



Mick Appleby  
RACING

# NEWSLETTER

## STABLE NEWS

### October - December 2016

Well the big news is obviously that we have finally moved stables!

It's been a tough and hectic few months to get here, trying to oversee the construction of the new yard at a time when the horses haven't been running as well as I'd have liked.

Still, since we've moved we've got the horses back in good order and even though we didn't manage to better our 2016 tally, we still sent out 73 winners and the stats provided by our sponsor Proform Racing show that we're only 1 of 25 stables to send out more than 60 winners on the flat this year - with only 18 yards sending out more.

Each year my target is to better the previous one and though we unfortunately fell short of improving on what was an unbelievably good 2015, I'm sure we can get back on the up this year when we hopefully start with some better handicapped horses and some new additions to the stable.

As ever, thanks to all my staff and owners for their continued support. It's appreciated more than ever when things aren't going quite so smoothly.

All the best and Happy New Year!

*Mick*



PHOTO: AMY GREEN

## **Welcome to Langham Racing Stables!**

It's finally happened – we've moved into our new yard and it's great to be here! It's still a bit of a building site and there's loads of work still to do but it's safe for the horses, we have the facilities in place to train them properly and they have settled in really well. It's the kind of place that we'll develop over the next few years but the facilities we have here are superior to what we had at the old yard and though we might have to adjust the routine a little bit given we're on a different gallop, we've got everything here that we need to get the horses to realise their potential.

### **All-Weather Gallop**

Largely straight and extending over a mile with a nice uphill finish, our new polytrack gallop will be where we do most of the work with our horses.



### **Two Grass Gallops**

Something we didn't have at the old yard and will be a real benefit come the spring, especially in helping educate the 2 year olds. One of the gallops runs alongside the All-Weather while the other is closer to the yard. Both have a nice incline and are on very good quality turf.



PHOTO: RICK KIRTON

### **96 boxes across 4 barns.**

The yard already had two large barns complete with tack and feed rooms but we've added a further 2 Monarch Barns plus a row of outside boxes. All the boxes have automatic waterers which saves us time each day and gives a supply of fresh water to each horse.

### **Large outdoor school.**

This is a fantastic facility and more than twice the size of the indoor school at the old yard. The horses can do a nice canter in here if an easy day of exercise is needed and it's a great place for them to warm up before work. We'll eventually add schooling hurdles in here too.

### **Also:**

- **2 x 8 bay horse walkers**
- **Turn-out paddocks**
- **Owners room**
- **Staff canteen**



PHOTO: VIC DIXON

## **Favorite our 400th!**

In the last newsletter I mentioned I was approaching the 400 winner mark in my training career and we finally got there when Favorite Girl scored at Nottingham in early November under Jay Kendrick. It was great to give Jay his first winner and also that Favorite Girl is owned by one of my long standing owners Terry Pryke.



PHOTO: DENIS WOODWARD

## **Successful Sales Season**

Our quick success with horses bought at the July and August Sales highlighted the importance of bringing in fresh horses to the yard and I'm delighted to say that we added a few new faces at the end of season Horses In Training Sales. With over 2000 horses catalogued across the various sales it's a very busy time of year and I was really pleased with the business we did. Chris and Martin Dixon were on hand throughout to help me find suitable horses and I think we managed to purchase some really nice prospects.

## **Flying Start**

I had hoped that it wouldn't take long to send out our first winners from the new yard and couldn't have wished for a better start as on the first day we sent runners from Langham to the races we left with a treble as Mithqaal, Western Prince and Come Back King all came home in front to give us a dream start from our new base.

## **Midge Moves On**

The move in stables wasn't good news for everyone and we have said goodbye to a few members of staff and welcomed some new ones as a result. Among those that the move hasn't been ideal for is our long standing stable jockey Andrew Mullen. Midge has been a huge part of our team for the past few years but the move a little further south means that he can't commit to riding out for us quite so often and he is getting many more opportunities for outside rides as well and isn't always able to commit to riding our horses. I'm hoping that he will still be able to get in quite regularly and will continue to ride for the stable but for the time being we will look to use the most suitable rider available on our horses. I'd like to thank Midge for his efforts over the last few seasons and hope that he'll be riding many more winners for us in the seasons ahead.

## OCTOBER

### **Fillies on form**

3 winners in October and all three were fillies. Colin Bacon's 2yo **Amathyst** was the first to hit the target as she made the long trip up to Ayr worthwhile as she produced a career best effort to take a soft ground nursery. She's well suited by give in the ground and will be at her best under those conditions as a 3yo. **Appleberry** is also at her best when the ground is soft and finally took advantage of her falling handicap mark to score at 25/1 in the first time hood at Nottingham for Mike Golding and Terry Pryke. **Secret Lightning** was another one to have dropped in the weights and got her head back in front when overcoming a bit of trouble in running to win at Wolverhampton under Ali Rawlinson.

## NOVEMBER

### **Win Lose Draw bolts up**

They can sometimes win by a bit too far, and that's probably what happened when **Win Lose Draw** won by 6 lengths at Wolverhampton as the handicapper took a dim view and put him up 13lbs! The first time cheek pieces probably helped him that day and although it was a weak race, he bolted up in a decent time for the grade so can hopefully come back and win more races this winter for the Midest partnership. I've already mentioned that **Favorite Girl** was a significant winner for us when going in at Nottingham and she also went very close to winning over hurdles down at Ascot. **Blue Cliffs** was our other winner as he took a Southwell maiden in good style wearing the colours of Mrs Pinney. I've always felt that Blue Cliffs was a talented horse and was going to make up into a 90+ rated handicapper but unfortunately he was fatally injured at Newcastle on his next start.

## DECEMBER

### **Winners Worth Waiting For**

December was a pretty tough month but as I already mentioned, it was great to send out 3 winners in a day with our first runners from our new yard. **Mithqaal** was the first to score as he won well in the feature 7f handicap wearing the colours of The Horse Watchers, coping well enough with the drop in trip to win going away from Philba who ran a great race to finish second and give us the forecast! I expect Mithqaal to go on and improve further from here with a step back up in trip likely to suit so he's one to follow. The next 2 winners both carried the colours of Craig Buckingham and are again both worth following. Not too many horses race freely and manage to win at Southwell and **Western Prince** did exactly that and won easily. He's now won both his starts for the yard and should keep going the right way. **Come Back King** also won well, wearing the blinkers for the second time, he didn't have a handicap blot to deal with this time and saw his race out really well – a return to longer trips will suit.

WINNERS BY MONTH

MONTH	RUNNERS	WINNERS	STRIKE RATE
JAN	87	7	8.05
FEB	68	7	10.29
MAR	75	10	13.33
APR	66	8	12.12
MAY	79	5	6.33
JUN	78	11	14.1
JUL	57	5	8.77
AUG	67	6	8.96
SEP	68	5	7.35
OCT	70	3	4.29
NOV	54	3	5.56
DEC	55	3	5.45

TOP WINNING JOCKEYS

RANK	JOCKEY	RUNNERS	WINNERS	STRIKE RATE
1	Andrew Mullen	312	26	8.33
2	Ali Rawlinson	147	11	7.48
3	Ben Curtis	45	8	17.78
=4	Tim Clark	18	3	16.67
=4	George Buckell	24	3	12.50
=4	Liam Jones	28	3	10.71

TOP TRACKS

RANK	COURSE	RUNNERS	WINNERS	STRIKE RATE
1	Southwell	132	21	15.91
2	Wolverhampton	112	8	7.14
=3	Nottingham	49	6	12.24
=3	Chelmsford	101	6	5.94
5	Thirsk	19	5	26.32
6	Newmarket	24	4	16.67

TOP WINNING OWNERS

RANK	OWNER	RUNNERS	WINNERS	STRIKE RATE
1	Craig Buckingham	55	10	18.18
2	The Horse Watchers	33	6	18.18
3	Ferry Bank Properties	53	6	11.32
4	Tariq Al Nisf	24	5	20.83
5	Infinity Racing	37	4	10.81

2016 ROLL OF HONOUR

HORSE	WINS
Moon River	4
Supersta	3
Astra Hall	2
Katie Gale	2
Mr Red Clubs	2
Red Touch	2
Mithqaal	2
Rainbow Lad	2
Hijran	2
Western Prince	2
Palmerston	2
Ziggys Star	2
Weald Of Kent	2
City Ground	2
Guishan	2
Philba	2
Mujazif	1
Favorite Girl	1
Hakam	1
Eurystheus	1
Falcon's Reign	1
Lulu The Zulu	1
Luv U Whatever	1
Jacob'S Pillow	1
Kestrel Call	1
The Lock Master	1
Two Jabs	

HORSE	WINS
Tangerine Trees	1
Taysh	1
Win Lose Draw	1
Young Tom	1
Venus Grace	1
Viewpoint	1
Primo Time	1
Secret Clause	1
Our Greta	1
Powerfulstorm	1
Street Force	1
Tan Arabiq	1
Secret Lightning	1
Stars N Angels	1
Escalating	1
Case Key	1
Call Out Loud	1
Brigadoon	1
Demora	1
Come Back King	1
Christmas Hamper	1
Appleberry	1
Apache Storm	1
Amathyst	1
Brassbound	1
Blue Cliffs	1
Be Royale	1