

PANZA JOINS WRITERS' ROOM TO TALK BELMONT, SARATOGA, LIFE IN THE COVID EPICENTER



Click above to watch the TDN Writers' Room with Martin Panza

by Joe Bianca

As the racing world mostly returned to order last week with the reopening of Santa Anita and Churchill and dates for two-thirds of the rescheduled Triple Crown being locked in, eyes turned to the New York Racing Association. Located in the epicenter of the world's coronavirus pandemic, NYRA hasn't run a race card since Mar. 15 at Aqueduct, and has remained in limbo like much of the state as the virus peaked, then slowly--painfully slowly--retreated.

But with **Governor Andrew Cuomo's proclamation** that racing could resume in New York beginning June 1, the door was opened for the flood of announcements that came from NYRA this week: Belmont Park will **reopen for racing June 3**, with a condensed and reduced stakes schedule headlined by the **nine-furlong GI Belmont S. June 20**. Wednesday morning, NYRA's vice president of racing operations, Martin Panza, joined the *TDN Writers' Room* **presented by Keeneland** for a 30-plus-minute interview to answer all the questions of the day on racing in the Empire State.

Cont. p3

THE 'PEP' BACK 'IN THE STEP' OF SANTA ANITA by Dan Ross

California is an island, they say. Well, for the past few years, it sure has felt as though the industry in the state has been left to circle the choppy waters surrounding this island in a leaky vessel. At times, these leaks have threatened to submerge the boat completely--like the Santa Anita welfare crisis that erupted last spring which led to a sweeping set of reforms that have **improved safety but pushed some cash-strapped operators** further along the financial gang-plank.

At other times, stormy seas have proven galvanizing, bringing this industry's motley crew together with saucepans and buckets to scoop out incoming waters. Think back to the San Luis Rey Downs fire of 2018, and the outpouring of helping hands and dollars in response to that disaster's wicked toll. **Cont. p5**

IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

DEAUVILLE GAINS FRENCH GUINEAS

Deauville gains both the G1 French 2000 Guineas and G1 French 1000 Guineas, as the coronavirus lockdown forces all French racing out of the 'red zone' and in the country's 'green zones'. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Europe.](#)



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Throwback Thursday. The iconic trio of Vincent O'Brien, Robert Sangster and John Magnier pictured at Keeneland in 1985. | Keeneland Library Thoroughbred Times Collection/Bill Strauss

STARSHIP JUBILEE NAMED CANADIAN HOY

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Blue Heaven Farm's Starship Jubilee (Indy Wind) took home the night's top honor at a virtually held Sovereign Awards ceremony Tuesday night. Canada's championship awards were originally scheduled for Apr. 20, but were delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic and later switched to a virtual event.

CODE OF HONOR TO RETURN IN WESTCHESTER

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Writers' Room cont. from p1

Calling in via Zoom as the **Green Group Guest of the Week**, Panza talked about, among other things, the significance of returning the sport to COVID-battered New York City, whether or not a Saratoga meet is still in the cards, and what the last two months have been like as NYRA adapted to meet the ever-shifting demands of a pandemic.

Asked about why the Belmont was slated for June 20, a date that is months before the next Triple Crown race, Panza said, "Obviously, when Churchill let us know that they were moving the Derby to Sept. 5, it caught us off guard, and it was tricky because you're working with NBC. Are there TV windows available? We started to make phone calls and talk to the tracks that have major 3-year-old races and tried to start to place them on a calendar in front of us. With [the Preakness] going Oct. 3, we didn't really want to run the Belmont Stakes up against the Breeders' Cup and maybe against football. Our board, our racing committee looked and said, 'Listen, there's really nothing in June. Why don't we try to run it in June? We're probably going to be spectator-free for the rest of the year, let's try to help that [3-year-old] category by racing in June.' You've got the Arkansas Derby that was run May 2. You've got the Matt Winn coming up this weekend. You've got the Indiana Derby July 8. The Haskell is July 18. I believe that Keeneland is mulling running the Blue Grass July 11. So it made sense, June 20, June 27. We ended up on June 20 with NBC. There is a three-hour window there."

As for why the race was cut back from 1 1/2 miles to nine furlongs, Panza emphasized that attempt at cooperation with the rest of the 3-year-old calendar, saying, "It didn't make a lot of sense with horses having not run for several months to run the Belmont this year at 1 1/2 miles. I'm a big believer in long-distance racing. We've always tried to offer longer races in New York, so I get the tradition of the Belmont. For this year though with the pandemic, everything has changed.

"We're just trying to set up a pattern of races for the 3-year-olds that will get them to the Breeders' Cup in an orderly fashion where a guy can run a horse every month or every five weeks. We have been talking with Churchill and Keeneland and Monmouth Park and California trying to coordinate that. It doesn't always happen exactly the way we want it, but we're getting pretty close."

The conversation soon pivoted to Saratoga, scheduled to open in less than two months without fans. Panza was asked about why NYRA remains committed to racing at Saratoga despite the lack of spectators, as opposed to staying south at Belmont for this summer, and said there is a sense of obligation to the town of Saratoga Springs. He also stressed the safety protocols that will need to be in place if the Belmont backstretch is relocated upstate. **Cont. p4**



HONOR CODE

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Writers' Room cont.

“Saratoga Race Course is a big part of that community, and whether there's fans there or if it's just the racing people or hopefully owners as well, we're going to do everything we can to try and help that town,” he said. “We're working on the protocols. We've been working with the gaming commission, so we're close to getting the Oklahoma training track open, and we've been working with the health department up there to make sure they're comfortable, that everyone that comes up there will be tested for the virus and that either you've got a negative test or you've got an antibody test before you arrive up there.

“We want to keep our horsemen healthy, but we also want to make the town feel comfortable that we're being responsible. That town needs us. The restaurants, the hotels, whether it's just the horsemen and some owners, or whether we're allowed to have some fans, a lot of businesses in that town rely on that race meet to make it through the year.”

Panza also discussed potentially moving the GI Runhappy Travers S., the Saratoga meet centerpiece traditionally run at the end of August, so as not to conflict with the Sept. 5 Kentucky Derby. He said that a move of the Midsummer Derby is likely, but expressed frustration about ongoing discussions with Churchill Downs that need to be resolved before NYRA can put together a Saratoga calendar.

“We're talking with Churchill Downs and we've been waiting for their schedule of what they're trying to do,” he said. “I think they've been working with Kentucky Downs and we're waiting for them to get schedules to us. There's a few races that would probably cause Saratoga a problem. So we're open to perhaps moving the Travers or the Alabama, but we need them to work with us. This can't just be a one-way street. We've been talking for the last three or four weeks and hopefully in the next week or so we can get that ironed out and put a schedule together for the entire Saratoga meet.



Attendees watch the 2019 Runhappy Travers | Coglianese

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“We're also trying to buy a little bit of time to see if our casino gets up and running at any time. We're going to do everything we can to try and keep a Grade I each week of the race meet, but there's different scenarios out there right now. So I'm not going to say the Travers and Alabama are moving yet. We think they will, but we need Churchill to work with us on some other issues.”

Nowhere in America has the coronavirus shaken up normal life more than in New York City, where there have been hundreds of thousands of positive cases leading to an absolutely staggering death toll. Panza reflected on the challenges that have been presented to NYRA that required efforts far beyond the normal job duties of racing officials, particularly when Belmont was handed an outbreak of its own on the backstretch.

“I think for probably the last six weeks, I haven't been a racing executive,” he said. “I've now learned about county health departments, how to test for a virus, how to do antibody tests, where I can find registered nurses to help us, how to set up isolation cottages, how to get people fed that are in isolation. Chaplain Umberto [Chavez] has done a tremendous job, the Backstretch Employees Service Team, [NYTHA president] Joe Appelbaum.

Podcast Recap cont.

“We've all really sort of come together as a team just to try and help our backstretch employees get through this situation and NYRA employees get through it and try to stay healthy. And when they're not healthy, try to get them the help they need. A lot of them do not have health insurance and it's trying to help them. If they've been laid off, trying to help them get onto unemployment. If they can't get unemployment, it's making sure they have a house over their head, making sure that if they need to see a doctor, they can.”

“It's been challenging at times and it's been frustrating, especially in New York. We're the Wuhan of the [American outbreak of the] virus. And for a while there, testing wasn't available, and it was very hard to get to a doctor. Just trying to find safety masks, the first three weeks or month. So you're calling all over the place, trying to find people that we could buy 25,000 masks from. So the job changed from a racing executive to a sort of healthcare official and we shifted gears into, who can we reach out to? Where can we get help? And that's not going to go away anytime soon.”

Elsewhere on the podcast, in the **West Point News of the Week** segment, the writers recapped the first major cross-country weekend of racing in months, which included the triumphant return of champion Monomoy Girl (Tapizar), and

touched on some tracks who are still struggling, including Parx and Woodbine. [Click here](#) to listen to the show, and [click here](#) to watch it on Vimeo.

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Santa Anita cont. from p1

It's fair to say this global pandemic couldn't have darkened the skies at any worse time for the industry here, heightening those existential fears that are **ever present in many minds**. It's no surprise, then, that the resumption of racing this past weekend--and with it, the kick-starting of the economic engines--has had something of a rallying effect.

“People have had a pep in their step the last couple of days training in the morning,” said Don Chatlos Monday morning.

The trainer regards himself as one of the luckier ones during the near two-month suspension of live racing.

“I'm in the fortunate position that I'm in a private job for [owner Larry Best], so, the stress of not racing wasn't as bad for me as it was for guys with 20 different owners,” he said. That, and the uncertainty.

“You have an end game now--you're actually training for something,” he added.

Cont. p6



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Santa Anita cont.

"I'm just really proud of everyone in Southern California, stepping up the way that they did," Chatlos said. "No negativity--nobody was complaining about the protocols. Everybody was just ready to go, and as it happens, it was a good weekend."



Don Chatlos | Sarah Andrew

Few had a better weekend than Mike Smith (unless your name happens to be Flavien Prat). Smith walked away with four victories next to his name, including a win in the Evening Jewel S. on Jeff Bonde's Smiling Shirlee.

"Everything worked out much better than we could have even asked for, to be honest with you," Smith said, of the protocols put in place--a veritable game of equine hot potatoes--to keep the backstretch community separate from those on the front side. "Everybody did a great job."

Part of these new procedures included the creation of a "restricted zone" for the valets and jockeys--what amounted to a little trailer village, two people to each, a different meal delivered each night from a different local restaurant.

"Doing our bit to help local businesses," Smith said. "We were allowed into this room, it's called the 100 to 1 club, and it overlooks the racetrack," Smith added, of the evening activities. "At night it's gorgeous, with the lights--so pretty. Just nice to sit up there and relax."

The weekend could have looked very different for assistant starter, Mike Sherlock, had quarantine restrictions for the valets and jocks similarly applied to the gate crew--an idea floated as the final set of protocols were being nailed down.

"That was my biggest worry," said Sherlock. "I work Santa Anita and I work Los Al[amitos] at night. My wife is pregnant again, I have a 2-year-old child, and I have a carrot business. For me, I wouldn't have worked, truthfully."

Cont. p7

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NTRA REPORT FROM CAPITOL HILL

Santa Anita cont.

Those worries didn't come to fruition, of course, and in the end, the practicalities of his job changed very little, he said. Sure, between races each went to their individual cars.

"No hanging around together," he said. Rather, the biggest change constituted a glaring absence in the shape of a septuagenarian who's been part of the Santa Anita furniture since Eisenhower was in the Oval Office.



A masked Mike Smith aboard
Evening Jewel S. winner Smiling Shirlee | *Benoit*

"Huey Barnes has not been back to work yet. He's not one to risk," Sherlock said, alluding to the assistant starter's age (86), and his increased vulnerability to Covid-19. "But oh yeah, it was nice to be back--for everybody."

All of which leads to this question: what kind of political balancing act did it take to get the show back on the road?

"Oh mate, at the end of the day, it was pretty precarious," said Aidan Butler, executive director of California Racing Operations for The Stronach Group, zeroing in on the no-man's-land between the day Santa Anita announced that racing would resume May 15, and the official go-ahead from LA County. During that window, of course, officials extended the **county's stay-at-home order**, casting a pall of doubt over the resumption of live racing on the proposed date.

"It was brutal because I'm trying to keep everybody motivated on our side," Butler said, describing daily talks with LA County Supervisor Kathryn Barger's office. And the pressure went both ways--indeed, Barger faced the potential loss of political capital reopening the track for live racing when other industries in the County remain shuttered, Butler explained.

"I can't speak highly enough of Supervisor Barger's office and her chief of staff--they were really, really good with us," he added. "Not just with us, the industry."

And now? "Never seen such a positive bunch of people in my life walking around the backside," Butler replied. "I'm enjoying it while it lasts!"

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STARSHIP JUBILEE NAMED CANADIAN HOY



Starship Jubilee | *Lauren King*

Blue Heaven Farm's **Starship Jubilee** (Indy Wind) took home the night's top honor at a virtually held Sovereign Awards ceremony Tuesday night. Canada's championship awards were originally scheduled for Apr. 20, but were delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic and later switched to a virtual event.

Trained by Kevin Attard, Starship Jubilee was named both Horse of the Year and Champion Female Turf Horse. She won three of her seven starts, including the GI E.P. Taylor S. and GII Canadian S.

GI Ricoh Woodbine Mile victor **El Tormenta** (Stormy Atlantic) took home the honor of top male horse.

Cont. p8

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Sovereign Awards cont.

Fan favorite **Pink Lloyd** (Old Forester), runner-up in the HOY category, was named champion older main-track male and champion male sprinter after a perfect six-for-six season topped by wins in the GII Kennedy Road S. and GIII Vigil S.

GIII Ballerina S. heroine **Here's Hannah** (Numaany) earned the title of champion older main-track female after capturing five of six starts this term. **Summer Sunday** (Silent Name {Jpn}), a dual graded winner this term, won a Sovereign Award for leading female sprinter.

Live Oak homebred **Global Access** (Giant's Causeway) was named the year's champion 3-year-old male after a trio of Grade III victories. Sam-Son homebred '**TDN Rising Star**' **Desert Ride** (Candy Ride {Arg}) topped the 3-year-old female category with four wins from seven starts, highlighted by the Woodbine Oaks and Wonder Where S.

GIII Mazarine S. victress **Curlin's Voyage** (Curlin) was named 2019's leading juvenile filly and **Mr. Hustle** (Declaration of War) took home top honors in the 2-year-old male category with two stakes wins last season.

Sam-Son Farm was named outstanding owner and outstanding breeder due to the exploits of their homebreds El Tormenta and Desert Ride. Sam-Son colorbearers won 13 races, including five stakes, and earned over \$2-million. Meanwhile, horses they bred captured 28 races for over \$3.2-million in earnings in 2019.

Canadian Hall of Famer Mark Casse, who is soon to enter the American Hall of Fame, won his 11th Sovereign Award for outstanding trainer. His trainees won 92 races in Canada last season, 12 of which were stakes, and earned over \$5.1 million. Recently retired rider Eurico Da Silva secured his sixth outstanding jockey title with 183 wins--19 of those coming in stakes--and over \$7.4 million in earnings. He was the regular partner of two-time Sovereign Award winner Pink Lloyd. Kazushi Kimura, who won the Eclipse Award for leading apprentice in America, also took home the same honor in Canada with 117 victories and over \$3.7-million in earnings.

Anderson Farm's **Loving Vindication** (Vindication) was named outstanding broodmare after being a finalist in the category on multiple occasions. Her daughter Wonder Gadot (Medaglia d'Oro) is a three-time Sovereign Award winner, including 2018 Horse of the Year. Her now-4-year-old daughter Hard Not to Love (Hard Spun) captured the GI La Brea S. last term and her first foal is stakes winner Solemn Tribute (Medaglia d'Oro).

The E.P. Taylor Award of Merit went to owner/breeder Charles Fipke, a Canadian native who stands several stallions in the country. He has bred and raced the likes of Canadian champion Perfect Soul (Ire), his Breeders' Cup-winning daughter Perfect Shirl and American champion Forever Unbridled.

The Special Sovereign Award went to Harvey Warner, who was a major player in the revival of Assiniboia Downs and horse racing in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Warner led the group that formed the Manitoba Jockey Club to purchase Assiniboia Downs in 1994 when it went into receivership. He has worked tirelessly for racing in Manitoba and is a Jockey Club of Canada Steward.

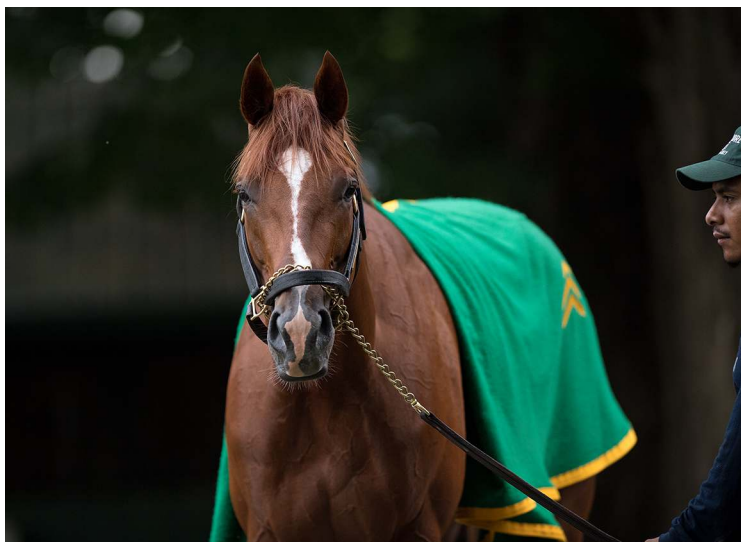
Michael Williams, known as Fuzzy, a longtime favorite on the Canadian backstretch, won the outstanding groom award. Also, Paul Shurman was named 2019's outstanding handicapper.

Outstanding photograph went to Michael Bye and the outstanding digital audio/visual and broadcast was won by Woodbine Entertainment for *The Queen's Plate*. The award for outstanding writing was granted to Dave Briggs for "Royal Victory for the Quintessential 'Small Guy,'" which was published in *Canadian Thoroughbred Magazine*.

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CODE OF HONOR TO RETURN IN WESTCHESTER *by Steve Sherack*



Code of Honor | Sarah Andrew

Code of Honor (Noble Mission {GB}), an Eclipse Award finalist for champion 3-year-old male in 2019, is targeting the GIII Westchester S. for his return on opening weekend at Belmont Park June 6.

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Code of Honor cont.

The dominating GI Runhappy Travers S. hero has post five workouts at Hall of Famer Shug McGaughey's Payson Park base in Florida this spring dating back to mid-April. He is currently in training with McGaughey at Belmont Park.

"He went five-eighths in 1:01 and change the other day [at Payson May 17]," McGaughey said. "He was a young 3-year-old-- we gave him some time off and he's grown up now. I'm pleased with the way he's doing, how he looks and the way he's trained. He got to New York in good shape and I'm looking forward to getting him going."

The W.S. Farish homebred was placed first via disqualification over Vino Rosso (Curlin) in a controversial renewal of the GI Jockey Club Gold Cup S. at Belmont Sept. 28. He was last seen finishing a well-beaten seventh behind that rival in the GI Breeders' Cup Classic at Santa Anita Nov. 2.

"I don't think he liked it," McGaughey said of the Santa Anita surface. "I was very disappointed in the track out there. I'm not saying that or making excuses because we got beat by any means. The best horse won and hat's off to him."

Code of Honor's sophomore campaign also included wins in the GII Xpressbet Fountain of Youth S. at Gulfstream and Gill Dwyer S. at Belmont. He was elevated to second after crossing the line third following the disqualification of Maximum Security (New Year's Day) in the GI Kentucky Derby.

McGaughey added that Code of Honor will target either the GI Runhappy Metropolitan Mile S. or GII Suburban H. at 1 1/4 miles later this summer. Both races are slated for Belmont's loaded July 4 program.

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F-T MIDLANTIC FALL YEARLINGS SALE AND OBS OCTOBER SALE TO SWITCH DATES

Fasig-Tipton and Ocala Breeders' Sales Company have come to an agreement to switch dates for the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Fall Yearlings Sale and OBS October Yearlings Sale.

Fasig-Tipton's sale will now be held Monday and Tuesday, Oct. 5-6, in Timonium, Maryland to coincide with the rescheduled GI Preakness S. in nearby Baltimore. The sale had previously been scheduled for Oct. 12-13.

OBS will now conduct its Selected Yearlings Sale Oct. 13 and its Open Yearlings Sale Oct. 14-15 at its Ocala, Florida facility. OBS's two yearlings sales were originally slated for October 6-8.

"We're pleased to be able to work with OBS to adjust the dates of our respective yearling sales," said Fasig-Tipton President Boyd Browning. "With the Preakness S. now being held on Oct. 3, it will benefit both of our customers to be positioned closely to one of America's most important horse races. Traditionally, our spring Midlantic 2-Year-Olds in Training Sale is

held around the Preakness, and that model has worked very well for us through the years."



Timonium sales ring | Fasig-Tipton Photo

OBS President Tom Ventura commented: "The swapping of the yearling sale dates makes sense for OBS and Fasig-Tipton as the change allows both companies to better serve our buyers and sellers. While we are competitive, it is important for us to shift gears in a way that helps industry participants as we react to the racing and sales calendar being turned upside down. Thankfully, racing is gearing up throughout the country."

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EXTRA DATES APPROVED FOR TAMPA

Tampa Bay Downs has added eight dates in June to its 2019-2020 Thoroughbred racing calendar after its request was approved by the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation.

The track will conduct racing in June on Mondays and Wednesdays: June 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22 and 24. Spectators will not be allowed, nor will they be permitted to attend the track's annual two-day Summer Festival of Racing June 30 and July 1.

Tampa Bay Downs is racing on a Wednesday-Friday-Saturday schedule through May 30. Management expects the additional dates will help ease the financial hardship felt by many horsemen during the ongoing COVID-19 (coronavirus) crisis.

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MD HORSEMEN QUESTION WISDOM OF PREAKNESS PURSE PAYMENT



Tim Keefe | MJC

by Bill Finley

Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association President Tim Keefe said it may be "unrealistic" for the local purse account to pay for the \$1.5-million Preakness and the several stakes that are held in support of the Preakness.

In a statement issued Tuesday, Keefe said he has become increasingly concerned about the amount of purse money that is available for racing at Pimlico and Laurel. There has been no racing in Maryland since Mar. 15, but the bigger problem is that the state's casinos also shut down on that date. According to Keefe, nearly 70% of Maryland's purse money comes from casino revenues.

The horsemen have said they have been hoping that a resumption of racing would mean that the purse account would get a boost from betting handle, but, so far, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan has not given the go-ahead for the tracks to reopen. Hogan appeared on national television Saturday to announce that the GI Preakness S. would be run Oct. 3, but made no mention of when racing would resume.

The horsemen do have a cushion, a \$3.2-million surplus in the purse account, that can be dipped into once racing resumes, but Keefe said he feared that the money will not last as it will be needed to keep purses near the levels they were at prior to Laurel shutting down.

In 2019, the Preakness purse was \$1.5 million and eight other stakes on the card were worth \$1.1 million. On the Friday before the Preakness, there were seven stakes worth a total of \$1.15 million. The majority of the purses from those stakes is normally won by non-Maryland trainers.

"Without the ability to replenish itself and generate additional revenue from live racing, it may be unrealistic for the Purse

Account to fund the Preakness and its expensive supporting race card that benefits out-of-state horsemen to the exclusion of a struggling Maryland racing community," Keefe said in the statement.

In a follow-up interview with the *TDN*, Keefe restated what he sees as a need to support local horsemen.

"We've all gone through a lot of hardships this year and it's just implausible to think we're going to have the amount of money we usually have around the time we run the Preakness and the rest of those big stakes," he said. "Who knows what is going to happen? I can't predict that. But it has been a difficult time for all of us in Maryland, as it has been everywhere. My opinion is we need to concentrate on those Maryland horsemen who have been struggling. The casinos aren't open and we are not realizing any revenue. We have the \$3.2 million in there now to get us going, but the casinos certainly aren't going to be up and running at full capacity like they were before the shutdown. There are a lot of unknowns."

The Maryland Jockey Club has yet to announce the purse for this year's Preakness or what the lineup of supporting stakes may look like. Also faced with a loss of casino revenues, NYRA cut the purse for this year's GI Belmont S. from \$1.5 million to \$1 million. It also cut the purses of most stakes on the Belmont spring schedule, which was announced Tuesday.

When asked if the horsemen had any control over how purses are allotted at Laurel and Pimlico or whether or not they had any say over how purses are distributed for Preakness week stakes, Keefe declined to comment.

In anticipation of reopening, Laurel has issued a condition book. There are no stakes scheduled and only slight cuts to overnight purses.

For now, Keefe said he was hoping for a quick resumption of racing, which could ease fears about the dwindling purse account.

"We were hoping we were going to be up and running by middle of this month," he said. "There were other jurisdictions that hadn't opened yet and the ones who were running were realizing huge handles. When we didn't run the 15th, 16th and 17th, we thought we'd be open for the Memorial Day weekend and would have a big weekend. That isn't going to happen. We need to get open and running ASAP. We can't figure out what the delay is."

Keefe added that there are expectations that Hogan may make an announcement regarding racing next week.

"He's apparently supposed to say something Wednesday as to what the next steps are," Keefe said. "We're hopeful he will announce something then. But we were hoping for that last Wednesday and, instead, this just keeps dragging on and on."

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WOODBINE RELEASES REST OF REVISED STAKES SCHEDULE

Having **already announced** that the Queen's Plate would be held Sept. 12, Woodbine Entertainment released the remainder of the Woodbine Racetrack stakes schedule Wednesday. Featuring 75 stakes worth C\$13.8 million, highlights include the C\$1-million GI Ricoh Woodbine Mile, slated for Saturday, Sept. 19 and a "Win and You're In" qualifier for the GI Breeders' Cup Mile. Due to complications with travel due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the GI Pattison Canadian International has been cancelled for 2020. The meet will open on Saturday, June 6 and end Sunday, Dec. 13.

"It's been an unprecedented year which has led to a unique stakes schedule that we are very excited about," said Jim Lawson, CEO, Woodbine Entertainment. "The summer stakes schedule will build the anticipation for a very busy and exciting fall at Woodbine Racetrack highlighted by the running of our two biggest stakes races on back-to-back Saturdays."

[Click here](#) for the complete schedule.

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HBPB AIMS FOR PENN NATIONAL TO OPEN BEFORE CASINO AT SAME PURSE LEVELS

by T.D. Thornton

The Pennsylvania Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (PHBPA) has agreed in principle with the management of Penn National to resume spectator-free racing at the track prior to the opening of Hollywood Casino if Governor Tom Wolf gives approval.

"When racing resumes, our board is committed to maintaining the same daily purse structure," Todd Mostoller, the PHBPA's executive director, wrote in a one-page memo to members issued Wednesday afternoon. "The number of days raced will be adjusted as needed."

Mostoller added that he has received assurance from the governor's office that a meeting will take place with the PHBPA in the next several days. "We are simply waiting to hear from the governor's scheduler," he wrote.

"A resolution was approved by our board to pay for morning training at Penn National through June 30 under the current five-day-a-week schedule," Mostoller wrote. "We are inquiring about the increased cost of bringing back the gate crew several mornings each week to facilitate 2-year-old training."

For both Penn National and Presque Isle Downs, the PHBPA also approved a waiver-claiming rule for horses that have not raced in 90 days. The board also passed a resolution giving entry preference to horses stabled on the backside.

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AMERICA'S DAY AT THE RACES TO AIR CHURCHILL MEET ON FS1

America's Day at the Races, produced by the New York Racing Association Inc. in partnership with FOX Sports, will be the exclusive broadcast platform of the 26-day Churchill Downs spring meet, which continues through June 27.

The coverage, which will air this week on FS1/FS2 from Thursday through Monday, will offer 30 hours of coverage from Churchill Downs and Tampa Bay Downs. America's Day at the Races also returns to NYRA's regional platform, MSG+. Saturday's programming will also include Talking Horses, hosted by Andy Serling, with a special half-hour edition beginning at 12:30 p.m. EDT on FS2. This week's America's Day at the Races broadcast will be highlighted by Saturday's Stephen Foster Preview Day at Churchill Downs. The card features five stakes races, including the GIII Matt Winn S., offering 50-20-10-5 Kentucky Derby qualifying points to the top-four finishers.

WEEKEND SCHEDULE: (All times Eastern)

Thursday, May 21 - 1:00 - 6:00 p.m. (FS2)

Friday, May 22 - 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. (FS2) & 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. (FS2)

Saturday, May 23 - 12:30 - 1:00 Talking Horses (FS2) & 1:00 - 2:30 (FS2) & 2:30 - 6:30 (FS1)

Sunday, May 24 - 1:00 - 3:30 (FS2) & 3:30 - 6:00 (FS1)

Monday, May 25 (Memorial Day) - 1:00 - 6:00 (FS2)

For the complete America's Day at the Races schedule, visit <https://www.nyra.com/belmont/racing/tv-schedule>.

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1/ST NAMED BEST SPORTS WEBSITE AT WEBBY AWARDS

The 1/ST website, developed by DeepSleep Studio, was named the Best Sports Website at the 24th Annual Webby Awards (WFH: Webbys From Home) Tuesday afternoon. The Webby Awards, presented by the International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences (IADAS), is an international award organization which honors excellence on the Internet. 1/ST is The Stronach Group's consumer-facing brand.

"DeepSleep Studio's development of the 1/ST website has set the standard for innovation and creativity on the Internet," said Claire Graves, Executive Director of The Webby Awards. "This award is a testament to the skill, ingenuity, and vision of its creators." **Cont. p12**

1/ST cont.

A complete rundown of winners for The Webby Awards can be found at winners.webbyawards.com.

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ASSINIBOIA DOWNS FIRST TO OPEN IN CANADA

Assiniboia Downs will be the first track in Canada to resume live racing with no spectators Monday night. They will run Monday through Wednesday with first post at 7:30 p.m.

The track is offering \$20 in free wagers when players launch their accounts. Players can sign up for an account at HPIbet.com or by phoning 204-885-3330 ext. 225.

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NHC TOUR \$10K SUMMER CHALLENGE KICKS OFF MAY 29

The second NHC Tour \$10,000 Summer Challenge, a bonus challenge that rewards participants who accumulate the most NHC Tour points on HorsePlayers.com over a three-month period, will kick off Friday, May 29. The NHC Summer Challenge will consist of 40 direct qualifiers into the 2021 \$3-million estimated National Horseplayers Championship as well as low-priced feeders starting at \$15. The top finisher in the Challenge will win \$4,000, with second through fifth-place dividing the remaining prize pool (2nd-\$2,500; 3rd-\$2,000; 4th-\$1,000; and 5th-\$500).

There will be three dates on the Summer Challenge schedule offering five NHC qualifiers at a 20% lower ratio than the traditional pricing offered on NHC contests held on HorsePlayers.com. Visit ntra.com/nhc/ for the schedule.

In addition to the \$10,000 Summer Challenge prize, this year's NHC Tour prize pool will award \$340,000 in cash prizes and \$15,000 to first-time NHC Tour members. The winner of the 2020 NHC Tour will be eligible for a \$5-million bonus if he or she were to win the 2021 NHC.

Participants must join the NHC Tour (\$50) to be eligible for NHC Tour prizes and to be eligible to participate in the NHC.

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Saturday, Churchill Downs, post time: 5:44 p.m. EDT

MATT WINN S.-GIII, \$150,000, 3yo, 1 1/16m

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Mystic Guide	Ghostzapper	Godolphin, LLC	Stidham	Hernandez, Jr.	118
2	Pneumatic	Uncle Mo	Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC	Asmussen	Santana, Jr.	118
3	Informative 	Bodemeister	Trin-Brook Stables, Inc.	St. Lewis	Bisono	118
4	Celtic Striker 	Congrats	Imperial Racing, LLC	Handal	Franco	118
5	Flap Jack	Oxbow	Calumet Farm	Sisterson	Bejarano	118
6	Ny Traffic	Cross Traffic	Fanelli, John, Cash is King LLC, LC Racing and Braverman, Paul	Joseph, Jr.	Lopez	118
7	Necker Island 	Hard Spun	Sagamore Farm LLC and Hough, Stanley M.	Hough	Gaffalione	118
8	Crypto Cash	Majesticperfection	Lewis, Tommie M. and Magdalena Racing	McPeck	Lanerie	118
9	Shake Some Action 	Into Mischief	Rupp Racing	Cox	Castellano	118
10	Maxfield	Street Sense	Godolphin, LLC	Walsh	Ortiz	123
11	Attachment Rate 	Hard Spun	Bakke, Jim and Isbister, Gerald	Romans	Velazquez	118
12	Major Fed	Ghostzapper	Lloyd Madison Farms, IV LLC	Foley	Rosario	118

Breeders: 1-Godolphin, 2-Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC, 3-Rose Hill Farm & John Trumbulovic, 4-Stoneview Farm Inc. & Craig D. Upham, 5-Calumet Farm, 6-Brian Culnan, 7-Stonestreet Thoroughbred Holdings LLC, 8-D.J. Stables, 9-Edgar Scott Jr. & Jane MacElree, 10-Godolphin, 11-Mr. & Mrs. C. Oliver Iselin III, 12-Lloyd Madison IV, LLC



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Cumulative Lifetime Active Sires

for stallions standing in North America through Tuesday, May 19

Earnings represent worldwide figures, stud fees listed are 2020 fees.

Rank	Stallion	BTW	BTH	GSW	GSH	G1SW	G1SH	Starters	Wnrs	Highest Earner	Earnings
1	Tapit (2001) by Pulpit FYR: 2006 Crops: 13	132	257	81	160	25	52	1117	833	4,791,677	155,197,228
										Testa Matta	
2	Distorted Humor (1993) by Forty Niner FYR: 2000 Crops: 19	149	264	62	119	16	34	1283	979	3,728,170	136,701,341
										Drosselmeyer	
3	Malibu Moon (1997) by A.P. Indy FYR: 2001 Crops: 18	120	226	48	105	17	36	1461	1071	2,612,516	124,583,079
										Orb	
4	More Than Ready (1997) by Southern Halo FYR: 2002 Crops: 17	118	224	45	94	10	27	1434	1051	3,139,765	119,452,013
										Roy H	
5	Medaglia d'Oro (1999) by El Prado (Ire) FYR: 2006 Crops: 13	115	190	58	109	21	44	1048	673	4,692,000	119,054,963
										Songbird	
6	Tale of the Cat (1994) by Storm Cat FYR: 2000 Crops: 19	81	183	29	66	7	21	1520	1139	6,169,800	118,513,641
										Gio Ponti	
7	Speightstown (1998) by Gone West FYR: 2006 Crops: 13	110	172	51	90	17	36	909	703	3,015,454	110,453,120
										Mozu Superflare	
8	Candy Ride (Arg) (1999) by Ride the Rails FYR: 2006 Crops: 13	86	142	43	78	15	33	1002	719	15,988,500	109,656,604
										Gun Runner	
9	Kitten's Joy (2001) by El Prado (Ire) FYR: 2007 Crops: 12	98	176	47	93	14	33	1158	829	4,777,480	109,301,093
										Hawkbill	
10	Stormy Atlantic (1994) by Storm Cat FYR: 2000 Crops: 19	102	174	41	70	7	20	1268	921	2,212,580	95,821,587
										Stormy Liberal	
11	Lemon Drop Kid (1996) by Kingmambo FYR: 2002 Crops: 17	95	183	46	98	9	26	1191	850	2,532,945	93,137,625
										Beach Patrol	
12	Tiznow (1997) by Cee's Tizzy FYR: 2003 Crops: 16	77	148	43	75	14	29	1136	734	5,179,803	90,988,822
										Well Armed	
13	Fusaichi Pegasus (1997) by Mr. Prospector FYR: 2002 Crops: 17	46	113	12	48	4	11	1106	770	2,739,801	88,138,709
										Floral Pegasus (AUS)	
14	Curlin (2004) by Smart Strike FYR: 2010 Crops: 9	66	119	31	73	9	23	639	451	4,803,125	81,904,294
										Vino Rosso	
15	Ghostzapper (2000) by Awesome Again FYR: 2007 Crops: 12	76	122	40	66	12	22	712	530	3,859,311	80,829,049
										Shaman Ghost	

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THURSDAY'S RACING INSIGHTS: PAIR OF AMERICAN PHAROAH JUVENILES DEBUT IN CHURCHILL OPENER



Tequila Queen at Fasig Saratoga | Fasig-Tipton photo

Sponsored by Alex Nichols Agency

1st-CD, \$79K, Msw, 2yo, f, 4 1/2f, post time: 1:00 p.m. ET

Trainer Wesley Ward will look to get his juvenile mojo back when he saddles Magic Cap Stable's firster **TEQUILA QUEEN (AMERICAN PHAROAH)**. The daughter of graded stakes winner Agave Kiss (Lion Heart) was a \$325,000 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga yearling. Triple Crown winner American Pharoah will also be represented in the race by Winchell Thoroughbreds' **Mad Maddy**. The first foal out of the unraced Tiger Tale (Tale of the Cat), the Steve Asmussen trainee was a \$150,000 Fasig-Tipton July yearling purchase.

The 4 1/2-furlong race also features juveniles by several first crop sires: **Hopeful Princess (Not This Time)**; **Prettyhappy (Runhappy)**; **Shake it out West (Speightster)**; and **Cool Enough (Tamarkuz)**. **TJCIS PPs**.

2nd-GP, \$65K, Msw, 2yo, f, 5fT, post time: 1:15 p.m. ET

Gary Barber's **GREAT WARRIOR (IRE) (WAR FRONT)**, the first foal out of French group winner Great Page (Ire) (Roderic O'Connor), debuts for trainer Mark Casse. The filly was a 185,000gns weanling purchase at Tattersalls December in 2018. Casse also saddles the first starter for graded-stakes winning freshman sire **Upstart** in Barber's **Baby Mo**. **TJCIS PPs**

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FIRST-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: THURSDAY, MAY 21

Not This Time (Giant's Causeway), Taylor Made Farm, \$12,500
111 foals of racing age/0 winners/0 black-type winners
1-Churchill Downs, Msw 4 1/2f, **HOPEFUL PRINCESS**, 6-1
\$27,000 RNA KEE SEP yrl

Runhappy (Super Saver), Claiborne Farm, \$25,000
94 foals of racing age/0 winners/0 black-type winners
1-Churchill Downs, Msw 4 1/2f, **PRETTYHAPPY**, 15-1

Speightster (Speightstown), WinStar Farm, \$10,000
122 foals of racing age/0 winners/0 black-type winners
1-Churchill Downs, Msw 4 1/2f, **SHAKE IT OUT WEST**, 15-1
\$27,000 RNA KEE NOV wnl; \$19,000 KEE SEP yrl

Tamarkuz (Speightstown), Shadwell Farm, \$10,000
28 foals of racing age/0 winners/0 black-type winners
1-Churchill Downs, Msw 4 1/2f, **COOL ENOUGH**, 6-1
\$8,000 EAS DEC yrl

Upstart (Flatter), Airdrie Stud, \$10,000
101 foals of racing age/0 winners/0 black-type winners
2-Gulfstream, Msw 5fT, **BABY MO**, 8-1
\$65,000 OBS OCT yrl

Vancouver (Aus) (Medaglia d'Oro), Ashford Stud
95 foals of racing age/0 winners/0 black-type winners
2-Gulfstream, Msw 5fT, **WHISTLER DIXIE**, 5-1
\$27,000 KEE SEP yrl; \$23,000 RNA OBS MAR 2yo

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SECOND-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: THURSDAY, MAY 21

American Pharoah (Pioneerof the Nile), Ashford Stud, private
 318 foals of racing age/38 winners/6 black-type winners
 1-Churchill Downs, Msw 4 1/2f, MAD MADDY, 3-1
 \$150,000 FTK JUL yrl
 1-Churchill Downs, Msw 4 1/2f, TEQUILA QUEEN, 2-1
 \$325,000 FTS AUG yrl

Bayern (Offlee Wild), Hill 'n' Dale Farms, \$15,000
 157 foals of racing age/37 winners/0 black-type winners
 1-Gulfstream, Msw 1 1/8mT, LA BABIA, 8-1

Carpe Diem (Giant's Causeway), WinStar Farm, \$15,000
 231 foals of racing age/29 winners/2 black-type winners
 2-Gulfstream, Msw 5fT, RANITA, 10-1
 \$25,000 KEE SEP yrl

Danza (Street Boss), Fair Winds Farm, \$2,500
 140 foals of racing age/17 winners/2 black-type winners
 6-Charles Town, Alw 6 1/2f, NEW BEGINNING, 15-1
 \$4,000 KEE JAN wnl; \$10,000 FTK OCT yrl

Golden Lad (Medaglia d'Oro), Northview Stallion Station, \$5,000
 125 foals of racing age/12 winners/2 black-type winners
 6-Charles Town, Alw 6 1/2f, OCCHI D'ORO, 10-1
 \$9,500 RNA EAS OCT yrl

Jack Milton (War Front), Crestwood Farm, \$6,500
 102 foals of racing age/13 winners/0 black-type winners
 1-Churchill Downs, Msw 4 1/2f, LONGDRINKOFWATER, 15-1
 \$4,500 KEE SEP yrl

Lea (First Samurai), Claiborne Farm, \$7,500
 103 foals of racing age/13 winners/2 black-type winners
 1-Gulfstream, Msw 1 1/8mT, SETTING THE MOOD, 5-2
 \$67,000 KEE NOV wnl; \$27,000 RNA KEE SEP yrl; \$140,000 OBS
 APR 2yo

Summer Front (War Front), Airdrie Stud, \$10,000
 181 foals of racing age/26 winners/3 black-type winners
 1-Churchill Downs, Msw 4 1/2f, SUMMER WAR, 20-1
 \$2,200 RNA KEE JAN wnl; \$3,200 KEE SEP yrl

Tonalist (Tapit), Lane's End Farm, \$15,000
 179 foals of racing age/29 winners/1 black-type winner
 1-Churchill Downs, Msw 4 1/2f, TIZ A BIT LUCKY, 20-1
 \$3,500 KEE SEP yrl

We Miss Artie (Artie Schiller), Ramsey Farm, \$5,000
 40 foals of racing age/3 winners/0 black-type winners
 1-Gulfstream, Msw 1 1/8mT, ACT LIKE ARTIE, 4-1



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ADDITIONAL RACING

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

5th-Will Rogers Downs, \$27,500, 5-20, 3yo/up, 1m, 1:35.25, ft.
HUNKA BURNING LOVE (g, 6, Into Mischief--Touch of Fire, by Thunder Gulch) Lifetime Record: SP, 38-10-4-6, \$284,668. O-End Zone Athletics, Inc.; B-Morris B. Floyd & Chuck Givens (KY); T-Karl Broberg. *\$75,000 Ylg '15 KEESEP.

9th-Will Rogers Downs, \$26,400, (S), 5-20, (C), 3yo/up, 6f, 1:10.23, ft.

WORD TO THE WISE (g, 5, Read the Footnotes--Chestnut Lady {MSW, \$127,859}, by Horse Chestnut {SAF}) Lifetime Record: 5-2-2-1, \$53,155. O-Michael Grossman; B-Eureka Thoroughbred Farm (OK); T-Francisco Bravo. *\$4,500 RNA Ylg '16 HEROCT.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Juliard Honor, f, 3, **Magna Graduate**--Juliard, by Dixieland Band. Will Rogers Downs, 5-20, (S), 1m, 1:40.64. B-C Brewster (OK).



ALL TDN WINNERS BY SIRE

INTO MISCHIEF, Hunka Burning Love, g, 6, o/o Touch of Fire, by Thunder Gulch. ALW, 5-20, Will Rogers

MAGNA GRADUATE, Juliard Honor, f, 3, o/o Juliard, by Dixieland Band. MSW, 5-20, Will Rogers

READ THE FOOTNOTES, Word to the Wise, g, 5, o/o Chestnut Lady, by Horse Chestnut (Saf). ALW, 5-20, Will Rogers

PARKER CONTINUES FAMILY TRADITION



Charlie Parker takes over as president of the Racehorse Owners Association on June 30 | ROA

By Emma Berry

From the end of June, Britain's Racehorse Owners Association (ROA) will have a new president. Charlie Parker, who succeeds Nicholas Cooper after his four-year stint at the helm, could hardly be taking up the reins at a more challenging time for his fellow owners.

As long as racing does indeed recommence in Britain on June 1, one major hurdle will have been cleared, but the sport will remain, for the time being, behind closed doors, even for the owners of runners. Ahead of assuming his new role on June 30, Parker has already been heavily involved with the unprecedented issues faced by the sport over the last few months as a member of the Resumption of Racing Group.

He says, "Things are evolving pretty quickly and something I would like to consider is that owners can go racing again in due course, assuming it's all safe. The crowds will obviously have to be limited but it's something I'd like to work towards because half the fun of owning a horse is visiting that horse at the yard or watching him race.

"I think it's feasible with the right management. Without being silly about it, you can go to the Co-op in Lambourn or get on a tube, so why not a safe environment on the racecourse?"

Cont. p2

DEAUVILLE GAINS FRENCH GUINEAS AS COVID FORCES TRACK SHUFFLE

The G1 French 2000 Guineas and G1 French 1000 Guineas were moved to Deauville on June 1 instead of ParisLongchamp, as French racing undergoes a venue shuffle following the news that **racing has been called off in France's red zone** on Tuesday due to coronavirus restrictions, France Galop announced on Wednesday evening. Both 1600-metre Classics will be contested over a straight course. The complete schedule for French racing from May 25th-June 1st was also released, with the May 31 G2 Grand Prix de Chantilly also slated for Deauville. Below are the Flat meeting transfers, as France Galop moves all of the affected meetings to those in 'green zones':

- May 25th Saint-Cloud meeting to Lyon-Parilly
- May 27th Chantilly meeting to Vichy
- May 28th ParisLongchamp meeting to Clairefontaine
- May 29th Strasbourg meeting to Moulins
- May 30th Saint-Cloud meeting to Dieppe
- May 31st Chantilly meeting to Deauville
- June 1st ParisLongchamp meeting to Deauville

For the complete meeting changes, go to www.france-galop.com/fr.

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Horses race at Deauville | *Racing Post*

IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

THE 'PEP' BACK 'IN THE STEP' OF SANTA ANITA

The resumption of racing at Santa Anita this past weekend has had a rallying effect on the California industry. Dan Ross has the story.

[Click or tap here to go straight to TDN America.](#)

Parker Continues Family Tradition Cont. from p1

"It feels like we've been working on [racing's resumption] now for weeks and weeks but as long as we can do it safety then hopefully it can encompass owners as well as stable staff and trainers in time."

With a hiatus in racing action for more than two months, not to mention the loss of jobs and businesses, concerns have been aired regarding some owners' ability or desire to continue paying training bills amid such uncertainty. Fortunately, so far, the situation doesn't appear to be as grave as initially feared, but plans have been put in place to ensure that the welfare of horses is protected as the season unfolds.

"Over the last eight weeks or so, the ROA has led the piece on on the Relief Fund which has been established to protect the horses if their owners just cannot afford to keep them going,"

Parker explains. "That piece of work is something that all the board members of the ROA are very proud of, and it's been done by the team of staff in incredibly difficult circumstances. In the short term that's something that will maybe grow and become the foundation of the welfare side of owning horses, which is of course something that we all have to be really aware of. We need to be as robust on that as possible."

He continues, "I was fearful that there would be a flood of people getting in touch to say that they cannot keep their horses but actually it's been very few. Now maybe that's because there's been lots of talk about getting back racing again, because so far

it's been nowhere near as bad as we thought it could have been. There have been a lot of questions from owners about when racing is coming back and what type of races there will be, will they be able to go to see their horses, all those types of questions. **Cont. p3**

I'M HOPEFUL WE CAN REALLY MOVE THINGS ALONG OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS AND GET TO A MUCH BETTER POSITION FOR OWNERS.

Charlie Parker



Magna Grecia (Ire) (Invincible Spirit {Ire}) pictured recently at Coolmore Stud, Ireland. The dual Group 1 winner commands a fee of €22,500 this season. | Coolmore Stud



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IN TDN AUS/NZ TODAY

AROUND THE FARM WITH OLLY TAIT

The TDN AusNZ's Paul Vettise chats with Olly Tait of Twin Hills Stud. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Aus/NZ.](#)

Parker Continues Family Tradition Cont.

"We were lucky in a way because the National Hunt season was 80% finished and those horses that would go on their holidays just went six weeks early. The next step is to see how many of those will return to their trainers."

In taking up the ROA presidency, Parker is following in the footsteps of his late father, Sir Eric Parker, who held the same role between 1998 and 2001 as well as serving a long stint on the ROA council. As the owner of 1991 Grand National winner Seagram (NZ) (Balak {GB}) and breeder at his Crimbourne Stud of G1 Prix Jean Prat winner Havana Gold (Ire) (Teofilo {Ire}), Sir Eric's interests within racing were diverse. His son shares his passion for both Flat and National Hunt racing, and he is continuing some of the family's bloodlines at stud as well as having added a pinhooking venture to the portfolio of his Crimbourne Bloodstock operation.

He says, "I felt that I had the skill set that would allow me to do a good job and make a difference. I had an opportunity in my life--my kids are at university so there was a gap there that I could fill. I'm passionate about the sport and the industry and I'm passionate about the owners within that. I've been on the ROA board now for five years and, prior to that, I was very close to my father."

Added Parker, "He went on endlessly about the issues that he faced when he was on the ROA, going back to the Tote ownership and media rights, and all the battles that he fought and won and lost. So I think it's in the blood really."

Parker sold the picturesque Crimbourne Stud in West Sussex several years after his father's death in 2014, and he now owns Wellsummers Stud in Marlborough, which operates under the Crimbourne Bloodstock banner, as well as Windsor House Stables in Lambourn, where he lives with his family. [Cont. p4](#)



Former Charlie Parker runner Verdana Blue beats Buveur D'Air in the 2018 Christmas Hurdle | *Racing Post*

Parker Continues Family Tradition Cont.

"We bought Windsor House Stables from Peter Walwyn and Roger Teal moved in as our tenant in December. He seems really happy and has some lovely horses," says Parker. "Other than not seeing friends, life in Lambourn during lockdown has just seemed to have continued quite normally because everyone is working with the horses. We have a small team at Wellsummers and we love it there. We also look after James Stewart's mares and it's a really nice place to be, on top of the hill in Marlborough."

The retirement of Crimbourne graduate Havana Gold to Tweenhills in 2014 led to Parker being involved with the stallion's best runner to date, the G1 Flying Five winner Havana Grey (GB), who now stands at Whitsbury Manor Stud and has his own first foals on the ground.

He recalls, "I went to the sale with the idea of buying a Havana Gold foal to pinhook. We'd looked at Havana Grey--he's out of a Dark Angel mare who had won five times and he just looked like an absolute bull of a horse even then. So we bought him and took him to France to sell at the Arqana Yearling Sale, and we thought we were going to hit the jackpot but we only just cleaned our faces really. In hindsight, I wish I had kept him. He was amazing and we have a breeding right now, so we have a Havana Grey filly and she's absolutely gorgeous. She was one of

the first foals born this year."

Parker continues, "I love breeding horses and seeing them go on to do remarkable things but I do think that the breeding side is the most difficult aspect of the entire sport. We lost a foal last week, a beautiful colt by Sea The Moon (Ger) at just three weeks old, and you have to deal with that kind of thing from time to time. So breeding is a huge challenge but in terms of pure enjoyment there's nothing like having a winner on the track with all your friends and family. That's what really got me going at the beginning and still does. During the jumps season it's the jumpers that top the pops for me, then during the flat season it switches. But having those winners, whether it's a bumper at Warwick or a Christmas Hurdle on Boxing Day, that's what it's all about."

Parker can speak with some authority on owning major National Hunt winners as it is not only Seagram who has carried the Crimbourne colours with distinction. His purchase through Highflyer Bloodstock of the 4-year-old mare Verdana Blue (Ire) (Getaway {Ger}) at Cheltenham in 2016 led to a glorious run for the talented dual-purpose performer, who landed the G2 Christmas Hurdle in 2018, beating her stablemate and dual Champion Hurdler Buveur d'Air (Fr) in the process, as well as earning black type on the Flat and running a good fourth to Dee Ex Bee (GB) in the G3 Sagaro S. last May. [Cont. p5](#)



John Berry's string on Newmarket Heath on Wednesday morning | Emma Berry

Parker Continues Family Tradition Cont.

Having been bought initially for £65,000, Verdana Blue returned to the sales ring last December and was sold to Michael Tabor for 370,000gns.

"She was some horse," says Parker, who maintains a small jumping string, notably mostly mares by Grange Stud's son of Monsun (Ger). "We have three more by Getaway. There's Barbados Blue (Ire), who won twice and then she got injured, so she has been back at the farm

for a while but she's back [in training]. Then there's Vegas Blue (Ire), who won a listed bumper. We also have an unraced one who I think might be the best of the lot, and she's called Parisian Blue (Ire). She's a big slab of a horse--she's only four but she's gorgeous."

Explaining the Blue suffix for the Crimbourne Bloodstock jumpers, he adds, "We bought Verdana Blue and she was already named. From then on, we thought, well Getaway is a holiday, and we've been to Vegas and Paris and Barbados, so it's as simple as that really."

On the Flat side, one of the most revered members of the broodmare band at Wellsummers Stud is Havana Gold's dam, Jessica's Dream (Ire) (Desert Style {Ire}). The dual Group 3-winning sprinter is now 22.

"We haven't been able to get her in foal for the past two years, but we still have her here and we have her daughter Deep Dream (GB), who is by Dream Ahead," Parker says. "We sold Deep Dream to Sheikh Fahad and then we bought her back. She's just had an Expert Eye (GB) colt. She was going to Calyx (GB) but she didn't get in foal so she's now going to Ten Sovereigns."

Parker's Flat string includes fillies by Adaay (GB), Muhaarar (GB) and Outstrip (GB) with Lambourn trainers Jonny Portman, Charlie Hills and Roger Teal respectively.

As he awaits their debuts, plenty of his time has been taken up liaising with fellow stakeholders over the return of racing and, despite challenging times for racing and the world beyond, he sees some cause for cautious optimism.

He says, "The guys who were left at the BHA after they furloughed a lot of their staff have worked incredibly hard and done everything they could possibly do. The likes of Richard Wayman and Nick Rust and Annamarie Phelps have all done a great job, and communication is a big part of that. We will have



Jessica's Dream (centre) | *Racing Post*

to try to work together as horsemen to change the playing field in terms of the finances of racing. I know they will be badly

affected by what's happening but that's not to stop the effort we have to make going forward. The way we can do that is if the horsemen successfully unite, and from what I've seen over the last few weeks, we have been united and we have managed to achieve some things that will come out in the next week or so that we wouldn't have done if we hadn't stuck together. By sticking together we can now really begin to work


with the racecourse groups and achieve a transparent and fair distribution for what is a huge industry."

Some inroads have been made in recent years in regard to improving the return to the swathe of owners of lower-grade horses whose input is vital for the everyday meetings. Parker also said he believes that this is an area of the sport that will continue to be safeguarded as racing attempts to recover from what is likely to be a significant financial reversal.

He says, "At the end of the day, without the owners and their horses there is no sport. It comes down to the owners, who pay the trainers, who pay the jockeys, who pay the stable staff, who pay the feed merchants. Owners put £630 million into racing per year and that's without buying the horses. That's where it all starts from, so I'm hopeful we can really move things along over the next few months and get to a much better position for owners.

"Over the last few years the ROA has done a lot of work looking at syndicates and partnerships, and that's something that we are really going to have to redouble our efforts on, and obviously focus in on Class 4, 5, 6 type horses and getting proper prize-money down to those levels. That's number one on our agenda, really."

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THE IMPORTANCE OF MENTORS

CATHAL BEALE

Who has been the biggest inspiration in your career?

CB: I've been very lucky to have worked for great people along the way. Ken Bolger got me started in Redmondstown. Sally Carroll was a huge influence and gave great encouragement to so many of us who came through her hands at the Irish National Stud. Likewise, Clodagh Kavanagh and Joe Osborne from the Godolphin Flying Start Programme opened up so much for me. I worked for Dermot Cantillon for seven years and there's no doubt I learned many a lesson from him before joining the INS, and having the good fortune to work for John Osborne. Luckily, I would still count all of them as friends and mentors.

Before all of that though I think I was inspired by my parents. Like many people in Ireland at the time, both of them left school before they were 14 years old and never had the opportunity to go to college, or to the Irish National Stud Course or Godolphin Flying Start. They worked all their lives to give their kids the chance they never had and I suppose that's what drives you.

What's the best advice you've ever been given?

CB: Oh God. That's a tough one. Maybe following on from the previous question my good friend Gerry Duffy once said to me, "luck is the intersection between hard work and opportunity." I don't know which milk carton he read that on but it stuck with me. I also like, "the best way to straighten a leg is to win a Group 1."

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Cathal Beale | *Racing Post*

FIRST-SEASON SIRES WITH RUNNERS

Thursday, May 21, 2020:

FRANCE

Goken (Fr) (Kendargent {Fr}), Haras de Colleville
61 foals of racing age/2 winners/0 black-type winners
1-STRASBOURG, 1000m, GAMINO (Fr)

Shalaa (Ire) (Invincible Spirit {Ire}), Haras de Bouquetot
118 foals of racing age/0 winners/0 black-type winners
1-PARISLONGCHAMP, 1000m,
€250,000 Arqana Deauville August Yearling Sale 2019



Shalaa has his first runner on Thursday | *Zuzanna Lupa*

OBSERVATIONS

on the European racing scene

DEAUVILLE'S SUBSTITUTE CARD HOSTS FIRST RUNNER FOR SHALAA

10.10 Deauville, Mdn, €22,000, unraced 2yo, 5fT

Lady Bamford's €250,000 Arqana August acquisition **CHERIE AMOUR (FR)** (Shalaa {Ire}) becomes the first representative for Haras de Bouquetot-based freshman sire Shalaa (Ire) (Invincible Spirit {Ire}) in this five-runner affair. Trained by Andre Fabre, she is kin to three black-type performers, headed by G1 Prix Jean-Luc Lagardere-winning sire National Defense (GB) (Invincible Spirit {Ire}), and her four rivals feature three from the Andrea Marcialis stable. They include **Six Pennies (Fr)** (Penny's Picnic {Ire}), who is a half-sister to last term's G2 Prix du Calvados runner-up and G1 Prix Marcel Boussac fourth Lagrandecatherine (Fr) (Pedro the Great).

12.40 Deauville, Mdn, €20,000, 3yo, c/g, 8fT

Khalid Abdullah's **FURTHER MEASURE (English Channel)**, a once-raced Pascal Bary trainee, is out of GI Matriarch S. victress and G1 Poule d'Essai des Pouliches demotee Price Tag (GB) (Dansili {GB}) and comes back from a debut fifth over this trip at Chantilly last week. His opposition includes Godolphin's **Telemaque (War Front)**, an Andre Fabre-trained full-brother to GI Secretariat S. second Long Island Sound making his second start; and Alain and Gerard Wertheimer's unraced **Flash Dancer (GB) (Invincible Spirit (Ire))**, a homebred son of MGSW G1 Prix Rothschild third Bawina (Ire) (Dubawi {Ire}), also representing the Fabre stable.

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FRANCE

Wednesday's Results:

1st-La Teste de Buch, €13,000, Mdn, 5-20, unraced 3yo, 10 1/2fT, 2:13.01, gd.

DARK NOBLE (GB) (c, 3, Battle of Marengo {Ire}--Almase, by Giant's Causeway) broke in the front rank and was steadied to race off the tempo in rear for most of this first go. Making wide headway under urging in the straight, the 223-10 chance moved into contention approaching the final furlong and was ridden out in the closing stages to prevail by a length from Attendante (Fr) (War Command). Stamina GB) (Oasis Dream {GB}), a half-sister to G1 Prix Marcel Boussac and G1 Prix Saint-Alary victress Silasol (Ire) (Monsun {Ger}), held every chance in the straight, but faded late to finish 11th. Half to a yearling colt by Australia (GB), the homebred bay is the first surviving foal and winner produced by an unraced full-sister to MGSW distaffer Naissance Royale (Ire) (Giant's Causeway), herself the dam of G3 Prix Penelope third Jadhaha (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}). His third dam is GI Demoiselle S. runner-up Bookkeeper (Private Account). Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, €6,500. **Video, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**

1ST-TIME STARTER. O-Al Asayl France; B-Al Asayl Bloodstock Ltd (GB); T-Francois Rohaut.

4th-La Teste de Buch, €18,000, Mdn, 5-20, 3yo, f, 7fT, 1:24.50, gd.
KHARA (FR) (f, 3, Acclamation {GB}--Khadima {Fr} {SP-Fr}, by Zamindar), a Feb. 19 debut fifth over 6 1/2 furlongs at Chantilly last time, employed patient tactics off the pace after an alert getaway in this turf bow. Taking closer order on the home turn, the 41-10 second choice loomed large out wide passing the two pole and kept on well under a final-furlong drive to deny Thread of Silver (GB) (Shamardal) by a short head in a bobbing finish. She is the third of five foals and becomes the first scorer for Listed Prix Six Perfections runner-up Khadima (Fr) (Zamindar),

herself the leading performer out of an unraced half-sister to G1 Grand Prix de Paris-winning sire Khalkevi (Ire) (Kahyasi {Ire}). The March-foaled bay is a half-sister to the unraced 2-year-old colt Arc En Bleu (Ire) (Charm Spirit {Ire}) and a yearling filly by Lawman (Fr). Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, €10,050. **Video, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**

O-H H The Aga Khan; B-H H The Aga Khan's Studs SC (FR); T-Jean-Claude Rouget.

CONDITIONS RESULTS:

6th-La Teste de Buch, €18,000, Cond, 5-20, 3yo, 8fT, 1:40.40, gd.
OFTENWORK (FR) (c, 3, Maxios {GB}--En Vitesse {GB}, by Peintre Celebre) Lifetime Record: 5-2-2-0, €26,360. O-Alain Jathiere, Didier Guillemain & Francois Puglia; B-Haras d'Etremham & Frederic Bianco (FR); T-Didier Guillemain. *€5,000 Ylg '18 AROCT.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Hur Cat (Fr), c, 3, **Hurricane Cat**--Elywave (Fr), by Gentlewave (Ire). La Teste de Buch, 5-20, 7fT, 1:23.70. B-Serge Bouvier & Eric Georget (FR). *€18,000 Ylg '18 OSLATE.

GERMANY

Thursday, Hannover, post time: 2.30 p.m.

GODDERT SYBRECHT-ERINNERUNGSRENNEN-Listed, €12,500, 3yo, f, 10fT

SC	PP	HORSE	SIRE	JOCKEY	TRAINER
1	3	After Rain Sun (Fr)	Prince Gibraltar (Fr)	Minarik	Geisler
2	9	A Racing Beauty (Ger)	Mastercraftsman (Ire)	Lecoouvre	Grewe
3	4	Sea of Love (Ger)	Sea The Moon (Ger)	Pecheur	Klug
4	7	Americana (Ger)	Adlerflug (Ger)	Piechulek	Steinberg
5	1	Inge's Madel (Ger)	Thewayyouare	E Weissmeier	R Weissmeier
6	2	Kilimanjaro (Ger)	Neatico (Ger)	Murzabayev	Korpas
7	6	Monete (Ger)	Jukebox Jury (Ire)	Palik	Nedorostek
8	5	Sunny Queen (Ger)	Camelot (GB)	Starke	Grewe
9	8	Tex Australia (Ire)	Australia (GB)	Casamento	Hickst

All carry 123 pounds bar After Rain Sun, A Racing Beauty & Sea of Love, 128.

**IN AUSTRALIA:**

Spirit Ridge (GB), g, 5, **Nathaniel (Ire)**--Tates Creek (MGISW-US, \$1,471,674), by Rahy. Kensington, 5-20, Hcp. (£24k/€27k), 1550mT, 1:32.64. B-Juddmonte Farms Ltd. *100,000gns HRA '19 TATAUT.



AROUND THE FARM WITH OLLY TAIT



Ollly Tait | Bronwen Healy

By Paul Vettise

TDN AusNZ brings you a new series in which we quiz Australasian stud identities about their operations, backgrounds and thoughts on the wider thoroughbred industry. Today, we chat with Twin Hills Stud's Ollly Tait.

Twin Hills Stud was purchased by Olly and Amber Tait three years ago, a farm very familiar to him, in the Cootamundra region where he grew up. Twin Hills stands four stallions in the 2020 season headed by **Smart Missile** at \$22,000 inc GST, **Denman** at \$8,800 inc GST, **Odyssey Moon** at \$6,600 inc GST and the recently relocated **Hallowed Crown** at \$11,000 inc GST.

TDN AusNZ: Service fees have been announced, how are you finding the response to your roster given the current economic uncertainty?

OT: We've got very good stallions and I think they are well-priced. While there is a great deal of uncertainty around at the moment, and other businesses are in the same position as ours, we've got to look forward and I think most people approach it that way.

Broodmare owners have invested in mares and they've got to breed them, that's the reality. I think it is about us promoting our stallions effectively against those of others and in that respect it's no different to any other season.

TDN AusNZ: Physical type, race performance and pedigree are all important criteria when selecting stallions, but if there were one you'd prioritise over the others, what would it be and why?

OT: They are the three criteria that are most important and I would throw in what sort of charisma and profile a horse also has because that can help in getting support for that stallion.

The one that I would see above all others though is performance. You've got to have a good racehorse because they are more likely to throw that on and performance is what appeals to breeders above all else.

TDN AusNZ: Looking ahead to the next few years, are there any changes to your business model you're planning? And what is your process for reviewing how your business is placed?

OT: We've been going for three years and every day we assess what we're doing and what the market is doing and what our competitors are doing. We also take a step away and annually look at our business. We get some outside people in to discuss our business and make sure that we're heading in the right direction and invigorate our ideas and that's a process we find beneficial.

We've grown healthily in three years and want to continue with the growth in the areas in which we operate – stallions, agistment and our own bloodstock trading.



Hallowed Crown | Bronwen Healy

John Ferguson | *Tattersalls*

TDN AusNZ: What is the biggest challenge facing your business at the moment?

OT: Obviously, the economy isn't what it was six months ago. Racehorses are luxury items and the impact on people's discretionary spending has been reduced and that will affect the market for racehorses.

We've got to navigate our way through that and we are in a sport that is based around tradition. We need to be very respectful of that, but also we need to make sure we remain relevant to the general public and keep in the eye line as a popular sport.

I think Australia is very well-placed in that regard, but there are always challenges. We've got to maintain our market share in terms of eye balls on our sport, which then turns into wagering and returns to owners.

TDN AusNZ: You've worked for some interesting people throughout your career, can you tell me who had the largest influence on you and the lesson you will not forget?

OT: I worked with John Ferguson for a long period of time and he taught me the value of being decisive and he taught me the value of looking ahead.

TDN AusNZ: Who is the best stallion physical you have ever seen?

OT: If you go to any stallion barns around the world you find beautiful horses and that leads you to the fact that physique is a very important part of what makes an athlete, because it's only the elite male athletes that make it to those stallion barns.

One stallion I would mention that sticks out in my mind is Singspiel (Ire). He was probably a more refined, smaller horse and maybe a little lighter-boned than others, but he was the most beautifully-athletic horse. He was very light on his feet and that really appealed to me. He was a great racehorse and then a wonderful stallion and he was one who had a physique a little bit out of the ordinary, but certainly had plenty of appeal.

TDN AusNZ: What stallion on another farm's roster would you like to be standing?

OT: I Am Invincible would do nicely.

TDN AusNZ: Is there an under-the-radar emerging stallion that you have a preference for?

OT: Epaulette is a very good stallion and I think he is under-valued by the market and continually gets high quality Saturday winners and stakes horses.

I think our own Hallowed Crown is a very good stallion and there's obviously self-interest in labelling him, but he stands for \$11,000 and had an Oaks winner from his first crop. From relatively small numbers, he's had a huge number of winners and his winners to runners are outstanding. He was an outstanding racehorse with an incredible pedigree and by a very good stallion. I think he is one, hopefully, who will emerge with a lot more quality runners over the next year or two.

TDN AusNZ: What's your opinion on the 140-mare cap that the Jockey Club in America are proposing? Do you think it's needed here?

Amber Tait | *Bronwen Healy*

OT: I disagree with it and I think that it's a form of market regulation and that is a retrograde step. Time has told us that regulated markets are not as good for business as letting those markets find their feet.

In terms of genetic diversity, and yes that's granted, but equally the best stallions will be limited so I can't see how in terms of improvement of the breed that it is a step forward. In terms of a large number of progeny of one particular stallion, the market will determine whether that's good or bad and so it should.

TDN AusNZ: Which four people, within the industry or outside it, dead or alive, would you invite to a dinner party?

OT: I'll go with my Amber and my two kids.

TDN AusNZ: Which global breeding brand do you have the ultimate respect for?

OT: I think what John Messara has achieved at Arrowfield Stud is to be admired. We are very fortunate to have him as a leader in our industry and Arrowfield has become a brand recognisable throughout the world. I look to what he has achieved and admire it greatly.



IN HONG KONG:

Shining Ace, g, 4, **Testa Rossa**--Dance Idol, by Danehill Dancer (Ire). Happy Valley, 5-20, Hcp. (\$410k), 1200m, 1:08.78. B-Ms A Clarke (Qld). *Formerly Todaro. **\$60,000 Ylg '17 INGFEb. **VIDEO**

Golden Dash, g, 5, **Snitzel**--Aussie Christmas (USA), by Johannesburg (USA). Happy Valley, 5-20, Hcp. (\$283k), 1200m, 1:09.26. B-Arrowfield Pastoral Pty Ltd (NSW). *\$150,000 Ylg '16 INGMAR; NZ\$340,000 2yo '16 NZBRTR. **VIDEO**

Flying Bonus, g, 5, **Snitzel**--Sabanci, by Encosta de Lago. Happy Valley, 5-20, Hcp. (\$189k), 1:09.74. B-Arrowfield Pastoral Pty Ltd (NSW). *Formerly Bowerman. **SP-Aus. ***\$525,000 Ylg '16 MMGCYS. **VIDEO**



IN HONG KONG:

Here Comes Ted, g, 3, **Per Incanto (USA)**--Princess Annaliese (SW-NZ, NZ\$131,100), by Van Nistelrooy (USA). Happy Valley, 5-20, Hcp. (NZ\$203k), 1200m, 1:10.02. B-R R Fauvel, Little Avondale Trust & R A Williams. **VIDEO**

Classic Unicorn, g, 4, **Per Incanto (USA)**--Grace and Eva, by Stravinsky (USA). Happy Valley, 5-20, Hcp. (NZ\$304k), 1000m, :56.38. B-Mrs V J Fauvel, Little Avondale Trust & R A Williams. **VIDEO**

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Marcus Corban to Join Yulong

Vancouver's Dunbar Wins Impressively

Stockwell's Artie Schiller Remains at \$11,000

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