

# MANOR HOUSE



## MONTHLY



JUNE 2022 | ISSUE No. 114



Brad The Brief, second left, scores at the Curragh

# Brad digs deep to capture Group 2 at the Curragh

**B**RAD The Brief has begun the new campaign in the form of his life with victory in a 6f Haydock condition stakes followed by a Group 2 success over the same trip at the Curragh.

Andrew Black's five-year-old was not at his best for much of the last campaign. However, having returned to form when finishing second in a Chantilly Group 3 on his final start of 2021, the homebred gelding has reached new heights this season.

First time out at Haydock on May 7, he came home three and a quarter lengths to the good over Glen Shiel, winner of the Champions Day sprint in 2020 and second in last year's Diamond Jubilee Stakes at Royal Ascot.

*Touch wood there could be a big one in him – not that this isn't big*

**Peter McCulloch**  
MHS travelling head lad

With David Egan in the saddle for the first time, Brad The Brief was pushed into the lead inside the final furlong and came clear in the final 100 yards to bag a first prize of nearly £13,000 and record his first victory since October 2020.

And just 14 days later the green and mauve silks of Andrew's Chasemore Farm stud were in the winner's encl-

sure again after William Buick drove Brad to a narrow victory in the Group 2 Weatherbys Ireland Greenland Stakes.

That was a career-best effort for the son of Dutch Art, who repelled a sustained challenge from the talented Mooniesta with a further three and three-quarter lengths back to the Ado McGuinness-trained A Case Of You, who won last year's Prix de l'Abbaye and more recently bagged £666,666 for winning a Group 1 at Meydan.

After the race, MHS travelling head lad Peter McCulloch enthused: "Touch wood, if he carries on improving like he appears to be since we've took charge of him, there could be a big one in him – not that this isn't big."

## Derby joy for Richard

MANOR House's former stable jockey Richard King-scote claimed flat racing's most sought-after prize when winning the Derby, aboard the Sir Michael Stoute-trained Desert Crown, at Epsom at the start of the month.

"Richard's such a humble, unassuming guy, I couldn't have been more thrilled for him, as I'm sure was everyone else at MHS," said Michael Owen.

Richard, who continues to ride for the yard from time to time, has enjoyed more than 500 successes for MHS, bagging nearly £6m in prize money in the process.

Saturday's victory was a first British Group 1 for last year's champion all-weather jockey, whose two previous top-level successes came in Ireland, where he won the 2014 Irish St Leger for MHS on Michael and Andrew Black's Brown Panther.



## Look out for new website

**WATCH** out for a sparkling, new Manor House website launching very soon.

Like *Manor House News*, the site is undergoing a makeover to coincide with the start of an exciting new era at the yard. While the revamped website will feature the yard's sophisticated new branding, the address remains unchanged.

Go to [www.manorhouseestables.com](http://www.manorhouseestables.com) for all the latest from the yard, as well as a number of new features, including a social media wall drawing the best content from across MHS's social media channels.

VISIT [WWW.MANORHOUSESTABLES.COM](http://WWW.MANORHOUSESTABLES.COM) FOR MORE FROM MHS

## Hugo off mark with first MHS runner



Noman winning at Leicester in May

HUGO'S career at Manor House Stables got off to the best-possible start when his first runner from the yard was victorious.

Noman's success in a 1m4f handicap at Leicester on April 1 was not only Hugo's first winner since upping sticks to Cheshire but his 500th since taking out a licence in 2011.

James Doyle was in the saddle as Al Shaqab's four-year-old gelding prevailed by a short head to record a third career victory in just five starts.

"The first runner

winning like that must just settle a few nerves anyway," Hugo told Racing TV afterwards.

"I'd love to say that I planned that the first winner from Manor House would be the 500th, but I was trying to get the 500th before we left Newmarket.

"Both the team I've taken up with me from Newmarket and the team we've met up there in Cheshire, my God they've worked hard. They've done the most phenomenal job to merge two teams of horses and two teams of staff."

## Love Islander stops off to meet Michael

FORMER *Love Island* contestant Frankie Foster was a guest at Manor House recently.

Frankie visited the yard last month to sit down with Michael Owen and find out more about the MHS owner's love of racing, and his new-look racing club, in a interview for Great British

Racing, which can be viewed [here](#).

Since taking part in the 2018 series of the hit ITV2 show, Frankie has forged a new career as a presenter for Racing TV's *Raceday*, following in the footsteps of fellow *Love Islander* Chris Hughes who has gone down a similar route with ITV Racing.

## Roudee Racing gives backing to podcast

A SYNDICATE responsible for three horses at MHS is weighing in behind a new racing podcast.

Roudee Racing, whose horses include juvenile winners Glorious Angel and Ibiza Love,

is endorsing the Talk-ing Horses podcast.

The weekly pod, which can be accessed [here](#), looks behind racing's curtain to increase understanding, accessibility and enjoyment of the sport."

## 200k in prize money banked before end of May

HUGO'S 10th domestic winner since taking the helm at MHS arrived on the penultimate day of May when Glorious Angel was successful in a 6f Redcar maiden [see Page 5 for more].

Having sent out three winners from 25 runners in April, at

a strike rate of 12 per cent, Hugo raised the tempo last month with seven successes from his 43 runners in the UK, at a strike rate of 16 per cent. In addition, he also sent out Brad The Brief to land the Group 2 Greenland Stakes at the Curragh.

As of the end of last month, Hugo had amassed more than £200,000 in UK prize money since joining MHS in mid March, as well as more than £60,000 in Ireland, and sat just outside the top 20 in the trainers championship.

### EPSOM DERBY MEETING



Ever Given won in fine style at the Epsom Derby meeting

# Ever Given wins in style at Epsom

**E**VER Given returned to form with victory in the valuable Listed Poundland Surrey Stakes at Epsom on Friday, June 3.

Stepping down in grade and up in trip after a beaten run in the Sandy Lane at Haydock a fortnight earlier, the three-year-old colt was held up towards the back of the field in the early stages of the 7f contest.

However, he always looked to be travelling well and quickly put the race to bed when Danny Tudhope asked him to quicken up inside the final quarter mile, having a length to spare over runner-up Oscula at the line.

Ever Given's second victory of the season, having romped home at Chester on his seasonal debut, saw him bag a first prize

of more than £42,000 to take his career earnings past the £200,000 mark.

The son of Kodi Bear, who carries the colours of Dandy Boys Michael Owen, Russell Jones, Steve Parkin, and Steve Simpson has now won six of his 11 starts.

"This was always the plan after Chester, really, but we threw our hat into the ring at Haydock and came home severely reprimanded by the quality of the race," said Hugo.

"I was really worried that might have taken the edge off him, but he's forgiven the trainer's mistakes and come back and done us proud.

"He tries very hard, but he won't raise a gallop at home which makes him difficult to judge. I dare say we'll look to run

him in the Jersey now [at Royal Ascot], but we'll see."

Ever Given's success was some consolation for Michael and his pals after their juvenile colt Self Praise had enjoyed a luckless run before finishing second in the Woodcote Stakes which opened the card.

The Twilight Son colt was squeezed out at the start and faced a seemingly hopeless task turning into the straight. However, he stormed home inside the final two furlongs to pass the entire field with the exception of 4-1 favourite Legend Of Xanadu.

Plainly, Self Praise has some way to go to match the exploits of Ever Given. However, on the basis of his Epsom run, he should be breaking his maiden tag sooner rather than later.

Classic-winning trainer Hugo Palmer reflects on his first few months at MHS and discusses his ambitions for the yard in the years to come

# Hugo's sights are set on raising bar

**H**UGO is intent on transforming Manor House into a northern powerhouse and believes a top-20 finish in this year's trainers' championship would constitute a solid start.

"Of course, Michael and I want the yard to be No. 1," says Hugo, "but these things don't happen overnight."

"That said, with the critical mass of horses we have now, we'll be looking to improve on the yard's performance in 2021 and I'll be disappointed if I'm not in the top 20 of the trainers' championship at the end of the year."

Fortunately, Hugo's move to MHS passed off without a hitch and the horses he brought with him from Newmarket settled in quickly.

"I was delighted with how the horses settled in. They did really, really well. Nothing left an oat," reflects Hugo.

"It was very mild, warm, sunny and easy, and I slightly felt the good Lord smiled on us a little bit, especially with the weather. It would have been much more difficult in a wet, cold, year."

"They came from one wonderful environment to another and settled in great."

Having taken up his new position in mid March, Hugo waited more than a fortnight for his first runner from MHS but was rewarded for his patience when Noman scored at Leicester on April 1, securing him a 500th career win in the process.

"It was a big relief to get that first winner under my belt so quickly," says Hugo, who is quick to acknowledge the part played by his staff at MHS.

"Both the team I took up with me from Newmarket and the team we met up there in Cheshire, my God they've worked hard. They've done the most phenomenal job to merge two teams of horses and two teams of staff."

Hugo is also quick to acknowledge the fantastic job done by his predecessor at MHS, who, he



*Michael and I want MHS to be No.1 but these things don't happen overnight*

**Hugo Palmer**  
looking to the future

says, was the perfect gentleman and very easy to deal with in the weeks leading up to his move.

"Tom [Dascombe] has been a mate of mine for over 10 years," says Hugo. "He left the yard in a great position and it will be a challenge to raise the bar again."

That said, it's a challenge Hugo is relishing and after three months at the MHS helm any nagging doubts he may have had about making the move from Newmarket to Cheshire have long since disappeared.

"I'm thrilled with how it's going," says Hugo. "We were fortunate to get off to a flying

start and it's continued to go well ever since.

"With two winners from just a handful of runners at the Chester May Festival, I couldn't have written it much better and, what's more, we've had horses producing career-bests after career-bests."

"When I arrived at MHS the majority of the higher-rated horses were ones which had come with me, so it's fantastic that some of those I've inherited – horses such as Brad The Brief, Ever Given, and Flaming Rib – have taken a jump forward."

"We've only just started to scratch the surface but it's clear we've got lots of nice horses here and plenty to look forward to."

Horses aside, Hugo has relished the welcome he has received in Cheshire from staff and owners alike.

"Everyone's been so friendly", he enthuses. "I've met lots of lovely, gregarious people. It's been fantastic."

## Flaming Rib shines in G1 at Royal Ascot



The Flaming Rib fan club at Royal Ascot

FLAMING Rib produced yet another career-best performance when finishing a fantastic second in the Group 1 Commonwealth Cup at Royal Ascot on Saturday.

James Doyle was in the saddle as the three-year-old colt led the 18-strong field inside the final stages only to be overhauled by Perfect Power and Christophe Soumillon inside the final 100 yards of the six furlong contest.

"What a race. So proud of my boy in second," said part-owner Michael

Owen afterwards.

After an impressive victory at the Boodles May Festival, see Page 4, it was the second time in less than a month Flaming Rib has gone close in Group company, having finished second in the Group 2 Cazoo Sandy Lane Stakes at Haydock on May 21.

The son of Ribchester also led inside the closing stages at the Lancashire venue, going down by a neck after a sustained battle with El Caballo, who was winning his sixth race on the bounce.

## Racing club boosted by ex-Murtagh filly

AHEAD of the new turf season, why not join the Michael Owen Racing Club and enjoy an interest in two horses?

The club's colours will be sported by two fillies in 2022 – the two-year-old Pearly Star, a daughter of Zoustar out of Pearly Spirit, and Caleta Sunrise, who has joined MHS from



Caleta Sunrise

Johnny Murtagh in Ireland.

Membership is just £399 per year. For more details visit [www.michaelowen-racingclub.com](http://www.michaelowen-racingclub.com).

## ATR's Luke Harvey visits Manor House

AHEAD of Chester's Boodles May Festival, At The Races presenter Luke Harvey popped in to Manor House to catch up with Hugo and Michael Owen.

The resulting five-minute feature

sees the former jump jockey ride out before sitting down to talk to the MHS duo about their ambitious plans for the future.

● Click on this link to watch [A New Era at Manor House Stables](http://A New Era at Manor House Stables).

## Not too late to be an MHS owner in 2022



MHS has a colt by Lope De Vega for sale

AS the flat season steps up a gear, Manor House still has a small but select number of yearlings in search of owners.

A January colt by the progressive miler Aclaim out of Sefara, who has produced three winners from just four runners, is on the market for £57,000.

A colt by leading sire Lope De Vega, out of Along Came Casey, who won Listed races for Dermot Weld over a mile and 10 furlongs, is priced at £120,000.

A son of the top-class miler Lightning Spear, out of the

mare Dark Reckoning, who won the Group 3 Firth of Clyde Stakes at Ayr, can be purchased for a rather more modest £17,000.

And last but not least, we can also offer a 50 per cent share in a filly by Zoustar, out of Evil Spell. Her sire won almost £1m as a juvenile in Australia, while her dam won five races between two and four, including a Listed contest in Rome.

● Call the yard on 01948 820485 if you are interested in finding out more about any of these horses.

## Michael has a ball on Masked Singer

MICHAEL Owen was one of the stars of the latest series of ITV's Saturday night spectacular *The Masked Singer*.

The show, which involves celebrities wearing costumes designed to conceal who they are, saw Michael take to the stage in a doughnut costume. This year's renewal was won



Michael's reveal by Australian singer Natalie Imbruglia. "My kids badgered me into doing *Masked Singer* but it was a lot of fun," reflected Michael.

## Photographer Matt shares Roodee pics

ONE of the North West's leading racing photographers is making all his images he captured at the Boodles May Festival available to readers of *Manor House Monthly* to buy.

Matt Adams of

Innerlight Racing has uploaded his shots from all three days of last month's extravaganza, featuring a number of MHS inmates to his website, which can be found at [www.innerlight-racing.com](http://www.innerlight-racing.com).

## BOODLES MAY FESTIVAL



Flaming Rib and connections after success on the Roodee

# MHS doubles up at May Festival

MANOR House was celebrating victory twice at this year's Boodles May Festival.

With spectators in attendance on the Roodee for the first time since 2019, Ever Given set the ball rolling when scoring with great aplomb on the opening afternoon of the three-day extravaganza.

Sent into an early lead by regular pilot Danny Tudhope, the three-year-old soon had his eight rivals in the 6f Deepbridge Handicap toiling in his wake.

Pushed clear just over a furlong out, the son of Kodi Bear came home four and three-quarter lengths to the good over his closest pursuer, the John Gosden-trained Tolstoy.

Ever Given, who was providing Hugo with his first May Festival

*I never want to do that. I apologise on air in front of the nation. I'm so sorry*

Michael Owen on beating the Queen

success, was winning for the fifth time in just nine starts for the Dandy Boys syndicate, comprising MHS owner Michael Owen along with pals Russell Jones, Steve Parkin, and Steve Simpson.

The yard's second winner of a productive week came on the final day of the meeting when Flaming Rib fought off 11-8 favourite King's Lynn, in the purple, gold and red silks of Her Majesty the Queen, to capture the 5f

Boodles Secret Garden Condition Stakes.

With Ben Curtis aboard, Flaming Rib was handy from the opening of the stalls and, while carried right over a furlong out, he took the lead inside the final furlong and had one and a half lengths to spare over the Royal runner at the line.

The victory was a sixth in 11 starts for the three-year-old son of Ribchester, who is owned by Michael, Tom Dolan, and James Dooley, and took his winnings past the £100,000 mark.

In the post race interview on ITV, presenter Ed Chamberlin said: "You have beaten Her Majesty the Queen."

"I never want to do that," responded Michael. "I apologise on air in front of the nation. I'm so sorry!"

## Rajinsky shines in feature event

THE ever-reliable Rajinsky performed with immense credit when finishing a close-up third in the Chester Cup.

Raj Matharu's six-year-old gelding took a keen hold under 5lb claimer Harry Davies

and was always prominent in the 14-runner field.

Ridden inside the final quarter mile of the 2m2½f contest, Harry squeezed Rajinsky through a gap against the far rail and he looked to have the

leader firmly in his sights until running out of steam inside the last 100 yards.

Nevertheless, it was another career best from the Zoffany gelding who, at the age of six, continues to improve.



Rajinsky

## MAY SUCCESSES

# Fruitful month as winners flow

**M**AY proved a fruitful month for Manor House with Hugo enjoying seven domestic successes.

The first winner came on May 1 when Box To Box scored at Salisbury. Ross Coakley was in the saddle as the three-year-old, who is owned by Michael and a group of his BT Sport pals, stayed on well to land a 1m1f handicap.

The yard's second and third winners of the month came courtesy of Ever Given and Flaming Rib at the Boodles May Festival, as detailed on Page 4.

And 24 hours after the latter's success on the Roodee, Brad The Brief was scoring just down the road at Haydock. On his return to action, Andrew Black's sprinter saw off his four rivals with consummate ease.

David Egan pushed the MHS runner into the lead a furlong out and he had three and a quarter lengths to spare over Group 1 winner Glen Shiel at the line.



Commonsensical wins at Chepstow

Zoffee became the yard's fourth winner of the month when rallying gamely for Ben Curtis to land a 1m6f handicap at Carlisle on May 26.

Alan Peterson's six-year-old was winning on the flat for the first time since September 2020. The six-year-old Zoffany gelding returned to MHS at the beginning of April having spent the previous two years being campaigned over obstacles by leading

jumps trainer Philip Hobbs.

Win No.6 followed the next day when Commonsensical provided 5lb claimer Harry Davies with the final leg of a first-ever treble when landing a 1m2f handicap for More Turf Racing.

And the yard's final winner of the month came at Redcar on May 30 when Roudee Racing's two-year-old filly Glorious Angel landed a 6f maiden under Ben Curtis.

## Ben steers two MHS runners to success



Roudemental and connections at Redcar

HUGO was responsible for three winners in his first full month at Manor House.

Al Shaqab's Noman set the ball rolling when successful at Leicester on April 1 [see Page 2] and his success was augmented by victories for Rajinsky and Roudemental.

The former was successful for owner Raj Matharu in a 2m handicap at Ripon on his season debut on April 23. Ben Curtis was aboard as the evergreen six-year-old kept on well to see off the chal-

lenge of the David O'Meara-trained Get Shirty, who had been successful on his previous start and went in again next time out.

Ben was also in the saddle as Roudemental got his ambitious owners Roudee Racing off the mark for the year when winning a 1m handicap at Redcar on April 28.

Having shown plenty of promise as a juvenile, it was a first success for the three-year-old Footstepsinthesand gelding.

## HUGO PALMER

### We'll really relish our new life in the countryside

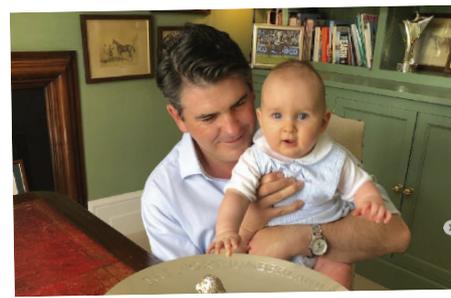
**I**M thoroughly enjoying life in rural Cheshire and am really looking forward to my wife Vanessa and our two-year-old son Ernest joining me here later on this summer.

It hasn't happened quite yet because there's a bit to do to the house at MHS and we thought it would be easier to get on and do that, rather than them live on a building site, before they moved up.

I met Vanessa while I was working in Australia and, having grown up in Tooraweenah in rural New South Wales, she always wanted her children to be brought up in the countryside rather than a town or city.

The horses I brought with me from Kremlin Cottage are used to the hustle, bustle and stress of Newmarket, so coming here is a breath of fresh air for them too.

It is so beautiful, it really is. It is staggering. It's nice to look out of the bedroom window at night and not see a street light. For Vanessa, Ernest and I to genuinely live in the countryside is going to be tremendous.



**W**HILE nine of my team followed me from Newmarket, including my assistant Angie Shea, we've been undertaking a huge recruitment drive.

I inherited some fantastic staff but there weren't enough of them and the army that rides and looks after these horses is going to be critical to their success.

On my first day here we had eight riders and we're up to 24 now, but with such a large string, we could still do with five or six more.

There are opportunities for anyone who wants to work with horses, both on the ground and riding. And while we have a number of key full-time vacancies, there's also scope to accommodate anyone looking for something part-time.

Indeed, I'd encourage anyone who might be interested in joining us at MHS to call the yard on 01948 820485.

**A**S you might have noticed, we've been using up-and-coming young claimer Harry Davies quite a lot over the course of recent weeks. My assistant Angie is Harry's mum and he started coming in to ride for me in Newmarket when he was about 12, so it's fair to say I've been following his career since before he had a career!

Harry's as good if not better than anyone who claims 3lb, and he claims 5lb, so he'll get plenty of rides for us and I'm sure his win aboard Commonsensical at Chepstow last month won't be his last for MHS.

**L**ESTER Piggott was a legend of our sport and I was honoured to have known him.

While I'm just a bit too young to remember Lester race riding, I was fortunate enough to get to know him a little through his partner Barbara FitzGerald and her children who are good friends of mine.

It seems to me when someone talks so quietly you have to concentrate hard to hear what they're saying, they're often worth listening to and, in my experience, that was very much the case with Lester.

## Gwyn goes the extra mile to help charity



Gwyn, John, Mark and Richy at base camp

AN owner at Manor House has trekked 130km through Nepal to reach Everest Base Camp and raise funds for Prostate Cancer UK.

After his brother John was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2019, Gwyn Bouch – who is involved in the three-year-old filly Ocios – was advised to get himself checked out and it transpired he too had it. Both siblings underwent a prostatectomy and are now in remission.

And earlier this year, Gwyn and John took on Everest, with pals Mark Reidford and Richy Newlands, to raise funds for the charity and awareness of the disease. You can support their efforts by clicking [here](#).

Looking forward, Gwyn is urging all middle-aged men to get themselves checked out.

“It’s something us men tend to ignore, I certainly felt it would never happen to me,” he reflected.

## MHS to take part in 2022 Racing League

MANOR House has been invited to participate in this year’s Racing League.

The innovative competition, which launched last year, is set to take place across a series of Thursday night fixtures

in August and September.

MHS will join one of seven teams competing over 42 races, all of which will be screened live on ITV and Sky Sports, for a prize pot in excess of £2m.

### FIVE TO FOLLOW

# Andrew collects five to follow title



Michael, right, with winners of last year’s competition

**T**HE winners of the 2021 five to follow competition have visited MHS to enjoy a champagne breakfast, a tour of the yard, and an opportunity to watch the horses work on the gallops.

Each of the monthly winners was invited to bring three guests with them to the event, as was overall winner Andrew Howard, who was presented with the coveted trophy by Michael Owen.

This year’s competition is already up and running, with

### 2021 FIVE TO FOLLOW

- 1: Andrew Howard
- 2: Adam Hodges
- 3: Hamish Howard

Andrew Gray claiming the April prize and Emma Simpson doing likewise last month.

However, there remains an opportunity for any latecomers to join the fun when the transfer window opens at the end of every month. Simply go to the MHS website and click on the

five to follow button located in the top right.

As ever, the format is straightforward – choose five MHS inmates [three two-year-olds and two older horses] and accumulate points whenever they record a first-five finish.

The person who bags the most points over the course of the season will bag the trophy and be invited along to MHS, along with three guests, as will the individual who accumulates the most points in each month from May to September.

# Trust NAF RACING



FIVE STAR TREATMENT FOR THE GOOD OF THE RACEHORSE



WE ARE PROUD TO BE AN OFFICIAL PARTNER OF MANOR HOUSE STABLES AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO BEING PART OF THE TEAM.

NAF has been supplying targeted nutritional formulations for over 30 years. The needs of the racehorse are specific and our products have been trialled and tested to ensure that they meet the daily challenges faced whilst supporting bodily function and addressing athletic function.

Each product has been designed to work synergistically to benefit each and every racehorse with Five Star treatments for: • Digestive Health • Respiratory Health • Soundness • Muscular Health • Recovery • Hoof Care



For more information contact:  
Sammy Martin, Racing Manager, NAF  
M +44 (0)7980 922041 | [smartin@naf-uk.com](mailto:smartin@naf-uk.com)

[naf-equine.eu/uk](https://www.naf-equine.eu/uk)

