

**SEPT/OCT
2019**

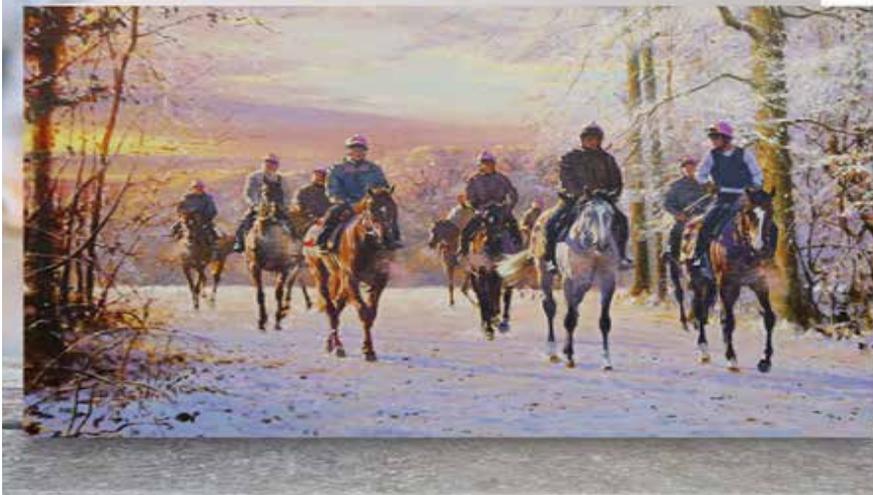


WELCOME BACK



Richard Patrick being presented with the Richard Davis Award from The Davis Family and members of CTCRC.

INJURED JOCKEYS CHRISTMAS CARDS & CALENDARS 2019



This year's Christmas Card is entitled "Winter Solstice" Painted specifically for the Injured Jockeys Fund by renowned equine artist Peter Smith.

Pack of 10 cards and envelopes. Pre-printed greeting of 'Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year' are £7.50

This year's Calendar is "Seasons in the Saddle". A selection of beautiful racehorse images reflecting the changing seasons at training locations around the country. Contains all UK and Irish Fixtures. (Available November)

The Calendar is being produced in three different formats, Wall (£12), Desktop (£10) and Slimline (£9).

Cards and Calendars can be purchased at any race meeting or via the website <http://shop.ijf.org.uk>



RICHARD DAVIS AWARD

For the Top Conditional Jockey riding at Cheltenham, Chepstow, Hereford, Ludlow

Stratford, Warwick and Worcester during the period

6th May 2019 – 26th April 2020

(Sponsored by the Cheltenham & Three Counties Race Club)

Scoring: a Winner 10 points, a Second 7 points, a Third 4 points, a Fourth 2 points.

Latest placings (up to and including 26th September 2019)

1 st	Connor Brace	156 pts
2 nd	Jonjo O'Neill Jr	109 pts
3 rd	Charlie Hammond	58 pts
4 th	Charlie Price	44 pts
5 th	Lorcan Williams	41 pts



Richard Davis was a talented jump jockey tragically killed in a fall over fences in 1996. This award is named in his memory.

CLUB EVENTS

Next Club Night:

Wednesday 16th October - Graeme McPherson

Punchestown 15th & 16th October - Gordon Elliott 16th October

Stable Visits TBC:

Paul Nicholls - this will be a Wednesday

Colin Tizzard

Ben Case

Alex Dunn

Noel Williams

Laura Morgan

Email: ctcrcstablevisits@gmail.com to show interest.

Please see calendar on Website for info.

Natter From Sarah

So the Summer is over and Autumn is here which means that the 'proper' jumps season has arrived. I will admit that I actually enjoy the 'Summer Jumps' as I am a member at Worcester but this year has been a bit hit and miss due to the weather and a few abandonments.



The summer has had its ups and downs. We had our usual annual picnic at Worcester which was well attended. 'The Richard Davis Award' was presented to Richard Patrick by The Davis Family. Richard Johnson again won the 'Leading Jockey at Worcester' but no suitable time could be found to acknowledge this with a presentation.

Racing lost two high profile well loved horses in 'Roaring Lion' to colic and 'Espoir D'Allen' to an accident on the gallops.

Recently a great fan of racing and a previous chair at our 'P2P' evening John Willis passed away after a

brave battle with cancer. The Racehorse Welfare Centre has had to close due to lack of funds. There has been a lot of hard work to find loan homes for all of the residents including 'Elegant Olive' which some of you may know as a syndicate horse of some of our members. She has been loaned out to one of her previous owners.



The Club had one visit over the summer and that was to Upton Viva Stud. This is always a very enjoyable experience although so far we always seem to go in the rain, so much so that Robert said he'd invite us when they need the rain in the summer.



We met at the barn to have coffee/tea and cakes before we had a walk around the 'Upton Stud' going

around the walkways between the fields. We saw the youngsters, mares in foal, mares and foals and ended up back by the barn for a parade of retired and resting racehorses.



Then it was off to The Peacock for lunch. A big thanks goes to Robert, Jayne and Alison for looking after us and also to Kate (in charge of the racing yard) who joined in to help with parading the horses.



The New Adventures of: DODGE & PACHA

The time of year that we all love so dearly has arrived again very quickly. Which if you're like me, makes you very happy!! We have been very busy in Ditchheat getting the horses ready for the new coming jump season and the lovely owners day that Paul throws for everyone.



We have been up to a lot this summer and having a lot of fun. Dodge has been amazing (like always and goes without saying) and has welcomed his new friend with open arms. They have been getting on like a house on fire which of course makes my job a lot easier indeed.

Pacha, who moved in with us at the start of April had a lovely time in the field for a few months, soaking up the warm sun, eating the spring grass and putting on a lovely amount of condition. He got his shoes on at the end of July and began some very light work. And boy what a legend he is too. A pleasure to have on the farm.



We have been doing a lot of road work with them both and have mastered the art of riding and leading. They have taken to it like a duck to water and have been very well behaved. I only really take them around the fields on the farm when riding and leading so we don't annoy the drivers in our small country lanes! If anyone has seen on my twitter page a

video of the boys, Dodge has learnt the art of a steady canter with Pacha trotting along side with his very big stride keeping up! We have two very crazy racehorses on the farm, I think not!!!



In the middle of August, I received a phone call from Paul while I was at work asking me to take Pacha and Dodge to Cattastock Country Show to parade in the racing hero's parade there. Of course I jumped at the chance of getting the boys out but it wasn't until I got off of the phone and I thought about it... I only had 3 days to prepare! Never mind, challenge accepted!! On the Sunday morning I woke early to do the everyday yard chores

that have to be done with any horse. I then bathed, plaited and groomed the boys and get them shiny and in the lorry!! Once we got there we had a little time to chill before getting the boys tacked up and getting on. My friend came a long with me to ride the other and away we went. I entered the parade ring on Pacha and you could feel him glow with pride, all these people were here to see me, clapping him in as we entered. Each horse had a bit said about them and then came on Bryony Frost talking about my boys. She never got the pleasure to ride Dodge in a race but knew what to say about him, he trotted around like he does making sure everybody was looking at him! She then got on the subject of Pacha and we couldn't shut her up! Obviously she has a very big soft spot for Pacha and so she should, what a lovely boy. We went in to the middle of the ring when she had finished and they had a lovely cuddle! I felt proud as punch of my two boys!! They did me proud!!

Lucy

Interview with Birdie Artist, Cartoonist and Racing Supporter

Darren Bird has become to racing what Norman Thelwell was to the Pony Club. No plump, devilish ponies with 'Birdie' but vivid depictions of racehorses: beautifully thoughtful, occasionally touching and frequently amusing. The detail is strikingly accurate – a white sock, a star, lopsided stripe or a snip on the nose. There are former champions starting their retirements, lounging in armchairs upholstered in their colours and a sad, poignant scene in honour of the late Malcolm Jefferson. People are often 'Birdied' including iconic pictures of Many Clouds' trainer Oliver Sherwood, Sir Henry Cecil and the Queen.

Birdie has sketched at the Cheltenham Festival, the Derby, 2000 Guineas and the Irish Grand National. He has drawn wonderful murals for the 2015 Cheltenham Festival, Hereford racecourse on the back wall of a new stable block and in the Premier Enclosure at Brighton.



There have been topical drawings on the difficulties of working outside in the snow, the biannual changing of the clocks, Father's Day, Mothering Sunday and a horse silhouette created from poppies for Armistice Day. Birdie even touches on the political: Theresa May dressed in a Union Jack on a non-starter named Brexit, and a racehorse called Getaway Trump double-barrelling a certain American President. Other sports have been 'Birdied', including the Olympics, athletics and football. Plus, there have been emotive depictions when television and film stars have passed, including a desolate Pudsey Bear after Terry Wogan died.



Darren is an Ambassador for Racing Welfare. In 2018, he worked with the charity at Qipco British Champions Day, Ascot, decorating the boards for each winner, which were subsequently

auctioned off. Earlier this year, Darren was shortlisted for the Goldophin Stud and Stable Staff Awards for the Rory Macdonald Community Award, portraying how loved he is.



On his website, there are many colourful prints of new and old heroes alike, from Tiger Roll to Red Rum. Commissions are popular and Birdie works on a five-week turnaround. There are other gifts, including mugs, keyrings, Christmas tree decorations, snow globes, cushions and calendars. Through the Racing Post, he has published a book and, in 2017, had his cartoons jolly on their Christmas jumpers.



Most recently, he has started up the Birdie Racing Club, which has horses in training with Henry Spiller in Newmarket.

Did your artistic talents show at school?

I remember being asked to draw in front of the class once... it was a scary experience, but I could only just about reach the middle of the blackboard with the chalk (showing my age!) ...so, I couldn't have been very old.

How and when did you start drawing cartoons?

That's too tricky... All I can say is that I can't remember a time when I wasn't doodling or drawing something. It's pretty much been a daily thing for as long as I can remember!

Did any other cartoonists influence you?

The cartoonist 'Giles' was a massive influence on me... Like myself, he was also from Ipswich and he created so many fantastically detailed images throughout his career. I always got a Giles book for Christmas as a child... He was brilliant at capturing a scene in a cartoon, the characters and the expressions on their faces always told the story so well.

Where did your passion for racing start?

I've always followed racing, but it probably comes from my father. Every Saturday afternoon, the racing was on TV or if we were out somewhere, I remember having to wait outside a bookie's whilst he just popped in for 10 minutes to watch a race! 10 minutes normally meant 30 minutes!

What is your first racing memory?

Sitting on the steps of the July Course of Newmarket watching the horses run by, going to post. I must have been only about 7 or 8 years old; my dad must have been off having a bet, but I was sat happily with my can of fizzy and packet of crisps!

When and how did your cartoons and racing merge?

The image that started 'Birdie' off was a simple black and white cartoon of Luke Harvey and Jason Weaver that I tweeted to the 'Get In' show on At The Races. That was back in 2013 and I had no idea that it would lead to me being invited onto the show later that year to draw live on TV.

Do you prefer Flat or National Hunt?

That's far too tricky to answer!

All I can say is that I honestly love both codes... A chilly Cheltenham in December compared to a Sunny Sandown in July can feel worlds apart, but both provide fantastic racing.

What is your favourite racecourse?

Fairyhouse for three reasons - Fantastic racing, Fantastic atmosphere and Fantastic people.

What is your favourite meeting?

The Irish Grand National at Fairyhouse

How do you pick which winners to draw? (As they are not always the 'big winner' of the day.)

I've always been inspired by horses with 'quirky' names... Mad Moose, Roy Rocket & Getaway Trump to name a few... the ideas just seem to flow naturally.

Do you have a personal favourite of your drawing?

The image of the Queen celebrating Estimate's victory at Ascot must be one of my favourites, but I also loved creating the image of Shutthefrontdoor travelling to Aintree in the back seat of the car, being driven by Jonjo O'Neill and

AP McCoy!

Who have you not yet had a chance to 'Birdie' but would like to?

There are so many great characters in Racing and I've been lucky enough to capture quite a few of them already... but there are a few jockeys and trainers who have escaped me so far. All I'll say is they are on my list and I'll get them eventually!

All cartoons are copyrighted to Birdie Racing Gifts.

birdieracinggifts.co.uk

Interview by Jo O'Neill



What's in a Name?

The process of naming a horse is regulated by intricate rules. There are thousands of names registered every year and each one is checked by a team of administrators whose job it is to scrutinise each application as to its suitability to be seen, and heard, on a racecourse. Covering all bases for horses with an international moniker, foreign dictionaries and the internet (especially urbandictionary.com) are used to check meanings. As with many of racing's administrative functions, Weatherbys runs this naming department on behalf of the BHA.

To use a real person's name, written permission must be sought – either from the person themselves or, if deceased, their family. There is a fifty-year cut off point after which no permission is required.

Vulgarity is not allowed. Norfolk And Chance, Ho Lee Fook, Ophelia Balls and Penny Traction have been rejected, because all breached the rule that states a name cannot be “suggestive...vulgar, obscene or insulting”. No names can be “offensive to religious, political or ethnic groups”. There is an

elaborate and cringe-worthy list of banned names; most are too filthy to repeat – Chit Hot, Ima Goodlay and Harry Balls being the less crude ones.

Hence, owners get increasingly inventive. Big Tits raced in France in 2004 and no one envied the commentator when Hoof Hearted ran in South Africa. Closer to home, Two In The Pink ran here on the Flat and Lady Cecil trained Mary Hinge. Wear The Fox Hat was not to be said quickly by anyone but particularly not the race commentator, and no comment can be made about the French-bred Golden Shower. Another French-bred, Fukuto ran last season for David Bridgewater and Fergal O'Brien trained Wizard's Sliabh, which translates into Wizard's Mountain – perhaps both were saved by roundabout pronunciation.

Many owners name their horses by mixing up the sire's and dam's names. In 2001, the BHA sent out a press release when a filly was named Geespot. Her breeding was by Pursuit Of Love, out of My Discovery!

There are protected names to preserve legendary status, ensuring there will never be another Kauto Star or Frankel.

Names must be unique and cannot be registered if “spelling... or pronunciation is identical or similar”. Also, to prevent horses with the same or similar names running together, no names can be repeated with a horse “whose year of foaling is within ten years” of the previous one.



Shutthefrontdoor

No more than seven syllables are permitted, otherwise commentators would have a nightmare. Eighteen characters are allowed, including spaces; no numbers and no punctuation other than apostrophes. This means some names have their spaces removed, as with Shutthefrontdoor (who had a half-brother called Shutthebackdoor!) and Youlneverwalkalone, who also lost letters and punctuation to shoehorn his name into the

allotted amount.

Allegedly, Coolmore assigns names to their vast number of two-year-olds based on a rating that Aidan O'Brien has presented to them earlier in the year. “If you see a bad horse with a good name, you'll know there's only one person to blame and that's me!” said O'Brien. It may not be fool proof but Giant's Causeway, Caravaggio, Galileo, Ruler Of The World, Yeats and Churchill portray there might be something in a name after all.



Galileo

By Jo O'Neill

Editor: I love it when the owners actually do use the sire and dam names to produce a great name for the offspring. Some names I just have no clue how they came upon it.

LIVING THE DREAM BY ANNIE CHAUDRY

I grew up in Cheltenham and I started to ride when I was about 7 or so once every few weeks and then ended up volunteering for the RDA branch that is based at the racecourse. Actually it was through volunteering for them I first took real notice of racing, one day they had an event where their ponies did rides around the parade ring, a photo with the Gold Cup at the end and you got to meet some famous racehorses as well – I remember Bindaree being there and Master Oats too. From there on, aged about 12 or 13, I decided I wanted a career in racing, though at the time I hadn't a clue what to do about it. I finished my GCSEs and also my A Levels and at the same time applied to the British Racing School to do their 9 week foundation course. I was also volunteering at weekends for a local trainer Billy Grassick through school and rode out a few times for Fergal O'Brien.



If you are under 18 and want to work full time in racing the foundation courses at the racing schools are

mandatory, and it is also a good stepping stone as they do their best to find you a job while you complete the subsequent apprenticeship. For me that job was at Kim Bailey's yard, near to home for me. Everyone there was fantastic and helpful and especially tolerant, and I learned so much which has stayed with me, not only about racing life, from the team there. This summer I also went back to the racing school to start my advanced apprenticeship, which is basically a qualification to back up what you learn by working in racing – riding and looking after the horses.



Racing is a proper community, everyone works together in a yard even though you're doing your own thing, which means you make friends for life in the yard – and not just the horses! Just over 18 months ago I moved to Lambourn to work for Nicky Henderson. It was a big change, here at Seven Barrows we have around double the horses so it's a totally different set up and I find it fascinating to see how different people go about doing things. I think one of the best things about working

in racing is that you're literally always learning!



People often ask how on earth I can get up at so early every morning, but the truth is it's no hardship when you love the job you do! I'm very fortunate to have some wonderful horses to look after; without wanting to sound too clichéd they literally are the reasons you get up in the morning so it's brilliant to have things to look forward to, especially with the young horses because they literally could be anything! I've also been lucky enough to ride fantastic horses like The Last Samuri in the past and the buzz off that is incredible – and the feeling of excitement when you see your name down by a really good horse in the morning is pretty awesome! I always joke that one good/bad lot can literally make or break the day! They are all very different characters, a bit like people you get along with some more than others and I know you probably shouldn't but you definitely do have your favourites! There's nothing quite like the buzz you get in the spring time when the whole yard is gathered

to watch the big races that you have runners in. Going racing is one of my favourite parts of the job, I love getting my horses ready, all plaited up and quarter marked before the race. It's also an amazing feeling when a horse that you ride most of the time at home goes and wins, however small the race is!



The Last Samuri

As sad as it sounds, I always find if I go away I end up missing my horses, or wondering how they're getting on, and even I'm on holiday or something I'm still watching as much racing as possible and checking to see how our runners have got on! I also follow the sales quite closely as I think it's something I'd like to do more of in the future, I find looking at horses' pedigrees really interesting. I was actually very lucky to go around some of the sales this summer with Highflyer Bloodstock, which taught me an awful lot and was great fun!

Thanks to Jamie Sharp for getting the interview.

David Massey Article

Well, thank goodness that's over. Nearly, anyway. Races that take a minute to run, tracks that resemble rollercoasters, a Classic season that's basically over before it begins. And sunshine. Sunshine! These Flat enthusiasts don't know they're born.

No, give me standing in the cold at Fakenham any day. And you will, on quite a few occasions this year. Fakenham has basically replaced Towcester, in my heart anyway, as my new spiritual home. If they do get Towcester back racing next year, then I'll be torn in half.

As I type this, we're only a few weeks away from that first Cheltenham meeting of the year and even less to Chepstow, which is when things really get back in the swing. The summer jumping is fine, it serves a purpose but I have to say the field sizes this summer seem to have dwindled, compared to last year. I still believe we should have a proper jumps break - maybe a month, six weeks - but that's for another day.

I'm going to give you my Five To Follow this year - a couple of obvious ones, as should be the case, and a few that should pay their way on a day-to-day basis. Not every horse can be a Saturday horse, after all...

Lostintranslation

It will come as no surprise to anyone

that this is top of the list. He was one of mine to follow last year, and my word he did not disappoint.

Chasing was always going to be this gorgeous-looking horse's game, and he took to it like a duck to water. Progressive all season long, he probably got sick of seeing the back end of Defi Du Seuil at one point but once upped in trip, dished out a comprehensive 6l beating to RSA winner Topofthegame at Aintree in the Mildmay, a truly top-drawer performance and one that marked him out as a Gold Cup horse this year. He has all the potential in the world now that we have discovered that staying is his game, and it surely cannot be coincidence he's been moved into Cue Card's stable in Colin Tizzard's yard. Those are big shoes to fill, but not only do I believe he will fill them, but could be even better.

Clan Des Obeaux

Whereas the Gold Cup will be Lostintranslation's target this year, Clan Des Obeaux is likely to be fully wound up come Boxing Day, as the King George is his main target this season. He really caught the eye in last year's Betfair Chase, a run that, to my eyes, signified a marked improvement and as one to follow for the rest of the year. Sure enough, he went to Kempton and basically gave them a running lesson in the King George, travelling like a dream and quickening away when asked.

He couldn't reproduce that in the Gold Cup, although he was far

from disgraced, and while some will tell you he doesn't act around Cheltenham, I don't think that's the case. He acts there, but showing your best is another thing, and he does look a lot happier going right-handed. To that extent, it's not hard to see him miss Cheltenham this time around and concentrate on other big pots instead. We've not seen the best of him yet, of that I'm sure, and come Christmas, he'll be the one to beat.

Apple Mack (Robert Mitford-Slade)

A horse I saw a couple of times last year and impressed me in the flesh was Apple Mack. He first came to my attention after a midfield finish behind Getaway Trump in what turned out to be quite a hot heat at Exeter last December and sure enough, he showed improved form on his next two starts when in the frame at both Wincanton and Hereford.

His last two starts were too bad to be true, and I'd be happy to forgive those. As a full brother to the yard's useful Applesolutely, staying is likely to be his game and if they can't get a handicap or two out of him off his current mark, I'll be astounded.

Cross Of Steel (Jennie Candlish)

Here's one right out of leftfield, which as many of you know, is very much the way I operate...

Has only had the four starts so far, sent off 12-1, 66-1, 150-1 and 100-1, showing little. In fact, the only positive you can take so far is that

bumper debut at Bangor, where he ran through a few beaten ones at the death to finish midfield. Three hurdles runs revealed little. So why is he in this list, I hear you cry?

Simple, really. He's a full brother to the smart staying hurdler Cross Kennon, who was never happier than when ploughing through the mud and running his rivals into the ground with some tremendous front-running displays. He's simply not had chance to show what he can do yet, running over trips far too short, and once handicapped, if they can't find a few staying handicaps with him, then I'll give up. (I won't, but you get the idea.)

Three Bullet Gate (Robin Dickin)

By their own standards it wasn't a great season for Robin and his staff last year but in the hope that they can turn it around this year, Three Bullet Gate is definitely worth inclusion.

He caught their eye when finishing last of eight behind Rockpoint at Cheltenham last December where he travelled well to a point until left behind by the classier sorts late in the contest. He was probably a few pounds too high in the handicap to begin with but still ran with credit in handicaps over various trips after that, although his last start at Southwell sounded a few warning bells. I'd suggest he wasn't right that day and it's a run best forgiven. Trips around 2m4f-2m6f and decent ground should see him win a couple of handicaps this season.

SEPTEMBER CLUB MEETING



So, the first meeting of the season didn't quite have a cast of thousands, but it was the biggest panel in many a long year. Robin Dickin had been invited to visit us all the way from Alcester in Warwickshire and he brought with him four of his team in the shape of Jack Quinlan, Ceris Biddle, Harriet Turner and Tabitha Worsley. There could have been more but Charlie Poste was still on his honeymoon!

Roger Hart soon got the evening underway by giving everybody a chance to say where they fit into the yard structure. Tabitha explained she had now turned professional and was riding out once a week whilst Harriet said she had been with the team for

five years and looks after a few horses and the racing tack. It was then pointed out by Robin that she was also brilliant at looking after injured horses and was a year away from qualifying as a veterinary nurse. Ceris is the yards conditional jockey joining the yard after doing her work experience there and Jack is one of the main riders who tends to ride when lower weights are required. Robin described himself and the yard as a village shop up against the supermarkets. He left school at 14 to join Frenchie Nicholson as a flat rider and went on to score 3 wins... and then 112 over the jumps. He moved onto David Nicholsons' yard and learned to have high standards in everything he does even down to wearing the right

attire to arrive at the course. Tweed for country courses and pinstripe suits for London are the way to go to look the part and Robin added he can't bear to look at the state of some of the jockeys walking the course these days which caused much navel gazing and giggling by all four of his staff!

Tabitha explained that she is based at Laura Morgan's yard (who buys quite a few of Jonjo O'Neil's horses) and just wants to stay injury free while she builds her career. Jack said being based in Newmarket was a help to him getting rides and he set the target of 20 winners and 250 rides for the season. He rides the exciting Kalashnikov for Amy Murphy who has already picked up a grade 1 at Aintree and is currently being primed for the Old Roan chase. Ceris told how she had no pony club or point to point experience but got into racing through enjoying her work experience so much at the yard. She now gets a few rides and claims 10lbs and thinks of herself purely as a jockey rather than a female jockey. Harriet, who has no interest in becoming a jockey is in the yard by 06.30 in the morning and rides out 4 lots, she takes a great deal

of pride in how the horses are presented on the course and wins best turned on a regular basis. Robin was asked about Towcester and said he hoped racing would resume there as around 20% of his winners had come from there. He then went on to talk about staffing and levels and said he couldn't work out how the hell you staff up when you have 180 horses in training. He made the suggestion that there should be a limit to the numbers of horses allowed at a yard especially in Ireland which Harriet agreed with, the thinking being that horses would get more individual time and staff have more of a team ethos. Robin also explained that he likes to have girls on his team as he thinks they have less of an ego than boys and are therefore less bother. Jack added that he was in touch with his feminine side so perhaps that was how he got his rides.

Roger asked Harriet about her favourite course – Ludlow – and her least favourite – Worcester (how very dare she), which seemed to revolve around canteens and how to get there. Pleased to report that after constructive talks with certain parties during the interval Worcester is now off

Harriet's naughty step. There was a general talk about how well people were looked after at different courses with ARC courses being praised for their efforts to look after owners and staff and with Jack commenting how nice the sandwiches were in the jockey's room at Worcester – with only a sly look at Harriet as he said it. Ceris added that female facilities are adequate and getting better at courses although as she hasn't been riding too long she didn't know how bad they may have been.

There was then a discussion around how to get people into ownership, which gave Robin a chance to talk about his racing club which you can join for £300 of your hard earned and gives you chance to get the race day owner experience and lots of stable visits etc. After this, talk turned to whips with Ceris explaining that all new jocks have to have a coach which helps when and how to use the whip. It was also discussed how in the heat of battle a jockey was unlikely to be counting how many times he may have used the whip. Stable star Thomas Crapper was the next item to crop up with Robin telling how he couldn't

think of a name for him until he saw a sign at a Victorian bathroom store when out for a stroll and then stopped to ask if he could use the name. All of the team then described in glowing terms their associations with the horse.

Lastly Roger asked for tips for the coming season which all seem to revolve around a horse called Three Bullet Gate although Jack did say Carole's Templar from Amy Murphy's yard was exciting. All in all then a very interesting and fun night (some stories have been withheld to protect the guilty) and many thanks to all who took part.



Write up thanks go to Mike Lawrence.

Summer Diary By Jo O'Neill

The end of April saw a best friend leave racing: Carolyn White, head of travelling for Doctor Newland. She worked in racing for years and we first met on an overnight at Ayr in 2009. I learnt a lot from Carolyn, called her my "adoptive mum" and always looked forward to seeing her, whatever corner of the country. Her leading up 2014 Grand National winner was a proud moment – watching a friend do that. The doyenne of best-turnouts, Carolyn rightfully won many. I am going to miss seeing her around, as will many others.

20th May:

Forza Milan (Foz) left to go to Ireland, to trainer James Nash. I was sorry to see the tall, lanky, beautiful gelding leave – he was crazy to ride but sweet to look after. He gave me a great day in February winning at Sandown. I wish Foz lots of luck but the way he literally galloped up the ramp of the transporter, Foz was quite happy to go or thought he was going on holiday!

8th June:

Jonjo Junior held his 21st birthday party in the renamed party field (usually the Plough field as it's opposite the pub), in a series of tepee-tents. What a night it was! The theme was Gatsby, and everyone dressed up accordingly. I left at 03:20, having danced only once as I was chatting a lot – and could barely see driving up the private road to work for 08:00. Ben Haig was seven minutes late and that was after John Dina had woken him up with drips from a wet sponge. Head lad, Johnny Kavanagh had wanted him to use a bucketful of water!



14th June:

Big Penny ran at Aintree, but she was unenthusiastic, especially when Richard Johnson applied pressure. She stopped quickly and "showjumped" the last. Head of travelling, Harrison Day and I still had a lovely evening and Penny looked pretty enough to win best-turned-out, my first at Aintree for years.

16th June:

The Cheltenham Challenge is an annual run, ranging from half marathon, 10k and 5k, which I did. It began at the racecourse, very near the Best Mate statue. It was fun to run around the perimeter of the track. Past the empty metal frames that hold the sponsorship boards seen on TV coverage, round the sales stabling and the canteen, back past the stands and Centaur to the finish line. It started in bright sunshine and finished in a deluge, so it was like any other race day!



Racing Staff Week 2019

29th June – 6th July:

This was a quiet week with few runners, so sadly no golden tickets or hampers were won. Yet, on the Wednesday, Jonjo and Jacqui arranged a staff fish ‘n’ chips evening. There were clusters of people sat on the grass oval in first yard, drinking the beer and white wine, chatting and laughing. The yard dog pack, Hughie, Daisy, Vinnie, Bruce and puppy Jasper,

played, begged, probably ate a few chips and charged about. Inevitably, a small group of us ended up down the Plough and shared two (or was it three?) jugs of Turbo Pimm’s and some luminous green shots, for which Harrison was fully to blame. The next day, the Racing Welfare representative brought us glazed doughnuts and Malteser cupcakes, which were delicious and nursed a few twinges of hangovers.

Morgan Roach, who started here earlier this year having come from the Northern Racing School, achieved Employee of the Month, a popular incentive that ran for a couple of seasons before being recently resurrected. Morgan has worked very hard in the ‘spa’ where horses wear magnotherapy rugs or ice boots or stand beneath the solarium, all to maintain their health and wellbeing. Morgan won a well-deserved bottle of bubbly.



The Pool

Federico Bazan, Madalin Radu (Doc) and honorary members of the maintenance team undertook the challenge of finding a leak in the pool, as well as repainting it. Firstly, the pool was drained for the first time in nine years. It is far deeper than you realise with sharp, steep downwards slopes. The emptied pool was cleaned with an acid wash, taking on an abandoned appearance; one of haunting, or a shipwreck. It was then dried out and had two coats of paint like a light bright summer sky, edged in sunny yellow. It then took longer than a fortnight to refill to halfway over the filtration vents. It resembled a brand-new pool, sparkly and blue as a newly opened lido. “For humans, not horses,” Doc stated with a grin. “At least, humans don’t s**t in it.” You’d at least hope not, I silently mused.

5th July:

Today was the sad passing of ‘Big Mac’, John McCririck – like Marmite, people loved him or hated him. For me, he’ll always be synced with Channel 4 Racing; his waving arms performing tic-tac, nicknames for fellow presenters, endless enthusiasm and his utter devotion to racing. On The Morning Line, the day after Imperial Commander won his Gold Cup, he was attired in the black and white scarves and woolly hat of Newcastle United, for both he and the owners were supporters. I could never dislike a figure so funny, controversial and such a lover of this sport.

The staff turnover in racing is always high and most people leave quietly, especially during summertime when everyone flits in and out of work on holiday. All except Lucy Westlake, who has been here a year, going part-time in the winter due to hunting. She left to work with hunters fulltime. On her last day, she was unceremoniously hurled into the (clean!) pool. Being so slight and tiny, the lads launched her pretty high, resulting in a big splash. Dripping, she was then pounced on and smeared in Sudocrem and

Harrison attacked with the purple antiseptic spray. No matter how much Lucy writhed, wriggled and hollered, the cream kept on being liberally applied.

At the start of the month, the Hollow Bottom pub in Guiting Power shut, having gone bust. It was the haunt of Nigel Twiston-Davies and his staff: every Christmas party, parading the three Festival winners amid big crowds, winner celebrations, brunches in snowy winters, monthly cheesy discos, an infamous St Trinian's night when all dressed as schoolgirls, my surprise 30th and a lot of other parties. I haven't been "out" there for years, only for lunches, but I was saddened to hear of its closure because of those memories.

12th July:

Another friend Rachael Phillips left racing after twenty years, having initially worked for Mark Rimmel, looking after Oneway. Ten years ago, Rach came to work for Nigel Twiston-Davies, where she looked after many Cheltenham winners including Double Ross, a Grand Sefton winner Little Josh and a Grand National best-turned-out too. We always laughed a lot

and working with Rach was fun. Poignantly, Double Ross and Rach have retired from racing at the same time, and I wish Rach loads of luck for the future.



Rachael Phillips

16th July:

Big Penny was sold at Ascot Sales. Her last few runs had been lacklustre, and she'd failed to shine in blinkers last time out at Uttoxeter. She's joined a small trainer so, hopefully, she'll freshen up in a new routine. It proved a sad day for me when Doesyourdogbite (Gromit) retired – two I looked after and rode out gone! I was especially sorry to hear about Grom – sorry but simultaneously relieved that he retired without being totally

broken. I always loved his friendly persona and will never forget his win at Kempton on Boxing Day. There were many places too; my favourite being a second at Chester.

2nd August:

My mind had been on Grommy and Penny; I missed two of my favourite (quiet!) rides. Then, I fell off a fresh March Is On (Marty). I don't know if he bucked but he'd spooked once at the slap of a whip and then at it again! He cantered off left, head disappearing, and I landed on the grass! Marty galloped off, through some undergrowth and was caught by the pens. In my defence, it was my first fall in ages.

This summer, we had a lovely bunch of people. Petra Florinová returned for the umpteenth time, having finished university in Germany before leaving to start veterinary studies in her native Czech Republic. Two part-timers joined us in July, best friends Izzy and Lizzy. Izzy Farnese is a former Big Brother contestant who is an experienced work-rider in Newmarket but has decided to stay on here awhile longer. Lizzy Prosser, from Cheltenham, has unfortunately

returned to New Zealand to work on a thoroughbred stud farm. 18-year-old JP Lombard came here for a few weeks from Cork with an old head on young shoulders; an experienced rider and natural horseman. He had a great time, including nights out and an evening at the Festival. JP returned home to finish his Leaving Cert, promising to return in his Christmas holidays! Smiley, bubbly Katie Stubbs made a brilliant start, moving from Shap, Cumbria and starting to drive the two-boxes. She then got kicked at the bottom of the gallops, continued to canter up the gallops and worked the rest of the day. That evening, she went to A&E and an x-ray showed a clear break to her fib! She is currently swinging about on crutches, bored and impatient to mend.

After a busy, eventful summer, everyone is eager for the new season to start properly. Roll on the autumn.

See you racing soon.

Jo x

UPTON VIVA STUD

I hope this summer has been good for everyone and that the weather has been kind to you all. For us we have had mostly warm sunny days with a little rain from time to time enabling our foals to thrive as well as our young stock.



Since the last newsletter we have had one more foal, another colt by Kayf Tara out of Free Thinking. He was born on the 26th of May and we have given him the stable name Jim. Unlike our first two colts this one arrived 10 days early and much to my delight being a colt has made life simpler as logistically, three colts and one filly would have presented

a difficult management issue down the line. He is a bonny colt, very correct and bold, much like our other three.

As Free Thinking foaled so late in the season we have rested her this time and will put her under lights in early January 2020 for what will hopefully be an early cover. Last year the Winter and early Spring was so mild that all four of our empty mares cycled early enough to be covered shortly after the beginning of the new season which starts February 14th..... very apt! Unfortunately for me this will mean early foals, our first being due on the 15th of January 2020. I know in the flat racing world this is not unusual and early foals are the norm however for us as a national hunt stud this is quite early as we don't normally start to foal until March. Tidara Angel is our 2nd to foal, due 20th of January to Nathaniel. For her, being a flat bred mare by Oratorio this hopefully will have its benefits if her offspring were to run on the flat as is hoped. With all the excitement and

hype surrounding Enable over the Summer (her sire being Nathaniel) this is one foal I can't wait to meet.

All our foals including Jim, were able to stay out at night by the end of June and as all coverings were finished the mares and foals were able to enjoy the rest of the summer out at grass. Before being turned away a great deal of handling of the youngsters was done, they have all been taught to lead off the head collar and will now stand happily for the farrier who they see every four weeks initially and six weeks thereafter.

Of our nine broodmares seven are in foal with Liberthine and Free Thinking rested. Libby was due to visit Sir Percy but developed severe lymphangitis and combined with a very greedy foal who took a lot out of her we took the decision to rest her this time.

In May we saw the much anticipated arrival of a new tractor and two new pieces of paddock management kit, which I mentioned briefly in the

last newsletter. After using this equipment for the last three months I can now not imagine ever being without them. The difference both the "poo picker" and topper has made is unbelievable. The paddocks are much improved as they are both cleaner and have less mature weeds in them. We have been able to rotate the pasture in such a way that we can graze, clean/top/rest and only occasionally spot spray. Healthy grassland makes for healthy horses.....

In late May, Blue a two year old filly out of Shatabdi by Blue Bresil developed yet another foot abscess. This poor girl had suffered all winter on and off with repeated foot abscesses and we thought this was just another few days of poulticing once the vet had been to dig out the offending area of foot. By now I should have learnt not to just assume anything.....after four days of repeated poulticing Blue was no sounder so we took her up to our veterinary practice for x rays. This was her first trip in a lorry and with the aid of our loading ramp she

safely hopped on. However, on arrival at the vets and even with some sedation she refused to unload! As this was her first trip I wanted it to be a good experience and so stood with her quietly uttering sounds of encouragement..... for almost 4 hours. Even with the help of several vet nurses, food and grass she stubbornly refused to budge.



Any attempt of pushing her off resulted in her reversing at great speed to the back of the box! In such a confined space dealing with what had now become a feral whirling dervish was not my idea of a fun way to spend an afternoon. I fully appreciated that taking her weight onto the affected front foot going down the ramp was probably causing her

some discomfort which was why we had given her some sedation but I later decided that she was just enjoying testing my patience! Eventually and after all avenues had been tried and I was sat drinking my umpteenth cup of coffee on the ramp holding onto the lunge line she walked off quietly on her terms wondering what all the fuss was about

Unfortunately for Blue the x-rays showed that she had not one but four tracts of pus within her foot, two of which had made their way to the pedal bone. She underwent surgery to debride the infected bone and remained at the vets for almost 4 weeks. She was on IV medication and swabs taken during the surgery revealed that she basically had developed MRSA. It was a very long haul and there were times I wasn't sure if she would ever come home but due to the diligence of vets and nurses alike at Avonvale Veterinary Practice she did recover. We still have a long way to go as she lost such a large area of the sole of her foot but I can finally see the light at the end

of the tunnel. Considering she has been stabled all summer she is coping remarkably well for one so young and I'm hoping that she can return to the field in another month or so. Obviously until new foot has grown this is not possible as she needs to keep the exposed sensitive tissue covered and free from any bacteria. The picture below is what her foot looked like at the beginning of September



Over the summer our five three-year-olds and seven two year-olds have all been to Jamie Goss to be backed. For the three-year-olds this is their second visit and all appeared to have remembered the basic education learnt from last year. One of these, a filly known as Evie seems so forward that

she will be going into training in France very shortly after some time out in the field. The only three-year-old gelding we have who is known as Fletch, will also be going into training, with Olly Murphy in the autumn with a view to running in a bumper next spring if he copes well enough with the work. Two of the other fillies are still quite immature and so will winter out at home. The last filly, Shara, has unfortunately not shown an aptitude to be a racehorse so will be turned away and possibly sold as a prospective brood mare in the future when there is an appropriate sale for her as she is very well bred and all her siblings have won races.

Of the two-year-olds we have found out quite a lot about each individual, or rather Jamie has! A couple of them who appeared quite laid-back and easy-going at home changed dramatically once being ridden. Their basic education started with being long-reined and or lunged however one filly, Willow, was so strong and forward going that she was sat on a lot earlier than the

others and still took a firm hold. Heather our Authorised filly appears to be very precocious and has already gone to into training with Richard Hannon to possibly run on the flat as a three year old. Our smallest filly, Maroochi, is said to be a "pocket rocket" and thoroughly enjoyed being ridden and even led some of the older horses up the gallops. Mentally she is very switched on but physically still very immature so she along with the other 6 will spend the winter out at home to return to Jamie next spring.

The racehorses have all summered well and those that are in training elsewhere have all now returned back to their trainers. Before they left they all had regular physio and chiro treatments, teeth were rasped, vaccinations given and all received a clean bill of health ready for the forthcoming season. Before leaving, they also benefited from extensive flat and grid work in our school to help them with their concentration and ability when jumping.

One who seemed to thoroughly

enjoy this type of work was a new acquisition, Lust for Glory. Bought in May, as part of a dispersal sale she was in training with Nicky Henderson and has returned to Seven Barrows to start her chasing career this season. The french bred Santa Adelia, after 12 months off through injury, has been bought slowly back into work at Upton and has now gone to Warren Greatrex to start training for her UK debut. She is closely related to Smad Place so we are all greatly looking forward to her first run.....



July and August brought lots of visitors to the stud and it was certainly enjoyable showing off our horses and also very interesting to see what other people thought of them. What one person would rave about

as a standout individual was not necessarily what the next person would like. Each person has their own idea of what a good racehorse should look like and as we have several generations of different types of thoroughbred, we will all have to wait and see who, how and which ones makes it onto the racecourse. It was a pleasure to meet some of the Cheltenham and Three Counties Race Club albeit on a rather miserable and damp Saturday morning and after a leisurely walk around the paddocks we visited a local pub for lunch. I hope you all enjoyed your visit and look forward to meeting you again next year.

July saw the ever popular Upton House horse trials take place. This is an annual event organised by Jessica Thomas daughter of Robert Waley-Cohen, proprietor of Upton Viva Stud. The trials have become increasingly popular over the last few years with many of the top eventing riders taking part, including Britain's number one Piggy French. The course is over many acres

of historic parkland with the back drop of Upton House making for some wonderful photographs of competitors jumping the double roll tops on the cross country course. Each of the cross-country fences are sponsored by local business's.



With the nights drawing in and a chill in the air autumn is almost upon us which can only mean one thing the National Hunt season will soon be here and irrespective of the weather, we will all be glued to our TV sets or actually visiting a racecourse every Saturday afternoon. Best of luck to you all, whether an owner or just an avid fan and most of all may all our four-legged heroes and heroines come home safe.

JLB

Publication No. 332 - Sept/Oct 2019

President: Alastair Down

Vice President: Edward Gillespie

www.ctcrc.co.uk

info@ctcrc.co.uk

Twitter: twitter.com/CTCRaceClub

Facebook: Cheltenham and Three Counties Race Club

Regular club meetings held at:

The New Victory Club,

Burlington House,

Lypiatt Road,

Cheltenham,

GL50 2SY.

01242 690351

Contact Details:

Chairman: Sarah Matthews ctcrcchairman@gmail.com

Vice Chair and Secretary: Helen Cameron

Treasurer: Colin Nelson cn005a2768@blueyonder.co.uk 01242 578634

Membership Secretary: David Bishop bishopdjk@aol.com 01451 821216

Stable visit organiser: Sarah Matthews ctcrcstablevisits@gmail.com

07729 847724

Magazine Editor: Sarah Matthews ctcrcnewsletter@gmail.com

Valued Committee Members:

Peter Collier, Rosemarie Davies, Mike Lawrence,

Antonia Lord, David Miller,

Disclaimer:All opinions expressed are the personal views of the authors. CTCRC and the editor take no responsibility for the accuracy of the contents. All photographs are used under copyright and may not be reproduced without permission.

Club Events and Magazine are on the website so please keep checking.