

Which new sires are most likely to succeed in 2009?

Over 50 new stallions will be represented by their first 2-year-old runners in 2009. But which are most likely to make the grade? Much heralded Derby winner Motivator is represented by a large crop but it would be a



Avonbridge

surprise to see many of them making early types. There's an inevitability that Coolmore will be to the fore with juveniles by Antonius Pius, Footstepsinthesand and



Dubawi - most likely to succeed?

Oratorio, whilst the stock of Dalham Hall's Dubawi has been much sought after at the sales. Starcraft is also predicted to do well, as is Trade Fair, who is by far the

most modestly priced of those mentioned. The ones most likely for top honours? Dubawi - and one from the bargain basement to watch is Avonbridge.

Racecourse factfile: Ffos Las

Ffos Las will be Britain's newest racecourse and is the brainchild of racehorse owner David Walters whose civil engineering company, The Walters Group, have undertaken development and construction.



The course, a left handed oval of 12 furlongs is predicted to be a good galloping track and will host racing under both codes. The course enjoys a superb rural setting overlooking Carmarthen Bay.

Location: Trimsaren, 15 minutes from M4 junction 48.

Telephone: 01554 811092

Trains: To Llanelli and by bus or taxi to course.

Celebrations:

The White Hart Inn at Llanddarog just off A48 east of Carmarthen. A welcoming thatched pub which brews its own beer

and is well liked for home cooked food. Reservations 01267 275395.

Y Polyn Restaurant, Nantgaredig. A quiet country pub in the Towy valley renowned for its good cooking... "good food, simple and elegant surroundings" says the Daily Telegraph. Reservations 01267 290000.

The Fig Tree, Nantgaredig. Situated in a converted farmyard The Fig Tree offers a good choice of food and drink as well as handy accommodation in a cluster of adjoining cottages. Reservations 01558 668187.

Did you know?

The most expensive stallions standing in Europe in 2009 include Danehill Dancer, Dansili, Dynaformer, Empire Maker, Galileo, Monsun, Montjeu and Pivotal - who all stand at a fee of at least £50,000 or more.

Let us have your ideas and views

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The problems with horses... Mud fever

Mud fever, also known as cracked heels, is an infection involving the backs of the pasterns and fetlocks and is associated with wet conditions. Therefore, it is more common during the winter months. Some horses (particularly those with white socks) are particularly susceptible to mud fever and it is important to look



for early signs of the problem. Clinical signs include swelling and pain, oozing of serum through the skin and, ultimately, cracks. These allow entry of bacteria, which increases the severity of clinical signs. The condition can occur elsewhere on the body, such as the quarters and the back, when it is often referred to as 'rain scald'.

Did you know?

American ace Curlin became the first racehorse to win over \$10 million when landing the Jockey Club Gold Cup.

WINNING P ST

THE REGULAR NEWSLETTER FROM HOMEBRED RACING

SPRING/2009

Tote sale saga continues...

Conservative MP Liam Fox has weighed into the debate on the future of the Tote, describing the Government's handling of its sale - now set to be put on hold until the economic climate improves - as "characterised by indecision". He said: "Labour made a commitment in its 2001 manifesto to sell off the Tote and end the Government's financial involvement in racing. "After seven years, they are now effectively back to square one. When this is combined with the dithering over the levy, there will be real concerns that the Government is incapable of providing a secure future for racing. There has yet to be adequate explanation provided as to why the sale of the Tote to a consortium from within the racing community would not stand up to State Aid scrutiny".



Homebred's yearling filly by the world's No 1 stallion Encosta de Lago

Looking a million dollars!

Meet 'Poppy'. She's the latest arrival at The Homebred Stud as a companion for our Superior Premium filly VeuveVeuveVoom. Poppy is by the world's No. 1 stallion Encosta de Lago who has sired 9 Group 1 winners this

season alone and commands a stud fee of AS \$302,500. His yearlings have regularly fetched over \$1 million at this year's sales. Poppy's dam is the winning German mare Amory who's first two foals by Montjeu and Galileo are both

in training with Aidan O'Brien and hold Group 1 entries. Should either of these perform to expectations on the racetrack Poppy will become one of the hottest fillies around! So definitely a case of 'watch this space!'



Encosta de Lago - £150,000 fee

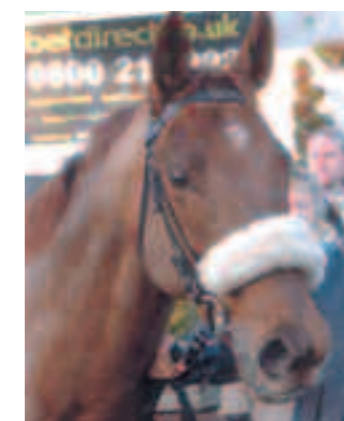


Aidan O'Brien trains brother & sister

Homebred Star on the comeback trail

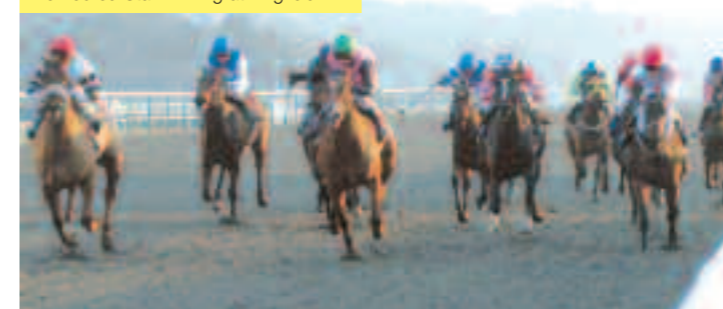
Homebred Star is well on the comeback trail and should be ready to run in a few weeks time. Dixey, who was such a spectacular winner on his all-weather debut, has since failed to reach the winner's enclosure again despite several close finishes. Serious interference which

nearly caused him to fall on the flat at Kempton seemed to have undeniably diminished Dixey's appetite for racing. But after a good break at home turned out with his old friends, he's now also had an operation to help his breathing - a combination we hope will revitalize his fortunes.



Homebred Star

Homebred Star winning at Lingfield



Dixey has completed 6 weeks with Sheena Hill on our local lanes and is now in training with Gerry Enright, alongside Divine White, in Lewes. Gerry says Dixey has pleased him in his work so far and is looking forward to his comeback run. Homebred owners would do well to remember that Homebred Star runs well first time out!

Newbury is the tops!

For the fifth year in a row Newbury has been voted the most 'owner-friendly' racecourse of the year' by members of the Racehorse Owners Association. Stephen Higgins, Newbury's joint Managing Director comments "This prestigious award reflects the continued effort made by our Newbury to welcome owners and trainers, their horses and staff throughout the year".

Did you know?

Britain's newest racecourse, Ffos Las, opens on Thursday 18th June with an evening's jump programme.

Jump racing leaps ahead

Last year nearly 6 million spectators visited one of Britain's 60 racecourses, of which 2 million attended one of the 500 Jumps fixtures. This overall number, combined with high attendance figures for Jump racing's flagship events, leaves racing as the UK's second most popular sport, only second to football. Indeed, Jump racing's leading events and courses have shown healthy growth in attendance numbers, sometimes despite having to cap attendances at the most popular events.

And jumping's premier events compare favourably with other leading sports' attendances. Jump racing has a thriving nursery in the guise of the Point-to-Point scene, attracting participants as never before to over 200 meetings between December and early June. These amateur meetings act as a breeding ground for aspirant horses and riders. Indeed the nursery analogy has been taken still further with the introduction four years ago of pony racing for children between the ages of 9 and 15.



Racing is now Britain's second most popular spectator sport



Snapshot

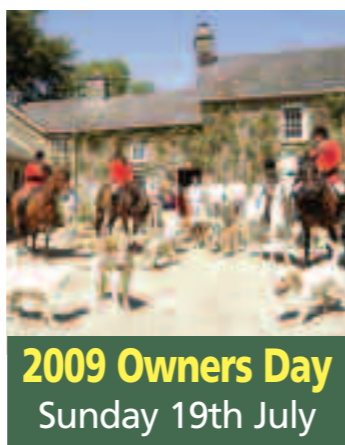
Broodmare Snowy Mantle, dam of Divine White, in foal to Group 1 winner Septieme Ciel is due in March

Did you know?

Each race run yields over £20,000 in betting levy for racing.

Snapshot

VeuveVeuveVoom (left) with her new companion - a yearling by the world's No1 stallion Encosta de Lago.



2009 Owners Day
Sunday 19th July

Did you know?

The most attended NH racecourse is Cheltenham which had more than double the number of racegoers than Aintree. Surprisingly Uttoxeter is the third most popular - ahead of Ascot and Wetherby.

BBC under the whip...

The BBC's proposed cutbacks in TV coverage has caused an outcry across horse racing. The issue was initially highlighted by the BBC's former head of sport Jonathan Martin who is a keen supporter and also owner of Santando trained by Peter Bowen. Johnathan's forthright views were featured in a full page article in the Racing Post and the cause has now been taken up by Pippa Cuckson, PR Manager of Great Leighs, who has set up a petition on the Downing Street website. The petition urges the Prime Minister to ask the BBC to retain its current levels of horseracing coverage. Ten years ago the BBC covered 79 days of horseracing; this year it's 27; by 2010 it will only be 14.

The consequences go well beyond the leisure preferences of the six million TV licence payers that annually visit racecourses. Any reduction in terrestrial exposure will hasten the contraction of the industry, jeopardising 20,000 full-time jobs in the racing industry who's tax contribution is £280 million a year. It is hoped that the petition will be signed by up to 40,000 supporters - you can add your signature at www.petitions.number10.gov.uk/bbcrcing

Stable visits

If you would like to see your horse working on the gallops call the office on 01293 884433 and we'll arrange it for you.

Did you know?

British racing directly employs over 18,000 and a further 22,000 including feed merchants, farriers, horse transporters and the like. A further 40,000 in the betting industry are also reliant on racing.

The sport of kings...

Although known as the "Sport of Kings" racing has an extraordinarily diverse audience. The sport appeals to all ages, social classes and a high proportion of women. In fact, from a commercial perspective, the diversity of racing and TV audiences means that racing can offer the broadest appeal. Sport is generally perceived to be a male preserve, often the refuge of the family's breadwinner each Saturday afternoon. Yet Jump racing transcends this gender divide. Whilst the event audience is around 65% male, the growing incidence of Ladies Days and the inclusion of additional entertainment through music or entertainers, has built a solid female loyalty to the sport, underpinned by a near 50% audience share by women watching racing on television. Up to 80% of the racing crowd is under 55, and 25% is under 25. The successful Morning Line preview of the afternoon's racing, fronted by Channel 4 Racing's presenters, has played a valuable role in bringing the sport to a younger audience. Viewing figures among the younger age groups show a notable increase for the big events, duplicated among the younger age groups on the course, where the thrill of the big event adds to the occasion.



New riders tipped for the top

Every new season brings with it change and Jump racing is no different. Sometimes it is intriguing to have a look at one or two of the less well known names who could make an impact in the year ahead. Venetia Williams has a habit of forging working relationships with the best jockeys around. Norman Williamson was her first choice for many years (with AP McCoy a regular substitute when available) and after his retirement it was

Williams who helped to mould Gold Cup winning Jockey Sam Thomas into the top class pilot he is now. Aidan Coleman is still in the very early stages of his career, but is certainly a name for the future, and will take some stopping in the race to be top conditional jockey this season. Coleman is certainly a fast learner. Having graduated from the British Racing School in June 2007, he ended the campaign with 28 wins and in many of those races you

would have struggled to tell him apart from some of the better jockeys riding today. Already going strong again this season, he looks a good bet to reach the top of his profession in the next few years. Eager to learn, hard working, cool under pressure and well grounded, Aidan Coleman has already convinced Venetia Williams that he will be a star of the future and as many a racing journalist will tell you, she can be a hard lady to impress!

Snapshot

This winter Homebred mares have enjoyed the luxury of a newly refurbished barn for free access to shelter and hay.

