

MANOR HOUSE



MONTHLY



JULY 2022 | ISSUE No. 115



Zoffee, far left, winning the Northumberland Vase

MHS duo to fore in Plate

MANOR House runners filled two of the first four places in the Northumberland Plate at Newcastle last month.

Solent Gateway, inset, who is owned by Derek Passant and Hefin Williams, stayed on into third under Andrew Mullen, beaten less than two lengths, with Harry Davies a length and a quarter further back in fourth on R S Matharu's Rajinsky.

The 150k contest was won by multiple Group 1 winner

Trueshan, who carried the welter burden of 10st 8lbs.

Solent Gateway's efforts were worth almost £20,000 to Derek and Hefin and took the four-year-old's career earnings to more than £60,000. Meanwhile, the £9,510 Rajinsky picked up for finishing fourth means the six-year-old has won almost £40,000 this season and just shy of £140,000 in his career.



Zoffee produces a career best to bag big Newcastle pot

ZOFFEE bagged almost £40,000 at Newcastle last month when leading the field home in an ultra-competitive 18-runner Northumberland Vase.

It was a second success in as many races for Alan Peterson's six-year-old, who has thrived since returning to MHS having spent the previous two years being campaigned over obstacles by West-country trainer Philip Hobbs.

Ben Curtis had the Zoffany gelding in midfield in the early stages of the 2m $\frac{3}{4}$ f contest for horses denied a run in the Northumberland Plate. However, Zoffee made smooth progress to take the lead inside the final furlong and the further he went, the better he looked - ultimately coming home with just

He is quite my favourite horse - he has the most lovely look on his face...

Hugo Palmer
waxes lyrical about Zoffee

over two lengths in hand over Haveyoumissedme.

"I was in a lovely position going into the first bend, but I got shuffled all the way back so I made the decision to move out," explained Ben after the race.

"I had a clean run and got behind the third horse, who brought me into the race lovely. We set sail and the rest is history.

"He has plenty of ability and they turned him out here in great shape. To be fair to Hugo, he said beforehand he'd flourished since his last run and I think that showed today.

"Winners every day are good, but the big ones are even sweeter."

"He is quite my favourite horse," enthused Hugo. "He has got the most lovely look on his face and does everything in a willing fashion, with his ears pricked. Despite the fact he's six, because he has been jumping, I think he is actually a young, unexposed stayer."

Zoffee has now won five of his 29 starts - winning on the flat, as well as over hurdles and jumps - amassing more than £98,000 in prize money in the process.

Yard set for a busy week

MANOR House is set to have runners on all five days of this week's Qatar Goodwood Festival on the Sussex Downs.

"We've got some exciting chances and it would be great if we could get a winner or two," reflected Hugo, who says this is his favourite meeting of the entire year.

Amongst those likely to go to post for MHS are Box To Box, in the 1m4f handicap which opens Wednesday's card, Ebro River in the Group 2 Qatar Stakes on Friday, and Roman Dragon in a 7f handicap on Saturday.

VISIT WWW.MANORHOUSESTABLES.COM FOR MORE FROM MHS

Exciting youngsters in search of homes



MHS has a colt by Aclaim for sale

WITH the flat season in full swing, Manor House still has a trio of exciting juveniles looking for owners.

A January colt by the progressive miler Aclaim, who produced this year's 1000 Guineas winner Cachet, is on the market for £79,000. He is out of Selfara, who has produced three winners from just four runners.

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

£39,000. This good-looking two-year-old looks just the type to make a three-year-old.

And last but not least, we can also offer a 50 per cent share in a filly by Zoustar, out of Evil Spell, who should be ready to run very soon. 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.

Yard's new website is well worth a look

A SPARKLING new Manor House website is now up and running.

Like *Manor House News*, the site has undergone a makeover to coincide with the start of an exciting new era.

While the revamped website features the yard's sophisticated new branding, the

address remains unchanged.

Go to www.manorhousetables.com to check out the new features, including a social media wall drawing the best content from across MHS's social media channels, as well as old favourites such as details of upcoming runners and horses for sale.

MHS represented at show jumping event

MEMBERS of the MHS team were amongst the thousands in attendance at last month's Dodson & Horrell Bolesworth International Horse Show.

The popular event, which takes

place just a few miles down the road from the yard, features world-class showjumping, as well as shopping, entertainment, food & drink, against the stunning backdrop of Bolesworth Castle.

Runner-up spot for racing club's newest recruit

THE future looks bright for members of the Michael Owen Racing Club after Caleta Sunrise finished second at Ayr recently.

The three-year-old filly, who showed promise for Johnny Murtagh in Ireland last year, found only the favourite, Mon-

sieur Kodi, too good in a 6f handicap at the Scottish track.

The club also has an unraced two-year-old filly, by Zoustar out of Pearly Spirit, in training at MHS.

Membership costs just £399 a year, or £35 a month, and of-

fers a genuine ownership experience, with perks including a welcome certificate, a stable visit hosted by Michael, an evening in a private chalet at Chester, and a share in any prize money.

● Visit www.michaelowenracingclub.com for more details.

JUNE SUCCESSES



Michael with Hugo, Cieren Fallon, and broadcasting pals

Broadcasting pals delighted by Box

MANOR House was responsible for seven winners in June, to move Hugo's total since taking the reins in mid March to 17.

As detailed in the previous edition of *Manor House Monthly*, Ever Given set the ball rolling when successful in a 7f Listed contest on the Friday of the Epsom Derby meeting.

And two more winners followed just 24 hours later when juvenile filly Ibiza Love scored at Doncaster before Dig Two made it a double on the day when winning at Musselburgh.

The former was providing owners Roudee Racing with their third winner of the season from as many horses when keeping on well under Ben Curtis to land a 6½f maiden fillies' stakes. And Ibiza Love was far

from disgraced when finishing 10th of the 16 runners, beaten little more than six lengths, in the Group 3 Albany Stakes at Royal Ascot less than a fortnight later.

Clifford Lee was in the saddle as Dig Two won a 7f Musselburgh handicap for Lit Lung Lee. Equipped with cheek pieces for the first time, the three-year-old gelding had just enough in hand to withhold the late challenge of favourite Aasser.

The victory was a third in 10 starts for the son of Cotai Glory, who finished second behind Chiptole in last year's Windsor Castle Stakes at Royal Ascot.

The yard's fourth win of the month came on June 24 when the admirably consistent Commonsensical triumphed in the valuable Cumberland Plate

Handicap at Carlisle - see Page 3.

Little more than 48 hours after Commonsensical's victory, Box To Box was winning for the second time this season when successful at Chester.

The three-year-old, who is owned by Michael Owen and a number of his pals from broadcaster Premier League Productions, got up on the post under Cieren Fallon to capture the spoils in a 1m2½f handicap.

MHS's sixth success of another fruitful month came at Newcastle on June 25 when Zoffee captured the Northumberland Vase - see Page 1.

And win No. 7 followed five days later at Haydock when Skittlebombz bagged a 7f handicap for owners John and Jess Dance under their retained jockey P J McDonald.

CARLISLE CELEBRATIONS

Commonsensical digs deep for win

COMMONSENSICAL'S stellar campaign continued with victory in the Cumberland Plate at Carlisle at the end of last month.

It was a second victory in three starts this season for More Turf Racing's progressive four-year-old gelding.

Ben Curtis had Commonsensical in a prominent position throughout the valuable 1m3f contest and pushed him into the lead a quarter of a mile from home. The son of Bated Breath stayed on gamely in the final furlong to see off the challenges of My Little Queen and Innse Gall and lead home his 13 rivals.

Having won for the first time on his seasonal debut at Pontefract last April, Commonsensical's latest success was his fifth in just over a year. And he went close to making it six when beaten just a neck in a £30,000 handicap at Newmarket on Saturday.

With James Doyle in the sad-



Commonsensical wins at Carlisle

dle, Commonsensical tracked the leader in the 1m4f contest before being sent on two furlongs out. From thereon in he hung left and right but pushed Adjuvant, to who he was conceding more than a stone, all the way to the line with more than nine lengths back to the rest of the field.

Commonsensical has now earned more than £50,000 in prize money for More Turf Racing which was set up by Burn-

ley footballer Jack Cork and his wife Freya and includes fellow professionals Matt Lowton, Nick Pope and James Tarkowski.

"It's great to have the guys from Burnley involved," said Hugo. "They had three horses with us though one has just been retired because he doesn't want to be a racehorse. Luckily this one does so hopefully we can have some more good days with him."

MEET THE TEAM

New yardman Cam is loving life at MHS



Cam is Roman Dragon's No. 1 fan

CAM Jones is relishing life at MHS having joined as an apprentice yardman at the beginning of March.

The Welshman attributes his interest in racing to his dad's life-long passion for the sport.

Having worked at McDonald's after leaving school, Cam loves organising staff barbecues, although he admits to some disappointment that no-one seems to trust his culinary skills!

Cam, who worked as a landscape

gardener prior to his arrival at MHS, makes no secret of his affection for Chester specialist Roman Dragon and also has fond memories of former stable star Brown Panther.

Away from work, Cam enjoys playing football and spending time with girlfriend Maisie and brother Josh.

If he was offered an all expenses paid trip anywhere in the world, Cam says he'd head to Dubai with Maisie, Josh, and Roman Dragon!

HUGO PALMER

With two-year-olds coming to the boil, it's about to get busy

WHILE we haven't had a lot of runners over recent weeks, the horses have continued to run well. And with the two-year-olds just beginning to come to the boil, it's going to be much busier over the next few months.

Certainly, there's little respite at this time of year. Aside from meetings such as the Qatar Goodwood Festival – or, if you prefer, Glorious Goodwood – and the Ebor meeting at York, there's the small matter of the forthcoming yearling sales.

They get under way with the Arqana sale at Deauville in the middle of next month and I'm very much looking forward to being there and at all the sales which take place thereafter. As ever, I'll be on the lookout for something a bit special though, as you might imagine, that's no easy task when there are so many others seeking to do the same.

In the meantime, I'd be delighted to hear from anyone who's contemplating having a two-year-old in training next year and would like me to try and find them one. If that's you, please



don't hesitate to contact me on 01948 820485 or via hugo@manorhousestables.com.

ICAN'T think what possessed BHA chief executive Julie Harrington to abstain on a proposal put forward by the organisation she heads up to cut 300 races a year from the programme book.

As a result, it was kicked into the long grass and, once again, nothing was done to address the very real issue of declining field sizes, resulting in short-priced favourites and unattractive betting mediums which do little to boost racing's coffers.

It's no coincidence that trainers and owners voted with their feet when none of the 13 entries for a novice stakes at Newbury on

Saturday were declared to run. However, who can blame them when one of our premier tracks puts on a race at one of its big Saturday fixtures with less than £4,000 in prize money for the winner! Unfortunately, this isn't likely to change for as long as the BHA's chief executive fails to weigh in behind much-needed interventions such as a reduction in the number of races.

As an aside, I can't help wondering if the sport has missed its moment a little bit – it wasn't all that long ago we had a health secretary who was MP for Newmarket, a chancellor of the exchequer who had Middleham in his constituency, and a home secretary whose husband was passionate about racing; that might have been our chance to affect some kind of much-needed levy reform and secure a higher percentage of betting turnover for prize money.

ON a personal note, my wife Vanessa and I were thrilled to welcome our second child earlier this month.

Tatiana, a sister for Ernest, was born on Friday, July 12, and I'm happy to report both mother and baby are doing extremely well.

As I've mentioned before, Vanessa has remained in Newmarket while we have some work done on the house at MHS but I can't wait for Tatiana, Ernest, and her to join me in Cheshire later in the year.



Love Island trip not on Michael's agenda



Michael with eldest daughter Gemma

MICHAEL Owen has dismissed the possibility he might be set to make a cameo appearance on *Love Island*.

With eldest daughter Gemma, 19, one of the stars of this year's show, speculation had been rife that Michael and wife Louise might make an appearance in the 'meet the parents episode' scheduled for later this month.

However, Michael ruled out swapping the BT Sport studio

for the Mallorca villa where the hit ITV2 show is filmed when speaking to *At The Races* ahead of *Box To Box*'s success at Chester earlier this month [see Page 2].

"My wife will do that duty," said Michael. "I'll represent the horse and she'll represent the daughter."

"I don't know what I'll get from *Box To Box* but I've fathered Gemma for 19 years so I'm pretty sure what I'm going to get from her!"

North-west firm and MHS in partnership

MANOR House is delighted to have formed a partnership with CC Scaffolding UK.

Moving forward the North West firm, which boasts almost two decades of experience across com-

mercial, industrial, residential, confined space and marine sectors, will attend to all the yard's scaffolding needs.

You can learn more about the services offered by CC Scaffolding UK [here](#).

Yard raises bar for domestic earnings



Flaming Rib has won almost £150,000 already this season

LAST month was one of Manor House's most lucrative ever with the yard's runners bagging in excess of £300,000.

Indeed, MHS has bettered its June total of £336,324 in prize money just once before - back in March 2015 when Brown Panther pocketed a first prize of more than £380,000 for winning the Dubai Gold Cup at Meydan.

Going into July, Hugo, who sits just inside the top 20 in the trainers' championship, had sent out 17 winners from MHS while

TOP MONEYSPINNERS

- 1: Flaming Rib - £146,190
- 2: Ever Given - £64,026
- 3: Zoffee - £59,589

the yard's runners over the last six months have earned in excess of £500,000.

Crack sprinter Flaming Rib has been the biggest contributor to that total with prize money in excess of £146,000, while Brad The Brief has banked more than £70,000 and Ever Given and Zof-

fee have both won more than £50,000. Meanwhile Rajinsky has plundered almost £40,000 in prize money so far this year, while Self Praise and Commonsensical have both boosted the yard's coffers by more than £30,000.

And coming up fast on the rails is *Box To Box*. The three-year-old gelding became the first MHS inmate to win three races this season when successful at Chester earlier in the month, in the process taking his earnings for 2022 to more than £20,000.

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

NAF a Nutritional Advanced Formulas brand

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

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

