



Mick Appleby  
RACING

# NEWSLETTER

## STABLE NEWS

### January - March 2017

Hello again and thanks for taking the time to look at our first newsletter of 2017.

When we sent out the last edition we'd only just moved to our new base near Oakham and after that fantastic start of sending out 3 winners on our first day from the new yard, I'm delighted to say that they have kept on flowing. At the end of March we've sent out more winners on the Flat than any other stable in 2017 with 31 on the board at a strike rate of 16%. That's 7 more winners than we managed during the same 3 month period last year and exactly the same number as we managed in those 3 months in 2015 when we went on to have our best ever year.

When any trainer moves yard there's always a concern as to how things will go as adapting to a different gallop and new facilities isn't always easy so it's a real relief that our horses and staff have coped so well.

Once again, thanks for taking the time to catch up with our latest news – hopefully you'll be able to follow plenty of winners from the yard in the next few months.

All the best.

*Mick*



PHOTO: AMY GREEN

## **Welcome Silvestre**

Having a top jockey on your side can be a huge advantage so I was delighted when Silvestre De Sousa accepted my offer to be our preferred rider for the coming season. Silvestre is a former champion jockey and proven world class rider with a wealth of big race experience and I've always been impressed with him when he's ridden for us in recent seasons. Not only is he a top rider, but he's hard-working, motivated by winners, provides helpful feedback and has agreed to come in once a week to ride work as well so he ticks all the boxes for me as a jockey. Things have started well and hopefully we can continue to team up with lots of winners.

## **A message from Silvestre**

Having introduced him as our new preferred rider, here's a short word from Silvestre.....  
"I'm really enjoying the new link up with Mick and though I won't be able to ride them all due to other commitments I'm pleased to be getting lots of rides for a yard that are on the up. I've been very impressed with the yard and enjoy going in to ride out so hopefully we'll team up with lots of winners and perhaps win a nice race or two along the way".

## **New owners room**

I've always encouraged owners to come into the yard to watch their horses on the gallops and discuss plans for them. For many people it's one of the big attractions of having a horse in training. To encourage as many people as possible to pay us a visit we've recently built a new owners room above the office at the front of the first barn. It will soon be finished and will be a great place to relax between lots and perhaps watch a replay of a recent winner!

## **Ali's countdown**

Whilst we've got Silvestre on side as our preferred rider, there'll be plenty of opportunities for other jockeys as well and I'll be looking to give Ali Rawlinson as many chances as I can. I've known Ali for a long time and he's a very good horseman who puts in a lot of hard work with the horses at home. He's taken his chances on the track very well of late and is riding better than ever as his claim steadily erodes. He has just 6 winners left on his 3lbs claim so will hopefully have ridden that out by the time we send out the next newsletter.

## **Open day**

Because the move was soon to take place we didn't have an open day last year but I'm really looking forward to welcoming our owners, their guests and anyone else who wants to have a look around our yard to our open day within the next few months. I'm hoping plenty of people will take the chance to have a look around our new facilities and meet the horses before seeing them exercise in the school and on the gallops. Keep an eye on our facebook and twitter pages for a confirmed date.



PHOTO: RICK KIRTON

## **Employee of the month**

The hard work of the staff shouldn't be underestimated so this year we decided to start awarding a prize for the Employee Of The Month. January's winner was Jonathan Elmslie who impressed with his continued hard work on the yard. Ali Rawlinson's dedication with the horses at home and success on the track led to him being February's winner before Vicki Harris was given the prize in April. Vicki is a hard-working and very experienced member of staff who has been a huge help since our move and she was a sure-fire winner of the award this month as she stepped up her responsibilities in the yard whilst Head Lad Niall was off sick. Once again, congratulations to all the winners and thank you to all the staff for their efforts.



APRIL EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH VICKI HARRIS

## **AW competition**

With the AW Championships almost complete it's nearly time for the conclusion of our AW Horses To Follow competition. Denis will tally up the final points tally after AW Finals Day on Good Friday and we'll let the winner know soon after.

## **Follow us**

Since the moving to our new yard we've looked to try and improve our communication to followers of the stable. Louise Jackson is now managing our new twitter feed (@MickApplebyUK) and our facebook page ([mickapplebyracing](https://www.facebook.com/mickapplebyracing)) so you can keep up to date with the latest news from the stable on social media. In addition Louise is on hand to look after owners who turn up to watch the horses on work mornings. Our website will hopefully be updated with pictures from the new yard pretty soon as well so keep an eye out for that.

## **Proform visit**

We recently had an enjoyable couple of days with our yard sponsor Simon who owns and runs Proform Racing. A number of Simon's subscribers joined him for a look around the stables and a morning on the gallops followed by lunch at the local pub. Everyone seemed to enjoy their day and plans for something similar during the summer are already been discussed.



JANUARY EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH  
JONATHAN ELMSLIE

## JANUARY

### ***Bringing home the Bacon***

Nine winners were chalked up in January and we got off to a flying start with **House Of Commons** landing the spoils at Southwell on New Year's Day in the colours of Colin Bacon. It was a good effort from horse and rider (Andrew Mullen) as they kept on in gutsy fashion and although he hasn't won in 3 subsequent starts, I expect him to have a good season on the turf. The yellow and purple colours were once again in the winners' enclosure later in the month as **Poyle Vinnie** romped home in the feature sprint handicap on the card under Ali Rawlinson on Jan 24th. It was an overdue success for Vinnie who had been a bit unlucky on a couple of occasions at Newcastle previously. He's now back up in the weights but can hopefully be competitive in top handicaps on the grass this summer.

**Ominotago** was able to continue the good start to the year when scooting home by 8 lengths in a fillies maiden at Southwell on Jan 2nd wearing the colours of Ian Hatton. She stays well and should make her mark in handicaps.

The Horse Watchers made a good start to the new year with early wins from **Hakam** (Chelmsford) and **Mithqaal** (Southwell) and though I was disappointed to say goodbye to **Mithqaal** after his win as he was sold to race in America I'm sure we'll have more fun with Hakam who was winning for the second time since joining the yard in August.

**Tan Arabiq** was another of our winners as he came home in front at Wolverhampton under Luke Morris while **Call Out Loud** showed signs of what was to come when scoring at Southwell a few days later. The month ended as it started with a couple of winners as **Alys Rock** came home in front at Sedgefield for our first jumps winner of the year (somewhat fortunately but we'll take it!) and **Favorite Girl** showed a great attitude to win at Wolverhampton under Ali Rawlinson for owner Terry Pryke.

## FEBRUARY

### *Classy Country one to follow*

13 winners from 57 runners meant that February was a month to savour and while there were several good performances from our horses the one that got me really excited was **Big Country** at Wolverhampton. It wasn't much of a maiden that he won but he stormed clear to win by an eased down 7 lengths in a decent time and looked like a good horse. He'd shown us plenty at home before that win and Luke Morris spoke highly of him after the race so it's not just me that rates him and I think he will win some good handicaps this year. **Big Country** carries the colours of The Horse Watchers who also had **Escalating** win at Southwell later in the month and he's another horse that I think will have a good season.

**Escalating** was the first leg of a treble on the card at Southwell as **Bounty Pursuit** and **The Lock Master** went on to win the next two races on the card to cap a great day for the yard. **Bounty Pursuit's** win looked unlikely for much of the race but he really pulled it out of the fire to come from a long way back and follow up a tidy win at Wolverhampton a couple of days earlier and continue a great start to the year for his owner Colin Bacon. **The Lock Master** is now in the veteran stages as a 10yo but showed he still has what it takes to win races when completing our treble in the colours of Ken Kitchen under Ali Rawlinson for a 16th career success – what a legend he is!

**Faithful Creek** was another winner for Colin Bacon as he showed a good attitude to hold off his challengers at Southwell and I think he's a horse who should do well on the turf this year. Ali Rawlinson was on board both **Bounty Pursuit** and **Faithful Creek** for those wins and continued his red-hot form when winning on **Call Out Loud** (Wolverhampton), **Afonso De Sousa** (Lingfield), **What Usain** (Kempton) and **Favorite Girl** who was able to follow up her January win with another success at Wolverhampton for Terry Pryke.

It's always nice to strike with horses on their first run for the yard and **Pick Of Any** (Wolverhampton) and **Toy Theatre** (Chelmsford) both managed to do that. I was especially impressed with **Toy Theatre** who won under Adam Kirby in the colours of Leon Vaessen and in doing so really increased her breeding potential as it was a first win for this well-bred daughter of Lonrho. **Dream Serenade** was another filly to break her maiden and I was especially pleased for her loyal and patient owners the Tykes And Terriers Racing Club.

## MARCH

### ***Loud lands his hat-trick***

10 winners from 70 runners in March meant our good run of form continued and two of those successes came from the resurgent **Call Out Loud** who had also come home in front in both January and February. The Kings Head Duffield Racing Partnership are his owners and I expect they'll get more wins out of him despite having gone up the weights for his recent back to back wins, which meant he won three on the bounce and four in total for the year. He's a straightforward horse who has been given some very good rides from the front by Ali Rawlinson and when the circumstances are right I think he can go in again.

Another horse to win again after a victory in February was **Toy Theatre** who is really improving now and bolted up under Silvestre De Sousa at Wolverhampton. The first winner of the month was also ridden by Silvestre who galvanised **Dusty Blue** to get up in a tight finish over 5f at Southwell.

Jane Elliott has been back riding for us a bit of late and got **Mr Red Clubs** home in front at Wolverhampton for Geoff and Ann Goodwin (Ferrybank Properties) while Serena Brotherton was among the winners as her recent purchase **Rainbow Lad** won easily at Southwell.

**Supersta** was another horse to win easily at Southwell as he tried the surface for the first time. It was a bit of an experiment to try him there as races just hadn't been going his way all winter and fortunately he seemed to love the surface. His mark has since been raised to 102 so he'll take his place on AW Finals Day over 1m before travelling to Sweden for the Listed Pramms Memorial in May.

Silvestre De Sousa was aboard Sta along with several of our other winners in February and got a good tune out of **Brigadoon** who bolted up by 10 lengths at Southwell in the colours of Nick Hoare and **Hannington** who won nicely at Chelmsford, gaining a first win since being purchased by From The Front Racing. He also rode **Secret Lightning** who won at Kempton for my racing club and has now won four races since she arrived at our stable from a Leicester seller.

WINNERS BY MONTH

MONTH	RUNNERS	WINNERS	STRIKE RATE
JAN	73	9	12.33
FEB	57	13	22.81
MAR	70	10	14.29

TOP WINNING JOCKEYS

RANK	JOCKEY	RUNNERS	WINNERS	STRIKE RATE
1	Ali Rawlinson	58	12	20.69
2	Silvestre De Sousa	27	6	22.22
3	Luke Morris	22	5	22.73
4	Andrew Mullen	22	2	9.09

TOP TRACKS

RANK	COURSE	RUNNERS	WINNERS	STRIKE RATE
1	Southwell	65	13	20
2	Wolverhampton	74	12	16.22
3	Chelmsford	21	3	14.29
4	Kempton	11	2	18.18

TOP WINNING OWNERS

RANK	OWNER	RUNNERS	WINNERS	STRIKE RATE
1	Colin Bacon	16	5	31.25
2	Kings Head Duffield Racing Partnership	9	4	44.44
3	The Horse Watchers	11	4	36.36

2017 ROLL OF HONOUR

<b>HORSE</b>	<b>WINS</b>
Call Out Loud	4
Favorite Girl	2
Toy Theatre	2
Bounty Pursuit	2
Dusty Blue	1
Pick Of Any	1
Escalating	1
Ominotago	1
Secret Lightning	1
Dream Serenade	1
Rainbow Lad	1
Poyle Vinnie	1
Hakam	1
Faithful Creek	1
House Of Commons	1
Hannington	1
Mithqaal	1
Brigadoon	1
What Usain	1
Mr Red Clubs	1
Big Country	1
Supersta	1
Afonso De Sousa	1
Tan Arabiq	1
Alys Rock	1
The Lock Master	1