

MANOR HOUSE

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Hugo and Michael are delighted with the yard's 2023 campaign

MHS ends a great year with 59 wins

MANOR House Stables ended a highly successful 2023 with 59 winners - 57 of which came in the UK with two more overseas.

Having sent out 41 winners from MHS in 2022, Hugo improved markedly on that total in his second year at the yard.

And the 59 winners contributed to more than £1.3m in prize money - in excess of 150k more than MHS earned in 2022.

"We've enjoyed a fantastic season," reflected Hugo. "I'm delighted that we've improved our totals for both winners and prize money year on year, albeit it was slightly frustrating that we hit the woodwork a couple of times - see Page 3 - in our quest for 60 winners.

"However, we mustn't let that spoil the feeling after what has, all said and done, been a very successful year."



Solent Gateway, right

MHS's two most lucrative successes of 2023 came overseas. Flaming Rib bagged almost £190,000 for owners Michael Owen, James Dale, Tom Dolan, and James Dooley, when winning the Dukhan Sprint, a local Group 3, in Qatar in February, while the Bronte Collection banked £148,500 when Golden Trick took the Listed Ballyhane Stakes at Naas in August.

The yard's biggest domestic money-earner was Solent Gateway. The six-

year-old stayer, who is owned by Derek Passant and Hefin Williams, won two of his 10 starts and more than £60,000 in prize money over the course of the season.

Middleham Park Racing's middle-distance five-year-old Nolton Cross, who won three times in eight weeks at the beginning of the year, banked more than £51,000 in prize money, while Box To Box, who is owned by Michael Owen and a number of his broadcasting pals netted more than 45k in seven domestic starts that included two victories.

Twenty-five different jockeys rode winners for MHS in 2023 of whom Ross Coakley was the winning-most with 10 victories from 53 rides. Ross's strike rate of 19 per cent was bettered only by Jason Hart, who rode four winners from 11 rides [36 per cent], and Hayley Turner who rode five from 15 [33%].

Box To Box placed again

BOX To Box finished third on his latest start in the Bahrain Turf Series on December 29.

The Running Order Partnership's consistent five-year-old finished just a length and a half behind the winner, George Baker's Lucander, in the valuable Al Dana Cup, a handicap over 1m2f.

Nevertheless, it was another fine effort from the Kodiak gelding, who had finished second on his first start in the 2023-24 Bahrain Turf Series earlier in the month.

"Box To Box has done us proud, without quite giving us our first Bahraini winner," reflected Hugo. "Unfortunately, he wasn't done any favours by the draw on either of his two starts,

"He will run at least once more in Bahrain and granted a bit more luck with the draw must go very close."

Rib defends Qatar crown

FLAMING Rib is being readied to defend his crown in the Dukhan Sprint in Qatar in the middle of next month [February 17].

The five-year-old landed the valuable local Group 3 on his seasonal debut in 2023, but struggled to match the form he showed in coming home three-quarters of a length to the good over the locally trained Taxiwalla over the remainder of the campaign.

However, Hugo is hopeful that the son of Ribchester, who hasn't been seen since running in a Newmarket Listed race in the summer, will have benefitted from a gelding operation.



Join us for amazing day trip to Coolmore



Coolmore Stud in County Tipperary

MANOR House is organising a day trip to the legendary Coolmore Stud in County Tipperary, Ireland.

The visit to what is widely renowned as the world's biggest, and best, thoroughbred racehorse breeding operation will take place on January 24.

Owned by the Magnier family and situated in the heart of the Golden Vale on over 7,000 prime acres of Ireland's finest limestone land, Coolmore provides the perfect environment for breeding thoroughbreds.

Your guide will lead you through the hallowed gates of Coolmore, where you will learn about the farm's incredible history and racing legacy while getting up close and personal with their champion stallions.

The cost is £325 for which attendees will not only enjoy a tour of the stud, but also a visit to its museum, a parade of stallions, and a three-course lunch at Mickey Ryan's in nearby Fethard.

● For more details, call 01948 820485 or email sophie@manor-housestables.com.

Guests of Hickory's enjoy visit to MHS

IT was great to welcome guests of Hickory's Smokehouse to Manor House Stables last month.

A large group of racing enthusiasts were treated to a tour of the yard, before enjoying food and drinks in the owners room at MHS, on December 15.

Hickory's opened their first smoke-



Hickory's guests

house in Chester in 2010 and its popular restaurants can now be found across the north west, east and west midlands, and north Wales.

Shares available in colt by Havana Gold

WITH the start of the new turf season imminent, it's not too late to become involved in the Sport of Kings as an owner.

Manor House is offering one-fifth shares in a three-year-old Havana

Gold colt. "Strong, muscular and fast, he will likely have a very busy three-year-old campaign," said Hugo.

● Visit the [Horses for Sale page on the MHS website](#), or call 01948 820485, for more info.

Hugo is delighted to train Al Asayl's Arabians

HUGO and Michael are delighted that Al Asayl Bloodstock has chosen to send a pair of exciting Arabian juveniles to MHS.

Marakeb and Rich Pulls Pitch arrived at the yard towards the end of last year and are expected to make their racecourse debuts in the coming months.

Hugo has already enjoyed considerable success training for



Al Asayl's Arabians

Al Asayl, courtesy of horses such as Silver Quartz, The Revenant and, more recently Fleur De

Mer, Under The Sun and Doncaster bumper-winner Carved In Stone.

UAE-based Al Asayl, which is owned by HH the President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, has been breeding purebred Arabian racehorses since 1991. Indeed, its name is derived from the Arabic 'aseel' meaning purebred.

JANUARY JOY



Nolton Cross and connections after Friday's Southwell win

Southwell double for Manor House

MANOR House got off the mark for 2024 with two winners at Southwell on Friday.

Jason Hart was aboard both Nolton Cross, who set the ball rolling, and It's Not Risky, who brought up the double in the very next race.

Nolton Cross, who is owned by Middleham Park Racing, overcame a disadvantageous draw in stall 11 of 11 to edge out Haku and Hollie Doyle in a 1m4f handicap.

The five-year-old gelding, who won three races in the first quarter of last year, was winning for the fourth time in little more than a year.

Nolton Cross has now won



It's Not Risky

five of his 26 starts and in excess of £76,000 in prize money. All of those victories have come on the all-weather – three at Wolverhampton and two at Southwell.

Conversely, It's Not Risky was winning his first race for owners SBS [UK] and Owen Promotions when victorious in the 1m3f handicap which followed.

Despite being carried right in the home straight, and then edg-

ing left in the final stages, the three-year-old had just enough petrol left in the tank to repel the late challenge of favourite Freds Mate by a length, with Rich Harry and Bradman close behind in third and fourth respectively.

While It's Not Risky was winning for the first time, previous efforts – most notably a second-place finish in a Wolverhampton nursery at the end of November – had provided cause for optimism that the Showcasing gelding's turn was not far off.

Friday's double saw Jason improve his already fine record for the yard; he has now ridden six winners from just 13 rides, at an incredible 46 per cent strike rate.

GUNFIGHTER provided the yard with its 59th and final winner of 2023 when scoring at Wolverhampton on December 18.

Oisín Murphy was in the saddle as Michael Blencowe's then two-year-old year-old saw off his six rivals in a 7f nursery.

It was a career-best performance for the son of Siyouni, who was ridden to lead inside the final furlong and came home three-quarters of a length ahead of runner-up Neapolitan.

Gunfighter was winning his second race of the season, having broken his maiden in a 6f novice stakes at Newcastle in September.

MHS provided Michael with four winners in 2023, courtesy of Gunfighter and Imperial Ace, who won twice for him and co-owner John O'Connor back in January.

And He's A Gentleman went agonisingly close to providing MHS with a landmark 60th winner of the year in a 1m½f handicap at Wolverhampton just 24 hours later.

Ross Coakley was aboard as the Michael Owen Racing Club four-year-old led throughout only to be headed in the shadow of the post.

And it was a similar story when O G Beachwear returned to action at the same venue three days later on December 22. Jack



Gunfighter and Oisín Murphy winning at Wolverhampton

Oisín up as Gunfighter wins again

Mitchell had the four-year-old, who is owned by Owen Promotions Limited, well positioned throughout a 7f handicap, leading inside the final furlong, only to drop back to third, beaten little more than a length, inside the final 110 yards.

• Gunfighter's Wolverhampton success was one of 24 all-weather winners for MHS over the course of the year, with 12 of those victories coming at Dunstall Park, another six at Newcastle, and three each at Lingfield and Southwell.

MEET THE TEAM

Rider-groom Jack is a new face at MHS



Jack MacLennan aboard Acclaimer

RIDER-GROOM Jack MacLennan is one of the newest recruits to the team at MHS, having joined the yard in November.

Local lad Jack grew up not a million miles from MHS, in the village of Alpraham, near Taporley.

Prior to joining MHS, Jack worked for Gary Hamner Racing in Tattenhall, near Chester, and also spent time with National Hunt trainer Donald McCain.

Jack attributes his interest in racing

to his mother, Lisa Dix, who works for trainer Michael Mulholland.

In his spare time, Jack enjoys boxing, while he recently completed his first marathon.

Sushi-lover Jack is loathe to pick a favourite horse at MHS, but says he likes all those he gets the chance to ride.

If he was offered an all-expenses-paid trip anywhere in the world, Jack would opt for the Lumpinee Boxing Stadium in Thailand.

HUGO PALMER

I struggle to believe premierisation will have desired effect

ICOULDN'T help but smile on New Year's Day when the supposed great new dawn of British racing – premierisation – was ushered in with Racing TV forced to go split-screen as the conclusion of Cheltenham's opener coincided with the start of the first race at Exeter.

Don't get me wrong, I'm delighted that the powers that be acknowledge that something needs to be done to breathe fresh impetus into the sport. However, I remain to be convinced the initiatives they've come up with to do that are going to have the desired effect.

Frankly, I don't think premierisation will make a whole lot of difference to those whose interest in the sport doesn't extend much beyond watching ITV Racing on a Saturday afternoon. Terrestrial TV has never broadcast more than a dozen or so races and, to all intents and purposes, it will be just the same under premierisation.

Furthermore, I remain to be convinced there's huge demand for racing to get under way just after 10am on Saturday mornings and



I'm even less enamoured with the prospect of Sunday night racing. What racing desperately needs is some new money. Unfortunately, there's scant evidence of that in the programme book, which suggests to me that what's being given with one hand is being taken away with the other!

WHILE it was fantastic to get our 2024 campaign up and running with a double at Southwell on Friday, I think it's unlikely we'll start this year quite as quickly as we did 2023.

Having moved up to Manor House in the spring of 2022, it took me a little while to get up to speed and, that being the case, we didn't have an awful lot of runners in my first few months – the net result being that when other yards

were winding down in the final few weeks of 2022, going into 2023, we were just finding our stride, as a result of which we had seven winners in January of last year.

While I don't think we'll match that figure this time around, the goal for 2024 has to be to improve on the 59 winners and £1.3 million in prize money MHS amassed in 2023. It goes without saying, that will be easier said than done, but our loyal owners and wonderful team give me considerable cause for optimism.

WE were delighted to welcome around 100 owners to Manor House for our annual Christmas shindig on the last Wednesday before Christmas.

It was great to catch up with so many familiar faces over a mince pie and a glass of mulled wine and I only hope those that came along enjoyed the occasion as much as Michael and I did.

Given that even a busy racehorse is unlikely to run more than 10 times a year, leaving a further 355 days when it will spend most of its time in its box, I think events such as this are extremely important and can go a long way to ensuring owning a racehorse is an experience to savour regardless of the horse's ability.

On that note, it only remains for me to thank you for your support in 2023 and wish you all the very best for 2024!



Q&A: After a dalliance with National Hunt racing, Mark Satchell has been involved with horses at Manor House Stables since 2013

Mark relishes the fun of ownership

What's your connection with Manor House Stables? My dalliance into racehorse ownership began with Nicky Richards and thereafter Donald McCain. My association with MHS began in 2013, with an interest in a horse called Crowley's Law. Since then my wife Paula and I have had stakes in many horses at Manor House.

How did your association with the yard come about? Having developed a penchant for the sport, initially with jumpers, I decided to expand into the Sport of Kings! After doing some research, I visited MHS together with an associate, who had a connection at the yard, for a viewing. And the rest, as they say, is history!

What, in your opinion, sets Manor House apart from other yards? The facilities are second to none, while the team have always been very open, informative, and hospitable – and most of all, they are very adept at managing my expectations! **What are your hopes for the coming season?** Well, the last couple of horses I have had an interest in have not achieved anything of note – which is a bit frustrating – however we have still had a lot of fun, which for us that is what it is all about.



Mark Satchell with Frankie Dettori and Michael Owen

Looking ahead, we have a third share in a Havana Grey filly who will be joining MHS in October, and I am told she looks the part, so, as ever, fingers crossed! **Sum yourself up in five words.** Friendly, committed, loyal, sure-footed, and happy.

Who would play you in a film of your life? Yul Brynner, not just because of the lack of hair, but because he is brilliant in *The Magnificent Seven*.

What was the last film you saw? *Killers Of The Flower Moon*.

What was the last book you read? Sheikh Mohammed's *My Story – 50 Memories from 50 Years of Service*.

If you had to choose a single

'Desert Island Disc' what would it be? Bill Withers' *Lovely Day*.

Who's your favourite-ever horse? I have two, Rodrigo De Triano and Lammtarra.

Who do you most admire and why? My wife Paula, for putting up with me for almost 40 years! **What would be your specialist subject on Mastermind?** James Bond.

What is your favourite sport? Football, with horseracing a short head behind in second.

What's your guiltiest pleasure / greatest extravagance? Horses, obviously!

What is the most-important lesson life has taught you? Forgive but never forget.

Stenton Glider set to run in Dubai contest



Stenton Glider finishing second at Newbury

STENTON Glider has arrived in Dubai ahead of a crack at the Group 2 Cape Verdi at Meydan on January 19.

The four-year-old filly, who is owned by Jane Mairs and son Tom, finished second in last year's German 1000 Guineas.

"Ray [McCarthy] who has travelled over with her is very happy with how she's taken to the training regime out there and so far everything is going very much as we would have

hoped," said Hugo.

"Stenton Glider is pretty ground-versatile but I think the lovely watered turf in Dubai will suit her really well – fingers crossed she can run some big races.

"All being well, she'll stay on for another valuable Group 2, the Balanchine, at the end of February.

"And if she were to win either of those races she could earn a place in the Jebel Hatta on Super Saturday at the beginning of March."

Opportunities to join Manor House team

MANOR House Stables have a number of vacancies to join the team.

Hugo is looking for an energetic and enthusiastic individual who's passionate about pursuing a career in racing to

become his pupil assistant.

In addition the yard also has vacancies for full-time riders and yard staff.

More details can be found in the ads on the yard's social media channels.

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