messed up the race by going too soon. I should have waited longer with the second hill in mind, but she handled it. That’s the first time I’ve ridden her, I knew she’d be pretty fast. Every year I try to come back here to get another winner, now I’ve got one it feels great and I’ll be coming for as long as I can.”

William Haggas, who was in the Royal carriage for the pre-racing procession, was fighting the disappointment of so narrowly missing out on an ideal winner on one of his finest days. “We were in front before and after the line, but not on. There you go, that’s the way it is, she’s run a great race and made up a lot of ground in the last furlong,” he said.

Karl Burke said of the beaten favourite, “Beautiful Diamond had her prep for the breeze-up all winter, she came to us, we ran her only two weeks ago. She comes to a meeting like this and has run a huge race, but she is a weak filly and has had a hard race today. We will back off her for a month now and hopefully we can get her ready for the Lowther or something like that.”

**Pedigree Notes**

Crimson Advocate, a $100,000 purchase at the Ocala Breeders’ Sales Co. October Yearling Sale, is out of Citizen Advocate who captured three stakes races and was runner-up in the GI Azalea S. She is a half-sister to the dam of the GI Breeders’ Cup Juvenile Fillies-winning champion 2-year-old filly Caledonia Road (Quality Road) and the GIII Prairie Meadows Cornhusker H., GIII Tom Fool H. and GII Mr. Prospector S. scorer Officiating (Blame). The family features the GI Wood Memorial winner Lord Miles (Curlin), the GI Donn H. hero Hymn Book (Arch) and GI Maker’s Mile S. winner Data Link (War Front). The dam also has a colt foal by Leinster.

Wednesday, Royal Ascot, Britain
QUEEN MARY S.-G2, £115,000, Ascot, 6-21, 2yo, f, 5fT, :59.96, gd.
1--CRIMSON ADVOCATE, 128, f, 2, by Nyquist
1st Dam: Citizen Advocate (MSW & GSP-US, $327,450), by Proud Citizen
2nd Dam: Twilight Service, by Horse Chestnut (SAf)
3rd Dam: Sunset Service, by Deputy Minister
1ST GROUP WIN ($100,000 Ylg ’22 OBSOCT). O-R A Hill, Swinbank, Black Ridge, Black Type; B-Whitehall Lane Farm (KY); T-George Weaver; J-John Velazquez. £65,217. Lifetime Record: SW-US, 3-2-0-1, £138,047. Werk Nick Rating: A. Click for the eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree, or the free Equineline.com catalogue-style pedigree.

2--Relief Rally (Ire), 128, f, 2, Kodiac (GB)–Kathoe (Ire), by Fayruz (GB). 1ST BLACK TYPE; 1ST GROUP BLACK TYPE. (58,000gns Ylg ’22 TATSOM). O-Simon Munir & Isaac Souede; B-C M Farrell (IRE); T-William Haggas. £24,725.
3--Beautiful Diamond (GB), 128, f, 2, Twilight Son (GB)–Babylon Lane (GB), by Lethal Force (Ire). 1ST BLACK TYPE; 1ST GROUP BLACK TYPE. (30,000gns Ylg ’22 TATSOM; £360,000 2yo ’23 GOUKB). O-Sheikh Rashid Dalmoon Al Maktoum; B-Rosyground Stud (GB); T-Karl Burke. £12,374. Margins: NO, 2, 2. Odds: 9.00, 5.00, 2.75.

Also Ran: Juniper Berries (GB), Got To Love A Grey (GB), Flora Of Bermuda (Ire), Lady Pink Rose (GB), Balsam (Fr), Midnight Affair (Ire), Cynane, Thanksbutnothanks (Ire), Geologist (GB), Graceful Thunder (GB), Launch, Betties Bay (GB), Gaiden (Ire), Mariamne (GB), Princess Chizara (Ire), Callianassa (Ire), Tallulabelle (Ire),
Crimson Advocate (red cap) is the 14th American-trained winner at Royal Ascot and trainer George Weaver's first.

Bated Moon (Ire), Bundchen, Out Of The Stars (GB), Onigiri (GB), Hot Front (Ire), Cotai Vision (Ire). Scratched: Born To Rock (Ire), Tiger Belle (Ire).

'IT COULDN'T BE BETTER': LIVING THE AMERICAN DREAM AT ASCOT  By Emma Berry

ASCOT, UK--There's plenty of red, white and blue draped about this most patriotic of race meetings, but the Union Jack had to give way for the Star-Spangled Banner during the early rounds of Royal Ascot's Wednesday fare. First Crimson Advocate blazed a trail in the G2 Queen Mary S., and even through she was all out at the line in an attempt to repel the fast-finishing Relief Rally (Ire), her nose was down where it mattered, providing the 27 owners who had travelled from America in support with a day they will never forget.

The daughter of Nyquist has been well travelled in her short career, racing in Kentucky, Florida and now England in the last two months. From a debut third at Keeneland, she landed the Royal Palm Juvenile Fillies' S. at Gulfstream Park, a win-and-you're-in qualifier for the royal meeting.

Among the combined ownership group is Jake Ballis's Black Type Thoroughbreds, who bought into the George Weaver-trained Crimson Advocate after her first start.

The Lexington-based syndicator said, "George really liked the filly on debut at Keeneland and I have a lot of horses with him. She ran third and George called me up after the race and said 'We've got to put some people together to buy this filly. She's very, very fast'. The people who owned her originally buy to race and then sell."

He continued, "George said he was going to put her on the turf at Gulfstream and then we're going to Royal Ascot. When we bought into her, that was the dream, but plans in this sport don't always work out. This one did, and we brought all our friends and families here; it couldn't be better. I've brought two people here who have never owned a horse before and they're my good luck charm--they're two for two."

Of the tight finish, in which his filly held on by a nose, Ballis added, "From my vantage view I had zero idea who had won and I just said 'Please one time just give me the photo', and then my phone started ringing."

The Kensington Palace S. which followed the Queen Mary may not have carried black type but it was no less celebrated for myriad reasons.
The Crager family, who own the 25/1 winner Villanova Queen (Ire), have horses in their native America with Graham Motion, but the daughter of Mastercraftsman (Ire) was a special Royal Ascot winner for Jessica Harrington in the joyful week that she was given the all-clear following recent treatment for cancer. It was also a first win at the meeting for Ireland's champion jockey Colin Keane.

"We have a few in training with Mrs Harrington in Ireland and a few with Roger Varian in England. We also keep a few mares at Baroda Stud," said New York-based William Crager, whose father Bill, the CEO of Envestnet, missed out on their first Royal Ascot victory but is due to join the celebrations in England later this week.

He continued, "We really love racing over here especially. We get treated so very well and this is just incredible. The Harringtons are incredible--they are so good at what they do. We felt hopeful about what the filly could come and do but I don't think we could have expected that. And Colin--what a ride! All in all, what an experience. We're very thankful."

Joining the celebrations in the winner's circle was Ben McElroy, who is no stranger to success at Royal Ascot thanks to the dual winner Campanelle (Ire). The agent also bought Villanova Queen, for €60,000, at the Goffs Orby Sale and she has gone on to win twice in Ireland, as well as being Group 3-placed and finishing eighth in last year's Irish 1,000 Guineas. Bill Crager also tasted success at last year's July meeting at Newmarket with his first homebred Miss Carol Ann (Ire) (Kingman (GB)) but this was the family's first runner at Royal Ascot.

"We've gone in right on top but we're in for the long ride," William Crager said. "Dad and Paul Hondros are flying over later in the week and we'll all be celebrating.

"Ben bought this filly at Goffs; he's a phenomenal agent. [Eventually] She'll be back at Baroda and bred here [in Europe]."

There were plenty of first-time winners at Royal Ascot on Wednesday, one of those being Wathnan Racing, a name we will surely hear plenty more if their high-profile purchases continue apace. The G2 Queen's Vase winner Gregory (GB) was bought by Wathnan Racing, the leading owner in Qatar this season, after his victory in the Listed Cocked Hat S. for owner-breeder Philippa Cooper. Similarly, the group now owns Isaac Shelby (Ire), runner-up in the Poule d'Essai des Pouliches and fourth in the St James's Palace S., while on Thursday Wathnan Racing will be represented by Courage Mon Ami (GB) in the Gold Cup. If their colours look familiar it is because they are only a shade away from those made famous by Germany's Gestut Rottgen.

As Gregory was led in triumphant, Frankie Dettori aboard, the inevitable roar from the crowd turned to cries in some quarters of, "Jump, Frankie, jump."

Jump he did. How could he not? As Dettori beamed from the rostrum he was joined by Thady Gosden as the latter's father John, co-trainer of two group winners on the day, watched on from the sidelines. Two doors about to close, perhaps, as one is pushed open, strengthened by new foreign investors in British racing.

The Royal Ascot ‘firsts’ continued with George Weaver being joined on the trainers’ roll of honour by Tom Clover, who saddled Rogue Millennium (GB) to win the G2 Duke of Cambridge S. for The Rogues Gallery syndicate.

The story of the Dubawi (Ire) filly was widely reported last year when she ran in the Oaks as she was bought by Billy Jackson-Stops for 35,000gns as an unraced two-year-old from her breeder Shadwell during that operation's reduction of stock.
Any lingering regrets that the Shadwell team may have had about ‘one who got away’ will soon have been erased by the barnstorming victory of Mostahdaf (Ire) in the day’s feature, the G1 Prince of Wales’s S. His half-sister Nazeef (Ire) (Invincible Spirit {Ire}) is already a dual Group 1 winner for the operation and now Shadwell has another enticing stallion prospect in the form of Mostahdaf, who has appeared at the royal meeting in each of the last three years and is bred on the same Frankel-Dubawi cross as Adayar (Ire), whom he beat into third, half a length behind the runner-up Luxembourg (Ire).

Sheikh Hamdan was the leading owner during what would transpire to be his final Royal Ascot in 2020. It is easy to imagine that he would be delighted to see the foundations he laid being built upon by his daughter Sheikha Hissa with many of the same trusted lieutenants at her side for wise counsel.

Since Sheikh Hamdan’s passing in March 2021, Shadwell has been represented by no fewer than six Group 1 winners in Baaeed (GB), Hukum (GB), Eshaada (GB), Minzaal (Ire), Anmaat (Ire), and now Mostahdaf: four homebred, and two bred by the remarkable team at Ringfort Stud. That those results have been provided by four different trainers spreads the enjoyment further still. Sometimes the red isn’t needed: the white and blue has been doing just fine for Shadwell.

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BIG EVS BLUE POINT’S FIRST BLACK-TYPE WINNER IN THE WINDSOR CASTLE by Tom Frary

Choosing the big stage to provide Darley’s first-crop sire Blue Point (Ire) with his first black-type winner, RP Racing’s Big Evs (Ire) stormed to an emphatic success in Royal Ascot’s Listed Windsor Castle S. which closed Wednesday’s card.

Alert from the stalls under Jason Hart, the Michael Appleby-trained 20-1 shot who had been second to the re-opposing Hala Emaraaty (Ire) (Kodiac {GB}) at Redcar last month was soon in the clear racing towards the stand’s side. Powering to the line, the 50,000gns Book 2 purchase issued a three-length beating to Ballydoyle’s TDN Rising Star Johannes Brahms (GB) (Siyouni {Fr}), with Inquisitively (GB) (Ten Sovereigns {Ire}) 3/4 of a length away in third.

Out of Hana Lina (GB) (Oasis Dream {GB}), a daughter of the champion Queen’s Logic (Ire) (Grand Lodge) who took the Queen Mary here when it was a Group 3 in 2001, Big Evs was not surprising his trainer, who had been third in Tuesday’s G1 King’s Stand S.

“Big Evs worked with Annaf earlier in the week and I thought this has got to have a great chance at Royal Ascot, because Annaf is a machine,” he said. “We really fancied him at Redcar, but the draw did us.”

“It’s a great team effort and thanks to [owner] Paul [Teasdale] for sending him to me,” Appleby added. He’s got so much speed—I’ve never had a horse as quick as him. I’m not sure what we’ll do next. There are some big targets to come for him now, so we’ll see where we go with him.”

Hart added, “Mick was quietly confident and said this horse had done an excellent bit of work. He has taken a big step forward from his Redcar run and put up a good performance. I was massively hopeful we could reverse the placings with Hala Emaraaty, because there is a massive track bias at Redcar at the moment and I was drawn on the stands’ side. If you don’t get on the far side, you’ve not really got much chance and I had to use a lot of horse to get a good position. That told in the final 100 yards, but the horse has come on a lot for that run.”

Paul Teasdale revealed the meaning behind the winner’s title. “I named Big Evs after someone very special, a man who I knew for 40 years, but he died in November. He was Paul Evans—we called him Evs and he was a big guy. We went racing together for 25 years and so to win this means so much.”

The dam, who also has a yearling filly by Ribchester (Ire), is carrying on a rich Ascot tradition via her son with the aforementioned Queen’s Logic who went on to win the G1 Cheveley Park S. and G2 Lowther S. also responsible for the high-class sprinter Lady Of The Desert (Rahy) who took the G2 Diadem S. and G3 Princess Margaret S. at this venue. She went on to produce Queen Kindly (GB) (Frankel {GB}), another Lowther winner who was third in the G3 Albany S. The family also features the champion Dylan Thomas (Ire), whose several top-level victories included the King George VI & Queen Elizabeth S. and G1 Prince of Wales’s S., as well as the fellow Classic-winning luminaries Homecoming Queen (Ire) (Holy Roman Emperor {Ire}) and Serpentine (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}).

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1—BIG EVS (IRE), 131, c, 2, by Blue Point (IRE)
   1st Dam: Hana Lina (GB), by Oasis Dream (GB)
   2nd Dam: Queen’s Logic (IRE), by Grand Lodge
   3rd Dam: Lagrion, by Diesis (GB)

   **1ST BLACK-TYPE WIN.** (50,000gns Ylg ‘22 TATOCT). O-RP Racing Ltd; B-Rabbah Bloodstock Ltd (IRE); T-Michael Appleby; J-Jason Hart. £56,710. Lifetime Record: 2-1-1-0, $74,891.

2—Johannes Brahms (GB), 131, c, 2, Siyouni (Fr)—Illauummore, by Shamardal.
   **1ST BLACK TYPE.** (200,000gns Ylg ‘22 TATOCT). O-Tabor, Smith, Magnier, Westerberg & Brant; B-Chasemore Farm (GB); T-Aidan O’Brien. £21,500.

3—Inquisitively (GB), 131, c, 2, Ten Sovereigns (Ire)—Ballyalla (GB), by Mind Games (GB).
   **1ST BLACK TYPE.** (45,000gns Wlg ’21 TADEWE; 40,000gns Ylg ’22 TATOCT). O-Justin Casse & Partners; B-Giebe Farm Stud (GB); T-Ollie Sangster. £10,760.

**FIRST STAKES WINNER FOR SIRE**
WINDSOR CASTLE S.-Listed, £100,000, Ascot, 6-21, 2yo, 5fT, 59.91, g/f.

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Ralph is a genius. We fancied this horse in the Spring Cup at Newbury. We figured out a lot last time at Newmarket when he didn’t run up to scratch. Ralph has freshened him up lovely and credit to him and everyone at Kimpton. I get the easy job of riding him, but the lads behind the scenes do all the work. This one is for them.”

Jimi Hendrix is the first of five foals and lone scorer produced by Listed Corrib S. victrix Planchart (Gio Ponti), herself a daughter of GII Long Island H. and GII La Prevoyante H. third Tarrip (Green Desert). The February-foaled bay’s siblings include an unnamed 2-year-old colt by Waldgeist (GB), a yearling full-brother and a weanling filly by Dark Angel (IRE). Sales history: 82,000gns Ylg ‘20 TATOCT. Lifetime Record: 13-5-0-2, $224,718. [VIDEO.]

O-Chelsea Thoroughbreds (Purple Haze); B-Ballylinch Stud (IRE); T-Ralph Beckett.

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**1ST BLACK TYPE**
VILLANOVA QUEEN (IRE) f, 4, *Mastercraftsman (IRE)—Quads (Ire)*, by Shamardal ran third in last term’s G3 Leopardstown 1000 Guineas Trial and lined up for this Kensington Palace Fillies’ H. coming back from an eighth in the May 21 Listed Owenstown Stud S. at Naas. Positioned off the pace in rear until turning for home, the 25-1 chance made relentless headway out wide in the straight and kept on strongly under a drive to deny Don’t Tell Claire (GB) (Gutaifan {Ire}) by a half-length nearing the line. “It’s unfortunate for Shane Foley, who is injured and couldn’t ride, but this has been a while coming and I am very grateful to Mrs [Jessica] Harrington for giving me the ride,” said multiple Irish champion Colin Keane after securing a maiden Royal success. “This is the biggest stage in racing and I’ve been coming here year in and year out trying to get one. The race was very straightforward for me and it is very satisfying.”

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**FIRST STAKES WINNER FOR SIRE**
JIMI HENDRIX (IRE) g, 4, New Bay (GB)—Planchart {SW-Ire}, by Gio Ponti, who annexed Newbury’s Apr. 22 Spring Cup H. before finishing off the board in Newmarket’s May 6 Suffolk H. last time, was positioned at the rear of the far-side group through the first three furlongs of this Royal Hunt Cup. Making smooth progress from halfway, the 22-1 chance powered to the front passing the quarter-mile marker and kept on strongly under a drive to defeat stablemate Sonny Liston (IRE) (Lawman {Fr}) by two lengths. “He won the Spring Cup well, but he didn’t go so well back on the Rowley Mile and I always felt he had a day like this in him,” said trainer Ralph Beckett. “I thought we might win the Lincoln with him and he has always threatened to do something like this. Things haven’t been going great this week so far, but to win a [Royal] Hunt Cup takes a bit of doing. To finish first and second, I am so pleased. Rossa [Ryan] is a guy on the up, it’s great for him and he gave him a peach [of a ride].”

Ryan added, “Ralph is a genius. We fancied this horse in the Lincoln and it didn’t go right, but he was impressive in the Spring
Assistant trainer Kate Harrington added, “I thought Villanova Queen had a good chance, dropping back from group and listed company into a handicap. She didn’t get the clearest of runs last time and the time before that the ground was a bit soft in Leopardstown. It has taken a while to get her back to what we knew she was prior to the Irish Guineas last year, where she picked up a bit of an injury. She had a very good run last year behind Homeless Songs in the Guineas trial and we knew this was in her, but it’s great now she’s back on track. It’s onwards and upwards for the rest of the season.” Villanova Queen is the third of five foals produced by an unraced half-sister to G1 Sussex S. hero Here Comes When (Ire) (Danehill Dancer (Ire)) and G2 Park Hill S. and G3 Lillie Langtry S. placegetter Melodic Motion (Ire) (Nathaniel (Ire)). Her G3 Prix d’Aumale-winning second dam Quad’s Melody is a half-sister to three black-type performers headed by GII Del Mar H. victor and MGISP sire Bonapartiste (Fr) (Kendor (Fr)). The March-foaled chestnut is half to a yearling colt by Kameko. Sales history: £60,000 Ylg ‘20 GOFOR. Lifetime Record: GSP-Ire, 8-3-0-1, $92,480. VIDEO. O-William Crager; B-Old Carhue Stud & Graeng Bloodstock Ltd (IRE); T-Jessica Harrington.

Of course, it came in rather fortuitous circumstances, with Keane deputising for Harrington's number one rider Shane Foley, who was cruelly ruled out for six weeks after breaking his collarbone at Gowran Park.

Many will point to the fact that Keane came in for the winning ride on Westover (GB) (Frankel (GB)) in the Irish Derby last year and Dermot Weld called on his services for Tarnawa (Ire) (Shamardal) in the Breeders' Cup Turf in 2020.

But the point remains, Keane is a top-drawer rider and one that is deserving of more opportunities to showcase his talents on the international stage like the previous Irish champion jockeys did before him.

Victory aboard Villanova Queen could serve as a reminder of that fact.

**TALKING POINTS: KEANE OFF MARK AT ASCOT - BUT HE DESERVES MORE BIG RIDES**

By Brian Sheerin

Hard to believe that Colin Keane was 0-50 at Ascot before booting Villanova Queen (Ire) (Mastercraftsman (Ire)) home to record an emotional victory for Jessica Harrington in the Kensington Palace Fillies’ Handicap.

Anyone with even a passing interest in Irish racing will know that Keane is right up there with the best riders in Europe and his royal winner was long overdue.
Appleby Proves He’s Not Just A Sand Artist

Mick Appleby ‘told TDN Europe back in January how, in many ways, that he had become a victim of his own success on the all-weather and that he’d love to train more two-year-old runners.

The trainer proved on Wednesday that, given the raw material, he can do the business with juveniles by sending out Big Evs (Ire) (Blue Point {Ire}) to win the Windsor Castle.

One of the best all-weather trainers in the business, Appleby has gone some way to demonstrating that he is just as good on turf through his handling of progressive sprinter Raasel (GB) (Showcasing) and now Big Evs.

Indeed, Big Evs will also go down as a noteworthy first Royal Ascot winner for Blue Point, the first of the freshman sires to achieve such a feat this week.

Two Things To Take From The Prince Of Wales’s Stakes

Few would have seen Mostahdaf (Ire) (Frankel (GB)) winning the Prince Of Wales’s S. before the race was run. Fewer still would have predicted the style in which it would be achieved.

Regardless, there didn’t appear to be any fluke about the victory, with the John and Thady Gosden-trained runner quickening up off a steady pace and rounding the field as if they were stationary.

He looks a very smart performer over 10 furlongs, which he proved in Riyadh earlier this year before coming up short behind a global superstar in Equinox (Jpn) (Kitasan Black (Jpn)) when upped to 1m4f in the Dubai Sheema Classic.

There were a couple of things to take from Wednesday’s race; Equinox is probably the best horse in the world right now and Mostahdaf won’t be underestimated in the Juddmonte International.

American Winner An Important One

International competition is what underpins the royal meeting. That’s what made the result of the opening Queen Mary such an important one with the American raider Crimson Advocate (Nyquist) hanging on to land a pulsating renewal.

That brought American-trained runners’ tally of winners at Royal Ascot to 14. A whopping 12 of those have been trained by Wesley Ward, who is incidentally without a winner since Campanelle (Ire) (Kodiac (GB)) in the 2021 Commonwealth Cup.

The international runners at Ascot are what the Irish runners are to Cheltenham. It’s what makes the meeting so special. Without your Australian sprinters and razor-sharp American-bred juveniles, the meeting would not boast the same lustre.

As a result, Ascot deserves a lot of credit for being proactive in recruiting runners from all over the world. George Weaver’s Crimson Advocate won her qualifying race for Royal Ascot at Gulfstream back in May and such an initiative has proved a roaring success.

Connections of Relief Rally (Ire) (Kodiac (GB)), beaten just a nose by the American raider on Wednesday, may not agree, but Crimson Advocate’s success was an important one as it served to further broaden the appeal of one of the most special race meetings in the world.

Why We Need Minimum Ratings

That brings us onto Steven Seagull (GB) (War Command). Royal Ascot is supposed to be about bringing the best horses and people the world has to offer and pitching them against each other for one brilliant week of racing.

So what was the 46-rated Steven Seagull doing running in the Queen’s Vase? We had a similar situation a few years back when the 54-rated My Lucky Penny was allowed to run in the 2020 Irish 1,000 Guineas and duly tailed off at odds of 400-1.

Connections didn’t even have an excuse of a day out on that occasion given the race took place behind closed doors due to Covid.

These lowly-rated horses have their place, of course they do, but it’s not on the biggest of stages where their participation could do more harm than good. Minimum ratings would serve to eliminate such needless worries going forward.
Thursday Previews Cont. from p1

Sharpened by a creditable return under a penalty in the G2 Yorkshire Cup last month, Eldar Eldarov shaped like a true “Cup” horse there and Roger Varian is relishing having one of that kind in the member of Kirsten Raising’s amazing dynasty of Alpinista (GB) (Frankel (GB)) et al. “The Gold Cup is one of those iconic races, it’s got masses of history and there is always something nice about having a good staying horse,” he said. “A horse like Eldar Eldarov might be in the camp for two or three years to come yet and as we have seen with some of those good staying horses, they can capture the public imagination as well.”

“He’s got a long way to go before he’s held in any similar regard to any of those top staying horses, but he has won a Queen’s Vase, he’s won a St Leger and his profile is on the rise, I think,” Varian added. “It’s exciting to get him back out and back to Ascot, he obviously won at the Royal meeting last year and it is very exciting to have such a strong contender for the Gold Cup.”

The remaining 4-year-olds are Wathnan Racing’s unknown quantity Courage Mon Ami (GB) (Frankel (GB)), unbeaten and yet to be fully extended in non-black-type starts over no further than 14 furlongs, and Ballydoyle’s Leger fifth Emily Dickinson (Ire) (Dubawi (Ire)). Despite his lack of obvious credentials for this, Courage Mon Ami is thrown in by the Gosdens who you could say know a thing or two about the quality required for this meeting’s demands. Sometimes, when you have one that wins three races by a cumulative margin of 13 3/4 lengths you just have to take the plunge. It is fair to say that Aidan O’Brien also knows something about training Royal Ascot winners and he has been talking for a while now about how Emily Dickinson is yearning for this marathon distance.

No horse in the line-up would be more deserving of Gold Cup glory than the Mariscottis’ Coltrane (Ire) (Mastercraftsman {Ire}), who was sent to the Ascot S. on the Tuesday of last year’s meeting but now features prominently in the one that matters. When it comes to going into the red over this kind of distance, he and arch-rival Trueshan (Fr) (Planteur {Ire}) know how to keep digging down but this promises to be a different test now that the ground is drying. Two who have yet to go anywhere near this far are the class act Yibir (GB) (Dubawi {Ire}), who bids to end a long drought for Godolphin, and the 2021 Irish Derby runner-up Lone Eagle (Ire), the sole progeny of Galileo (Ire) in the line-up.

Whereas the Coventry normally takes precedence over the G2 Norfolk S., this year’s renewal of the five-furlong test is as least as strong as the opening day’s juvenile feature.
TDN Rising Stars American Rascal (Curlin), Noche Magica (Ire) (Night Of Thunder {Ire}) and Devious (GB) (Starspangledbanner {Aus}) take aim at Sheikh Mohammed Obaid Al Maktoum’s emphatic Listed National S. winner Elite Status (GB) (Havana Grey {GB}), while there is also the Royal Palm Juvenile S. winner No Nay Mets (Ire) (No Nay Never) bidding to provide George Weaver with a double at the meeting as well as Ballydoyle’s unexposed Listed First Flier S. scorer His Majesty (Ire) (No Nay Never).

Wesley Ward has yet to get in on the action this week, but American Rascal is a special member of the team being a son of Lady Aurelia (Scat Daddy). “Everything is unbelievable with American Rascal, it’s all systems forward,” he said. “He’s travelled great, been training great. We couldn’t be happier with him. American Rascal is the star of the show for us, anyway.”

There is no let-up in the action as Thursday unfolds, with the G2 Ribblesdale S. featuring Shadwell’s supplemented Listed Agnes Keyser S. winner Al Asifah (GB) (Frankel {GB}), as exciting a middle-distance filly as there is about in 2023. Shadwell’s Angus Gold said, “In everyone’s opinion she is a filly of great potential, but it is a big step up and we’ll see where she fits in a bit more after we see her in the Ribblesdale. It’s all come a bit quick for her, which is normally not our way, but equally because she seems to have taken her Goodwood race well. Sheikha Hissa is going to be here, we wanted her to have the chance to see the filly and she was keen to see her, so it just fits in time-wise.”

After a cold Spring which may have kept the better fillies back from the Classics, this could be an above-average Ribblesdale. Ballydoyle’s rock-solid Listed Haras de Bouquetot Fillies’ Trial S. scorer Warm Heart (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}) should keep progressing, even though she maybe caught Juddmonte’s returning TDN Rising Star Bluestocking (GB) (Camelot {GB}) unawares in that Newbury contest.

Fellow TDN Rising Star Infinite Cosmos (Ire) (Sea The Stars {Ire}) comes out of a decent effort for the Rothschild-Stoute connection in the G3 Musidora S., while the G1 Prix Saint-Alary third Crown Princesse (Fr) (Zarak {Fr}) has had the form of her G3 Prix Cleopatre success boosted by the big performance of that race’s runner-up Elusive Princess (Fr) (Martinborough {Jpn}) in Sunday’s G1 Prix de Diane.

Barry Mahon said of Bluestocking, “She was so green at Newbury on her second start, you would like to think she is going to improve. Ralph [Beckett] is happy with her and she’s been training nicely. It’s a big jump up, the Gosden filly looked exceptional last week and I know Sir Michael thinks an awful lot of his filly. It could be a pretty strong renewal, but we like our filly and I think she is going in the right direction. Whether that is in the Ribblesdale or later in the season, I think she will develop into a top filly.”

Even in the King George V S., a handicap that has played host to Hukum (Ire) (Sea The Stars {Ire}) and the subsequent G2 Great Voltigeur S. runner-up Secret State (Ire) (Dubawi {Ire}), there is a strong likelihood of seeing a future middle-distance star with the weights headed by the London Gold Cup winner Bertinelli (Justify). Juddmonte’s Perfuse (GB) (Lope De Vega {Ire}) looks a Sir Michael Stoute project on the way up the ladder, while the G3 Hampton Court S. is dominated by a pair of homebreds of George Strawbridge in the highly-tried TDN Rising Star Epictetus (Ire) (Kingman {GB}) and the progressive Lester Piggott H. winner Torito (GB) (Kingman {GB}). Sheikh Mohammed Obaid Al Maktoum has had some meeting and the Crisfords’ unbeaten Bolster (GB) (Invincible Spirit {Ire}) is one of the race’s more intriguing contenders, while how about a first Royal winner for Jack Channon? His Oaks third Caernarfon (GB) (CITYSCAPE {GB}) takes on the colts here as she bids to add to West Ilsley’s long tradition of Ascot glory.
SEVEN WILD CARDS ADDED TO ARQANA SUMMER SALE

Seven wildcard entries have been added to Arqana's Summer Sale, which will be held July 4-6. The latest additions--six horses in training and a filly out of training--are schedule to sell during Thursday's July 6 session, which begins at 11 a.m.

Heading the inclusions is Lot 465, Palais Du Louvre (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}), one of two offerings from Andre Fabre. A winner on his comeback over 2200 metres, he most recently won over 2400 metres at ParisLongchamp. Out of Allez Alaia (Ire), the 3-year-old colt is from the family of Group winners Halfway to Heaven (Ire) (Pivotal {GB}), and the Galileo (Ire) trio Magical (Ire), Rhododendron (Ire) and Photo Call (Ire).

Also added is L'Acajou (Ire) (Frankel {GB}), who will go under the hammer as Lot 466. Third on his debut over 2200 metres, he most recently won over 2400 metres at ParisLongchamp. Out of Allez Alaia (Ire), the 3-year-old colt is from the family of Group winners 1 Halfway to Heaven (Ire) (Pivotal {GB}), and the Galileo (Ire) trio Magical (Ire), Rhododendron (Ire) and Photo Call (Ire).

A winner on her debut at Dieppe last week, the Amy Murphy-trained Baileys Polka Dot (Fr) (Inns Of Court {Ire}) will sell as Lot 467. Third on his debut over 1900 metres last year, he opened his winning account on his comeback over 2150 metres and has finished third in his last two outings. The 3-year-old is out of listed winner Anna Karenina (Ire) (Green Desert), a half-brother to triple group winner Battle of Marengo (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}) and Photo Call (Ire).

Rounding out the latest wild card entries are Poldino (Fr) (Spanish Moon) (Lot 498), Almeirinda (Fr) (Masked Marvel {GB}) (Lot 499) and Numeira (GB) (Raven's Pass) (Lot 300).

For the complete wildcard entries, click here.

ENTRIES OPEN FOR IRISH EBF BARRIER TRIALS AT LIMERICK

Entries are now open for Irish EBF Barrier Trials at Limerick Racecourse on Monday, July 3. Operated by Irish Thoroughbred Marketing (ITM) and backed by the Irish EBF and the IHRB, Trials are open to unraced 2-year-olds and 3-year-olds. This is the first time Irish EBF Barrier Trials will have been held at Limerick.

The Trials will be run over 6 1/2 and 7 1/2 furlongs. Notable Trial graduates include G1 Al Quoz Sprint winner A Case Of You (Ire) and recent G3 Al Shira’aa Racing Irish EBF Blue Wind S. winner Caroline Street. The most recent Irish EBF Barrier Trials was held at Naas Racecourse on May 29.

Trials are recorded, timed, and made available to view online shortly after running on the ITM website and social media. A live stream will also be in operation on the ITM YouTube channel.

For more information, visit the ITM website.

RONAN MCNALLY LOSES APPEAL, 12-YEAR SUSPENSION CUT BACK

Trainer Ronan McNally lost his appeal against his disqualification for breaching racing's integrity rules, however, he was granted a four-year reprieve from his original record 12-year suspension.

The Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board (IHRB) published the verdict of an appeals body panel Wednesday evening. The panel was chaired by Justice Peter Kelly. The suspension of the final four years of the disqualification is contingent on adhering to the rules, a breach of which would reinstate the full sentence.

McNally's penalties--including the 12-year suspension, charges of €50,000 and the return of €13,000 in prize-money--were handed down in January, and the following month, he announced that he had formally appealed the Board's findings. The appeals panel convened last month to consider McNally's appeal against the sanctions handed to the trainer in late January by the referrals committee and later dismissed McNally's appeal against the findings of the committee.
FIRST-SEASON SIRES WITH RUNNERS

THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2023

Blue Point, who enjoyed his first career Black-Type winner at Royal Ascot Wednesday | Marc Ruhl

UNITED KINGDOM

**Blue Point (Ire)** (Shamardal), Kildangan Stud
161 foals of racing age
13:30-CHELMSFORD CITY, 6f, Lightning Point (GB)
45,000gns Tattersalls October Yearling Sale (Book 3) 2022;
40,000gns RNA Tattersalls Craven Breeze Up Sale 2023
13:30-CHELMSFORD CITY, 6f, Mbappe (GB)
43,000gns Tattersalls October Yearling Sale (Book 2) 2022
14:30-ASCOT, 110K GII The Norfolk Stakes (Class 1) (Group 2) 5f,
Thunder Blue (GB)
€105,000 Arqana Deauville August Yearling Sale 2022;
£180,000 Goffs UK 2yo Breeze Up Sale 2023

**Calyx (GB)** (Kingman [GB]), Coolmore Stud
103 foals of racing age
14:30-ASCOT, 110K GII The Norfolk Stakes (Class 1) (Group 2) 5f,
Thunder Blue (GB)
34,000gns Tattersalls Somerville Yearling Sale 2022; 140,000gns
Tattersalls Craven Breeze Up Sale 2023

**Eqtidaar (Ire)** (Invincible Spirit {Ire}), Nunnery Stud
54 foals of racing age
14:15-RI Pon, 6f, Master Eli (GB)

**Inns of Court (Ire)** (Invincible Spirit {Ire}), Tally-Ho Stud
168 foals of racing age
14:15-RI Pon, 6f, Bay of Australia (Ire)

**Invincible Army (Ire)** (Invincible Spirit {Ire}), Yeomanstown Stud
95 foals of racing age
14:15-RI Pon, 6f, Mr Irrelevant (Ire)
€34,000 Goffs November Foal Sale 2021; 22,000gns Tattersalls
October Yearling Sale (Book 3) 2022
18:25-LINGFIELD PARK, 6f, So Obsessed (Ire)
€5,000 Goffs November Foal Sale 2021; 16,000gns Tattersalls
Craven Breeze Up Sale 2023
14:15-RI Pon, 6f, Vince L’Amour (Ire)
€36,000 Goffs November Foal Sale 2021; £23,000 Goffs UK
Premier & Silver Yearlings 2022

**Land Force (Ire)** (No Nay Never), Highclere Stud
117 foals of racing age
18:25-LINGFIELD PARK, 6f, Quantum Force (GB)
£65,000 Goffs UK Premier & Silver Yearlings 2022
18:25-LINGFIELD PARK, 6f, Tactical Control (GB)
£78,000 Goffs UK Premier & Silver Yearlings 2022

**Soldier’s Call (GB)** (Showcasing {GB}), Ballyhane Stud
121 foals of racing age
14:15-RI Pon, 6f, Barg (Ire)
€15,000 Goffs November Foal Sale 2021; €34,000 Tattersalls
Ireland September Yearling 2022
14:15-RI Pon, 6f, Ifonlytheycudtalk (Ire)
€23,000 Goffs November Foal Sale 2021; £20,000 Goffs UK
Premier & Silver Yearlings 2022
14:30-ASCOT, 110K GII The Norfolk Stakes (Class 1) (Group 2) 5f,
Reveiller (Ire)
€18,000 Goffs November Foal Sale 2021; £35,000 RNA Goffs UK
Premier & Silver Yearlings 2022; €62,000 Goffs Autumn Yearling
Sale 2022; £50,000 Goffs UK 2yo Breeze Up Sale 2023

FRANCE

**City Light (Fr)** (Siyouni {Fr}), Haras d’Etreham
88 foals of racing age
5-SENONNES, 1350m,
€12,000 Arqana Deauville September Yearling Sale 2022

**Fas (Ire)** (Fastnet Rock {Aus}), Haras de Saint-Vincent
30 foals of racing age
5-SENONNES, 1350m, Fasny (Fr)
€6,500 Osarus September Yearling Sale 2022
1-LA TESTE-BA, 1400m, Shooter (Fr)

**Masar (Ire)** (New Approach {Ire}), Dalham Hall Stud
104 foals of racing age
1-LA TESTE-BA, 1400m, Arpenteur (Ire)
Observations on the European racing scene

New Bay was also represented by Ascot handicap winner Jimi Hendrix Wednesday | Ballylinch

by Roderic O’Connor {Ire}), who hit the board at York last month and at Carlisle earlier this month, tracked the leader in a share of second through the initial fractions here. Easing to the front on the brisle soon after passing the quarter-mile marker, the 5-2 second choice was shaken up approaching the final furlong and lengthened clear in the closing stages to hit the line with a four-length advantage from Moonstone Boy {Ire} (Calyx {GB}). Kylian, half-brother to a yearling filly, is the first of two foals produced by Listed Radley S. victrix Hikmaa {Ire} (Roderic O’Connor {Ire}). The February-foaled bay hails from the family of Gl Futurity S.-winning sire Trapp Mountain (Cox’s Ridge).

Lifetime Record: 3-1-1-1, $18,836.
O-Sheikh Hamed Dalmook Al Maktoum; B-Rabbah Bloodstock Ltd {IRE}; T-Karl Burke.

3rd-Hamilton, £10,000, Mdn, 6-21, 2yo, 6f 6yT, 1:13.15, gd.
CERULEAN BAY {IRE} (c, 2, New Bay {GB}--Kathy Sun {Ire}, by Intikhab), was trapped out wide, racing without cover, from the outset of this debut. Scrubbed along to close at halfway, the 7-1 chance came under sterner urging inside the final quarter-mile and was driven out to nail Jonny Concrete {Ire} (Oasis Dream {GB}) by a nose on the line. Cerulean Bay is the 12th of 13 foals and sixth scorer out of a winning half to G3 Premio Carlo e Francesco Aloisi winner Kathy Dream {Ire} (Arcano {Ire}), G3 Premio Omenoni victrix Kathy College {Ire} (College Chapel {GB}) and Listed Premio Alessandro Perrone winner Kathy Pekan {Ire} (Sri Pekan). The March-foaled bay is a half-brother to Listed Prix Yacowlef victrix Simmie {Ire} (Fast Company {Ire}) and a yearling filly by Make Believe {GB}. Sales history: €65,000 Wlg ‘21 GOFN01; €75,000 Ylg ‘22 GOFOR. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, $6,893.
O-N Cable; B-D Ryan, D S Ryan & R A Williams {IRE}; T-David O’Meara.

How They Fared

19.20 Newcastle, Nov, £15,000, 2yo, 5f (AWT)
Kevin Ryan trainee, Nariko {Ire} (Night Of Thunder {Ire}), the top-priced filly at April’s Craven Breeze-Up sale when knocked down for 600,000gns, attempted to make all, but faded once headed and finished 7 1/2 lengths behind the winner in fourth as the 5-4 favourite.
INDISPENSABLE (GB) (f, 2, Ten Sovereigns (Ire)--Invaluable (GB), by Invincible Spirit (Ire)), who placed in starts at Newmarket and Goodwood last month, tanked along in a close-up second after the initial strides of this one. Shaken up to seize control soon after passing the two pole, the 8-11 chalk was not for catching thereafter and kept on well under continued coaxing to hold the late bid of Ziggy's Queen (Ire) (Invincible Spirit (Ire)) by 3/4-of-a-length, becoming the sixth winner for her first-crop sire (by No Nay Never). Indispensable is the second of four foals and lone performer out of an unraced full-sister to stakes-winning GII Connaught Cup runner-up Emmaus (Ire) (Invincible Spirit (Ire)). Her second dam is G3 Athasi S. victrix Prima Luce (Ire) (Galileo (Ire)). The January-foaled homebred bay is kin to a yearling colt by Twilight Son (GB) and a weanling colt by Expert Eye (GB). Lifetime Record: 3-1-1-1, $15,122.

1st-Ripon, £9,000, Mdn, 6-21, 2yo, f, 5fT, :58.77, gd.

INDISPENSABLE (GB) (f, 2, Ten Sovereigns (Ire)--Invaluable (GB), by Invincible Spirit (Ire)), who placed in starts at Newmarket and Goodwood last month, tanked along in a close-up second after the initial strides of this one. Shaken up to seize control soon after passing the two pole, the 8-11 chalk was not for catching thereafter and kept on well under continued coaxing to hold the late bid of Ziggy's Queen (Ire) (Invincible Spirit (Ire)) by 3/4-of-a-length, becoming the sixth winner for her first-crop sire (by No Nay Never). Indispensable is the second of four foals and lone performer out of an unraced full-sister to stakes-winning GII Connaught Cup runner-up Emmaus (Ire) (Invincible Spirit (Ire)). Her second dam is G3 Athasi S. victrix Prima Luce (Ire) (Galileo (Ire)). The January-foaled homebred bay is kin to a yearling colt by Twilight Son (GB) and a weanling colt by Expert Eye (GB). Lifetime Record: 3-1-1-1, $15,122.

O/B-Cheveley Park Stud Ltd (GB); T-William Haggas.
### Thursday, Royal Ascot, Britain, post time: 16:20

**GOLD CUP-G1**, £600,000, 4yo/up, 19f 210y

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<td>Ryan Moore</td>
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Breeders: 1-Spruce Lane Farm, Copper Beach Stables, Grand Crue Farm, et al, 2-Epona Bloodstock Ltd, 3-Rockfield Farm, 4-Ballyllynch Stud, 5-Mildmay Bloodstock & D H Caslon, 6-Mascalls Stud, 7-H H The Aga Khan’s Studs SC, 8-Didier Blot, 9-John Costello & Irish National Stud, 10-Godolphin, 11-Hascombe & Valiant Stud Ltd, 12-Kirsten Rausing, 13-Thierry Storme, 14-Chicquita Syndicate

### Thursday, Royal Ascot, Britain, post time: 15:40

**RIBBLESDALE S.-G2**, £235,875, 3yo, f, 11f 211y

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Thursday, Royal Ascot, Britain, post time: 14:30

**NORFOLK S.-G2**, £110,000, 2yo, 5f 0y

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Thursday, Royal Ascot, Britain, post time: 17:35

**HAMPTON COURT S.-G3**, £150,000, 3yo, 9f 212y

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**Friday, Royal Ascot, Britain, post time: 15:05**

**COMMONWEALTH CUP-G1**, £600,000, 3yo, c/f, 6f 0y

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Breeders: 1-Whitsbury Manor Stud, 2-Camas Park Stud & Summerhill, 3-Shadwell Estate Company Ltd, 4-Godolphin, 5-Chasemore Farm, 6-Whitsbury Manor Stud, 7-Drumlin Bloodstock, 8-Martin Hughes & Michael Kerr-Dineen, 9-Whitsbury Manor Stud, 10-Mrs Noreen Clibborn, 11-Chasemore Farm, 12-Dr T K Chah, 13-Rabbah Bloodstock Ltd, 14-Mountarmstrong Stud

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**Friday, Royal Ascot, Britain, post time: 16:20**

**CORONATION S.-G1**, £600,000, 3yo, f, 7f 213y

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Breeders: 1-J S Bolger, 2-Robert Cornelius, 3-Lynch-Bages & Rhinestone Bloodstock, 4-Normandie Stud Ltd, 5-Lawn Stud, 6-Fairway Thoroughbreds Pty Ltd, 7-H H The Aga Khan's Studs SC

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**Friday, Royal Ascot, Britain, post time: 17:35**

**KING EDWARD VII S.-G2**, £250,000, 3yo, c/g, 11f 211y

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Breeders: 1-Skymarc Farm, 2-Swordlestown Little, 3-Coolmore, 4-Wynatt & Chelston Ireland & Orpendale Bloodstock, 5-BCF Services LLC, 6-Stetchworth & Middle Park Studs Ltd
**Friday, Royal Ascot, Britain, post time: 14:30**

**ALBANY S.-G3**, £100,000, 2yo, f, 6f 0y

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*All posts displayed in local time.*