



Welcome to our May 2016 newsletter...

## Lots happening at Stockton Hall

The last few weeks have been really busy at Stockton Hall, with winners, a trip to the sales and ongoing preparation of our young horses for the flat.

### Recent Winners

It was great to get Odds On Oscar back to the racecourse, for owners Darren and Grant Mercer, when he made his seasonal reappearance at Garthorpe in the 2 Mile 4 Furlong Maiden. It was certainly worth the wait! He made very smooth headway to take up the lead between the last two fences, winning comfortably by 3 lengths, after surviving a last flight error.

We hope he can now take up a career under rules and this should give him a nice confidence boost.

I was especially pleased when Modulus got off the mark at Tabley in the Open Maiden last Sunday. He was unlucky at the course on his previous start, coming down when holding a clear lead. He is a horse I have always thought a lot of, since coming here, and it's good that he is starting to show it for the Parkin family (pictured), who were at Tabley to celebrate the win!



The 2 year olds jumping out of the stalls

### Our Two Year Olds

Our two 2 year olds are coming on pleasingly and are improving with their work all the time. They have been out of the stalls on 4 occasions now and have improved on every occasion. They will go out once more now before they run. The aim with them is to have a racecourse gallop in 2-3 weeks before then looking for a target for them.

# Doncaster Sales

I had a busy time at Doncaster sales last week, when the Store and Horse In Training sales took place.

I purchased 3 unbroken 3 year olds. The first one I bought was a smashing looking gelding by proven French sire 'Policy Maker'. He has a great walk and I can't wait to get started on him.

I also purchased a lovely gelding by top sire 'Westerner'. He is a very athletic sort who has the most wonderful trot and really covers a lot of ground. This is always a great sign. He was bought on behalf of Darren and Grant Mercer and I expect them to have a lot of top days out with this lad who has a great attitude.

The last of the 3 year olds I purchased was a filly by Malinas, who was consigned by the well known local Goldford stud. She is out of a half sister to multiple black type winners in England and France so will always hold value as a broodmare. First though she has a big race career ahead of her. She is also signed up to the mares scheme which means when she wins her first race £5000 is added on to the prize money and the same amount is added on again once she has been successful for the second time under rules. She looks a bargain buy at £4000, I am open to selling her outright or splitting her into 25% and 50%.

We then moved on to the horses in training part of the sale which was spread across two days. The horses on offer included proven top quality flat and jump horses as well as unexposed Point to Pointers and bumper horses. My only purchase of the first day of this sale was a gelding from Monbeg Stables in Ireland. 'Cave Top' was second on his 2nd start in Irish point to points only, being beaten by 1 length by a horse who then made £80,000. He looks a smashing type to run in novice hurdles next season and I'm really looking forward to running him.

On day two of the horses in training sale I added two more recruits to the string. 'Biretta' is a very well bred mare, who has shown ability in bumpers before disappointing in novice hurdles.

I hope we can get her back to confirm her early promise once we get a handicap mark with her.

'Rock Warbler' completed the sale for me. He has shown high level of form for Goldolphin in three maiden starts, achieving a BHA rating of 75. I expect his new owners to have a lot of fun with him!



**This is the Malinas filly 'long reigning**

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## Our weekend ahead

I hope to have 2 runners at Cartmel over the Saturday and Monday of the bank holiday meeting.

Late Romantic looks like making his rules debut on Saturday in the 2 mile 6 furlong Novice Hurdle. He will take up the engagement as long as the going isn't too quick.

We then head back to the northern track on Monday with Desert Sting for a Novice Hunter Chase. It looks a competitive race on entries but I hope he can run with credit and he should hopefully qualify for a handicap mark over fences after this run.

Our Crusade heads to Chaddesley Corbett on Bank Holiday Monday for the Albrighton & Woodland Hunt meeting. Ryan Tongue takes the ride in The Club Members race.

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To keep up to date with runners, and hopefully some more winners, don't forget to visit our website, follow us on Twitter and Like our page on Facebook.

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