

Summer 2022



FINISH LINE

Cheltenham & Three Counties Race Club



Unknown photographer (Thank You)

TIPSTER COMPETITION: FINAL UPDATE

With a welcome return to what goes for “normal” Festivals during March and April it was, perhaps, predictable that the final phase of the Tipster Competition delivered a remarkably close outcome, with

a late change of overall Leader manifesting itself only as a result of the Punchestown Festival. Although holding a 60pt advantage prior to the last five days’ events, the previous leader, Terry Poulson, was overwhelmed with mid-Festival surges by both Richard Shaw and the eventual runner-

up, John Rendell, leaving Terry to be overhauled within the shade of the finishing line to hold on to 3rd and 4th place for a degree of consolation.

In what devolved into a very tight Top Ten Leaderboard, just 41 points covering that field, Richard Shaw accumulated 546pts to claim victory with John Rendell challenging hard on the heels to post 535pts, leaving the remaining pack to take the relatively minor honours.

Simply for interest, the winning entry was:

1 A PLUS TARD (FR) 6 ALLAHO (FR) 14 BOB OLINGER (IRE) 18 CHACUN POUR SOI (FR) 29 ENERGUMENE (FR) 30 ENVOI ALLEN (FR) 47 HONEYSUCKLE 85 SIR GERHARD (IRE)

Huge “Congratulations” go to the “podium triumvirate” who, along with Grenville Davies and Susan Pannikar, will be advised of their prizes which, due to me being away on holiday, the full list of all Awards will be advised to everyone as soon as possible after my return.

POSITION	NAME	APRIL MONTH	FINAL CUM’VE
1	Richard SHAW G	116	546
2	John RENDELL D	120	535
3=	Terry POULSON B	65	520
3=	Terry POULSON D	90	520
5=	Grenville DAVIES E	165	515
5=	Susan PANIKKAR B	155	515
7=	Neil JAKES G	105	510
7=	Alan WELLSTEED A	100	510
9	Richard SHAW D	100	508
10	Alan WELLSTEED C	130	505

The final Top Scorer in the Month Award goes to Gillian Walker who secured a highly commendable

171pts during April. Well Done, Gillian!

POSITION	NAME	APRIL MONTH
1	Gillian WALKER A	171
2	Grenville DAVIES E	165
3=	Grenville DAVIES D	155
3=	Susan PANIKKAR B	155
5	Phillip MANN C	151
6	John RENDELL C	150

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

RICHARD DAVIS AWARD 21/22

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.

Final Placings for the 2021 – 2022 Season

1st	Liam Harrison	229 pts
2nd	Kevin Brogan	227 pts
3rd	Chester Williams	194 pts
4th	Jack Tudor	162 pts
5th	Lorcan Williams	156 pts

Richard Davis was a talented jump jockey tragically killed in a fall over fences in 1996.

This award is named in his memory.

John Hales Article

We did not have many runners over the Christmas period as our plans were focused on the Cheltenham Festival and Aintree. It was going to be an important Festival for us as we planned to have Protektorat in the Gold Cup and Politologue in the Queen Mother Champion Chase.

Protektorat has shown the combination of speed and stamina and although only seven years of age we believed he was ready for this race. He did not let us down and considering his age and experience it was an outstanding performance to finish 3rd. He probably should have been 2nd but a mistake at the last meant we had to settle for third. He came up the hill showing plenty of stamina but we must congratulate the outstanding winner who we could not get

near. Given luck and staying sound we may have another three goes at the Gold Cup with Protektorat and this remains the only major race I have not won.

I still believe the Grand National is the most difficult race to win because it is a handicap with forty runners. At the moment I must settle for 2x 3rd in the Gold Cup with Neptune Collonges also coming 3rd in the 2008 Gold Cup. When you think that Paul Nicholls has only won the Grand National race once and Nicky Henderson has never won the Grand National it shows that it is the most difficult race to win. On the Wednesday of the Festival we ran Politologue in the Queen Mother Champion Chase. This was always going to be his last race. He has been a wonderful horse having won over £1 million in prize money. Without doubt from the beginning of his career to the end he

has been the best jumper we have ever had. He never fell and loved his racing. He has been a wonderful horse to own. Paul Nicholls has done a wonderful job with him but in retirement he is going to a Master of Foxhounds to go hunting but will still come home to us for his Summer holidays. We will give him a wonderful life in retirement. He so loves what he does we have already put the Hunt on alert that you may not prevent him overtaking the fox.



After Cheltenham we focused on Aintree. Monmiral came 2nd and he is a fine prospect for the future and will go over fences next season. So at the end of the season we decided to go to the sales and see if we could find some

good young horses. We purchased Ittack Blue who won a point to point run at Punchestown. This was a very impressive performance and there was a lot of competition in the bidding at the Newmarket sales. He has Dom Alco in his breeding who was the sire of Neptune Collonges. He will be owned by Sir Alex Ferguson, Ged Mason Jon Diver and myself. He will be trained by Dan Skelton.

The same syndicate purchased Leau Du Sud a winner at Auteuil who will also be trained by Dan Skelton. Another winning Point to Point horse was Fortunate Soldier who will go to Olly Murphy. This horse is a lovely model owned by myself.

The next horse we purchase will go to Paul Nicholls. I am very excited about the future we have some very good horses and we hope we will win plenty of Grade 1 races.

April Meeting By Mike Lawrence

Haven't checked any of this latest nonsense, but it made sense when I wrote it.....x

It's clear then that I am a very slow learner after committing another school boy error and going off to Punchestown before committing to writing up my notes from the clubs April meeting. Before getting started on the meeting a few words on Punchestown if I may. The racing isn't quite as good as the Cheltenham Festival although not far off, but the meeting itself is incredible. Space and seats in abundance, well behaved and sober attendees that are interested in horses and racing and plenty of loos and reasonably priced food. Added to that were visits to Gordon Elliotts yard, an unforgettable morning at Aidan Howard's yard by the Curragh and foals. Not

just any foals either, Benie des Dieux, Apples Jade and Quevegas latest were all waiting to welcome us at different points of the week. I'm no great fount of knowledge but I would recommend a Punchestown visit goes on to your bucket list. I have written another article later in the magazine about our Punchestown visit.



Enough of Ireland then and more of the April club night. Our guest was Ian Renton, Jockey Club Regional Director and the man in charge of Cheltenham Racecourse. The interviewer was our own Edward Gillespie and a previous incumbent of the Cheltenham hot-seat. The evening started

with Ian describing a bit of his history. After graduating from Cambridge he started working life in the wine trade before becoming a trainee manager for a certain Edward Gillespie at Cheltenham. He was there for three years including the Dawn Run year and the the year of the snow on Gold Cup day. Ian went off to become clerk of the course at Aintree and was there when the bomb scare was received and he organised the following evacuation and the rearranging of the race on the following Monday. Whilst he was working at Aintree he became aware that Arena Leisure was looking for a racing director. Remarkably after previously stating under any circumstances he would never work for them, he spent the next 11 years with them ending up as managing director.

In 2012 he learned that Edward 'wanted out' from Cheltenham and after

chatting with him decided that as it had always been his favourite course and with the major redevelopment that was planned he wanted the job. He has been loving the job ever since as the Jockey Club puts so much back into the sport.

The job hasn't been without hiccups, the awful JT McNamara fall and the number of fatalities in the National Hunt Chase were two mentioned, but Ian relies heavily on his team and his believes that 'you just have to get on with things'. A review with the team afterwards helps improve practices for the future as well. One of Ian's long term tactics is to improve the general public's view of racing and getting across how much horses mean to everybody involved in the sport.

Edward asked Ian for any highlights of his tenure and the quick reply was Sprinter Sacre regaining his two mile

chase crown and all the different levels of the new stands being packed with people going mad. His second highlight was watching Rachel Blackmores rise to racing superstardom. Edward then mentioned the strong criticism by trainers of the going on the Wednesday of the last festival. Ian replied he just ignored it as with the information he had he would make the same decision again. Edward nodded sagely and said “Well, I had Jenny Pitman in my day...blimey”. Ian seems to be in control of everything Cheltenham wise but even he couldn't control things when the pandemic came in 2020. The government was dictating what was possible and on the Thursday he still wasn't sure whether the Gold Cup would be run the following day. To relax away from the day job Ian likes tennis and gardening he also likes to get to America a couple of times

a year. As for the future Ian is looking at plans for a hotel on the grounds of the course and to improving temporary stands. There will definitely not be astroturf in the parade ring a proposal put forward by Edward. So disappointed was he by this news that he gave over the interviewing role to Rosemarie Davies for the second half (or he may just have needed to get away as he had an early meeting the next day). Questions formed the basis of the second half the first of which was about the lack of ability for the course to take cash and the price of food and beverage. Ian said that card usage had significantly quickened queuing times and prices would continue to rise as it has a huge effect on their margins! Ian's reply to a question about syndicates was that the course was always looking to improve

experiences but it was hard at the festival due to the volume of people. Regarding a fifth day Ian said there was a need for discussion. Money, effects on going, local community and impact on other racecourses were mentioned and a straw poll was taken on who would like an extra day. Very few hands went up although a members suggestion to make a fifth day a family day was an interesting suggestion. Andre Klein General Manager at Warwick had come to the meeting with Ian and fielded some questions as he is responsible for community relations at Cheltenham. Asked 'what are you doing for Cheltenham members' the answer was numbers had been capped as the facilities were not good enough, communications were being improved and more reciprocal days were being considered. The capacity this year of 73,500 was too many

and the feeling was the course had got away with it this year due to the weather, the capacity will be reduced next year. The meeting ended with a question on that old favourite....toilets. Not just any toilets mind, specifically the latrines at Warwick which Andre was relieved (!) to say are being upgraded this summer. Another good night then drew to a close and many thanks to our guests who hopefully enjoyed themselves as much as us and got some good feedback from our members. Hope you all summer well and get yourself in shape for next season.



An Interview with Jockey Stan Sheppard

By Jo O'Neill

Jockey Stan Sheppard has had a brilliant season. Yet, with his family pedigree, it isn't surprising. His Grandfather, Roger Guilding, rode over 135 winners as an amateur during the 1950s and '60. His Dad, Mathew, is a trainer and his Mum, Nicki, a former amateur, has also trained a lot of winners in 'points. 'My father and mother have always had horses, training them and regularly going hunting,' Stan says, playing down his family's achievements.

It was only natural that Stan, 24, continued the successful family name. It all began with a horsey childhood and being an active member of the local Pony Club. After pony-racing and point-to-pointing for a couple of seasons, Stan had his first ride under Rules in June 2016 and only waited days for his first winner on Derrychrin at Stratford. So far, he's ridden over a hundred winners and will continue to tally them up. He rode a bumper winner round Cheltenham for his then-boss Paul Nicholls, and has since ridden winners round many of the big tracks.

In January 2021, Stan won a Grade

2 at Ascot on Lossiemouth and has surpassed that this season by clocking up the Welsh Grand National on Iwilldoit and a Betfair Hurdle on Glory And Fortune. He rides regularly for his boss Tom Lacey but cannot be ignored when on his Dad's horses. He's won eight races on The Bay Birch alone.

It's not just racing in which Stan excels but other riding disciplines. He's competed in the Golden Button race on the heroic Ed the Hunter, finishing seventh and first for the Best Ledbury Hunt rider. 'Although it was my first go at it,' Stan remembers. 'it was Ed's fifth go and fourth time he'd completed.' He also enjoys hunting and has done so since a boy, saying, 'I go hunting on Christmas Eve most years when I can.'



Stan grew up in Eastnor in Herefordshire, where his parents still train today and now lives

with his partner Channon Whitson down the road in Ledbury. Channon and Stan met whilst working at Ditcheat where Channon spent a few fun seasons as a groom, looking after and riding out daily the 2018 Grand Annual winner Le Prezien. Channon is now out of racing full time and is Deputy Manager at Walsingham Support, assisting adults with learning difficulties.



Did you have a horsey childhood?

I can't remember a time when ponies or horses weren't around.

What is your first racing memory?

I had chicken pox so had the day off school and as no one was

around to look after me, I had to go racing with Dad. He'd forgotten to pack me a coat so he had to buy me one at the races, which he wasn't too happy about.

At which point did you know you were going to be a jockey?

Once I started pony racing, and got the speed bug, I was really hooked.

What steppingstones did you use to become a jockey?

I used to do pretty much everything you can think of with ponies, then progressed onto pony racing and point-to-pointing along with lots of trips to the British Racing School.

Which trainers have you worked for and in what roles?

I spent most summers going to yards to gain as much experience as I could, from Peter Bowen's to Ralph Beckett's. Then after school, I went straight down to Paul Nicholls' in Ditcheat as an amateur before turning conditional.

Who has had the biggest influence on you in terms of your career as a jockey?

It would have to be my parents

but there have also been so many other people along the way from everyone down in Ditcheat, the Alners and ex-jockey and jockey-coach Rodi Green, and many more.

Who is your racing hero?

Richard Johnson, mainly because he's from Herefordshire and he's a good bloke.

Do you ever have disagreements with your Dad about race riding?

Yes, most of the time. Although he seems to have accepted that I don't listen to him anyway!

What race would you most like to ride the winner of?

For me, it's the Champion Chase – just for the speed and accuracy that's needed to be right on the limit. These are two reasons why, I think, most of us start being jockeys in the first place.

What is your favourite racecourse?

Easily Chepstow and for many reasons – it's a great track with great chase fences, it's close to home and it's my most successful racecourse. Winning a Welsh Grand National obviously helps.

What is your least lucky racecourse?

Doncaster, particularly the chase course – I don't seem to have much luck round there at all.

What is the best advice you can give to a wannabe jockey?

Keep your mouth shut, and your eyes and your ears open. Learn everything you can from people around you.

What is the best advice you were given?

I can't remember where I saw it but I read somewhere 'at the end of the day, it's only horses galloping around the field.' I use that quite a lot.

What is the best aspect about working for Tom Lacey?

He's fairly laid back and we seem to agree on most things.

Are jockeys adequately looked after through their riding careers?

I think they're looked after a lot better than they used to be, however, I still think there's always room for improvement with how people are looked after they retire from riding.

What's your ideal day off?

Nice lie in, breakfast, telly and then to the pub for dinner.

Favourite meal: Medium rare steak and chips with garlic bread.

Favourite drink: Amstel beer.

Favourite holiday destination: Preferably somewhere not too hot as I'm ginger, I burn very easily.

Favourite movie: The Imitation Game.

Favourite music: I literally listen to anything really.

Other hobbies: I love playing cricket in the summer.



Oliver Signy Stable Visit



Saturday 5th March saw 14 of us on a stable visit to Oliver Signy's yard in Lambourn. For those of you who read the magazine you will have seen articles about the yard and the horses from Katherine, Oliver's wife. So it was lovely to go and see the horses she has been speaking about in the flesh.



We all had a tour round the yard with Oliver telling us about each horse. Sorry to say I have no notes to tell you what he said but it was all very entertaining at the time. After the yard we all went off to

the gallops to watch the horses working which is always lovely to see.



Oliver also took us to see the new white schooling hurdles.



Then back to the yard for breakfast and a chat. The yard did us proud and it was much appreciated. After the visit I went with Lisa one of the stable staff to see her 2 ex racers who some of you might know Golden Feather and Rayvin Black

Sarah

Another bit of prose from your Irish correspondent.

James Joyce it isn't.

Punchestown write up by Mike Lawrence

This year's visit to the festival was more eagerly anticipated than ever due to the enforced covid layoff. The festival kickoff is 3:40pm on the last Tuesday in April, ours (Sarah and myself) was at 9:00am on the previous Saturday. We didn't fancy flying and thought a nice little ferry trip might be easier with all the flight restrictions in place when we started booking the trip and so took the scenic road down to Pembroke. When I say scenic I didn't know that miles of Wales had been either dug up or razed to the ground to make way for a road system around Merthyr Tydfil and looked horrific, so not the best start. We had a nice stay overnight in Tenby which I am pleased to report has very nice delicatessens and eateries and then on to the ferry port via a quick visit to Pembroke Castle and a lovely trip over the sea to Rosslare. The sea was flat calm and even better was the fact that Irish Ferries take Tesco vouchers so it cost next to nothing!

We stopped at a hotel in New Ross that night, which thankfully as I had chosen it was, in local

parlance, 'just grand'. We toured Waterford the next day and even went round some little known glass making factory. So far so good then and that afternoon we travelled North to Kildare where we were to base ourselves for the rest of the week. Now I've got to tell you Kildare is a really nice place...but there is a downside and that is it has a shopping village. "We're here for the racing" was muttered more than once over the course of the next few days, quietly to myself you understand as I'm not a brave man.

Tuesday brought fellow travellers into our orbit, Sarah by plane, Dick and Alan by boat. Sarah arrived first and we went to the Irish National Stud in what has become something of a tradition. There is at the stud a field of champions, Hurricane Fly, Beef or Salmon, Faugheen, Kicking King and Hardy Eustace were stood with their grooms just outside said field when we got there waiting for carrots, cuddles and lots of photos. In the furthest paddock away we discovered Quevega and her latest foal who proved to be a friendly

sort and came straight over for a cuddle.



We went straight off to the races afterwards some twenty minutes down the road. The racing stars the best horses Ireland has to offer and there were also a few British horses there as well. So the racing isn't quite as good as Cheltenham but, in our opinions, is the only thing where Cheltenham is better. We drove straight into the car park without queuing, straight into the course, found seats and clean toilets. No queues at the tote, no drunks and a wonderful friendly atmosphere where everyone seemed to be there to watch the horses and not just for a day out at an 'event'. Couldn't tell you about the prices of the drinks as we didn't avail ourselves of any sort of alcohol until safely back at the hotel. Energumene and Mighty Potter were two of the winners with messer's Elliott and Mullins dominating proceedings.

The following morning the not so famous five trooped off towards Enfield and a splendid visit to Gordon Elliotts yard. He made us very welcome and invited us to make ourselves at home and wander round the stable at our leisure, he didn't have to ask twice... We bumped into a certain Alex Hales, another top fella, also admiring the incredible setup that Gordon has built up. We were even invited into a paddock to get all touchy-feely with Silver Birch and Tiger Roll.



Incredible and unforgettable. How do you compete with that? Well, whilst some repaired back to their hotel for a spot of Tiffin, three of us went to Bective stud. "Where?" I hear you cry - Bective stud is, we discovered, a place on the up and even has a hotel planned to be built within its grounds. It also has Bennie des Deux and Apples Jade currently lodging there along

with their foals. Cue more cuddles and photos. We strolled into the races with 2 minutes to spare and later witnessed probably the best performance of the National hunt season when Allaho hammered a good field in the Gold Cup.



A terrific day was rounded off with a late supper at Butt Mullins in Naas where their Pavlovas resemble Everest!

Thursday was our last day at the races although the rest of our little group were staying on. A remarkable morning started however at Aidan Howard's stables by the Curragh racecourse. We were shown around by partner Alana who seemed even more excited to be showing off the horses than we were to see them. I have to say that we have been privileged to meet some wonderful people over the years but none friendlier or more welcoming

than Alana and Aidan and their extended family which included Kathleen Kennedy (and William Kennedy) who showed us round her racing silk making business. It was, because of the people we met, an unforgettable morning. Off to the races again afterwards to see Klassical Dream and Blue Lord do their thing and Lilith a British winner at last! The ferry home the next morning took two and a bit hours from Dublin to Holyhead and the journey home through Snowdonia took no time.

We had a fantastic time at the festival and with the activities around the festival which have an awful lot to do with Sarah Matthews. We even missed out on a trip to Closutton which took place on the Friday. From a racing viewpoint I just wish the old boys from the jockey club would take a trip over and see how to make a successful festival from the patrons point of view rather than just trying to squeeze every last pound out of their winter showpiece. I could wax lyrical about Punchestown for a lot longer but, if you haven't, why don't you just try it for yourself, it's a nailed on winner!

Punchestown 2022

By Dick Purcell

This was to be my 19th visit to the Punchestown Festival but thanks to Covid I remain on 17 not out. The ferry was the chosen mode of transport for my friend and I and we met up in Leominster at 4am for the drive up to Holyhead. The Irish Sea did a very acceptable impersonation of a mill pond and on our arrival in Dublin we made our way to the course.

The weather for the entire visit of four dates was splendid, we kept waiting for the usual day of torrential rain, or hail or sleet but not this year, sunshine was the order of the week.

Almost immediately after entering the course we met up with several Irish acquaintances from previous visits and it was as if those two missing years really had been just a bad dream. Even a couple of the bookies remembered us and appeared genuinely pleased to see us, not surprising really given our punting record.

The club was represented by Peter Collier who we met up with on our first visit to pre-parade, Sarah and Mike Lawrence who were enjoying a week long visit to Ireland and Sarah Matthews who

like myself has become a veteran visitor. I apologise to any other members who were there that I do not know.

Sarah had the stamina for the full five days and although the weather broke on the Saturday I was still jealous, but I arrived home just in time to catch the last four races on the card on TV.

Little had changed from previous years but the effect on the economy was apparent in the reduced size of the shopping village and the absence of a stage in the paddock area, temporary measures I am sure.

The opening day is Champion's Day, three excellent Grade 1's Champion Novice Hurdle, Champion Novice Chase and of course the Champion Chase itself with a banks race thrown in for good measure, not a bad start.

First shock of the day was Sir Gerhart 4/7 turned over in good style in the Novice Hurdle by two outsiders 20/1 Mighty Potter for Jack Kennedy and Gordon Elliott and 100/1 Gatsby Grey who is a bay of course. Only five runners so thousands out of the Placepot already.

The Champion Chase went to Energumene the odds on favourite for Paul and Willie, a shame really

because I find pronunciation a real struggle.

The Champion Novice followed with another shock, the highly thought of Bob Olinger for Rachael and Henry de Bromhead never looking comfortable and being pulled up on the far side. Capadanna was the winner for Messrs Mullins and McManus. An excellent first day on which Gordon Elliott recorded four winners, the Cross Country race was very exciting (I love them) and the final bumper of the day, the strangely named Mick the Tent flat race, went of course to Patrick and his father.

A good night's sleep and an early start took us, along with Mike and the two Sarahs, to Cullentra House, Co Meath, the stables of Gordon Elliott.



What a morning out, watching four strings up on the gallops touring the boxes and drooling

over the occupants is about as good as it gets. I have to mention Samcro, I know he has not lived up to the promising start but it is always a joy to see him, they don't need to be world beaters to be personal favourites do they. There is of course a highlight in every visit to a yard but how do TWO Grand National winners happily wandering about in a paddock without a care in the world grab you? Yes Tiger Roll and the now 25 year old Silver Birch looking fabulous and milking the attention. Day two at the races was never going to beat that.



There were three Grade 1s on Day Two, Punchestown Gold Cup Day. The first The Irish Mirror Novice Hurdle was another Townend/Mullins victory with The Nice Guy at a big price chased home by stable companion Millella Cocooner with Danny Mullins on board. The feature of the day went

unsurprisingly to Allaho 6/5 by 14 lengths to Paul Nicholls and Harry Cobden's Clan des Obeau. The victory was 14 lengths and could have been more but at least we had an English entrant to watch.

Mr Mullins, unlike some trainers, never shirks from running his better mounts against one another as evidenced by third and fourth places being filled by Al Boum Photo and Kemboy. I will never forget the emotional scenes of three years ago when Ruby announced his immediate retirement after winning this race on the latter.

The last Group 1 of the day was Champion Bumper won by who else than Patrick and Willie's Facile Vega, the 8/15 shot being chased home by yet another stablemate Redemption Day with Paul's sister Jody Townend on board. Another fine day over we made our way to Butt Mullins Bar in Naas for yet another excellent meal we are indeed becoming creatures of habit.

Day three took Mike and Sarah x 2 on a stable visit at The Curragh where they had a most enjoyable morning at the stables and gallops of Aidan Howard so enjoyable in fact that they almost missed the start of the day's racing at 3.45pm!.

My friend and I had a more leisurely day at the Irish National Stud admiring all the oldies in their paddock and fussing over all the foals. What better way to spend a morning in the sunshine. Hurricane Fly not looking one bit like the horse who would be proudly parading in the paddock the next day.

Lunch over we made our way via The Curragh to the course ready for Day Three. It's Stayers day and Paisley Park and Emma Lavell are in town.



There were only two Grade ones on the Thursday but they together with The La Touche were to make it a most memorable day. The 'Marmite' Cross Country La Touche was unforgettable, it was 'not a dry house in the house' stuff as 15 yes 15 year old Ballybroker Bridge led them a merry dance, thrust his old head out and won for Peter Maher. I am

sure you could hear the cheering in Naas.

The Champion Stayers went again to Mullins and Townend with Klassical Dream 11/10 staying on to beat Ashdale Bob for Jessie Harrington. What about Paisley? Well he was caught for pace in the back straight but stayed on from the last bend for a creditable 4th place, not his track I suspect. The third Grade 1 was The Pigsback Handicap Hurdle but the victory of 3/1 Magic Daze was almost lost in the excitement of the immediate retirement of the winning jockey the very popular Puppy Power. It was a real pleasure to be able to thank him for all the enjoyment he has provided over the years.



I have witnessed a few high profile retirements at this venue Robbie, Ruby, Katie and Nina.

Speaking of retirements Katie Walsh spent the week doing horseback interviews for Racing TV on board that lovely old servant and conqueror of France 'Thousand Stars', nice to see him too with a new day job.

On only my second visit to the festival I saw a sixteen year old Kate Harrington win the charity race on out of retirement Moscow Flyer.

A great day 'now what are we doing tomorrow' Well a morning at Willie Mullins yard wouldn't be too bad would it.

Up even earlier from our base in Johnstown Co Meath (The Johnstown Estate Hotel highly recommended if ever you are in the area) we made our way down to Carlow and to Closutton. We are so grateful to Peter for making this happen. It was a morning never to forget. I have had the pleasure of visiting this yard in the past to watch the horses working but have never been privileged enough to see all his equine stars in their barns. Did I really want my photograph taken with Allaho? you bet I did.

What a great morning and what a gentleman.

Visit over, it was lunch and on to Day Four, Champion Hurdle Day.

Now you don't get anything like this at Cheltenham ! The Farmers race, confined to horses owned by farmers farming land in the Kildare Hunt District in their possession since January 2022. Not as many fallers as most years and the winner Jezarus trained by a certain Ted Walsh, almost boring!.

First Grade One of the day was The Champion Hurdle itself and the wonderful Honeysuckle, she was 1/5 and won the race but my untrained eye suggested it was indeed time for a rest at the end of the season. As they turned for home there was the distinct sound of anxiety from the masses when just for a moment it looked as though Echos of Rain and Paul Townend could just possibly spoil Rachael's day. He could not in the end and class prevailed. This was quickly followed by my final Grade 1 of the meeting The Alanna Homes Champion Novice Hurdle mover 2m 3f, it went the same way as many races in the week to Mullins and Townend with State Man.

A couple of races later it was back to the hotel for an early night and an early ferry home in the morning and back to reality.

I am pleased for Punchestown that the crowd broke the attendance record on the Friday but I do hope it does not become too popular.

It is not the Cheltenham Festival and I for one do not want it to be.

Ian Renton at our last club night described Punchestown as a nuisance

not to me Mr Renton

..... ***It is my Festival.***



Irish Trip by Sarah Matthews

There are racing trips which you are looking forward to and there are those that you can't wait to go on again as soon as you have finished the previous trip there. My trips to Ireland and Punchestown come into the latter category. I had made it over in October with Dick Purcell for the opening Punchestown meeting but the excitement was palpable as it was The Festival and I do mean THE FESTIVAL, Cheltenham has lost something for me as the horses do not seem to be centre stage for those attending and the hospitality and alcohol is. Anyway back to Ireland

I caught the early flight from Birmingham on the Tuesday along with fellow CTCRC member Peter Collier. Landing and getting the car set me up for the week as it was pretty painless apart from the cost of the car hire! I made my way to my usual first port of call which was The Irish National Stud and there met as is tradition now Mike and Sarah Lawrence who had driven and ferried themselves over. We had a wonderful time saying hello to all of the legends, lots of carrots and cuddles. A

friend of mine gave us directions to go and see Quevega and her foal who were tucked in a paddock out of the way and we'd never have found her otherwise.

Then off to the races, where we caught up with Dick and Alan who had also driven and ferried themselves over. I was doing my usual charging from A-B and back again taking photos and watching the racing from our as is now 'usual viewing spot' with Sarah, Mike, Dick and Alan. They have written about the racing so I won't bore you as I'm sure you were all watching and know the results. It was lovely to see British horses entered in the week including horses from Emma Lavelle, Harry Fry, David Pipe, Alex Hales, Paul Nicholls, Christian Williams and Nicky Henderson (I think that is them all?). Thousand Stars was doing his usual duties with Katie interviewing the winners after the race.



So at one point Rosie (from David Pipe's) and I asked if we could have our photo taken with them, all smile. Mike, Sarah and I were staying in a lovely hotel in Kildare (which we have already pre-booked for next year). Centrally based and not too far from anywhere really which suited us well.

Wednesday morning saw us all up early and off to Gordon Elliott's which has also turned into another tradition. It was Alan's first visit there and I think you could say he enjoyed it. You can start to get blasé about visiting these places but I just feel so privileged to be able to go and say hello to such wonderful horses 'up close and personal'. Gordon was on top form and very talkative especially taking time to answer Alan's questions. Alex Hales, who I used to have a horse with, was also visiting so we had a quick chat with him before he was whisked off for the VIP Tour. I think we have become part of the furniture as we are left alone to potter around the barns, yes there are loads of cameras around but it's nice to be trusted not to do anything wrong 'if you know what I mean'. Gordon took us in the paddock to have cuddles with Tiger Roll and Silver Birch. I

will say at this point 'Nichola you should have been there'. I have my favourites at Gordon's so I took the opportunity around every corner to get photos with them.



In the office I gave our donation to Alex 'Don't spend it all at once' and asked Mary about Bective Tearooms and how far it was as I'd heard Apples Jade (another of my favourite's) was out in the paddocks there with her foal. Mary said it wasn't far and worth a visit then she told me who was working there and to message her! Well I decided I'd do that after we had seen Apples. Dick and Alan decided not to come so 'The Three Musketeers' went for lunch at Bective Tearooms. Bective Stud is owned by Valerie and Noel Moran whose racing colours you might be familiar with? They have horses with Gordon Elliott in Ireland and Olly Murphy in England. We then went for a walk to see if we could see Apples. Out of luck

so I messaged my friend and she said to go down to the yard and she'd meet us. Now sometimes it's not what you know but who you know that helps and that was the case here. We had such a wonderful time patting and having our photos taken with Apples and Benie Des Dieux that we were nearly late for the racing and got there just as the horses for the first race were going to post. After racing another tradition saw the 5 of us dining out at 'Butt Mullins' in Naas, recommended by all of us if you've never been there. Thursday morning saw 'The Three Musketeers' off to Kathleen's and her daughter Sylvia both friends of mine for a coffee and a look at Kathleen's workshop where she makes racing silks. Brilliant work and she's very busy making them. Then we were off to the yard of Aidan Howard who is the partner of Alana my friend Sylvia's daughter. See separate piece written by Alana about the yard. Back to Kathleen's for another coffee where we were also joined by William (jockey). Another wonderful morning and nearly late again for the races! As I said before it's not what you know Puppy Power announced his retirement although not in typical

Punchestown style with a winner. After racing I left the CTCRC crew and went for dinner with Kathleen and Sylvia followed by the pub with the rest of the family which was a lovely relaxed affair. Mike and Sarah were off home at some ridiculous time in the morning so it was farewell to them.



Friday morning saw Dick, Alan, Peter and myself head off to Willie Mullins yard. 3 of us rebelled a bit and were escorted round the barns by Steph, as we went to see her dog and just carried on round the barns with her telling us who everyone was and having plenty of photos taken and Peter waited for the official guided tour. Energumene was just going out to the gallops so guess what? 'Another photo opportunity' and what a lovely horse he is. We then followed him and went and watched the horses 'doing their thing' around the different gallops.



Sometimes I find it quite overwhelming when I think of the horses I am able to get up close and personal with and realise how lucky I am. It was then off to the races for 'Honeysuckle' Day and yes she did it again and had a hero's welcome back in. Dick and Alan were off back to the UK the following morning so it was farewell to them. I had a very relaxed meal back at the hotel by myself as everyone had deserted me.

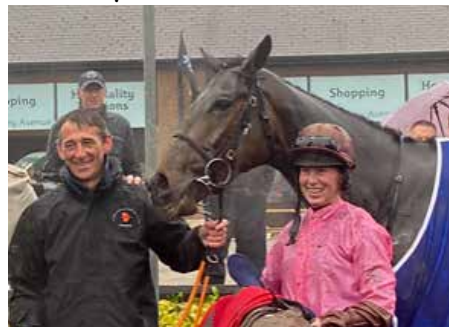


Saturday morning I had a lie in and then had a look around the

area before heading off to the races. It was an earlier start and the weather decided to change and chuck it down for quite a lot of the day but I was dressed for it so all was ok.



Aidan Coleman had a winner for Philip Hobbs, Maries Rock won for MPR and Nicky Henderson and Camilla Sharples won the Charity Race to end the day and my 5 days in Ireland. Off to the airport and the last flight home which was delayed as usual, then when I got back to Birmingham the monorail wasn't working so I had to get a taxi and then the road was closed so I had to take a detour! Still the five days had definitely been worth it.



Aidan Howard *By Alana*

Aidan Howard originally from Westmeath and growing up on a small farm, fell in love with horses from a young age, attending the local hunt and riding to school on his pony.

At the age of 16 he headed to Kildare where he attended Race (Racing Apprentice Centre of Education).

Following on from Race, he was signed on to Mr John Mulhern, where he rode on the flat for a couple of season until he decided to turn amateur and rode under National Hunt rules for a number of seasons, for the likes of Tony Martin.

Whilst race riding he also took in young horses and horses with problems. This is where he got the passion for pre-training and training.

Aidan now has a very successful pre- training and duel purpose yard, where he has had success under both rules at a high level, including Winter Escape winning two grade 3's.

Aidan is very lucky to have a very good group of owners including JP McManus.

Aidan still loves the challenge of

training horses with issues and getting them back on the track and to successful ways.



He is lucky enough to train on the Curragh where they have the best gallops in the country, if not the world.

Aidan has excellent staff and the help of some of the top flat and National Hunt jockeys.

He has had a great start to the season so far with a very high strike rate of placed horses. (National Hunt 9 placed and 1 winner out of 14 runners. Flat 7 placed over 20 runs)



Worcester Picnic By David Bishop

This year we returned to our usual May Friday evening for our annual Club Picnic & **Richard Davis Award**.

The day before, the weather forecast looked very grim but our luck held apart from one short, sharp shower!

This was also a particularly special year, as Worcester Racecourse very generously gave us a race, to commemorate and celebrate our late Treasurer and Club member, Colin Nelson.



Thus the first race was **The Colin Nelson Memorial Handicap Steeple Chase**

and Colin's brother Graham and his wife Tessa made the journey from Norwich to present the trophy to the winning connections. In total 38 attended, including five guests; the Nelson family and of course Ann, John and Stephen Davis, whom it is always a great pleasure to welcome and catch up with.

The Racecourse theme for the evening was "Peaky Blinders", with the inevitable costume and hairdo competition. Sadly, apart from an odd cap or two, none of the CTCRC members took up the challenge!

After the 4th race, the Davis family presented the award for the Top Conditional Jockey riding at Cheltenham, Chepstow, Hereford, Ludlow, Stratford, Warwick & Worcester for the 21/22 Season. This year's winner, by a narrow margin, was Liam Harrison who was presented with a framed photograph.



Catherine Salthouse

Likewise the two previous winners from Covid years: Connor Brace and Bryan Carver (who was injured so Rex Dingle stood in) were also presented with framed photographs as a keepsake. We 'bagged' our usual location by the inside running rail for our base for the evening, and food and drink was served throughout the evening. Beer, Pimms



and wine were very popular. The food included frittata, quiches, a delicious selection of sandwiches and a fine cheeseboard.

We wrapped up with coffee and cakes in the closing stages.

Worcester Racecourse did us proud, with the race named for Colin and a half page in the programme featuring a few words about him. There was similar coverage for the Richard Davis Award.

So a good time was had by all and we look forward to next year - same time, same place!!

Upton Viva Stud Visit ***By Sarah Matthews***

Saturday 9th July saw 22 of us travel to Upton Viva Stud which is owned by Robert Waley Cohen. We were greeted by Jayne, Alison and Vicky in the barn where we had coffee/tea and biscuits before Robert joined us and talked a little bit about the stud before we all headed off outside to see some retired and current racehorses.



On the grass and shown in hand by Jayne, Alison, Vicky and Kate we had: Long Run, Noble Yeats, Oscar Time, Igor, Wickham, Jett, Libertine and Mister along with a narrative on each of them from Robert.



We then went out into the paddocks where we were shown some of the current horses in training who were at the stud on their holidays. Then the yearlings, 2 year olds and mares and foals.



It is always such an interesting visit and for anyone who hasn't been there look out for it next time. Afterwards a few of us went for lunch at The Castle with the yard staff.

A Life After Racing ***Lisa Cook***



Many of you may remember me from my previous job as Travelling Head Girl for Oliver Sherwood, and for those that don't, My name is Lisa Cook (was Kozak) I now work as a welfare officer/technician for the BHA and previously spent 15 years travelling the country taking Oliver Sherwood's runners to the races. I have had the most amazing life in racing having looked after many good and not so good horses but they are all stars in my eyes wether or not they ever managed to win. I have also made many friends for life and that was the hardest part in my decision to leave

the racing fraternity. I know I haven't exactly abandoned racing totally as I'm working for the authority but it was a huge step after being in yards since leaving school. Now I am really behind the scenes and only get to see the grooms and trainers at the racecourse stables and when they come to the sample units where I do the testing of horses. Yes.....I take the p!?'s for a living!

I have a slightly more structured life and get my schedule months in advance, have to book holidays and get days off!! This is a side of racing many don't get to see, the hours of dedication and care that stable staff put in. Holidays determined by seasons, if any at all, as there are always horses to move, break, stables to disinfect and paint. It has taken me years to adapt to a slightly different life and it hasn't been easy. Stable staff become just as institutionalised as the horses do. So it's not just the horses that need looking after once they have achieved their maximum. When I left Oliver's in March

2018, I left behind my best friend. We had pretty much spent every day of 5 years together and it broke my heart. In a crazy way when we lose them on course or due to injury, it's a case that we know what has happened and where they have gone and we make our peace with that. I truly felt I was abandoning him and that I would never be there to reassure him that he would be ok when he retired or would know where he was. For the first year he stayed in training so on my days off I would go for a run, armed with polos and call in the yard on my circuit. Then came his advert for adoption and my heart broke all over again. Fortunately for him the aunt of Tom Garner, his regular race jockey, offered him a lovely home in beautiful surroundings. Her husband even made a sculpture of him.

Just over a year ago, Hen called me to ask did I want to come and see him as they had decided he wasn't so happy being there as he is such a quirky character and as much as they loved him

dearly he was looking for a new home. I absolutely said yes and it was so nice to find he hadn't forgotten me and proceeded to show his polo tricks learned during his time in racing. The very next day Hen called again and said how incredible it was to see the bond between the two of us and did I have space to keep him with my other ex racehorse? I didn't take too much persuading and went to collect him the following week.



I knew what I was letting myself in for, and I realistically knew we wouldn't be having the competition lifestyle that I had previously had with Feather. Rayvin is generally a happy hacker and I think and hope he

is content with that life. Maybe we will do something but he is under no pressure to at all.



My boys are complete polar opposites. Feather is very laid back and was an excellent show horse, standing for hours and loved to show off to the crowds winning ROR classes at Newbury, Oxford and Devon county shows in his time. He is the safest of rides and helped to teach me different styles of riding including side saddle. He has been a horse of a lifetime and shows how retrainable most racehorses are. Unfortunately Rayvin is not and that's not his fault - just in his make up and this is why I am passionate about horses finding the very

best and appropriate of homes. Also I really do wish that there was some kind of help for stable staff that juggle long hours working, have families and still take on the horses they have fallen for as it's not a cheap hobby.



Rayvin will have a home for life with me.

Photos by Ella Townsend

JoJo's Article

During my lifetime, I'd naively thought that I wouldn't see a European war. Yet, the images of broken, smashed buildings, of air strikes and refugees in Ukraine are so like those black and white images of the Second World War. No words can describe the horror and cruelty of the Russian invasion; it's too terrible to comprehend.



I've thought lots about my colleague Sergiy Lutsenko, who tragically took his own life in June 2014, only months after Russia took over the Crimea. He was Ukrainian and we all loved him – his wide smile, broken English and his love for his horses, including Sunyhillboy and Eastlake. I think of his heartache if he was still here and his family trapped back at home.

In a tiny fragment of solace, the racing community's reaction to the invasion has been heart-warming. Lambourn Racehorse Transport's lorries, Oisin Murphy, Charlie Mann were in a big group taking a convoy of supplies to Poland; our local equine vets, Bourton Vale, have so far organised many artic-truck loads of aid; Ballydoyle moving their Ukrainian staffs' families over to Ireland with jobs and visas; the Racing Post running interviews with Ukrainians working in Newmarket; Jamie Osborne speaking out about the difficulties his staff are currently undertaking, trainer Gay Kelleway helping horses and humans alike... all a tiny drop in the ocean of invasion and war but a portrayal how everyone in racing sticks together with the strongest of glue.

Last season, the yard sent out 82 winners, our best season for seven years. I am proud to say that fifteen of those were trained out of the pens; five times the number of winners last year. I couldn't have been happier with how everything turned out, despite the mud, rain and horrible storms. I thank the head lads, Johnny Kavanagh and Alan Berry, who were forever answering my enquiries, and the

other staff who rode out 'my' horses and covered me when I was racing or on weekends off.



Our very own Kevin Brogan deservedly won the Champion Conditional Jockey. When stepping on the yard in August 2020, Kev was keen as mustard. A graduate of RACE, he'd previously worked for Gordon Elliot, where he sat on the likes of Tiger Roll and Apple's Jade. From Kill, County Kildare, Kev was quiet and polite, and a lot of the young, female staff shot second glances at this willowy, darkhaired lad with beetle brows. Kev rode his first winner for Jonjo O'Neill on Tegerek at Cheltenham, October '20 and, as yet, the biggest win of his career on Phoenix Way at Ascot in January for Harry Fry. It wasn't uncommon for Kev to drive thousands of miles every week; to be in Scotland one day, then down south and then back

up north again. He always helps, bracing the winter chill in silks to saddle up. I hope Kev is still riding in years to come, that luck is on his side and I can smile at his successful career, feeling that I was there in the early years.



From Champion Conditionals to retired trainers...I was forlorn to hear about trainer Robin Dickin's retirement. Aged 18, I worked for Robin for two years when I'd finished the British Racing School and it was the best ever, first full-time job. It was still fairly traditional and we even stood horses up for Robin to 'go round' on the Friday evenings he was present. I learnt to plait, ride work and led up my first ever winner under Rules: Ballinliss Lad over fences at Market Rasen in July '01. I loved that quirky chesnut nicknamed Den so much, as I did the other horses I looked after, including Jacdor (Bear) and Wrens Island (Wrenkins). We were a

good team and had many laughs from yard, firework displays on bonfire night to going out in the Chicago Rock Café in Stratford, when the servers would sing 'Rockin Robin' whilst dancing on the bar.

Robin, 69, trained many good horses from Dr Rocket, Kadastrof, Max Pride, Restless Harry and Thomas Crapper but sadly his winners have depleted over the last few years. He adored his horses and it must've been a hard decision to retire. One only made easier by his daughter Harriet, 27, a successful eventer, taking over the training and a move to a new base above Bourton-on-the-Water. I hope we won't see the back of such a hero of a man, a lover of racing, for this sport will be a far lesser place without Robin.



I led up my first winner of the season at Warwick on May 25th and it was Gulliver Collonges' first ever win. Nicknamed Oliver,

he'd previously been third in a bumper and second over hurdles but hadn't won before that handicap chase. He deserved to win, especially with his kind, sweet nature. Yet, a month later, I sadly lost him in his next race at Uttoxeter, when he suffered a fatal injury. It's part of the job and we accept it but it's awful to lose any horse, especially one like Oliver. He was gorgeous, a bright shiny bay with a star and thin stripe that tapered down to a pink nose. He had huge doe eyes and he was an easy-going and safe ride.

June and July were filled with the usual summery tasks of mowing, weeding, strimming, power-washing, painting, creosoting, washing, scrubbing, sorting, tidying... When the temperatures rose to well above 35°, we started early and rode first lot out two hours early at 05:30. I continued with the usually rug washing, sorting the clean ones for repairing, before the big industrial washing machine broke. It took over six weeks for the 'part to be sourced' and when it originally came, it was the wrong size so it took over three weeks to be fixed. Then the washing started again. With the majority of the horses

in the fields, we went off on our holidays too.

People often use the summertime to leave. Our head of travelling for the past five years, Harrison Day left in mid-June with plans to chill out for a month, before finding new employment. He'd had a great innings in the role, driving a Cheltenham Festival winner in Sky Pirate and a Ladbrokes' Trophy winner and Grand National favourite in Cloth Cap. We will miss him, especially for being the biggest party animal at staff socials and the Christmas do. We wish him loads of luck for the future.

After, nine seasons of scribbling for this lovely newsletter, I feel it's time to pass the reins onto another budding writer. I've thoroughly enjoyed every word. I thank the editors: Steve Ennis, for giving me the chance in the first place, and Sarah Matthews, for their patience in often stretched deadlines.

I hope all you readers have enjoyed being on this Jonjo O'Neill Racing bandwagon. The laughs, the tears, the good days and the bad. That you've felt closely involved with us team of stable staff, the most enthusiastic of people (and I don't mean after copious amounts of alcohol at the Christmas party). I

hope that you've been with us on the gallops, in the winner's enclosure, during a global pandemic and even in the lorry cab, in the disco of (former) travelling head Harrison's eclectic music taste, singing tunelessly along to club mix then 'Take Me Home, Country Roads'. (Since this article was written there was the sad news that Dame Olivia Newton-John passed away at the age of 73)

I've got all my copies of the newsletter stuck in a couple of scrapbooks; a fabulous diary of colleagues and horses I've looked after. Please follow my monthly blog at

www.overthestabledoor.com

to continue this insight. However, I'll miss writing up those more risqué bits that I dare not include in my blog.

Thank you for reading.

Love from,

Jo O'Neill xxx



CTCRC

Thank you Sarah

This is Sarah Matthews last magazine before she stands down as our editor after quite a few years. Collecting copy on time and producing such magazines to look so good is no easy task. Sarah has done a fabulous job of keeping us informed and entertained over the years about all aspects of NH racing and the magazine played a major part in helping keep our Club 'alive' during Covid. On behalf of your Committee and all members I'd like to formally thank Sarah for all the hard work and wish her a well deserved rest from editing. The magazine will, for the time being, be replaced with a simpler newsletter format from the autumn onwards.

Helen Cameron
Chair

Vacancies

Newsletter Editor:

This vacancy is still needing some kind of mad soul to fit it. It is actually quite an enjoyable job to do but I just do not have time any more to do it justice.

Secretary:

This vacancy is also still available since David Miller had to stand down after taking up the reins on a temporary basis. If anyone fancies either please contact Helen (details on back page)

Events

September 10th - 18th National Racehorse Week. Have you booked?
September 21st Club Night with Richard Linley and Simon Sherwood
September 27th Cheltenham Racecourse Tour. Contact David Bishop
October 19th Club Night TBC
October 31st Hereford Racecourse Box. Contact David Bishop
November 9th Club Night with Chris Cook, Paul Binfield, Rory Delargy and DJ Jefferys
Please see website and calendar of events for further events and stable visits.

Q&A with Keri Brion Trainer from 'Across the Pond'

Q- Where did you grow up?

A- I grew up in a very small area called Kirkwood, Pennsylvania. It's actually an area where a lot of Amish reside.

Q- Did you have a pony when you were young?

A- I actually didn't have a pony of my own but took lessons and competed other people's ponies. Growing up in shows when I was young and then took up pony racing when I was a teenager.

Q- Did you always love horses and racing?

A- I always loved horses. It does not run in my family at all so it was very unexpected but I rode my first pony at 5 and never looked back. I did some showing and eventing but started working at a racehorse farm (Sylmar Farm) at the age of 10 and started galloping racehorses at the age of 13 and was hooked on racing ever since.

Q- Did you want to do anything else apart from be in racing?

A- There was no doubt in mind after galloping my first racehorse

at the age of 13 that racing was it for me. I had no interest in anything else.



Ode To Joy

Q-You did pony racing? How did you do at that?

A- I did, and was lucky enough to team up with a Thoroughbred pony named Ode to Joy who was owned and trained by Roy Feldman. She was fabulous and we rarely lost!

Q-Were your parents happy with you being involved with horses and racing from such a young age?

A- My parents would have probably preferred that I took my high school athletics more seriously and pursued my pole vaulting career with the scholarship to college I had gotten.

But I was constantly injured and my heart was always in the horses and racing- a college degree was important to them so I did get that, all while working for Jonathan Sheppard.



Q- How did you get to be a jockey?
A- I rode amateur flat races for many years before becoming a jump jockey for the last 4 years of my jockey career. It was always something I wanted to do to have on my resume and I was lucky to have had some really great opportunities from good trainers.



Lune De Caro

Q- Most memorable ride?
A- My first jump winner on Lune De Caro on the big stage at Nashville, TN at our Iroquois race meeting.

Q- Favourite Racecourse as a jockey?
A- Nashville- Percy Warner park

Q-How was it with Hunt Ball in the yard?
A- Hunt Ball came to Jonathan Sheppard when I was his assistant and I got the privilege of riding him out most days. He was a lovely horse to be around but also a great example of how different American and UK/ IRE racing is. Not just any horse can come and run here with success, no matter how good they are in their own country.

Q How did you get to be a trainer?
A- Jonathan retired while I was in Ireland training a string of horses and it left me with no real option. The owners who had been with him stayed very loyal to me, and I've built up a fabulous stable over the last year and a half now.

Q- Favourite Racecourse as a Trainer?
A- Nashville and Saratoga



The Mean Queen
(Covid stopped her coming over to race at Cheltenham)

Q-Most memorable race as a trainer?
A- Winning the American Grand National with the Mean Queen and winning my first grade 1/ first race in Saratoga with Baltimore Bucko



French Light

Q- Favourite horse?
A- French Light who was recently retired, Sa'Ad, and Freddy Flintshire

Q-You've been over to Ireland buying horses any reason?

A- I find that you find the type of horse we need for America in Ireland, they are a stronger healthier type then what you will find in America. It takes a certain type of horse to suit here but I seem to have a good idea as to what that type is because we've had good success !

Q-You've had some of the English jockeys on board over in the states how did they do? How do they compare to American jockeys?
A- Tom Garner rode for me last year and Harry Beswick was 3rd in a grade 1 for me this season... they are good guys and good riders... but my stable jockey was born here in America and 18 years of age, he's current leading jockey in all of America so really it comes down to the work ethic and taking advantage of opportunities more than where they are from!



Parker Hendriks (right)

Q- Plans for the future?

A- Continue to bring new owners to our sport and I really would love to get some more English and Irish owners involved here- we have great purse money!!

Q- What other sports do you like?

A- I love sports in general... I am a big fan of American football

Q- What do you do with any time off?

A- What's time off?!? I do love to travel when I have the chance.

Q- Favourite

Food- Sushi

Film- A Star is Born

Book- Taking the Fall (AP Mccoy)

Jockey- Davy Russell

Trainer- Brittany Russell (my best friend!!) (below)



RICHARD DAVIS AWARD

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

during the period 3rd May 2022 – 22nd April 2023

(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 16th August 2022)

1st	Philip Armson	111 pts
2nd	Kevin Brogan	74 pts
3rd	Liam Harrison	73 pts
4th	Luca Morgan	50 pts
5th	Charlie Price	46 pts

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

Last Word

I would just like to say it has been a pleasure doing the magazine for CTCRC over the last few years but family commitments mean I am finding it increasingly more difficult to find time for 'extras' so I am bowing out.

I would like to say a Big Thank You to everyone who has helped in anyway to get the magazine completed. This includes Jo O'Neil, Jamie Sharpe, John Hales, Dick Purcell, Mike Lawrence, Katie and David Miller, Terry Poulson, Tony Coleman, Tracy Roberts, Catherine Salthouse, David Bishop and Nigel Kirby. Also anyone who I have not listed as there are plenty of others and I could go on.

Love and best wishes, Sarah xx

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Club Events and Magazine are on the website so please keep checking. Please all stay safe even though we have been let out to play