

MANOR HOUSE

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Hugo and Michael are delighted to welcome Coral as yard sponsors

Coral welcomed as yard sponsors

In a hugely exciting step, Manor House Stables are delighted to welcome Coral as new yard sponsors on a two-year deal.

The partnership will see Hugo provide Coral customers with unique insight into his runners at all major meetings throughout the Flat season with regular exclusive blogs.

Coral will also work with Hugo, Michael Owen and the team at Manor House to create behind-the-scenes video content throughout the season, to get racing fans closer to the action.

The team at MHS will wear Coral-branded clothing at the yard and on racecourses, with the racehorses also sporting Coral branding on the gallops and in the parade ring at the track.

Alongside the sponsorship we are

delighted to have a horse in training for the Coral Racing Club. The two-year-old son of Ardad out of Polly Floyer was purchased by Coral for £30,000 at the Goffs UK Breeze Up Sale at Doncaster in April of this year.

Coral are running a competition amongst Coral Racing Club members to come up with a name for the two-year-old ahead of his debut run, with the successful club member winning the chance to be an owner of the two-year-old on his debut. We will update once the winning name has been chosen!

Coral's Simon Clare said: "We are delighted to launch this partnership with Manor House Stables, which sees us become the yard sponsor of Hugo and his team, which in turn will give us the opportunity to deliver exclusive content

to our customers. Michael's passion for, and commitment to, the sport matches our own, and we are also excited to have our latest Coral Racing Club horse in training at Manor House."

"It's hugely exciting to have Coral as Yard Sponsor of Manor House Stables," said Michael. "As Simon Clare has stated, Coral's passion and commitment to horse racing is very similar to our own and I am sure the partnership will be both successful and enjoyable for everyone involved."

"It is a great thrill to have Coral on board as our sponsor," said Hugo. "Not only are Coral long-standing supporters of racing but it is also very exciting for us to be training for the Coral Racing Club and we hope that club members will enjoy their time at MHS."

Best yet for Balon D'Or

BALON D'Or produced his best performance yet when runner-up in the Woodcote Stakes on the Friday of the Epsom Derby meeting.

With James Doyle aboard, the two-year-old son of Kodiak was only headed inside the final 100 yards of the valuable 6f contest.

Balon D'Or's fine run saw him bag almost £20,000 for owners Michael Owen and Ms Diamond, with Chris Robertson since joining the partnership.

Balon D'Or returned to action in a Chantilly Group 3 on June 18. Sent off the 32-5 fourth favourite, Ben Curtis's mount finished fourth behind hot favourite Ramatuelle in the Prix du Bois over six furlongs.

Balon D'Or has now been placed on all four of his career starts, winning once, and bagging more than £30,000 in prize money.



Jess tribute at Chester

MANOR House Stables is sponsoring the final race at Chester this Friday in memory of much-missed Jess Whalley.

Jess, 25, was a hugely popular and valuable member of the MHS team, as well as the wider racing community, and her sudden passing earlier this year came as a huge shock.

The Remembering Jess Whalley Handicap Stakes is due off at 9pm.

● MHS has set up a fund-raising page for CRY [Cardiac Risk in the Young], which works to prevent young sudden cardiac deaths and support those affected. You can donate [here](https://www.cry.org.uk).

Chronograph enjoys first win at Haydock



Chronograph and Ross Coakley

CHRONOGRAPH bagged a first career victory when landing the opening race at Haydock on Saturday.

A model of consistency, finishing second or third on his four previous starts, Sheikh Issa Salman Khalifa's three year old took the 1m3½f maiden with the minimum of fuss.

Always in a prominent position, Ross Coakley sent the Recorder gelding on a quarter of a mile out and he stayed on well to come home three and three-quarter lengths to

the good over his nearest pursuer, Weigh Anchor.

Chronograph wasn't winning out of turn, having only been collared inside the final few yards on his previous start in a valuable maiden at Chester's Boodles May Festival.

The winner was Hugo's 11th for the owner from just 46 runners, representing a very healthy 24 per cent strike rate.

In a similar vein, Ross has now ridden eight winners for Hugo in 2023 and 20 in total from just 97 rides – a strike rate in excess of 20 per cent.

Incredible efforts of MHS team celebrated

MEMBERS of the MHS team enjoyed pizza and beer after evening stables on Tuesday to mark Racing Staff Week, which runs from June 24 to July 1.

"It's my name you see on the racecard but we really couldn't do it without them," said Hugo.

"I'd like to place



MHS team members

on record how enormously appreciative Michael and I are of everyone's incredible hard work, and I've no doubt our owners feel likewise."

Grosvenor party are entertained at yard

MANOR House Stables welcomed Grosvenor Insurance for their corporate hospitality morning at the yard earlier this month.

Staff and clients of the independent firm visited the yard

on the morning of June 2. They began their day by looking around the stables and then watched a number of horses on the gallops, before their visit concluded with a Q&A session with Michael Owen.

Sun shines for visit of Roudee Racing owners

OWNERS from Roudee Racing visited Manor House Stables earlier this month.

In brilliant sunshine, a dozen or so of those involved in the North West-based syndicate service watched their horse being put through his paces on the gallops.

Roudee Racing are looking forward to their as-yet-unraced



Roudee Racing visitors

Havana Grey juvenile Grey Cuban making his debut later on this season.

Hopes are high for the grey colt, who is a son of the speedy Havana Grey, winner of six of his 15 races, including the Group 1 Flying Five at the Curragh in 2018.

Grey Cuban's dam Serena Grae won four races for Marcus Tregoning, over distances from 1m to 1m4f, during the 2014 season.

WEEKEND DOUBLE



Box To Box winning on the Roodee again

Box To Box wins again on Roodee

BOX To Box returned to form in some style when scoring in a 1m2f handicap at Chester on June 17.

It was a third career victory at the course for the four-year-old Kodiak gelding, who recorded back-to-back victories on the Roodee last summer.

Despite being drawn widest of all in stall nine of nine, James Doyle manoeuvred his mount into an early lead and, while the pack closed up the straight, Box To Box repelled all challengers.

Battling on bravely in the final stages, he came home three-quarters of a length to the good over second-favourite Jean Baptiste, with a further neck back to Bizarre Law in third.



Box To Box's owners

Box To Box was winning for the fourth time for his enthusiastic owners the Running Order Partnership, who include Michael Owen and former teammates Steve McManaman and Owen Hargreaves, as well as a number of other colleagues from the TV company Premier League Productions.

And with three of those four victories having come at Chester, it's clear Box To Box, who has

now earned almost £40,000 in prize money, is well suited to the unique nature of the track.

Little more than 24 hours after Box To Box's victory at Chester, MHS was celebrating its second success of the weekend when Power Of Gold scored in a 1m Doncaster handicap.

Ross Coakley was aboard Dr Ali Ridha's three-year-old colt who produced a career-best performance to record his first victory at the fifth attempt.

Ross always had the son of Golden Horn in a good position and he ran on to lead inside the final furlong, with Razoni a length back in second, and favourite Laser Guided a further length back in third.

Stenton Glider is second in Classic

STENTON Glider finished a fine second in the German 1000 Guineas at Dusseldorf at the beginning of the month.

Andrea Atzeni was in the saddle as the filly, who is owned by Jane Mairs and her son Tom, sought to give Hugo a third victory in the Group 2 contest.

From an unpromising wide draw in stall 10, Andrea was forced to make more use of Stenton Glider than he would ideally have liked.

However, she settled well in third behind the Andreas Wohler-trained Habana and, although briefly losing momentum as they crossed the path after turning for home, stayed on well to take second ahead of the Charlie Appleby-trained favourite Dream Of Love.

The daughter of Dandy Man earned almost £25,000 for her effort to take her career earnings to more than £45,000.

"That's the luck of the draw, but the two big questions we wanted answered going there



Jane Mairs with Hugo and Andrea Atzeni

was whether she was a miler and whether she would handle fast ground," said Hugo.

"They were giving the ground as good, but both Andrea and William Buick agreed the ground was firm, it may even have been good to firm.

"She skipped off it and her best furlong was her last furlong, and she has now shown Group

form on firm ground and heavy ground, and I'm sure she will be fine on anything in between, so that's a massive box ticked for us.

"We were never going to catch the winner, but we were reducing the deficit all the time, and we're obviously delighted with how she has run. Hopefully, her first stakes victory won't be far away."

MEET THE TEAM

Liverpudlian Lydia adores Box To Box



Lydia aboard Box To Box

LIVERPUDLIAN Lydia Queen joined Manor House as a rider in April of last year.

Lydia, who previously worked for the nearby yard of Oliver Greenall and Josh Guerriero, attributes her interest in racing to her dad

"We watched it a lot when I was younger, and all the family would always have a bet on the Grand National," said Lydia.

"Then, when I left college, I went straight to a flat yard

where I learned how to ride"

Lydia's favourite horse at MHS is Chester specialist Box To Box, while in her spare time she enjoys walking her two dogs and visiting family and friends.

Lydia says her favourite song of all time is Beautiful Crazy by Luke Combs, that her favourite meal is 'anything pasta related', and that if she could travel anywhere in the world she would go to either Australia or Thailand.

HUGO PALMER

King's joy at Royal Ascot victory must bode well for racing

SADLY, we came away from Royal Ascot without a winner. However, it was, as ever, a fantastic occasion.

The racing was top-notch, as was the social aspect, and I thoroughly enjoyed the picnic which was attended by many of our owners before racing on Wednesday [see Page 6 for more photos].

The great thing that I took away from last week was what a good time our new king and queen appeared to be having.

It's clear to me that racing benefits enormously from its royal patronage and, after concerns were raised that this might diminish following the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, it was great to see the joy Charles and Camilla took from Desert Hero winning the King George V Stakes in the royal colours.

What is more, contrary to some speculation that it might not happen, they were in attendance for all five days and it seemed to me they were every bit as engaged on the fifth and final day as they were on the first.



We only had a handful of runners this year and, while the majority performed credibly, the racing at Royal Ascot is so competitive you need absolutely everything to go your way - from ground and draw to luck in running - to end up in the winner's enclosure.

AS things stand, Zoffee who finished a fine sixth, beaten just three and three quarter lengths, in the Ascot Stakes last Tuesday will head to Newcastle for the Northumberland Plate at the weekend.

He's come out of his Ascot run in great shape and, having won last year's Northumberland Vase, we know he's well suited to Newcastle's all-weather track. All being well, he'll be joined by Rajinsky, who finished third in last year's

Plate behind Trueshan and is in fantastic shape right now.

Saturday's Newcastle card should also see the long-awaited return to action of Brad The Brief, who is entered in the Group 3 Chipchase Stakes.

It will be wonderful to see Andrew Black's six-year-old back on the racecourse after an unfortunate incident in which he endured a broken jaw. That was back at the beginning of the year, when he was just beginning to go really well, but the trauma of it all set Brad back so we've had to be patient with him.

MYSELF and many of the MHS team are looking forward to being at Chester on Friday evening for the Remembering Jess Whalley Handicap Stakes.

Jess was a hugely popular member of the Manor House Stables team, whose sudden passing came as a huge shock to us all. Now we've started to come to terms with our grief, it will be good to share our memories of Jess and celebrate her life.

At the same time, we'll be looking to boost our fundraising efforts for the charity CRY [Cardiac Risk in the Young] - you can donate [here](#).

It goes without saying, we'd have loved to have won the race being run in Jess' memory but, unfortunately, we didn't have a suitable candidate for the 5f contest.



Join Michael's club for just £95 a year



Racing club members at Haydock

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 a length when finishing third in a 7½f Beverley maiden on June 10, and Rose

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

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](#).

Haydock victory is 21st in UK this year

CHRONOGRAPH provided Manor House with its 21st domestic winner of 2023 when scoring at Haydock on Saturday.

The yard has also tasted success overseas this year, courtesy of Flaming Rib's victory in a 190k sprint in Qatar midway through February.



Flaming Rib

Other leading moneyspinners for MHS this season include Solent Gateway [£46,333], Zoffee [£37,345] and Rajinsky [£36,756].

MHS team centre stage in NAF videos

A SERIES of short videos featuring members of the Manor House team can be found on the social media channels of the yard's official supplement partner NAF.

The videos, which

can be found [here](#), see racing pundit Frankie Foster chat to Hugo, Michael Owen, Emma Byllemos, and Charlotte Kerry about life at the yard and what's involved in looking after a racehorse.

Michael takes to stage with legend that is AP

BUILDING on the partnership between Manor House Stables and Bolesworth, Michael Owen shared the stage with legendary NH jockey AP McCoy at the Bolesworth International Horse Show 2023.

Michael and AP regaled the crowd with tales from their careers during a networking event at the multi-dimensional estate in the heart of Cheshire, only



Michael and AP McCoy

a couple of miles from Manor House. Michael reflected that the equine and business worlds share many values with football.

"You might have the best manager and be at the best club but unless you have the best players it's pretty hard to turn them into world beaters," said Michael.

"It's exactly the same principle in business, which is why we aimed high, for the best trainer, the best staff, the best facility and best of everything – hoping you get a little luck along the way."

YARD LATEST



Michael and Hugo with Expleo's Jeff Hoyle and Graham Younger

Expleo deal will showcase region

ENGINEERING technology and consultancy provider Expleo has become a partnership-level sponsor of Manor House Stables.

The move is a signal of the engineering company's ambition to increase its presence in the North West, where its UK head office is located.

"We're incredibly proud to be working with another local business that has built a reputation for excellence in its field, and shares our values around creating local jobs, developing its employees, and generating growth in the region," enthused the MD of Expleo UK and Global Executive Vice President of Aero, Space and Defence, Jeff Hoyle.

The partnership will see Manor House run a series of exclusive on-site events for clients of Expleo, while the company's branding will appear across the yard, as well as on horseboxes and clothing.

In addition, in a further partnership with a local business, Expleo is set to sponsor a number of events at Chester racecourse later this year.

"After family and football, horseracing is my major passion and it's been my great pleasure to be able to connect that passion to investing in a business here in the north west," reflected Michael Owen.

"It's equally important to me that our sponsors also have a sig-

nificant presence in the region, which makes Expleo the perfect fit for us and we are very much looking forward to working with the team there over the coming months."

Michael's sentiments were echoed by Expleo's Vic President of Aerospace, Graham Younger, who said: "We're as invested in the region as Michael and his team, sharing an ambition to raise the profile of the north west region as a great place to do business."

"Our partnership is all about showcasing the best of the region to our clients, increasing inward investment and shining a spotlight on all the north west has to offer."

In the first of an occasional series of features going behind the scenes at MHS, farriers Ryan Sutton and Sam Slack discuss their roles at the yard

Farriers Sam and Ryan loving lives



MHS farriers Sam Slack, left, and Ryan Sutton

FARRIERS Sam Slack and Ryan Sutton became part of the team at Manor House Stables in October of last year.

And nine months in, they're revelling in their new roles and thoroughly enjoying all that comes with them.

"After our first meeting with Hugo, we felt that the yard was heading for big things and, thus far, it's exceeded my expectations," reflected Ryan. "Everyone is striving for the same thing and it's great to be involved in a team with solid core values and ambitious targets."

A typical day sees Sam and Ryan arrive at MHS circa 6.30am, with whoever's first to do so assuming responsibility for the all-important task of putting on the kettle!

Once they have a drink in hand, the two farriers undertake one of the day's most important tasks – checking their computer to see which horses are due their regular four-weekly shoeing or trimming.

"We schedule our morning depending on which horses are working from first to last lot," explains Ryan. "And finally, before we head off around mid-day to see other clients, we

Thus far the new role has exceeded my expectations

Ryan Sutton
Farrier at Manor House

double-check all the following day's runners to make sure they are spot on for racing, mindful that some of them might be leaving before we arrive the next morning."

While Ryan and Sam are agreed there have been plenty of memorable moments since they joined the yard, they concur that an undoubted highlight was when they and their partners were invited to join Hugo, Michael Owen, and the team at Chester for the final day of this year's Boodles May Festival.

"It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience and everyone made us feel very welcome," recalled Ryan.

Having grown up watching the racing on TV with his grandfather, Mancunian Sam served his apprenticeship at James and Jean Potter's National Hunt Stud in Mid Wales.

In a quirk of fate, Liverpoolian Ryan spent some of

his apprenticeship working at MHS under the guidance of Davey Calko, around 10 years ago. On qualifying he looked after National Hunt store horses for Mandy and Willie Bryan of Bryan's Bloodstock, while he has also worked for a number of point-to-point trainers and studs.

While Sam finds it almost impossible to pick a favourite horse at the yard, he is a big admirer of the two-year-old colt Hackman, the three-year-old filly Stenton Glider, and crack sprinter Flaming Rib. While Ryan has a soft spot for Supaspecialawesome, he has high hopes for the two-year-old It's Not Risky and is also a big fan of a Wootton Bassett filly who he says is 'beautiful to look at and has a personality to match'.

Both Sam and Ryan are big football fans, although they differ on which team to support – with Ryan a Liverpool fanatic and Sam a Man U supporter. Outside of his role at Manor House, Sam has just started playing football again, after a four-year sabbatical.

"I played 23 games and felt every single minute of it so I think my days might be numbered," he joked.

Q&A: Chris Robertson has an interest in two horses in training at MHS

Chris admires Rory for principled stand



Chris Robertson enjoys a glass of bourbon

What's your connection with Manor House Stables? I am a partner in Balon D'Or and in an as-yet-unraced three-year-old, Dark Strike.

What are your hopes for Balon D'Or and Dark Strike this season and beyond? I hope Balon D'Or keeps on progressing and we get to see him run at Glorious Goodwood and, hopefully, in Group races next season. It would be nice to see Dark Strike on the turf before the end of the season; if not, I am hoping he will take to the all-weather and give us some fun this winter.

How did your association with the yard come about? Myself, Rob Jones and Rich Cusato, were enjoying a late drink in the Roof Bar at Chester Racecourse, when it was suggested we should get a horse together. Rob is a friend of Michael's, who offered us Dark Strike, along with the recently sold Self Aclaim, and the Roof Partnership began.

What, in your opinion, sets Manor House apart from other yards? The excellent facilities and the easy approachability of Hugo and Michael.

What was the last film you watched? Sing, whilst babysitting my granddaughter!

What was the last book you read? I can't recall, I'm much more a reader of news articles.

If you had to choose a single 'Desert Island Disc' what would it be? Don't Speak by No Doubt.

Who do you most admire and why? Apart from my wife, of course, Rory McIlroy, for his amazing ability and for putting his beliefs before money.

Who's your favourite-ever horse? Rose of Kildare was the first horse I had a share in. She was bought for only €3,000, she ran in the Guineas, German Guineas, at Royal Ascot, and went on to win three Group 3 races – no pressure Hugo!

What would your specialist subject be on Mastermind?

I'd love to say racing, but in reality I know a lot more about golf.

What is your favourite sport? It's got to be flat racing

Who would play you in a film of your life? No idea, next question please...

What is the most important lesson life has taught you? That life is too short – live for today!

Sum yourself up in five words. Impulsive, caring and very lucky.

And finally, what's your guiltiest pleasure? A large glass of bourbon!

A royal occasion



● Members of the MHS team, owners, and friends enjoying themselves at Royal Ascot last week. Clockwise from top left: connections of the two-year-old Hackman socialising prior to their horse's run in the Windsor Castle Stakes; Hackman's owners with Hugo and Michael Owen; connections of Flaming Rib ahead of their horse's run in the Wokingham; and, from left, Aisling Cunningham, Michael Cunningham, and Nina Barbour with Michael.



MHS set to continue working with NAF



NAF will continue working with MHS

MANOR House Stables will continue working with NAF Racing for the next four years.

An agreement for NAF to become the yard's official supplement partner is the latest in a series of exciting developments at MHS.

The NAF Racing range of products has been designed especially with racehorses in mind. With NAF's dedicated and experienced team working alongside MHS, the attention to detail strengthens the alignment and ensures every horse's requirements are fulfilled, whether by application or supplementation.

"We are thrilled to continue the relationship with NAF Racing, which has been such a huge benefit to the team and horses over the

past few years, on a long-term deal," enthused Michael Owen.

"As a former sportsman, I am fully aware of the fine margins that can be the difference between success and failure.

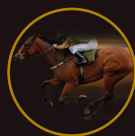
"It goes without saying that we are hugely grateful to the team at NAF for their ongoing expertise and support. They are leaders in their field and we look forward to our successful partnership continuing, both on and off the track.

NAF's head of racing Sammy Martin said: "We have been working closely with the team at MHS since 2021 and the collaborative approach to the relationship has seen us play a key part in the many successes in that time."

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