

*Winter 2020*



# **FINISH LINE**

**Cheltenham & Three Counties Race Club**



*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to One and All*

## TIPSTER COMPETITION UPDATE

A reassuringly increased total of **327** Line Entries were received for the 2020-2021 Tipster Competition, **which is 42 (15%) more entries than last season.** Considering the combined difficulties arising from Covid-19 it is a magnificent response on the part of all you members/new members and non-members who continue to support this long-running Competition that has raised so much funds for Racing Charities over the past 30 years.

The last eighteen days of November saw forty-five horses record a total of **347 points** to leave the end of November Leaderboard as below, with only reigning Champion, **Richard Shaw**, featuring in the **TOP TEN**.

Meanwhile, in a 'short' month', our Congratulations go to **Jim Clark** who will receive £10.

**NB: ALL prizes will be confirmed and paid out after the end of the competition.**

POSITION	NAME			NOVEMBER MONTH	NOVEMBER CUM'VE
1	JIM	CLARK	A	120	120
2	KEITH	APPLETON	B	110	110
3	KEITH	APPLETON	E	105	105
3=	MARK	STRANGWARD	C	105	105
5=	JIM	CLARK	D	100	100
5=	MICHAEL	OGILVY	G	100	100
5=	RICHARD	SHAW	A	100	100
5=	KEN	WATKINS	C	100	100
9=	KEITH	APPLETON	A	95	95
9=	PETER	BATT	B	95	95
9=	DAVID	BISHOP	C	95	95
9=	PHILLIP	MANN	B	95	95
9=	ALAN	WELLSTEED	L	95	95

Please don't forget that you can track the status of your entries on-line by accessing [www.ctcrc.co.uk](http://www.ctcrc.co.uk), selecting 'MENU' and then 'Tipsters Competition'.

If you have any questions about your entry, or its status, please contact Tony Coleman either on 07795 146242 or by e-mail at [tonyandles@aol.com](mailto:tonyandles@aol.com).

## The Adventures of Dodge and Pacha

So, as for everyone this has been a very unusual year for us all at Perrys Bridge. With the ups and downs that has come with the current situation, this summer hasn't gone as we had planned. We had plans of showing, competing and going off taking part in all sorts of activities and fun to be had for us all. Unfortunately, the world had different ideas for us.



Each week the organiser, Gary Kirton, messaged me and asked me to be a guest speaker on one of the race nights. He asked me to talk about the 8 years I worked full time with Paul Nicholls and some of my best memories. Some of which were obviously Dodge and his magical season of 14/15 and Pacha winning his two Cheltenham Fox Hunters. And what I was up to these days with riding out and looking after the horses for Paul that need a bit of extra care and attention at home on the farm.



There have been a few things that we have been getting up to from the comfort of the farm at home. The Owners Group, which is one of the syndicates that have horses with us in Ditchheat, started running virtual race nights on Facebook.

My brother and I took a journey up north, once the lockdown restrictions had lifted slightly. I purchased a 3.5ton lorry so we went on a day trip to buy it and pick it up. Ready for the events to be back in full swing when this madness is hopefully all over.



As Dodge was one of the horses that was chosen by a member to race, I said that I'd get some photos of the boys for them to use as a bit of fun for the other members. I was very pleased that I was asked to speak on the show, it was a great idea over the lockdown period as there was no real racing happening. They were raising money for a charity and as it was such a hit they are carrying on each Friday evening, a bit of fun and keeping all the members in touch with a light hearted evening of racing.



We all enjoyed a bit of pampering over the lockdown period, but I defiantly think the boys came out of it looking much better then I did. From their brushing, the sun on their backs, lots of treats and lovely relaxing adventures around the countryside. I think they were quite spoilt.



But they went one step further... they had their Equisage treatments to go alongside all of this too. Dodge in particular enjoyed this very much. He would stand in the stable with all the gear on and just nuzzle the wall of the stable. He had the lovely Laura in hysterics the first time she came to visit the boys. I just wish I could attach a video of him on this post. He's a very special boy indeed. He enjoys the treatments so much and they help him considerably. He's now an old man with a lot of miles on the clock after all the years of being a superstar in racing as well as out.



A few weeks on, the end of lockdown appeared, thankfully. I received a message from a lady wanting to take some photos of the boys for a project that she is working on. It goes without saying that's they were complete professionals, beautiful and doing their mum proud.

A pair of complete beauties. I think they have found a new career in modelling if nothing else.

Hope you all have had a good and safe lockdown. Wishing you all the best, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

love Lucy, Dodge and Pacha x

## John Hales Article

The season is now properly underway and we are delighted with the start we have made. From Dan Skelton's yard we saw Protektorat over fences for the first time with a convincing win at Carlisle followed by another impressive performance with his win at Cheltenham. Those performances have now made him the most highly rated novice in the country. We believe he has a great future with the combination of pace and stamina. We may be dreaming but the target is the Gold cup in 2022. Only yesterday we finally had our reward with Eclair Danaï. Since coming over from France he has been plagued with injuries but we finally got our reward when he went over fences for the first time and produced a brilliant performance when winning at 12 to 1 at Chepstow. This is a very well bred horse and he travelled like a very good horse and his jumping was excellent.

With Paul Nicholls we have also had a good start with Monmiral winning his first race in the UK following his win at Auteuil in Paris. Politologue has impressed in training and he will be well prepared for the Tingle Creek. In our Gi Gi syndicate Flash Collonges got off to a winning start at Exeter and now goes to Doncaster for his next race. Also we have an exciting new recruit from France "Good Ball" by Doctor Dino. He was very impressive on his recent run in France and stands 16. 3 hands. He has gone to Paul Nicholls. Fidelio Vallis was a disappointing 5th in his hurdle race but now will go over fences. This is what we planned for him and we believe he will be very good over fences. It has been a very encouraging start so now we hope will be onwards and upwards. I would like to thank all the race courses for making the racing experience as enjoyable as possible in very difficult circumstances. A big thank you.

Editor: Congratulations with Politologue winning the Tingle Creek

## It's Cheltenham..... but not as we know it!

They say 'absence makes the heart grow fonder'. I have no idea who first said this but I am fairly sure they were not talking about horse racing! However, these last few months, for many of us, it is a saying that rings true. March was the last time we had managed to go racing together; a summer and early autumn that would usually have been filled with trips to the races was much quieter. We managed the occasional walk around Lambourn and around the footpath that surrounds Prestbury Park and resigned ourselves to a patient wait.

Out of the blue, the telephone 'pinged' with a message from our syndicate manager floating the possibility of our horse, Jen's Boy, being entered for the amateurs race on the Saturday of the Cheltenham October meeting. We immediately checked the TV schedules to see where we could watch not thinking for a moment that there would be a chance for us both to be there in person; even when we applied for badges it was very much more in hope than expectation. We could scarcely believe it when the email arrived

to say there was a badge available for both of us! Katie quickly scanned the declarations to see who else was running and came flying up the stairs with a big smile and a sparkle in her eyes; Frodon was on the card too.

In normal times we arrive at the race course ridiculously early. We always do; it's part of the routine of the day. This time we decided that as there would be so few people we would leave it a bit later; only to arrive and end up being parked almost at the front door. Of course we knew things would be different but pulling up in the car park really brought home the scale of the change. Even with our usual early start the car parks would be filling up, the tannoy would be chirping away about touts, someone would be outside selling the Post and Timeform and a steady flow of people would be making their way through the gate. This time we were almost on our own.

So with face masks on we headed to the entrance to collect our badges. Although the rules on wearing face masks had not kicked in, the very large majority of people wore masks inside and out all the time anyway. In our experience social distancing was

followed throughout. The staff, complete with masks and screens were very welcoming, checked our photo id and confirmation that we had taken the required training. We were then each given a wrist band and asked to go to another person who took our temperatures twice using what looked like a ray gun from Thunderbirds! Only then could we go into the course, to be met by more folk who gave us a race card (a large sheet of A5 paper) and explained where we could and could not go.



There was still a buzz stepping into the course, the big screen was chattering away as usual there were stewards dotted around in their red Jockey Club coats. But where there would normally be a flow of race goers there was nobody, just rows of temporary metal fences and gates complete with colour coded signs; Amber for owners. Hand sanitising stations were dotted around too. With the sound

of Lara Telfer's wonderful singing voice coming over the speakers (she really is very good) Katie and I decided to explore and work out where we were allowed to go and where it would be best to take photos of JB.

We quickly realised that the Shute and that side of the course were out of bounds so we walked up past the Parade Ring; noticing, not surprisingly, that the path alongside the Weighing Room was also closed. The temporary building alongside the pre parade ring once used by Members had changed and was now an additional Weighing Room. As we walked up the slope almost alone we heard a muffled 'hello Katie' from behind us. We span round and there, a good long distance away, was Bryony who had just been out to walk the course. She'd spotted Katie's pink hat. As you can imagine the Junior Jumper was over the moon. There were no hugs this time, just a quick chat from a long way off (much more than 2 metres) but even so it set up the day very nicely indeed. We discovered that we could see the horses in the pre Parade Ring and the Parade Ring although parts of it were fenced off to make sure there were big spaces between

owners and the stable staff and jockeys. Where in usual times there would be a sea of people, this time there were fences and barriers. We noticed throughout the day staff were on hand to wipe down surfaces and spray what we imagined to be disinfectant. The stewards were very helpful, all masked up and distancing, but keen to show us where we could go to get the best views of the horses. We then made our way to the track itself. The whole area around the Centaur and Tatts was closed off as was the Members Steppings. The lower part of the other Steppings was free as was part of the Lawn too so there was the usual great view. Owners had access to a couple of floors where there was a bar and food. Trainers, of course, could not mix with us this time. When it came to the first race we knew where we were going and headed to the Parade ring to see Nordano, Bryony's ride. The atmosphere was different to say the least! There were only a few people standing around the parade ring and the normal Cheltenham buzz for the first race had gone but the overwhelming feeling of excitement was still with us. Seeing the horses walk round the parade ring in the flesh was very special

having had to watch on TV for so long. Even though Nordano was rather disappointing only finishing fifth out of the six runners it was so good to be back racing again. A Paul Nicholls horse, Southfield Stone won the second race; in the nearly empty track Katie called out her congratulations and had a huge smile on her face when Harry Cobden acknowledged her comment with a smile and a thank you. These little moments mean so much to a young racing fan at the best of times; today it meant just a little bit more.

There is no denying it, racing in a nearly empty Cheltenham is not the same. There were occasions during the afternoon that were tailor made for a huge roar from the crowd, instead we clapped as loud as we could from the nearly empty Stand while 'inspiring' music played over the tannoy to welcome the victors. But it was Cheltenham, the horses were as magnificent, the races incredibly exciting and the buzz of watching the stars was as great as ever it was. It's to the credit of the Cheltenham staff that they created a safe environment to allow the racing to continue.

I read a comment on Social Media the other day which read

"Bryony and Frodon, the best combination since sponge and custard". I personally would have gone for apple pie but hey! While the previous race was still on we stood alone on the steps of the pre Parade ring to watch Frode enter the fray with a certain swagger. He is the kind of racehorse that knows how good he is and isn't afraid to tell anyone. His coat was shining and he looked fantastic.



Katie followed him to the Parade Ring and shouted a muffled good luck to Bryony as they headed off to the track. You'll all know what happened next. Up the hill, with many of his opponents having already pulled up stumps, despite the soft ground, carrying huge lumps of extra weight and with the tough three miles behind him, there was absolutely no way he was ever going to let the very talented West Approach get past him. He jumped like a rabbit all the way round and fought to the

line like a brave lion. All that was missing was the crowd. Katie and I cheered, punched the air and shouted muffled up in our face masks in the almost empty Stand. Any other year the place would have erupted, B would have ridden him into the winners enclosure to a wall of adulation, excitement and joy. But this time it was only me, Katie and a few other hardy souls who cheered him in. Almost as he crossed the line Katie ran straight down to the Shute with the biggest smile on her masked face. She ran close to the spot where Kate and the stable staff were waiting for Frode to return; although they were a good distance away (way over 2 metres) they noticed Katie and called over to her; another special moment on a special day. For a moment she felt part of the team. Katie called a big well done to Bryony as she rode past.



Frodon coming into the winners.

For a few moments the trials and tribulations of life faded away; the worries about what the future holds for us and our sport vanished into the Cotswold mist; it was all about one horse, one rider and being able to share a special moment with Katie.



If we were excited about Frodon, the butterflies were very much in evidence as we stood with our syndicate friends (in masks and at least 2 metres apart) to watch with a lot of pride our Boy in the Parade Ring at Cheltenham. He looked an absolute picture and hopes were high of a good performance but above all that he'd return safe and sound. Unfortunately for us the race was over very quickly. He took a knock and the jockey, very correctly pulled him up after the second. The news that he had not done anything serious was in many ways the best part of the day.

We were pleased to get back to the car after the last. It was dark, cold and we were both very wet. We sat for a minute to reflect on the day and to watch the few remaining owners make their way home. The colours of the big screen TV danced in the puddles as the car slowly warmed up. We didn't say much but I think we were both just trying to get the last out of what was a memorable day. It is likely to be a long time before we get to go racing together again, let alone Cheltenham. It's a great pity but we were so blessed to have the chance to go at least once and go away with some memories which will stay with us for a long time.

### ***Katie and David Miller***

**Editor:** If you haven't bought Lara Telfer's CD please do. Raising money for 2 great charities.



## An Interview with Donna Hills

Donna Hills, 45, was always at the races with the runners of Champion trainer Paul Nicholls as well as managing the kit and logistical organisation of a busy, successful racing yard. Since 1998, she has been a colossal part of the Ditcheat yard and still rides out there today. Originally from Bath, Donna is married to Paul, and has a three and a half year old son called Henry.

*Did you have a horsey childhood?* I was riding before I could walk due to my very horsey family, spending all my spare time on ponies and horses.

*How did you get into racing?* I found myself in racing after deciding to take a break from hairdressing (I worked in a salon for nearly seven years). I had always said I would not work full time with horses as it would take away the passion for my own horses and competing. Sadly injury side-lined my horses for a while, so I went to ride out part time in Ditcheat, and so it began and I have been on the payroll

until this day and for many more no doubt! My position developed quickly into travelling.



*During your time at PFN's, which days stand out for you personally?*

Over the years I have travelled many many miles and attended countless meetings and been honoured to lead in hundreds of winners for Paul, in the UK, Ireland and France.

Experienced intense emotion, elation, disappointment and relief with staff, owners and Paul himself.

To pinpoint any experiences that stand out is difficult, as many know I worked with the golden

boys Kauto Star, Denman, Master Minded, Big Bucks and Neptune Collonges (to name a few!) There have been many lovely memories made. A fantastic era.

A day that brought me to tears before a race was when Kauto headed off to the Betfair Chase at Haydock Park, this race, should he not perform, would be his last so already the thoughts of what might happen were running through my head...

What if he falls?

What if he isn't ok after?

Everything you normally think about before a race was intensifying.



As we walked into the paddock, myself and the late Rose Loxton a close friend and colleague, on the other side the sight of the Kauto scarves and hats was simply overwhelming, everyone was there to see him that day from race day

crowds, officials, jockeys and staff from other yards. Everyone started cheering, clapping and waving their scarves as he walked around the paddock, the atmosphere was incredible...this horse had the people's hearts as well as ours. And he was just awesome to be around. Words simply cannot describe how the laps of the paddock felt, so proud, a very emotional experience. Kauto walked around in his normal manner, unfazed and ready to do his job even with all the claps and cheers. As I let him go, I was overwhelmed to say the very least! He won again but, most importantly, he was safe coming home to Ditcheat. Winning the Grand National was also the most incredible day, Nipper (Neptune Collonges) was always top class but Kauto and Denman were around and he was slightly shadowed by their triumphs but this was his day! The wait for the photo finish seemed like an eternity, I couldn't stop shaking. And what a day it was for him, greatly deserved. The drive home with his name on the lorry saying 'Grand National Winner' was an interesting drive... toots from everyone and people waving out of their windows, not to mention the reception at the

yard when we arrived back. Clare, who looked after him and I floated home in the two-box with him, the four-and-a-half-hour drive home was a short one that day, for sure! An incredible day for the team. I could write for days about the horses I work with and the stories.



*What was your favourite overnighter?* Should I be staying away overnight in the UK, I would without question say Ayr, a very welcoming racecourse with great accommodation for the staff and

a fantastic two days of racing with the Scottish national meeting. And, of course, a great social scene to unwind after racing. In Ireland, I would have to say the Galway Festival was my favourite overnight, the whole of Galway is geared up for the racing. It was an amazing experience every time especially when we won the Galway Plate with Oslot, a horse I rode at home daily. I will also have to mention racing in France as a fantastic away trip, so different to how we do things here in the UK and Ireland. It was incredibly easy to get to with the Euro Tunnel. Riding out in Maison-Laffitte, where we stabled for racing at Auteuil, was good fun and different, seeing all the yards and horses there. The horses always ran very well and enjoyed the trip!

*What made you feel like stepping down from the Head of Travelling to PFN?*

I stopped travelling with the horses when I was eight months pregnant for obvious reasons, the hard work then began! I returned to ride out for the first time five weeks after my son was born which felt amazing, the time away from the saddle was too long.

I have ridden out daily since.

*How has life been since you left?*

My life since becoming a mum is very different to the days travelling up and down the country daily but I very much have the perfect measures now, I have an amazing husband, son and a job doing what I love and many stories to tell. I have the experience to share with all as there is not many questions I can't answer!



*What does racing mean to you?*

It goes without saying that racing to me is a lifestyle and anyone who has worked for any length of time in the industry will understand this, the passion takes over. I am a long serving member of a fabulous team and lucky to work alongside some outstanding people and horses, past and present. I have always felt proud to work for Paul and alongside head lad Clifford Baker, two great and

hugely committed men.

I genuinely feel lucky to do a job that I want to do every day and I can't imagine how it must feel to dislike your job...rubbish, I guess! I still use my hairdressing skills and have a regular client, which I fit in around the yard and family, I have never stopped using this skill alongside racing.



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to one and all.

By Jo O'Neill

Editors Note: It was always a pleasure to see Donna at the races and have a quick chat.

## Article by Jo O'Neill

This season, with Jonjo Junior having ridden out his claim, the yard has two new conditionals – Kevin Brogan, 20, from County Kildare and Philip Armson, 20, whose dad is the permit holder Richard Armson. Phil rode his first winner for us in a bumper on Rabski at Ffos Las and Kev rode his at the October meeting on Tegerek over hurdles.

Kev came from Gordon Elliott's and has also spent time with Ted Walsh; he also went through RACE, the racing academy in the Curragh. Phil said one of his favourite jobs in the past was for Donald McCain where, as then an amateur, he got many opportunities to school.



In October, the yard received four gorgeously huge cakes from

owners Sir and Lady Broughton, in the flavours of lemon, millionaire's, Victoria and carrot. All were amazing and sent via a company called Sponge Club, to wish us luck for the season ahead. Nick Healy, for his 22nd birthday, brought in lots of cupcakes, there were vast brownies and more cupcakes from the Cotswold Larder and, on our owner and sponsor Martin Tedham's 60th there was a cake in his yellow and navy colours with sparkles and us all tunelessly singing 'Happy Birthday'. His colours had been depicted so realistically; there was the wrinkles of the elasticated cuffs, buttons and even the cap all in perfect icing.

So, on top of sausage roll Wednesdays, we've been incredibly well fed!



I waited until Halloween to lead

up my first winner of the season. 'My' Arrivederci (Lucky) won over hurdles at Wetherby, given a brilliant ride by Johnny Burke. Lucky frogmarched me round the paddock so I should've guessed he was feeling well. The win was made even more special by Sir and Lady Broughton being there.



On November 20th, I took Quarenta, a spare lead-up, to Ascot as his groom John Dina doesn't drive. I wasn't expecting much as I've never had much luck there. Yet, I've always had an affinity with Q; I led him up when he "won" his bumper at Lingfield four days later due to a dark photo finish and last year, when he won over fences at Fontwell. He's shiny

black, beautifully behaved and gave me another wonderful day when he won. He really battled, stuck his head out and deserved to win! I've only had two winners so far this season and both have been in those red and green colours.

On 28th, the yard had a brilliant day when Cloth Cap won the Ladbrokes Trophy (or the Hennessy as it's still fondly named). It was the most awe-inspiring race to watch. Under Tom Scudamore, 'Clothy' led all the way and his leap over the fourth last was beyond brilliant. Plus, there were brilliant photos in the winner's enclosure when the photographer handed over his own cloth cap and they all posed, our Cloth Cap wearing it between very pricked ears!



It was wonderful that he's owned by Trevor Hemmings, who had to sell all but twenty-five horses due to the cost of the coronavirus pandemic on his businesses – it was the third time he's won it as an owner and Jonjo's first time as a trainer.

Clothy is officially looked after by Nick but he's actually under my daily care as he lives out down the pens. Life is muddy, not the most pleasant when it's rainy and windy, sometimes there's rats but Clothy is really happy living with his buddy His Dream! I have to work out their feed, farrier, etc so I'm so proud he won under my care! It is the first big race the yard has won for years and gave everyone a buzz.

The horses I do have all changed a bit. Regrettably, Minella Rocco had never been right this season so he went back to Martinstown to recuperate. Firstly, Prefontaine went to Doncaster sales and we've heard he finished second in a good race in Saudi Arabia first time out. He is obviously enjoying the sunshine! Imperial Command (Pumba) was sold at Tattersalls in Newmarket and went to David Loughnane in Shropshire. There is always an ebb and flow when

looking after racehorses and it's something I've got used to. I'll always do Arrivederci, March is On, Gulliver Collonges (Oliver) and now have a four-year-old Phil The Thrill (not named after Phil the conditional as he'd have everyone believe!). He arrived from France rather lean, with an incredible short tail but has lovely manners, huge ears and a beautiful steel grey coat. The tail, in time, will grow and he'll put on condition – I hope Phil enjoys his move to the UK!



Phil The Thrill

Editors Note: Congratulations JoJo on being nominated in The Godolphin Stud and Stable Staff Awards

## David Massey Article

They always said that 2020 would end in tiers and as it turned out, they were right!!

The show has gone on for racing, albeit behind closed doors, although as I type this, there is hope that spectators are going to be allowed back into racecourses once this current mini-lockdown ends at the beginning of December. I'm not getting too excited as, as far as I can see, it'll only be a handful of tracks that are probably going to allow spectators back, but it is a start. And whilst I don't expect the 2021 Festival to be "normal" (whatever "normal" is these days) it would be lovely to think we can get a decent crowd in. Cheltenham without the roar? Be like .....

This is the first look at what ante-post bets I've had so far, and my thoughts on some of the key races we've had. Sadly, the Ladbrokes/Hennessy falls just

outside the remit of this article, but I do hope Vinndication runs and runs well, as he's my pick for the Gold Cup at this stage.

I was really taken with his easy Ascot win last year and at that stage thought he might make up into a classy handicapper, but his Ultima fourth marked him out as better than that, and on the figures, it was a run that put him close to the placed horses in the Gold Cup. Given the interrupted prep he'd had, and the big weight he carried, it was a very good effort.

He did nothing to dispel the theory that he's going to stay the Gold Cup trip (and possibly more) when second to Cyrname in the Charlie Hall at Wetherby, an early slip not helping his cause but his jumping improved after that, and he was staying on well come the business end to be beaten 2l. I think he'll reverse that form when there's more emphasis on stamina, as there will be come March.

Last Saturday we saw the

Betfair Chase at Haydock, a race that's often a good pointer to the season's big staying chases, and the rain that came was very much in Bristol De Mai's favour and to varying extents, against his two main opponents, Clan Des Obeaux and Lostintranslation.

Panto season came early to our house as Daryl Jacob started looking over the wrong shoulder three out ("he's behind you!!") as Sam Twiston-Davies and Clan Des Obeaux loomed large, but BDM knows where the winning line is at Haydock and simply galloped him into submission. Both the pair come out of this with a lot of credit - the second should be spot on to try and retain his crown in the King George come Boxing Day. As for the winner, well, I'd love to see him in the Ryanair. I think that race is tailor-made for him, I really do. Having twice come up short in the Gold Cup, a drop back in trip could be ideal come March, especially if there's a bit of cut. We will see.

Lostintranslation's effort was more concerning. You can argue that he would have needed the run, given he won last year off the back of a win at Carlisle, but he didn't look happy from some way out and it looked more than simply a case of needing an outing to my eyes. I hope I am wrong, as I think he's capable of playing a big part in a Gold Cup, but after this run I could only watch him next time.

The Champion Chase picture looks a muddled one at this stage, with one or two of the big names fluffing their lines, and others looking to edge their way onto the top table. Greaneteen is very much one of those, having gamely won the Haldon Gold Cup, and he has claims of being better than a handicapper. That comment also applies to the yard's Magic Saint, a ready winner of the 2m Paddy Power Handicap Chase at Cheltenham and was in the process of running another good race at Ascot a week after, a mistake two out costing him a winning chance but was far

from disgraced in finishing fourth regardless.

And if we are mentioning Magic Saint, then we ought to give Fanion D'Estruval, second to him at Cheltenham (giving him a bit of weight, taking Bryan Carver's claim into account) a shout as well. Only having his third start for Venetia Williams that day, he has a fair bit to find on form but gives the impression there's more to come, and in a wide-open division, I've thrown a few quid at him at daft prices in the hope of him stepping up again.

Rouge Vif missed his intended target, the Shloer, at the Paddy Power meeting due to soft ground but he was very impressive when scoring here at the Showcase meeting in October. That liking for quick ground means that he's the sort to back nearer the time, rather than now, as a wet spring would likely see him rerouted elsewhere.

As far as the Champion Hurdle

goes, we'll know more after the Fighting Fifth (which hasn't taken place at time of writing) and the International, but it was good to see Silver Streak successful at Kempton, and Ballyandy has been running his usual consistent races in big handicaps.

Stay safe, and I'll hopefully see you all soon.

David.



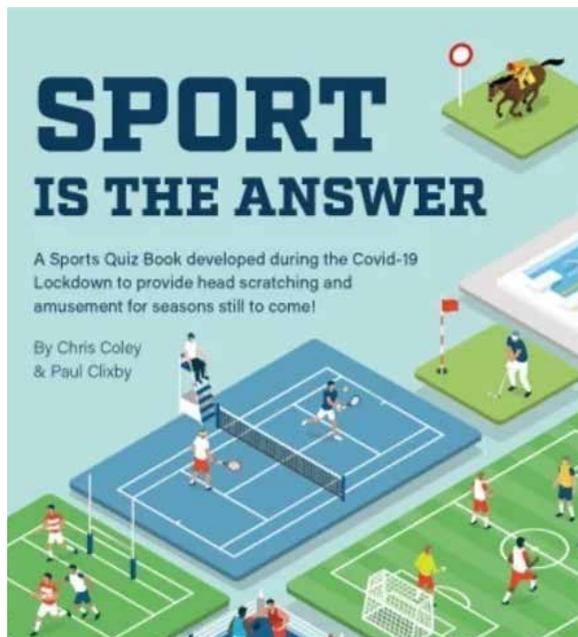
Happy memories from 2016 when Victoria Pendleton rode a horse I had an interest in ..... and it won. It was trained by Lawney Hill.

Merry Christmas one and all x

“This quiz book is a great way for people to have fun and support the work we at the Injured Jockeys Fund do.

My thanks to Chris Coley for helping raise funds, once again, and providing some fun at the same time.”

Sir Anthony McCoy OBE



Written in "lockdown" when the final whistle was totally blown on all sport. Fun questions on all sports dating from the Ancient Greeks to the present day.

Profits from the sale of the book are going to The Injured Jockeys Fund and Acorns Children's Hospice.

[www.sportistheanswer.co.uk](http://www.sportistheanswer.co.uk)

## *Natter from Sarah*

So here we are at the end of 2020 which has been a pretty horrific year for many of us. I don't think back in March when we all went racing at The Cheltenham Festival and Uttoxeter that we thought being allowed into a racecourse was going to become such a precious day out. In fact any day out became precious to us all.

During Lockdown I managed to go racing 3 times as an owner. To Southwell, Wolverhampton and Stratford. I will say every course did a superb job under the circumstances. From what I've heard from other people their experiences were positive as well.

Now we are allowed back onto the racecourse even if it is in reduced numbers, I seem to find myself in Tier 3! So I am still only allowed to go as an owner and was unable to go to Cheltenham. Quite a few friends delighted in the fact that they were back racing and I was glad for them even if a little jealous.

CTCRC has been hit like so many other clubs and activities. Just as we seemed to be getting

something sorted different rules and regulations came in. Then things got changed again. The rule of only 6 together outside scuppered stable visits and the rule of no meetings inside meant our monthly meetings could not go ahead.

We are still planning on going ahead with stable visits in the New Year and I have a list of names to email when they are arranged. If you have not emailed me your name regarding stable visits please do at [ctcrcstablevisits@gmail.com](mailto:ctcrcstablevisits@gmail.com)

I have managed to rope some people in to do Zoom chats with me but I just need to find time to do those. They will be emailed to you when done.

The AGM cannot go ahead in February as normal so that might be a Zoom meeting if anyone wishes to join us do let me know [ctcrcchairman@gmail.com](mailto:ctcrcchairman@gmail.com)

Lastly we know you have not had your monies worth this year so we are deferring payments at present. More news to come. Take care x Sarah x

## **Publication No. 338 - Winter 2020**

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**Club Events and Magazine are on the website so please keep checking. Please all stay safe in these very testing times.**