

MANOR HOUSE

MONTHLY

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Hugo being crowned top trainer at Chester in 2023

Hugo tops pile of Chester trainers

HUGO has been crowned top Chester trainer in 2023. In addition to the coveted Bobby McAlpine Leading Trainer Trophy, Hugo's success also earned the yard a cheque for £5,000 and a case of champagne.

While Hugo and Andrew Balding had duelled for top spot for most of the season, the Manor House handler had opened up a significant advantage heading into Chester's season finale on October 13.

Unfortunately, that fixture succumbed to the weather, thereby assuring Hugo of the title he shared with the Kingsclere handler in 2022.

Over the course of the campaign, MHS has been responsible for 10 winners at Chester, as well as seven seconds and five thirds.

The Gene Genies' two-year-old Hackman set the ball rolling when landing a

5f maiden at the Boodles May Festival with James Doyle up.

James was also in the saddle as Box To Box bagged a third course victory for the Running Order Partnership in a 1m2½f handicap on June 17, before Pearly Star scored under Andrew Mullen to provide the Michael Owen Racing Club with its first victory of the season on June 30.

The yard's fourth and fifth winners on the Roodee this season arrived just 24 hours later when it doubled up with course specialist Roman Dragon and Princess Niyla. The former, who is owned by Michael and Nick Hughes, took a 6f handicap under Hayley Turner, before Sustainable Building Service's Princess Niyla and Paul Hanagan were successful in a 7½f novice stakes.

The Bronte Collection's two-year-old Golden Trick provided MHS with

its sixth winner of the year at Chester when landing a 6f novice stakes under Hayley Turner on July 14. And six became seven when Box To Box bagged a fourth course victory, under David Probert, in a valuable 1m2½f handicap on September 16.

Roman Dragon bagged a fifth win at the course when partnered to success by Hayley in a 6f handicap later on the same card, in so doing moving to within one of the modern-day record for victories at the track.

And Hayley bagged a double for MHS at what turned out to be Chester's final meeting of the season on September 30, when the three-year-old gelding Prince Of Zenda bolted up for Middleham Park Racing in a 7½f novice stakes, before Reel Rosie edged home for her owners the Real Wheelers and Dealers in a 1m2½f handicap.

Yearling day a big success

HUGO and Michael Owen were delighted to welcome scores of guests to Manor House for the yard's annual yearling parade earlier this month.

Around 100 people were in attendance on Sunday, October 15, to see 24 of MHS's newest recruits, of which half were looking for new owners, paraded.

"It was wonderful to welcome so many of our fantastic owners and partners for our 2023 yearling parade," said Michael.

"What is more, I must say a big 'thank you' to our amazing staff for parading the horses so well."

While MHS has now found owners for the majority of the yearlings it purchased on spec at this year's sales, it still has a small number available for sale – turn to Page 2 for more details.

Fifty up in UK for MHS

PHONE Tag brought up a domestic half century for MHS when scoring at Windsor on October 9.

Those 50 winners have helped Hugo to accumulate more than £870,000 in UK prize money, with overseas earnings taking the total to almost £1.2m.

The yard's top money-spinner in the UK thus far this year is Solent Gateway, who has won two of his 10 starts and more than £60,000.

Nolton Cross and Victoria Falls have both won three races, while Box To Box, Soldiers Gold, and Roman Dragon are among the MHS inmates to have won twice.



It's opportune time to join racing club



He's A Gentleman scored on his club debut

WITH He's A Gentleman scoring on his first start for the Michael Owen Racing Club, now could be an opportune time to sign up for a piece of the action.

The four-year-old son of Dark Angel scored in a 1m½f handicap at Wolverhampton this month and Hugo envisages he will be kept busy on the all-weather over the winter.

He's A Gentleman is one of three horses currently sporting the club's blue and silver silks, along with Pearly Star who was on the scoresheet at Chester

in June, and the as-yet-unraced filly Rose Donnelly.

"The club gives everyone the chance to experience the joy of owning a racehorse," enthused Michael.

It costs just £95 a year to join the club and benefits include 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.

● Find out more about the racing club and how to join [here](#).

Empire Global party enjoy a visit to MHS

EARLIER this month, we welcomed a party from Empire Global Finance to Manor House Stables.

Hugo and Michael Owen provided a guided tour of the facilities at the yard before sitting down for a Q&A session.

Empire Global Finance is a Chester-based firm of specialist indepen-



Empire Global visit

dent finance brokers serving clients in the UK & overseas.

For more information about the firm visit www.empire-global.co.uk/.

Invites sent out for yard's festive event

MANOR House Stables is hosting an Owners' Christmas Morning on Wednesday, December 20.

Everyone with an interest in a horse, or horses, at MHS is invited for a morning on the gallops,

followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

The event will get under way at 9am and continue until 1pm. If you've received an invite, don't forget to RSVP to info@manorhousestables.com.

Live the dream as an owner at MHS

WITH the 2023 turf campaign drawing to a close, inevitably thoughts are beginning to turn to next season.

With that in mind, if you've always fancied the idea of enjoying the Sport of Kings as an owner but have never taken the plunge, now is the perfect time to realise your dream.

All the more so given Manor House has a number of exciting prospects purchased at this year's leading yearling sales seeking new owners.

"Mohaather was a very fast horse, who stayed a mile, and I have been impressed by his yearling stock this year," said Hugo. "I am extremely glad to have this very impressive son of his."

Hugo is also keen on a Havana Grey colt, describing him as "athletic, precocious and from an outstanding Juddmonte family".

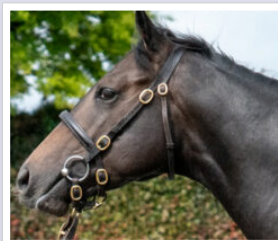
A son of Mehmas, out of a Dubawi mare, boasts size, strength and scope, as does a Soldier's Call colt of whom Hugo said: "He is typical of the stock of his sire, who has just enjoyed an outstanding first season at stud."

And last but by no means least, the yard also has a big strong Kodi Bear colt for sale. Out of Nateeja, Hugo said: "He moves really well and is a very impressive individual."

● Visit the [Horses for Sale page](#) on the MHS website, or call 01948 820485, if you would like to learn more.



You could have a horse at Manor House in 2024



HAVANA GREY
x WAR EMPRESS

This athletic colt is by the sensational young stallion Havana Grey, whose progeny include the hugely impressive Group 1 winner Vandeek. He is the first foal of a mare by Aidan O'Brien's Coventry and Dewhurst winner War Command.

£42,000



KODI BEAR
x NATEEJA

This bay / brown colt is a son of Kodi Bear, sire of six stakes winners including the Group 2-winning juvenile Go Bears Go. His dam Nateeja, who won two races at three years, has produced two winners from three runners and five foals of racing age.

£42,000



MEHMAS
x HARRIET TUDMAN

Purchased at the Tattersalls Book 3 Yearling Sale 2023, this bay colt is by Mehmas, who was a high-class two-year-old and is the leading 3rd crop sire of black-type horses. His dam was a winner at three, while second dam Saoirse Abu won more than £300,000.

£35,000



MOHAATHER
x SHAAQAAF

An outstanding two-year-old, this striking colt's sire, Mohaather, was one of the favourites for the 2000 Guineas before injury intervened.

However, he returned as a four-year-old to win the Group 1 Sussex Stakes - one of five career victories from just eight starts.

£65,000



SOLDIER'S CALL
x WINTER SNOW

A son of Soldier's Call, this chesnut colt is typical of his sire, a smart sprinter who is enjoying an outstanding first season at stud. Dam Winter Snow has produced two winners from three runners, while second dam Gonfilla won seven races and more than 600k.

£60,000

PHONE Tag provided Manor House with its fourth winner of the month when landing a 1m nursery at Windsor on October 9.

Oisín Murphy was in the saddle as Fitri Hay's two-year-old gelding bagged a first career victory at the sixth attempt.

The son of Havana Grey was slowly away before being forced to wait for a gap two furlongs out but came away inside the final furlong to see off the challenge of the John Gosden-trained favourite Björn Ironside.

As detailed in the previous edition of *Manor House Monthly*, the yard's fine run of form continued into October, with three winners inside the opening few days of the month.

He's A Gentleman provided Hugo with his first winner of the month when scoring on his debut for the Michael Owen Racing Club in a 1m½f handicap at Wolverhampton on October 3.

Again, Oisín was aboard as the four-year-old son of Dark Angel did just enough to resist the late challenge of Eagle Day.

And just two days later Master Franca and Military Tycoon provided the yard with a double when they scored at Wolverhampton and Salisbury respectively.

Two-year-old Master Franca and David Probert defied odds of 40-1 to land a competitive 7f



Phone Tag with jockey Oisín Murphy and Emma

Oisín starts with three MHS wins

nursery for owners Precision Facades and Messrs Farrell and Owen at Dunstall Park on October 5.

And later the same afternoon, Military Tycoon ploughed through heavy ground to produce a career-best effort in tak-

ing a 1m6f handicap. The success aboard the Military Syndicate and Ms Clodagh McStay's improving three-year-old was the third of the month – and second in the space of just three days – for Oisín aboard a horse trained at MHS.

MEET THE TEAM

Victory for Moose is a delight for Lydia



Lydia with The Bitter Moose

RIDER Lydia Bradley joined Manor House in August of last year.

Born in Oldham, Lydia went to the National Horseracing College in Doncaster, before joining Tattenhall trainer Gary Hanmer.

Lydia says her favourite horse in the yard is the two-year-old gelding The Bitter Moose, who she was thrilled to see lose his maiden tag when winning a 7f nursery at Wolverhampton, under Harry Davies, on

Thursday evening – a first success for the bay Kodiak gelding who is owned by a group of Liverpool footballers past and present.

Away from racing, Lydia, whose favourite meal is a tasty steak, loves to spend time with her friends and family when the opportunity arises.

And if she was offered an all-expenses-paid trip anywhere in the world, the oldhamer says she would jump at the chance to visit Dubai.

HUGO PALMER

Affordability checks are certain to impact adversely on racing

RACING finds itself in a quite extraordinary situation with the affordability checks being proposed by the government.

Unless the powers that be relent, I fear many people will either stop betting entirely or use black market bookmakers rather than volunteer details of their personal finances. Either way, the effect on the Levy would be profound and that is something the sport can ill afford.

It seems absurd to me that under the proposals an owner can spend millions on horses at auction without any checks, but if they want to then bet on those horses they will have to hand over bank statements.

I'm not a gambler but I know many owners who are concerned one of the most enjoyable aspects of their involvement in the sport is under threat. What is more, I find it astonishing that the proposals fail to differentiate between online casinos, where ultimately the house will always win, and betting on horses, where at least punters have a chance of coming out on top over a period of time.



Notwithstanding, my concerns about the Levy, it's already difficult enough to attract owners to the sport and, it seems to me, anything that threatens to make it harder still should be a cause of grave concern for those of us who are passionate about the sport.

IT was fantastic to see Frankie Dettori bow out of British racing in fairytale fashion at Ascot on Saturday.

While Frankie is now heading to the States, in pursuit of his ambition to win the Kentucky Derby, I'll be absolutely staggered if we don't see him riding at Royal Ascot next year.

It might not be in his thoughts right now, but if, for instance, Wesley Ward was looking for someone to ride one of his juveniles then it's

easy to envisage him turning to Frankie. Likewise, if Kinross, who sports the colours of Mark Chan was running in the Platinum Jubilee, I find it inconceivable he'd want anyone but his great pal in the saddle.

Certainly, for me Frankie is an extraordinary talent and probably the best jockey the world has ever seen. While the likes of Bill Shoemaker, João Moreira, and Lester Piggott have enjoyed remarkable success, I don't think they could claim to have illuminated the world stage to quite the same extent as the Italian ace.

IT was great to see so many old and new friends of MHS at our yearling parade earlier this month. Twenty four hours after Chester's final fixture of the season succumbed to the rain, we were fortunate to be blessed with some glorious weather as we introduced visitors to 24 of our yearlings for next season.

Of those, half had been snapped up prior to the parade, while come the end of the day a few more sales were almost done and dusted. That said, as you'll see on Page 2, we still have a handful of nice prospects available for purchase.

With the 2023 turf season drawing to a close, it won't be too long before we see one or two of our 2024 two-year-olds in action and, in the meantime, my excitement is growing!

Q&A: Roudee Racing's Mike Edwards reflects on his love affair with Manor House Stables and his high hopes for the 2024 campaign

Mike's excited by Roudee yearlings

How did your association with the yard come about? I had shares in a couple of horses before meeting Dylan Jenkins, Nick Hughes and Steve Roberts through a MHS syndicate.

What, in your opinion, sets Manor House apart from other yards? It's unusual to really feel part of something you don't own personally, but that's truly the way I feel about Manor House.

How did Roudee Racing start? I went into sole ownership but it wasn't for me. I'd been spoilt owning horses and sharing amazing days with friends so the obvious thing was to try and recreate what myself, Dylan, Nick and Steve had.

And where did the name come from? Myself, Dylan, Nick and Steve came up with the name Roudee in Hickory's sports bar in Chester one Saturday. Rou is taken from Roudee's dam Eau Rouge with the Dee keeping our association with Chester races.

What are your hopes for Grey Cuban next season? To break his maiden tag on the all-weather before heading to Chester's May Festival and then, hopefully, Royal Ascot in June.

Tell us a little bit about the exciting yearlings you have purchased. We'll have four new yearlings at MHS next year



Mike Edwards

and I think we've a fantastic mix. Their sires – Aclaim, Dark Angel, Mastercraftsman, and Soldier's Call – have produced exceptional two-year-olds and we hope at least a couple will progress to be even better at three.

Sum yourself up in five words.

A hardworking, honest, loyal, generous, perfectionist!

Who would play you in a film of your life? Daniel Craig – although I fear the script really isn't that interesting!

What was the last film you saw? *Fast and Furious* – don't ask me why but I do love a bit of Vin Diesel.

What was the last book you read? Andre Agassi's autobiography, *Open*.

If you had to choose a single 'Desert Island Disc' what would it be? For someone who loves dance music, and has his own DJ decks at home, weirdly it would have to be something by Neil Diamond!

Who's your favourite-ever horse? It just has to be Roudee – a real tough bull who surpassed his owners' wildest dreams.

Who do you most admire and why? My wife Michelle, diagnosed with MS at only 21, life's thrown some extremely challenging curved balls her way. However, she remains the most loving, generous, caring, hard-working person you could wish to meet

What would be your specialist subject on Mastermind? I don't have one, I'm a typical Jack of all trades master of none.

What is your favourite sport?

To watch: football and horse racing; to play: golf.

What's your guiltiest pleasure / greatest extravagance? Christian Louboutin trainers.

What is the most-important lesson life has taught you? The harder you work, the luckier you get and always trust your gut feeling – it very rarely lets you down and on the odd occasion it does you've only yourself to blame!

Shares available in son of Havana Gold



A son of the late, great Havana Gold

MHS has shares available in a well-regarded two-year-old son of Havana Gold.

While the colt, who is out of Dime A Dance, is yet to make his racecourse debut, Hugo is expecting him to make up for lost time in 2024.

"He is a really strong-looking, muscular and fast son of the late, great Havana Gold," said Hugo.

"He will likely make his debut in January and then have a busy three-

year-old campaign."

Purchased at Goffs 2023 Breeze Up Sale, this bay colt is set to carry the colours of Manor House Stables Syndicate II. A number of shares have already been snapped up, but it's not too late to get involved – shares remain available, starting at just £1,500 for five per cent.

● If you would like to learn more, please email the yard via info@manorhousestables.com.

Grey Cuban finishes third in 100k event

GREY Cuban was beaten just two lengths when finishing third in the British EBF £100,000 Final at York on October 13.

Having been hampered in the early stages, Roudee Rac-

ing's two-year-old son of Havana Grey stayed on strongly in the final stages to finish a never-nearer third of 16.

Grey Cuban has now won more than £28,000 in his five starts.

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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

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