

# MANOR HOUSE

## MONTHLY

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The MHS duo arrive at Bahrain Turf Club



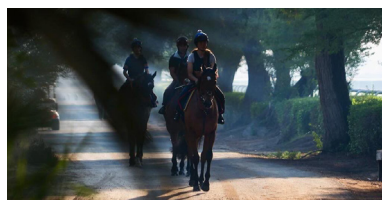
# MHS duo all set for Bahrain campaign

**T**WO of Manor House's leading lights have travelled to the Persian Gulf to take part in the 2023-24 Bahrain Turf Series.

Box To Box has returned to the Middle East island for a second time, having taken part in the 2022-23 event, and has been joined by Roman Dragon for this year's renewal.

The competition specifically targets international horses rated 85-100, who are based in Bahrain from December through to February, to compete against those trained locally.

Horses are divided into two pools, with Roman Dragon, who is owned by Michael Owen and Nick Hughes, amongst those taking part in races over five and six furlongs, while Box To Box, who is owned by Michael and a number of his broadcasting colleagues, will be doing battle in the 1m and 1m2f contests.



Box To Box acclimatising in Bahrain

This year's competition got under way last Friday when both MHS representatives were in action - Box To Box was a fine second in the 1m2f Al Muharraq Cup, while Roman Dragon finished down the field in the Al Manama Cup over five furlongs.

"I wasn't sure quite what to expect from Box To Box, who wasn't at his best when he travelled over last year," reflected Hugo. "However, he showed much better speed from the gate this

time around and it was only in the final 100 yards of Friday's race that he was headed by the winner. All being well, he will reappear in the Al Dana Cup, over 1m4f, on December 29, when hopefully he can go one better.

"As regards Roman Dragon, while I think he will thrive with the sun on his back, it was all happening a bit quickly for him over five furlongs.

"I'd hope he will be rather more at home when he steps up a furlong for the Al Riffa Cup at the end of this month. However, I'm conscious that all his best performances have come around a turn so we'll just have to wait and see if he's as adept over a straight six furlongs."

The 10-race series boasts an \$800,000 prize money fund, with each of the 10 races worth \$48,000 to the winner, while the leading owners and trainers will share a bonus pool of \$80,000.

## Yard enjoys first NH win

MHS was celebrating a first-ever winner under National Hunt rules when Carved In Stone took the concluding bumper at Doncaster on December 2.

While it was a first winner under National Hunt rules for MHS, Hugo was doubling his tally having sent out Walpole to win a bumper at Huntingdon back in October 2015.

Having finished fifth of 11 on his racecourse debut at Ludlow last month, Al Asayal Bloodstocks' three-year-old gelding took a big step forward to capture the 2m½f contest on Town Moor.

Champion jockey Brian Hughes was in the saddle as the grey son of Mastercraftsman kept on well in the closing stages to come home two and three-quarter lengths to the good over favourite Caustic.



## Make your voice heard

If you haven't already done so then Michael and Hugo would ask you to consider signing the petition against affordability checks for those wanting to place a bet.

The threats the checks pose to racing's finances have been well documented and are described by the petitioner as 'inappropriate and discriminatory'.

While the petition already has more than 100,000 signatories, meaning a parliamentary debate will be considered, the more people that sign it the stronger the message it will send out.

You can sign the petition by clicking [here](#).

## Yard celebrates first anniversary of club



Celebrating Coral Racing Club's first birthday

MANOR House was delighted to join in last month's celebrations to mark the first birthday of Coral Racing Club.

The bookmaker not only sponsors MHS, its racing club has the two-year-old colt Cast No Shadow in training at the yard.

The son of Ardad, who went desperately close to breaking his maiden when finishing a short-head second in a 5f novice stakes at Newcastle at the beginning of last month, finished fourth when reappearing at the same venue last Friday.

# Hugo is hoping to find star juvenile

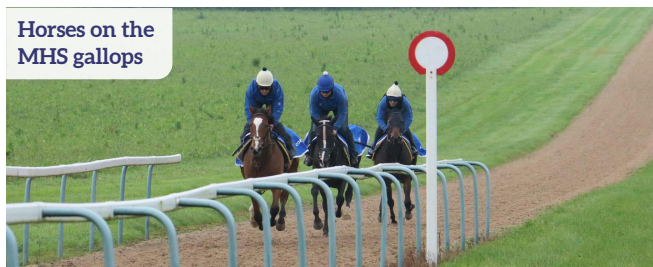
**I**F you've ever dreamt of owning a Chester May Festival or Royal Ascot winner then 2024 could be the year when your dreams come true!

Manor House has a number of exciting yearlings available for purchase and Hugo is extremely hopeful that at least one or two of them will prove good enough to compete at the top tracks.

Amongst them is a bay Mehmas filly, about who Hugo said: "She's a gorgeous filly by an outstanding stallion."

He's equally effusive about a striking son of Mohaather, who won a vintage renewal of the Sussex Stakes in 2020 and was a

Horses on the MHS gallops



Group winner at two, three and four.

"I am extremely glad to have this very impressive son of Mohaather," enthused Hugo.

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."

And last but by no means least is a chesnut son of the top-class two-year-old Dutch Art, who Hugo describes as: "A really sharp, strong, early-looking two-year-old type."

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

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**DUTCH ART  
x DIVINE HERALD**

A son of Dutch Art, this chesnut colt's second dam, Heaven Sent, won six races and more than 300k in prize money. His sire was a top-class two-year-old, winning Group 1s in the Prix Morny and Middle Park, and has been a good source of sprinters and milers.

£55,000



**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 NAFITHAA**

This bay filly is by the high-class two-year-old Mehmas, who has been responsible for 49 black-type horses from just four crops. While none of his dam's progeny have yet raced, his second dam Lanansaak has produced three winners from five foals.

£72,000



**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

**F**IVE more winners during November and the first week of December took Manor House Stables on to 56 domestic winners for the year; in addition, Hugo has also enjoyed two overseas successes.

The yard got off the mark for November when Souffionne scored in a 7f novice stakes on the all-weather track at Newcastle on November 7. Clifford Lee was in the saddle as Asj Shawe's three-year-old won for the first time on just his second race-course appearance.

Win No. 2 came on November 23 when Pitney kept on well to take a competitive 7f novice stakes at Wolverhampton. The Gene Genies' juvenile put his experience to good use to see off his eight rivals with something to spare.

Manor House's third and final winner of the month again came at Wolverhampton, when Ross Coakley got He's A Gentleman up in the shadow of the post on November 25.

The Michael Owen Racing Club charge was winning for the second time in three starts when taking a 7f handicap at Dunstall Park and is likely to remain on the go over the winter.

Carved in Stone provided MHS with its first-ever success under National Hunt rules when taking a Doncaster bumper on December 2 – see Page One.



He's A Gentleman, left, pictured at Manor House

## Five further victories to add to total

And The Bitter Moose made it two for the month when winning for the second time in as many starts in a 7f Lingfield nursery last Wednesday. Harry Davies was aboard AJT Group's two-year-old gelding.

• When the curtain came down

on the UK turf season at Doncaster on November 11, MHS had been responsible for the winners of 32 races, who had bagged just shy of £700,000 in prize money. Box To Box was the yard's biggest turf moneyspinner in 2023 with winnings in excess of £45,000.

### MEET THE TEAM

## Loyal Hannah is in 10th year with yard



Hannah Edwards, leading, on the gallops

RIDER Hannah Edwards is now in her 10th year at Manor House.

Prior to joining MHS, Hannah, who hails from Wrexham, worked in Cholmondeley for National Hunt trainer Donald McCain.

"I had horses growing up and my parents took me racing all over the country," explains Hannah when asked how she became interested in the sport.

Hannah's favourite current inmates at MHS are the

four-year-old He's A Gentleman, who has bagged two victories for the Michael Owen Racing Club this year, and Chelsea Thoroughbreds' two-year-old filly South Kensington.

In her spare time, Hannah says she likes to make memories with her two young daughters and spend time with family and friends. And if she could travel anywhere in the world, pizza-loving Hannah would opt for a trip to the USA.

## HUGO PALMER

### It's fantastic to have had more winners than we did in 2023

**I**T'S fair to say that Manor House Stables have enjoyed a good year.

As I write, we've got 58 winners on the board – 56 at home and two overseas. That's 13 more than last year and, in addition, we've also exceeded the £1,148,894 we won in prize money in 2022 by almost 150k, with more than a fortnight of December remaining.

Plainly, we won't be having a lot of runners over the next couple of weeks and, as I've said before, I don't especially like to set targets; nevertheless, it would be fantastic if we were able to hit the 60-winner mark and, at the same time, bag the 15k we need to take us past the £1.3m mark before the year is out.

While there have been plenty of highlights over the course of the past 12 months, if I was asked to choose two or three, I'd have to go for Flaming Rib's victory in Qatar back in February, Golden Trick's success in Ireland in August, and being the leading trainer at Chester, having shared the title with Andrew Balding last year.

I've never been much of one for new year



resolutions. However, the goal must always be to keep moving forward as we have done this year and, with that in mind, we'll be looking to improve on this year's totals for both winners and prize money in 2024!

I was thrilled when champion jump jockey Brian Hughes guided Carved In Stone to success in a Doncaster bumper at the end of last month thereby providing MHS with its first-ever winner under National Hunt rules.

It was apparent some time ago that the three-year-old Mastercraftsman gelding might not be ready to win a race on the flat this year. However, when I mentioned to his owners Al Asayl Bloodstock that I thought he might be capable of running well in a National Hunt flat

race, they were very happy to try something a bit different.

Carved In Stone is in the Cheltenham sale this Friday (December 15) and, with that win under his belt, we're optimistic he'll make a tidy sum.

Certainly, if he doesn't reach his reserve we'll be very happy to bring him back here to MHS. Were that to happen, while the festival bumper or even the Triumph Hurdle would be possibilities, he's still quite raw and I'd imagine it altogether more likely we would wait a while and campaign him on the flat.

IT'S our annual festive shindig next Wednesday [December 20] when I'm very much looking forward to catching up with a great many of our owners, over a drink and a mince pie. Last year's event was an awful lot of fun and I've no doubt this year's renewal will prove every bit as enjoyable.

On the subject of Christmas, I wrote to all our owners recently to acknowledge how critical our staff are to our success and encouraging them to donate to their Christmas box. For anyone yet to do so, it isn't too late and no amount is too little or too much – simply get in touch with the office here at MHS and they can make all the necessary arrangements.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



**Q&A:** Reel Rosie's part-owner John Noon is delighted by how things have gone since the four-year-old filly joined Manor House Stables

# John delighted by Rosie renaissance

**How did your association with the yard come about?** We got in touch with MHS via a friend of a friend, who linked us up with Hugo and Michael. We were very impressed when we came to have a look around and decided to move Rosie from Ed Bethell's yard to MHS.

**What, in your opinion, sets Manor House apart from other yards?** The link between the yard and the owners is more personal than what we experienced before. Whilst he probably thinks we are idiots, Hugo listens to our ideas and discusses them with us. I think we feel more part of things here than was the case previously.

**What are your hopes for Reel Rosie moving forward?** I think we're done for the year, unless have a whirl at hurdling. Next season, it would be great to see the old Rosie back again – she looked full of potential in early 2021, when she was rated 90 by the handicapper, but has regressed since. Hugo did brilliantly to get another win and hopefully we can see some of the old sparkle in 2024 and she can win a nice handicap.

**Sum yourself up in five words.** Caring but annoying at times!

**Who would play you in a film of your life?** Robert De Niro.

John Noon with pals after Reel Rosie's Chester victory



**What was the last film you saw?** The last James Bond film, *No Time to Die*.

**What was the last book you read?** Jamie Vardy's autobiography, *From Nowhere, My Story*.

**If you had to choose a single 'Desert Island Disc' what would it be?** *Unfinished Sympathy* by Massive Attack.

**Who's your favourite-ever horse?** Rock of Gibraltar.

**Who do you most admire and why?** My dad. He's been my role model my whole life, cares for

anybody and everybody, and there's not a nasty bone in his body.

**What would be your specialist subject on Mastermind?** Leicester City Football Club.

**What is your favourite sport?** Either football or horse racing.

**What's your guiltiest pleasure / greatest extravagance?** Watching soppy romantic films.

**What is the most-important lesson life has taught you?** Treat others how you expect to be treated yourself.

## Club membership a great Christmas gift



Club membership could be a great gift

If you're after a Christmas present with a difference then membership of the Michael Owen Racing Club could be just what you're looking for!

All the more so when you consider He's A Gentleman has scored twice since being recruited at the end of September and is expected to remain busy on the all-weather over the winter.

In addition, the club's blue and silver silks are also

sported by Pearly Star, who was on the scoresheet at Chester in June, and the as-yet-unraced filly Rose Donnelly.

It costs just £95 a year to join the club with benefits including a digital welcome pack, invitations to yard visits, 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](#).

## 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@manorhouse-stables.com](mailto:info@manorhouse-stables.com).

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