

MANOR HOUSE

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Hackman on route
to victory at Chester



Starring role for smart Hackman

HACKMAN provided Manor House Stables with a Boodles May Festival winner when scoring impressively on the second day of the three-day extravaganza.

Sporting the blue silks of the Gene Genies, the precocious son of Mehmas landed the same juvenile maiden his sire won in 2016.

Sent off the 11-8 favourite on the back of a promising racecourse debut at Newmarket in mid April, James Doyle bounced Hackman out of the stalls and made all for a comfortable one-and-three-quarter length victory.

"He's a really good horse and he's very fast - he's five furlongs through and through," enthused Michael speaking after the race.

"This place means a lot to me and to

win here means a lot. It's an important meeting and we're on the board with what we thought was our best chance of the week.

"Hackman is a nice horse and we've always thought Royal Ascot with him and I don't think he's changed our minds there.

"I really wanted to win that one. I've been fortunate to win plenty of races around the world and Group Ones and people might be thinking 'a poxy little maiden round Chester' but I wanted to win that one.

"He is just everything you want in an early two-year-old, he jumps quick and he's a little bull of a horse. He's great and I love him."

Hackman returned to action in the Listed Racehorse Lotto National Stakes

over five furlongs at Sandown last Thursday evening and, while he was unable to make it two wins in as many starts, did succeed in picking up some black type.

Ultimately, James Doyle's mount had no answer to the impressive finishing kick of Elite Status. However, he was the only one of the 10 runners who made any real attempt to put it up to the unbeaten favourite and it wasn't until the final 100 yards that he was headed for second.

While Hackman's Sandown performance was probably a step up on his Chester run, Hugo is now thinking the Listed Windsor Castle might be a more suitable destination than the choppy waters of the Group 2 Norfolk Stakes should he head for Royal Ascot.

Big prize for MHS stayer

SOLENT Gateway was successful in front of the ITV Racing cameras at Haydock on Saturday.

The tough and consistent five-year-old bagged £27,000 for owners Derek Passant and Hefin Williams, inset centre, when taking the Betfred TV Hell Nook Handicap over two miles.

With Neil Callan stuck in traffic, Hollie Doyle stepped in for the ride and proved a more than capable substitute.

Kicking on a furlong out, Solent Gateway held on well in the final furlong to repel the late challenge of favourite Law Of The Sea by three-quarters of a length, with a further two and three-quarter lengths back to the third.

Solent Gateway has now won five times and accumulated almost £100,000 in prize money.

First win for Double Oban

DOUBLE Oban shed his maiden tag when winning at Leicester on Monday afternoon.

A strong ride from Ross Coakley saw Rick Cotter's three-year-old gelding scrape home a neck ahead of the favourite, Swift Hawk, after a protracted duel in the final stages of the 1m4f novice contest.

The son of Territories was winning for the first time, at the fifth attempt, having previously been placed in novice stakes at both Newcastle and Redcar last month.

The victory was Ross's fifth from just 19 rides for MHS thus far in 2023.



VISIT WWW.MANORHOUSESTABLES.COM FOR MORE FROM MHS

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 ran well when finishing fourth on her handicap debut at Haydock last week, 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](#).

NAF filming at MHS ahead of Royal meet

RACING broadcaster Frankie Foster visited Manor House recently to record a Royal Ascot preview piece for yard sponsors NAF.

The former Love Islander, who has since gone on to forge a successful career in the racing media, stopped off in Malpas last Tuesday to catch up with



Frankie Foster

Hugo and Michael Owen and get the low-down on the yard's big hopes for the royal meeting, which takes place from June 20-24.

Soldier's Gold shows promise on his debut

FOOTBALLER Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain was at Haydock last Thursday to see the latest horse in which he has an interest make his debut.

Having previously owned the three-time winner Mr

McCann, Alex and a syndicate involving a number of Liverpool players past and present have now invested in the two-year-old Soldier's Gold, who finished an encouraging fourth of 12.

Manor House welcomes Racing Welfare party

MANOR House was delighted to welcome a large party of visitors from Racing Welfare to the yard earlier this month.

The event saw dozens of beneficiaries of the Jockey Club charity enjoy a tour of the yard. A number of MHS stable stalwarts were paraded in front of them, while they also saw horses enjoy a dip in the equine pool and



The Racing Welfare party

working on the gallops.

The Jockey Club charity supports the workforce of British

horseracing, offering professional guidance and practical help to the stud, stable and racecourse staff whose dedication is vital for the wellbeing of racing.

Its work aims to help people, from recruitment to retirement, to thrive in day-to-day life and through a range of life's challenges. Visit www.racingwelfare.co.uk for more details.

BOODLES MAY FESTIVAL



Zoffee and connections in the paddock at Chester

Zoffee goes close to dream success

ZOFFEE went agonisingly close to providing Manor House Stables with a dream first success in the Chester Cup.

Ben Curtis drove Alan Peterson's admirable seven year-old gelding into the lead inside the final furlong of the 2m2½f contest only to be headed in the shadow of the post by Metier and Saffie Osborne.

Zoffee's fine effort was rewarded with prize money of £35,835 and took his career earnings to almost £160,000.

"I'd have loved to lift that cup but we're all good sports, you can't win them all and you're delighted when they run well," reflected a philosophical Hugo after the race.

"It's an itch that we have to scratch now. We'll keep trying, we were third last year and second this time. We're getting closer.

"The question mark was the ground. Zoffee has now proved he's totally versatile. He's still not there in his coat, we've been waiting for him to come and maybe if we'd got a run into him three weeks ago – Ben said he just took a slight blow with 100 yards to go."

Zoffee was just one of several MHS runners who performed with great credit at the Boodles May Festival only to find one or two too good. Rajinsky finished fifth in the Chester Cup, little more than two lengths behind

his stablemate, and would have been closer still had he not been hampered when keeping on in the final furlong.

The two-year-old Balon D'Or finished third in the CAA Stellar Lily Agnes, beaten just one and a half lengths, and would undoubtedly have gone even closer had he not been disadvantaged by being drawn widest of all in stall 11 of 11.

The three-year-old Self Acclaim went close to winning on his first turf start when finishing second in the 7½f Deepbridge Capital Handicap on Day Two with his contemporary Chronograph filling the same position in the 1m4½f Boodles Darley Maiden Stakes 24 hours later.



Chelsea Green and her owners at Newmarket

Royal Ascot next for Chelsea Green

CHELSEA Green excelled when scoring in a competitive 1m handicap at Newmarket last Saturday.

On her first run in more than 200 days, Chelsea Thoroughbred's three-year-old filly quickened up nicely under Ross Coakley, passing all 10 of her rivals to cross the line a length to the good over runner-up Just Bring It.

It was a second career victory for the daughter of US Navy



Chelsea Green's owners at MHS

Flag, who was successful in a 7f maiden fillies stakes at Sandown last August, with the £12,885 first prize taking her career earnings to just shy of £20,000.

"I was delighted with Chelsea

Green's victory at Newmarket," enthused Hugo.

"We were expecting her to run very well but to win was a bonus and she will now head to Royal Ascot for the Sandringham Stakes on the penultimate day of the meeting.

Chelsea Green's Newmarket success came little more than a week after a number of her owners ventured to Cheshire to see their charge working on the gallops at MHS.

MEET THE TEAM

Pub Club the apple of rider Chloe's eye



Chloe aboard Pub Club

CHLOE Woollacott joined Manor House as a rider at the beginning of last year. Prior to that, Chloe had worked mucking out at the nearby yard of David Loughnane.

Having grown up in Market Drayton, Chloe attributes her interest in racing to a work experience placement at the hugely successful Bearstone Stud, which is located in her home town.

Chloe says her favourite horse at the yard is the

three-year-old Kodiak gelding Pub Club, who is owned by Ms Diamond and Michael Owen.

Outside of work, Chloe enjoys going to the gym and eating out and is especially partial to a good steak!

If she was offered an all-expenses trip anywhere in the world, Chloe says she would opt for either the skyscraper-filled skyline of Dubai or the sparkling beaches, friendly wildlife, and natural wonders of Australia.

HUGO PALMER

Racing's plans for premierisation seem to have some merit

BY now I'm sure you'll have heard about the big shake up to the 2024 fixture list, which was unveiled by the BHA last Thursday.

The plan revolves around the introduction of a two-hour Saturday shop window for racing, which would feature just two premier meetings and one additional fixture for around two-thirds of Saturday afternoons, and improving the quality of racing on Sundays.

The rationale is that this should help to increase the sport's reach, appeal to new fans and better engage existing customers with the hope it will generate extra revenue and boost prize money.

Of course, as with all these things, the devil will be in the detail - which we still await - but, broadly speaking, I can see what the BHA is trying to do and the initiative has my support.

ITV Racing does a decent job of showcasing the sport but, with a race off every five or 10 minutes, it's all but impossible for them to dedicate any significant time to its nuances. Conversely, I was watching some of the Racing



TV coverage of York's Dante meeting which benefitted considerably from in-depth discussion of topics such as draw, going, and track position. Suffice to say, if we want to engage a new generation of racing fans then I'm not convinced pinballing from one race to the next, with barely enough time to catch breath, is the optimum way to do it.

WHILE it would have been great to have had one or two more winners, we have to be pleased with how the horses performed at the Boodles May Festival.

Despite a number of our runners being done few favours by the draw, we enjoyed a winner, courtesy of Hackman, pictured above with Josh Jones, as well as three seconds and a third.

What is more, one of those seconds came in the big event of the week, the Chester Cup, in which Zoffee went agonisingly close to providing the yard with its first victory in the race.

I can't help thinking that had we been able to get a race into Zoffee he might well have won. However, there's nothing to be gained from dwelling on that so instead we'll take the positives from the race - not only did Alan Peterson's seven-year-old not pick up in excess of £35,000 in prize money but we've now learned that soft ground holds no fears for him.

I'M hoping we might have as many as eight to 10 runners at Royal Ascot next month.

As you might imagine, with three weeks to go before the Royal meeting, our plans aren't yet finalised but we've got a pretty good idea of which horses are likely to go there.

For instance, Zoffee is likely to run in the Ascot Stakes on the first day of the meeting, while we have Hackman pencilled in for the Windsor Castle Stakes, in which he could be joined by Balon D'Or, 24 hours later.

We've had the Sandringham Stakes on the Friday of the meeting in mind for Chelsea Green for some time and, having won a decent handicap on her seasonal reappearance at Newmarket recently, that remains very much the plan.



Fourth Middleham Park horse at MHS



The Middleham Park Racing visit

A NUMBER of owners with Middleham Park Racing [MPR] enjoyed a visit to Manor House earlier this month.

The hugely successful racehorse syndication company, which has been responsible for more than 1,400 winners over the course of the past 25 years, recently purchased another horse to be trained at MHS.

An exciting daughter of Starspangled-banner, out of Felissa, the two-year-old

Siobhanbrogan was bought for 120,000gns at the Tattersalls Guineas Breeze Up Sale, from where MPR purchased Group 1 winner The Platinum Queen 12 months previously.

The second fastest filly in the breeze-up, Siobhanbrogan becomes the fourth MPR horse in training at Manor House, alongside the three-year-old Prince of Zenda and four-year-olds Nolton Cross and How Impressive.

Yard's winnings for 2023 approach 400k

HEADING into June, Manor House has 18 domestic winners on the board.

The yard's five victories during the month of May helped it earn in excess of £160,000 in prize money. In

addition to MHS's 18 domestic winners, it has also tasted success overseas, courtesy of Flaming Rib's win in Qatar in February. The yard's winnings for the year now stand at almost £400,000.

May Festival fun



Members of the MHS team, owners, and friends enjoying themselves at Chester's Boodles May Festival. Clockwise from top left: Deva Racing members; Box To Box's owners; Hugo, Michael Owen and Charlotte Kerry contemplating events; Charlotte with Zoffee; and Rajinsky's owners with jockey Harry Davies.



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