

MANOR HOUSE

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Golden Trick, Ben Coen, Ballyhane Stud supreme Joe Foley, and Kerrie



Golden Trick bags huge pot at Naas

GOLDEN Trick provided his owners, the Bronte Collection with a six-figure pay day when landing the valuable Irish EBF Ballyhane Stakes at Naas on August 7.

Ben Coen was in the saddle as the son of Galileo Gold held off the late challenge of the Kevin Ryan-trained Jungle Mate, who was securing a one-two for the winning owners, to bag the €148,500 first prize.

A winner at Chester on his previous outing, Golden Trick was drawn on the far rail and stuck to the paint all the way up the six-furlong straight in the fiercely competitive 20-runner contest.

Asked to kick on as the race entered the final furlong and a half, Golden Trick quickly opened up a gap over his 19 rivals with the field spread right across the width of the track.

Golden Trick's advantage was di-

I'd say if something had come close to me, he would have went again

Jockey Ben Coen
reflects on Golden Trick's win

minishing by the stride inside the final stages as those on the far side were closing at a rate of knots. However, the 13-2 second favourite still had enough up his sleeve to come home a half-length winner.

"I had a lovely run the whole way. He came under me at halfway, I gave him a dig and kept him rolling. I probably got there too soon but he's a hardy horse and he gets through that ground really well," reflected Ben afterwards.

"In the last 75 yards he was having a

look around and I'd say if something had come close to me, he would have went again. I had watched his couple of races. Hugo said he was straightforward and that he had come on from the last day and he'd handle the ground so to keep it simple. I'm delighted."

"In the course of my career, I think I've only ever won seven races with more prize money, so it was a hugely exciting day," said Hugo.

"All the more so as it's our first horse for the Bronte Collection, which comprises 15 people, including Steve Parkin of Clipper Logistics and England wicket-keeper / batsman / all-rounder Jonny Bairstow."

Golden Trick, who was back in action when unplaced at Newmarket on the final Saturday in August, has now won two of his four races, and very nearly £140,000 in prize money.

Solent wins another 12k

SOLENT Gateway cemented his position as the yard's leading domestic money-spinner in 2023 when finishing third in a 2m½f handicap on the opening day of York's Ebor meeting.

Reunited with Hollie Doyle, who was in the saddle when Solent Gateway won at Haydock in May, the five-year-old led until the final furlong only to be overhauled by winner Forza Orta and runner-up Aztec Empire.

Nevertheless, Solent Gateway's brave run bagged more than £12,000 for his owners Derek Passant and Hefin Williams and took the horse's earnings for the season past the £60,000 mark.

Solent Gateway has won four of his career starts, and been placed on 10 further occasions, accumulating prize money in excess of 120k.

Imperial Ace is edged out

IMPERIAL Ace produced a career-best performance when narrowly losing out to Godolphin's Return To Dubai in a 1m2f Chelmsford handicap on August 15.

Cieren Fallon's mount, who recorded back-to-back victories on the all-weather at the beginning of the year, was well positioned throughout, taking the lead just over a furlong out only to be headed inside the last few yards.

Michael Blencowe, who owns Imperial Ace in partnership with the horse's breeder John O'Connor, also has the two-year-old colt Gunfighter in training at MHS.



Hugo looking to lead the way at Chester



Roman Dragon, right, winning at Chester

FOR the second successive year Hugo and Andrew Balding are engaged in a battle royal to become leading trainer at Chester.

Last year the accolade was shared with both Hugo and Andrew sending out nine winners on the Roodee, albeit Manor House was responsible for just 28 runners at the course, while Kingsclere had 44. And 12 months on, it's every bit as close with Hugo and Andrew having had six winners apiece thus far.

Course specialist Roman Dragon went

agonisingly close to providing Hugo with a seventh victory at Chester this season in a 5½f handicap on Saturday's card.

David Probert sent the four-year-old, who is owned by Nick Hughes and Michael Owen, into the lead inside the final furlong, and he looked all set to bag a fifth course victory until collared in the shadow of the post by Call Me Ginger.

With four fixtures remaining at Chester this year, Hugo is intent on adding to his six winners and being the course's leading trainer again.

Dancer waltzes to a first juvenile success

CHESHIRE Dancer provided MHS with its 33rd domestic winner of the year when scoring at Beverley on August 27.

Clifford Lee steered the Manor House Stables Syndicate juvenile to victory in a 7½f maiden. The syndicate comprises Ian Fraser, Nick Attenborough, Nina Barbour, John



Cheshire Dancer

Faulkner, Russell Joynson, Terrence Kerr, Robert Morris, Paul Simpson, Brian Carman, Spencer Hitchman and Eloise Wood.

Gelding operation could revitalise Rib

FLAMING Rib has been gelded. Having won a 190k sprint in Qatar on his seasonal reappearance, the son of Ribchester has failed to match that level of form since – finishing down the field at Meydan, Sha

Tin, Royal Ascot, and, more recently, at Newmarket.

It is hoped the operation will revitalise the four-year-old, who has won four races and more than £440,000 in prize money.

Coral Racing Club members enjoy visit to MHS

YARD sponsors Corals treated 30 lucky members of their racing club to a day at Manor House earlier this month.

During the course of their visit on August 17, those in attendance caught up with the club's two-year-old colt Cast No Shadow, who made his racecourse debut when finishing sixth at Ripon last month.



The Coral Racing Club visit

Club members watched on as the son of Ardad took a dip in the MHS pool, while they also saw a

number of his stablemates enjoy some rather more strenuous exercise on the gallops.

Unfortunately, Cast No Shadow picked up a sore shin at Ripon, which it has taken him a little bit of time to get over. However, Coral Racing Club's charge is now cantering again and Hugo expects him to be back in action very soon.



L'Astronome has joined MHS

L'Astronome joins MHS from France

AL Asayl Bloodstock Ltd have moved their exciting French Group 2 winner L'Astronome from Francis Graffard in Chantilly to Manor House Stables.

The four-year-old son of Frankel won his first three races last season, taking the Group 2 Prix Prix Hocquart at Longchamp in May.

As a result, L'Astronome was sent off as one of the favourites for the Group 1 Grand Prix de Paris, back at the same venue, in July. And while he could only finish fifth, he passed the post just a head behind last year's St Leger winner Eldar Eldarov and in front of Irish Derby runner-up Piz Badile.

However, after a disappoint-



L'Astronome in action

ing effort on his reappearance, L'Astronome's owners – who already have Carved In Stone, Fleur De Mer and the highly regarded Under The Sun in training at MHS – have decided their horse may benefit from a change of scenery.

The gelding, who is closely related to Group 2 placed Eltezam, could make his stable debut as soon as this month with the Sep-

tember Stakes at Kempton on Saturday pencilled in as a potential target.

"It's always nice whenever you have a new addition to the string and L'Astronome is a really exciting gelding," enthused Hugo.

"For all that he's lost his way a little bit, he's a son of Frankel and a Group 2 winner. What is more, Al Asayl's racing managers and myself are hoping that L'Astronome may prefer the peaceful serenity of Manor House Stables to a busy training centre such as Chantilly.

"Looking ahead, he seems to stay well and I think he could easily be a Caulfield Cup-type horse for 2024."

MHS bags double at home of racing

MANOR House celebrated a double at the Newmarket meeting which took place on Friday, August 18, and Saturday, August 19.

Watcha Matey set the ball rolling when successful in a 7f novice stakes on the first of the two days. The two-year-old son of Land Force wasn't winning out of turn, having finished in the frame on four of his five previous runs.

On this occasion, Will Buick always had Watcha Matey to the fore in the 10-runner field and, while his mount came under pressure inside the final furlong, he cleared away inside the last 100 yards to win a shade cosily.

Watcha Matey is owned by Messrs Austin, Moran, Rowlands, and McCallum, who were tasting success as a collective for the first time. Their charge could now be targeted at the £300,000 Weatherbys Scientific Two-Year-Old Stakes at Doncaster on September 14.

Hugo sent out his second win-



Derek Passant with his wife Sue, Mollie, and Victoria Falls

ner at the venue in as many days when Victoria Falls took a fillies' handicap a little less than 24 hours later.

It was a second victory of the season for Derek Passant's ultra-consistent four-year-old, who was bagging in excess of £5,000 for her owner.

Rab Havlin was in the saddle as the daughter of Heeraat ca-

reered away from her rivals in the final stages of the 7f contest to record an easy victory.

Held up in the early stages, Victoria Falls moved up effortlessly at the quarter mile pole and it soon became apparent Rab had all his rivals covered as he sent his mount on, passing the post four lengths to the good over his nearest pursuer.

MEET THE TEAM

Sarah's role at MHS a return to her roots



Sarah Peacock aboard How Impressive

HAVING grown up in Tarporley, Sarah Peacock returned to her roots when joining MHS as travelling head person in May of this year.

Prior to this, Sarah, whose father was a trainer and mother an amateur jockey, had spent the previous 10 years working for National Hunt trainer Tom George in Slad, Gloucestershire.

While Sarah's role means spare time is at a premium, when she gets the opportunity she enjoys

going to concerts and crafting.

Sarah finds it extremely difficult to pick a favourite MHS inmate, although she is extremely fond of Power Of Gold and Victoria Falls, and has a soft spot for Chelsea Green, who was the first winner she travelled for MHS.

Given the opportunity of an all-expenses-paid trip anywhere in the world, Sarah's penchant for driving would see her opt for a road trip of America.

HUGO PALMER

Newmarket double marks the end of a frustrating period

IT was great to bag two winners in as many days at Newmarket midway through August. All the more so as, in the period leading up to that, pretty much every horse we ran - with the notable exception of Golden Trick over in Ireland - seemed destined to finish second.

If your horses are performing badly then you can look for a fix. Unfortunately, when they're just running into a few, there's not a great deal you can do about it.

In the 10 days preceding the victory of Watcha Matey, inset, in a 7f novice stakes on August 18, eight of our 19 domestic runners had found just one horse too good, including five out of the six we ran in the four-day period between August 7 and August 10.

Less than 24 hours after Watcha Matey had brought this frustrating spell for the yard to an end, we were celebrating another winner on the July course when Victoria Falls landed a 1m fillies' handicap.

Since then Solent Gateway has finished a fine third in a valuable staying handicap at York's



Ebor meeting and the two-year-old Cheshire Dancer provided members of a new Manor House Stables Syndicate with cause for cheer when taking a maiden fillies' stakes at Beverley at the end of August on just her second run.

MICHAEL and I are very much looking forward to welcoming members of the Michael Owen Racing Club to Manor House on Friday, September 8.

It promises to be a fun day and, if you're not already a member of the club, it's not too late to sign up so that you can come along and enjoy the fun.

Club members have had plenty to cheer on the track already this season, with their three-year-old filly Pearly Star finishing third at Bev-

erley at the beginning of June before scoring at Chester just over a fortnight later.

Membership of the Michael Owen Racing Club costs just £95 a year. Club members receive a digital welcome pack, invitations to yard visits such as the one on September 8, 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](#).

THE thorny issue of affordability checks has been very much to the fore over the course of recent months.

I don't pretend it's not a very difficult issue but it seems to me absurd that people shouldn't be allowed to spend their money how they choose. Certainly, I think alcohol and tobacco ruin far more lives than problem gambling does and while I don't want to sound like the Sackler family - blaming the addicts rather than the products - I'm not convinced that the UK has a problem gambling epidemic.

There was an article in *The Times* this week which said that 33 per cent of the public think gambling should be banned altogether. I don't pretend to know how accurate, or otherwise, that figure is but it does give some indication of the battle we're fighting.

Q&A: Paul Farrell relishes his visits to MHS and is looking forward to the two-year-old in which he has an involvement getting off the mark

Family man Paul a big country fan

What's your connection with Manor House Stables? We have our horse Master Franca at the stables, where he is trained by Hugo and the team.

What are your hopes for Master Franca this season and beyond? Having shown some good glimpses during his first few races, we are hoping Master Franca can now push on and get his first win under his belt.

How did your association with the yard come about? I got introduced to Michael through a mutual friend.

What, in your opinion, sets Manor House apart from other yards? I always enjoy coming to the yard – the staff are so welcoming and having a trainer such as Hugo training your horses is huge.

Sum yourself up in five words. Ambitious, hard-working, confident, loyal, and dedicated

Who would play you in a film of your life? My namesake Colin Farrell – when I was younger I used to get told I looked like him, these days not so much!

What was the last film you saw? The classic 1979 American action thriller *The Warriors*.

If you had to choose a single 'Desert Island Disc' what would it be? Hal Ketchum's *Satisfied Mind*.



Paul Farrell, far right, and the team after Master Franca ran at York

Who do you most admire and why? My family – my mum and dad taught me the importance of a good work ethic while my wife has been through so much but came out even stronger with a great outlook on life. I get up every day to help give them a better life!

Who's your favourite-ever horse? It would have to be Dream Harder, who was the first horse I ever owned, followed by Frankel.

What would be your specialist

subject on Mastermind? The songs of The Eagles.

What is your favourite sport? Football, followed closely by badminton.

What's your guiltiest pleasure / greatest extravagance? I am an absolutely massive country music fan!

What is the most-important lesson life has taught you? Tell your family how much you love them as you never know when it might be the last time you get to say it.

Yard looking to find stars of the future



Hugo and Michael at the sales

WITH this year's yearling sales season up and running, Hugo and Michael are looking forward to unearthing some future stars.

"We enjoyed a really fruitful day at Goffs Doncaster Premier Yearling Sale last week, buying seven horses," said Hugo.

"The majority of them already have owners but we bought a couple of horses on spec, which is always important at this time

of year – you want to have something in the shop window.

"When you add in homebreds and the two horses we bought in Deauville, that's Manor House well into double figures for the yearling season, so we very much feel like we're up and running."

Hugo will be at all the major sales and anyone interested in acquiring a yearling can contact him on 01948 820485 or via info@manorhouses-tables.com.

Michael centre stage in *Goals And Glory*

MICHAEL Owen takes centre stage in a new video on Coral Racing Club's YouTube channel.

In *Goals and Glory*, Michael discusses how he fell in love with racing and how his passion for the

sport led to the birth of Manor House Stables and its progression to the thriving, high-performing racing operation it is today.

● You can catch up with Michael Owen – *Goals and Glory* [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...).

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