

# MANOR HOUSE

## MONTHLY

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How Impressive with his jubilant owners after scoring at Kempton

## MHS's fine start to the year continues

**M**ANOR House Stables' fine start to the year continued into February with Hugo sending out a further four winners to take the yard's total for 2024 on to 13 [since when it has moved onto 15].

How Impressive was responsible for two of those four wins, taking a 7f handicap at Lingfield on February 5 and following up over the same distance at Kempton nine days later.

Oisín Murphy was aboard on the first occasion, as Middleham Park's five-year-old gelding led all the way to provide the former champion jockey with his first domestic winner of the year.

However, up-and-coming 3lb claimer



Kitteridge scores at Newcastle

Brandon Wilkie was entrusted with the ride when the son of Starspangledbanner bagged a fourth career victory at Kempton little more than a week later.

The yard's third winner of the month came courtesy of Kitteridge, who took a 1m2f maiden at Newcastle on February

22. Chasemore Farm's homebred daughter of Camelot was building on a promising debut at Chelmsford the previous month, when she finished second to hot favourite Ville Natale, to score in some style for jockey Jason Hart.

It was another of Middleham Park's charges, Siobhanbrogan, who provided the yard with its final winner of the month when landing a 6f fillies' novice stakes at Wolverhampton on February 26. Having been beaten just a head when finishing third at Chelmsford earlier in the month, the three-year-old daughter of Starspangledbanner ran on well for Oisín to come home two lengths to the good over her closest pursuer.

## Hugo keen to repeat Trick

HUGO is intent on defending the Ballyhane Stakes crown that Golden Trick claimed at Naas in August.

The Bronte Collection's two-year-old won the fourth running of the valuable sales race and Hugo has his eyes on the €300K pot again this year.

"We plan to make a large number of entries and are going to do our very best to defend Golden Trick's crown," said Hugo.

"We want to keep the trophy and will be entering as many as we can for this year's very exciting edition of the race."

• The EBF Ballyhane Stakes is a median auction race for two-year-olds that are EBF eligible and whose sire established one or more yearling sales last year with a median price of not more than €75,000.



## Festival fun on horizon

MHS is looking forward to welcoming owners old and new for the yard's annual Cheltenham Gold Cup Day extravaganza on Friday, [March 15]

Proceedings will get under way at 10am, with a tour of the yard and gallops, before a drinks reception and lunch between midday and 1pm. The seven-race card from Prestbury Park kicks off with the JCB Triumph Hurdle at 1.30pm, with the big race, the Boodles Cheltenham Gold Cup, due off at 3.30pm.

• Anyone who's received an invitation and hasn't yet responded is asked to do so ASAP.



## Racing club stalwart goes close on return



He's A Gentleman pictured at MHS

WITH the 2024 turf season a matter of weeks away, now is the perfect time to think about joining the Michael Owen Racing Club.

He's A Gentleman, who bagged two victories after being recruited to the club's ranks last September, went close to making his first run of the year a winning one when finishing second in a 7f Wolverhampton handicap on February 10.

In addition to He's A Gentleman, the club's blue and silver silks will also be sported by the filly Rose Donnelly,

who was beaten just four lengths on her racecourse debut at Wolverhampton last month.

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 horses is in action.

So, if you've ever dreamed of owning a racehorse but been deterred by the cost, this could be the perfect solution.

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

## Glider fades in final stages of Balanchine

STENTON Glider finished out of the places in the Group 2 Balanchine at Meydan on February 23.

Jane and Thomas Mairs' four-year-old filly was up with the pace early on in the 1m1f contest but Jim Crowley's mount faded in the closing stages.

Since winning on her debut at



Stenton Glider

Chester in 2022, Stenton Glider has run a series of good races, including a second-place finish in last year's German 1000 Guineas.

## Owens explore sight loss in documentary

AWAY from MHS, Michael Owen and his son James have explored sight loss in an inspiring new documentary on TNT Sports.

Football is for Everyone sees Michael and James,

who was diagnosed with the chronic eye condition Stargardt disease at the age of eight, journey behind the scenes with the England Partially Sighted Futsal Team ahead of 2023 IBSA World Games.

## Duo return after successful Bahrain campaign

BOX To Box and Roman Dragon have returned to MHS after competing in the Bahrain Turf Series.

Both horses performed with credit during the three-month event, which pits internationally trained runners against local Bahrain-trained horses.

The Running Order Partnership's Box To Box was placed on three of his four starts, winning



Box To Box's owners in Bahrain

more than £30,000 in prize money in the process.

While it took Roman Dragon a

little longer to adapt to his new surroundings, he came good with a vengeance in his last two appearances. The five-year-old sprinter, who is owned by Nick Hughes and Michael Owen, bagged more than £37,000 when winning a 6f handicap at the beginning of February and picked up another 6k when finishing third a fortnight later.

## MARCH SUCCESSES

Cast No Shadow with Hugo in his box at Manor House



# Cast No Shadow is off mark for Coral

**C**AST No Shadow won his first race for the Coral Racing Club when scoring at Newcastle on Friday, March 1.

It was a first victory at the seventh attempt for the three-year-old son of Ardad who wasn't winning out of turn, having been denied by a short head on two previous occasions.

Jason Hart was doing the steering as Cast No Shadow came home unchallenged in a 5f novice stakes on the Tapeta at Gosforth Park.

Sent on from the opening of the stalls, Cast No Shadow was clear at the 2f pole and only had to be pushed out to come home three and a quarter lengths ahead of the nearest of his four pursuers.

'He's won very well. I've pushed him out but that was



Jodie and Zivanyia

more just to get him to go and do it," reflected Jason in the winner's enclosure after the race.

"He's extended well, run through the line strong and the cheekpieces felt like they did have an effect – when I gave him a squeeze to actually go and start quickening up, he felt like he quickened really well."

Aside from owning Cast No Shadow, Coral have been yard sponsors at Manor House Stables since June of last year.

The partnership sees Hugo

provide Coral customers with unique insight into MHS runners at all major meetings throughout the season with regular exclusive blogs. In addition, the team at Manor House Stables wear Coral-branded clothing at the yard and on racecourses, with the horses sporting Coral branding on the gallops and at the track.

And 24 hours after Cast No Shadow's success, Zivanyia provided MHS with its second winner of the month when taking a 2m Kempton handicap.

Ross Coakley was in the saddle as Tony Shawe's four-year-old gelding, who appeared to benefit from the application of a first-time tongue tie, produced a career-best performance to see off his five rivals with something to spare.

**M**IDDLEHAM Park Racing has enjoyed an extraordinary start to 2024 with the four horses it has at Manor House Stables carrying all before them.

With the year little more than two months old, the Middleham Park quartet – comprising How Impressive, Prince Of Zenda, Nolton Cross, and Siobhanbrogan – have already won no less than six races.

The same four horses fared pretty well in 2023 when they won five races between them. However, they look set to improve markedly on that total this time around.

The four-year-old gelding Prince of Zenda has led the way, with two victories in two starts. Dropped back in trip to six furlongs, he edged out favourite Habboba to win a Lingfield handicap on January 14.

And he was ultra impressive when beating The Caltonian, who has himself won three races since the end of December, when scoring at Newcastle a fortnight later.

How Impressive has also won twice in 2024, and was narrowly denied a hat-trick when chinned on the line in a 6f handicap at Chelmsford on February 15. Prior to that the five-year-old gelding had won a 7f apprentice handicap at Kempton just 24 hours earlier, nine days after scoring over



# Middleham Park horses flying high

the same trip at Lingfield.

Meanwhile, the five-year-old gelding Nolton Cross and three-year-old filly Siobhanbrogan have each scored once from two starts this year.

The former provided MHS with its first winner of 2024

when successful in a 1m4f Southwell handicap on January 5, while the latter was winning for the first time, on just her third start, when successful in a 6f fillies' novice handicap at Wolverhampton at the end of last month.

## MEET THE TEAM

### Henry's back at MHS after short spell away



Yardman Henry Owen is back at MHS

MANOR House was delighted to see Henry Owen return to the yard in October of last year.

Yardman Henry worked at MHS for some time before leaving for a short while to work in a factory and on the roads.

Henry, who hails from Chester, has been a racing fan ever since enjoying a trip to Bangor-On-Dee at the tender age of seven.

Asked to pick his favourite current MHS inmate, Henry

says he finds it impossible to choose between the three-year-old gelding It's Not Risky and a two-year-old Dark Angel x Paradwys colt who is yet to be named.

In his spare time, Henry enjoys walking and watching racing, as well as crown green bowling in the summer.

Henry's favourite meal is sweet and sour chicken and if he was offered an all-expenses trip anywhere in the world, he would opt to visit Australia.

## HUGO PALMER

### Big all-weather pot would cement our flying start to year

**W**ITH 15 winners on the board already in 2024 [14 here in the UK and one in Bahrain], I couldn't be much more pleased with the way things are going.

Eight winners in January were followed by five more, from just 20-odd runners, in February, and we've added another two already this month.

In each of the previous two seasons it's taken us until May to get 15 winners on the board, so I think it's fair to say we've done better than we might have hoped over the first few months of the year.

Certainly, the horses are in flying form at the minute and, while we won't be resting on our laurels, I hope that will continue to be the case for some time yet.

As you might imagine, I can't wait for the turf season to get under way later this month, while there's also the small matter of the All-Weather Championships Finals at Newcastle on Good Friday [March 29] and the All-Weather Vase at Lingfield on the same day.



I'd like to think we'll be well represented across the two fixtures, with horses such as Balon D'Or, How Impressive, Nolton Cross, and Price Of Zenda all possible runners, and if we could bag a winner or two that would only cement our good start to the season.

IT was great to get off the mark for the Coral Racing Club courtesy of Cast No Shadows's victory at Newcastle earlier in the month.

We're proud to have Coral as yard sponsors; what is more, everyone I've met from their racing club has been great fun, so I was delighted we were able to reward their support with a winner.

Granted just a little more good fortune, Cast No Shadow might have broken his maiden some

time ago, having gone down by a short head at Newcastle back in November and, again, on his penultimate run at Southwell at the beginning of February. However, he made no mistake on his most recent outing, winning decisively and touch wood there's a bit more to come.

In addition to Cast No Shadow, we have a second Coral Racing Club horse at MHS this year – an as yet unnamed Soldier's Call juvenile who, like his stablemate, should provide club members with plenty of fun.

MY wife Vanessa and I were lucky enough to be VIP guests at last week's Bahrain Grand Prix. We enjoyed a close-up view of all the action and it was an experience neither of us will forget in a hurry.

A little closer to home, Michael and I are very much looking forward to welcoming owners old and new to the yard for our annual Cheltenham Gold Cup Day shindig. We'll start off with a visit to the gallops, followed by a drinks reception and lunch, before the racing kicks off at 1.30pm.

I don't pretend to have much idea what's going to win at Prestbury Park – albeit I suspect Willie Mullins won't be heading back across the Irish sea empty handed – but one thing I'm certain of is that everyone who joins us next Friday will have a day to remember!





# How did you fare in our 2023 quiz?

Golden Trick in winning form at Naas in August



HOW did you get on with the quiz in the last edition of *Manor House Monthly*?

- [1] Which horse was MHS's leading domestic moneyspinner in 2023? *Solent Gateway*.  
 [2] Name the two MHS horses which won three times in 2023. *Nolton Cross* and *Victoria Falls*.  
 [3] Who was the winning-most jockey for MHS in 2023 with 10 winners? *Ross Coakley*.  
 [4] Which jockey boasted a 100 per cent record riding for MHS in 2023? *Trevor Whelan*.  
 [5] Which two horses won overseas races for MHS in 2023? *Flaming Rib* and *Golden Trick*.



Richard Kingscote

- [6] Oisín Murphy was aboard one of those two overseas winners, but who rode the other one? *Ben Coen*.  
 [7] Which horse provided MHS with its first winner under NH rules at Doncaster in December? *Carved In Stone*.  
 [8] Which three horses did Hugo

train to win for MPR in 2023? *How Impressive*, *Nolton Cross*, and *Prince Of Zenda*

- [9] On which horse did Richard Kingscote ride his first winner for MHS in more than a year? *Soldier's Gold*.  
 [10] Name one of the three horses which carried the turquoise silks of the Gene Genies to success in 2023. *Hackman*, *Pitney*, or *Tierney*.  
 [11] At which course did MHS have the most winners in 2023? *Wolverhampton* [12].  
 [12] Which MHS stalwart won a Listed race at Nottingham in April of last year? *Rajinsky*.

**Q&A:** Chris Hirst is the owner of an as yet unnamed Blue Point two-year-old at MHS

## Chris hoping for big things with juvenile



Chris with Gary Player and Lester Piggott

**What are your hopes for this season?** My horses stay healthy and sound.  
**How did your association with the yard come about?** I spoke to Hugo about a share in a breeze-up horse.

**What, in your opinion, sets MHS apart from other yards?** Everything about it is outstanding.

**Who would play you in a film of your life?** I'd play myself!  
**What was the last film you watched?** *Forest Gump*.  
**What was the last**

**book you read?** I can't remember.  
**If you had to choose a single 'Desert Island Disc' what would it be?** *Sailing* by Rod Stewart.  
**Who's your favourite-ever horse?** Certain Lad, who has won nine races for me.  
**Who do you most admire and why?** All my family.  
**What would be your specialist subject on *Mastermind*?** Football.  
**What lessons has life taught you?** To be honest and cherish your relationships.

## Stay in MHS loop

DON'T forget you can keep up to date with all the very latest news from MHS via the yard's social media channels.

MHS's Facebook,

Instagram and Twitter channels are updated on a daily basis and feature a wealth of great content, from news of runners to videos.

## Trust NAF RACING

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FOR THE GOOD OF THE RACEHORSE



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AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO BEING PART OF THE TEAM.

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