

TEN FURLONGS

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STARTED IN 2016

DATE: 06 JANUARY 2023 | ISSUE 4 | VOLUME 6

INTERVIEWS THIS ISSUE

- DAVID MARNANE
- KEVIN PHILIPPART DE FOY
- PIERCE DARGAN
- MICK APPLEBY

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David Marnane and Mick Appleby, are one of the most consistent of Carnival trainers. They have been coming for a decade already. So what to do when they are being interviewed again? How to learn anything new? Well, for this fortnight's issue, we look to their horses for inspiration.

It is often the case that people are generous with their knowledge when it comes to sharing it with an audience of fans, they are delightfully open about their horses – all with their trademark humour and intelligence that are part of their personalities when you meet them.

In another interview, we celebrate Kevin Philippart de Foy, who is known to push the boundaries in his work. His horse El Habeeb heading to the UAE for the Dubai Carnival. And finally, we speak with Pierce Dargan of Business Infusions, a racing-forward young entrepreneur who had helped take the task of medical records management in the world of racing to the next level.

We also review the first race of the Dubai World Cup Carnival.

We hope you enjoy reading.

*Pallavi
Shevade*

Editor's Note

TEN FURLONGS MAGAZINE



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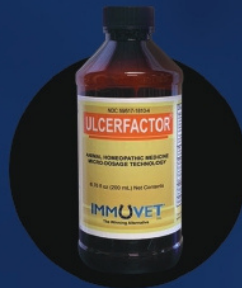
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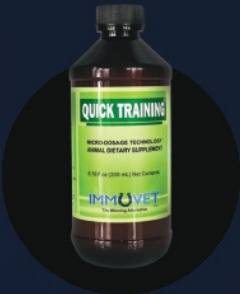


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Freescape Finishes Second Behind Lord Glitters In Singspeil Stakes At Meydan / ERA

DAVID MARNANE OUTLINES AMBITIOUS PLANS FOR DUBAI CARNIVAL WITH FREESCAPE

David Marnane is no stranger to Dubai, having moved to the UAE in 1997, where he learned the ropes and understood what it takes to be a successful trainer under Kieran McLaughlin and Doug Watson.

The region means a lot to him as he reflects on the DWC and the subsequent success the Carnival has seen since being introduced.

"I remember it well! "We actually had our first turf winner with our first-ever runner at Meydan, and that was the first turf race they had, and we won it," he says.

Beginnings on the Emerald Isle

Born in Tipperary, Ireland, a region synonymous with horses and many legendary trainers, his father was a farmer who was always interested in horses, and David's passion grew from there.



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"When we were younger, we would have had ponies and that sort of thing, and when he got a little bit older, he ended up buying a racehorse or two as a hobby, which is how I got involved with it."

"I have two brothers, and when we were growing up, we all took a different direction in racing as we progressed in life. My brother Con is one of the leading breeze-up consigners in Europe, and they sell 40 to 50 breeze-up horses every year."

"My other brother Ed is very good at race planning, and he was also Editor for Al Adiyat for many years before returning to join us in Ireland, where he helps out with everything."

As a jockey, Marnane would rise through the ranks as a top amateur rider, recording over 100 winners for trainers that included Dermot Weld, Mick O'Toole, John Oxx, and Noel Meade.

"I only rode for four or five years, and we had some success doing that, finishing as runners-up for the championship, but I always knew I wanted to do something else."

"I was very lucky to get offered a job with Kieran McLaughlin along with my wife Mel to go over for a year, and we ended up staying for ten years."

"He was an absolute gentleman and a great boss, so we stayed there all the way through."

With three school-aged children in tow and after a year working with Doug Watson, the Marnane family would return home to their native Ireland.

David officially got his trainer's licence in 2005, had his first winner on June 7th of that same year with Spirit of Age, and has not looked back since.

"When I started to train at home, it was always something I wanted to do, and we started off with five or six horses."

"We had some success, and five became 15, and 15 became 30, and we have around that number."

He has gone on to train a stable that has included Settle for Bay, Dandy Boy, Nocturnal Affair, and Stuttgart.

It was horses such as Santo Padre, Dandy Boy, and Bangalore Gold that helped to cement his position as a trainer of note.

Dandy Boy gave him his first Royal Ascot winner, and the stable enjoyed a second success at the same meeting when the Billy Lee-ridden Settle For Bay won the Royal Hunt Cup Handicap in 2018.

When selecting and training horses to target for the Carnival and racing in Dubai, the trainer says that it isn't as much about pedigree as some would believe.

"All of the European horses with us will really only run on the turf." However, three years ago, we had a very good horse named Tato Key, whom we purchased from South America, and he had no trouble running on the dirt.

"He was second in the Al Shindagha Sprint, then third in the Mahab Al Shimaal (two group races at the Carnival), and then he ran on World Cup night." He was a very good horse on the dirt but was bred to race on it.

"So, for us, there aren't really any major pedigree influences; we're just looking for a type that would want fast ground; size and scope are desirable for us."



Freescape at Meydan with Trainer David Marnane

"So, you know, horses do improve. But as I said, you need a horse with the right character—one that's happy to train there and is happy and relaxed.

MRC International: A Proper Horse Racing Syndicate

David and his team at Bانشa are the brains behind the new MRC International syndicate, which has enjoyed a hugely successful first year of operation.

"This syndicate is made up of people from Australia, America, the UAE, Kuwait, Ireland, and England—from all over the world, really."

"Last year we sat down and had a think about where the good horses had come from—we've had two Royal Ascot winners, Freescape, and some of those good horses that went to Dubai.

"But really, they all came to us as yearlings in the yard originally, and not for a lot of money—anything from ten grand up to €10,000 up to €40,000, and that was the core of it."

"So, we decided what was the best vehicle to get those sorts of horses in and around the yard, and we felt that with a couple of us we could pull together, and we set up a thing called the MRC, the Marnane Racing Club.

"It's a new concept because we have a lot of horses under one banner." We had 19 horses last year and have sourced 12 so far this year in the syndicate.

If anyone is interested in finding out more, they can contact David and his team for more details (see below). With another launch set for Dubai in the coming weeks, this is a fantastic opportunity to get involved!

"It is great because when you are involved in a syndicate, you are involved with all of the horses—you get to share all of them and get ownership in all of those horses."

"It is a fantastic concept, and I have taken some shares in the syndicate myself." From captains of industry to school teachers, the MRC is a diverse group of owners who have come together with one aim: "to have a like-minded group of people involved in proper race horse ownership and enjoying the great days out."

"Last year we had a very good filly called Lady Tilbury, who was the second first time out, and then she won her maiden very easily before another win she got very easily.

"She was the third choice for the Queen Mary at Royal Ascot, and she cost \$18,000 as a yearling, so she was a very big success."

"It [the MRC syndicate] worked really well, and we have had great fun." We actually had a launch night in Dubai at the Carnival, and we had about fifty people in the box at Meydan. It was amazing, and we plan to do the same thing this year. "We hope to bring a bigger team of horses to Dubai next year, including some runners for the MRC International syndicate."

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Sean Cronin, Thoroughbred Daily News

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Dubai is calling again.

Preparations are now underway in Dubai for the upcoming World Cup Carnival as Freescape has arrived from Mare's base in Ireland and will have his first race in a few weeks at Meydan. Freescape thoroughly enjoys Dubai and has been a great servant to Marnane, with six wins and eight placings from a 45-year career start since breaking his maiden in August 2017.

owned by McGettigan's Management Services and Dennis McGettigan, an owner of hospitality establishments and pubs internationally who is also a friend of Marnane and was the owner of Settle for Bay.

"My wife actually bought him a few years ago." I was in America, and they rang me up as he was in a store in Ireland. She wanted to buy him, and he was quite cheap—I think he cost around €20,000 at the time.

"When I got back from America, I loved him, and he was a really nice horse." He has always been straightforward.

"He was fourth the first day and in a good winner's race the first time out as a 2 year old, and he was always a very big horse. So, to run well as a two-year-old, he was always going to progress. In his second race, he finished third at the Curragh, and then he won his maiden, which is always a difficult thing to do in Ireland—if you win a maiden, you are a pretty good horse."

After breaking his maiden in Ireland, he was taken to Dubai as a 3-year-old.

"He went out for the Meydan Classic Trial and finished fifth or sixth, and then he was a very solid third in the Meydan Classic." It was at that point that we knew we had a pretty solid horse and one that loved travelling.

"We train him so his game focuses on Meydan as we know he likes going there and racing."

Freescaping inspires confidence

Marnane is confident in the gelded son of Cityscape and said he thought that recent track and turf changes would further increase his performances.

"I see they have changed the turf at Meydan this year, and I think that will be a positive for us this year." I think it will be good for our horse this season because he is a big horse and he loves having something solid underneath him. Even though he has run well and won out there, he moves around on it a bit, and I have found it really hasn't suited him as much as it could have.

"He has won a lot of races on the all-weather track, and that is solid underneath him, and he really likes that."

"Which I think is a pretty big feat because that is going on ten or twelve years, and we have had a lot of success." One year we brought three and won with all three—it's a very good hunting ground, and it is important for us to be there.

Freescape is on his way to Dubai, passing through Stansted on his way to his fifth Carnival, and Marnane smiled, knowing that his horse is well aware of his journey and plans.

"When he came out of the stable, he kind of half expected where he was going." "It is three degrees here and raining, so he would be excited about going to Dubai, let me tell you."

"He has had all the summer off to prepare, and you need a quality horse that can come off the horse and move into a new stable and be ready to race but still pretty relaxed."

Once he lands in Dubai, he will be targeted for the track with "Al Rashidiya" pencilled in.

"That's a race he ran in last year, and he was fourth, with Lord Glitters winning that one, who was a remarkable horse." He will run three weeks after that, again another two weeks later, and then he will race on Super Saturday.

"We have a good schedule set for him." He runs in four races and then he comes home, where he will run in Newcastle, which is our All-Weather Finals, which is very good and is worth a quarter of a million.

"He will go on his holidays after all of that and plan his schedule again from there."

Reflecting Back on the Decade Past

Marnane, who is based in Ireland but is always hungry for international victories, reflects on what has come without forgetting his goals and future success for his career and the team.

"In Europe, it's Royal Ascot we want to win, but if you're talking about Dubai, it's definitely World Cup Night." We were second in the UAE Derby, but I want to win any race on World Cup night, really.

"And I'd love to train a winner on the dirt just for the hell of it!"

Until Marnane can find a winner destined for victory on the dirt track of Dubai, it will be all about Freescape and his fifth DWC Carnival run—a feat to be admired for both the horse and this great Irish horseman.



All Photos Supplied By David Marnane



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“SURELY THERE HAS TO BE A BETTER WAY TO DO THIS.” –BUSINESS INFUSIONS’ CHIEF GROWTH OFFICER PIERCE DARGAN

A simple notion in a complex industry drove Pierce Dargan to become a game-changing pioneer in the industry, looking to bring together technology and equine care.

He is the CEO of Equine MediRec and the Growth Officer for Business Infusions, and he comes from a family with generations of horse racing experience.

From what is regarded as the largest conference in the equine industry, the Global Racing Symposium in Tucson, Arizona, Dargan spoke with us about his company, background, and plans.

"It has been a hectic couple of days, but very productive."

GUN RUNNER

BY CANDY RIDE (ARG)
OUT OF QUIET GIANT

VOLATILE

BY VIOLENCE
OUT OF MELODY LADY

PALACE MALICE

BY CURLIN
OUT OF PALACE RUMOR

SKY MESA

BY PULPIT
OUT OF CARESS

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BY MORE THAN READY
OUT OF QUIET DANCE

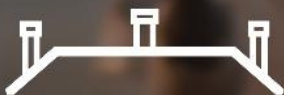
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"There are some exciting things coming out, especially around equine technology," he said.

"It's a great gathering of experts from across the industry, every type of spectrum from veterinary all the way to fan engagement, gambling, everything." It's a great event, and it's great to speak and see what is working in certain jurisdictions, what the problems and issues are in certain jurisdictions, and have a discussion around possible solutions.

"There are a lot of IoT solutions being spoken about, so it's great for us to be able to speak with others about the traction they have been able to get and see how we can work together."

"It's in its infancy at the moment, but it's getting there, and it's something that in one to three years we will start to see more of that kind of device and technology coming into play."

A proud owner and breeder himself, he is passionate about the possibilities that are open to him thanks to this valuable family history.

"I'm at least the fifth generation of horse owners and breeders, and that's what we can trace back, and it could even go further back than that we just don't have the records," Dargan said.

"My grandfather bought the current family farm we have with my father back in the 1980s, Eyrefield House Stud on The Curragh.

"Growing up, I was moving around with my family as my father moved with his job, but we would always go back for all the family events and Christmases there."

"It's a place I deeply associate with my grandfather and family."

"I was very interested at a young age, but when I went to high school, rugby took over."

Dargan had a short-lived rugby career that saw him play at the university level and pro rugby in Ireland and North America, taking his focus away from the family industry but not for long.

"Going back to college, I re-engaged as there was a very active horse racing society at Trinity College in Dublin, where I was doing my degree. "It was getting involved with friends and seeing the interest in heading to the track, and that's when I returned home to the farm."

His return to the farm saw the introduction of further regulations around animal welfare, anti-doping, and related issues that impacted the industry in which he and his family had so much love and experience.

"I wanted to help out, and it just was more complicated than I expected, but the industry was completely paper-based, and you are trying to recall all the requirements under the new rules or standards, for example, when a horse is given medication or has a vaccination scheduled."

Dargan is enthusiastic about what is possible when bringing technology together to improve the equine industry and the health of the horse.

"There is technology out there already. For example, a company called StrideSafe has an IoT device that captures 2000 data points from every stride a horse takes.

"They can look at any variation of those stride lengths or any deviation from the structure of the horse and say, 'Okay, there has been a certain amount of standard deviation from previous runs, so we now need to flag this horse.

"They can flag a horse that may look perfectly fine but may have the potential to get an injury or worse."

Dargan's company has won numerous awards, including being named Ireland's Best Tech Start-up for the Year at the National Start-ups Ireland Awards, as well as being named one of Ireland's 30 under 30, and the Best Young Entrepreneur in the Irish Midlands.

"It's great to get recognition for hard work." I don't want to lie and be like, "It's not nice to get that." It's nice to have it.

"Of course, it's more important that our customers are happy and that we deliver on what we say. "But I do think, especially early on when you're a new business and you don't have that much track record to go behind you, that having certain awards to show you have been vetted, that our customers are happy, and all of those positive things, that it definitely adds that credibility."

Having started in 2016 but launched in 2018, Dargan is proud of how far they have come as a company.

"Those two years were beneficial in hindsight as they helped us ensure the best user experience.

"When we started, it was paper-based everywhere except Hong Kong. They are unique because it's all run by the Hong Kong Jockey Club, so they have their own internal system.

"So apart from them, there was no private company that had been approved by a horse racing regulator to digitise its regulatory documents, so it took us two and a half years to change that."

"Because it was a new concept, and we did win some awards earlier on for it alone, putting forward a simpler way of doing things rather than every single trainer or veterinarian having to learn all the rules and then record that, why not have a system that they can log on to?"

"Depending on where that horse is going to go and compete, it automatically pops up what they need to fill in, and they fill that in." "If they miss something, it obviously goes red and tells you that you've missed something, and they then click out, and off they go."





Since its inception, the CEO claims that the company has provided their clients with a perfect strike rate while working towards their mission of making the industry more user-friendly and considering the welfare of the horse.

"Since the middle of 2018, we've had over 1000 inspections across the various jurisdictions with 100% compliance, so it is easier and works."

"A lot of the time, we will go into training operations, and it is the first piece of software that they're using, bar Excel." We needed to make sure it was extremely simple and easy to use for everybody. "I think we have achieved that based on the growth we have shown as a company."

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The ease of use and satisfaction of the user experience are and always have been key drivers for Dargan in creating the software.

"I think it was a personal experience. I had used the paper-based system, and I saw the problems with it, so, as I said, I got more involved once I came back and was doing my degree.

"I started to help with the secretary and trainer on the family farm before returning to college." His college in Dublin was an hour and a half away, and even this distance from the farm inspired his idea and subsequent creation further.

"I would get phone calls asking if I could add something to the book, and I couldn't because I wasn't on the farm, so it showed the problems with that paper-based system."

Multiple champion-winning trainer Willie Mullins, who has trained 88 winners at the Cheltenham Festival with many feature wins worldwide, is a prime example and a brand ambassador for their company.

"He (Mullins) trains hundreds of horses across the country, so he can't be on the farm all the time, so he needs something like this where he can look and see that he has something in his hands that shows his horses are ready and safe to race."

The company's reputation and satisfaction with the software continue to grow as their client list includes powerhouses of the equine industry, including the Breeders' Cup World Championship, the Pegasus World Cup, and the Jockey Club of Saudi Arabia.

"It's a process, and you are continually learning." The fact that we did the Breeders Cups and were able to do the Pegasus World Cup helped us show we had the expertise to deliver on the Saudi Cup.

"You are constantly building on what you have done, and we have plans to go even further to deliver systems that will make it easier for veterinarians and trainers to comply with regulations and regulators to inspect."

Dargan is optimistic for 2023, and joining Business Fusions is a massive boost to his company's achieving those plans.



Business Infusions was founded 16 years ago in Calgary, Canada, after witnessing the largest equine hospital in Canada losing a lot of money, being unable to track medications properly, and being unable to pay staff or meet the requirements expected of them.

"They (Business Infusions) went and built a system doing everything that an equine veterinary hospital would require, from medical records to invoicing to tracking the medications, for example—a very big system.

"Once again, it was a very similar kind of road to what we did; they built that for one hospital, and the news spread because then it got introduced from Canada and into the United States, and people saw it and said, "Geez, can we have this as well because we have the exact same problem?"

"Now it is the market leader in North America but also has a lot of practises in the Middle East and Australia—they really have grown." They are trying to add to the group companies that are the best brands in their field of expertise, which is how we joined up with them.

"We were asked if we would be interested in joining the group because a lot of the information that a trainer needs from a compliance perspective to enter a race is given by a vet. Before that, they had to put it into an invoicing system and then put it into an EMR for compliance.

"It makes sense to link up because now we can push that information over and you are cutting back fifty percent of the work rather than doing everything twice like before.

"That's kind of a natural synergy between what Equine MediRec and Business Infusions do, and now we can look at what we can do next and have that vision shared between us."

In taking Equine MediRec into the next chapter and continuing to deliver a global, user-friendly experience, the company has recently joined up with the Jockey Club of Saudi Arabia with a long-term contract.

A contract that delivers a strong partnership motivated by innovation and quality in the racing industry and equine health.

"Saudi was very interesting because the Saudi Cup, their marquee event, only really started a number of years ago, so you're talking in 2020." So, it has only been a couple of years, and I believe it's the fastest race to reach Group One status ever.

"They've really come in and shown that they want to be a market leader, and part of that is pioneering technologies and innovation, and that is where we came in."

"They had already put in place a manual process to ensure the welfare of horses before shipping because with the Saudi Cup, they pay for the horses to come to Saudi and race, so there are obviously a lot of checks that must be done even before the horse leaves their country."

"Because of that, they knew that they needed a system to ensure that information was collected and codified before the horse ever left the stable or the barn, and that's when they heard of the work that we had done with the various jurisdictions that we operate in that they wanted to work with us."



Finlay Dargan, Governor Larry Hogan, Pierce Dargan, Alexandra May (Pierce's Fiancee)

"We were able to use the learnings from the other competitions, including the Breeders Cup and Pegasus World Cup, to deliver a system that ensured the soundness and welfare of the horses before they even left on the plane or boat to head to Saudi Arabia."

"I think that shows that they are always looking for ways to improve, and we are very excited to be a part of that and help them in that approach."

With the end of the year closing in, Dargan was careful about divulging too many plans for the future, even when asked by this curious journalist.

"How much am I allowed to say?" "This is a very good question," the Irishman said, laughing heartily.

"I think that we have a lot of plans, but the one I can talk about just because you know it has already happened and I don't mind because we are going to be announcing it anyway is that we were very focused on the racing side of the industry, and we were very fortunate to get our first equestrian event with the Maryland Five Star.

"So that is the premiere kind of equestrian event in Maryland."

With less than ten Five-Star equestrian events in the world, securing this event is the first step in Dargan's plans to spread the use of the company's resources across other sectors of the equine industry.

"The fact that we got our first equestrian event to be the Maryland Five-Star was huge." So, we are now looking at not only racing events, but we are also looking at equestrian events, horse shows, or Western sporting events, because the same thing applies.

"They need a compliance solution for the welfare of the horses before they compete; whether that's a racehorse, an eventing horse, or a show jumping horse, it doesn't matter."

"For next year, that is the big thing for us to be branching out, and I have to thank the Maryland Fivestar for that opportunity and what it will mean for us moving into those premiere events."

"We will always be looking to grow, get more clients, and provide a service that continues to be the market leader."

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THE FUTURE SHINES BRIGHT FOR KEVIN PHILIPPART DE FOY

It is often said that some are born into their careers or industries, and for Newmarket-based trainer Kevin Philippart de Foy, that's the truth.

His mother, Brigitte Jacques, was a jockey for thirty years, and, as he tells it, he was born to follow in her footsteps, making the industry a major part of his life.

"She was a huge influence," he said. "I was nearly born on the racecourse, and she was back riding a couple of months after having me, so I was a regular spectator at the racecourse from a very young age. "Her race-riding career continued until I was about 22 or 23, so all of my childhood and early adulthood was centred around horses and racecourses."

Landmark Beginnings

A Belgian native, Kevin developed a wealth of racing experience from an early age, immersing himself in the sport with great passion.

Despite riding in several races and winning a few of those too, he knew fairly early on in his career that he was destined to train rather than ride as his mother did.

"I was always a chubby little kid; I wasn't the lightest," Philippart de Foy grins.

"Even when I lost some weight and tried to be a jockey, I was always too heavy and probably not as good as some of the others."

"So, it was always very clear that I wasn't going to be a jockey and that training was more for me."

He has only been running his training team since November 2020, but the two years have been successful to date, notching up an impressive 60 winners for the year as we go to print.

"It's been good—I always say it could be better, but everybody around me has said it's been great, so it must be going alright."

"The highlights have probably been winning the Victoria Cup with VAFORTINO at Ascot and Surrey Mist winning the Prix Vulcain in Deauville, France. "We had a fair few two-year-old winners and some strong places in group races as well, so it's been a decent start."

Prior to obtaining his own training license, he worked as an assistant to and was mentored by some of the best trainers in the world, including renowned trainers John Oxx in Ireland, Christophe Clement in America, and James Fanshawe in Newmarket.

"I think they all have similarities—they work with attention to detail in the routine and keep their team organized."

"I think they are the key foundations to training: keeping an organised routine, paying attention to detail, and working hard."

During his time working with John Oxx, he got to witness and be involved in the later stages of Sea the Stars' great career before heading back to France to work for the Chantilly-based Criquette Head.

During the five seasons that the current master of Machell Place Stables spent there, he assisted in the training of multiple Group One winning horses, including Epicuris, Full Mast, Special Duty, and the dual Arc winner, Treve.

In 2014, he moved to the United States to work as an Assistant Trainer for French-born trainer Christophe Clement, where he had the fortunate experience of working with great horses Tonalist and Hard Not to Like, securing their victories in multiple Group One races, including The Belmont Stakes, Cigar Mile, and Jockey Club Gold Cup.

His role saw him taking charge of Clement's second operation and the movement of horses between New York, Kentucky, and Florida.

It was this experience of transporting horses both within the United States and globally that has shown Philippart de Foy the ropes when it comes to travelling horses between meets and carnivals.

"I think looking at it, it's a pretty good system—we've got agents who pretty much organise everything for us and make the process as smooth and easy as possible."

"Obviously, putting a horse on a plane isn't always the easiest, and they are not used to it, but I think the industry is doing a great job with it."

Brexit has made things a bit more complicated to transport overseas and around Europe; there is a lot more paperwork now than there used to be, but the agents are fantastic at dealing with it.

"Being able to transport horses internationally is very important for us; there are big races around the world that we want to target, so we need to be able to get the horses there safely." You need the right horse, and some take it better than others, but I think the process has improved greatly over the years, making it more accessible for more horses.

Starting out his own training venture at Machell Place Stables in November 2020, he took over the facility from Ed Vaughan, who was moving his training operation over to the USA after 10 years in the attractively positioned Newmarket yard.

Machell Place boasts a wealth of history, having been built in 1884 by Charlie Wood, a leading jockey of the late 19th century.

The facility includes 37 large, well-ventilated boxes, a horse walker, a large grass paddock, a spa, and onsite accommodation for Kevin and his family.

In June this year, the demand for additional stables reached its pinnacle, with Kevin and his team needing to expand their facility; the result was taking on a second yard in the form of the historic Kings Yard at Egerton Stud.

He is considered a rising star in the training ranks, and the new yard offers the ability to house a further 42 horses, plus access to private training facilities and year-round turnout.

"Obviously, we want to be competitive at the highest level." It's a numbers game, and the more horses we have, the better our chances are, but I don't want to get too big too quickly. "We will try to increase the quality of our string every year, and we will have between 85 and 95 horses in training next year. I think that's a good number as it's manageable and provides a good variety of horses from yearlings to older horses."

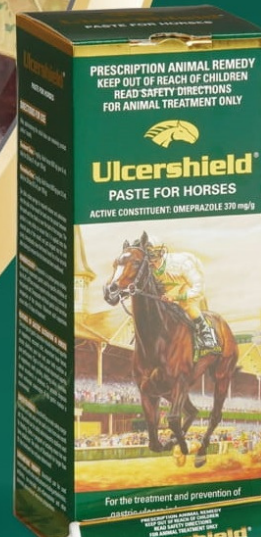




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Kevin Philippart De Foy

2022 was a surprisingly interesting year for Philippart de Foy, with Shadwell adding him to their roster by sending him a quartet to work with for the 2023 season.

"It's also an exciting time for Shadwell and Sheikha Hissa, in terms of their involvement in the industry going forward." "They had a big dispersal but are now reinvesting and have been buying some quality bloodstock for next year." Philippart de Foy said, "We're delighted to get the support of Sheikha Hissa and Shadwell."

"We just need to build the quality of the horse and be competitive on the biggest stage." Obviously, you want to win the Classics in England, you want to win at Ascot, and I think internationally you have some big targets over the winter too.

"Races in Dubai and the Middle East are becoming more influential, and there is the offer of a broader scope of races such as the Melbourne Cup." "It's being competitive on the biggest stage and striving to train as many winners as possible, getting the very best from every horse in our care."



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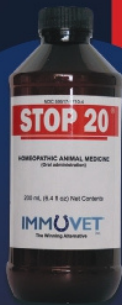
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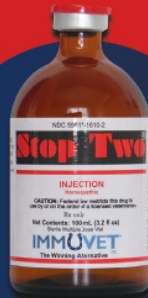
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In mentioning Dubai racing and the profile of the sport and industry in the UAE and surrounding regions, Philippart de Foy was optimistic and confident that it would only increase. "You want to have the best horses possible in your stable; the higher the quality of horse you have, the better the race they can run in, and thus the higher the prize money."

For the current season, Philippart de Foy has one horse in his yard that would be targeted to showcase in the region this year: EL HABEEB.

"I've got a horse named El Habeeb who was a winner at Ascot in September. We gave him a break afterwards to get him ready for the winter. We have an entry to make next week for the long-distance race on Saudi Cup night. Depending on how he gets there, he could potentially be targeted for the Dubai Gold Cup carnivals. "We will reassess after his first run over the winter and see what we do, but he will be the main one for the season."

The 3YO Al Rifai colt has had six starts for two wins and a placing, including the listed Peroni Nastro Azzuro Noel Murless Stakes, where he won by half a length.

His stable also has a few stars that will be targeted for races in Europe that Philippart de Foy says an eye should be kept on.

"Surrey Mist is definitely one we should keep an eye on." He won impressively in Deauville on his latest start and shows plenty of scope.

"We have another horse called Enthralment that we bought in October who I'm looking forward to running next year."



All Photos Provided By Kevin Philippart de Foy



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“I ALWAYS WAS MORE INTERESTED IN THE TRAINING SIDE”: LEGENDARY TRAINER MICK APPLEBY

Mick Appleby has always known where his passion lies. Working with horses

With nearly three decades of experience and knowledge, his success has come from hard work, dedication, and knowing how to get the best out of every horse.

Born in the North of England in a little town called Barnsley in South Yorkshire, Appleby learned his passion for horses and racing from his grandfather, as he told us.

"I got into racing through my grandparents, specifically my grandfather. He didn't work in racing, but he liked to gamble on it, and I used to watch racing on TV with him.

"Personally, I got the bug from there.

"Sadly, he is no longer with us, having passed away about 20 years ago. But I'm sure he's up there somewhere, looking down on me.

The Early Years: Many Chapters and Quite a Few Twists

Beginning as a stable jockey for John Manners, he would ride numerous winners over a three-year period before he left to become head lad for Roger Curtis.

Appleby admits he always knew he wanted to be a trainer, even during his time as a hooper.

"I mean, I was a jump jockey—a very bad jump jockey—and I didn't ride many winners," he said.

In 2008, he was offered the fantastic opportunity to become head lad at Andrew Blading's Kingsclere Stables, where he worked with top-class horses, gaining much experience in all aspects of training racehorses.

"In a few yards, I went from being a jockey to being head lad, learning different things from different trainers before I finally sort of setup training by myself."

In June 2010, Appleby decided to go out on his own for the remainder of that season, seeing three winners and further placings after making the decision.

The following year, he built on his success from the 2011 season with 20 winners and numerous placed horses.

The Appleby team won the November Handicap with their horses Louchantanks, The Lockmaster, Stellar Express, Demora, and Art Scholar over the next two seasons.

Appleby trained Danzeno to win the Group 3 Chip Chase at Newcastle in 2014, and he also trained 91 other winners that year.

As a head trainer, he has forged a reputation for preparing great types that know how to excite when racing and was crowned the Champion Trainer at Southwell in 2014 and 2015.

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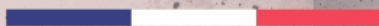


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Other training achievements include preparing Bancnuaheireann, who went on to break the track record at Chelmsford, and Lockmaster, who won his 100th race and now has 15 wins to his name.

Biggest Accomplishment

Appleby points to another success as his greatest highlight to date, however.

"I think the most important day of my training career and the race that got me the most noticed was winning the November Handicap at Doncaster with a horse called Art Scholar.

"I paid five hundred pounds for him, and he went on to win that Group One for us before we took him out to Dubai to race for us."

"I think he was the horse that really got me noticed as a trainer."

"Danzeno would have been second on the list, and with him giving us our first Group winner, it meant a lot to us."

Since then, the Mick Appleby stable has gone from strength to strength, progressing according to plan, as he said.

"We had our 1,000th career win this year, and we had the 100th win for the season on the same day with the same horse.

"The past three seasons, we have had 100 winners."

Moving with the Times

Having been involved in the industry for several decades, Appleby is well aware of the advancements in the industry when it comes to technology, and for him, the plan is fairly plain and simple.

"I have a really great secretary," he joked.

"But seriously, you must move with the times, and if you have people around you to help with that, it goes a long way.

"Technology is playing such a big part in technology, and we are coping quite well." My assistant, Johnny, is very good. He is currently doing his training modules at Newmarket as we speak.

Plans Ahead

When the horseman is asked what is next for the season, he responds that it does not all come down to figures for him at this point in his training career.

"I think I would rather just try and start getting a better class of horses and try to concentrate on class rather than quantity."

"When we look at races for low handicappers, the prize money in the UK for the lower classes isn't that great, so I think we're better off focusing on class now and training horses of that calibre for higher level races."

"Try and get some horses that can run in group races that we can take abroad and take to Dubai."

All Aboard for the Trip Back to Dubai

He now returns to the UAE with a team of four hopefuls looking to target races and spoils across the carnival in Raasel, Edraak, Ayr Harbour, and the United Front.



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Raasel is a six-year-old showcasing gelding from the stable with a winning record of nine wins and four placings from 18 starts.

"He was bought for 10,000 pounds." He has turned out to be a real success story for us. He is the horse that Appleby believes could race in Qatar, especially with the recent rise in prize money.

"He could possibly go there, and he is the best of the bunch, so it is possible."

"He has just gotten better and better and still has a lot of improvement to come from him."

"The plan is to run him in a listed race in the next few weeks and see where we can put him depending on the five-furlong races available."

"If we were to push him up to six furlongs, I think Dubai is the best place to get that from him."

"If he were to go well over the six-furlong distance, we could look at running him in the Gold Cup on World Cup night."

Edraak is a 7-year-old gelded son of Elzaam and has shown that he still has plenty left for the track this season. From 19 starts, he has five victories and eight placings.

"He is a very nice horse who keeps improving for us. We are probably going to pop an entry in for him for the Group 2 in the first meeting.

"We will more than likely wait for the handicap during the third meeting for him—I think we are more likely to go for that."

Ayr Harbour has had the most starts from the four, with the 6YO Harbour Watch x Sorella Bella gelding racing 31 times and winning on five of those outings.

"He will be into the seven-furlong and mile handicaps on the dirt. He was very good on the old fibre surfaces at Sivel, which is the closest thing we have to dirt.

"He did very well on that surface so hoping he will take to the dirt very well."

United Front is the youngest of the travelling brigade at five years old but has 34 race starts to his name. He has not won this year since December 2021 but took honours four times that year.

"He will also run on the dirt." He is a very good all-weather track horse, and he performs a lot better on that surface than on grass. We will campaign for him for a mile to a mile and a half. "If we bring him and he does well on the dirt, he may also get a run in a listed race as well."

Appleby's four-member stable arrived in Dubai last week and will be getting ready to step out.

"They all flew well and have settled in well."

Appleby has a stable of ninety in the UK, so he looks to join his runners in Dubai in a week's time, ready for the meeting on January 13.

He also currently has King of Stars in Bahrain who races there on the same night his other runners line up on the 13th.



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The 6-year-old gelding has two races in Bahrain before he goes back to the UK. If he went to Dubai, he would race against his stablemate Raasel, which is something Appleby wants to avoid.

This year's Carnival marks the tenth that Appleby has had horses entered, and his mission is clear once again.

"I've been coming for a long time and still to get a winner.

"Raasel is the best horse we have brought over, so hopefully he can get that first win for us there."



All Photos Provided By Mick Appleby Racing

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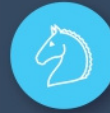
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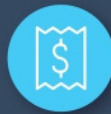
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REVIEW: MEYDAN MEET ACTION PACKED LAUNCHING DUBAI WORLD CUP CARNIVAL

The wait was worth it with an action-packed running of the opening meeting of the 2023 Dubai World Cup.

Meydan hosted a seven-race card which saw fields of talent from across the globe throw it all down and a treble from jockey James Doyle as well as doubles from Charlie Appleby and global powerhouse Godolphin.

Highlighted by the Gr.2 Al Maktoum Challenge R1 for thoroughbreds over 1600m on dirt and in the end, it was a clinic by Algiers.

Doyle Makes It A Quick Treble

In the first of James Doyle's three wins for the card he rode the 6YO home thumping the field by close to seven lengths adding the Group Two win to the horses Group Three win in the Jebel Ali Mile and his two Listed class wins.

Bred by Godolphin and trained by Simon & Ed Crisford,



He flies the flag in the colours of Hamdan Sultan Ali Alsabousi and making this his first UAE success in the name of the trainers as a partnership.

“He showed at Jebel Ali last year that he is a very good horse and he has done well tonight because we were drawn wide and I was not able to get any cover so had to forfeit ground,” Doyle said.

“He stays further so connections may consider stepping him up in trip.”

The hoop made it a race-to-race double thirty minutes later taking out the turf highlight, the 1400m Group 2 Al Fahidi Fort, when on board Al Suhail he swept up passing most of the field in the straight.

“He settled really nicely from our horrible draw but they went quickly which has really helped him. He always works like a really good horse and he has delivered tonight,” the hoop added. Not satisfied with two wins Doyle would once again show he rides with the best of them taking out the final race on the card and celebrating a treble and a trained double by the great Charlie Appleby.

A 1000m turf sprint, the Listed Ertijaal Dubai Dash, Lazuli denied William Buick aboard stablemate Man Of Promise the chance for the win edging out by 1.25 lengths and taking the spoils.

The first Thoroughbred contest of the 2023 carnival was the Dubai Racing Club Classic, a 2410m handicap and the prize went to Britain, courtesy of Enemy, last year’s Epsom Derby winning jockey Richard Kingscote producing the 6yo Muhaarar gelding to lead entering the final 200m, the pair staying on strongly to land the spoils for Ian Williams in the colours of Tracey Bell & Caroline Lyons.



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O'Shea Rings Up 700th With Seemar's Seasoned Campaigner

Bhupat Seemar took the win with his classy 9YO gelded seasoned campaigner, Switzerland. In the dirt dash, the 1200m Group 3 Dubawi Stakes, Switzerland added to his CV following last year's win in the Golden Shaheen winning comfortably under Tadhg O'Shea for RRR Racing and Bhupat Seemar.

With the victory came Tadhg O'Shea's 700th UAE winner, with plenty more to come.

A 1400m turf conditions race for 3YOs, the Jumeirah Classic Trial produced a thrilling finish with Long Kiss, as the only runner foaled in the summer hemisphere conceding weight to his ten rivals, flying home to snatch victory in a blanket finish with Jose da Silva in the saddle and trained by Julio Olascoaga.

Opening the card was the Gr.1 Al Maktoum Challenge for Pure Arabians over the same 1600m dirt course and distance as the Thoroughbred version.

The 7YO RB Rich Lyke Me made it two years in a row winning the challenge with Adrie de Vries onboard once again, riding in the colours of Victorious for Fawzi Nass.

The horse did it once again easily taking control of the race in the straight and cracking the track record in the process "He is a very smart horse but nothing really went right for him in his two races after he won this last year," jockey De Vries said.

"We were very confident to be honest but it is always a relief when they get the job done," trainer Fawzi Nass added.

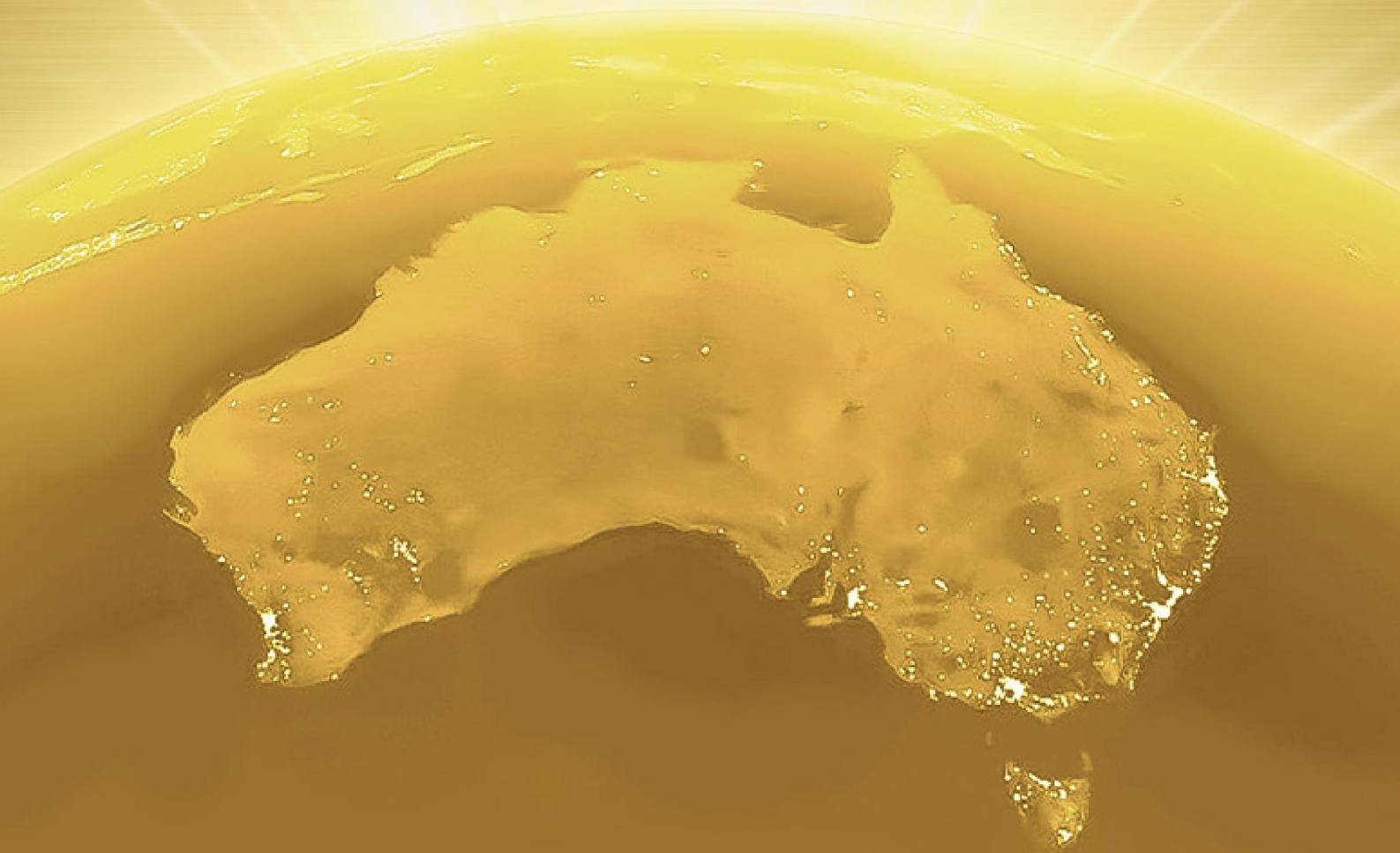


Man Of Promise winning the Ertijaal Dubai Dash Presented by Zabeel Feed at meydan / ERA



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