

**SUMMER
2021**



FINISH LINE

Cheltenham & Three Counties Race Club



1st August 1983 - 18th April 2021

Please find below the FINAL TOP 20 confirmed CTCRC 2020-2021 Tipster Competition Result.

RANK Name	APRIL 2021 MONTH	MAY FINAL	CUM'VE
1 KEITH APPLETON E	94		567
2 KEITH APPLETON B	140		566
3 IAN ATKINSON A	146		541
4 KEN WATKINS C	86		541
5 TERRY POULSON B	95		536
6 JIM CLARK A	96		534
7 KEITH APPLETON A	108		519
8 KEN WATKINS D	86		496
9 TERRY POULSON C	115		488
10 DAVE ABBATT A	96		487
11 PETER BATT A	126		487
12 KEN WATKINS H	96		486
13 MIKE TROMANS D	90		483
14 ALAN WELLSTEED G	100		481
15 HUGH EDWARDS C	132		479
16 GRENVILLE DAVIES H	140		476
17 NEIL JAKES A	126		474
18 ALAN WELLSTEED L	70		470
19 IAN BLICK C	78		469
20 JOHN ALDRIDGE B	115		463

Prize money, covering the top 6 places will be sent to the winners as soon as The Treasurer situation is sorted.

The outcome of the Competition is particularly poignant, since the Winner and Runner-up, Club member Keith Appleton, passed away earlier this year.

It is so sad that Keith has not been able to celebrate his stunning performance which, whilst not unique, is only the second time this century that it has occurred.

Meanwhile the entire detail, covering all 333 entries, can be found by using the following link:

https://www.ctcrc.co.uk/tipsters_2020_2021.html

TONY COLEMAN

RICHARD DAVIS AWARD

For the Top Conditional Jockey riding at Cheltenham, Chepstow, Hereford, Ludlow, Stratford, Warwick and Worcester during the period
7th May 2020 – 24th April 2021

(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.

Final Placings for the 2020 – 2021 season

1 st	Bryan Carver	168 pts
2 nd	Ben Jones	167 pts
3 rd	Max Kendrick	146 pts
4 th	Richard Patrick	133 pts
5 th	Jack Tudor	112 pts



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

Lorna Brooke 1.8.1983 - 18.4.2021

Those of you who ever met Lorna will know what a lovely bubbly person she was. She always had a smile on her face except when concentrating on a ride. My memory will be quick chats at racecourses talking about her beloved horses who she gave wonderful second chances to race and especially on board Spock. It was aboard Spock that I last saw her ride at Ludlow in October last year and the usual tap on the shoulder to say Hi as she flew by to the parade ring and then a longer chat after the race and all with a smile.

I was at Ludlow on 24th May where there was a marquee for her friends and family to meet and remember the good times.

Our thoughts go out to her parents Sir Alistair and Lady Susan Brooke.

John Hales Article

The Cheltenham Festival was disappointing for my family because of the incident that prevented Politologue defending his crown. We now believe we know what happened. Politologue now knows all the procedures before the race and he does get excited when he is collected from the stables and led to the pre parade ring. He obviously knocked his head in the stable but the bleed from the nose was not apparent until he arrived at the pre parade ring. It was only 14 minutes to the start of the race and there was not sufficient time to scope him. The Vets could not be sure that the problem was a burst blood vessel in which case he may already have blood in his lungs. The horses welfare always comes first and we decided to withdraw him from the race. Approx 1 hour later the scope proved negative and he had not burst a blood vessel. Only a knock on the nose was the cause. He could have raced without any problem but we did not know that and I believe the correct decision was taken. It was more frustrating watching a slowly run race and the red hot favourite did not get up the hill. I am fairly

confident that Politologue would have had a great chance to win the race. We will never know but congratulations to the winner. So onto Aintree where we had decided to run our promising younger horses to help them with their education. On the first day we were all involved in winning the first 3 races. Protektorat won the first showing he was back to his best with a superb exhibition of jumping and in the final stages his acceleration in pulling away from the rest of the field. This is a very good horse and we can look forward to the start of his chasing career. In the 2nd race we had another winner with Monmiral who is now unbeaten in 5 races. He was very impressive and Paul Nicholls thinks we should start off next season in hurdles and see if he has the pace to compete and leave chasing until the following year when he will be 5 going on 6. This may be very good advice. Both Protektorat and Monmiral are owned by myself, Lisa my daughter, Sir Alex Ferguson and Ged Mason. In the 3rd race Clan des Obeaux won and this horse is also owned by Sir Alex and Ged. They thought Christmas had come early and Sir Alex said it was his greatest racing day. To win 3 on the trot is an achievement but when they are all grade 1 races then that is some achievement. Congratulations to Paul Nicholls

(Monmiral and Clan Des Obeaux) and Dan Skelton with Protektorat.

The following day my luck was out again with Politologue in the Melling Chase. He was never travelling well and Harry Cobden said he was not his usual self. We checked him out after the race and it was confirmed that he had bled. So thank you to Harry for looking after him. Even so he still finished fourth and took his winnings to over £1 million. We have discussed his future and Paul points out that he loves his racing and we will continue for next season in the Tingle Creek and if he remains competitive we will go to the Festival in 2022 when he will be 11 years old and hopefully that is where he will be retired. He has been a great horse to own and without doubt from the start to now he has been our best ever jumper. We are now hoping Harry Skelton can win the jockeys championship and we are going to give him our full support to enable him to win the jockeys title. Harry is a great lad and there is no doubt he is "a chip off the old block" in terms of his deterring and aggressive style of riding. He was a great partner for Politologue in winning the champion Chase and the Tingle Creek. His father Nick will be a very proud man if Harry wins the jockeys title. Nick is back from

the USA but could not go to Aintree because he is having to quarantine but I am sure he was watching on TV.. a big thank you to Cheltenham and Aintree for putting on two great festivals in very difficult conditions. As owners we are very appreciative of the effort that was made.

I am now looking forward to Sandown when I hope Harry Skelton will become champion jockey.

Update: Harry Skelton won the jockeys championship and the appropriate party is being organised to celebrate his achievement and I am sure it will be a great night.

We are now shopping in preparation for next season and we hope to add one or more horses .as they say "watch this space"



David Massey Article

We have once again come to the end of the season, one of the strangest seasons in living memory. I remember when foot and mouth disease cancelled the 2001 Cheltenham Festival and thinking that was the weirdest of times, having never come across the disease before that, but what we have all gone through over the past 12 months has been something else.

Thankfully Cheltenham went ahead this year, albeit without spectators, and with very few media in attendance. For the first time in years I was not able to go, with slots for the media limited to the bare minimum, so I found myself at the likes of Southwell and Fakenham instead. That's not what I'd normally expect Cheltenham week, but I'm eternally grateful that, through the winter, I've been able to attend anywhere at all. One of the lucky ones.

The silence, for me, is going to be one of the things I remember most about racing during lockdown. Racecourses have been eerily quiet. As a young lad, my second

ever long-term girlfriend (the lovely Jenny) knew a few folk that worked at Alton Towers, back in the day when they had a circus as one of their main attractions. (Yes, that long ago.) Part of the circus was a parrot show, with scores of talking parrots, and it was the people that owned the parrots that she knew well.

As such, we were able to visit the Towers after it had closed each night in the summer, to go and visit them, and this we did a few times. I remember those walks around the place with nobody there like they were yesterday, the total silence of somewhere that should be bustling with people, and it has been very much like that on the courses this year. Walk down to the rail and you can make out what the jockeys are chatting about as they go past.

"How's yours going?"

"Not going a yard".

The encouragement given to some of them after the last has been funny to listen to, almost hilarious at times. You perhaps hear things you shouldn't do as well, but that's another story.....

It has been great to see the reintroduction of owners on course, because without them the game would not keep going. I hope now that owners are back that courses will recognise this

fact and finally start being more flexible regarding syndicates and the number of badges each horse can have, often a great source of frustration. I realise that can't be the case at present but when we get back to normality, whenever that may be, they need to realise that racing syndicates are going to continue to grow over the coming years and may well be the future of our sport. There's no better way to get someone introduced to racing than via a syndicate, by giving people the thrill of ownership for a fraction of the cost, and hopefully they will stay with racing and continue to invest.

Spectators, in small amounts, are now being allowed back onto racecourses as well, and I have to say it has been a joy to see old friends I haven't spoken to in over a year at Southwell and Nottingham last week. It really does feel like a party atmosphere. Again, though, I would ask courses to remember these people, who have been starved of live action at the track for some time, are there as supporters of our great sport and not cash-cows to be milked at every opportunity. I fully realise courses have a deficit to make up but all will have a long-term plan and we know that plenty have been able to keep going via the media rights payments. Let us not now throw

the baby out with the bathwater, and make patrons, missing for so long, welcome again.

Okay, enough ranting, how about some racing action? The highlight of the season for me was Rachael Blackmore's superb tactical riding throughout the Cheltenham Festival. The best jockeys make the least amount of mistakes, and Rachael just didn't make mistakes. She had her mounts in the right places at the right times, knew when to kick, knew when to hold, and by the end of the week I found myself just clapping home every winning ride she had, whether I'd tipped it or not! An absolute joy to watch, and I'm already looking forward to another masterclass next year.

Because, whether we, this side of the Irish Sea like it or not, the Irish domination of the Festival looks set to continue. Cleverer men and women than I have already discussed why that was, and what the British racing system needs to do to try and wrestle the advantage back, but it is the Irish that hold the whip hand at present, with Irish-bred runners staying at home far more than perhaps was ever the case. It will be interesting to see what the BHA can come up with as a long-term plan to try and stem the tide.

The Grand National was the Blackmore Show once more, with Minella Times getting the better of Balko Des Flos by 6½l. Even here the Irish ruled the roost, with Blaklion, for the Skeltons, the only British trained runner in the Top 10. It isn't hard to see a pattern developing.

Speaking of the Skeltons, it has been something of a breakthrough season for them, with Harry becoming champion jockey after the yard threw the kitchen sink at the Championship in the last six weeks to get him over the line after a close fight with Brian Hughes. Brian has set off like a scolded cat this season and clearly wants the title back, so expect another epic tussle until the bitter end this season too! I'm looking forward to the continued progression of both Kevin Brogan and Brendan Powell this season too, both are riding well and having winners.

As far as trainers go, it's been great to see Alex Hales do so well, a yard I have a lot of time for, and Stuart Edmunds, another trainer that clearly knows the time of day, fire in two winners at the Aintree Festival. Others worth more than a passing mention - the excellent Laura Morgan, who continues to progress, and she

has some excellent prospects for this season, Fergal O'Brien, who goes from strength to strength, and I have to give Sue Smith a mention after having a wonderful Cheltenham winner with Vintage Clouds, who after so many terrific attempts in the Ultima got his reward this time around. Not a dry eye in the Massey household, let me tell you.

I will finish this piece by saying my own farewell to Lorna Brooke. It was a joy last winter watching her sympathetically try to get that old monkey Yourholidayisover to put his head in front, and it is testament to her riding ability that she almost achieved it twice before Holiday, as Holiday does, declined the invitation late in the race. A life taken all too soon. RIP Lorna.

I look forward to catching up with many of you over the coming months. Stop me and say hello, and I mean that, whenever and whenever you see me. Stay safe, go racing, and let's all start enjoying life again.

David.

Meandering Down Memory Lane

An Interview with Owners Geoff and Donna Keelys

'So many of the memories we've got and the stories we can tell are due to racing,' say owners Geoff and Donna Keelys.

They discovered racing by accident via their daughter's interest in ponies. 'We went racing as a family,' remembers Donna Keelys, who has been involved in ownership alongside her husband Geoff for over twenty-five years. 'The children enjoyed going too. Geoff recollects, one day, watching Desert Orchid, standing next to and talking to a gentleman who transpired to be the great grey's owner. 'As members of the public,' he says, 'it felt as though we were part of something bigger.'

The afternoons out developed into Geoff and Donna craving for a bigger part of this sport. Starting off in racing clubs and syndicates, the couple have been owners for over twenty-five years. Not many people have been so closely involved in all angles of racehorse ownership. A one-off breeding experience, buying youngsters for which 'the naming process is always fun and interesting', hurdlers and chasers to point-to-pointers.

One of their first horses, Wisley Wonder, was a quirky character who always started but took to refusing at the last fence, but still won five races. The first horse they owned on their own, Gentle Rivage, ran in their colours from a bumper at four up to becoming a good 'pointer in his twilight years, ending his career at seventeen. In fact, ex-jockey Willie Twiston-Davies rode Gentle Rivage in the Andoversford's Hunt Members' Race when Willie was 16 and the horse was 17, finishing second. 'A number of current professionals once rode him 'pointing and I've followed the careers of these successful jockeys all the way,' chuckles Geoff. They shared a third at the Festival in 2000, Gentle Rivage, who also won five under Rules and four between the flags.



One of their more recent horses, Perfect Candidate, was bought as a five-year-old at the end of a two-day trip round Northern Ireland organised by Fergal O'Brien at the start of his training career. He was trained by Fergal O'Brien right up to his retirement at 14

at the end of last season, having won out of all three yards at which Fergal has trained. Over the years they have shared many winners and many good times alongside lots of runners. One of those was called Randolph O'Brien, who I actually looked after for much of his racing life when I worked for Nigel Twiston-Davies. There has been laughter and celebrations along the way – the highs and lows of racehorse ownership but the highs are most poignantly remembered. Perfect Candidate, always shortened to PC, won nine races, including three at Cheltenham and ran in two Grand Nationals. Geoff and Donna are particularly keen to ensure their horses have a good life at the end of their racing careers and are very grateful for the support they get from all the people involved in racing in achieving that.

Geoff and Donna both spent the early parts of their lives living and working in a variety of different places both in the UK and abroad before settling over twenty years ago in Ford, Gloucestershire, a pebble toss from the famous racing pub, the Plough Inn.

How did you get into racehorse ownership?

We were involved with our daughter Georgia's horse and a lot of the other people in the livery yard were involved with racing. We

were persuaded to go to Sandown for a day out one Saturday – it started from there.

What was the first racehorse you owned?

We bought shares in White Horse Racing, a racing club who had horses with David Elsworth at the time of Desert Orchid. That was the gradual start that led into joining syndicates. The first of those was formed by a group at a new golf club called Wisley in Surrey, which had as members racing enthusiasts who included the owners of Young Hustler and Moorcroft Boy. During the early '90s, we owned Wisley Wonder, Wisley Warrior and Oh So Wisley with Nigel Twiston-Davies and Man Of Wisley with Nicky Henderson. Our first full ownership was in 1998 with Gentle Rivage, who was brilliant; ran more than thirty times and was nearly always in the money, including a third at the Festival.



Which have been your past racehorses?

We have been involved in over 20 if you count those in both

shared and sole ownership: After Gentle Rivage, we bought a two-year-old, naming him Randolph O'Brien for reasons we won't go into. We had so much fun with 'Randy' who won three chases and was placed numerous times. He made us appreciate a good jockey when, with instructions to lead, Timmy Murphy missed the break at Towcester but was in front by the time they were jumping the first. They won by over four lengths. Ballynabragget was another we owned as part of a group, while Priests Bridge, Nev Brown, Tullyraine, Arctic Gold, and homebred Fiorenza were all ones we owned on our own.



Which trainers have you been with?

David Elsworth with the racing club, Nicky Henderson with the Wisley Syndicate, Nigel Twiston-Davies as both a sole owner and syndicate member and Fergal O'Brien, both when he trained 'pointers and since under Rules.

What is the best advice you were given?

Maybe people gave us advice and we ignored them! We were told racing wouldn't make us money and they were right. We did have one syndicate member who left when he discovered the (gelded) horse we owned would not have any stud value at the end of his racing career!

What was the inspiration behind the designs of your colours?

After buying Gentle Rivage during the Cheltenham Festival and rushing there very late, we arrived to see French Holly whizzing past the winning post in the Royal & Sun Alliance and we loved the combination of the maroon and navy, so we simply added the epaulettes.



We own Perfect Candidate but ran him under the name 'ISL Recruitment' which had recently been started by our son Henry. The company chose those green and white colours to go with their logo.

Please list the racehorses you own at the moment:

We are still in the process of deciding what to do next following Perfect Candidate's retirement, but we are members of an FOB Racing Partnership that owns Manothepeople, who has yet to run under Rules as well as a couple of part shares in two youngsters that are currently in pre-training.



What is your favourite racecourse?

Cheltenham without any question with its history and how local it is, and Ludlow because of the beef dinner!

What have been your favourite horses?

Wouldn't like to choose - all of them have had their own characteristics and personalities.

What is your favourite meeting?

The April and October meetings at Cheltenham – it's quieter with no crowds.

Which race would you most like to win that has so far evaded you?

The Tinglecreek or Queen Mother Champion Chase – those top two-milers are the ultimate chasers.

What is your most memorable day's racing?

30th November 1994 when Wisley Wonder won his first race, a bumper, at Huntingdon - or when Perfect Candidate won on 19th November 2017 at Cheltenham. Geoff watched it from the owners' room at Uttoxeter, where he'd gone to be with another horse of ours, Mount Batur who was having his first run.

What, generally, does racing excel at?

Actually, going to a race meeting has become less and less important. Even more enjoyable is seeing the horses at home in training, watching them going up the gallops, chatting to the stable staff as well as talking with like-minded people about the many amusing and memorable situations in which we have found ourselves. We love going racing most when we can just bump into people we know.



What aspects within racing could be improved?

There needs to be more space for owners at meetings. We don't ask for posh food or free food, just to be confident there will be a seat available when you want it. The owners' room is so often crammed and jammed and it's uncomfortable.

There are some notable exceptions. Cheltenham, Ludlow and Bangor all come to mind. At all three, you have to be careful to remember you have come to watch racing as it's so tempting just to sit in the warm owners' room all day enjoying the lovely food.

What do you admire in racing?

Everyone involved in this sport – the stable staff, the vets and the farriers, the trainers and other owners all contribute to the whole show. There are whole different groups of people whose company we enjoy.

What is your most favourite holidays destination?

There are two places we love to be: our home in Ford and Troon in Scotland.

What is your favourite meal?

Any meal from the Plough at Ford and anything from a restaurant called Lido in Troon.

What is your favourite drink?

Geoff: Any London dry gin with a distinctive flavour.

Donna: Passionfruit margaritas from Lido.

Other hobbies/interests?

Meeting up with the family, looking after the house and garden, most sports and running The Keeps Partnership, our business for the last 25 years. It helps organisations set and implement their overall strategy. At the moment, most are early-stage businesses in which we invest. We are also involved a charity called Water City Music, which inspires young musicians to perform at striking venues across the UK. Until Covid, the centrepiece of this had been large numbers of school children performing at the Tower of London during a week in June.

By Jo O'Neill

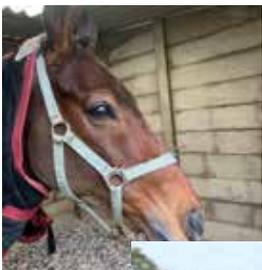


Jo O'Neill Article

It's all been busy lately, with the stables emptying, the fields filling up and staff taking holidays! The barn has been pressure-washed and painted, and there's the usual mowing, weeding, strimming and creosoting that continues all summer. The weather has not been as gorgeous and sunny as in the first major lockdown last year – it's been frosty, wet, stormy, cold then muggy, sunny and sometimes hailing.

I had a few more horses brought to the pens to be trained outside, including 'my' March Is On (Marty). Yet, the boss decided to retire Marty for showing little interest in racing this season. His only form was a second at Wetherby, which was a great day out.

Marty was always dear to me and won in October 2019 over hurdles. Small and compact, he was like a bouncy ball. He's been gifted to a family near Andoversford and I hope he has many happy years with them.



'My' other horses Arrivederci, Gullivers

Collonges and Phil The Thrill, the French recruit, are all out on their holidays. They spend their days munching grass, rolling in mud and then eating the hard feed that's put out once a day. I love seeing them out at grass, living their best lives and enjoying every moment. Some buddy up with friends, some are loners, some are bullies whilst others are victims or leaders of the herd – they each have their own characteristics that are easy to spot when they're living out. I love seeing horses in a field collectively lying down, dozing or sunbathing, all contented.

Ladbroke's Trophy-hero Cloth Cap also went home for a break, having recovered from a wind op after the Grand National. He'd got even more grumpy than usual after I had to syringe lots of painkillers and antibiotics down his throat. I was actually relieved when he was picked up – we definitely needed a break from each other.

The end of season was symbolised by our fabulous owners, Sir and Lady Broughton sent in five huge cakes from a mail-order cake company called the Sponge Club. The flavours were a Victoria sponge, lemon, cookies and cream that had crumbled Oreos on the top, coffee and chocolate.

The syndicate TopSpeed Thoroughbreds also sent us in delicious homemade treats, from which the delicious brownies and flapjacks were my favourites.



I also performed a swap with Kris from the bespoke Broadway bakery the Cotswold Larder – a bottle of Jackdaws Damson Gin for a huge 9" cookie, loaded with lots of chocolate and a box of decadent brownies. We also received boxes of the Cotswold Larder's cupcakes to celebrate four staff members' birthdays and I'd highly recommend them for all cakes and bakes!

Jonjo Junior's housemate Aaron McLoughlin-Sutherland, who works at Cheltenham Racecourse, learnt to ride whilst furloughed last summer and now rides out as much as he can. He had previously asked me if I sewed, which I do, though amateurishly. I made metres of bunting for my wedding after learning how to use a sewing machine. Aaron gave me a number cloth that was a replica of Cloth Cap's in the Ladbroke's Trophy and I made a bright red cushion cover.



Since then, for the payment of a bottle of Cornish Rattler gin, I've made four more. Two from Soaring Glory from the Betfair Hurdle, Early Doors' from Jonjo Junior's win in the Martin Pipe at the 2019 Festival and another from Native River's Betfair Chase win at Newbury. They're still far from perfect and I'm learning how to sew in zips, but I was delighted: four plump cushions with number cloth covers! Since then, a friend asked me to create a Paddy Power

cushion and I've made one myself, from a King George years ago.



An Tailliur, which means 'the tailor' in Gaelic, was the first winner of the new season, winning well over hurdles for the first time on May 7th at Market Rasen, under Jonjo Junior. It's always a relief to tick off that first winner. The grey gelding was then the third winner when winning a boys' race at Worcester under our conditional Kevin Brogan. Garry Clermont won over hurdles at Warwick in between and then our other conditional Will Marshall, who came to us earlier in the year from Dan Skelton's rode his first winner for us at Huntingdon on 18th on Jolymaker. We had a double that night with Coeur Serein winning the handicap hurdle. Then the following day, An Tailliur won again – very easily – at Southwell. Onwards and upwards!

Lockdown restrictions were opened up further from 17th and we were informed, whilst racing, we'd not need to wear masks in the stable yard, only in the public areas like the paddock, etc. More owners and the public were allowed back in – all positive moves back towards normality.

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy and, hopefully, sunny summer!

Oliver Signy Racing

2020/21 Season Round Up

With the season finished and most of the horses out at grass for their summer holidays we look back on Oliver's first full season as a trainer. It has been a very strange year and, like everyone's, the racing bubble has shrunk. We have been very lucky that racing was able to continue at all with National Hunt racing re-starting in July at eerily quiet tracks. Being unable to welcome owners to the yard for large parts of the year has been sad and racing behind closed doors has been a very strange experience, however, we are looking forward to next season and seeing familiar faces back on the racecourse. It has certainly been a very odd time to start a training career!

This time last year we had been at The Croft Stables for 6 months and Ollie had managed to get a couple of horses handicapped before lockdown brought the world to a standstill. But it allowed us to focus on the yard, continuing to improve it and completing the first

yard of 16 boxes to a standard that we are really proud of with Equilume lights, wall and floor matting and new custom Claydon walker. It would have been easier to plant the 840 mixed hedge plants with a team of staff but after a week of digging we got there and you can now see some green shoots appearing at the top of the planters! Initially it was just the two of us that brought horses back into work and went trotting around Lambourn when it was really quiet. As the summer progressed we brought more horses and staff back and with a small team the yard has gone from strength to strength, starting with Oliver's first winner last July and finishing with some respectable stats and some exciting prospects for the season ahead.

Etat Major Aulmes has been a stalwart of the yard, purchased by Ollie whilst still an assistant trainer, 'Al' was the first runner in a bumper at Carlisle under Oliver's name in November 2019. He provided the first winner in July with Gavin Sheehan wearing his parent's silks at Newton Abbot and with his second placing at Fontwell this month over fences he looks poised to provide the yard's first

chase winner too! He is a summer jumper and will be heading out again though the coming months.

Sambezi has been the flag bearer for the yard, a dual winner with two further second placings, starting with a bumper win at Hexham in October and finishing with a novice hurdle win at Fontwell. He's a lovely athletic horse and an exciting prospect for next season when he will head chasing for Sarah and Nigel McLean. Their new horse Coachman will join Sambezi in running in their silks next season, after being secured at Tattersalls last week with the assistance of Marcus Collie.

The Mick Fitzgerald Racing Club had several runs with French Paradoxe, notably winning at Newbury before Christmas. Fred was the first horse to arrive on the yard after being hacked over by Chloe Fitzgerald and it was fantastic that he was Ollie's first winner at a Grade 1 track. He's another big, rangy horse who will head chasing, where he will excel.

No Word Of A Lie joined the yard in October and had a cracking start to his career. After a respectable 4th for his first outing

he then finished a head behind an Olly Murphy horse in a gruelling bumper at Exeter on Valentines day that saw the battling pair pull 40 lengths clear of the field. The conditions were awful, with wet heavy ground, driving rain and fading light - the bright yellow silks of Dunkley, Gumienny, MacKenzie and Signy were at times the only visible marker of the race. He was unlucky to finish second again at Uttoxeter but he is a tough, big horse who will hopefully go one better next season over hurdles with an exciting future over fences.

The owners have another bumper horse in Chef Bogo, full brother to the Alan King trained Blacko, he's already an impressive 17h and having grown so much this season, it was too much to ask him to head racing but he is undoubtedly another one to watch. He was one of three store horses that were backed in September, including Come Dancing who has progressed quickly for connections and will look to go novice hurdling in the autumn.

Dave & Bernie has run in the Oliver Signy Racing Club colours and provided a winner over

hurdles at Ludlow in October, he will run through the summer as he enjoys the better ground. Very much the likable but naughty boy of the yard, he ran 2nd in his last outing at Fontwell and should provide the racing club members with some fun days out over the coming months now that owners are permitted back to the racecourse.

There have been some retirees from the string and finding cracking homes for each horse is something that both Ollie and I feel strongly about. Being a racehorse is the most important chapter of their lives and ensuring they head to great homes for their retirement is something we would like to do for all the horses in our care. Dream De Dream is a broodmare at a lovely eventing stud, Like The Sound has a great hunting home and Rusper's Gift is winning rosettes in dressage tests!

With most of the horses out on holiday we are continuing work on the yard to bring it back to its former glory and looking at the next big project, which will be staff accommodation in the falling down Victorian yard.

We are so thankful for the support of our owners and the team around us, starting up training was always going to be challenging and 2020 threw a curve ball to us all. Ollie is looking to build on the success from this season, in what will be his first full season as a trainer and will be on the lookout at the sales to add some more exciting prospects to the yard.

We are so looking forward to welcoming more visitors back to the yard and owners enjoying days out racing next season, hopefully with plenty of visits to the winners enclosure.

Very best wishes to all,
Ollie & Katherine

Stats for the NH season 2020/21
Strike rate: 11% - 5 wins from 44 runners

Top 2 placing 25% - 11 1st/2nd from 44 runners

Top 3 placing 30% - 13

1st/2nd/3rd from 44 runners

Top 4 placing 41% - 18

1st/2nd/3rd/4th from 44 runners

Yard strike rate: 31% of horses in the yard, who have run are winners & 54% have placed in the top 4

Q&A with Rachael Blackmore

I actually asked Rachael if she would do a Q&A for us back in February. Since I have been going racing in Ireland so much she has been on my radar as an exceptional jockey and definitely one for the top. Well all I will say is I think she got there. The media have got behind her and there wasn't much left to ask but I thought I'd ask some even if totally obvious and already asked a hundred times.

Q Considering that your family did not come from a horse racing background, how did you first become interested in the sport

A I grew up on a farm and was always surrounded by horses and ponies, I really enjoyed going cross country and playing pony club games. Racing interest started after a visit to see Istabraq on a school tour in primary school.

Q Before becoming a jockey you were considering becoming a vet. Do you have any regrets about not taking that road in life?

A After the few months I've had..... No!

Q Is it true that Davy Russell was

instrumental in getting you the ride for Shark Hanlon which gave you your 1st winner as an amateur.
A I had been riding out with Davy in Pat Doyle's at the time. I asked him if he would contact Shark for me to help me get the ride on the horse he had in a ladies race. He did that, it worked and that resulted in my 1st winner.

Q To date you must already have many fond memories of rides you have given to horses but which is your most memorable ride to date and why.

A From my amateur days I remember riding Klassy to win and open lightweight race p2p race in Kinsale for Sam Curling, we only just held on to win.... That was a great day.

Q Which is your most favourite and least favourite racecourse and why?

A I love riding the chase track in Leopardstown, if a horse gets into a good jumping rhythm there it's a brilliant place to ride.

Q Best horse you have ridden?

A Honeysuckle

Q Who do you admire in racing?

A The stable staff work extremely hard day to day keeping horses

happy and healthy, and this year in particular I admire Jennifer Pugh who is our senior medical officer, she has done an incredible job to get and keep racing going.

Q What is a typical race day for you?

A Ride out in the mornings in the winter you might only get two lots out where as in the summer and evening racing you can be riding out until lunch time. Then straight to the races and home for a nice dinner.

Q What are your hobbies?

A I enjoy a holiday if that can be a hobby! I thinking everyone is craving one right now!

Q Favourite holiday location?

A Anywhere with good food a nice people!

Q Social media – friend or foe

A It's what ever you make it.

Q If you could ride one horse currently in training, which you do not currently ride, which one would it be and why?

A What ever is favourite for the Irish Derby

Q Fast forward 10 years – what would you ideally like to be doing?

A I'd love to know the answer to

this as would my accountant!

Q What are the names of the ponies you had and what did you get up to with them?

A Bubbles, Beauty, Tommy, Flint were the main ones. I hunted, played pony club games, did eventing and show juming.

Q Did you have a favourite cow on your father's dairy farm?

A When I was younger we had sheep mostly so I spent my days looking after my pet lambs. One in particular was called Joey!

Q Music you listen to?

A Anything from Garth Brooks to Notorious B.I.G. to Coldplay

Q Do you discuss or watch the days racing when you get home?

A Depending on the day, sometimes I like to just watch it back myself.

Q How do you keep grounded?

A Racing does that for you!

Q Where is best place to go when celebrating and why?

A Anywhere with friends, we have not been able to do any of that in recent times so I'm looking forward to catching up when covid 19 is finally gone.

Q What did you get out of Pony Club and did you enjoy it?

A I loved it, I learned the basics got my B test and made great friends.

Q Do you still have time to get back home to see family?

A Yes, I only live an hour away from my home place in Tipperary.

Q Are you a petrol head or is it just a means of getting from A-B. Current car at present.

A Audi A5 I don't mind driving but if it's a 6 hour round trip to Ballinrobe I'd be happier in the passenger seat!

Q What do you remember about your first win riding Stowaway Pearl in 2011

A It was such a brilliant day, I was finally able to say I rode a winner. I just remember being so so happy!

Q What do you remember about your first professional win on Most Honourable in 2015

A He was a special horse for the Yard as he gave Andrew McNamara his last winner before he retired so then to give me my first winner was unbelievable. It was a relief I suppose to finally get that done.

Q Do you have any advice for anyone who wants to be a jockey?

A Work hard, be patient and surround yourself with the right people.

Q Cheltenham: Favourite horse ridden there and best ride given? (any year)

A Riding Honeysuckle anywhere is something I love obviously.

Q Aintree: Favourite horse ridden there and best ride given? (any year)

A Minella Times



Editor: On a recent zoom interview with Henry de Bromhead for HRI he gave this wonderful quote 'With herself and Honey I try not to get involved they are so deadly' Enough said

Natter from Sarah

David has sent you all out an email which reads as follows: ' It is with deep regret and after much thought that I am going to have to stand down as Chairman of CTCRC. I have thoroughly enjoyed the role with a good committee behind me and meeting many of the wonderful members. Unfortunately I have decided that I need to take a back seat and to concentrate more on family, friends and animals as they are not around forever. I will still be doing the Magazine and Stable Visits so I am still in the picture and part of the club. You can still contact me if there is anything I can do regarding the content of the Magazine or Stable Visits. Helen will be taking over as interim Chairman and then the post will be decided by ballot at the AGM if anyone else feels like going for the job. So can I thank each and

everyone of you for your support over the years and I am sure I will still see many of you racing so please do say hello.

This year we were unable to have our usual silent auction and raffle at The Festival Preview as there was only the online preview so on the spur of the moment I decided to do an online auction of stable visits.

I must say I was not quite expecting such a wonderful response from the stables. We had 44 lots in all and made just over £5k for our charities. I would like to Thank everyone who donated or bought a lot as it was much appreciated and gave weight to me and my bonkers ideas.

Please do keep in touch and it has been a pleasure
At times lol

Club Events.

Please look on the website for stable and stud visits. The new system is that there are opening and closing dates for emails for each visit.

Upton Viva Stud July 21st

Charlie Longsdon October 16th

Oliver Signy TBA

Cullentra Stables Ireland October 13th (if travel is allowed)

email Sarah on ctcrcstablevisits@gmail.com

We are still in desperate need of a Treasurer if anyone fancies volunteering.



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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.