

Royal Brush 1985 - 2011



We are very sad to report that our broodmare Royal Brush was put to sleep after a protracted bout of colic. Royal Brush was one of the last in the exceptional female line bred by The White Lodge Stud making her closely related to champion European filly Sovereign and successful

stallion Wizard King amongst many other group winners. Royal Brush is survived by her successful staying hurdler Prince de Galles (shown in the photo with Royal Brush at just 3 days old) and Sweep Home placed in his only 2 runs when suffering a career ending tendon injury.

Keep A Welcome back on track...

Our gelding by Most Welcome, who is half brother to two Homebred winners Welsh Assembly and Homebred Star, has now been back in work for 6 weeks and pleasing trainer Gerry Enright in his attitude. Keep A Welcome had a few educational runs on the flat for trainer Stewart Parr but



proved very wayward and was described as 'a bit of a hoodlum!' Stewart advised us to take him home and turn him out with older horses who would teach him a few manners. We hope it's worked and Gerry reports 'Gwyl' as being 'a great mover - very much like Homebred Star who had a terrific turn of foot'. Gwyl certainly enjoyed jumping at home and is now learning to do it properly over poles. We also hope that jumping hurdles will prove to be his game. In another 6 weeks Gerry will take him to Lingfield Park for a couple of gallops on the all weather with the intention of a debut over hurdles in November.

Did you know?

Aintree legend Red Rum won his first race at Aintree over the minimum trip of 5 furlongs as a 2-year-old before becoming a triple winner of the Grand National - the world's longest race!



Number of races to be reduced...

The BHA has approved plans to cap next year's fixture list at 1,400 by reducing the fixture list by at least 80 in 2012. (Equivalent to nearly 500 races).

This is due to concerns regarding the ability of the declining horse population to continue to service the existing fixture programme. Recent analytical research by Weatherbys, into the likely impact of falling foal crops, suggests an increased rate of decline in horse numbers in training during 2012.

There are a range of possible outcomes, but the BHA has taken the view that the rate of decline in horse numbers could increase from 3.2% in 2011 to around 7% in 2012.

With nearly 40% of races currently attracting seven or fewer runners, the reduction was approved with a view to protecting competitiveness of British racing. Dates of principal meetings in next year's calendar have been published already, but next year's full fixture list is expected to be finalised later this year.

Racing loses The Tote

Incredibly the sale of the Tote has gone to the bookies... Betfred. With the industry in such a poor financial state it simply seems inevitable that the last nugget of funding should have slipped through racing's fingers. Whether it was ever the Government's to sell is a pretty sterile argument. Racing simply argues that it was all a bit of a miscalculation and that its bid should just have focussed on acquiring the Tote pool betting monopoly. Although racing will receive a one off share of £90 million, the reality is the loss of a regular on-going income from betting which, in the hands of the bookies, will continue to bleed the industry dry.

Did you know?

Racing is second only to football when measured by spectator numbers.

Let us have your ideas and views



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WINNING POST

THE REGULAR NEWSLETTER FROM HOMEBRED RACING

AUTUMN/2011



Sylvester Kirk's string on the Lambourn gallops. (Make A Fuss second from right)

Working towards a racecourse debut

On our recent stable visit to Sylvester Kirk's yard in Lambourn we saw our unraced 2-year-old filly Make A Fuss put through her paces. Make A Fuss had been living up to her name and proven to be quite a handful as she has quite a difficult temperament! Sylvester had said that he was worried whether she would knuckle down sufficiently to get the experience and work she needs. Happily 'Lucy' has since made great strides and showed herself to be no slouch on the gallops and in the trainers view is 'very definitely going the right way'. If all goes well we hope for a racecourse debut later in October.

It seems that youngsters by Proclamation have a bit of a reputation and Lucy still needs to be led by a handler when first saddled up and mounted in the yard - always being 'on her toes' is probably a bit of an understatement! However Make A Fuss has a great pedigree being by a



Lucy enjoys a hose down after work

Group 1 winner and out of a winning dam who is full sister to dual group winner Finjaan - so hopefully she'll have an engine! Her rider said after her two gallops 'She's very strong and there's the suggestion she might have some speed too'. Some shares are still available.



Lucy - butter wouldn't melt!

Did you know?

Dutch Art is currently the leading first season sire boasting 58% of winners to runners.

Run rabbit... run!

This summer we've been puzzled by substantial earthworks appearing along some of the field boundaries. It transpires that our 2-year-old filly Sky has not just been chasing rabbits but actively

trying to dig them out of their burrows - the resulting earthworks! We've never experienced a horse behaving like this before - and it's a new hobby now being closely watched by all the other fillies!

Simply the best



Frankel - the best of all time?

It's official - Frankel may be the best miler of all time. Debate will continue for decades but Frankel's trainer Henry Cecil claims his star is 'The best we've seen'. Better than Brigadier Gerard who slammed the great Mill Reef by 3 lengths in a comfortable Guineas win? The Brigadier went on to achieve a record Timeform rating of 147. And is he better than the great Tudor Minstrel who won his Guineas by a massive 8 lengths? Frankel will have a further chance to prove his greatness by remaining in training as a 4 year-old next season.

The ideal Christmas gift

Give a share in a racehorse this Christmas! Call us on 01293 884433 for options.



'Sky' better known as Celestial Bay



The Grand National's fences are to be modified to be safer for horses and riders--

Grand gesture

Modifications are to be made to the Grand National course following an interim safety review by the BHA and the Aintree racecourse.

The course's unique spruce fences were last remodelled in 1990 and, as part of the review into the 2011 Grand National in which two horses were fatally injured, detailed analysis of the last 20 runnings of the race has been undertaken.

Julian Thick, Managing Director of Aintree Racecourse, said: "The safety and welfare of horses and riders is always our number one priority at Aintree. This is the latest stage in our continuous drive to make the Grand National Course safer. "The Grand National is an unparalleled challenge over four miles and four furlongs and this unique event is the most famous race in the world. It is not possible to completely eliminate risk in horse racing. However, I am

confident the course changes will, over time, have a positive impact on safety." The changes, which have been made in consultation with the RSPCA, World Horse Welfare, trainers' and professional jockeys', are set to be implemented in time to allow a bedding-in process for the altered fences and surrounds before Becher Chase day at Aintree in December. Grand National-winning former jockey Mick Fitzgerald, who partnered Rough Quest to victory in 1996 and suffered a career-ending fall in the 2008 National, believes the changes could help the race's long-term prospects. He said: "I don't want anything to detract from the spectacle of the race but if you ask next year's winner if it feels any less of an achievement to have won it after the fences have been modified, then he or she will say no, because it is still an almighty test."

Snapshot

VeuveVoom and Delagoa Bay back home enjoying their well earned autumn break



The most influential man in racing...

The notion that younger horses should carry less weight than their mature elders to equalise their chances was first formalised in 1850 by Admiral Henry John Rous - although it was already widely accepted that younger horses required a weight concession if they were to be competitive against mature rivals.

Admiral Rous, renowned for his integrity and vigour, was an expert handicapper, and through experimentation



Handicapping is supposed to give every horse an equal chance

with weights and the meticulous investigation of his own detailed observations he codified a relationship between age and maturity, expressed in terms of weight. The tabulated allowances he introduced in 1850 were revised in 1873 and then underwent relatively minor changes until overhauled in 1976 by Major David Swannell.

Winning flush!

William Hill bookmakers were ecstatic to get their online bookmakers site up and running in China in time for the 2001 Grand National. Unluckily for the British bookmaker, tradition and superstition play a huge part in Chinese beliefs, with their luckiest colour being, not surprisingly, red. So William Hill were left red faced when all 2,000 new online Chinese gamblers bet on the 33-1 winner Red Marauder!

The most recent revisions were made under Geoffrey Gibbs as little ago as 1990. The modern weight-for-age scale lays down the varying weights horses of differing ages should receive from their elders over the full range of distances through the year. The distance of a race is a major factor in determining the allowance, and at the extremes the difference is huge. Even at intermediate distances over a relatively short space of time the difference can be significant. For example whereas Canford Cliffs was required to concede Frankel 8lb in Goodwood's Sussex Stakes at the end of July, it would have been only 3lb should they have met at Ascot in October.

That 5lb difference would equate to two and a half lengths on the racecourse. Sir Mark Prescott would probably go even further and reckons that without the handicapping principles and the weight-for-age scale that Rous proposed, racing would not have evolved from the matches and run-offs that were the norm in his day into the competitive spectacle we know and enjoy today. "Admiral Rous is probably the most influential man in racing," Sir Mark says. "He was extraordinarily ahead of his time, and I can't think of any other sport in which one man has had such a defining influence. His legacy is extraordinary."

Did you know?

Keeneland September Sale of yearlings in Kentucky saw a major uplift in prices of 36% on 2010. Confidence returning?

Record breakers disprove the doubters



This year's St Leger was won in record time

This year's running of the St Leger in record time, despite adverse conditions, demonstrates that the modern racehorse stays further, longer. The widely held misconception that stamina is on the decline is a fallacy. But there has never been any evidence to support this misguided notion. Tracing the development of the winning times for the Derby and Oaks over the previous 100 years points to the exact opposite of what the 'good old days' school would have us believe.

Modern horses take distance better than their ancestors because they cover it in increasingly faster times. In other words, winning times are tending to get faster over the years. Five of the six fastest times in the Derby since 1950 have been recorded since 1995. And this has happened despite artificial irrigation. Though the modern thoroughbred is no doubt aided by improvements in factors such as shoeing, feeding and medication in running faster times, it can

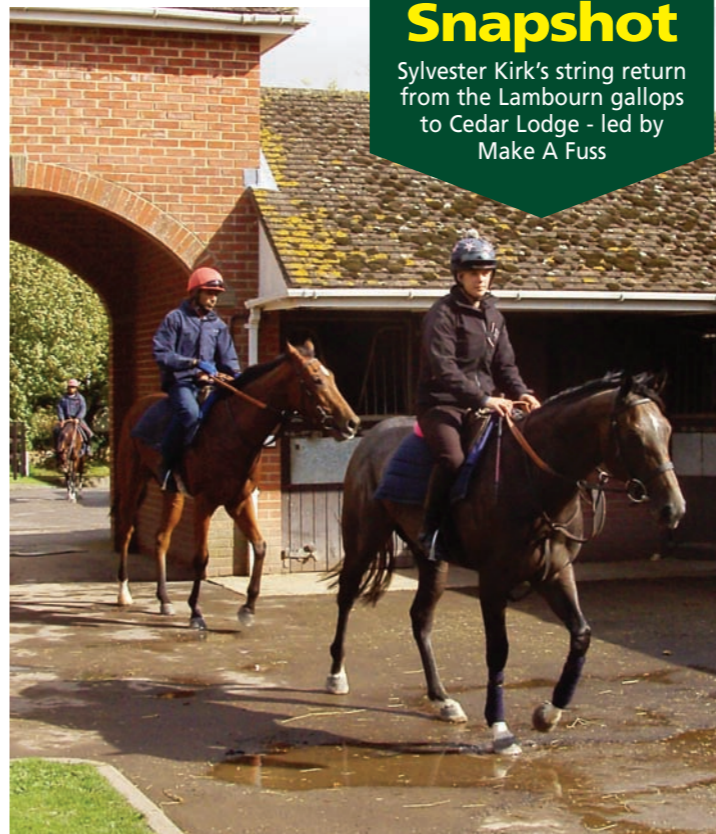
not be said that the breed is declining in stamina; the only objective measure of its staying power suggests that the exact opposite is true. Of course, the improvement of running times shown by winners of the Derby and Oaks is only part of a trend obvious across all distances. Consider the correlation between year and winning time for some other Group 1 races since 1945:

1,000 GUINEAS	-0.52 seconds
2,000 GUINEAS	-0.50 seconds
JULY CUP	-0.52 seconds

In selecting horses for stallion duties and evaluating the potential of their offspring, it is fair to suggest man has favoured speed and precocity over stamina for commercial reasons. But the breed has still proved very resilient - consider that the best sire of the modern era, Galileo, and that of the previous generation, Sadler's Wells, were both middle-distance horses competing over 12 furlongs. Finally, what of the St Leger itself? First run in 1776, its cachet was once enough to attract the best horses of each generation. Nowadays, connections of the best three-year-olds run shy of sending their horse to Doncaster on the basis that merely taking part may encourage the perception they will sire offspring which are not commercially appealing to owners. However ridiculous the logic of this situation is, it must surely have resulted in a decline in the winning times of St Leger winners, right? Wrong. St Leger winners are running faster times as we saw for ourselves this year.

Snapshot

Sylvester Kirk's string return from the Lambourn gallops to Cedar Lodge - led by Make A Fuss



Getting ready for winter



The Homebred stud snowbound in 2010

Whilst the Homebred stud currently offers all the horses a great flush of green, green autumn grass, we'll soon be planning for the winter. Horses do best kept outdoors but from October onwards each will be rugged up against the wet and cold. They'll also be given access to barns and ad lib feeding of haylage will initially be supplemented by hard feed once a day. By December each

will be fed twice a day with a generous scoop of hard feed mixed with high protein alfalfa chop. The work really starts when water troughs need to be defrosted twice a day too. Last year all the pipework to the troughs was frozen solid and we had to resort to tractoring tanks full of water to the farthest corners of the stud. Let's just hope that winter 2011 doesn't prove to be the freeze-up we experienced last winter!