



## Stallion Profile: **Septieme Ciel**

Septieme Ciel was a top class miler winning five group races in France including the Group 1 Prix de la Foret. Foaled in 1987 Septieme Ciel was bred in the USA and is the product of two of the very best racehorses of the era - by Seattle Slew out of Maximova. Seattle Slew won 14 races and was champion 2 and 3 year old in the USA winning the Kentucky Derby, The Preakness, The Belmont Stakes and the Marlboro Cup to name but a few. His success continued at stud as the sire of over 110 black type races including many Group 1 winners such as AP Indy,

Slew O'Gold, Slewpy and many, many more. Septieme Ciel's dam is an equally successful line - Maximova being a multiple group winner including the Group 1 Prix de la Salamandre. Maximova's dam was also a winner and foaled 3 individual group winners whilst the granddam produced top flight racehorse and multiple Group 1 winner Nonoalco. Septieme Ciel's appeal as a stallion is not just his exceptional breeding but his serious racecourse ability at 2 and 3 years over distances of up to a mile. He has also proven himself at stud having already produced

numerous Group 1 winners including American Gypsy, Vivid Angel and Sixieme Sens. Additionally he should be particularly suited to our winning mare Snowy Mantle (dam of Snowed Under and Divine White) as he reinforces elements shared in their pedigree tracing back to Nasrullah and Nearco. He initially stood at stud in Kentucky for a fee of £20,000 before transferring to France where he raced so successfully. Septieme Ciel has his first season in England this year standing at Dairy House Stud in Wiltshire.

## Course factfile: **Newton Abbot**

Newton Abbot is a small, flat, oval course of just 1 mile 2 furlongs, with a very short run in, suiting nippy types who can slip their field around this turning track. Going often turns soft very quickly even for their early summer and autumn jumping cards. It's a particularly happy hunting ground for champion trainer Martin Pipe who monopolizes many of the novice events. Always allow plenty of time to get in as traffic queues can be exasperatingly long!

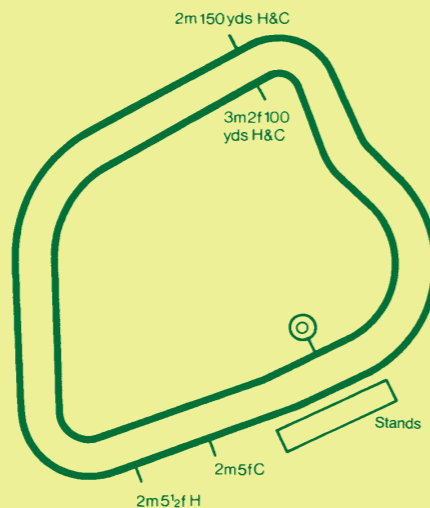
**Location:** London 220, Exeter 15 and Plymouth 23 miles.

**Telephone:** 01626 353235

**Trains:** From Paddington and via bus to course

**Celebrations:** **Thatched Cottage** at Kingsteignton (01626) 365650

**Cott Inn** at Darlington (01803) 863777



## Memorable Quotes...

Lester Piggott on his retirement from the saddle in October 1985 told the assembled press "Eating is going to be a whole new ball game - I may even have to buy a new pair of trousers!"

### Did you know?

Snaafi Dancer is one of the most expensive equine flops of all time. A bidding duel between Robert Sangster and Sheikh Mohammed forced his auction price to a staggering \$10.2 million for the yearling son of Northern Dancer. Sadly Snaafi Dancer became a figure of fun - allegedly so slow on the gallops that the concept of racing was ruled out. So he was shipped off to stud but proved infertile!

## Stud Open Day 2006



We're very flattered that requests for the date of our Open Day at the stud get earlier every year! This year it will be Sunday 16 July - and we hope that as many as possible will be able to make it. Everyone will be receiving a personal invitation in due course together with more details about the day.

Let us have your ideas and views...



Office:  
Grattons Court, Grattons Drive,  
Pound Hill, Crawley RH10 3AG  
Tel: 01293 884433 Fax: 01293 884201  
Stud:  
Prengwyn, Llandysul  
Cardiganshire SA44 4LS  
email: post@chriswallcreative.co.uk  
www.homebredracing.co.uk

# WINNING **P** HOMEBRED RACING **ST**

THE REGULAR NEWSLETTER FROM HOMEBRED RACING

1/2006

## Which tipsters get it right?

The ideal job must be to be a weather forecaster - no one ever expects you to get it right! Being a tipster must be very much the same although there's a much greater sense of expectation attached to predictions. Whilst putting a line under our website's selections at the end of the turf flat season we wondered how our own Inside Track compared with the 'experts'. The Racing Post monitors every selection in the UK press and publishes a daily league table of results in their Naps Competition which offers £4000 to the leading tipster. It makes sobering reading and demonstrates precisely why bookmakers ride around in big cars and can afford to winter in the Caribbean.

### Snapshot

It's smiles all round in the winner's enclosure at Lingfield Park with Homebred Star who romped home an easy 33/1 winner of the Betdirect Stakes over 1 mile in his comeback race.

The Racing Post Naps Competition lists 52 tipsters and their league table reveals no less than 44 of them showing a loss to £1 level stake on their selections. Racing Post Ratings was the only 'industry' tipster doing well (2nd place) whilst Farrington of the Morning Star was the leader and Bob Watts (Western Daily Press), Paul Allen (Coventry Evening Telegraph), John Sexton (Wolverhampton Express & Star), Jeffrey Ross (Glasgow Evening Times), Sam Turner (Shropshire Star) and Mel Cullinan (Weekender) were the only others in the black at the end of the season. Alarmingly the one apparently closest to the action, Racing Post's Newmarket Tipster, languished near the foot of the table having tipped no less than 152 losers out of 200 selections! And pity poor Underhand of the Newcastle Journal who endured 36 consecutive losers - a record nearly matched by the 'best tipster' Farrington who also managed a losing run of 31. So in the light of such carnage we're pleased to report that by comparison Inside Track did rather well over the same



period showing a profit of £164.00 to £10 each way staked on every selection. This follows on from results for the previous quarters which provided a £14.40 loss and profits of £76.00, £53.75 and £708.50 respectively. Overall Inside Track is currently showing a profit of well over £1000 since 1st June 2004. Having said that it is, of course, hardly a fair comparison as we're not under pressure to publish tips every day. And it's also clear from the Racing Post's table that those sinking towards the bottom throw caution to the wind hoping that a 33-1 shot might transform their position. The table also recently illustrated a very blank Tuesday when not one of the 55 tipsters managed to find a single winner amongst all the runners from 4 meetings. And a final interesting fact, for those that like to stick to the favourite in every race, is that the stats show you have less than a one in three chance of collecting.

## Know your rules: Claiming and selling races

All horses which have come under starters orders in Claiming and Selling races may be claimed at the advertised price - excepting the winner of a selling race which is offered for sale after the race by public auction. Rule 97 states that every claim must be made in writing on the appropriate form signed by the person making a claim. A claim may also be made by the owner or trainer wishing to retain their own horse. The claim form must be handed to the Clerk of the Scales not later than five minutes after the 'weighed in' announcement. The horse will go to the person submitting the claim but if there are two or more claims for the same horses the successful claim will be determined by ballot conducted by the Clerk of the Scales. The price of any successful claim must be paid to or secured to the satisfaction of the Clerk of the Scales within 30 minutes of the 'weighed in' announcement. Where an owner successfully reclaims his own horse the claiming procedure is regarded as being recinded and the horse simply remains the property of the owner. Martin Pipe has been very successful at improving horses out of sellers and claimers and it can prove a very economical route into ownership. The horse is race fit at someone else's expense and its ability to race is proven - which is very often not the case if buying a horse at one of the recognized sales.

### Did you know?

Pregnancy does not necessarily inhibit racing performance. Notable wins include The Princess (1844 Oaks), Glass Doll (1907 Oaks) and La Flèche (1894 Ascot Gold Cup and Champion Stakes) who were all carrying foals at the time of their successes.







## Racing Legends: Secretariat

When Secretariat won the US Triple Crown in 1973, he was the first to record that feat in a quarter of a century. It was taken as one of the measures of his greatness that he had achieved what had seemed to be beyond the powers of the modern horse. Secretariat was foaled, just after midnight on 30 March 1970, at Meadow Stud in Virginia.

A bright chesnut with three socks and a diamond-shaped star, the last and greatest champion son of the outstanding sire Bold Ruler epitomised all that the word 'Thoroughbred' implies. He was all power and symmetry, so much the *beau idéal* of his species that Charlie Hatton, the most gifted and experienced racing journalist of his day, was moved to write that 'trying to fault Secretariat's conformation was like dreaming of dry rain'.

It is almost a rule of racing that the best-looking horses do not make the best runners. Secretariat broke it, while utilising his 25-foot stride to break records too. But he did not begin with a win. On his first outing, at Aqueduct, he was caught flat-footed when the gate opened, then impeded when another runner cut across him; 10 lengths off the lead at the quarter pole, he finished just over a length behind the winner.

He had eight more starts that year and was first home every time. Thereafter he always competed in top stakes company, and though he did not always win, it was

never his fault when he did not. He won the Hopeful and the Futurity, both with complete authority, and treated stronger opposition much the same in the Champagne, only to forfeit his win on account of his jockey's wayward riding. In the Laurel Futurity and the Garden State Stakes he overwhelmed his rivals. Although it was not the done thing to name a two-year-old 'Horse of the Year', there was no other option.

Secretariat dominated his class completely at two, and so obviously threatened to repeat the performance at three that a syndication deal put together valued him at \$6.08 million - an unheard-of price for any horse, let alone one who had yet to prove his mettle as a three-year-old. The only way the colt could justify the price-tag was to accomplish what none had accomplished for 25 years, and en route to the Triple Crown the sceptics and cynics sat back and waited for things to go wrong. First time out at three, in the Bay Shore Stakes, Secretariat proved nothing he had not proved before. The competition was no better in the Gotham Stakes, but there seemed a need to prove something, so he equalled the Aqueduct track record for the mile. Then came the moment for the doubters to say 'I told you so'. Racing for the first time over nine furlongs in the Wood Memorial Stakes, 'Big Red' came

back a well-beaten third, four lengths behind his own barn companion Angle Light. 'He's a non-stayer, like all the other Bold Rulers' the know-alls declared - and even some of Secretariat's most ardent followers feared that to be the case. In fact, trainer Lucien Laurin had sent the champion into the Wood ill-prepared for the test. It was neither the first nor the last time that Secretariat's human connections let him down; granted better luck in that department, he would probably never have known defeat. But all went spectacularly well in the Triple Crown series. Ron Turcotte did not make it easy for him in the Kentucky Derby, dropping him back to last soon after the start, then having to steer wide when it became apparent that the only clear path would be on the outside. The supposed doubtful stayer, made to run via the longest route, thought nothing of the inconvenience. He flashed home to an easy victory in track record time.

In the Belmont, Secretariat not only lowered the 12-furlong track record by more than two seconds, but was also clocked inside the world record for 13 furlongs while Turcotte tried to pull him up. This was acknowledged as the greatest performance in any Classic race, with Secretariat first disposing of Sham in a furious battle at top sprinting pace, then opening out to register a winning margin of 31 lengths. It is hard to conceive how any horse in history could have lived with him, at any distance, on that magic afternoon of 9 June 1973. There came four more victories, one in world record time for nine furlongs in the Marlboro Cup, another in course record time for a mile and a half in the Man o' War Stakes, his first effort on grass. There were even a couple of shock defeats, for which his trainer was patently to blame. At the end of his second season, he was an automatic choice for 'Horse of the Year' again. The three-year-old Secretariat was the only horse to whom the award came as an insult; the application of the same term for his outstanding form at two and his monumental achievements at three seemed inappropriate. Those who were present on Belmont day will always insist that 'Horse of the Century' was a more fitting description.

## 500 years at a gallop!

The first recorded racing was at Chester in 1540 which today is Britain's oldest surviving racecourse.

Racing got the Royal stamp of approval when Elizabeth I attended races at Salisbury in 1580 and twenty five years later James I visited Newmarket. Other key early dates were Charles II's patronage which established Newmarket as racing's H.Q. The first of the trio of Arab horses to be imported, and which are now the cornerstone of the modern breed, arrived in 1689.

By 1740 the first regulation came in outlawing any races worth less than £50 to check proliferation of the sport and within 10 years the Jockey Club was set up at the Star and Garter pub in Pall Mall, London. The earliest recorded steeplechase took place in 1752 when Mr Edmund Blake challenged Mr O'Callaghan to ride a match of 4½ miles from the Church of Buttevant to St Leger Church in County Cork.



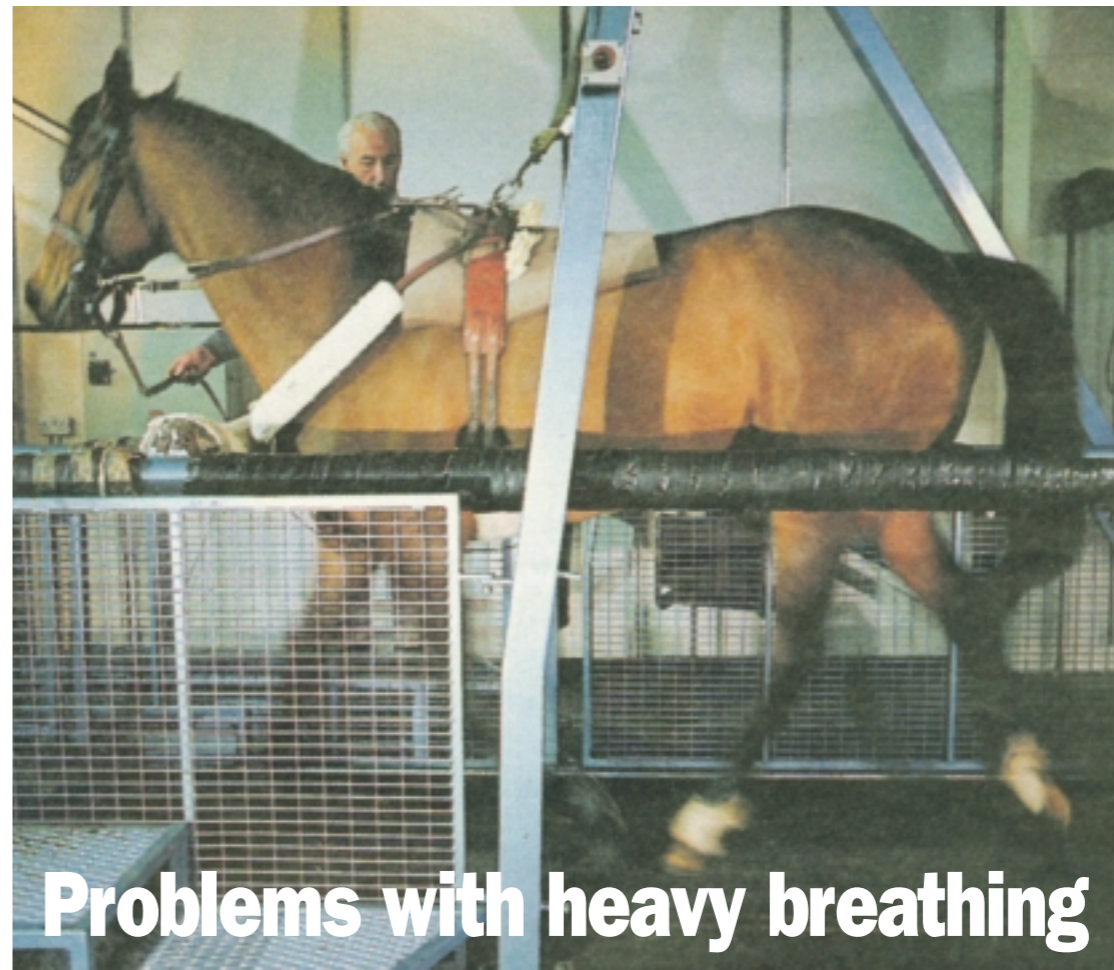
Chester - nearly 500 years of racing

Racing colours started to be registered in the mid eighteenth century. The inaugural running of the St Leger at Doncaster was in 1779 and other English classics of the Oaks (1779) and the Derby (1780) were also established.

It wasn't until the late nineteenth century that further regulation resulted in licensing of jockeys, a draw for starting positions and the first starting gate. Strangely, doping was not outlawed until 1910.

The Cheltenham Gold Cup was run for the first time in 1924 - a year which also saw compulsory skull caps for jockeys.

Tote betting arrived on 2 July 1929 and three years later the Epsom Derby was the first race to be televised. Starting stalls were introduced in 1965 and the following year the Jockey Club was forced to also grant training licences to women. The latest development of real significance was the inaugural meeting on an all weather surface at Lingfield on 30 October 1989.



Racehorse on a treadmill at the Animal Health Trust where research continues

## Problems with heavy breathing

Breathing problems in the racehorse are the single biggest cause of poor performance. We look at the factors.

When the horse breathes, air is drawn down into the lungs, from where the oxygen is transported across the cell walls, through the cells of the alveoli - small air sacs in the lungs - and into the blood capillaries, thence to the heart and so throughout the body. Conversely, carbon dioxide, the waste product of respiration, is lost from the capillaries to the airways and out of the body. To the trainer it is simply the breathing in and breathing out, its rate and depth and the associated sights and sounds that matter as a

guide to normality and as a measure of fitness. If the horse moves, becomes excited or frightened, there is an immediate increase in the speed and depth of his breathing. As the horse breathes faster a noise, heard only when breathing out, is produced as the compressed air escapes into the atmosphere. In-breathing is still silent to the ear. As the body-heated air meets a colder atmosphere it condenses to form the characteristic puffs at the nostrils. At faster paces, breathing locks on to the triple rhythms of canter, for example, so that this visible breathing out

coincides with foreleg strike, and breathing in with suspension. After exercise, breathing, visible by the horse's heaving flanks, continues fast as the body repays the oxygen debt incurred by severe muscular effort.

The time taken for it to return to the resting rate 8 to 15 breaths per minute - is a measure of fitness. This to-and-fro fast movement of post-exercise air also helps to dissipate the heat generated by work.

To meet the demands of work parts of the respiratory system dilate to facilitate air movement. The horse flares his nostrils when breathing out and the head and neck are extended to straighten the 'pipeline', and, unseen, the larynx - the voicebox - opens.

Fever will speed up metabolism - the rate at which the body burns oxygen - and generate a need for more oxygen, resulting in faster, deeper respirations and increased loss of body heat.

The fever need not arise in the respiratory system, but when it does, additional signs appear - the rate and depth of breathing increase and expiration is often forced with a double lift of the abdominal wall. Inspiration is often audible and there is a need for periodic

emptying of the lungs so a sudden explosive expiration is involved; the horse coughs. Infection is often associated with discharge at eyes and nostrils and signs of a sore throat appear, causing difficulty in swallowing and a soft cough. Obstructions to the inward air flow will invariably produce a noise e.g. the horse with a hemiparalysed larynx will become a whistler or a roarer which will be more readily heard at faster paces and with the head flexed. Prolonged heaving flanks after exercise are a warning that the muscles have been overstressed relative to the degree of firmness. Putting a horse under pressure when it has a breathing problem can cause long term damage and ultimately make it prone to breaking blood vessels. When this occurs performance is seriously compromised and usually ends a racing career.

The causes of broken blood vessels, or 'bleeding', are still not fully understood but some racehorses, perhaps through genetics, seem particularly prone. Other factors are environmental - caused by poor stabling and dirty bedding and or hay. Horses are generally much healthier and happier if kept out. Other theories implicate racing on firm ground. But studies of random samples of racehorses show that 80% of all runners break blood vessels during a race - irrespective of whether they've won or disappointed. It seems to be the degree of bleeding that's important - but certainly horses prone to it need special care - running them when they're not right does further damage. New technology is helping trainers be certain about when, or when not to run. Tracheal washes are a quick and simple test to check that airways are free of mucus and bugs.

## Did you know?

The highest Timeform rating was achieved by Brigadier Gerard who attained a rating of 144 as a 4-year-old. The Brigadier established a European record of 14 wins in pattern races (7 Group 1's, 5 Group 2's and a Group 3) in a career of 17 wins from 18 starts which included a comfortable 3 lengths win over his great rival Mill Reef in the 2000 Guineas - on the only occasion they met.

## Snapshot

Broodmares Snowy Mantle (dam of Divine White) and Royal Brush (Sweep Home) enjoy an early morning gossip.

