

Spring 2022



FINISH LINE

Cheltenham & Three Counties Race Club



RICHARD DAVIS AWARD

For the Top Conditional Jockey riding at:
Cheltenham, Chepstow, Hereford, Ludlow, Stratford, Warwick and
Worcester

During the period 3rd May 2021 – 22nd April 2022

(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 24th February 2022)

1st	Liam Harrison	211 pts
2nd	Kevin Brogan	184 pts
3rd	Chester Williams	151 pts
4th	Jack Tudor	108 pts
5th	Lorcan Williams	98 pts

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

TIPSTER COMPETITION: FEBRUARY UPDATE

This month saw lower than 'usual' scoring by those horses involved in the races who, even with the ongoing mild winter weather, provided just **235** points in total with **41% of the Competition horses** recording only **forty-one runs** in total.

The resultant **Leaderboard** retains familiar 'faces' remaining in the in the latest **TOP TEN**, with **Michael Ogilvy** retaining his pole position by overtaking his last month's leading entry with his **"E"** entry and a score of **268 points**. Third place is jointly shared by **Susan Pannikar** and **Terry Poulson** who are followed by a **host of entries within 25 points of the 'podium'**.

This sets up very neatly for the final 2 months of the Competition, with **Double points** on offer through **7 days of the two Festivals**.

Our Congratulations go to **Michael Ogilvy** who will receive another **£10 prize**.

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

POSITION	NAME		FEBRUARY MONTH	FEBRUARY CUM'VE	
1	Michael	OGILVY	E	70	268
2	Michael	OGILVY	A	30	260
3=	Susan	PANIKKAR	C	65	255
3=	Terry	POULSON	B	55	255
5	Mark	WELLSTEED	C	55	245
6=	Steve	HEARLE	A	50	240
6=	Terry	POULSON	D	35	240
8=	Ian	ATKINSON	B	65	235
8=	Neil	JAKES	G	65	235
9=	Mike	LAWRENCE	A	35	230
9=	Steve	PAYNE	B	35	230
9=	Mark	STRANGWARD	A	45	230
9=	Alan	WELLSTEED	A	35	230

9=	Alan	WELLSTEED	D	35	230
9=	Mark	WELLSTEED	D	40	230

The contest for **Top Dog** in **February** was so intense that only **5 points** separated the **top NINE places** with top place shared by 3 contestants, namely **Michael Ogilvy** (who else?!), **Neil Ashby** and **Philip Mann** (2 entries) each scoring **70 points**. If memory serves me correctly, I believe this is a 'first' for that number of top place shares.

Well done, **Michael, Neil and Philip** who will receive a **£10 prize** for each **Top Score entry**.

POSITION	NAME			FEBRUARY MONTH
1=	Michael	OGILVY	E	70
1=	Neil	ASHBY	C	70
1=	Phillip	MANN	B	70
1=	Phillip	MANN	C	70
5=	Ian	ATKINSON	B	65
5=	Mark	WELLSTEED	B	65
5=	Neil	JAKES	G	65
5=	Neville	WARD	A	65
5=	Susan	PANIKKAR	C	65

Please don't forget that you can track the status of your entries on-line by accessing 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

CHARITY AUCTION 2021; THANK YOU SARAH

Despite the pandemic continuing to create havoc for racing during 2021 the Club still managed to raise funds for our selected charities. The contributions below were only made because our Club Chair, Sarah Matthews, set up an on-line auction. Singlehandedly she managed to bring in £5,100 with the support of trainers, studs, etc and, of course, those making bids.

£900 to Injured Jockeys Fund

£900 to Racing Welfare

£900 to Irish Injured Jockeys Fund

£400 to Cotswold Riding for the Disabled

£400 to Moorcroft

£400 to Greatwood

£400 to Retraining of Racehorses

£400 to British Thoroughbred Retraining

£400 to Brooke Hospital

We have also made one further donation of £500 to HEROS, a racing charity set up in 2006 and supported by Richard Phillips who chaired our first club meeting in November. Based in Oxfordshire we will be arranging a visit later this year to hear about their rehoming and retraining of racehorses and the range of education programmes offered for the 11+ age group, especially those who may struggle with mainstream education.

As the number of racing charities has grown, your committee feels it now appropriate to review annually who we will make donations to each year, allowing newcomers to feature alongside old favourites. These will be posted on our website. If you come across any charities you feel should be considered, please let us know.

Helen Cameron

Members Day Out At Warwick

What better way to spend a wintry Sunday than at the races? Over 20 members joined our Club event at Warwick Races on 23 January. On an endlessly grey day this was a new meeting in both the CTCRC and racecourse calendar. We were given a Hospitality box with a terrace overlooking the paddock and winning post; those who didn't want to brave the very chilly weather did not need to venture out. Tea, coffee and a bar were provided and a Tote betting point was virtually outside the door.

We were welcomed to the racecourse by Andre Klein, General Manager of Warwick Racecourse, Community Engagement Manager at Cheltenham Racecourse & Blenheim International Horse Trials. Andre gave us a brief history and tour of the racecourse which is one of

the oldest in the country. As with many older courses, it is very close to the centre of the town. Equestrian events date back to the late 17thC although the racecourse officially only dates from 1707 with the grandstand, parts of which remain today, dating from 1809. Fascinating bits of history include the story of Chandler, who, on 27 March 1847, reputedly jumped 39 feet when clearing the brook and three fallen horses on the landing side in the Leamington Hunt Club Steeplechase. The following year, Chandler won the Grand National. During his time at the helm at Warwick in the 1980s, our President, Edward Gillespie converted the old Tote building into a bar called the Chandler Suite, and the stream at the back of the course is known as Chandler's Brook. Once

home to both flat (Red Rum ran here in a flat race in 1967) and NH meetings, attendances have increased by 40% since it became a jumping track only. Two of its key races are the Classic and Kingmaker Chases. A full history of the racecourse is in Chris Pitt's book, *Chandlers Leap*, available (hardback £20, softback £16.50) from Warwick Racecourse.

As with so many meetings at present, there were very small fields for most of the card but enough close finishes to keep up an air of excitement. Several of our members backed winners adding to an extremely happy and relaxed day. The favourite won the first race, after this the winners were a little less easy to find. The closest finish was in the main race, which Barrichello won by a fast reducing neck. And Hunter Chases at this time of year are always good for

seeing horses whose best days have passed but bring back a host of memories of their former exploits for we regular racegoers.

Feedback from members has been positive and we welcomed two new members on the day. We now hope to make this an annual event in the Club calendar.

Written by Helen Cameron



February Club Meeting Ladies In Racing

So club night on the 16th of February brought about one of those yin and yang moments that just seem to happen occasionally. The evening began with the club AGM, which even with best efforts of those involved was, well, an AGM. But then in swept three ladies of racing and the fun began. The ladies in question were 8 times amateur champion Polly Gundry, grade one winning trainer Emma Lavelle and the one and only Alice Plunkett.

The evening took the form of a chat between old friends rather than an interview and began with the ladies discussing how they got into racing. Polly said that Angela and Mike Tucker played a big part in getting her into point to points but only after trying eventing and finding out she was 'rubbish' at dressage which persuaded her to try a different avenue. Alice revealed that instead of practising Polly seemed to spend rather a lot of time riding

shotgun in a tractor and didn't think it was the tractor itself that was the appeal. Horses however soon became the main attraction and Polly was hooked.

Emma loved ponies from an early age and after her father had bought a horse and placed it at Toby Baldings yard Emma would go and see it on Saturday mornings. There was a relaxed attitude to who could ride out at the yard and she was by the age of eleven riding and occasionally falling off many of the yards incumbents. As the racing bug grew she could recall telling her parents she was either going to be a race horse trainer or prime minister. There is still time for the latter and there may well be a position available soon.

Alice was born into family that had horses so progressing through the different pursuits just seemed to be the natural course of events and she loved the outdoor lifestyle.

Polly told us of two major influences on her, John Daniell a two time winner of the Aintree Foxhunters who introduced her to lots of people and Grant Cann who taught her about race riding and about empathy with the horse. Emma's biggest influence was Toby Balding, she even met her husband there. She did mention about the relaxed regime at the yard and that on a Saturday pretty much anybody seemed to be able to ride out undoing all the work stable staff had put in during the week.

Polly said the best piece of advice she had been given was to surround herself with nice people and she would have a nicer life, to which a laughing Alice responded "you do realise I work with Matt Chapman"! Emma's best advice was from Paul Barber who told her bad horses make bad trainers so get the best horses you can. Alice, who in the dark and distant past was known as Alice from the Palace after her reports from Blenheim said Richard Pitman's advice to 'smile at the world'

worked for her and judging by the audience's grins she made a very good point. She carried on to talk about Channel 4 and ITV. Channel 4 changed racing coverage for good she said even including a passable Julian Wilson impression. It dragged the coverage into a more modern format and though it got a bit stale at the end ITV had taken up the baton. Even stars can get star struck apparently and she certainly did when travelling in a lift with Ant and Dec on her way to an ITV meeting, melting when they recognised her and asked for a tip.

Polly chatted then about her star horse Santini who has returned to be trained by her as she had him as a three year old. She explained that he is too nice for a big yard and that it had made her cry when the owners asked her to have him back as she likes him so much. Emma then chatted about her stable star Paisley Park. Given £100k to spend on a horse she spent £60k on Paisley, to which the owner declared "but I wanted

to spend £100k"! The horse suffered from colic symptoms after a couple of runs which may have been down to grass sickness. On his first hurdle he beat Vision Des Flos who has also gone onto grade 1 success - some race then. He hasn't been straight forward since then having anaphylactic shock to a sedative and a fibrillating heart. He is fine now and Emma is looking forward to seeing Ruby Walsh who suggested on tv Paisley return to the stables after half a mile of his last race and then have to watch as Paisley caught Champ on the run in. Alice then took a turn to talk about Snow Leopardess who is being aimed at the National and is bred by her mother in law. Snow Leopardess is now a mum after having a foal by Sir Percy but was brought back into training after said mother in law declared "I had children and it didn't break my stride". The ladies went on to talk about the Irish dominance - "we used to buy all their horses but don't now" - how they were treated as lady

jockeys - intimidated because they weren't experienced not because they were women and how important the point to point scene is to racing and to country life which they were very passionate about. They ended up by describing which horses their husbands may be likened to. For the sake of three marriages this conversation isn't being reported in full, but none of them mentioned Galileo or Frankel if you get my drift. Thankfully the meeting had to stop at this point if only because people were hurting from laughing so much but in conclusion it was lovely, entertaining evening which left everybody yearning for more.



Written by Mike Lawrence

January Club Meeting Ian Watkinson

GOING UP WORSE THAN COMING DOWN

Sometimes it's nice to indulge in a bit of nostalgia. Our January club meeting was such an evening with a dip into the life of Ian Watkinson, one of the finest jump jockeys of the 1970s. His life is now recorded for posterity in his racing memoir, *The Going Up Was Worth The Coming Down*, written in conjunction with long time CTCRC supporter and racing historian, Chris Pitt, his interviewer on the night. By the end of a highly entertaining evening we were all aware and in some awe of his wider history. Born in Newmarket with no racing background and destined to follow in the footsteps of his naval family, a Saturday job with Pat Moore hooked him into the racing game. Only learning to ride at 13, schooling over hurdles by 14, got a point- to-point ride at Cottenham at 16 set us off on a madcap gallop with a range of humorous and sometimes breath-taking tales of his life in racing. With his first ride, Charles Cotton, under rules at Hexham in 1966

being a winner, it was all going to be easy

No one long apprenticeship with a stable or long-term stable jockey, he regularly moved around, in the process working for some of the leading trainers and riding numerous champion jumpers of his era – Tingle Creek, Night Nurse, Sea Pigeon, Alverton, riding out on Flyingbolt but never partnering him in a race, to name but a few. The names of famous trainers and jockeys were sprinkled through the evening including Winter/Owen/Robson/Oliver/Fletcher/Haine/Champion and 'the toughest I ever met', Tommy Barnes.

In his early 20s weight problems made him walk away to work as a barman in a Lake District hotel but a guest persuaded him this was a bad idea so he went south to work for Peter Ransom, later moving on to the USA as a work rider for Paul Mellon's trainer, Elliott Birch, at Belmont Park where he saw the great Secretariat in action.

In 1973 he joined Tom Jones as a

stable lad and work rider (David Mould was then first jockey). His first winner for the stable was Fezeyot when he dead-heated with Lord Oaksey in a 3m chase at Leicester. After David Mould retired, he became stable jockey and spoke with affection of the exploits of Tingle Creek, on whom he won seven races, how the horse loved jumping and literally 'bolted' in most of his races going at such a pace that few could keep up. As we all know, the horse loved Sandown and is commemorated there with a chase. Sadly, he never liked Cheltenham. The last of Ian's wins on him was when lumping 12-7 round Fontwell. Another favourite horse was Zeta's Son, on whom he won the 1976 Hennessey Gold Cup.

It is probably fair to say that a jockey's life was a bit more carry on regardless than today. 'Iron Man Watty' was no exception. Weight was always an issue and he admitted that he resorted not only to bad diets but also to amphetamines to try and keep it down.

On one occasion, while schooling a horse for Tommy Barnes, the horse fell and Ian broke his nose.

Not one to give up, the trainer just ripped a handkerchief in half, stuffed it up the nostrils to stop the blood and legged him up again. Following a fall at Sedgefield one day, the St John's Ambulance personnel managed to drop him off the stretcher and break his nose. He also got away riding with injuries that would today get you signed off by course doctors, winning the 4-mile Oxo National at Warwick on Jolly Clump with a broken collarbone grating and on pain killers. On another occasion, he fell over in front of a Stewards review, later being diagnosed with a broken leg that he thought was a mere bruising.

We also heard a little about the risk from gambling sets, which led on one occasion to Ian being warned by the Birmingham police not to answer the phone or door, with trainer Earl Jones having been knee-capped after the local mafia's well-backed horse finished well down the field.

In 1977 he won the Embassy Hurdle at Haydock on Sea Pigeon for Peter Easterby, but a fall at Southwell which left him with a cracked pelvis lost him the Champion Hurdle ride. Also in

1977, he rode Sage Merlin in the Grand National but the horse 'lost his nerve' and fell at the Chair, in doing so almost changing the course of history by nearly bringing down the legendary Red Rum. He also spoke of the contrast in riding the two racing legends - Night Nurse and Sea Pigeon, telling us his first choice over hurdles would have been the latter.

His riding career was brought to a sudden end at Towcester on 9 March 1979 when Regal Choice fell on him causing head injuries leaving him with a year of lost memory. Recovery was long and the day he was told he could not race ride again was a seminal moment, leading to spending six years in Australia, working his passage on a horse transport plane, breaking horses and training 75 winners. At one point he even tried rodeo riding. He eventually returned to his home town of Newmarket to run a horse transport business, where he remains to this day.

When asked about his view of today's racing scene Ian said he did not follow it closely but we gained the impression he thought it was a much softer era than his

own. He also felt that the recent issue between Bryony Frost and Robbie Dunne would never have happened in his weighing room days, a senior jockey would have stepped in long before it reached melting point. When reflecting that the great Tingle Creek ran 27 times winning races lumping 12.10, he probably has a point, although safety changes have come about for very good reasons.



Written by Helen Cameron

Jo O'Neill Article

I was sorry to hear about the death of owner David Langdon, unanimously known as Willie the Builder. He owned horses at Nigel Twiston-Davis' and was great friends with Cathy T-D, and all of us staff too. In fact, he was more like family. He converted NTD's top yard from the existing pigsties and cattle sheds and built Cathy's lovely house. He was a great supporter of the yard, driving up in his white work van or his shiny white Porsche and owned many winners over the years in his striped colours. In my time there, he owned six-time winner Lady Zephyr and seven-time winner Naunton Brook, who won a Northumberland National and ran in two Aintree ones. Willie the Builder also owned Naunton Brook as a 'pointer', giving a sixteen-year-old Willie T-D his first winner.

Willie the builder, from Bredon, near Tewkesbury, was always smiling, and loved a laugh and a joke. He was much fun and

had a wicked sense of humour and one summer, got me hook, line and sinker. I'd been housesitting for Cathy and had had a lovely week, entertaining lots of colleagues and friends in her country kitchen. We'd drank copious amounts of rosé and eaten lots of pizzas but I'd got behind with the cleaning up. Willie the Builder came down to find me in the new barn to tell me Cathy was home early and that she was really angry at the state of her kitchen. Of course, he was joking but had me going for a heart stopping few minutes.



Photo Graftonwood
I'll never forget Willy the Builder. At Jonjo's, we have a mare, Uptown Lady, out of Lady Zephyr so I'll be remembering him for a while yet.

At work, St Valentine's Day used to be a lot more celebrated than it is today. One year, there was much hilarious speculation over who sent one of the amateur jockeys a single red rose and a card with a cryptic message inside and then another year, Richie McLernon brought in a card addressed to 'All the lovely ladies of Jackdaws' and a bag of Irish Cadbury's chocolate, such as Mint Crisp and Caramello. A horse I did for a few years, Oscar Fortune, won his chase at Haydock on the 14th of February 2015, but recently it has just passed by very quietly.

In fact, this year, not many of us felt much love towards anything, let alone the horses. Valentine's Day fell on a Monday and every horse was fresh- jinxing, naughty and playing up. It was probably due to the cold wind that blew powerfully about the gallops and the fact it followed a Sunday, which is a racehorse's traditional day off.

My husband Joe received

(from me!) a Cornish cream tea delivered to the office, including heart-shaped scones, clotted cream and jam and Cornwall tea bags- so, he had a lot more joy than I had found in my four lots!



The previous few weeks of dry weather had been very pleasant- the mud in the gateways had dried and the ground around the pens was not mud pockmarked by hoof prints. Spectacular sun rises of colours looked like orange and red merging into a huge vivid watercolour on the sky. Beautiful silver frosts very

abundant and on some days, the blue skies were dotted only with a few fluffy cotton wool clouds.

The usual normality returned in the middle of February when the rain fell horizontally, rendering waterproofs useless and reins hopelessly slippery. The worst feeling was when a tiny rivulet of cold water slid down under my collar, adding to the horribleness of sodden underwear beneath all those drenched layers. Rain smashed into our faces, dripping down our noses, and made all the horses curve and prance away from the driving rain, trying to point their hindquarters into it. Getting this wet always lead to getting really cold and then it was impossible to warm up. The only way to do so, was to change into dry clothes and eat a hot meal at lunchtime.

At Wetherby on the 16th, the sun shone for little bit as we shampooed the runners, Arrivederci and Moscow Spy, but then the grey clouds descended, followed by rain.

Arrivederci (Lucky), has been my favourite for years and over that time, his coat has lightened considerably (hence the reason for the shampooing and Vanish bar!).



Arrivederci

He did me proud and won best-turned-out but then pulled up in the race, due to the horribly soft ground. He was OK and had his ears pricked – Jonjo Junior said just to draw a line under that run and move on. Moscow Spy was then declared a non-runner, so we left a good two hours early. Head of Travelling, Harrison Day drove home through horrible weather conditions. The wind

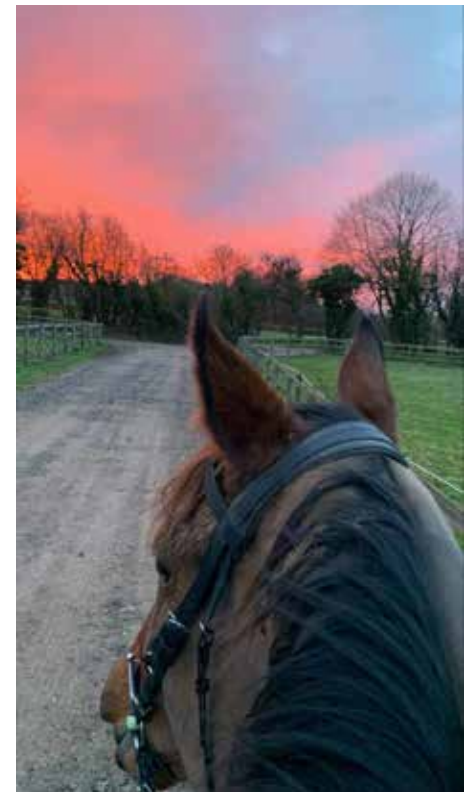
was tossing the two-box around like a tin can and rain felt torrentially. The windscreen wipers streaked back and forth continuously.

The dramatic climax to the week was Storm Eunice, which made Wednesday's Storm Dudley seem very tame in comparison. Riding out in the morning started pleasantly enough with blue sky and a little golden sunshine but soon the storm arrived. Riding in heavy winds felt like lots of hands roughly and strongly trying to push me from the saddle. Every now and again, I felt unbalanced and near wobbling. This wasn't a gentle, tickly breeze, but seemingly a great invisible force intent in shoving its way through the morning. We all had to hang on, hold our neck straps a little tighter and jam our heels well down. The wind crashed and thundered through the trees, snapping branches at will and throwing them down – it twirled the horses' tails and riffled their manes. It was, for a moment or two, hard to snatch

a breath as the wind slammed into our faces – and then with a grateful gulp, we breathed again. Handfuls of rain pelted onto us, like kickback from the hooves of galloping horses.

Yet, it subdued a little for evening stables – the booming wind became a grumble and branches crashed less dramatically.

Stay safe x



An Interview with Amber Cartlidge **Secretary & Assistant Trainer to Charlie Longsdon**

Amber Cartlidge was born and bred in the Cotswolds – she grew up near to the picturesque Bourton-on-the-Water and now lives down the road in the equally chocolate-box Moreton-In-the-Marsh. Amber, 23, says, 'I have never travelled very far, I've always lived around here and even went to university just down the road at Cirencester, at The Royal Agricultural University!' There, she gained an honours degree in International Business Management, with food and agribusiness.



Amber had a fun horsey childhood and competed in many Pony Club competitions. 'My family were not connected to racing; however, I grew up having horses,' she explains. 'I always fancied the idea of riding 'pointing (I had one ride!!), so when Ben Pauling very first set up, I went in to ride out at the age of 15.' The Cartlidge family

was not horsey but then as Amber's interest blossomed into one that had racehorses at its core, her family subsequently became more involved with racing.

During the lockdown in 2020, Amber used her time on furlough to really improve her fitness, including running and cycling. 'The exercise became addictive, not something I ever thought I would say!' chuckles Amber. 'As a result, I do a lot of running, biking and now swimming. I competed in my first ever triathlon, the Cotswold Classic - 1.2m swim, 56-mile bike and 13-mile run - last summer. Unfortunately, the swim was cancelled due to bad visibility on the lake, which means I have signed up to it again!'

Last year, Amber completed The Great Racing Welfare Cycle, 500 miles in five days, raising thousands for the charity close to a lot of stable hands' hearts. 'It was so much fun, but hard work at the same time. We were well looked after, and it was for a brilliant cause. I never want to cycle up the brutal hill, Fleet Moss, ever again!'

For someone still in their early twenties, Amber has done many admirable things in and out of racing – and there will be so many more in the future.

Did you have a horsey childhood?

Yes, I had a very horsey childhood. I

started with an extremely naughty Shetland called Nibbles, who eventually I was too scared to ride! My Grampy then decided to buy me an unbroken 2-year-old cob, with two blue eyes, from some farm sales in Wales as my second horse! He had a heart of gold, but could not jump, we got stuck over a small rail out hunting once. I then had a fabulous one-eyed pony who would jump everything on the hunting field, he was awesome. Followed by Larry, my very special Connemara who was perfect at everything, and again was found following the field master over the biggest of Heythrop country. He had to be sold as I headed off to university and I said I could never get another one... until I got offered the brilliant Dave's Dream – my horse of a lifetime.



What equestrian disciplines have you competed in?

I have done a bit of everything. I don't like eventing; dressage is stressful, the poles fall down show jumping, and they put stupid skinny fences in the middle of a cross country course. Therefore, hunting

and team chasing was my idea of fun. I Open team chased with Team Rideaway for a few seasons on the previously mentioned Dave's Dream.



How did you get into racing?

I rang up Ben Pauling one morning to ride out, completely clueless and unable to ride. I used to ride out on Saturday mornings, and then a lot before school every morning, and worked full time in my holidays. I learnt a lot and basically grew up at Ben Pauling Racing!

Which trainers have you worked for and in which roles?

Ben Pauling as a Stable Lass, Jonjo O'Neill as a Work Rider and Office Assistant and for Charlie Longsdon as Secretary & Assistant Trainer.

Please describe your role as secretary and assistant trainer:

I basically do a bit of everything! I ride out two lots in the morning before entering the office or going racing. I do the entries and declarations, social media, staff organisation and owners' communication. I have had to learn how to become a photographer to make sure owners get good updates!

It was essential through lockdown to make sure we sent them lots of content when they could not see their horses. I then represent Charlie at the races regularly. It is a very varied role, but I really enjoy it.



Have you ever ridden in races?

I had one point-to-point ride at Bangor. I was told to make the running, but I got to the start and too many people were trying to make it, so I just jumped off stone cold last. I had a class spin, and when I realised everyone was off the bridle and I finally kicked on, I flew past them all to finish 4th. He probably would have won if he had someone who knew what they were doing on board.

Who is your racing hero?

I don't have a hero as such, I just admire everyone in all aspects of racing and the fantastic commitment and dedication to the sport.

Favourite racecourse:

Cheltenham – the home of National

Hunt racing and my local track.

Which have been your favourite racehorses?

I seem to have lots of favourites! Kildisart, I used to ride him at Ben's in his early start to his career. I now have a soft spot for Almazhar Garde who is at Charlie's, he is a completely loveable rogue. A horse I never had anything to do with but used to love watching run was Un De Sceaux, his jumping was fabulous.

What have been your best day in racing so far?

Willoughby Court winning at the festival.

What do you love about working in racing?

It is so varied. Obviously, racing is your life, and it becomes a passion. It is unlike any other industry. I did try my hand at a boring office job after university, as the reason I went to university was not to work in racing! However, that was not for me.

And what do you dislike about racing?

You can't make too many plans in the future, as you never know what runners you might have and whether you will be needed to go racing. It isn't a complaint though, as I enjoy going racing.

Is social media positive or negative?

It is positive and negative. It is brilliant marketing and keeping people up to date. However, I think there is too much of it. People get

addicted to it.

Other hobbies/interests:

Gym, running, swimming, and cycling – how boring! Oh, and the occasional pub afternoon.



If you didn't work in racing, what might you have done?

I am not sure, something sales/marketing related.



Interview conducted by Jo O'Neill

Club Magazine Editor Required

“As you may already know, I have decided to step down as Editor of the Club Magazine. The next edition will be my last. So far, nobody has stepped forward to replace me and consequently the Committee are looking at how best to fill this gap. Our idea is to move away from the current format towards a regular (perhaps monthly) two or three page newsletter based on Word containing a mixture of Club news and ‘colour’ pieces. We think this approach will provide some good content for our members in a format that will be much easier for the newsletter editor to manage. Ideally, we would like to split the editor role across two or three people with each person editing an edition every couple of months.

We are therefore looking for a couple of members to step forward and take the joint editor role. Could that be you?

The editor needs to be enthusiastic and have a love of National Hunt racing. You'll need a basic level of Word knowledge. If you would like to join the Committee that is great but not essential.

If you are interested please get in touch with me or Helen for a chat and we can explain our ideas some more and answer any questions you may have.

PS If you'd prefer to take over the magazine in it's current format that would be great too!”

Karen's Race Review

Newbury tribute to Karen Jackson



On a very wet and windy, February Sunday, fifty or so friends and family of Karen Jackson, made their way to Newbury. Karen, after decades battling cancer, passed away last Summer. She had worked at the course for many years, subsequently at Cheltenham, too, as front of house in the Owners' & trainers' restaurant. Her smile was infectious and she was good at her job! Newbury paid tribute to Karen by naming the 2.30 race in her honour.

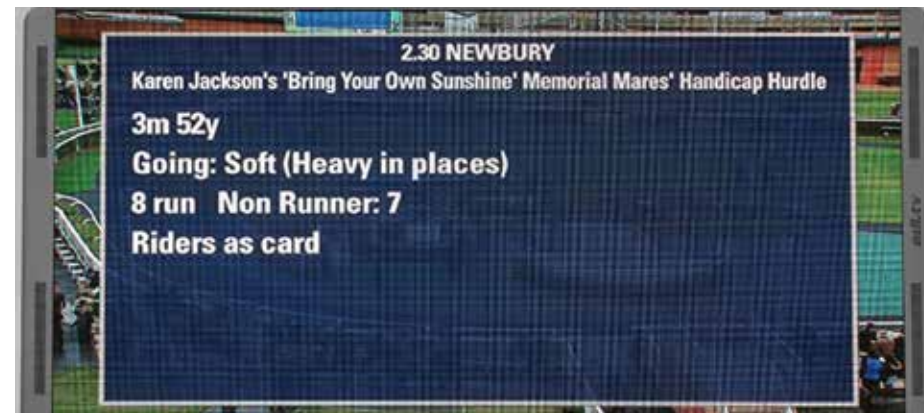
The charity single, released by saxophonist and vocalist, Kim Cypher, was played as the horses paraded pre-race. The single

is entitled 'Bring Your Own Sunshine', written specifically for Karen. The irony of the title was not lost on race-goers, as the heavens opened and the wind lashed around.

One of Karen's greatest pleasures was being part of Venetia Williams' first syndicate, in a horse named Coudefoudre - a smart looking grey horse, who, ultimately, decided he didn't really enjoy this racing lark. Karen loved her 'Coudie' and continued to visit him in his retirement.



The memorial race (class 4, handicap hurdle for fillies and mares) was run at a solid pace under deteriorating ground conditions. From several furlongs out, a grey horse showed prominent. "Coudie reincarnated", was the chant that echoed through



the royal box. Winning by a distinct margin, 'So Said I', ridden by Harry Cobden, cleared the finishing post, to great cheers and much raising of glasses. Karen's daughters Evie and Emily, son-in-law Marius and good friend, Karen Weston presented the prize to winning connections, accompanied to more rallying cheers. A soggy, but great day to commemorate a great lady.



Should you wish to contribute to the Maggie's fund raiser by downloading the track, here are the details.
https://kimcypher.bandcamp.com/track/bring-your-own-sunshine-2?fbclid=IwAR27IPxJKeSyN9aaLuRMfh5KFuZJPBeli6UNMoaf6_8rrpcx7p1qBLmx9p4

Written by Rosemarie Davies

Editors Note: A few of us had number 7 in the race but ended up being a non runner.



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President: Edward Gillespie

Vice President:

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: Helen Cameron

Vice Chair: Gerald Kay

Treasurer: John Reilly

Secretary: Vacant (acting David Miller)

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

Stable visit organiser: Sarah Matthews ctcrcstablevisits@gmail.com

Magazine Editor: Sarah Matthews ctcrcnewsletter@gmail.com

Valued Committee Members:

Rosemarie Davies, Antonia Lord,

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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.