



# OCG

## Oliver Greenall Racing

# NEWS

MARCH 2020



## EVANDER

He has been a real flagship horse for us this season and with the added pressure of Highclere and Partner owning him, it was very important that their first horse with us did well and showed off what we can achieve as a yard.

We were extremely lucky to get him for such a responsible price of £30k considering what winning Irish pointers make these days.

He hasn't been straightforward to train however but we are very lucky to train in a quiet undisturbed location where horses like Evander thrive as we can tailor their training to work for them. He can go out alone or with one other which seems to keep a lid on him.

I'm very lucky to have a team of highly skilled riders too and they have been vital in keeping a lid on him as he is highly strung individual.

What I have been delighted to see with him at the races is his behaviour has really improved. I was so chuffed to see him win his second race at Sedgefield under a great front running ride by Brian Hughes and he behaved so well. It is never easy to win with a penalty and with a couple of fancied horses in the race it didn't look straightforward on paper. He flew the first flight of hurdles however and controlled the race from there, winning as he liked which was fantastic to see.

The handicapper has given him a mark of 125 which I feel gives him a chance in a handicap especially in the form he's in. There are a couple of options for him towards the end of March that we will aim for. It will be a lot tougher for him in handicaps as he won't get an easy lead but I am confident he will cope with it as he continues to improve.

He should make into a smashing chaser next season and hopefully has a big future.

## New Horses and Spring Campaign

We seem to have had a quiet couple of months with runners with the ground being so soft, we decided to give plenty of our string 4-6 weeks walking so that once the ground dried up we could run them into the spring/summer and not bottom them on the soft unfavourable ground.

It has meant we haven't had as many runners as normal, but they are almost all set to get going again, so it now looks to be a busy exciting spring with loads of horses with chances. It won't be long before the rain finally resents, and we can get some proper spring ground and hopefully plenty of winners.

## Upgrading the Gallop

We are very excited that we are going to be upgrading the hill gallop as soon as it is dry enough to get on the fields. We are going to be resurfacing and lengthening it so that we can use it on workdays as well as for conditioning. The steep hill at the start will be fantastic to get horses settled before letting them breeze on along the new straight. I can't wait to get it up and running and will be a fantastic addition to use alongside the sand mile gallop.



# Lucky Lover Boy wins on the flat in good style

Having run a couple of times over hurdles in the Autumn, the ground became very soft and we decided to give him a break and wait with him for a spring campaign. Having won three races on decent ground last winter, we felt it was pointless to run him on soft ground which he really doesn't like.

It was great to see him back on the All Weather winning at Newcastle. We were using it as a prep run to get him ready to run over hurdles as soon as the ground dries. We knew he was well and capable of winning off his mark but I was just concerned that he seems to have really come to life for the hurdles and was worried he just didn't have that same love for the flat. He cruised through the race however and picked up nicely in the straight under David Nolan to win by a cosy length and a half. The race was over 2 miles, which he wasn't guaranteed to get. However he seemed to want every yard of it and will probably push to running him over 2m4f when we go back over hurdles.

We then ran Lucky in a jumpers bumper back at Newcastle and it looked the perfect opportunity. Unfortunately he ran well below par and was found to have an irregular heart beat after the race. The vets are confident this is just a one off and he seems back to himself at home.



## LATE ROMANTIC

Late Romantic has been a such a star for us over the years. I bought him as an unbroken store horse from Doncaster and he has always been such a tough honest horse, who has had his share of bad luck in the jumping stakes. He isn't a bad jumper but can just be a little awkward and lose concentration.

He gave us a little scare at the third last on Saturday at Kelso when overjumping slightly, but the partnership remained intact and he went on to win very impressively under a confident ride from Charlie Todd. He was wearing cheekpieces for the first time and he travelled and jumped great in them and ended up running out a very impressive winner by 26 lengths.

The handicapper has put him up 8lb to 135 which is fair enough and the plan is now to go to the Veterans final at Newbury on 21st. It is a £50k race and if the ground is his favoured soft, he will have a big chance.



## Midnight Moss

Having his first season with us he has been ultra-consistent. He's run 5 times on various ground conditions, been placed every time and won really well last week at Doncaster. He has taken really well to fences and seems to be improving all the time. Having finished second last time on his chasing debut, his jumping really improved and he knuckled down and jumped fantastically at Doncaster to win really impressively on very testing ground.

We are also delighted to now have the 5-year-old half-sister to him by Kayf Tara. Members of the Midnight Moss syndicate have bought into and we can't wait to see her on the track soon.



# Well done to our assistant Josh Guerriero on his Hunter Chase Winners



It was a fantastic couple of weeks for Josh as he sent out two winners, Just a Par looked to have a stiff task however Toby Wynne who works at Stockton Hall gave him a lovely patient ride and the favourite seemed to go too fast to soon and Just a Par stayed on strongly to look the winner when the favourite unseated at the second last leaving Just a Par to coast home. Toby came to us having left school in the summer and was fantastic to see him win on his first ride under rules, a bright future awaits.



Dieu Vivant was the second winner, he won very impressively at Ludlow under Ed Glassonbury securing a place in the line-up at Aintree on 2nd April. He has been a little disappointing since he came over from France however, he finally seems to have got his act together jumping fantastically and finishing strongly. I was personally chuffed to bits for Ed as we have been trying to get a horse qualified for Aintree for him since he started here over 5 years ago.

Top Horses	
Gamesters Icon	40
Evander	30
Late Romantic	26
Midnight Moss	24
Vereina	20

  

Top Scores	
Roger Nicholas (1)	73
Mark Astbury	61
Bev Bostock	61
Cai Williams	55
Roger Nicholas (2)	50

3 to follow competition



At Stockton Hall, the horses love their time around the farm and in the stream.



Two of Midnight Moss's owners, Roger and Dave, being interviewed by Racing TV after his win at Doncaster.

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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