

# Course Factfile: Bangor-on-Dee

The Racecourse,  
Bangor on Dee,  
Wrexham LL13 ODA  
Tel: 01978 780323  
www.bangorondeeraces.co.uk

Although one of the only 2 racecourses in Wales trainer Peter Bowen comments that this jumps only track is one of his least favourite because it's difficult to reach... from Wales! Approximately one and a half miles round, left-handed, triangular and mostly flat, Bangor-on-Dee is suited to the nimble sort of horse rather than the



relentless galloper. It is famous for being near Wrexham and not at the Bangor in North Wales, though some horsebox drivers still forget this!

**Celebrations:** The Burton Inn at Burton is well situated for those trekking back towards England and the M54. This is a lovely old pub serving a good range of exciting food. Bed and breakfast is also available (01939) 270284.

**The Druid** at Llanferis on the A494 Mold - Ruthin road is a 17th century inn offering great views as well as great hospitality. The restaurant offers a good selection of dishes and bed and breakfast is also available here too (01352) 810225.

## Did you know?

Nearly 40% of racehorses (7,242) won no prizemoney at all in 2007. 0.5% (96) scooped all the top prizes worth £100k+

## Stable visits

The improving weather makes watching horses work on the gallops considerably more attractive! As always please call the office on 01293 884433 if you'd like to arrange a stable visit so that we can try to ensure you can see your horse in action.

# WINNING P ST

THE REGULAR NEWSLETTER FROM HOMEBRED RACING

SUMMER/2008

## In the fast lane!



Polarity on a refresher course being long reined before starting final roadwork

## Bowen duo back on track

With Peter Bowen's yard resuming normal service of firing in the winners it's good to know that our duo are back on track. Divine White and Sweep Home have enjoyed a good break and came back



Miller Divine White

## Snapshot

Ianto and Gerwyn, our regular helpers at the stud, clear trees which were overhanging the courtyard stables.



## Homebred broodmare Snowy Mantle in foal



Group 1 stallion Septieme Ciel

Our winning miler Snowy Mantle has been confirmed in foal to Group 1 winner Septieme Ciel. He's a proven stallion with an exceptional pedigree being by the great Seattle Slew out of Group 1 winning racemare Maximova. Septieme Ciel, who now stands at Dairy House Stud in Wiltshire, was the leading sire of 2-year-olds in France and is the sire of 290 individual winners, 29 of which are black type, and of over £2 million to date, boasting 63% lifetime winners to runners. Snowy Mantle's foal is due March 2009.

Let us have your ideas and views



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## 48 hour declarations produce results...

The latest figures released on revenue from betting suggests that 48 hour declarations are proving beneficial to racing's coffers. The theory was that 48 hour declarations would allow punters greater time to ponder their selections which was thought likely to increase turnover from overseas. The first real sign that this may be true was revealed by industry statistics which show a small, but definite, increase in overseas turnover. Trainers have been very vocal in their

opposition to the new regime and, so far, the new regulations apply to flat racing only. However, it now seems more likely that 48 hour declarations are here to stay.

## Did you know?

A foal suckles up to 100 times a day consuming 25% of its own bodyweight in milk.

After being broken and ridden away at the end of last year our 2-year-old filly Polarity, by Group 1 winner Hamas out of winning miler Snowy Mantle, has now started roadwork. We were sad to see her leave home but she's enjoyed a lovely break at the stud and plenty of spring grass. Sam is now well into her preparatory programme with Sheena Hill during which she'll cover up to 6 miles on the very testing slopes of local lanes.



Aintree legend Brian Fletcher with Polarity at last year's Open Day.

Sheena reports Sam as "behaving impeccably - she's a really lovely ride and a great walker". Votes on who should train her are now

being collated and Sam will go into training soon after the Open Day with the intention of a racecourse debut in the autumn.

## Did you know?

A broodmare produces up to 3% of her body weight in milk every day - nearly 5 gallons!

into work at the end of April... so plenty to look forward to in the coming months! Latest news and training reports at www.homebredracing.co.uk



Novice hurdler Sweep Home

## Peter Bowen's Open Day...

at Little Newcastle, just off A40 to Fishguard will be on Sunday 27th July from 12 noon. Charity entry fee £5 (kids go free). A great opportunity to meet top racing personalities and top horses.



## The date for your diary Owners Day Sunday 20th July

We're pleased to report that there's already a good response to invitations for the Open Day at the Stud which continues to grow year on year. We'll again include a parade of the Llanwnnen Foxhounds which was such a big hit with owners last year. We're also arranging a visit to Peter Bowen's yard at Letterston - please let us know (01293 884433)

if you'd like to be included, or simply want more details, directions or info about places to stay.



## Snapshot

Steve of Vicar's Mill Trout Farm releases a mix of brown and rainbow trout to restock the lake at the stud.



## New reserves

Ascot is to be the first UK racecourse to trial a reserves system that will allow pre-selected substitutes for any horses declared non-runners before 8.30am at this year's Royal meeting. This trial will be for races that are not early-closing events to avoid issues about ante-post betting. Reserves that travel to the racecourses but don't get a run will be subsidized to the tune of £500 each. Hopefully this new system will counter the possible disappointment of owners who just miss the cut at the declaration stage only to see many non-runners on the day.



### Sadler's Wells retired

The most influential stallion in Europe for the last 20 years has been retired from stud duties.

Sadler's Wells, a 27 year old son of the great Northern Dancer, was champion sire for a record 14 times between 1990 and 2004. He sired over 100 Group 1 winners in Europe including the winners of 33 Classics. On the racetrack Sadler's Wells won the Irish 2000 Guineas, The Eclipse Stakes and the Irish Champion Stakes.

### Memorable Quotes

Trainer Barry Hills on jockey Darryll Holland: "Darryll had never ridden before he arrived - but it took 2 minutes to discover he was good. He should have been a champion jockey".

Pharly Green arrives home with Len



## When patience is the driving force...

It's always a wrench when we see our youngsters leave home - and a joy when they return. Box driver Len White says, even though even some of our horses may have been away in training for years, that they start calling as soon as he turns into the top of the road - still a mile from home. It's amazing that they know where they are. Because we provide as much care and attention as we possibly can for all our horses we only use White Horse Transport who are happily local to us in West Wales. We use them not just for their competitive prices but most importantly because we

like to know are horses are in good hands. Len does all the driving himself and is always prepared to take the extra time needed to load the nervous ones or youngsters. "It may take an extra half an hour's patience loading the first time" Len says... "but it saves endless trouble in the long run as once they've got their confidence they'll load more easily next time". Len travels the length and breadth of the country - so keep your eyes peeled for his silver horsebox it could be your horse! Further information about White Horse Transport: [www.whitehorseenterprises.co.uk](http://www.whitehorseenterprises.co.uk)

## Bookies making record profits

Bookmakers' accounts should be subject to an independent audit to provide "greater transparency to racing", according to Paul Dixon, ROA president and Horsemen's Group chairman, who was responding to news that this year's levy yield will far exceed the original £85.5m forecast.

A combination of factors has resulted in bookmakers' profits on racing hitting unexpected heights, including positive results on the track, changes to the SP collection increased starting price

margins, and the impact of 'high roller' punters losing significant amounts of money. Dixon commented: "There needs to be greater transparency regarding how much profit the bookmakers are making on racing. "An independent audit of the bookmakers' accounts is needed. We just want to know that they are playing with a straight bat. "Racing and the bookmakers must build a closer working relationship in order to make our product more attractive to the nation's punters." Ladbrokes enjoyed operating profits of £420m last year, thanks in part to high stakes punters betting - and losing - over the telephone, which added over £180m to its coffers.

## US racing towards change

The tragic loss of Eight Belles after the Kentucky Derby has added new impetus to US racing becoming drug free and also moving away from racing on dirt. These are two factors which are believed to have contributed to the deaths of high profile runners in televised races on some of the sport's biggest days. Change has been slow because American racing has no central governing body but key figures in the industry are now uniting to clean up racing. One of the most prominent voices in US racing, Arthur Hancock III, says "Drugs must be banned if we are going to survive as an industry and thoroughbreds as a robust breed".

## Salisbury on track



Salisbury racecourse has become the 12th course to win the ROA Gold Standard Award. Salisbury's executive and sponsorship contribution to prize-money stands at 23.2%. Their prize-money for 2008 is over £824,000. Salisbury worked tirelessly over the winter to secure improved road signage from the local authorities having been advised at the end of last season they were on the verge of being awarded on the basis of improving signage to the racecourse. Salisbury is a lovely course with a terrific atmosphere and great prize-money. More information @ [www.homebredracing.co.uk/racecourses](http://www.homebredracing.co.uk/racecourses).

### Gold Standard racecourses

Beverly	Newbury
Epsom Downs	Pontefract
Goodwood	Salisbury
Hamilton Park	Sandown Park
Haydock Park	Wincanton
Market Rasen	York



Racecourses have recently invested in covers to protect the racing surface against frost which has previously caused many race meetings to be abandoned. Cost of the material alone is over £15,000 per track plus the hours involved for ground staff. The challenge is to get the covers onto the racecourse while the ground is frost-free. It also takes a number of hours to remove them again when the temperatures on the day of racing have risen sufficiently. Northern Racing's Head of Racing Development, Jim Allen,

said "The great advantage is that, if we have deployed the covers, we can make an early decision on racing. "If they weren't laid down then, were it touch and go, we might be waiting until late morning before being able to make a decision about racing. The covers have certainly proved their worth this winter at two major fixtures at Uttoxeter. Of course, it makes commercial sense for us as a company, but it assists owners and trainers no end when they are making their running plans."

Mary Anne Gilchrist

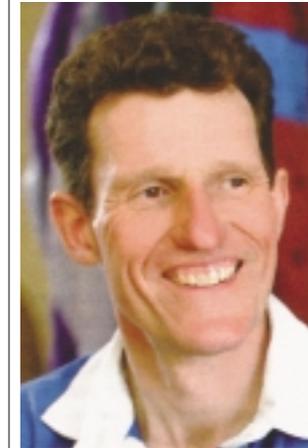


## Success on a plate

For centuries Llanwrtyd Wells was a stopping off point for drovers en route to London with their livestock. But today there's an even better reason to break your journey in 'Britain's smallest town' - The Carlton Riverside. Mary Anne Gilchrist's cooking has long persuaded us to make the 1¼ hour journey to enjoy her food which is now recognized as simply the best in Wales. The Carlton Riverside was the first restaurant in Wales to be awarded a prestigious Michelin star and currently retains the title of 'Wales Restaurant of the Year'. A superb restaurant, with comfortable rooms and a

relaxed atmosphere, Carlton Riverside has been a firm favourite with Homebred owners wanting somewhere close to stay for the Open Day. Comments from Homebred owners are unanimously enthusiastic and best summed up by the Good Hotel Guide - "Exceptionally good". An added bonus is the scenic route to the Homebred stud over the mountains via Tregaron - a drive described by Jeremy Clarkson as 'one of the best in the world'. For more details about Carlton Riverside visit [www.carltonrestaurant.co.uk](http://www.carltonrestaurant.co.uk) or to make a reservation call 01591 610248.

## The appliance of science



Jeremy Naylor may not have scaled the heights as a trainer - yet - but Martin Pipe's former resident vet has some new ideas about training. Naylor is based at Cleeve stables near the Wiltshire village of Shrewton. His new technologies include monitoring a horse's heart rate and its speed. He is also experimenting to see if stride frequency and length can be measured. His theory is that horses with longer strides might run more efficiently - so maybe owners would be better advised to buy at breeze-ups rather than concentrating on pedigrees. Jeremy says "It's extraordinary how little training has changed over the past 50 years. "The principal limitation on horses achieving their maximum is lung capacity. They have huge engines which require a lot of oxygen. Lung development has not matched their physical development.

"On a treadmill, for example, you can up their oxygen intake from 21% to 25% and it will have a dramatic effect. How the muscles and cardiovascular systems work are vital to horses." Naylor adds: "Between a third and a half of all National Hunt horses will suffer tendon injuries, and much of this is due to undergoing too much work. Many of these injuries occur in the final week or two before a race is contemplated, as the trainer steps up the work. "Too much work can sour a horse and this is where the role of science can help a trainer to have a more

accurate idea of what is happening. Up to 40% of two-year-olds and 25% of three-year-olds in training never run. There is a huge requirement for trainers to think more deeply about this.

"Much of this could be because a lad has worked a horse too hard or too little. Different lads do things differently and the trainer can't be everywhere. Traditionally, training can be quite haphazard.

"But it doesn't need to be if the trainer can give instructions to the riders which are obeyed, with the results downloaded each day to prove that the outcome was correct. I say there is a clear case for closer monitoring of exercise."

"I know I can train more sympathetically this way. I take blood samples after gallops and see if the lactates are different. Record keeping is very important in my mind. By knowing what horses have done, you can refer back and you can change the routine. It is not unusual for qualified vets to become successful trainers - Mark Johnston and James Given in Britain, and Dermor Weld in Ireland, are examples who have taken the art of training to the highest level. In his quiet and understated way, Jeremy Naylor is trying to take his message to a wider audience. He is not saying he knows how to train better but says, "Why not try this and see if it works?" In a sport frequently criticised by those outside it for a supposedly cavalier attitude to equine welfare, it might well be that monitoring of the type Naylor describes could be a positive, not only as a training tool but also as a method of early detection of physical fallibility. Horses' lives could even be saved by Naylor's appliance of science.

## Is this a vote winner?

Mountain Pride beat only one home in a three-year-old handicap at Newmarket on 2000 Guineas Day. But he's apparently well regarded by trainer John Dunlop - who's horses look to be returning to form after a quiet spell. Interestingly Mountain Pride is owned by Tory leader David Cameron's father - so maybe racing will have friends in the right places after the next election!