

MANOR HOUSE

MONTHLY

SEPTEMBER 2023 | ISSUE No. 126

Roman Dragon has now won five races on the Roodee



Brace of Chester doubles for MHS

ABRACE of Chester doubles were amongst the highlights of a hugely productive September for Manor House Stables.

The victories of course specialists Box To Box and Roman Dragon on September 16 and Prince Of Zenda and Reel Rosie a fortnight later were amongst 13 for the yard over the course of the month.

Box To Box's victory in the 1m2½f Camden Hells Handicap was his second of the year at the course, where he also won twice in 2022, and earned his owners, the Running Order Partnership, more than £22,000.

With David Probert in the saddle, the four-year-old dominated from the moment the stalls opened, keeping on well in the closing stages to come home one and a quarter lengths to the good over favourite First Impression.



Box To Box's jubilant connections

Roman Dragon was also scoring for the second time this season on the Roodee when he took the penultimate race on the same card to chalk up a fifth course victory.

With the Heeraat gelding drawn six of seven, Hayley Turner was forced to plot a wide course throughout but Roman Dragon hit the front in the final furlong and had one and a half lengths to spare over Glorious Angel at the line.

Roman Dragon has now been suc-

cessful in five of his 24 starts and won in excess of £60,000.

Prince Of Zenda romped to a 12-length victory in the 7½f novice stakes on last Saturday's Chester card. Again, Hayley was in the saddle, as Middleham Park Racing's three-year-old gelding recorded a first career victory at the sixth attempt.

And stable and jockey made it a double on the day when 25-1 outsider Reel Rosie took the 1m2½f fillies' handicap. It was a first victory for the Real Wheel[1]ers and Dealers four-year-old filly since moving to MHS in early June.

The victories of Roman Dragon, Box To Box, Prince Of Zenda, and Reel Rosie saw Hugo move clear of Andrew Balding in the battle to be Chester's top trainer in 2023. With just one meeting to go, Hugo now has 10 winners to the Kingsclere trainer's eight.

L'Astronome begins well

EXCITING French import L'Astronome, inset, ran a race full of promise when making his debut for MHS at Chester last month.

Al Asayl Bloodstock's four-year-old returned to something like his best when finishing third in the Listed tote Stand Cup Stakes over 1m4½f on September 16.

Previously trained by Francis Henri Graffard in France, the son of Frankel won his first two races in 2022, before taking the Group 2 Prix Prix Hocquart at Longchamp.

L'Astronome's form dipped somewhat after that, prompting a change of stable in the hope that he may prefer the tranquility of MHS to the hustle and bustle of Chantilly. And while it remains early days, his Chester run is a cause for considerable optimism.



MHS passes its 2022 total

WITH 13 winners in September, Manor House sailed past its total for the whole of last year.

As of October 1, MHS had amassed 46 domestic winners, as well as two overseas, compared to 43 in the UK and one each in Germany and Ireland in 2022.

And the yard's rich vein of form has continued into October, with three more winners taking it onto 51 for the year.

He's A Gentleman scored at Wolverhampton on Wednesday, just 24 hours before Master Franca and Military Tycoon took races at Lingfield and Salisbury respectively.

Yard's annual golf day is enjoyed by all



MHS Golf Day competitors with their silks

MORE than 20 teams participated in the 2023 Manor House Stables Golf Day at Carden Park.

The annual event, which was well supported by owners, sponsors and partners, took place in the middle of last month with the Middleham Park Racing team comprising Tom Palin, Patrick Diamond, Billy Wright and Steve Croft emerging victorious.

Their closest pursuers were Steve McGowan, James Lovell, Stephen Dermott and Stephen James, while

early pacesetters Nigel Mather, Dylan Jenkins, Paul Mizen and Nathan Jennings had to settle for third place on the podium.

Michael and teammates Michael Jones, Wayne Lavender and Lee Jones finished back in 11th place, while the 'Nearest The Pin' contest was won by Michael Jones, and Rick Cotter bagged the longest drive.

"To see so many of our fantastic owners enjoying themselves was a great thrill and I am already excited for next year's golf day," reflected Michael.

Sophie's marathon effort for charity

MHS racing secretary Sophie Jarvis took part in the BMW Berlin Marathon on Sunday, September 24.

Sophie, who completed the 26.2m course in 3:46:05, was raising funds for the mental health charity Mind.

As a result, the charity's coffers are set to receive an



Sophie Jarvis

£800 boost. However, if you haven't yet contributed but would like to do so, it's not too late – you can find Sophie's Just Giving page [here](#).

He's A Gentleman is off the mark for club

HE'S A Gentleman provided members of the Michael Owen Racing Club with their second winner of the season when scoring at Wolverhampton on Tuesday.

The four-year-old gelding was having

his first run for the club, which tasted success with Pearly Star in June.

Membership of the Michael Owen Racing Club costs just £95 a year and more details are available [here](#).

Racing to School youngsters enjoy visit to MHS

MANOR House was delighted to welcome children from Wood Memorial Primary School, in Saltney, Flintshire, to the yard last month.

A group of around 30 pupils enjoyed a trip to the yard on Friday, September 22, as part of National Racehorse Week.

The visit was arranged by the Racing to School charity, which



The Racing to School visit

is committed to 'inspiring young minds via free, interactive and healthy outdoor education

events at horseracing venues UK-wide."

Racing To School employs staff from a wide variety of backgrounds, including former jockeys who have retrained to develop a second career – their experience is invaluable as the charity seeks to introduce horseracing as an accessible sport to young people.



Under The Sun scores at Salisbury

Under The Sun is on the scoresheet

IN addition to doubles at Newcastle on September 8 and Chester on September 16 and 30, Manor House enjoyed a further seven winners during the course of September.

The three-year-old filly Eloped recorded her first victory for owners johnpaulrickmike when scoring with consummate ease, under up-and-coming 3lb claimer Taylor Fisher, in a 1m4f Wolverhampton handicap on September 9.

Less than 24 hours after Eloped had provided Hugo with his third winner of the month, OG Beachwear added to that total when scoring at Catterick.

The three-year-old filly, who is owned by Michael Owen and takes her name from his daughter Gemma's beachwear brand, produced a career-best perfor-



How Impressive

mance to break her maiden in a 6f novice stakes at Catterick, under Jason Hart.

Navarre Express was another first-time scorer when landing a 1m4f Ffos Las handicap for owners Hunscombe Stud and Lynne MacLennan on September 14. Ross Coakley was aboard the three-year-old Roaring Lion filly.

The yard's sixth winner of a productive month came the very next day when James Doyle guided Al Asayal Bloodstock's

exciting two-year-old Under The Sun to a bloodless success in a 1m novice stakes at Salisbury.

Two of the yard's next three September winners sported the familiar black and green silks of long-standing MHS owner Derek Passant.

Derek's three-year-old filly Victoria Falls bagged her third race this year, under Connor Planas, in a 1m handicap at Thirsk on September 18, while Oisín Murphy was aboard Monkmoor Pip as the three-year-old newcomer took a 1m Lingfield maiden eight days later.

In between those two victories, Richard Kingscote partnered the Middleham Park Racing four-year-old How Impressive to victory in a 6f Yarmouth handicap on September 20.

Gunfighter gives Hugo a double

IN addition to a brace of doubles at Chester last month (see *Page One*), MHS was also responsible for two winners at Newcastle's all-weather fixture on Friday, September 8.

Fleur De Mer set the ball rolling when successful in the second race on the card, a 1m2f handicap, and Gunfighter made it a double for Hugo when scoring in the sixth race, a 6f novice stakes.

Fleur De Mer was winning for the second time in three races, for Al Asayal Bloodstock, having broken her maiden at Wolverhampton in July.

On this occasion, the three-year-old filly was ridden by Jason Hart, who sent the daughter of Dark Angel on inside the final furlong, passing the post a length and a half to the good over her nearest pursuer in the 13-runner field.

Fleur De Mer again ran well when finishing third in a 1m3f handicap at Kempton on Wednesday evening.



Gunfighter with Jason Hart and Michelle after his Newcastle win

Jason was also aboard Gunfighter as he scored in the red and black silks of Michael Blencowe. The juvenile colt travelled well throughout the six-furlong contest, but edged left inside the final furlong and had just a neck to spare over runner-up Piano-forte as the two horses flashed past the line together.

The victory was the first for

the son of Siyouni, who had looked like a surefire future winner when finishing third in an above-average Newbury maiden on his racecourse debut.

It was the second time this season Michael has tasted success at Gosforth Park, with Imperial Ace, who he owned in partnership with John O'Connor, scoring at the track in January.

MEET THE TEAM

Passion for horses is keeping Josh busy



Josh Bennett is a barn leader at MHS

BARN leader Josh Bennett joined MHS 10 years ago, back in 2013.

Prior to that, Josh, who grew up in Southport, worked for former Merseyside trainer Paul Green.

Explaining how he came to pursue a career in horseracing, Josh said: "I had a pony as a child and have always loved horses. That being the case, after school I went to the Northern Racing College".

While Josh's favourite MHS inmate

is Double Oban, his involvement with horses extends well beyond MHS – when he's not at the yard, he and his partner train a number of hunter chasers and he also has his amateur jockey licence.

On the odd occasions he's not busy working at MHS or with his own horses, Josh enjoys reading.

If he was offered an all-expenses-paid trip anywhere in the world, Josh would opt to go to Iceland to see the Northern lights.

HUGO PALMER

I'm delighted we've already improved on 2022 campaign

IM delighted that with almost three months of 2023 remaining we've already bettered last year's totals for both winners and prize money.

The victory of Military Tycoon at Salisbury on Thursday, *inset*, was our 51st of the year and took our earnings to more than £1,174,000.

The horses have been absolutely flying over the past few weeks, with 13 wins in September and three more already this month.

We had an awful lot of seconds over the summer. However, as, the greatest trainer of them all, Henry Cecil, liked to say: "Winners become seconds and seconds become winners."

Certainly, I thought we were due a change of luck although, you never know, I thought the same thing at a similar time last year but the horses didn't really pick up until November and December.

They've continued to run pretty well since then and I don't think they've ever been sick. However, we made a few little tweaks to our bio-security measures and infection management and it seems to be paying dividends.



As you'd imagine, I'm thrilled to have 50 winners on the board already and, while I'm loathe to set a target for the remainder of the year, if we could get to 60 that would have a nice ring about it.

It won't be easy – every time we run a horse now we're thinking whether that might be it for the year – but we'll have a small team for the all-weather and it would be great if we could get there.

ONE horse we definitely won't be seeing again this year is Under The Son, who broke his maiden at Salisbury last month and has now been put away for next season.

Al Asayl Bloodstock's two-year-old is a horse I've always liked and I'm hoping he will make

up into a good horse – I think he could have an exciting future ahead of him.

Likewise, Saviour, a well-bred son of Wootton Bassett, did plenty wrong on his debut at Salisbury on Thursday but still managed to finish a decent third and could be another horse to look forward to in 2024.

And if I were to put forward an older horse, to follow, I was delighted with L'Astronome's first run for us when finishing third at Chester last month and could see him being campaigned internationally.

I THOROUGHLY enjoyed catching up with a number of familiar faces at the MHS Golf Day and am very much looking forward to doing so again when we host our annual yearling parade on Sunday, October 15.

I'm delighted with the horses we've bought so far – Michael has been very bold in the sale ring and we've secured some lovely types, one or two of whom are still available for purchase. That said, we'll probably be parading more who've already been snapped up in order to give their owners the opportunity to see them for the first time.

Regardless of whether or not you're in the market to buy another horse, the bottom line is that the day promises to be great fun and we'd be delighted if you were to join us!

Q&A: Yorkshireman Paul Simpson's involvement with Manor House Stables goes back to the early days of the yard in the late noughties

Paul never wants MHS visits to end

Where were you born? Born and bred in Yorkshire – God's Own Country!

What's your connection with Manor House Stables? I currently have a share in Cheshire Dancer, and also had a share in the recently retired Ausdaisia.

What are your hopes for Cheshire Dancer this year and beyond? I hope she remains sound, and continues to improve, winning races along the way, and giving the owners more reasons to celebrate.

How did your association with the yard come about? I joined a syndicate just as MHS was starting, and have had involvement with various horses, with above average success, ever since.

What, in your opinion, sets Manor House apart from other yards? The range and quality of the facilities, the friendliness of everyone at the stables, and the wonderful location – I never want to leave when I visit.

Sum yourself up in five words. Fortunate, reliable, trustworthy, punctual, and thoughtful – at least I hope so!

Who would play you in a film of your life? Tom Hanks or Pierce Brosnan.

What was the last film you saw? *Mission Impossible - Dead Reckoning*.



Paul Simpson's association with MHS goes back to 2008

What was the last book you read? *The Midnight Line* by Lee Child.

If you had to choose a single 'Desert Island Disc' what would it be? *Goodbye Yellow Brick Road* by Elton John.

Who's your favourite-ever horse? Capo Rosso, who ran 50 times winning eight races, and took us to Royal Ascot and Glorious Goodwood.

Who do you most admire and why? My two daughters, who decided on a career path when aged about five, and, through their own hard work, both

achieved their goals.

What would be your specialist subject on Mastermind? The 'Jack Reacher' novels of Lee Child.

What is your favourite sport? Horse racing, golf, cricket, football, in that order.

What's your guiltiest pleasure / greatest extravagance? Obviously owning shares in racehorses, although there is no longer too much of the guilt.

What is the most-important lesson life has taught you? The harder you work, the luckier you get.

Hugo has high hopes for Dark Angel colt



This Dark Angel colt is looking for an owner

WITH the 2023 sales season drawing to a close, Manor House has a number of yearlings looking for owners.

These include a Dandy Man filly and colts by Aclaim, Dark Angel, and Havana Grey.

Hugo is particularly keen on the son of Dark Angel, who was purchased at this year's Goffs UK Premier Yearling Sale.

"He is really strong, athletic and good looking," en-

thused Hugo. "Dark Angel is one of the leading sires and he is out of a winning mare [Millicent Fawcett] by the leading stallion Kingman.

"He has an excellent pedigree, with plenty of good horses on the page, and I think he has a bright future as a two-year-old, with enough size and scope to make a lovely three-year-old."

● Further details of all the yearlings the yard has for sale can be found [here](#).

Spotlight shines on Hugo's No. 2, Angie

HUGO's assistant trainer Angie Shea takes centre stage in the latest MHS video content for the Coral Racing Club.

Angie, who followed Hugo from Newmarket and is the mother of top

young jockey Harry Davies, provides an insight into her responsibilities at MHS.

If you haven't already caught up with Angie's date with the cameras, you can watch it [here](#).

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