

MANOR HOUSE

M O N T H L Y



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Rajinsky reflects
on a job well done



Rajinsky takes the scalp of Trueshan

RAJINSKY claimed his biggest scalp yet when fending off multiple Group 1 winner Trueshan to claim the Further Flight Stakes at Nottingham on April 12.

Harry Davies was in the saddle as Raj Matharu's admirable stayer bagged an eighth career victory to take his career earnings to almost £200,000.

Sent straight into the lead by Harry, the seven-year-old gelding, who was sent off at 16-1 in the five-runner field, looked to be a sitting duck for Trueshan and Hollie Doyle who travelled smoothly into contention as the field approached the final three furlongs of the Listed prize.

However, it was not to be for the short-priced market leader as Rajinsky battled away tenaciously in the closing

stages of the 1m6f contest to prevail by half a length.

"That was great and it was not entirely expected as he is still a little bit hairy in his coat and he is carrying a little bit more weight than I wanted him to," reflected Hugo afterwards.

"Plan A was to go for the Chester Cup. I thought if Rajinsky could run somewhere between six to eight lengths behind Trueshan and have a blow that would put him spot on for Chester, but I might have to re-think that plan now.

"I think it is a bit of a leap of faith to say that was the best version of Trueshan but he is still a dual Group 1 winner and that is a hell of a scalp for our horse to take.

"Like Trueshan he is a ground-dependant horse and we need to find

ground where there is cut in it. I can't believe there is a huge amount of improvement in him at the age of seven, but he will still be very entertaining for us.

Rajinsky's victory provided his jockey, who partnered the horse to victory in last year's Turners Cesarewitch Trial Handicap at Newmarket, with a first Listed success in his fledgling career.

"The opposition was probably the best he has ever faced but he is just improving as he is getting older.

"He is starting to come into himself now and last year we learned an awful lot about him. I know he stays further and he always hits the line strong but when Trueshan came to me he never let me down," said Harry.

"I'm thankful for the owners and Hugo keeping me on the horse."

15 winners up for MHS

AS we enter the first week of May, Manor House has 15 victories on the board in 2023 and has bagged more than £365,000 in prize money.

All but one of those successes has come in the UK, while Flaming Rib won a valuable sprint in Qatar in January. Three-year-olds or older horses have been responsible for 14 of the 15 winners, with the juvenile Balon D'Or the other scorer.



The £190,000 Flaming Rib banked for winning the Dukhan Sprint makes him the yard's leading money-spinner, ahead of Listed scorer Rajinsky [£31,191] and three-time winner Noltan Cross [£28,978], inset.

With 14 winners from just 81 runners at home and abroad, the yard is operating at a very healthy strike rate of just over 18 per cent.

Ertebat gets up to score

ERTEBAT got Manor House off the mark for May when winning at Pontefract on Wednesday.

Paul Mulrennan manoeuvred Al Shaqab's three-year-old gelding out from an unpromising looking position on the rails to get up in the final strides of the 6f contest.

It was a first career victory for the son of Unfortunately, who had shown plenty of promise on his three runs as a two-year-old.

With Dhariye having been successful in a Southwell maiden in January, MHS boasts a 100 per cent record with Al Shaqab runners thus far this year.

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Rib finishes out of frame in Hong Kong



Flaming Rib on route to Hong King

FLAMING Rib came up short in his battle with some of the world's best sprinters in the £1.2M Chairman's Sprint at Sha Tin, in Hong Kong, on Sunday.

The four-year-old Ribchester gelding, who is owned by Tom Dolan, James Dale, James Dooley, and Michael Owen, finished seventh, just over eight lengths behind the ultra-impressive Lucky Sweynesse.

The Japanese-trained winner, who was sent off at 1-5 under jockey Zac Purton, has now won 12 of his 16 starts,

including each of his last five races, and more than £4.3M in prize money.

It was a third overseas jaunt of the year for Flaming Rib, who was successful in Qatar on his seasonal debut. He had been looking to emulate former MHS inmate Big Time Baby, who finished second in the 2020 renewal of the race, having been sold to race in Hong Kong after winning a Listed event at York in 2016.

● Turn to Page 4 to see James Dooley under the spotlight in the Manor House Monthly Q&A.

Opportunity to be a part-owner of colt

YOU could become the part-owner of a Dime A Dance juvenile out of Havana Gold.

The attractive bay colt, who was purchased last week at Goffs UK Breeze-Up Sale, will run in the colours of Manor House Stables Syndicate II.

A five per cent share in the colt



The bay colt

costs £1,500 plus VAT and more details are available by emailing info@manorhousestables.com or calling 01948 820485.

Syndicate members enjoy a day at yard

MHS was delighted to welcome members of Roudée Racing to the yard recently.

They enjoyed watching their four-year-old gelding Roudemental and the unraced two-year-old Grey Cuban

being put through their paces on the gallops.

Hugo trained three winners for the North West-based syndicate service last year and will be looking to add to that total in 2023.

Spotlight shines on MHS ahead of May Festival

TELEVISION cameras have been a common sight at Manor House over the course of recent weeks.

With the Boodles May Festival just around the corner, the yard has welcomed teams from Chester Racecourse, Sky Racing and the Tote to film preview pieces.

In interviews with Luke Parkinson of the Tote, Hugo and Michael discuss the MHS's best



Filming at MHS

hopes for the three-day extravaganza, including the possibility of either Rajinsky or Zoffe pro-

viding the yard with a first success in the Tote Chester Cup.

"It's certainly a race that we'd love to tick off our to-do list, and we have two entries that should have a decent chance," reflects Michael.

● You can catch up with Hugo and Michael's thoughts via the links we've shared on the yard's social media channels."

APRIL IN FOCUS



Maid In London scoring in good style at Wolverhampton

Michael's faith in Balon is justified

BALON D'Or provided Manor House with its first turf success of 2023 when scoring at Musselburgh on April 8.

The Kodiak two-year-old, who is owned by Ms S Y D Goh Diamond and Michael Owen, finished with a flourish under Ben Curtis to nail the strong travelling Sergeant Wilko in the shadow of the post.

What's more, with three lengths plus back to the remainder of the eight-strong field, and the runner-up winning readily last week, the form looks strong.

The horse takes his name from the prestigious award for the world's best footballer – Michael claimed the prize in 2001 and, prior to Balon D'Or's suc-

cess, made no secret of the fact he had been saving the name for an above-average performer, telling his Twitter followers that the horse had been showing up well on the gallops at MHS and he was expecting a big run.

Balon D'Or could be back in action in the traditional curtain-raiser at Chester's Boodles May Festival, the 5f Lily Agnes Stakes, on Wednesday, May 10.

Seven days after Balon D'Or's success on the turf at Musselburgh, Maid in London provided the yard with another winner when scoring on the all-weather at Wolverhampton.

Three-time champion jockey Oisín Murphy was in the saddle as the three-year-old filly,

who runs in the colours of Tony O'Connor and Reins Partners 2, lowered the colours of Godolphin hotpot Tranquil Rose.

Pushed along two furlongs out, Maid In London ran on well inside the final half furlong to win going away.

It was a first victory, at the second attempt, for the daughter of Roaring Lion who had shown promise on her debut at Kempton before Christmas.

Maid In London was providing MHS with its third winner of the month, following the successes of Balon D'Or and Rajinsky [see Page 1]. The yard has now had 14 domestic winners in 2023 from 80 runners – a strike rate of just under 18 per cent.



Stenton Glider scoring at Chester on her debut

Stenton Glider to run in Guineas

STENTON Glider will head to Newmarket for the 1000 Guineas after her narrow second in last month's Group 3 Dubai Duty Free Stakes.

The filly, who is owned by Jane Mairs and her son Tom, found just one too good in the 12-runner field at Newbury and Hugo is looking forward to a rematch with the winner, Remarque, at HQ this Sunday.

"So many times you can run a maiden winner in a Classic trial

and end up going home with your tail between your legs but we were really pleased with Stenton Glider," enthused Hugo.

"We went to Newbury in the hope there would be an awful lot more under the bonnet and I'm delighted that there was.

"We were beaten by a better filly on the day but things didn't go how we wanted them to. We wanted to take a lead but she rather got left in front. She went well clear of the third and I think

for a moment she thought she'd done enough. Remarque then challenged a long way to her left and went a length up but our filly was fighting back at the line."

Hugo, who won the 2000 Guineas with Galileo Gold in 2016 and the Irish Oaks with Covert Love in 2015, added: "We felt all spring a mile will suit her better and I think better ground will also suit her more. The 1000 Guineas is very much in our mind."

MEET THE TEAM

Josh celebrates first anniversary at MHS



Yardman Josh Jones and Roman Dragon

YARDMAN Josh Jones has just celebrated the first anniversary of his arrival at Manor House.

Welshman Josh, who was born in Wrexham but grew up in the Flintshire village of Hawarden, joined the team at MHS in March of last year.

Having worked on a number of farms, Josh was contacted by Michael Owen about the possibility of coming to work at MHS and jumped at the opportunity to

try something a little bit different.

Josh says his favourite current MHS inmate is the three-year-old Kodiac gelding Pub Club.

Away from work, Josh enjoys returning home to spend time with his pals, playing football, and going to the gym.

His favourite meal is chicken kiev with pasta and beans and if he was offered an all-expenses paid holiday anywhere in the world, he'd opt for a trip to the Maldives.

HUGO PALMER

It would be great if we could get off to a flyer in Lily Agnes

EVERYONE at Manor House is very much looking forward to the Boodles May Festival at Chester next week, where we're expecting to have a dozen or so runners over the course of the three days.

We had two winners last year – Ever Given scored on the opening day while Flaming Rib, pictured inset, was successful in a conditions stakes 48 hours later – and the aim must be to at least match that total this time around.

In all likelihood, we'll have a handful of runners on both the Wednesday and Thursday, although it's looking as if we might be rather less well represented on the final day.

Balon D'Or, who scored on his debut at Mus-selburgh last month, will go for Wednesday's curtain-raiser, the Lily Agnes Stakes, and, with the form of his debut win working out well, granted a decent draw he must have a live chance. For sure, it would be great if we were to kick off the meeting with a winner.

We'll also be looking for a good run from sprinter Roman Dragon, who is something of



a Chester specialist. And we'd love to run the fantastically consistent Zoffee in Friday's big race, the Tote Chester Cup, although that's likely to depend on the seven-year-old getting the decent ground on which he thrives.

BEFORE our focus turns entirely to Chester, there's the small matter of the 1000 Guineas at Newmarket on Sunday, in which we run the exciting Stenton Glider.

We've always held the daughter of Dandy Man in high regard and while I'd be lying if I said we'd been confident she'd lower the colours of a Sir Michael Stoute-trained hotpot in the manner she did on her racecourse debut at Chester last season, we'd have been disappointed had she not run well. She did better still

when a close second on her return to action in the Group 3 Dubai Duty Free Stakes at Newbury last month and I'd expect her to come on a fair bit for that.

The Guineas will be her first try over a mile but she gives the impression she'll stay. What's more, I'm encouraged by the fact that six of the ten 1000 Guineas winners since the turn of the century to run in a recognised trial for the first fillies' classic were beaten in their prep race. Let's hope Stenton Glider can make that seven!

HAVING been away in Hong Kong at the end of last week, I haven't yet had a chance to study the fine detail of the long-awaited white paper, which was finally published last week, setting out the government's vision for the future of gambling regulation.

However, they appear to have come up with a bit of a fudge. No doubt, that will be a disappointment to some, but it seems to me the fact that the government, and successive ministers, have been incredibly slow and reluctant to publish their findings demonstrates a lack of serious appetite to do anything significant to curb the betting industry in a way that might hurt racing.

As I said, I've not pored over the white paper so I could be wrong, but am very much hoping this isn't just wishful thinking on my part!



Join Michael's club for just £95 a year



Rose Donnelly, left, and Pearly Star

THE revamped Michael Owen Racing Club remains open for new members.

"I want to give others the chance to experience the joy of owning a racehorse and the club will enable everyone to get involved in this wonderful industry for just £95 a year," enthused Michael.

There will be two horses sporting the club's colours during the 2023 season – the three-year-old fillies Pearly Star, who was beaten less than three lengths in a Wolverhampton maiden at the beginning of last month,

and Rose Donnelly, who is a half-sister to Roman Dragon, with whom MHS has enjoyed considerable success, and shows a lot of similar traits to him at this early stage of her career.

Members receive a digital welcome pack, invitations to yard visits hosted by Michael and Hugo, and entry into a ballot for complementary owners & trainer badges every time one of the club's horses is in action.

● You can find out more about the Michael Owen Racing Club and how to join [here](#).

Horses benefit from Wolverhampton trip

A NUMBER of horses from Manor House enjoyed a racecourse gallop at Wolverhampton last week.

Box To Box, Prince Of Zenda, and Roman Dragon were among those who made the trip to Dunstall Park to be put through their paces on the Tapeta surface.



Dunstall Park

You can find a short video of the horses in action, along with lots of other great content, on Manor House's [Instagram](#) page.

Leo's luck is in as he bags Chester tickets

CONGRATULATIONS to Leo Doherty who has bagged two tickets for Chester races courtesy of a competition on MHS's social media channels.

We put the details of all those who

answered our call to subscribe to *Manor House Monthly* into a hat and Leo's name came out first.

● Follow MHS on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for more great competitions in the future.

Q&A: Tech entrepreneur James Dooley is committed to doing the things he loves, with people he loves, in a way he can be proud of

James out to live his life to the full

What's your connection with Manor House Stables? I co-own a few horses including Flaming Rib, who's been brilliant for us, and his half-sister Teddy's Dawn who we are also excited about.

How did your association with the yard come about? I'm a friend of Michael's – I did some work for him a few years ago, he introduced me to the stables, and things went from there.

What, in your opinion, sets Manor House apart from other yards? It's a lovely part of the world and the facilities are top-class and improving all the time.

Sum yourself up in five words? Passionate, hardworking, honest, loyal and trustworthy.

Who would play you in a film of your life? Cillian Murphy from *Peaky Blinders* – I like his style!

If there is one thing you could change about your life, what would it be? I wouldn't really change anything. I believe in fate and the journey. Also, if I wanted to change something I'd probably just do it!

What was the most memorable day of your racing life? Winning the Galway Mile – a big Irish Premier handicap – for the first time with my horse Saltonstall. It was our first big win and to celebrate it with my mum and brothers was amazing. We've had other amazing results, such as Flaming Rib winning in Doha, but that first big win was special.

What is your earliest racing memory? When we were kids my mum used to take me and my brothers to Haydock Park races after school. I was hooked on the horses' beauty and how amazing they were. Even though I was little, I knew I wanted to own one.

If you were taking someone racing for the first time, where would you go and why?

Chester is a very special track, it's stunning, they look after the owners really well and the crowds are always up for it. I've just got back from Sha Tin which is an amazing course in Hong Kong. Other favourites are Meydan and, of course, Hay-



James Dooley, second left, with his brother Mark, mother Angela, and Vanessa Palmer

dock and Galway, I will always hold them in my heart.

What was the last film you saw? *Shawshank Redemption*.

What was the last book you read? *The 4-Hour Work Week* by Tim Ferriss.

If you had to choose a single 'Desert Island Disc' what would it be? You've Got The Love – Florence and the Machine.

Who do you most admire and why? My wife, Kerri, for putting up with me – I couldn't!

Who's your favourite-ever horse? Frankel.

What would be your specialist subject on Mastermind? Search Engine Optimisation [SEO] or Artificial Intelligence as its becoming the future pretty quickly.

What TV show do you always switch off? Aside from sport, I don't really watch TV.

What football team do you support? Manchester United.

Give us a trainer and jockey to watch out for in 2023. Ado McGuinness and Adam Caffrey in Ireland.

What is the strangest / funniest thing you have ever seen on a racecourse? How excited an-

other of the partners in Flaming Rib, Tom Dolan, gets when he's interviewed after winning a race. He certainly knows where the cameras are!

What's your guiltiest pleasure / greatest extravagance? Owning a dozen racehorses.

If you could invite four celebrities / historical figures to a dinner party who would they be? Steve Jobs, Mark Zuckerberg, Warren Buffett and Bill Gates.

What is the most-important lesson life has taught you? I would recommend reading my most trafficked article on life lessons [here](#) as there are many I have learned over the years.

How would you like to be remembered? My vision statement in everything I do is 'To do things I love, with people I love, doing it in a way to be proud of. My job as an entrepreneur is to not accept no, ask why and turn it into a yes. Live rich, die enriched by investing into things that will protect and develop my family, friends and make the world a better place. But the key is doing all this with trust, honesty and integrity.'

Beautiful Jess will be forever in our hearts

FIVE weeks on from the tragic passing of Jess Whalley, scores of friends and family members packed St James the Great Church in the village of Audley, near Stoke-on-Trent, to celebrate her life.

A number of the team at Manor House made the journey from Cheshire to Staffordshire on Tuesday to pay their last respects to a much-loved friend and colleague.

Jess, 25, collapsed while riding out at MHS at the end of March. She was given CPR by staff members until emergency services arrived, but was pronounced dead at the scene.

"It was a tragic incident that could've happened at any time. Nothing can really prepare you for a thing like that," reflected Michael afterwards.

"A young girl, who was supremely talented at what she did, was massively popular, and a real important member of the yard and the staff.

Jess was the most wonderful girl, who was liked and respected by all of us

Hugo Palmer
on Jess Whalley

Lots of people will be going through the same thing, having lost someone close to them or a family member and what can you say? What words can you say?

"Having to come down and tell 40 of her friends what had happened – it was just the worst day of my life. We all miss her terribly.

"The horse that Jess was riding, she'd just finished her work and it was great and she would've been

beaming because it was a horse which she absolutely loved."

"Jess was the most wonderful girl, who was liked and respected by all of us," said Hugo. "Not only a fantastic employee but a fantastic friend to all of us and the staff here.

"Everyone's been really affected by Jess's death, but in a funny way it's brought us closer and at the minute everyone is united and looking out for each other.

"You can't find any silver lining or chinks of light in a situation like this but now Jess's funeral has been and gone, I think we'll be able to get on and make some concrete plans about doing something in Jess's memory."



Jess is much missed by everyone at MHS



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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)

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