



Harness Racing Calendar

The official publication of the British Harness Racing Club

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British Harness Racing



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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Since the first edition of the newly launched Calendar the world has been turned upside down due to Covid-19, this has a massive change in the way we have lived our lives, and while in the grand scheme of things sport can be classed as a triviality, it still has a vital role to play in society.

No harness racing means a hole in the lives of so many of us, it's a sport so many have invested in, both in time and money, sadly here we are at the publication of the June edition of the Calendar and we haven't seen a race this year.

The landscape has been an ever changing one, we have been in the dark as to when we could be in a position to race, the BHRC Committee made a decision, for the sake of clarity, not to stage any meetings before July 1st in the hope the muddled waters would be a little clearer in time.

Well, we certainly hope we can see a light at the end of the tunnel, even if it isn't exactly what we are accustomed to as we could be looking at British harness racing taking place behind closed doors.

Regrettably, on this bumpy road which we travel there have been a number of casualties, namely what appears to be most of the scheduled grass meetings, the actions of the promoters at these

venues is totally understandable, we have to consider landowners and local communities, as well as the funding of such events.

At the time of writing there are still a few venues hoping to stage meetings in 2020, these are mainly the hard tracks, two of which Tir Prince and York have agreed on a deal with an online bookmaker, with live streaming of the sport being transmitted by the client.

This is a major boost for our sport, we never thought we could possibly hold meetings behind closed doors as we have never had the luxury of such a revenue stream, but now we are presented with this opportunity, it is up to all of us to embrace the project and assist in its operation.

Separately, courtesy of Robert Millichap and Rich Green, we may have a pay per view platform which looks really workable and can assist any track with revenue.

Trials will continue but we really hope this will be up and running soon.

At the time of writing the news emanating from Corbiewood appears positive about racing commencing this summer, let's hope we can also see action at Amman Valley at some point and possibly other venues.

With racing to be staged behind closed doors the BHRC have produced a document with protocols to ensure we

can hold race meetings within government guidelines in a healthy and safe manner. Our thanks go to Robert Millichap, Craig Stevenson, Kayleigh Evans, Shirley Dixon and Jason Podmore for all their hard work in producing this. We include a supplement featuring the protocols with this edition of the Calendar.

One of the big talking points in our sport is handicapping, we should never sit back and think we have cracked it and should always be willing to explore alternative systems if they have the potential of improving the competitiveness of our game.

So, in another supplement we have published four handicap systems submitted by members of the harness racing fraternity for you to study.

In recent times we have had to find ways of amusing ourselves, courtesy of our forward-thinking Editor Julie Park we found entertainment, the idea was the staging of fantasy harness races with sponsored horses carrying topical names - it proved a great success.

With all the races attracting sponsors, along with items kindly donated by Lee Morris, and John and Janet Cockburn, over £3000 was raised for the NHS.

Yet again the harness racing fraternity come up trumps.

During the fantasy racing series, we staged a fun competition to determine the People's Champion, no less than 50 different horses were nominated with Stoneriggs Mystery coming out on top. More on Mystery in this edition.

One thing this little project highlighted was the contribution Arthur Slack and his family have made to British Harness Racing, with four of the top ten nominated horses having a Slack connection.

We in this part of the world may have our woes but let's celebrate the success of the recent pacers imported to North America, indeed it is a feather in the cap of all associated. It shows we enjoy a decent standard of racing here, made possible by all those willing to invest in our sport.

I know it's been a difficult, expensive and frustrating time for you all, we at the BHRC would like to express our gratitude to everybody for persevering during these unusual times.

There is plenty of content for your pleasure in this publication, including a new regular feature from Ireland provided by James Levis.

A big thank you goes to all our contributors this month; I hope everyone enjoys reading this latest edition.

Darren Owen
BHRC Chairman

A yellow banner with green lettering that reads "YORK HARNESS RACEWAY" is mounted on two white poles. In the background, there are rows of empty blue and grey stadium seats under a dark roof.

YORK HARNESS RACEWAY

CAMDEN EQUESTRIAN CENTRE HOME OF THE CAMDEN STUD

13th/20th/27th June	Workout and qualifiers
4th July	Race Meeting 2pm start
18th July	Race Meeting 2pm start
25th July	PACT Meeting 2pm start
15th August	Race Meeting 2pm start (inc some NHR races)
5th September	Race Meeting 2pm start
26th September	Sire Stakes 2pm start
3rd October	Race Meeting 2pm start (inc STAGBI Broodmares)
10th October	Sale (11 am) Race Meeting 2pm

**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE RACING IS
BEHIND CLOSED DOORS**



TIR PRINCE raceway are please to confirm we will (subject to government approval) be holding the following race meetings:

11th July	HWHOA 2, 3 & 4 Yr Old Championships* 7pm start
1st August	Race Meting 7 pm start
8th August	Derby, Oaks & Pacing Classic 7pm start
22nd August	Ladies Night 7pm start
29th August	Breeders Crown 7pm start
19th September	Crock of Gold, Futurity, Trot of Gold Finals 7pm start

Tir Prince are working hard to look at putting on additional meetings and look forward to welcoming you back. However until further notice racing will be behind closed doors and there will be strict enforcement of the BHRC protocol. Please also be aware that due to covid-19 the dates may alter. Please check the BHRC website carefully for up-to-date information

***Final sustaining fee £150 for NWHOA must be paid in full by Monday 29th June**



Photo courtesy of Sarah Thomas



One-Man One Vote?

DO YOU WANT TO SEE A RESTRUCTURING OF THE TOP
TABLE (DIRECTORS) AT THE BHRC?

DO YOU WANT SOMEONE TO REPRESENT YOU AND YOUR
INTERESTS ON THE TOP TABLE?

DO YOU WANT A ONE-LICENCE HOLDER, ONE VOTE
SYSTEM?

READ ON

This restructure would result in the removal of a tier of administration (the BHRC committee). Every licence holder, through their representative elected to the board of directors, would have direct access to information on the conduct of the BHRC. Every licence holder would have a voice and a vote at the AGM and periodic general meetings of the association. Contentious matters such as the adoption of a handicapping system, major changes to the rule book and integrity (dope testing) regulations would be able to be decided by the licence holders on a one licence holder - one vote basis by post or in person.

Why consider this?

This issue was raised when Roy Sheedy was first elected chairman; It was again brought to Darren Owen's attention last autumn; It should be clear that this is an issue that should be considered.

One licence holder - one vote

This is easily achieved under clause 3 of the constitution whereby members may be admitted by a simple majority in a vote of the existing members of the association.

Remote voting, a postal system has these advantages:

It is low tech, easily understood and operated, universally accessible;

Evidence of results and votes easily recorded, ballot slips could be included with other notices or the calendar, the return of slips could be by post or email.

Going further, a constituency-based model similar to STABGI and professional organisations worldwide such as Standardbred Canada

- It will be necessary for the current board of directors to resign ahead of the AGM.
- Existing (and new) licence holder associations will be utilised to elect one council member each. Criteria for the power to elect a Council member would be having at least 25 licence holder members. Where membership exceeds 50 either 2 council members may be elected or 1 council member would hold 2 votes in ballots of the council. A member may belong to more than 1 association but only cast a vote within 1 association. (Working with currently less than 400 licence holders, allowing for 75% to join associations 25 licence holders equates to 12 members plus the chair and vice chair on the new board of directors).
- Each licence holder association would return a list of current licence holders voting with their nomination to the membership of the board.
- Potential for an additional class of licence holder (not an O/T/D) but with voting rights would be available to all supporters of harness racing.
- This can be implemented by amending a small number of clauses in the existing constitution document.

In summary, the proposal is to adopt a parliamentary system with each area/association/club having a representative serving as a Director on the 'top table' at the BHRC, therefore an individual who is directly answerable to his or her association, similar to an MP.

Any club or association requiring more information on this proposal can speak to Robert Millicap on 07585 121440 or email robert.millichap@protonmail.com

Your chance to be heard, to make change and make a difference

Calling Down Under

Here we catch up with Australian Race Commentator Matthew Hill, the 'voice' of Australia's premier thoroughbred race the Melbourne Cup. Over the years Matt has called the trots in his native Victoria and back in 2012 treated harness fans in this part of the world to his commentaries at Amman Valley.

Our thanks go to Matt, a world

leader in the art of calling the horses, for taking time out to answer our questions.

Why did you want to become a racecaller?

As a young man I was fascinated with the voices that I heard over the public address system at the track or on the radio. It was such a dynamic broadcast style that really interested me. I would sit and listen to the races on the radio in my bedroom all of the time, I became obsessed.



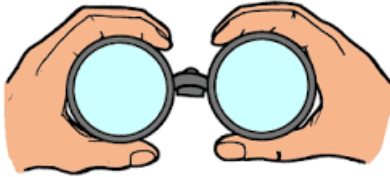
Race Commentator Matthew Hill pictured here with the Melbourne Cup

When and where did you do your first live commentary?

My first live call was a two horse race at the Healsville gallops in country Victoria. From memory I was 16.

Tell us about the difference between calling thoroughbred racing to harness racing?

Thoroughbred racing is predominantly about recognising the horses and calling them in order. The races have a pattern and a story but there is a lack of time to explain everything in a gallops race. A trotting race has a start, a middle and an end. As the positions in running are key in trotting races, the race commentator must spend more time explaining where horses are.



Australia has a fine tradition of producing world class racecallers, why do you think this is the case and which commentators do you most admire?

Australia has produced many great callers, and a lot of jurisdictions have Australian voices at the moment. in 2020 aussies call in Hong Kong, New Zealand, United States, Dubai, Singapore, Malaysia, France, Canada

and Macau. This is due to the sixties and seventies when radio was king and racing was a big sport in Australia. Race callers such as Bert Bryant and Bill Collins became household names as they were fighting for ratings. The standard was very high.

Personally, Greg Miles was my race calling hero growing up along with Sports broadcaster Bruce Mcavaney who called four Melbourne Cups himself in the 80's.

I first heard Australian Jim Mcgrath call the 1999 Cox Plate and I was fascinated by his voice and style.

There is a lot of Jim in my calls. In England at the moment. you are blessed with great talent. Simon Holt and Richard Hoiles are first class and a young guy named Darren Owen is very good.

Over the years you have travelled the world, not just broadcasting on racing but other sports, tell us about your other sporting interests?

I love calling other sport. I have called at four Olympics along with Youth Olympics and Paralympics. I've also called at ten Australian Open tennis tournaments and been an Australian Rules football caller in the past. Sport is great theatre and I believe if you can call a horse race, you can call anything.

Bruce Mcavanev and Ray Warren both started as race callers.

In 2012 you were involved in broadcasting at the London Olympics, after attending the games you made a trip to Wales to call at Tregaron, which was transferred to Amman Valley. What did you make of your experience of covering British Harness Racing?

I loved my experience at Amman Valley. Everyone was so friendly and passionate. I got a real taste of what goes on in British trotting and I'd love to visit again. I was told nothing beats the green grass of Tregaron so expect me to make a visit sometime in the future.



Tell us about your time calling harness races in Australia and the different tracks you have worked at?

I started out as a youngster calling trotting trials at Kilmore from when I was 16. My mum would drive me every Tuesday to get paid 40 dollars to call up to 20 trials sometimes.

In 2015 I worked for two years as a caller for Harness Racing Victoria. I enjoyed every minute of it. We have up to 28 tracks in Victoria and I called at approximately 20 of them including Tabcorp Park Melton which

is the principal track. Sometimes a country drive to such tracks as Charlton or Stawell made for a really pleasant day out.

The trots are a joy to call because you can get your teeth really stuck into the drama of the race. Even if not a lot is happening, you can embellish a little because you have time. I believe everyone in harness racing here would do their job even if they didn't get paid. Many drivers and trainers have been in the sport for their whole life, that must tell us something. Harness racing has a real soul.

You are now the voice of Australia's biggest horse race the Melbourne Cup, how many years have you called the race and tell us about the whole Cup Day experience?

This year I am approaching my fourth Melbourne Cup. Nowadays there is only one race caller that services the on-course broadcast as well as television and radio. The estimated listening audience is 50 million people so with that comes a lot of pressure.

The race day has 10 races on the card so it is a long day. I get to the race course at 7.45 am which is very early for a race day. The first race is 10.30am. About 30 minutes before the Cup, I tend to lock myself away. I

like to stay as calm as possible. The Cup itself is a lengthy race with a big field so it is challenging. Race callers are very self-critical so if I am satisfied with what I have done - that's a good result.

Which harness horses in Australasia have made the biggest impact on you?

I love harness racing and fondly remember the glory days of the trots in Melbourne at Moonee Valley. My favourite horse was Golden Reign driven by star reinsman Chris Alford. He eventually travelled to New Zealand and won the Interdominion at Addington. I remember crowding around the radio to listen to the broadcast as a youngster.

As well as the Melbourne Cup, you have commentated on the Grand National, which other races remain on your calling bucket list?

The Grand National has always fascinated me, it is a remarkable spectacle. It has obviously changed and evolved over the years and it is a different race now in 2020 than what it was even twenty years back. I have had the luck of broadcasting in up to 14 countries, and the bucket list always grows.

I would love to call at the Cheltenham festival or the English Derby. The odds are probably 250/1 and drifting though.

Away from racing, it would be a dream to call an AFL Grand Final or the Athletics at the Olympics for Domestic television.

Again a big thank you to Matthew Hill for taking the time to answer our questions, we hope to see him back here in the UK in the near future, possibly calling a race or two for us at one of our premier meetings.



Contact one of our editorial team with success stories of standardbreds off the track. We hope to publish regular stories that demonstrate just how versatile this breed are.

Obituary: Bill Sowerby

William (known to his friends as Bill) was born at Drybeck Hall, near Appleby on 15th January 1942. He farmed there and then at Haybanks but was first and foremost a horse man.

Bill was a well-known and respected figure in the world of Harness Racing and was at one-point treasurer of the North of England Horse Owner's Association and a member of the British Harness Racing Club. Bill made numerous friendships though Harness Racing over the years, too many to name but all greatly valued. He could always be relied upon for an opinion, advice or a good tip! His mares Ghost Dancer and her daughter Dancing Dale bred prolific winners. With assistance from Willie Forrester, and later his daughter Jen, he was a successful owner and trainer.

One of Bill's ambitions was to win Appleby's Whit Monday Trot and he achieved this in 1975 when Evelyn Slack drove Overdale to victory. Overdale then went to Canada where he paced a world saddle trot record at Greenwood Raceway. Chippendale won the Scottish three-year-old championship and Northern Futurities at Kendal Raceway before also being sold overseas to the Strauss Stables in Ontario. Bill had successes in England, Scotland and Wales with his horses Rubenstein, Bonny Dancer, Dancing Dale, Dark Knight, Amber Dale and Miss Keystone Dale. Bill's daughter Jen inherited her father's love of horses and the pair

would race down Rutter Lane in the training cart with wife June waiting anxiously at home.

Bill had a good sense of humour, even when the joke was against himself. An entry from the Horse and Hound magazine, in October 1994, read 'Bill Sowerby, breeder of the mighty Goldendale was mystified when he was called up to the platform at a recent North of England Harness Horse Owners awards dinner when he was presented with a compass as the Most Travelled Breeder Award. He recently took six and a half hours to return from Tir Prince Raceway to his Appleby home, unaware he was lost until he reached Macclesfield'. On another occasion, en route to Mussleburgh, Bill managed to drive down the length of Princess street (when traffic was prohibited) with Dark Knight stamping furiously in the trailer behind – he never liked to go slow!

Respected owner and driver, Alan Haythornthwaite remembers 'Bill got me to drive Chippendale for him, the first good horse anybody let me drive. Travelling around the country with Bill was always entertaining! Goldendale that we acquired from him won 52 races, was the British record holder and the best horse we ever had'. Bill passed away peacefully, on the 22nd April, and is now 'off and pacing in the sky'. The family are left with a huge hole in their lives but with plenty of treasured memories.

Made in Talgrwn

We are currently in the heart of the breeding season and many of you will be discussing which of the UK's extensive range of Stallions to use on your mares to produce the ideal equine athlete. As a result of those deliberations many of us in the harness racing fraternity opt to use the facilities of Talgrwn Stud Services.

Richard and Gwenan Thomas moved to Talgrwn Mawr in March 2003 and some

five days after the move the start of their AI stud services began. The main reason behind the use of AI was simple. They wanted to use some of the semen that had arrived in the UK from Alabar Stud in Australia on their own mares. At that point Richard had not had much experience with AI and in that first year they covered just six mares using the method. Two for themselves, two for Huw Evans and two for Henry Bulman. They now use AI on approximately 150 mares per season.

Taking mares in for foaling was something that had never really been in the plan but as people brought their mares for AI many began asking if they could return when it was time for foaling. On average



One Day old Doonbeg/Rush Around 2020 foal

they now foal about forty mares a season.

Gwenan has a background in midwifery and many of the skills learnt in that field have put her in good stead when it comes to foaling. As a midwife you are expected to be two or three steps ahead and the same can be said for foaling and in doing so you are able to spot any issues and try to rectify them before they become a problem. It has also helped with knowing when and if you need to intervene. Despite the obvious pressures involved it's a job that they both enjoy and although they cannot provide any guarantees they aim to reduce the risks involved with foaling.

A major part of the operation is logistics. The farm can hold up to a maximum of 50 mares at the very most. Some mares obviously foal earlier than others and so they need to be covered and returned home to make room for further new arrivals. They also have to ensure that they have the capacity to take mares for their two resident stallions Doonbeg and Rogue Hall.

The majority of services done at Talgrwn are now done using AI. Typically a stallion will produce about 100mls of semen per ejaculation. The average sperm concentration is 100 – 200 million/ml. Once collected the semen can be prepared for use as fresh, chilled or frozen semen.

Fresh semen is intended for use on the same premises as the semen needs to be used within 12 hours. Typically the semen collected may be divided into several doses. Therefore from one collection it is possible to inseminate quite a few mares. The number of doses available will depend on the quality of the semen (i.e. concentration of the sperm). By doing AI you reduce the number of coverings the stallion makes, thus protecting his semen quality (i.e. maintaining a higher concentration of sperm in the semen).

Chilled semen is suitable when semen is required to be sent from one location to another. Once collected and assessed, the semen is diluted with a 'semen extender'. Once diluted the semen is chilled and can be shipped to its destination. Chilled semen is considered viable for up to 72 hours after collection. The use of chilled semen is something that has advanced considerably within Standardbred Studs in the UK over the last 10 years.

Frozen semen is the chosen method of preserving the sperm if the semen is not intended for use within 72 hours of collection. For UK stallions the collection of semen intended to be dispatched as frozen semen needs to be done at a DEFRA licensed semen collection centre. The stallion is usually required to stay at the centre for about 2 - 4 weeks. During this time semen will be collected and

tested for infectious diseases and the quality of the semen will be assessed before and after freezing. It is estimated that about 50% of the sperm will not survive the process of freezing/thawing. The semen is frozen in 0.5ml straws and stored in liquid nitrogen. The number of straws required per insemination will depend on the concentration of the sperm; typically 6 - 8 straws are allocated per insemination. Theoretically providing the semen is kept in the liquid nitrogen then it can then be stored indefinitely.

After freezing the semen becomes more fragile making it very important how it is stored, transported and thawed. Once thawed semen should be inseminated immediately. When using frozen semen you have a 3 to 6 hour window of opportunity to inseminate the mare (the ovulation period). To get the timing correct you firstly need to look for an active follicle when the mare comes in season.

There are two main things to look out for once a follicle is found. The follicle should grow daily by roughly 2-3mm per day. The oedema is a specific pattern in the uterus and this will also increase daily. The follicle is at its biggest around 3.5-4cm and the oedema is at its highest 48 hours before ovulation. It is at this point that scanning becomes more frequent, every 6-12 hours. This is why scanning will often take place at midnight and 6am in the morning.

The injection Chorulon can provide some control over the process as mares will ovulate approximately 40 hours after administering. The experience of the vet is paramount when working within such a small timeframe. The beauty of the operation at Talgrwn is that they are able to scan mares when required. Due to the need to do multiple scans on a mare when using this process it is paramount that the mare is good to scan. There are occasions when for the safety reasons, that of the mare and Gwenan and Richard the process is not suitable.

The foaling process is essentially split into three stages;



Stage 1 – the cervix begins opening and the foal gets into position. Stage one is the most unpredictable and can vary in length depending on the mare. Very much like humans some mares have long labour where others don't.

Stage 2 – the waters break. Once the waters break the mare should foal in around 20 minutes

Stage 3 – the delivering of the placenta.

You would expect this to happen within the hour but if it has not happened within 4-6 hours veterinary help should be sought.

Three top tips for foaling;



Get yourself a CCTV, these are relatively inexpensive and are money well spent when it comes to foaling. Mares are creatures of habit and will often do the same things each night. When foaling is near you will be able to notice any changes without disturbing the process. They are also helpful for after the birth to ensure the foal is sucking.



Once the water have gone, check the foal is presenting correctly (i.e two front legs and followed by the head). Don't be tempted to pull too early as mares can be known to stop pushing which can then cause problems. If you do need to give the mare a helping hand ensure you pull when she is pushing so that you are working with the mare.



With the after birth put a knot in the membrane this stops it being dragged on the floor and stood on but also acts as a weight which will help deliver the placenta. Once it's delivered, check that it looks complete.

Foaling checklist

The first few hours

Sit, suck, stand and search

- **Within seconds** the foal should right itself and sit up on its sternum.
- **After 30 minutes** the foal should start to thrust front legs forward and attempt to stand – may be awkward and fall frequently so ensure good deep bedding – preferably straw.
- **1 hour:** Between 30–60 minutes foal should stand successfully and start to look for the mare's udder
- **2 hours:** Successfully nurse 5-7 times an hour.
- **4 hours:** Foal should have passed dark meconium, followed by soft, pale yellow milk faeces.
- **12 hours:** Within 6–12 hours the foal should have passed urine
- **12–36 hours:** Vet check, tetanus antitoxin and blood test for IgG.

When to call for help. Immediate vet attention may be required if:



The foal cannot be roused immediately at birth, or goes quiet after initial activity



The foal is unable to stand and nurse – legs may be contracted or may not have coordination to do so.



The foal has no suck reflex after 2 hours. Foals require colostrum within the first 6 hours for immunity and have limited energy stores.



Milk is seen coming out of the nostrils – this may be associated with a cleft palate or laryngeal insufficiency.



No meconium (dark faeces) seen after 6 hours, colts are particularly prone to this and may present with signs of colic or straining while they are trying to pass hard faeces.



Mare will not allow the foal to suckle or has no milk. Mare has not passed placenta within 3 hours.

For those of you who would like to see more, Talgrwn Stud Services Facebook page post regular updates, pictures and videos which provide a fantastic insight into the foaling process.

By Kayleigh Evans



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Stoneriggs Mystery – The Champion of Champions

This piece was originally written on 9th September 2017 before Stoneriggs Mystery faced the starter for the final time in the Crock of Gold Final at Tir Prince. As was the plan heading in to the race, he retired from racing straight afterwards where he was stripped of his harness, as is the custom for high profile racehorses, in the winner's circle in front of the crowd.

Champions don't show up to get everything they want; they show up to give everything they have
Alexander den Heijer



A firm favourite with the stable (Elizabeth O'Neil photos)

Following nominations submitted by harness racing fans to the BHRC, Stoneriggs Mystery was crowned **Champion of Champions** from a shortlist of 10 top class pacers who have graced tracks all over the UK and Ireland across generations. The title was bestowed upon him as he received the highest number of weighted votes (the public was invited to submit their first, second and third choice favourite horses of all time, with points awarded for 1-2-3).

From the first moment that 'Mystery' burst onto the scene way back in 2009, he showed tremendous

Bred to be a champion

STAGBI Breeding - Pedigree

Stoneriggs Mystery

Search

Enter horse name

Stoneriggs Mystery

Bay

Male

2006

Englan

Breeder: G. Arthur Slack, Appleby, Cumbria, England

Village Jasper 1994	Jate Lobell 1984	No Nukes 1979
	Village Jewel 1985	J R Amy 1970
Stoneriggs Quality 1994	Todays Man 1990	Abercrombie 1975
	Monkroyd Mystery 1981	Sabella Lobell 1980
		Abercrombie 1975
		Silk Stockings USA 1972
		H T Navy 1968
		Monkroyd Girl 1969

Photo courtesy of STAGBI

potential. The 11-year-old son of Village Jasper out of Stoneriggs Quality (herself a product of solid British breeding [*Today's Man-Monkroyd Mystery*]) won his maiden at York in an impressive 1.59.6. Then owned by breeders the Slack family from Appleby, Cumbria, and trained and driven by the champion duo Alexis & Rocker Laidler, Mystery went on to win a Grade 1 at Brough before wrapping up his 3YO season with a victory at Tir Prince in 1.59.5, finishing up unbeaten in his first three lifetime starts.

he was subsequently purchased by David Morton from Larbert, Scotland, remaining in the same stable for his second season campaign. Mystery carried on where he left off, winning heat and final at Appleby, before he first tasted defeat when finishing second to Adore Hanover at Ffos Las. He went on to have another 3 wins that year, taking heats of the major handicap finals at Musselburgh and Tregaron and a heat of the 4YO Championship at Corbiewood. Alas, the finals of all 3 eluded him.

This electric inception to his career did not go unnoticed and



Leading the field to victory at Appleby (*Graham Rees photo*)

Victory at Musselburgh (*Graham Rees photo*)



In 2011, Mystery climbed to new heights, finishing in the first 3 in every single start that year. This included three wins on the bounce at the start of the season (York, York & Musselburgh, where he again won a heat of The Famous Musselburgh Pace, finishing third in the final).

His first foray into the Free For All ranks came in the Billy Williams Memorial Pace at Tir Prince, and it would become the first of three victories in the event commemorating the founder of the track.

His next win came in the Dark Rum FFA at Corbiewood, and he went on to win again twice at York off long trails in heats of

the Daniel Welling Memorial and Dennis Leonard Memorial, finishing third in both finals.

In 2012, he went on a streak of four wins in top company to bag the York Championship Flying FFA, the Musselburgh FFA and arguably most importantly, heat and final of the pinnacle of FFA racing, the Crock of Gold. Not unbeatable, he suffered defeat at Musselburgh the day after his FFA victory and despite winning a heat of the Welsh Classic at Tregaron, was subsequently disqualified in the final. Undeterred, he bounced

back to win his second consecutive Billy Williams FFA at Tir Prince and finished off the season with a victory in the Anchor Inn FFA at York.

Mystery started his fifth season of racing with the same vigour as every previous year, winning firstly at Appleby and then at Pikehall. The cracks began to show however when he finished fourth in the BHRC European Pacing Classic at York and then third in a heat of the Crock of Gold, and he did not perform to his usual high standards in the final on the same night, finishing unplaced and bringing an early end to his season.

They say a change is as good as a rest, and 2014 hailed the beginning of the next chapter of Mystery's long and illustrious career as he moved to the Mick and Sheelagh Lord stables, where he has remained as a firm favourite to the present day. Despite finishing second on his first start of the season at Corbiewood, he went on to record victories at York and Boughrood, before returning to Corbiewood for a match race against Astounding (the current track record holder) which was a thoroughly enjoyable head-to-head which drew in the crowds, and despite being the so-called 'invader', Mystery was a popular winner.



Winning a heat of the Tregaron Classic @ Amman Valley in 1.57.9 (*Graham Rees photo*)



Winning at Pikehall (*Graham Rees photo*)



Winning at Aberystwyth (*Graham Rees photo*)

Born to run



Winning at Boughrood (*Graham Rees photo*)



Winning at York (*Graham Rees photo*)

The following year, doubts began to creep in again as Mystery started the season with lacklustre performances at Appleby and Wolverhampton where he was unplaced in legs of the Battle of the Big Guns

Series. *'Form is temporary, class is permanent'* has never applied more than to this horse, and Mystery put all doubts to bed when storming to victory in the Battle of the Big Guns leg at Tir Prince, a win which kickstarted an unbeaten run of 7 races including further legs of the series at Tir Prince and Tregaron, the Daniel Welling Memorial FFA at York, the Brian Thomas FFA at Aberystwyth and his third Billy Williams FFA at Tir Prince. In scenes reminiscent of Kauto Star regaining his Gold Cup title, Mystery went on to win back the Crock of Gold, and when winning the Battle of the Big Guns leg at Corbiewood secured the title as the original 'Big Gun' in winning the Standardbred Sales Company-

sponsored series. Victory in the BHRC European Pacing Classic at York in the September finished off an amazing season with nine top class wins across the country.

Nobody told Mystery that at 10 he should be considering winding down, and he came back for the 2016 season with a bang when winning his first three starts (Tir Prince, Tir Prince & Appleby). Despite hitting a bad patch of form, he returned to winning ways at the Golden Anniversary fixture at Corbiewood when winning his second leg of the Battle of the Big Guns series, which despite his lesser form from the previous year, was enough to secure Mystery back-to-back Big Guns titles. He finished off the season unplaced at Tregaron as the next



Winning at Appleby (*Graham Rees photo*)

GRAHAM REES

generation of Free For Allers appeared to be coming to the fore.

Bringing us to the current season, Mystery looked well beaten at Appleby on his first start of the season when faltering at the start of the Battle of the Big Guns leg, finding himself tailed off from the field with almost too much to do. With a lap to go he was still chasing the pack; and then Mick switched on the turbo and down

the back straight he was airborne, clearing the field and coming home to cheers from a most appreciative crowd: Mystery was back!

Beaten in a thrilling finish into second at Aberystwyth by the star-juvenile-turned-free-for-aller Miraculous, Mystery returned to Tir Prince to win a heat of the

Tailed off at Appleby (*Elizabeth O'Neil photo*)



Heading home in front after clearing the field (*Elizabeth O'Neil photo*)

Crock of Gold on the 15th July, coming three wide off the last turn to roars from the crowd. Despite three unplaced runs since at Tir Prince, York and Tregaron, tonight he heads into his last Crock of Gold with an outside chance. The fairytale ending to such an impressive career is not outside the realms of possibility, although he will face a field of younger contenders all vying to take the crown, including the aforementioned Miraculous and the superstar Evenwood Sonofagun who is chasing his fifteenth consecutive win.

I have been fortunate enough to witness the majority of Mystery's victories from trackside and I have felt every emotion there is to feel on this journey that he has taken so many of us on. I still recall vividly the sense of pride on that night at Tir Prince in 2015 when, after two below-par performances at Appleby and Wolverhampton, he romped to victory. I was one of the doubters, those who said 'maybe he's done, maybe now is the time to call it a day for the horse who owes nobody anything'. Smarty said to me, 'if he still has anything left, if he is still the Mystery we know, tonight is the night'. And that night was the night. That performance forced a lot of people to eat their words. I

also remember taking great umbrage in Ireland that same season when, before he was beaten by Bath Lane in the FFA, an Irishman who had been out of the sport for a few years asked me what would win the race. I didn't hesitate in saying Mystery, 'he's the best FFA horse in the UK'. After the race, the gentleman approached me, and mockingly said, 'the best you've got huh?'. I was furious. Mystery was never unbeatable, but over the course of so many years he truly was, and is, one of the best horses ever to grace the track. To insinuate, based on one performance, that he wasn't that good, was an insult which I felt as personally as if he was my own horse.

And that has been the joy of Stoneriggs Mystery. We have all seen him race. We have all cheered for him when he has come home in front, and we have all commiserated with him when he's been beaten. We have all felt our hearts swell with pride when he has overcome the odds to win, and all suffered the disappointment when through his own errors he

has lost a race. No champion is infallible, but in the face of defeat he has been picked up, dusted off, and gone back out there to compete. He has been a credit to both stables who have guided him on such a glittering and successful course, winning in every season he has raced from 3 through to 11, and to his owners, David and Wilma Morton, and all of their close friends and family, who have believed in him for all this time. With a record of 1.55.7, UK earnings of £55,442, and 43 wins from 79 starts in the UK, he has done everyone proud.

This is the end of an era. As we move into the Miraculous/Evenwood Sonofagun/Coalford Tetricks era, we must thank Mystery for his years of service to us and our sport. Good horses have been, and good horses will come, but there will only ever be one Stoneriggs Mystery. With his unique style of racing, his determination and heart, he has taken us all on the greatest journey over the last 9 years.

Sarah Thomas

**Thanks for the memories,
Mystery**

Mystery Corner

Can you solve our harness racing alphabet and work out which these horses are? They were all down as racing in 2019,

- A** All one word - 12 letters
- B** 2 words - (5 & 6 letters)
- C** 3 words - (4 & 2 & 6 letters)
- D** 3 words - (5 & 4 & 5 letters)
- E** 2 words - (6 & 9 letters)
- F** 2 words - (5 & 5 letters)
- G** 2 words - (9 & 3 letters)
- H** 2 words - (5 & 6 letters)
- I** 2 words - (5 & 5 letters)
- J** 2 words - (8 & 6 letters)
- K** 3 words - (4 & 5 & 7 letters)
- L** 2 words - (8 & 6 letters)
- M** 2 words - (8 & 3 letters)
- N** 2 words - (7 & 4 letters)

Continued on page 35

Fantasy harness racing



Tamzin, Paddy, Barney & Dulcie Partnership - who took out the Higher Grade Final with Thank You Thursday, driven by their favourite driver James Haythornthwaite

Saskia Robinson & Barry Westgarth who had eleven horses running at the meeting, and won the Lower Grade Final with Made in China



I honestly don't know where the idea came from, but suddenly in the middle of the night I was wide awake thinking that the idea could raise money for the NHS. I mentioned it to Bri – who in his usual exuberant way said 'yes', but that was the end of that conversation. Not to be denied I contacted Darren who was pivotal in what I thought was a master plan, different answer altogether here, Darren was very positive about the idea – I wasn't going to let him off the hook.

I thought about it for another day and then 'took the bull by the horns' and advertised it on Facebook, within an hour we had reached nearly half of my original target and sold over 40 horses and sponsored half of the races.

A big thank you must go to everybody who bought horses or sponsored races, especially in those first few hours as you made the dream happen. Like most things it snowballs and within a couple of days we had sold all the horses, started receiving 'entries' in the form of horses names and their preferred trainers and we were starting to source videos.

The second thank you has to go to those who voluntarily took their time

- raises £2500 for NHS

gave away their rights to money to supply me with a number of race videos, and to Bernard McGovern who contacted me on behalf of Avalon Racing to donate a free £50 bet with Avalon Bookmakers for 'Champion Tipster'.

Having sourced the videos I removed the original sound and emailed it to Darren along with a startsheet, which he duly studied and then recorded a new commentary and emailed it back to me. My next thank you has to go to Darren, he recorded new commentary for 17 races, which took some doing, he put thought and effort and professionalism into every recording, they 'made' it, when I put Darren's commentary back onto the first video I knew we could pull it off. Darren and I plodded our way through the races, and planned the release dates. I really admire the way he rolled up his sleeves and worked as hard as me to make it happen.

Having been to 'Race Nights' before and suffered the race after race approach and feeling a need for it to end I was very conscious of having so many races, I wanted to let as many as possible participate, I wanted to raise as much money as we could but I didn't want to lose the audience mid racing so we decided we would release a couple of races each night.

Sarah Thomas was a huge support all the way through, she supplied videos, pictures, support and then had the brainwave of a YouTube channel.

The biggest and final thanks go to you however, you bought horses, sponsored races, watched the races, gave feedback and really embraced the whole concept and in doing so you raised just around £2300 for the NHS, which along with the donations and other BHRC activities looks likely to get to £3500. The money will get transferred to NHScharitiestogether.co.uk any day (if it has not already been done) and there will be a formal presentation to somebody from the NHS when it is safe to do so.

I am currently contacting local press to try to get publicity for the BHRC and harness racing from this, who knows it might just encourage somebody to come along to experience our fabulous sport. My own local paper ran the article recently. Sarah Thomas has already got the article published in [HarnessLink](#) and has made contact with national press.

To conclude I personally would like to give my sincere thanks to any of our BHRC members who have been working in the NHS or carrying out any keyworker roles in this crisis, you are true heroes.

Julie Park

New 'Kids on the Block' 2020

With stable visits on hold until lockdown restrictions are lifted, I have instead reached out to a number of trainers across the UK to give them the opportunity to introduce some of the new faces in their teams for the 2020 season.

Vicky Gill

Our 2 year old team for this year consists of 6 fillies and 2 geldings.

Edith Camden was bought at York sale; we broke her and got her going and she's now ready to qualify whenever the season starts.

Ayr Ambition thankfully didn't sell in York sale, so we broke her in for her breeders and then she went home for 4 weeks. She is back with us now and training down nicely.

Rhian Camden was a late arrival; she's a bit spooky but forward going and is ready to qualify.

Crecora Miss came back from the VDM weekend with us last August. We turned her out for a bit then broke her in, she's very forward going and she's ready to qualify.

Ladyford Conquest came to us around the sales, she's very well gaited, quite head strong but talented and will qualify as soon as things start.

Greentree Euphoria was bought by a syndicate from York; she's forward going and will qualify soon.

Crecora Bolt also came back from the

VDM, we gelded him and turned him out until later on in the year before we broke him in. He's ready to qualify.

Stateside Cody was bought from the Brightwells Sale in Builth. He's very easy going and good gaited, although he may be a bit big.

Of the 3 year olds we have **American Rogue** who qualified at York last October, he's grown a lot over winter. We're looking forward to racing him this year.

Also **Oakwood Sweetheart** came in January and she's going nice. Now we're just waiting for racing!

Michael O'Mahony & Kayleigh Evans

We have three two year olds in training this season, a Rogue Hall filly and two Doonbeg geldings. All three are gradually dropping down in times. We didn't intend to race any of them until the second part of the season, with the first real aim for all of them being the Welsh Dragon at Tregaron.

Lanehouse Melody (Rogue Hall/Dawns Melody) is a beautiful looking filly and the stallion has really put his stamp on her. The two geldings, although both by the same stallion are very different.

Doon Valley (Doonbeg/Real Melody) is fairly similar in build to his sister Meldoon and is quite forward going whereas **Scoots Ace** (Doonbeg/Scoots Cammission) is very relaxed.

Mike Evans

Trotters: **Hermes D'airel** is a 3 year old colt that I purchased in Caen yearling sales by Unique Quick o/o Vespa Quick. He's got potential, we hope he'll keep developing the way he is and he can go back to France at some point.

Pacers: **Kenosha Comet & Sergeant Pepper**, both 3 year old homebreds by Doonbeg. Both have been doing well and will win races. In terms of stakes races or handicap races, I'd usually try a bit of both; they are both in the Little Welsh Dragon & Sire Stakes and would have been in the BHRC National Pacing Derby but we'll have to see what the new race dates look like.



Takemetothelimit, he probably isn't quite as big as Takemetothelimit was at 2 which maybe isn't a bad thing but he is still a nice big athletic horse and up to now has done everything well and seems to have a good temperament.

Golden Smile – 2 year old filly by Armbro Deuce out of Raise A Smile. She's quite a small powerful type, for a while breaking her in she was quite difficult and we did wonder a few times if she had the right attitude but since then we've been very pleased with her work, she's matured a lot and has a lovely attitude towards her job now and seems to be a very sweet filly. She also missed

a little bit of work with sickness but is back in work now and doing well and like the other 2 year olds we will be looking to increase their workload in the coming weeks.

James Haythornthwaite

This year we began in January with five 2 year olds in training and fortunately at this time all five are still in training, we did have a little bit of a virus go through some of our younger horses around March/April time but they're all back in work now and doing nicely.

Henrys Best – 2 year old gelding by Eagle Luck out of Lady Claires Best. He's not the biggest 2 year old but he has a very bubbly energetic attitude and has done everything we've asked of him so far, he was training down nicely then missed a little bit of time with the sickness but is back in work now and training down well again.

Wasntexpectingthat – 2 year old gelding by Art Professor out of Judy Hall. He's a full brother to

Ayr Contessa – 2 year old filly by Armbro Deuce out of Ayr Queen. Like the others she has a lovely attitude towards her work and has been a pleasure to train so far, she also missed a bit of work with sickness but is back in work now and we're very pleased with everything she has done up to now.

Rhyds Mayfly – 2 year old filly by Hasty Hall out of Sandfly Hanover. She's quite a big athletic filly and seems to enjoy her work, she also had a bit of time off but is now back in work and doing well and so far has been a pleasure to train. All five 2 year olds have been a pleasure to train so far and are all ready now to step the workload up, we're just hopeful that at some stage this year we can get to qualify them and hopefully

get some racing before the year is out.

Emma Langford

I've got two 2 year olds in training currently:

I bought **Ceiron Jack** at Builth sale and broke him in straight after, got him going in the cart a few times before we stopped with him until after New Year. He's now been in since January and is progressing well and showing a lot of enthusiasm for his work. My main aim with him is the Breeders Crown, although I have supplemented him to the Sire Stakes as well as the breeder hadn't entered him for that. He's a real character who plays with a football in his stable!

Ayr Promenade is another Builth purchase, he was broken in by Michael O'Mahony and then after a break came to me. 'Bertie' is the opposite to Jack, he's very laid back but does his work with ease. Both of them are currently doing slow training miles and working down the clock nicely.

I also have a first season 3 year old, **Llwyns Springer**, who is a half-sister to Llwyns Delight. 'Good things come in small packages' or so the saying goes, and it certainly applies to her! She has a great work ethic and everything comes naturally to her, she's very straight forward. I hope she's able to follow in her brother's footsteps. She's eligible for the Breeders Crown 3YOs and this could be an aim depending on how she progresses.

Another unraced 3 year old I'm training is **The Real Rogue**, he was broken in before he came to me, he's a nice big

horse with a workmanlike attitude. He's taken a bit of time to get used to his new surroundings here where I train at Amman Valley track but he's gaining confidence now and I'm looking forward to qualifying and racing him.

Jack Foody

We have **Ayr Rhythm**, a 3 year old filly by Hasty Hall out of JK Majorette bred by Ayr Standardbreds. She was bought as a yearling and trained last year, she showed speed but used to kick so we ended up turning her out. She came in this year a different filly and is working well and ready to qualify, she's entered in the Sire Stakes, Breeders Crown and Little Welsh Dragoness.

Stateside Jewel is another 3 year old filly, by Armbr Deuce out of Union And Ludlow. She was bought as a yearling, trained as a 2 year old and turned away as she was a big filly. She has matured now and is ready to qualify, she's entered in the Breeders Crown and Sire Stakes.

Our third 3 year old filly is **Shes Treacherous**, a Captain Treacherous out of Platinum Hanover. We bought her dam from America in foal to Captain Treacherous and she is what we got. We trained her last year, raced her a little but she just never seemed to show her full potential at the races. Hopefully she has grown up and is ready to go racing, she is entered in the Little Welsh Dragoness.

Stateside Hill is a 2 year old filly by Racing Hill out of Bunnys Legacy, she is training well at the minute and is ready to qualify and will hopefully race this

year. She is entered in the Junior Welsh Dragoness.

Ayr Camelot is a 2 year old colt by Hasty Hall out of JK Majorette, he is full brother to Ayr Rhythm and same again showing early speed he should race this year as a 2 year old unlike his sister. He is ready to qualify and is entered in the Sire Stakes, Breeders Crown and Junior Welsh Dragon.

Stateside Icon is a Roll With Joe out of Union & Ludlow, he is a 4 year old and hasn't been to the races yet but hopefully this year he has finally grown up and is ready to race. He is ready to qualify but isn't entered in any 4 year old races due to inexperience. We have given all our horses time off and are back in now if racing happens we will be taking part in 2020.

Alex Maw, Coalford Stud

Coalford Ski (See and Ski x Coalford Honour) is a very athletic, great-gaited and strong 15'3 2 year old filly. She has trained at home in 2.20 comfortably and we are very pleased with her progress. She really reminds us of her dam Coalford Honour both in looks and ability. She is the horse we have been waiting for out of this mare after some bad luck to say the least. She comes from a great 2 year old family. Her grand dam, Coalford Jenna, was a great filly at 2 and 3, and hopefully she can extend the family line again. We are very hopeful of good things to come.

Coalford See (See and Ski x Coalford Amoretto) is a very athletic, long, good-gaited filly and currently stands at 15'2.

Coalford See has trained in 2.20 at home and would pace in 2.10 at York in the race bike. She is very reminiscent of her grand dam Coalford Towner in how she looks as well as her gait. Hopefully she has her dam Coalford Amoretto's determination as well. She has a great attitude and is very sensible on the track. We have two See and Ski's, we are very happy with them both. We think she has a very bright future in the years to come.

Coalford Charm (Coalford Laag x Sweet Tahoma) is a slick-gaited, pretty filly. She has trained in 2.40 at home and she is currently 6 weeks behind her stable mates Coalford Ski and Coalford See, as we started training her later. We are really pleased with how she is training currently and she is bred to be a champion being a half-sister to top FFA Coalford Tetrack (p1.55), full sister to Coalford ShowTime (p1.58) and Coalford Honey (p2.00). We love this family and have retained a number of fillies to go to our new stallion, Henry Hill.

Coalford Mandy (Coalford Laag x Coalford Ellie) is a big, strong, long-gaited filly who is training in 2.40 currently with Coalford Charm. She wears a 58" hopple and covers the ground very easily. Both Coalford Laag fillies started 6 weeks later than the See and Ski's. She is a first foal from a talented Rogue Hall mare who suffered a tendon injury at 3. Coalford Mandy does everything we ask of her easily and she will improve with time.

Coalford AllTime (Coalford Laag x Sweet Tahoma) is a sharp, great looking, well-bred colt who has trained in 2.14 at home easily (2.08 at York in a race bike). At this moment in time, he could do with qualifying and taking to York a few times to really break him out. Nevertheless, he is ticking along very nicely at home. He is the last colt to be sired by Coalford Laag and he is just a pleasure to train. This colt is 15.1 and gets across the ground very easily.

Chinatown Pin Up (The Camissioner x Meadowbranch Molly) is a big, strong, good-looking 3 year old filly who stands 15.3. This filly is a ¾ sister to the good FFA horses Meadowbranch Josh and Meadowbranch Demon, both 1.58 pacers. She was unbroken at 2. She is currently training 1 mile and a quarter trips 2.20 speed.

Mick Lord

I currently have four 2 year olds in training, all fillies and all at the same stage currently and going nicely.

Greenhill Maryann (Foreclosure x JK Reunited) is a nice filly, she came to us after the sales in October and has stayed since. As I have found with other Foreclosure's I have trained, she's well-mannered.

Greenhill Bessy (Armbro Deuce x Greenhill Gracie) also came to us after the sales from the same owners (also the breeders of both Greenhill fillies) and both are staked for all of the major 2YO events. We trained her mother who was a real smasher and won the 3YOs at Appleby. This is her first foal. She has

the same gait as her mother but no other similarities.

Showtime Im A Lady (Meursault Hanover x Showtime Woman) is a very well bred filly, particularly on her dam's side. She too is owned by her breeder and is going OK at this moment in time.

Imperial Attitude (Art Professor x Camden Cotroni) is a real honest sort, I really like her. All four, as well as my 3 year olds, came off a 2 week break 3 weeks go and are all back in work and ready to go to York to qualify once that can happen.

Gordon Gilvear

This year we only have the one 2 year old.

Mystify. She's by Sunshine Beach out of The Player Hanover. We bought the mare from America in foal and she was then brought home to foal here. We broke the filly late last year and she's acted like a nice filly from day one, she loves her work and loves to jog in company. She isn't as far along as I usually am with my 2 year olds at this time of year but I've backed off the fast work with all of my horses due to the current situation. I think she'll catch up no problem as she's always showed ability and has a tonne of speed and a good attitude.

I think if she stays sound and healthy she has all the tools to be a stakes filly. Her dam is a half-sister to Tyrion Hanover so there was a bit of VDM history in her pedigree.

We're obviously gutted the VDM festival has been cancelled as most people

were, we were aiming her for that in August but it can't be helped. I just hope we can save some of this year's stakes races. Her name *Mystify* is a song by INXS, naming horses after songs has been lucky for me as I've had *Master Plan*, *Mr Brightside*, *Rocknroll Star* so I hope it's lucky for her!

Sarah Thomas

At the time of going to press Sarah was still waiting for responses from some trainers so there may be a continuation of this either in the next edition or on one of the other BHRC social media platforms.

FEEDBACK

This is the second of our revamped 'The Calendar' publication. We hope you are enjoying the reading content.

Feedback on The Calendar had previously been quite negative as you felt in your words there was 'nowt in it'. We listened to you and have tried a different format.

Let us know your views, we think it has improved but we need you to tell us if we have got it right.

Drop us a line either through Heulwen in the office or direct to Sarah, Julie, Mandy, Kayleigh or Karen - details are on page 19.

Mystery Corner

Continued from page 27

- O** 2 words (7 & 5 letters)
- P** 2 words (5 & 6 letters)
- Q** **NO HORSES FOR YOU!**
- R** 2 words (5 & 5 letters)
- S** 2 words (10 & 4 letters)
- T** 2 words (5 & 6 letters)
- U** 2 words (9 & 3 letters)
- V** 2 words (9 & 6 letters)
- W** 2 words (10 & 4 letters)
- X** **NO HORSES FOR YOU!**
- Y** 2 words (6 & 6 letters)
- Z** **NO HORSES FOR YOU!**

If you are over 16 then that was just for fun. Anybody under the age of 16 if you email me your answers and the first set of correct answers will win a prize.

Email me your answers, your name and your age and a contact address - julie.park4@gmail.com

Christopher (Kit) Bousfield – Hall of Fame

Kit was born and bred at Holme Farm Appleby. Born in 1922 he grew up with an inherited love of horses and animals, with his father Christopher owning a pacer back in 1925.

Kit alongside his brothers Jack, Tom, Walton and Jim were all well known owners and breeders of pacers around the trotting circuit – using the collective name Bousfield Bros. He and his brother Jack were both successful drivers and racked up many big race wins between them including Musselburgh and Appleby. Kit drove not only his own horses but secured drives for others too.

Kit remembers racing his horses at numerous tracks throughout Great Britain, these included (in no particular order): Clapham, Wolsingham, Hellifield, Sedbergh, Dent, Hawes, Musselburgh, Kilnsey, Motherwell, Morecambe, Kendal, Carlisle, Moffat, Temple Sowerby, Prestatyn, Chasewater, Deckland Showground in Kent, London, Droylesden, Errol, Manchester, Bainbridge, Stainmore, Corbie-wood, Brough, Appleby, Hilton, Murton,

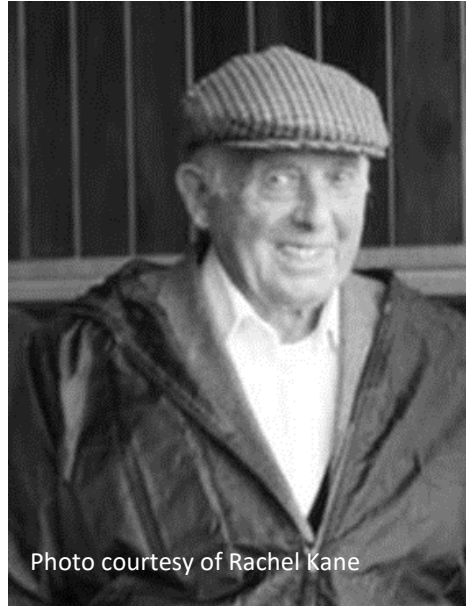


Photo courtesy of Rachel Kane

Longtown, Lanark, Egglestone, Silloth, Stanhope, Penrith, Barnard Castle, Low Row, Ayr, Newton Stewart, Winton Castle, Fir Tree, Tir Prince, Bellsfield, York, Stirling, Tregaron, Aberysthwyth, Western Carntyne-Glasgow and Hartlepool. Many of these tracks are now long gone and often sadly forgotten.

The first horse Kit had success in the cart with was Pandora who he won Appleby Spring Races with in 1953. This mare concreted his lifelong love of harness racing, as his experience and confidence increased so did the win tally.



Kit, winning Appleby Spring Races (1953) - Pandora

April Star, another well-known racehorse of her time. Bought from Sandy Reid of Scotland she memorably won Musselburgh in 1953 off 19 seconds ridden by Hugh Carmichael – back when saddle and sulkies went head to head. She later went on to win Brough that year off 32 seconds, with Kit fondly remembering that “the ‘go’ horse was already behind her with a lap to go.” She went onto produce numerous successful progenies including April Showers who was bought by Eric Dougal of Ireland. Kit would travel to Ireland twice to drive her, winning both times. Hilo’s Chief was a full horse out of

April Star who was often in the winning enclosure, he spent his retirement at stud in Cork with John Shanahan. April Star’s genes are still prominent in the Bousfield stables today.

Sir Harry yet another horse that provided multiple wins for the Bousfield Brothers in the 50s, he too won Musselburgh for them giving Kit further success in the driving seat.

Kit fondly remembers his friendship with Noel Simpson who successfully set up Prestatyn. Kit regularly raced at Prestatyn, which few Eden Valley competitors did at the time. Kit would support Noel at every turn, helping to stand in transit stallions,

and when Noel who also imported numerous mares from New Zealand (to try to improve the bloodlines of horses in the UK), was left with a mare (the last of an imported batch that nobody wanted) he bought her.

That mare (Kit remembers fondly) was Tiny Trews, he explains that poor Tiny, nobody wanted her. She was to prove a great success and was to go on and become the matriarch of the Bousfield breeding.

Tiny Trews was a regular at both the Prestatyn track and the Kent showground. In 1965 she won the race series 'The Moussec Pace' at Prestatyn. Horses had to win a mile

race to go through to the next round where they then raced over a mile and a half, following winning this they ran a 2 mile final race. Tiny won all 3 races with ease, proving her versatility. Due to this success (and others throughout the year) she won the 'Mare of the Year'. She was a regular at the Kent showground where she raced twice a week and was only beaten once by a then young Ian Pimlott – a fact Kit fondly remembers!

In the 1960's Kit was a regular driver at the Kent Showground, he would get the train from Penrith and be picked up in a Rolls by one of the



London gangsters' who he was driving for. He heard lots of stories but promised he would never divulge, and never has!

Tiny Trews went on to breed some great horses including Trews Choice who won the 2yr old championship at Kendal. She also bred Trew Seas (affectionately known as Tom Tom) who was probably one of the best horses she produced.

Tom was a full horse by Rough Seas and proved to be a tough horse to crack. As a 2yr old he once went over a car with the sulky and Kit in toe, you wouldn't dare walk past his stable in case he took a bite out of you. He did later settle down and had a great affection with the children, proving to be a real school master, teaching Kits' then young daughters to drive and ride in races.

Tom often raced against the mighty Monkroyd Mystery and Missing Link, notching up notable wins against them both. He once won off a 120 yard trail, always a back marker and certainly a crowd pleaser. He notched up heat wins at Musselburgh in '86, '87 and '88 also winning the consolation race in '88.

Tom's biggest success came in 1987 when he was entered for a 'Free for All' at Tregaron, whilst also receiving an invitation to the 'International Free-for All' which was scheduled on the same day. This year was the first year Tregaron was televised and because of this his races were due to be run back to back. Fortunately the stewards on the day allowed a race in-between.

Tom went out and won his first race with ease with Stevie Lees in the seat, they un-yoked him, walked him around the wagon, but all too soon he was back on the track where he went on to notch up his second free for all of the day. In his later life Kit would often yoke him up and use him to drive around the farm to check on stock.

Kit a prolific breed of fine fillies has passed on his compassion for the harness racing game to his 4 daughters Helen, Claire, Catherine and Rachel and also to his seven grandchildren.

At the spritely age of 97 Kit continues to train the racehorses whilst Claire now drives all the horses. Claire has had many notable

successes. However her best meeting has to be in 1999 where over the two days she had 10 winners. Amongst her favourites are De-Claire in 1996 winning the Tuesday night Musselburgh handicap, Appley New Fair with Atitagain & Silky B. Clemistic—a firm favourite of Claire's (one of the first free-legged pacers to race in recent years) gave her and Kit numerous wins including a maiden at Musselburgh in 2001, heat in 2002 and the Fir Tree handicap in 2006, she also secured the Appleby Spring races.

Other horses bred by Kit were Ginger Tom (a successful son of Trew Seas), Rachel B, Uncle Tom, Aprils Subject, Flipnfast, B Lucky, Truly Amazing, Worth Seeing and Bumble B - nearly all getting a win at Musselburgh under their belts. Thomas Gratton a grandson of Tiny Trews won the 3yr old grass championship at Appleby in 2003. April for Sure (great grandson of April Star) was one of his favorites, winning an intermediate at York in a time of 1.59.3 in 2006 and a heat at Tregaron in the same year.

Stakes on the Pan now owned by Kit's youngest daughter Rachel Kane and husband Patrick is one of the recent home bred success stories

winning the 2019 M50 Skip Hire Final at Portmarnock in 1.57, Kit is still regretting not getting around to getting a passport and flying over to see it!

Until recently Kit has been an active committee member of both Appleby Spring Races and Appleby New Fair Races, these along with Brough races are held on his farm in Appleby. His dogged determination and passion for the sport have helped to ensure that Appleby Spring Races, one of the oldest and greatest fixtures in the history of the sport in the UK, is still a premier event on the calendar. Even though now 97, and no longer attending committee meetings, he is just as committed to the meeting, spends time diligently preparing the track with endless hours spent rolling and chain harrowing the track.

Kit continues to travel with his daughters to as many race meetings as he can get to, and still enjoys catching up and reminiscing with friends at these meetings.

Kit's passion and pride in the Holme Farm bloodlines never diminishes and he takes much delight in the fact that all the horses passing through the stables are home bred, or to excuse the pun (Holme-bred).

Reluctantly in the last 10 years he has given up the sulky seat and replaced it with a van seat. Kit can be seen daily in the van with the jogger in toe, and four horses running alongside, thus allowing him to continue the work of training racehorses.

Kit's longevity and knowledge in the sport of Harness Racing and his

numerous stories of people and horses past, make him a perfect choice to be the first person to enter the BHRC Hall of Fame.

Whilst Tiny Trews might be the matriarch of the Bousfield breeding, it is without doubt that Kit, a true gentleman and expert horseman is the patriarch of our sport.

MEDIA UPDATES:

Sarah Thomas continues with her usual enthusiasm, vision and energy to move the BHRC and its' audience into the next century.



She has (just since the last publication, created a YouTube channel, which currently has all of the fantasy races on it, as well as the 2019 BHRC awards videos. Although not able to carry out stable visits because of the lockdown she is currently editing a stable visit video that Melanie and David Dandridge did before lockdown with Michael O'Mahony and Kayleigh Evans which will be uploaded as soon as it is complete. She is contemplating adding previous stable visit videos from 2018 and 2019 for us all to see how predictions for horses featured panned out looking back on the seasons they had. – which I know many of us would like to re-watch. Sarah has also been instrumental in producing live broadcasts from the YouTube channel which has certainly helped to keep us all updated and entertained on a regular basis.

As if that is not enough there is now also a BHRC Instagram page, which will soon have an introduction to some of the tracks we race on with a bit of history and information (Jacqueline Gill's idea) with photos. Sarah says she's welcome to other ideas about how these platforms can be used.

On top of this Sarah helped source videos for the Fantasy Racing and has designed a new logo for the BHRC which you will now start to see used. Thank you Sarah, and well done from all of us..



AN UPDATE FROM IRELAND

A few weeks ago, I received an email from Darren Owen asking us (IHRA) if we would be able to cover an Irish angle of Harness Racing in this publication.

On first thoughts, I said to myself, more work for me and as if I needed it but then after some constructive reflection I agreed to take this on, in a shared capacity between Dan Carlin, our weekly reporter in the Irish Field newspaper and myself to keep all BHRC members up to date on all events and decisions this side of the Irish Sea.

In this, our first IHRA update, I intend to give a synopsis of our changes which we have made to our sport, since the curtains came down on our 2019 season last November. Before I do that, I would like to thank Darren and all his directors and committee members for giving us the opportunity to do just this, in the BHRC calendar which shows the strengthening of the relationship between the two governing bodies. The working relationship between the two organisations has never been stronger with many emails and phone

calls on a weekly basis, informing each other of any developments or issues which we may have.

As you may be aware the structure of the IHRA changed when we moved from the IHRC to the IHRA CLG. This included the decision-making process and the procedure around this. Any changes to our rules and regulations are firstly discussed by our four committees (integrity, racecourse, stakeholders, and breeding). Any recommendations made, because of these discussions are brought forward to the board for endorsement.

This weekend should be week 10 of our 2020 season but instead we find ourselves in a vastly different climate to any previous occasion with the current international pandemic of Covid 19, continuing to pose a threat to our country. Even though the Irish government has started to ease restrictions, it is an incredibly stressful time for all involved in harness racing, with all racing suspended until June 29th. Last week we submitted a sixty-eight-page document of our proposed racing behind closed doors protocols to the Department of Agriculture, seeking an earlier date for the resumption of racing to June 13 & 14.

For now, trainers must sit and wait a little longer, but for the IHRA and its committees, the work must continue and I hope as you read this article, that you will find that the IHRA are in full swing once again.

From November to the present day, our board of directors have approved many important recommendations arising from our committee structure and I plan to update all readers of these.

For the remainder of the 2020 season, the IHRA will stream live all races ran under IHRA rules from all tracks to a dedicated channel, where the account holder can watch the races in real time or watch them later by selecting the archive option. This streaming of races will consist of a minimum of two cameras on all tracks and a full race number tracking system during the actual race, like other international racing videos. It is our intention to run the streaming service free to air for a number of weeks first before transitioning to pay per view.

From 2020, there will be a permanent restriction on warmups. No horse will be allowed to warm up

until 20mins before the post time of the race. There will be a 25-minute interval between races and should there be any delay caused, the times of any remaining races will be altered accordingly. A countdown timer will be used to guide connections on the starting time of the next race. This will allow more adequate time for the integrity committee to carry out pre integrity tests on any horse competing on the day.

Throughout 2019 many stakeholders and public attendees were critical of the heat and final structure being used and that many connections were manoeuvring their horses to set them up on the gate in the weeks leading up to the event. Therefore, taking the best foot forward for our sport, it was agreed that any race meeting which previously had a handicap heat and final in 2019 will be replaced with the revised system similar to what was proposed by Tregaron Trotting Club but with some alterations.

The top 16 horses entered (pacers and trotters) will be divided into two elimination races and 1st - 4th in both will qualify for the top graded final. The elimination races and the top

graded final will be run for the largest purse on offer at the meeting. The remaining horses entered will be divided into straight, tired races, with larger purses for higher grades and lower purses for lower grades.

The division of horses into the specific races, who are on similar grades will be split, based on the winnings of their last five starts and all races will be run as FFA's. In addition to the above racing changes, we will continue to record live our framing of races via our Facebook page, but the draws will be done electronically in the office.

In 2019 the total prizemoney was €670,000 and in 2020 it is projected to be €930,000. A 7.5% levy on all prizemoney will be deducted from all purses in 2020 to create a fund for the development of the sport in all regions.

The fund will be used to aid any infrastructural developments or other projects, to help grow the sport to its full potential, by each region going forward. This levy in numbers will see a fund of €69,750 approximately being created and the net prizemoney received by owners

and trainers will be €860,250 in 2020. By taking this levy into account, the IHRA net prizemoney will still be increased by 28.5% on last year and with a total increase of €190,250. The levy will be taken out of all gross purses and only the net purses will be advertised on race cards, which literally means that the prizemoney advertised will be prizemoney each owner or trainer will receive. The good news for BHRC licensee's is that your horses competing at IHRA events are not liable for this development levy in 2020 but take it as notice for 2021 that you will.

We are delighted to inform all readers that our Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine have funded €28,000 toward our integrity budget for 2020. This will make our integrity spend for 2020 at €50,000 where all tests carried out at our tracks, both pre and post will be sent to LCH in Paris. Further to race day testing and within this budget, the Department of Agriculture has supported the IHRA to carry out a number of stable visits and out of competition testing.

With last week's cancellation of the 2020 VDM fixture, I'm glad to announce that the IHRA will run its inaugural juvenile stakes programme for both two and three-year-old pacers.

The series structure is similar to the USTA's Levy Series whereby there will be four elimination races and a final for all four divisions. Whilst, it is late in the year to be announcing such a series, the IHRA sought to look after all of the owners and trainers who have purchased yearlings at the annual sales at home and abroad and have respectively been training them for the last six months.

All staked money will be consumed in the series and based on a cohort of forty horses, there will be a combined purse of €52,000, but if more horses are staked, then the purse will also increase.

The feedback from members is extraordinary since announcing this last Sunday and we hope to make it bigger and better, incorporating more eliminations in the UK and Ireland in the years ahead and to finally achieve the grand circuit which many stakeholders only dream about.

To conclude, I'll end on a positive and inform all readers that the lease for Portmarnock is secured for at least 2021 and allows the IHRA adequate time to pursue, our aim to find a permanent HQ for Irish Harness Racing for racing and training purposes. Work has already commenced on this and a site has been identified to us and our proposed relocation is now at advanced within the Department of Agriculture.

We are currently at the planning stage and our architects have been appointed, to map out our national stadium, with a proposed 1000m track, and training facilities. This extension to the Portmarnock Raceway lease will give us efficient time to ensure that our new facilities can be ready for use and a targeted opening date of 2022.

During this additional time, it will allow the IHRA to upgrade the present facilities at Annaghmore Raceway and to procure suitable land for a similar training facility and track in the Cork region.

James Levis

The Amman Valley Story

AVTC has been in existence since 1979 first as a constituted voluntary organisation and then latterly as a company limited by guarantee since 2004. Our organisation exists primarily to create volunteering opportunities and to provide a venue for the local harness racing enthusiast to train and race their horses.



Since the demise of the coal industry, there has been little alternative for the derelict land within the community. We see our role as providing a mixture of an annual programme of events that help raise a sense of community achievement as well as attracting visitor investment to the area. Some noteworthy achievements have been:

- Design of site drainage system
- Construction of access roadway to competitor paddock
- Provision of 3 phase electricity, mains water, telephone/internet
- Re-direction and burying of overhead power lines
- Diversion of public footpaths
- The provision of a comprehensive system of drainage to the site
- Extension of the track circuit from 3/8 to 1/2 mile;
- Improvement of derelict land at the periphery of the site by the creation of a living garden.
- The detailed design, of construction to install a comprehensive TV coverage-compliant lighting system for the track and its immediate environs
- The construction of a 75-seater stand to provide all-weather viewing for spectators at events
- Volunteer-led planting of wildflower meadows and the planting of 240 native tree species on site.
- The creation of 1700 metres of woodland pathway and opening and surfacing of additional pathways to join current rights of way
- The provision of all-weather, recycled material information boards, picnic tables and benches



for the convenience of residents and other visitors

- Sensitive screening of a nearby electricity sub-station
- The completion of the facilities building

As a Community Organisation we take the lead in providing a full programme of events ranging from harness racing, motorbike dirt track racing, stunt shows and community events. The site has been awarded the Green Flag Community Park Award for the past 9 years; the site is well maintained and open to all ages

and abilities for 365 days of the year. We as a board of only 10 are very proud of what we have achieved, not only in making this once derelict site into a place that the whole community can call their own, but it brings much more to this area, that has always had everything taken away and nothing given in return. We also have 12 regular volunteers and 35 equestrian users who use the track to train their horses. This brings in some much needed revenue to the local business economy.

TROTTING TRACK TRAIL LLWYBR TROTIAN

For more wildlife explorer trails to follow see
www.npt.gov.uk/biodiversity



Am fwy o Lwybrau Archwilio Bywyd
Gwyllt i'w ailyn, ewch i
www.npt.gov.uk/biodiversity



For more information on the track and details of events see
www.ammanvalleytrotting.co.uk



I gael mwy o wybodaeth am y llwybr a manylion digwyddiadau, ewch i
www.ammanvalleytrotting.co.uk

Take a walk around the 4 areas and look out for the special posts. Match the plaque to the picture in the leaflet, place the blank square over the metal plaque, hold the paper firmly in place, then using our coloured pencil or crayon, rub over the top. Lift the paper off and see the picture revealed.

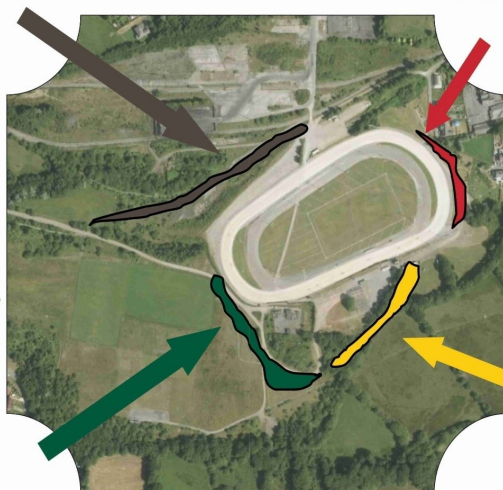
Ewch am dro o amgylch y 4 ardal i chwilio am yr arwyddion gwyrthodol arbennig. Cyffwrthwch y plâc ar llin yn y llyfr, rhwngwch y sgwâr gwag dros y plâc metel, dalwch y papur yn dym yn ei le ac yna gan ddefnyddio pensil llw neu gresen, rhwngwch drosin.

Codwch y papur i weld y llun



BROWNFIELD

WILLOWS



GRASSLAND

WOODLAND

The construction of our events barn (Club House) this was our vision for the future of the club and now that has come true, we will no longer be just a track the building will be the first stage of bringing about our stadium. Four further phases are in the plans, the creation of a ménage so we have a facility to attract show jumping and dressage

enthusiasts, stabling that will offer livery leading to local employment and the final stage to provide lodges and hook up points for caravan and camping. So that visitors can come to this locality and stay for longer periods.

We look forward to welcoming you all to Amman Valley Trotting Club.



I HOPE YOU ENJOY MY SNIPPETS OF HISTORY IN OUR SPORT OF HARNESS RACING AND BREEDING

By Colin Dalby

Lee Axworthy Filly Sets English Record

American horsemen will be interested in the recent performances in England of the two-year-old filly Lelula, the only one of the get of the dead champion trotting stallion Lee Axworthy 1:58 $\frac{1}{4}$ that thus far has been exported. She was taken to England last spring by Adam Machattie, the well-known Scotch exporter, and sold by him to the English trotting turfman, Jack Skinner, who has been racing her this fall. On Sept. 12 she was started in a handicap race against aged horses, at the Audenshaw track, near Manchester. The event was divided into three preliminaries and a final between the placed horses in them. Lelula was started in the second division, in a field of ten others, and won it in 2:32 2-5, which, discounting her allowance of 40 yards, made her time equivalent to 2:36 $\frac{1}{2}$. In the final she won handily by three parts of a length from Roving Bob, winner of the first preliminary, whose handicap was the same as her own. Her time in this heat was 2:31 1-5, equal to 2:35. This established a new British record for two-year-olds in a handicap race. It must be accounted an excellent performance, as it was made over a half-mile track and to a standing start.

As none of the many fast record American horses now racing in England, from the champion, Frank Dewey, p, 2:01 $\frac{3}{4}$, has ever been able to make a record of 2:10 or better there, the relative merit of the performance of Lelula is apparent. She is a bay filly by Lee Axworthy, as aforesaid, and out of Lula Arion, 4, 2:08 $\frac{1}{4}$, by Peter the Great 2:07 $\frac{1}{4}$; grandam Lady Arion 2:19 $\frac{3}{4}$, by Arion, 4, 2:07 $\frac{3}{4}$, and was bred by Mr. A. W. Smith, of New York City. Her dam, bred by Dr. John Hagyard, of Lexington, Ky., raced prominently on the Grand Circuit some ten years ago in the hands of Ed Benyon, who for a number of years past has been training and racing trotters in Austria. It is indeed pleasing that the only one of the get of Lee Axworthy that has been exported should have proved a record-breaker, and emphasizes the loss which his death was to the breeding interests everywhere.

Editorial from The Horse Review September 1921 USA

Audenshaw, Manchester.

Monday and Tuesday, September 12 & 13

Lelula Makes A New Two-Year-Old Record.

Alethea Wins A Handicap.

Roving Bob Wins A £150 Handicap.

GOOD fields turned out for the four handicaps which constituted the card for the two-day fixture at Audenshaw track on Monday and Tuesday. The principal handicap on Monday was won by the pacing mare Alethea. This mare was well fancied for the second heat but got a bad start which enabled Foxey Ann to get on terms with her in the homestretch, and Mr Milne's speedy pacer beat Alethea by half a length at the finish. The failure of Alethea did not deter her supporters from laying odds on this mare for the final and their confidence was justified by the mare gaining a clear success from Loch Logan in three seconds faster time than the mare lost her heat in. The three heats of the second-class handicap were won by Roving Bob, Skinner's two year-old trotter Lelula and the Scottish owned Diamond Queen II. For the final odds were betted on Lelula and this good two-year-old won her second handicap in a fortnight making a new record for trotters of that age.

SECOND-CLASS HANDICAP, value £75, heat winners £5 each, final winner £5, second £6, third £4. One mile.

Heat 2.

309 Mr Skinner's Lelula 40	Owner	1
294 Mr Tyler's Jenny H 150	Wilkinson	2
309 Mr T Dodd junr s Herbert by Panmout 25	G Dodd	3
301 Mr Hayes's Joy Girl 10	Owner	0
309 Mr Hadley's Arabica 55	John Orgill	0
309 Mr Ireland's Pride of Mayfield by Alvanter 70	Owner	0
309 Mr Ratcliffe's Diamond Lee, by King of Diamonds, 100	Hopkinson	0
309 Mr Travis's Billy Ben by Onward 130	Owner	0
— Mr O'Neill's Little Jim 185	Owner	0
309 Mr Marsland's Young Tommy 210	Owner	0
309 Mr Barnett's Lady Setaba by Setaba 220	W Orgill	0

Time 2.32 2.5; winners gait per mile 2.36½

Final.

LELULA 40	Skinner	1
Roving Bob, 40	Wragg	2
Attercliffe Ales 15	Massey	3
Herbert 25	G Dodd	0
Jenny H 150	Wilkinson	0
Diamond Queen II 145	Donnelly	0
Queenie H 205	T Dodd, jun	0
2 to 1 on Lelula, 6 to 1 agst Roving Bob,		

10 to 1 any other.

Lelula got on terms with the leader on the last turn and staying on won easily by three-parts of a length; three lengths between second and third.

Time 2.31 1-5; winners gait per mile 2.35

FOR SALE.

LE LULA.

Foaled 1919.

Sired by Lee Axworthy 1.58½, dam Lula Arion by Peter the Great.

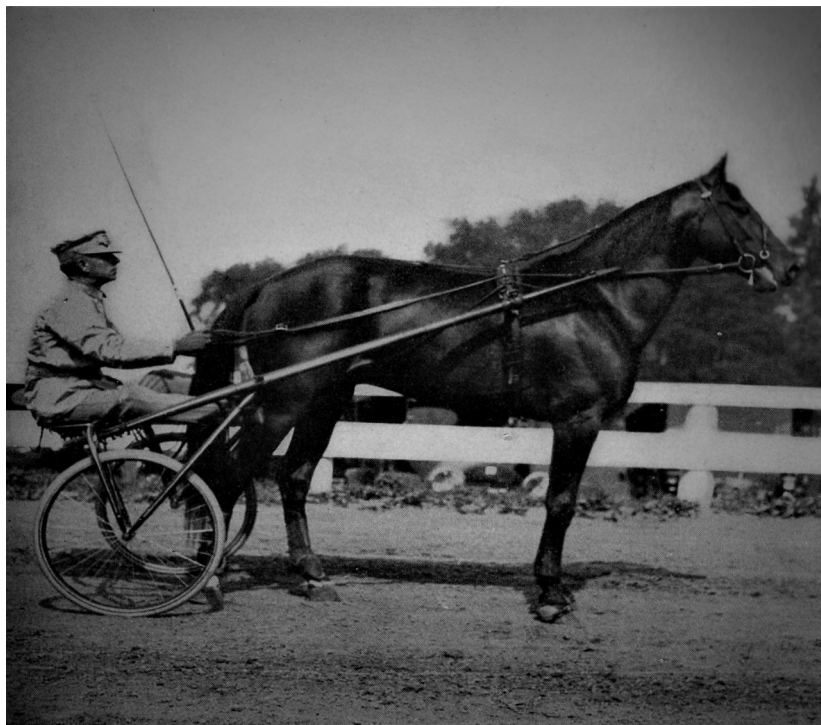
Record 2.35, made in England as a two-year-old; September 12, 1921.

She is the fastest of her age ever imported and is also the best bred filly. This would be a great filly for the Continent. She has extra good manners and anyone can drive her.

For other particulars, apply:—JOHN SKINNER, Trainer, Trotting Track, Audenshaw. Where the filly can be seen.

Above: Trotting World and Horse Review race report and result SEPTEMBER 1921

Trotting World and Horse Review sales advertisement FEBRUARY 1922



LEE AXWORTHY 1:58 1/4

Foaled May 31, 1911 at the famous Walnut Hall Farm Kentucky, he was noted by many biographers and columnists as being a most handsome colt. Racetrack buffs said he had a flawless trotting gait. During his stud career he was placed at Castleton Farms Kentucky and remained there for two seasons until his death on the 7th November 1918. His untimely passing after only two breeding seasons was to be regarded as a huge loss to the sport.

In the flowing historical words of the late JOHN HERVEY: " Four weeks ago I was one of a party at Castleton, on a perfect October morning. The sunshine was crystalline, the air like wine, the breeze soft and balmy. Nature seemed in her happiest mood, and the faces of the visitors to the famous speed nursery reflected its influence. It was under such conditions that LEE AXWORTHY was led out before them. What a picture he presented that morning. The death of LEE AXWORTHY at the age of seven years is a calamity, moreover, without precedent in the history of our champion trotting stallions.

Colin Dalby



2020

The Sport's Controlling Body



Established in 1993 by a group of Trotting enthusiasts who for many years funded the races themselves. In 2014 TROTBritain secured the financial support of LeTROT (France's Governing Body) for races of the Trotteur Français breed. TROTBritain's core mission remains the same: The Promotion of the Trotting Sport & Breed.

The Sport In Europe

2019 KEY FIGURES RACING supplied by The UET (European Trotting Union)

- 42,677 Races for Warm Blood Trotters
- In 21 Countries
- Held at 456 Race Tracks
- Of which 33 also hold Thoroughbred Races
- 53,050 Trotters
- Raced for over 406 Million Euro
- Generating over 7 Billion Euro in Bets

BREEDING KEY FIGURES, supplied by The UET

- 15,103 Breeders
- Breeding 27,463 Mares
- To 1,870 Stallions
- 19,503 Foals Born

The Sport In GB

GROWTH Since 2014 and the start of the

TROTBritain & LeTROT partnership, the Trotting sport in Great Britain continues to grow in 2019:

- 69 Horses Raced
- In 72 Races
- For 303,000 Euro in Prizemoney



Get Involved As well as offering owners the chance to own a Trotteur Français Racehorse at an affordable price from one of TROTBritain's Le TROT annual sales, Trotting enthusiasts have the opportunity to become a TROTBritain Associate, where their input can affect TROTBritain policy.



This is totally different to what I had anticipated or intended to write, as we all experience something that none of us could ever envisage.

Normally at this time of year the season would be well underway, and we would be camping at Appleby. Instead we are faced with scary, uncertain emotional times with lives and livelihoods being destroyed all over the world, it is surreal and at times overwhelming.

Our priorities have totally changed from travelling the country watching our beloved harness racing to focusing on self isolation, social distancing and keeping our family and loved ones safe and well. When speaking to others we all seem to end our conversations with two words Stay Safe.

MR D is on furlough, I am also at home poor Mr D all those jobs he has said "when I'm off we can get these jobs done" perfect I've got him captured thankfully the list is a lot smaller now, to be fair we don't have a lot of spare days in the season to get jobs done, so we are treating this as a pause in our busy lives, hopefully soon Mr Johnson will press

the play button and we can move forward.

Thank goodness for social media and being able to keep in contact with our friends family and harness racing community. Thankyou to those of you who have been so resourceful in helping to keep us all connected.

Mr D and I have enjoyed and looked forward to the daily puzzles from Wales and West, this certainly keeps the grey matter active.

The Talgrwn Stud with Gwennan Thomas have provided some captivating footage of mares foaling which was very informative and so enlightening, I shared a late night with some of you waiting to see the outcome of one foaling which I am glad to say all ended well.

Annette Wilson's quiz was excellent that kept us occupied for several evenings as did young Mr Lee's puzzles.

We now have a new weekly timetable: Monday Roger Houston's

'Words of Wisdom', Friday is Darren Owen's night keeping everyone in the loop whilst Saturday is music night, Eric Witherspoon's and Simon Clarke's musical entertainment which I have to say is better than the X Factor.

A big thank you from us, to all of you there is certainly a community spirit.

Where would we have been without Julie Park's brilliant idea - Fantasy Racing very enjoyable and a great sum raised for a very worthy cause.

I can't put pen to paper without mentioning my beloved Rockin Mambo, me being ever curious having worked with horses and Mambo having visited the sperm bank, I wanted to know all the details about the whole procedure of collection then hey presto Diamond Creek post a video and all my questions were answered. Looking forward to 2021 and some baby Mambo's.

Mr D has his favourite too, an unraced as yet 3 yr old - Imperial Bubbles owned by Andrew Park and trained by Brian and family who have welcomed us into their lives giving us hands on experience with their horses and in these trying time's sent regular

video's photographs and updates.

Rockin Mambo who I think I may have mentioned once or twice with the help of his humans sent me one of his shoes, which has taken pride of place next to his picture on my landing. A big thank you to Marc and Jenny for my virtual driving experience amazing feeling sat on my sofa driving this great horse, and to top it off they messaged me a scan picture of the very first little Mambo hope all goes well fingers crossed.

Let's hope we do get some racing this season even if its behind closed doors and by subscription only, we now know the hard work that goes into keeping these horses in training.

From the two of us to all of you stay safe and see you on the other side.

Mel & David Dandridge

If any reader would like an article published or has any suggestions for articles in The Calendar please send details to either:

Heulwen at the BHRC office - bhrc.office@yahoo.co.uk, **OR TO** Julie at julie.park4@gmail.com

STANDBREDS – more than just a racehorse

The journey with BJs Dream from 2014

Who knew this spaghetti legged, unbalanced and spooky little Standardbred pacer would go on to becoming a Grade B jumper, and an amazing all rounder that can hold her own!

I'm not going to lie, when we first started British Showjumping (BS) it was pretty intimidating walking into that warm up arena full of amazing horses and riders that knew exactly what they were doing, because me and Ellie most certainly didn't. The stares we got when we were pacing and trantering (cross between corss and canter) around the ring full speed and taking strides out (we still had little control back then).

We both started at the bottom together, and progressed together. she has taught me and given me so much that I will always be thankful to her. It may have took that little bit longer, and been that little bit more difficult due to having an extra gait and the lack of canter..but it just made everything that came afterwards that little bit more rewarding.

I think anyone that meets this girl falls in love with her. She is such a trier and absolutely loves her job..to the point that its sometimes still a little hard for her to control her spaghetti legs with all the excitement! Although the pacing can actually come in extremely handy to help us out of sticky situations as shes not always the easiest to see a stride from, and she can put her legs in all sorts of positions you wouldn't think possible just to make sure she doesn't knock a pole.



And her pretty little face with her big kind eyes, she just melts hearts!

It makes me so proud of how far we have come and all the achievements she's had, as small as they may be to others. So I decided to look back through some old clips and make a video to show our progress since there are still no shows for us to go to on my day off!

I definitely struck gold with this little horse and I cant wait until we can get back out doing what she loves most.

BJs Dream was bred by Barry Westgarth and the late Jane Livingstone.

2020 Fixture List

(Subject to change)

JUNE

13th Sat York - Qualifiers & Workouts
20th Sat York - Qualifiers & Workouts
26h Fri Corbiewood - Qualifiers & Workouts
27th Sat York - Qualifiers & Workouts

JULY

3rd Fri Corbiewood - Qualifiers & Workouts
4th Sat York (2-00)
10th Fri Corbiewood - Qualifiers & Workouts
11th Sat Tir Prince (7-00)
17th Fri Corbiewood (7-30)
18th York (2-00),
24th Fri Corbiewood (7-30)
25th Sat York - Pact Charity Meeting (2-00)
26th Sun Binchester (subject to field)
26th Sun Amman Valley (2-00)
31st Fri Corbiewood (7-30)

AUGUST

1st Sat Tir Prince (7-00)
2nd Sun Lampeter (2-00)
7th Fri Corbiewood (7-30)
8th Sat Tir Prince - Derby, Oaks & Pacing Classic (7-00)
9th Sun Binchester - Peter Wallace Memorial (2-00)
14th Fri Corbiewood (7-30)
15th Sat York - York/NHR (2-00)
16th Sun WWHRA @ Almeley (2-00)
17th Mon Scorton (Eden Valley Committee)
20th Thu Corbiewood (7-30) (prov)
22nd Sat Tir Prince - Ladies Night (7-00)
23rd Sun Haughfield (2-00)
29th Sat Tir Prince - Breeders Crown (7-00)
30th Sun Corbiewood (2-00)
30th Sun Amman Valley (2-00)

SEPTEMBER

5th York (2-00),
6th Sun Corbiewood (2-00)
6th Sun WWHRA @ Almeley (2-00)
10th Thu Longnor (2-00)
12th Sat Corbiewood - Murdoch Weekend (2-00)
13th Sun Corbiewood - Murdoch Weekend - SHRC 2YO (2-00)
13th Sun Amman Valley (2-00)
19th Sat Tir Prince - Crock of Gold/Futurity/ Trot of Gold Finals (7-00)
20th Sun WWHRA @ Almeley (2-00)
20th Sun Corbiewood (2-00)
20th Sun Wolsingham (Eden Valley Committee) (2-00) (prov)
26th Sat York - Sires Stakes (2-00)
27th Sun Corbiewood (2-00)
27th Sun Almeley (2-00) (subject to field, possibly Amman Valley)

OCTOBER

3rd Sat York - Stagbi Mares Pace (2-00)
4th Sun Corbiewood (2-00)
10th Sat York - Sale Day (2-00) (Sale @ 11-00)
11th Sun Corbiewood (2-00)
18th Sun Corbiewood (2-00)
25th Sun Corbiewood (2-00)

Please remember to follow the BHRC Protocol and visit the BHRC website regularly for the most up-to-date guidance.

This may change regularly as government guidelines change.