



The third season of the Order of Merit starts in October and offers £300,000 in prize money. £200,000 goes to the overall winner and £50,000 each to the top hurdler and top chaser. The winner is determined by the number of points accrued in Grade 1, 2 and 3 jump races between October and April. The objective of the scheme is to ensure that the top jumpers compete against each other more regularly.



## Did you know?

1,300 race fixtures take place annually putting on a programme of more than 8,500 races on the flat and over jumps.



## Sam gets her new name

Sam - oblivious to all the fuss about her new name, enjoying some autumn sun and grass with her dam Snowy Mantle.

Trying to finalize a name for our lovely new bay filly by Group 1 winner Hamas has proved every bit as difficult as finding Maria was for Andrew Lloyd Webber! Typically Homebred owners rose to the challenge and provided an endless stream of thoughts - nearly 200 in all! Many we liked but couldn't use because of BHB's rules on political correctness. These included

Bombe Glace and Coupe de Glace whilst Adrift, Avalanche, Choc Ice (on account of her being dark brown) and Meltdown were all unavailable. Variations of being 'Off' or 'On the Piste' were appreciated too but we finally settled on a name incorporating an element of cold, Polar, with a meaning of direct opposites - Polarity. It's a clever suggestion that wins Lynn Chandley of

Nottingham a free share in Sam's first season. Meanwhile it's good to see Polarity's dad Hamas climbing the rankings of Europe's leading sires with a healthy 27.6% winners to runners ratio. This puts him ahead of many more illustrious and expensive sires such as Sadlers Wells, Giants Causeway, Montjeu, Kyllachy and Danehill Dancer - to name but a few!

# WINNING POST

THE REGULAR NEWSLETTER FROM HOMEBRED RACING

5/2006

## Who's in charge now?

There's been a recent bewildering merry-go-round in the total reorganisation of racing's authorities - so here's a brief snapshot of what each of the new governing bodies is about. Even though the Jockey Club will no longer play a role in running racing, the latest round of musical chairs means that many familiar names and faces remain, albeit in a different guise! This is how things will look in 2007:

- Setting and enforcing common standards for British racecourses
- Setting and enforcing standards of veterinary and medical care
- Protecting the integrity of the sport on and off the racecourse

The BHA will represent the Racecourse Association as well as Racehorse Owners Association, Thoroughbred Breeders Association and the National Trainers Federation.

### Racing Enterprises Limited

The commercial promotion and interests of racing will now be separated from regulation. REL will be responsible for:

- Maximising revenue streams for British Racing from all sources including betting and new technologies
- Distribution of racing funds
- Agreeing prizemonies and distribution of funds between all racing's participants

- To control marketing of the racing product
  - Responsibility for commercial contracts within racing
- Key to REL's success will be whether it can capitalize on data rights to secure new revenue for the industry.

### Horserace Betting Levy Board

This is the body ensuring that racing gets its share of profits from the betting industry

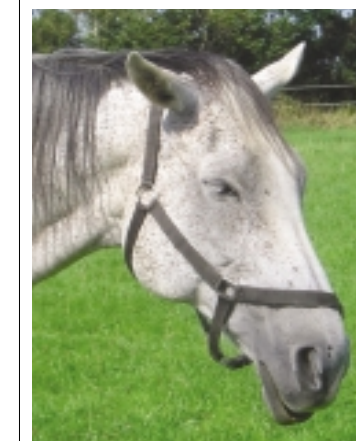
- Collects approx £100m per annum and distributes funds principally to prizemoney and equine research
  - Also funds racecourse security and racing's integrity
  - Provides interest free loans for racecourse improvements
- The primary concern for the HBLB will be to address the implications of racing's diminishing share of the betting market which will ultimately result in reduced funds at its disposal.

## Did you know?

The number of racehorses currently in training in Britain is nearly 14,500. Statistics show that more than 50% (7,700) will never win or be placed.

## It's true...

Horses can, and do, sleep standing up! Here's proof as winning mare Snowy Mantle takes a nap in the sun.



## Course factfile: Nottingham

Nottingham is a big flat, galloping track - an oval of 1½ miles with easy turns and a long 5 furlong straight. It's known as a level, fair course but going tends to extremes of fast or very soft. It attracts good fields and is well supported by Newmarket trainers for whom travelling is relatively easy.

**Location:** London 135 miles, Birmingham 50, Leeds 74 and Manchester 72

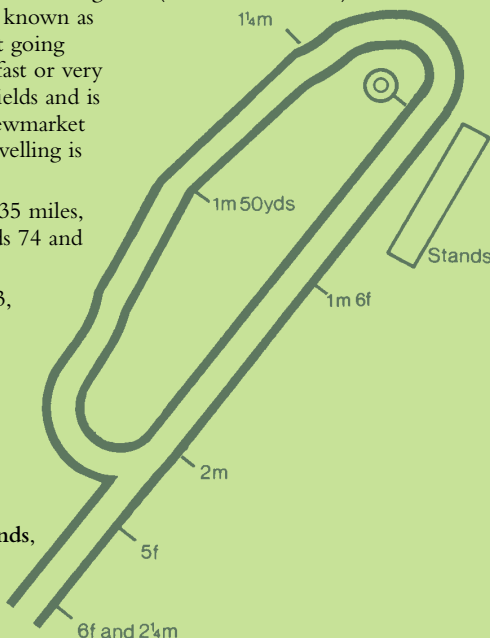
**Roads:** Via M1, A453, A60 and A52

**Trains:** St Pancras - Nottingham and via bus to course

**Air:** East Midlands Airport 15 miles

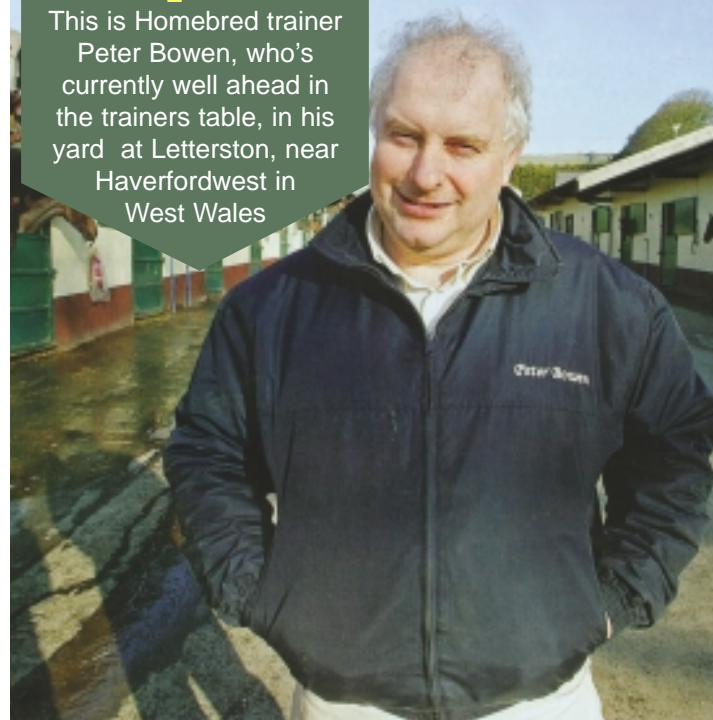
**Celebrations:** Les Artistes Gourmands, Woolaton Road, Beeston (Tel: 0115 922 8228)

The Manor House, Sparrow Hill, Loughborough (Tel: 01509 231813)



## Snapshot

This is Homebred trainer Peter Bowen, who's currently well ahead in the trainers table, in his yard at Letterston, near Haverfordwest in West Wales



## Did you know?

Horse Racing is now the UK's fifth biggest industry. There's now a total equine population of over 1.35million in the UK. On average, over 4 million people ride on a regular basis.



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## Snapshot

Returning from work at Coombelands. Amanda Perrett's string head for home - Divine White nearest camera



# Meet Homebred's newest trainer



Stewart Parr in the main yard at his Pinewood Stables

We've received numerous requests asking if and when Homebred might have a trainer located closer to the Midlands and the North of England. So Winning Post is pleased to introduce Stewart Parr! For a newcomer to the training ranks Stewart has a great pedigree. He started in racing with the legendary Harry Wragg and later worked as assistant to Geoff Wragg for 7 years where he built up his

association with Most Welcome - sire of our own three year old Keep a Welcome. "The Wraggs were wonderful people with extraordinary knowledge and understanding of racehorses and they were also very, very good to me". Stewart rode successfully on the flat but his frame meant an inevitable transfer to the jumps when he also rode for 'The Duke' David Nicholson. Ultimately Stewart returned to Newmarket working for Sir Michael Stoute and then, whilst pondering a training career for himself, took up a role at the Northern Racing School at Doncaster where he says he's spotted several new riding talents. Stewart and Elizabeth took over Jeremy Glover's Pinewood Stables early in 2006 and soon had winners on the board from the first few



The 10 furlong polytrack through the forest

runners. Pinewood Stables is situated on the edge of the beautiful Clumber Park in the heart of Robin Hood's Sherwood Forest where there's a choice of no less than 8 different gallops including turf, woodchip and an all weather polytrack. Stewart concurs with the old racing saying that "If you can't train winners here you won't train them anywhere". There are two yards, a set of



Working on the 7 furlong turf gallop

traditional boxes close to the house with further boxes in an American barn, plus a set of isolation boxes for new intakes and any that may be under the weather.



Stewart with our 3 year old Keep a Welcome

Stewart says "I've been lucky enough to have had some great teachers and hopefully I've picked up a little knowledge along the way! I'm keen on timing horses at work - because the one thing you can never cheat is the clock". The clock's now ticking down to the racecourse debut of our unraced three year old Keep a Welcome who is reported to be 'going very well'.

## Racing's wealthiest owners

Recent publication of the Sunday Times Rich List enables Britain's wealthiest race horse owners to be ranked in our Top 10. It's the usual mix of industrialists, musicians and gentry - but sad to relate HM The Queen fails to make the top 10 nowadays:

1. Philip & Tina Green £4,900m
2. Kirsten Raasing £2,490m
3. Bernie Ecclestone £2,243
4. Earl Cadogan £2,150m
5. Howard de Walden family £1,500m
6. The Aga Khan £1,250m
7. Trevor Hemmings £928m
8. Lord Vesty £750m
9. Lord Lloyd-Webber £700m
10. Michael Tabor £598m

So keep a look out in the paddock next time - you never know who you might see!

## Getting off to a bad start

High on the agenda for the new Horse Racing Authority is to clamp down on delays at the start. Their plan is that horses that do not load after 2 attempts will be left at the start. Pressure to ensure prompt starting times has come, almost inevitably, from the betting industry which seemingly will not countenance any delay in separating the poor punter from his cash.

But much of the problem is of racing administrators' own creation through the reduction in the number of stalls handlers and the introduction of the new Steriline starting stalls, about which many have had reservations. The fact is that the vast majority of races get away on time and delays are more often caused by other factors than by the start itself.

The main concern is the presumption that delays are caused by badly behaved or poorly prepared horses when most are caused by:

- Horses which will not face up to the gate squarely when loading because they have previously hit their stifles on the running board and have frightened themselves
- Horses which try to get under the front of the gate once they are in
- Horses who are physically too long to fit in the stall comfortably and which resent being squeezed up. In addition all well-behaved horses are at constant risk of becoming problem horses during delays caused by slow loading, when shortage of handlers is obviously a major factor.

Many of the loading problems could have been resolved by modification to stalls design before the decision to

replace existing stalls. But most worryingly is the likelihood that the new regime will simply result in yet more non-runners and more Rule 4 deductions - surely a big turn off for all punters. And it's also likely that smaller yards, where most of the tricky horses end up, will feel the pressure most as any trainer who reaches a 15% threshold of 'poorly behaved' runners will then require all his horses to be certified before they can run. The reality is the chances of a small trainer getting one lunatic in six is far greater than 16 amongst 100 in a big yard. It's an issue that owners will monitor with some trepidation and hope that horse sense will be combined with a large dose of common sense too.

An interesting footnote is, that under the 'two attempts' rule, this year's Derby winner Sir Percy wouldn't have been allowed to start!

## Teething troubles for new 48 hour decs.

The introduction of 48 hour declarations has bought the predicted increase in the number of non-runners. The first weeks in the new regime saw a three fold increase in horses being declared but not making the line up - a source of huge frustration for all those balloted out who would like to have run. Rupert Arnold, speaking for the National Trainers' Federation said "It's as bad as we predicted. It's been particularly noticeable on those days when the weather broke how difficult it is trying to work out when to run horses. I think we can see that trainers are taking out insurance policies by entering and declaring a bit more often to try and make sure that they don't miss opportunities.



Trainers are finding the logistics difficult - whether it is jockey bookings or whether it's planning a run. It's just very complicated".

## Snapshot

Time for the dentist - all the horses teeth are checked regularly and rasped, as here, to remove sharp edges and hooks



## How to win with the Tote

Totesport's offer of a free £50 bet has raised a couple of questions about types of bets. So here's your quick guide:

- Totewin** - pick the winner of the race
  - Toteplace** - pick a horse to be placed
  - Toteeachway** - a win & place bet on the same horse
  - Toteexacta** - pick the 1st & 2nd in the correct order
  - Totetrifecta** - pick the 1st, 2nd & 3rd in the correct order
  - Toteplacepot** - pick 6 placed horses (races 1-6)
  - Totequadpot** - pick 4 placed horses (races 3-6)
  - Totejackpot** - pick the winner of all 6 races
  - Totescoop 6** - Saturday's big TV bet
- To open an account with Totesport call 0800 221 221. Good luck!

## Harmonizing colours!



Chesnut - the most dominant gene

TWO horses in the news this year have raised the old chesnut, if you'll pardon the pun, of roan colouring in thoroughbreds. Winning Colors, winner of the Kentucky Derby in 1988 and Seattle Victory were registered as roan and the description still stands. But, like all thoroughbreds so described, including the chaser Trade Dispute, plus the supposedly grey or roan pair Detroit City and last year's Grade 2-winning mare Forest Music, they aren't. Quarterhorses, Connemara ponies and Welsh ponies may be roan but thoroughbreds cannot as the determining gene is absent. They can only be grey, chesnut, bay, brown or, more rarely, black or white. That's it. The myth that they



Grey - not roan!

can be roan, is not based on science or genetics. It is based on taking visual evidence from a youngster as conclusive and permanent when it is, in fact, temporary. The particular gene carried by true roans is dominant - one parent has to be roan for progeny to be roan. True roans have paler hairs on the body, but the head, mane, legs and tail are permanently the base colour. This arrangement does not alter through the horse's life - unlike greys, who always become paler. A pattern of pale hairs on a thoroughbred, such as old sires The Curwen Bay Barb, Cade and the latter's son Matchem carried or passed on, denotes not the roan gene but the sabino or rabicano gene, which can result in varying



Bay - distinguished by black points

degrees of white or pale markings on the base coat. A more modern example is American sire Cox's Ridge, who obtained the rabicano gene from his dam Our Martha. Whatever the identity of the horses, though, it is the base coat colour which counts, not any eccentric marks. Thoroughbreds registered as roan tend to be bay - or chesnut based greys carrying some colour variation in their early days. Whatever the colour of a supposed roan when it is foaled, the true colour will come out and should be identified as such in stud books everywhere. Winning Colors, Seattle Victory, Detroit City, Forest Music and Trade Dispute are grey. And that's a fact!

## Did you know?

The riding fee is a flat rate for all jockeys whether a champion or a journeyman - at £120 on the flat and £156 over jumps

## Peak travel

Figures released by the BHB show that nearly a fifth of this year's total prizemoney will be handed back by owners to cover the cost of transporting horses to the track. On average each runner attracts staff costs of £63 and transport costs of £114 for a round trip of 130 miles. The total cost of getting horses to the races will be a staggering £17 million in 2006.