

Apprentice David Parkes wins easily on Celestial Bay at Lingfield



Apprentice with a future...

Apprentice jockey David Parkes, who won so spectacularly for us on Celestial Bay at Lingfield, looks destined to make it to the top. David is apprenticed to Australian Jeremy Gask, who trains in Wiltshire, and was leading rider during the 2014 Hands and Heels Apprentice Series. Jeremy said: "The Racing Excellence Series has been a very valuable motivation for David and given our yard's owners and staff a real interest. This

is a terrific initiative to give the younger riders a goal to work towards during the year and hopefully gain some exposure to move to the next stage of their careers". David has ridden 22 flat winners to date and is a very level headed lad who talks a lot of sense - he was the first to suggest that Celestial Bay, who'd been so competitive over sprint distances, would actually be suited by further. David Parkes is a name to watch in the 2015 season.

Did you know?

A racehorse can only be named with the approval of Weatherbys and must contain no more than 18 characters and be inoffensive: Memorably 'Wear The Fox Hat' was prevented from making a racecourse debut at Folkestone after the name slipped through the approval process!

Change to jockey's fees

Earlier this year the Professional Jockeys Association's analysis of the average jockey's finances showed the average Flat jockey generated just over £30,000 in riding fees and their share of prize-money. By the time you had deducted their not insignificant expenses headed by fuel costs, agent fees and valet payments, the annual salary was around £20,000. It is against this backdrop that the ROA has been working with the PJA and BHA to see whether the financial situation of those jockeys operating below the highest level can be improved without simply adding to the already considerable costs borne by racehorse owners.

Non-runners frustrate us all and, as owners are only too aware, they are an inevitability, because the welfare of our horses will always come first. They are costly for owners and the same can be true for jockeys. As well as foregoing income if a rider chooses one mount over another only for their choice to be pulled out, they can also incur significant expense travelling to a race meeting only for their ride to be declared a non-runner. It is difficult to think of other professions that wouldn't apply some sort of call-out charge.

Addressing these concerns is the reason behind the introduction of a new charge to owners to apply from the beginning of 2015. Under the Rules of Racing, a jockey will receive a payment from the owner for all non-runners advised to Weatherbys after 9am on the day of the race. The payment will be £47.32 on the Flat and £64.60 over Jumps, which equates to 40% of the respective riding fees. Being a jockey is a high risk and often relatively short career, and this new fee should provide some help to riders who are left out of pocket when an intended ride becomes a non-runner relatively late in the day.

WINNING POST

THE REGULAR NEWSLETTER FROM HOMEBRED RACING

SPRING 2015



Homebred mares enjoying rest and recreation

All set for a sizzling summer!

Homebred's mares have done us proud in the past season being regular visitors to the winners' enclosure. In fact Delagoa Bay and Celestial Bay have only rarely finished out of the prizemoney during the past year.

Both will soon be home for a well deserved break to recharge batteries and enjoy some spring grass before returning to action for a summer campaign with Sylvester Kirk. Celestial Bay has proven to be something of a revelation - having been campaigned and winning over sprint distances, she stepped up to 1m 3f and was an impressive last-to-first winner under champion jockey Richard Hughes - and then repeated the performance over a further furlong at Lingfield.



Celestial Bay a winner from 6 - 12 furlongs



Delagoa Bay has struck up a great partnership with Martin Dwyer

Delagoa Bay maintained her winning relationship with Martin Dwyer after a couple of placed efforts by winning easily over 2 miles at Kempton at a very rewarding 33/1! Celestial Bay has surprised us by staying as well and as far as she has and will be campaigned over 12 furlongs on the turf. Further the better seems to be the optimum for Delagoa Bay who will also run on the turf - although she does seem best on the sand. Plenty to look forward to in the coming months!

Did you know?

Over 100,000 thoroughbred's are foaled world-wide every year, of which only about 5% are born in the UK - the original home of the English Thoroughbred.

Stemming racecourse injuries



Spotted Cat - a winner after stem cell treatment

The career of many racehorses is often cut short by tendon injuries - particularly jumpers. But recent medical developments in stem cell therapy are now available to equine vets through a French company called Vetbiobank. In simple terms they store material from a foal's umbilical cord to enable stem cells to be used in treatment of any future injury. Currently tendons, ligaments and joints are being treated to repair damaged cartilage by injection of the foal's stem cells direct into the area of injury. Vetbiobank claim that horses treated in this way have successfully returned to the racetrack - including 2 Group winners in France.

New boys on the block

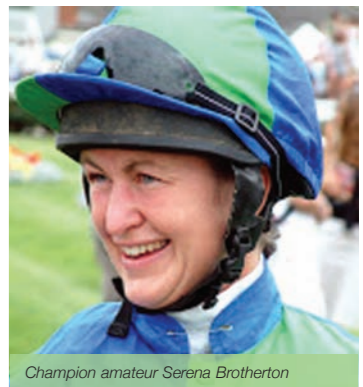


Canford Cliffs - first runners this year

Another battalion of new sires will soon be having their first runners. Progeny to look out for are by Coventry Stakes winner Canford Cliffs, Poets Voice and Zoffany. Frozen Power may prove to be best from the bargain basement - he stands at a fraction of the price commanded by his contemporaries. From across the pond, Cape Blanco, Gio Ponti and Uncle Mo are also likely to secure a measure of success. Canford Cliffs looks a good bet to top the table by season's end.

Dual role in silks

Leading amateur jockey, Serena Brotherton, who rode Celestial Bay at Kempton in January, has been champion lady amateur an amazing 6 times. Serena has also ridden many winners abroad and successfully combines the challenge of race-riding with her work as a solicitor based in York. On unsaddling Sky, Serena said "Celestial Bay has run a blinder - and I'll be following her and cheering her on in her future runs".



Champion amateur Serena Brotherton

Chelmsford City ready for action

Chelmsford City, formerly known as Great Leighs and which closed only a few months after opening, is back in action - now under ownership of bookie Fred Done. A clear indication, if any was needed, that bookies need racing! Chelmsford City has been used as a training centre for several Newmarket yards and also held a 'trial race meeting' with several horses ridden by jockeys who included Hayley Turner, Jimmy Quinn and Fergus Sweeney who all reported that the track was riding beautifully. Clerk of the course Andy Waitt said "We did the trial to give the jockeys a feel for it and to let us know what it's like". The course, which also passed a floodlight test, will increase options for Newmarket stables and the new grandstand also offers better facilities for racegoers.

Formerly Great Leighs, racing is back in full swing at Chelmsford City





Jumps - A Race Apart

As its name suggests, jump racing (which comprises steeplechasing, National Hunt flat races and hurdle races) developed from hunting. In the 1740s and 1750s foxhounds were crossed with greyhounds to provide a faster, lighter dog, and hunting too became faster. It very soon developed on occasion into a cross-country race with hounds, and then without hounds, from a given starting point towards some distant but visible target, often a church steeple - hence the name. Steeplechases consisting of fences on a racecourse had taken place occasionally, beginning at Bedford in 1810, but modern steeplechasing is generally agreed to have been started at St. Albans by Thomas Coleman around 1830. It soon became popular and was emulated elsewhere, such as at Cheltenham in 1834, the Vale of Aylesbury in 1835, and at Aintree in 1836. The first Aintree steeplechases attracted few runners and the first true Grand National is generally accepted to be that of 1839, and was won by the appropriately named Lottery,

whose party tricks included jumping over dining tables. Thanks to the new railways and improved roads, an estimated fifty thousand people crowded the course. They saw the famous Captain Becher fall into the brook which thereafter bore his name, but probably missed his complaint that 'water is no damned use without brandy!' The early days of jump racing were marred by the lack of rules until 1866 when members of The Jockey Club intervened. But jump racing remained very much the poor relation to flat racing and was the stage for amateurs. The Cheltenham Gold Cup, founded in 1924, was the first real attempt to allow horses to compete on an equal basis.

Did you know?

Nottingham is the latest racecourse to achieve the 'Gold Standard' in recognition of improved facilities for owners.

Did you know?

The oldest Classic is the St. Leger - first run in 1776 and won by a 3-year-old filly, Alabaculia.

Cheltenham just keeps getting bigger

Jumping's showcase in March will offer the biggest amount of prize money ever - £4 million. The festival also results in some other very big numbers: 236,000 pints of Guinness 235,000 racegoers 11,000 bottles of champagne 40,000 Irish racing fans 4,500 staff working each day 800 accredited journalists £150 million placed in bets 25 football pitches of fleece to protect the course from frost. Cheltenham is a big event!



Glorious Goodwood gets a new name...

And lots of glorious dosh from new sponsors Qatar Racing. Goodwood has signed a 10 year deal which will see more than £2 million invested in the Festival to be renamed the Qatar Goodwood Festival. Speaking for Qatar racing, Hamad Al Attiyah said "This sponsorship demonstrates our further commitment to British Racing. With such huge prize-money on offer, we hope to attract international runners from all over the world as well as continuing to see the best from Britain, France and Ireland".

The Qatar Sussex Stakes will now have a total prize fund of over £1 million and the Qatar Nassau Stakes will now be worth over £500,000. Owner of the Goodwood Estate, Lord March, commented "This new partnership with Qatar will make an enormous contribution to horse racing in the UK". Inevitably there will be concern that racing has now aligned itself with a sponsor whose credentials will come under increasing scrutiny due to their World Cup bid. The inaugural Qatar Festival will run from 26 July to August 1st 2015.

Time for some common sense in race planning



Racing's topsy-turvy planning

People new to racing frequently ask why the flat calendars major events are at the start of the season rather than at the end? It's something that's difficult to explain - or justify - as the season's top milers are crowned in the 1000 and 2000 Guineas at Newmarket at the very start of May - and the middle distance champions in the Derby and the Oaks just a few weeks later! Only the St. Leger remains isolated as the stayers' test in the autumn. This timing actually means that the season's top milers might not, in reality, have even

reached their third birthday if they are a late foal. And it's actually possible that 'champions' can be crowned on making their racecourse debut - which has happened in the past. It does all seem a nonsense! Traditionalists will be in shock at any suggestion that the 'Classics' are put back to late summer - but to all but racing's elite - this would only seem logical. Instead we have a so-called 'Champions Day' at Ascot in late autumn, when experience shows that ground is ultimately unsuitable for flat racing.

It would be great if racing was given a proper make-over in terms of race planning - reducing the huge number of handicaps (which are included for the benefit of the bookies) and replacing them with a tier of classified races which would allow performers to climb through the ranks to contest races on level terms rather than simply be lumbered with increasing weight to stop them winning. This could all lead to a series of championship races, from the minimum trip up to the longest distances, scheduled for the end of summer.

Snapshot

Monksfield, dam of our retired broodmare Pastures Green (now 33!) jumps the last to win the 1979 Champion Hurdle ridden by Dessie Hughes - late father of the champion jockey Richard Hughes.



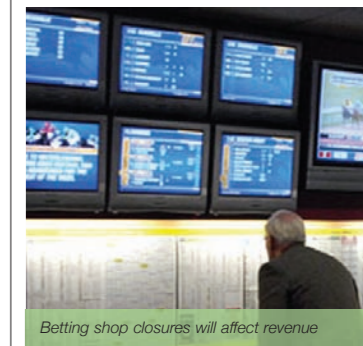
Monksfield leaps the last at Cheltenham

A risky business

Every jockey has a Medical Record Book from the BHA, in which injuries are recorded. It must be shown to the Medical Officers at the race meeting before the jockey weighs out. A bad fall can lead to a ban from riding. Although the injury rate is low compared to other sports, the nature of the injury tends to be serious. Apart from fractures, it is concussion which causes the most concern. On the Flat in Britain the concussion rate is about the same as for soccer, but the rate for amateur jump racing is nearly 35 times worse than soccer, from an injury rate which is four times smaller. In terms of fatalities, the statistics show that Flat racing is twice as dangerous as motor racing, and four to five times more dangerous than driving on the roads.

Media rights fight brewing

The last negotiations between British racing's media rights' holders and the retail betting industry resulted in a significant hike in returns to the sport.



Betting shop closures will affect revenue

But while some sports - Premier League football being the obvious example - can expect to continue riding the rising tide, as Sky and BT battle for a share of a burgeoning market, racing will do well to hang on to what it has got when SIS contracts are the first to come up for renegotiation in April 2017. The revealing signs are visible showing a significant number of blank sessions on At The Races and Racing UK, and more importantly their betting partners SIS and TurfTV. Racing will have 15 completely blank days, including eight Sundays, and a further 25, including ten all-important Saturdays, when the only British racing coverage comprises a twilight or evening meeting. A further threat to the established broadcasters' ability to sustain media rights' payments at current levels comes from within, with ARC apparently preparing to go it alone. And all the while, as British racing's share the betting industry's gross win hovers around 23%, from more than twice as much not so long ago, the major chains are closing retail outlets - 100 Hills shops this year, 90 by Ladbrokes and around 50 by Coral. Each one represents leakage from the media rights' pot.