TEN FURLOUGS DEDICATED TO HORSE RACING IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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TERVIEWS THIS ISS

DAVID O MEARA HARRY EUSTACE HUGO PALMER JAMIE OSBORNE JULIO OLASCOAGA SCOTT BRUNTON

TEN FURLONGS MAGAZINE | ISSUE 05 | VOLUME 6

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randlab.com Australian Owned Australasian Made Shipping Globally 7/85 Alfred Road, Chipping Norton NSW 2170 Australia | Phone: (61-2) 9728 3505 | Fax: (61-2) 9728 4352 | Email: info@randlab.com Friday's main race of seven at the UAE's iconic Meydan Racecourse was on turf for the Gr. 2 Zabeel Mile, in which class prevailed, Godolphin's Master Of The Seas proving himself by far the best horse in the race.

While the first Classic of the season, the Listed UAE 1000 Guineas was totally dominated by Mimi Kakushi, completing doubles or trainer Salem bin Ghadayer and jockey Mickael Barzalana.

And finally, Godolphin were celebrating a double after the Saeed bin Suroor-trained Global Heat landed the 2810m Listed Al Khail Trophy. Pat Cosgrave in the saddle.

Overall a great DWCC evening, proving that the season is off to a spectacular with the number of international trainers out in full force.

This week we feature interviews with Julio Olascoaga who is making waves in the region, David O'Meara whose 108-rated Shelir placed runner-up behind Godolphin's Master Of The Seas, Hugo Palmer, Jamie Osbourne, Scott Brunton and Park Lodge's Harry Eustace.

We hope you enjoy reading.

Regards

Pallavi Shevade

Editor's Note ten furlongs magazine



THE TEAM

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O'MEARA SET TO TAKE THE MIDDLE EAST BY STORM, AGAIN

David O'Meara knows this more than most.

Having become one of the fastest trainers in Britain to train 1,000 winners, he understands that success is never guaranteed and does not come overnight.

"We were very lucky! It took us maybe ten years to reach that, but I think we have also had nine consecutive years where we have had 100 winners. "So that's quite an achievement that we're quite proud of."

As the Irish trainer competes in his eighth UAE season with his prepared brigade, he spoke with us about his beginnings in the industry and where the team is now having success along the way.

Early Years with Horses

Fermoy, County Cork, Ireland, is where he was born. O'Meara grew up with a family involved in horses, and his passion grew from there.

"It is a very horse-oriented area, and John Magnier from Coolmore Stud would have been born there, and Coolmore would have started there," he said.

"My parents were into horses, point-topoint, and National Hunt racing. My dad would buy some yearlings and sell them as three-year-olds when they didn't sell as point-to-pointers. I got into it that way and because of their enthusiasm for it. "The fact that we were living in that area and that everybody in that area had a vested interest in it"

He began as a jockey and rode for 13 seasons before deciding to pursue training as a career.

"I'd say all in all, I rode as an amateur for probably three or four years and as a professional for nine." During that time, I got to ride some very nice horses like Mister McGoldrick and a few good chasers.

"As an amateur, I won the Foxhunters at Aintree, which was a great thrill." "That was probably the biggest race I ever won as a jockey."

From Trading to Training: The Big Jump

In his twenties, O'Meara would jump from the saddle into training, as he recalled.

"I was always interested in horse training, and I was always buying and selling horses since I was about 25 or 26 years old."

"I would buy a young horse, get it 90% fit to run in a bumper, and then send it into training, where hopefully it could run well, and then sell it on." I was doing that well before I got my training licence and was running an odd horse, so it was always something I was very interested in.

At 31, I thought I wanted to pack in the riding relatively young to have the energy to go and do something else, and luckily for me, it was training."

The Willow Farm Journey

Since getting his licence in June 2010, he has gone on to have a career that has seen him win some great races, train quality horses, and record success along the way.

He moved training operations to the 120-acre purpose-built facility at Willow Farm in 2016.

"It took a lot of investments and a lot of hard work." We have it how we like it now, with its two gallops and every facility we really want on one site.

"We have a great team, which is important, but it took a while obviously to build that team." "When you move, you lose some team members because of the location, but you gain others."

His stable has included horses such as G-Force, Amazing Maria, and the great Lord Glitters.

"We've gone to America very successfully but have had a bit of a dry spell since then. A few years ago, we won three Grade 1s in North America: Woodbine Mile, Arlington Mile, and Shadwell Mile. We got a second in the Breeder's Cup Mile, so we had some good trips over there.

Amazing Maria was a big highlight, as was a horse of mine named Custom Cut, who won me multiple group races. We have won a lot of heritage handicaps in the UK.

"We've won quite a few races in Dubai with a few horses, including Lord Glitters."

O'Meara's Globe-Trotting Grey

The gelded son of Whipper finished his career at 46: 11–10–5 and relished racing in the UAE, making his debut there as a 6YO in the 2019 season. Sent to the United Arab Emirates to contest the Dubai Turf over 1800 metres at Meydan Racecourse on March 30, in which he started a 22/1 outsider, he passed a bulk of the field to take third place behind the Japanese mares Almond Eye and Vivlos.

In the following year, as a 7-year-old, he ended the season with a trip to Bahrain, where he finished a close fifth behind the locally trained Simsir in the Bahrain International Trophy over 2000 metres at Sakhir Racecourse on November 20.

As an 8-year-old, he found his best in the UAE when, on his seasonal debut in the Grade 2 Singspiel Stakes over 1800 metres at Meydan, ridden by the Dutch jockey Adrie de Vries, he won after being restrained toward the rear but hitting the lead 300 metres from the finish, drawing away to win by three lengths from Zakouski and record his first victory for nineteen months.

At the time, the trainer told the media that he was overjoyed with his star's performance. "He was brilliant. The race fell right for him, and Adrie gave him a great ride. He ran a lovely race in Bahrain in November when it wasn't run to suit. The fact that he's eight now but is still able to run at that level is amazing. "That was a hell of a run, and we know he likes the track."

Three weeks later, he finished third behind Zakouski and Court House in Group 2, Al Rashidiya, beaten by less than a length from the winner.

Last season, Lord Glitters once again began the campaign in Dubai, finishing fourth in the Al Rashidiya before taking the Singspiel Stakes for the second time, beating the favourite Royal Fleet by a length.

He would be retired in July 2022 following a poor race in the Brigadier Gerard Stakes at Sandown, but his legacy is one to be remembered, and he is missed by the stable and O'Meara.

"He was a very talented horse, and we were very lucky to have him."

"There have been many highlights; it's been a good run."

Racing at Meydan

O'Meara has now been preparing horses for the UAE and the World Cup Carnival since 2014.

"Penitant was the first horse that went out there."

His stable currently houses between 130 and 150 horses as he prepares five to unleash on the tracks of the UAE for the current season.



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Charging Thunder stepped out in his UAE debut in early January for the Dubai Racing Classic, finishing seventh under Danny Tudhope. He is the 5-year-old gelded son of War Command and has six wins to his name after breaking his maiden in June 2021.

"He is a very good horse. He had a great year last year and went down narrowly in a very good race. He liked the fast ground out there. He is a horse that is from a family that includes the Prince of Arran; he is his brother. The family gets better with age. So I'm sure this fella will as well—I expect him to have a good carnival."

Get Shirty is a 7-year-old gelded son of Teofilo who was set to make his debut in the UAE for the Dubai Racing Classic but was withdrawn, as O'Meara explains.

"We've had to give a lot of weight away for him so he can wait a couple of weeks and run in a listed race against the same horses."

O'Meara intends to race Get Shirty twice or three times, and he has a nomination for Saudi Arabia as well, with those plans contingent on his performance in Dubai.The trainer also added that a mile-and-a-half race in Qatar was not out of the question either.

"We're going to kind of just feel our way and just see how we get along with them."

Stablemate Shelir is the 7-year-old gelded son of Dark Angel, and on his UAE debut in the Al Fahidi Fort at the start of the month, he put in a decent performance, running third but only four lengths off the winner, Al Suhail.

"We dropped back to seven, but he's probably better at the mile." You could argue that he would run maybe even slightly better on soft ground, but he has form on fast ground.

"He won the Balmoral very impressively in his last run for us and went up a fair bit in the handicap for it. We gave him that run at seven furlongs, but there are some mile races coming up for him in his campaign.

"He and Charging Thunder probably have two or three races each, I would say, out in Dubai as well this winter, depending on how they come out of each race.

"After the season they will come back (to the UK), and Shelir may run in the Lincoln if he's still in good form and all has gone well."

"Charging Thunder may have a freshen-up when he returns because he prefers better ground, so he may get a break before a campaign in the UK in May, which hopefully leads him into the company of listed and group races in the UK." The final pair are Orbaan and BoPedro.

"Orbaan had a great year last year. I always thought he was a soft-grown horse, but I think he's knocked that theory on the head this year as he has actually performed better on decent ground.

"Bopedro will have a start in the Lincoln, and I would hope he has a good prep between now and the end of March for that, as I am keen to run him there."

"They all left between Christmas and New Year's, and they all travelled well and settled in well." O'Meara is also preparing 9-year-old Summerghand, who has been earmarked for the sprint in Qatar after winning the Ayr Gold Cup.

Stars in the Stable

A current star of the stable who has won his last three starts, 6YO Alligator Alley, will also see the track in Qatar.

"He is doing well at the moment!" He's very much a five-furlong horse, but I might see if I can stretch him out to the six out in Qatar.

"So, I might send a couple out there for the sprint, and Shelir might go over for the mile race if he's getting along well in Dubai."

Having been taking horses to Dubai and the Middle East for close to a decade, O'Meara speaks highly of the profile of racing in the regions.

"I feel that the racing in the Middle East is getting stronger." I mean, when you see the horses in training sales and in the UK in July, August, and October, a lot of our decent horses are getting sold out there.

"So, the standard is getting higher, and the prize money is very good, so there is a very strong draw to bring people out there to compete."

With the retirement of Lord Glitters, O'Meara admits that there is no longer a standalone star in the ranks, but this makes for greater prospects of discovering the next diamond in the yard.

"We lack an absolute superstar in the yard, but all the handicappers seem to have raised their game."

"Summerghand won the Ayr Gold Cup, Orbaan won the Feature Mile at Goodwood, Escobar won a big one at Ascot, and Get Shirty had a great season.

"For next year, Summerhand will be back again and heading to Qatar.

"We've got all the usual suspects back again, all a year older, so we'll see if they can keep the same level of form."

"We bought a few new youngsters this year. Then we've got quite a few 2-year-olds, so hopefully we've got another good one that can become competitive at Royal Ascot.

O'Meara is one of the most positive trainers I have interviewed in my career thus far, and as we speak about what is to come for the stable, particularly in the UAE, that confidence remains steadfast.

"Hopefully we have a good campaign out there and end up in the staying race on Super Saturday —that would be great."

"I guess this year our target would be to win the Lord Glitters Handicap—if Shelir could win that, it would be great, wouldn't it?"

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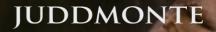
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HARRY EUSTACE EXCITED ABOUT INUAGRAL MEYDAN RUN WITH CITE D'OR

It drives us to be the best, and two years have passed since Harry Eustace took over at the helm of his family's Park Lodge. It is a legacy that drives him every single day.

He is the son of legendary trainer James Eustace, who has achieved international acclaim as a multiple Group race winner.

His brother is David Eustace, who, since partnering with Ciaron Maher in Australia, has also seen success, including winning last year's Melbourne Cup with Gold Trip.

The Family

Born and raised in Newmarket's horse-centric environment, at the family's Park Lodge, his current home,

"Dad was an assistant trainer who began training me when I was one of the Park Lodge kids."



"For me, depending on whom you ask, I luckily grew up in Newmarket." Opinions vary on Newmarket, but

"I feel I was very fortunate to grow up here in a horse racing environment."

Born into the industry, his father's career greatly influenced Eustace.

"We obviously grew up and around horses, so it was part of life to have horses as such a great part.

"It wasn't a case of the passion just arriving, as we were around horses all the time, but from the start, we were a part of the business as much as we could be growing up." "Whether it was riding ponies or helping out in the yard, we did everything we could."

Growing up in places like Newmarket and Park Lodge, Eustace admitted that, while he was passionate about the industry, it may not have turned out the way it did in some cases.

"I think it can sort of push you one of two ways, actually." Either you don't connect with the environment at all, or you do and it becomes a part of your daily life. That was very much the case for my brother and me as part of our upbringing. After being at school, we were in the yard around horses, so that was just our normal day.

He would pursue studies at university in a field far away from the world of horse racing, and as Eustace tells it, it was all part of the greater plan.

"I studied chemistry; I decided to go for a degree in case horse racing or training didn't work—which actually is not the sort of motivation you need to do that sort of thing."

"It helped clarify for me that what I actually always wanted to do was be a trainer, and it helped me make the decision a lot easier, I can tell you that." So it was at that point that I knew I wanted to be a trainer.

Eustace would not complete his studies but instead took the first step in his training career and boarded a plane for Australia, where he worked with Lee and Anthony Freeman and Paul and Peter Snowden.

With an education under trainers of this calibre, along with Christophe Clement in the United States and William Haggas in the UK, Eustace says the lessons learned set him on track for his own career.

Early Experience at the Highest Level

These lessons led to career highlights that he will never forget.

"Personally, there are quite a few along the way. I was extremely fortunate to care for him—not all the way through, sadly, but in his early stages as a two-year-old. I actually took him to the races when he won his first start before having to fly back home myself. "I followed his career, which was brilliant to follow and watch," he remembers with passion in his voice.

The son of Elusive Quality, trained by dual Everest winner Peter Snowden, retired in 2016 after a stellar career in which he won ten races, including four Group Ones, and earned A\$3.8 million in prize money.

"When I worked for Christoph Clement, I also was able to see Tonalist win the Belmont." "That was a oncein-a-lifetime experience that I'll never forget." The Tapit colt won the 2014 edition of the Belmont Stakes, beating the favourite California Chrome and, in turn, denying him his campaign to win the Triple Crown.

"Then, when I worked for William Haggis, there were obviously a few."

"I believe this is also my first win."I'll never forget that because that's always important." His first winner was Coverham at Yarmouth in April 2021, after taking over training duties a week earlier from his father.

"He was a stable favourite and had been with dad for four or five years. He was just a horse, and that sort of sums up the old man and horse racing, really. He was a lovely horse to deal with and had a great nature "He always tried, and it was just very apt that he was my first winner."

In 2021, he took over the helm of Park Lodge from his father and will always be passionate and understanding of the decision to do so.

"It's home. We are all incredibly proud whenever we bring people here.

"It's a lovely yard, and mom and dad have kept it immaculate all these years." It's allowed me a level of stability and security starting off in my career, too. I don't want to say it has allowed me to be riskier, but it has allowed me to take chances in other areas because, as you know, we have that bedrock of Park Lodge as home.

"It'd be a sad day if one day we had to leave."

Eustace appreciates the advancements in the industry as well as the growing need to move horses and travel them around the world, as well as the growing need to move with the times.

"I think the important thing is to remember that it's still incredibly difficult."

"There are a lot of horses that travel for international meetings, and there are lots of horses that travel for international meetings, and they don't run well for a variety of reasons, but I think in particular with those sorts of trips, it is the planning beforehand that goes into it that is key."

"Along with everyone involved in the trip understanding what you want from day to day and the business routine, "Understanding the routine of the horse from day one, wherever they are traveling, The progression of the day is very important, as is understanding what you want to happen and how you want the whole day to go for the horse. If you get into a good routine and everyone knows how that looks and how the horse reacts, then you are in as good a position as you can be.

"That is 90% of it, and then after that, you just need that bit of luck to go your way—which is the same with any race you are in."

The Meydan Racecourse calls.

Cite D'Or, a three-year-old filly, is now being prepared for the current UAE season, with races already scheduled for her.

"She flew over on the 29th of December, and she has been there for just over a week now.

"I had never actually personally been to Dubai but have obviously travelled with horses elsewhere. I find that having been there myself in the past has been a massive help when prepping the horses, so I was keen to go out there and suss out the facilities and work out her routine."

Laura, who's taken her, has actually been to Dubai and travelled with horses there a lot, so she has been a massive help.

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"But from my personal point of view, to just get an idea of where she is and how she's training every day and just get my bearing—that was very important to me."

"The facilities were fantastic, as I've heard from a lot of other people." Dubai itself was fantastic and a real eye-opener. "I really enjoyed it and am looking forward to going back."

The plans for the filly have been set, with her first race at the end of the month.

"She's going to start off in a seven-furlong fillies race for three-year-olds on the 27th of January, which ticks a lot of boxes for her. I think with her being that level of filly, typically people give them a good holiday through the winter and aim them for the better races for the three-year-olds in Europe."

"I don't want to say it's a weaker division, but numbers-wise, it's pretty lower in that three-yearold filly category. I would imagine, although I haven't seen all of the forms from the local runners, that she would bring a greater level of experience than I would have thought."

"Then that race sits perfectly for the Oaks, which is actually on the dirt over a mile and a quarter." Now the dirt is a question mark, but the race fits very nicely, and her last run was actually over a mile and a quarter as a two-year-old. I think one of her big attributes is her stamina.

"I'm hoping this race will really see that to best effect, so that's the plan." Then you have the Guineas on the grass, which is a week after the Oaks, as a sort of backup if we lose a bit of time between her first race and the Oaks or something like that.

"That's a backup, but the original plan is the seven-furlong grass race into the Oaks on the dirt."

Owners of Cite D'Or and the Partnership

The filly is owned by Nick Bradley and his racing syndicate, with Bradley having great trust in Eustace's ability as a trainer, with Cite D'Or being the first shared in this trainer-owner partnership.

"Cite D'Or was sourced by Nick at a breeze-up sale in France in June. Anthony Bromley, an owner who has bought a few horses for me, was also out there, and Nick asked him his opinion of me, and I suppose it was favourable because he gave me a call and said would I be interested in training her?"

"So, I cannot really claim much of the credit for her because Nick found her, sourced her, bought her, and very kindly sent her to me."

"She's been a star, and she is my highest-rated horse in the yard." "We are having plenty of fun with her already, and hopefully we will have plenty more."

She currently has a rating of 101 after winning twice on five occasions after breaking her maiden at Brighton last August.

After her campaign is finished in Dubai, Eustace will see her return home to continue her form and her successes.

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"She hasn't had much of a holiday with our plan for the Dubai campaign in mind. I think it's quite tough on them to wait a month after her return, so I am not sure what her next races will be, but there are Oaks trials she may go for, there is the Pretty Polly at Newmarket, and there is a listed race in France that could be a possibility at a similar sort of time in France."

"So that would be the plan, I would imagine, and then we'll just have to be guided by her after that."

A Growing Stable

The stable has grown with Eustace's success, and his plan for the upcoming year is for a doubling of numbers from thirty to sixty horses.

"It's a big jump in numbers, but it is fantastic! "We just had a nice response post-sales from people that you'd love to have horses for, and frankly, it's a big credit to the whole yard and the team in the yard who work tirelessly all year to give us such a good season to be rewarded with that."

The stable has Cite d'Or as its star, but Eustace says that there are other stars in waiting on which an eye should be kept.

"Yeah, so Docklands and Couplet are the 3YOs at this stage that we are most looking forward to."

Docklands is a three-year-old colt owned by O T I Racing who has only raced once, finishing second last August at Haydock.

"He had a good run when he was second timed out. "I think he needs to win his maiden and act on the racecourse the way he acts at home, and what we see at home from him is very encouraging."

The 3YO colt, Couplet, won his only start at Haydock last September.

"Winning that only start of hers was visually quite impressive, so she'll have a few targets in some clinical trials, and she trains well at home and carries it on, so that's where she will go, and we will let the racecourse tell us where our ceilings are."

"As far as the two-year-old crop goes, I've got a profitable colt that looks quite forward and whom I like quite a lot. which is handy as I currently still own him."

"I also have two nice Australia-based Zoustar colts; one, in particular, is owned by bloodstock agent Suman Hedge and his syndicate of owners. So far, he appears to be of high quality. We'll be taking our time with those. "I don't think they're necessarily early types, but they just look to have a bit of quality at this stage."

While Eustace uses the knowledge and experience passed down to him from his father, matched with the education he received under the trainers, he has had the opportunity to work with two key lessons that he sees as helping him spur his career further.

"Yeah, I think it's two things, really." One is just a general mindset of how I want to train racehorses, which is a personal thing too. That is why, in every country, some people are better with 2 year olds in general, while others are better with stayers or older horses. It's a general culture around them.

"I don't think I learned anything specific from these guys—I think it was more the experiences themselves and just being around them. "The better horses and the more situations you're around, the more you absorb about how you deal with those sorts of horses, and that's really all there is to it.

"I think the biggest thing I learned from dad is that it's a marathon, not a sprint." You know, once you decide to start training racehorses, hopefully there will be horses around 24/7, all year, every year. Although you want to work at the top level all the time, like I said, you've been doing it for a long time. My dad trained for a long time, and that as much as anything is a credit to him because, you know, it's tough.

"There are good times and bad times, and I think that's something I knew about training racehorses more than anything else because we grew up with it and knew how hard he (his father) worked all the time."

Carrying the Flag

Only 34 years old, Eustace talks passionately about the building of legacies, his ilk, and the great Godolphin trainer James Cummings.

"I think it's really a testament to the sport that we want to carry on in it."

"And if we didn't, or if it looked like too much hard work or was actually not as good or enjoyable as it looked, then we wouldn't do it, because we know firsthand how hard it is for our families." But it's such a unique sport that I believe it will always be that slightly old school sort of handing it down to the younger generation in terms of training setups or even on the stud side.

"It's very important in racing that they carry on." I mean, it's not to say that people outside of racing without those family backgrounds cannot be some of the best. "I'm incredibly lucky, but you only have to look at somebody like Anabel Neasham down there (in Australia), who is a great example of someone who has really taken the sport by storm and who has a horsey background but doesn't have the background or leg up that we have."

Eustace's personality and vibrancy can be seen through the discussion as it comes to an end. With Cite D'Or ready to begin her campaign and with the young trainer ready to continue his success with returns to Dubai and the Middle East on the cards for the future, the question had to be asked.

"Which race, if you could choose, would you love to win in the Middle East?" —seconds pass before he responds confidently.

"It would have to be the Dubai World Cup." "That's the one everybody wants to win."



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THE MANY FACETS OF BEING AN URUGUAYAN TRAINER IN DUBAI

Remember the name Julio Olascoaga.

Although it's his first season as a head trainer, the journey has been one built on hard work, commitment and knowing what he can get from his horses. Thus far he has recorded two winners from fifteen starts as he continues to show what his horses can do on the track.

"I enjoy it every day and it doesn't feel like I am working," he said.

Speaking about his background, where he has been and his plans for this great journey, Olascoaga said, "I come from a family that has been always in the horse industry in Uruguay, my dad and my brother both have been champion endurance-Raid riders & trainers."

"I just grew up around sport horses. Then I made my way through veterinary school."

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Humble Beginnings

After graduating in 2019 he owned a couple of horses with some friends from university – it was this which would be the beginning of his career.

"That was my first approach to racehorses."

The passion he has for horses and the industry is contagious and through the conversation, it is clear to see.

"It is hard to explain. The feeling of having a runner with a chance in a race and the feeling of winning.

"Only those who have felt it will understand me. Nothing compares."

With a drive to make a career with this passion and in the industry, he would become an assistant trainer to four-time Uruguayan champion trainer Antonio Cintra. As Olascoaga tells it this partnership is one that he holds very highly.

"He's my master and I learn every day from him. He has the gift to do what he does.

"You can't be more grateful for having the chance to work for him. He is a world-class trainer and an even better person.

"He always looks after his staff and understands the key to making teams. I've been given the opportunity to train for his team during this season, it is a great responsibility but supported by great owners & staff that make everything easier."

Past Successes

Reflecting on his training career to date he sees a few highlights as influential and races he will never forget. "The Al Bastakiya Listed race that Quality Boone won last season as it was the 'signature' that we are on the correct path. Bringing these horses to compete at the highest level and compare them to the world."

Quality Boone is a 4YO Daniel Boone x Quindici colt who was greatly praised by Cintra being brought to Dubai for his first start in December 2021 in which he won by a length showing his ability on the dirt.

"The most enjoyable race was the first and second, we got in the Group One GP Latino Americano with Aero Trem and Athletico El Culano. On our home track against the strongest field in South America. All of those horses continued their careers with tremendous success after that."

Following this Group One wins Aero Trem became the first South American trained horse in the Saudi Cup last year, a feat that meant far more than that single win or any amount of luck.

"It meant a lot of work! It took hours of dayby-day planning since winning the GP Latino Americano in October, that win positioned him as the best racehorse in South America."

"To then bring him to the Saudi Cup in February was a long journey. He ran a massive race in Saudi and was another demonstration that we can be at the level to compete on the world stage."

Plenty Of Quality On Show

Now training in the UAE season Olascoaga is excited about the profile of racing in the Middle East as he said.

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"It's growing and bouncing back from the pandemic as expected. Because their people have horses in their blood.

"They will always be good racing and good horses here. In our case, it is the perfect environment to establish a satellite stable and bring the best we have.

"Training for the team this season for their UAE campaign it is a mission that his mentor Cintra is no stranger to and a wealth of experience that Olascoaga can draw upon.

Cintra first tasted success in Dubai back in 2006, when Heart Alone won the Group 3 Al Shindagha Sprint, Cintra returned during the 2020/2021 season and picked up another win when El Patriota won the Al Bastakiya Trial at Meydan Racecourse.

This season Olascoaga prepares a stable of 13 in Dubai with some types with real potential and others who have proven their ability again and again.

Olascoaga has just seen his 3YO coltLong Kisstake out the Jumeirah Classic by a head. In the head-bobbing finish, the trainer was aware and impressed with the performance of his horse who outclassed the field in the second running of the trial.

"He got them on the line. It was a superb ride."

El Patriota won on debut in Meydan in January 2021 but has not seen victory since with his first start at the track to hopefully come soon after he finished sixth last start at Abu Dhabi in the Listed Abu Dhabi Championship Thoroughbred.

Ajuste Fiscal won two starts ago at Meydan in impressive fashion putting 7.25 lengths on his opponents. The 6YO gelded son of Ioya Bigtime ran third in the Group 2 Maktoum Challenge Round,

Ajuste Fiscal won two starts ago at Meydan in impressive fashion putting 7.25 lengths on his opponents. The 6YO gelded son of Ioya Bigtime ran third in the Group 2 Maktoum Challenge Round 2 in 2021.

"It was a relief seeing him coming hard at the top of the straight. He's a class horse and can be later at the end of the season in the big races. He did not have a good last season, so it was important to get him back to the level he belongs."

Sprinter Upper Class also won at Meydan two starts ago in November by an impressive seven lengths and was unbeaten in South America before heading to the Middle East.

Quality Boone is a 4YO colt who has won twice at Meydan from five starts at the track including a win in the Listed Al Bastakiya last season.

The trainer has great hopes for him following a 290-day break from the track.

"He had an injury last time out in the UAE Derby but has recovered well and is training well. He spent the summer in Dubai so he is improving.".

His stable also has another pair of colts which the trainer is really excited about.

"Eye On The Prize and Es-Unico are two very good colts that will be aimed at the UAE Triple Crown and the Saudi Derby."

Having experience travelling for his training career and transporting horses Olascoaga commented on the need to do so to be able to campaign internationally as well as see his horses show their ability in the right races.



Making The Right Moves

"It takes a lot of planning and that's the key. We leave no stone unturned in trying to get them a good trip and a good recovery after travelling.

"That is the key to getting them back fit and ready to race.

"I had worked as a flying groom for many years before working with Antonio (Cintra) so I had a good idea what to do and what not to do in order to travel them well."

As he continues in this UAE campaign with hopes to unleash his thirteen-prong attack across the

Dubai World Cup Carnival as well as Saudi the mission is plain and simple.

"Just try to get them all into the winner's enclosure!"

All Photos Provided By Julio Olascoaga

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TRAINER HUGO PALMER RIDING HIGH

"Don't be afraid of failure. We've won a lot of races with horses that were not favourites. It's often about having a go."

Hugo Palmer has followed this advice from Gai Waterhouse

Edinburgh-born Palmer's deep Scottish Links.

"I was born in Edinburgh and my parents are all still up there."

When asked where his passion for horses came from he explained "It's a very good question. I grew up with horses and I rode as a kid, I did Pony club. I was never particularly good at it, but it was an activity that we all did. My parents rode and if you said to my ten-year-old self that horses and training racehorses would be my career I would have laughed at you I suppose.

"At the age of 15 to 17 it was about then that I started to get interested in racing really from a betting point of view.



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"Very quickly it became a passion and by the age of 17, I was sure I wanted to train. I was clearly never going to be a jockey.

"I think my parents, proud as they are of the way things have gone, would have rather I'd gone and made the money to own horses rather than train them!"

Palmer's family have links to the industry and those connections have assisted him along the way in terms of the knowledge needed to succeed.

My Mother's brother, Justin Wadham, was Darley's company lawyer before becoming their Managing Director. His wife Lucy is a dual-purpose, but predominantly jumps, trainer in Newmarket.

"Certainly, when I was at school was just when my aunt was going from what we call in the UK, a permit holder to a licensed trainer. She was just training point-to-pointers and Hunter chasers, and she got her full licence when I was 17.

"She was unbelievably patient with me. I used to ring her twice a week to find out how the horses that my parents had a tiny share in were getting on."

"So that was helpful when I wanted to get some experience and when I wanted to go and work with mares and foals in Newmarket when I left school for my year out.

"My uncle was able to make some phone calls on my behalf but I'm not steeped in family history but there is that connection."

Eleven In A Stable

During Palmer's first season training independently started with a small batch of only eleven stable members.



"I had been working in Australia for Gai Waterhouse when my visa had expired and I left the county – I'm told most of I those still in Australia whose visas have expired, are Brits" he said grinning.

"So, I came home for the summer and there was a loose plan that Gai would sponsor me, and I would go back and work for her for a longer period. But we hadn't put wheels in motion or anything like that. The week I was back England, was England at its absolute best."

"It was wall-to-wall sunshine, green, green grass, blue skies, warm early May just before the Guineas meeting at Newmarket and I went with a friend to the breeze up sale there. Low and behold, I managed to buy a horse which I wasn't expecting to do but, buoyed by the confidence I had gained working for Gai Waterhouse, and the enthusiasm from the Australian Industry I felt I could give it a go."

"It didn't occur to me remotely that it was a foolhardy idea to buy a horse, and someone said to me 'I thought you wanted to train, so you better buy some horses' – so I bought this filly and split her up where I took 10% of her and then split her up with nine other people and that was that."

"Everyone always says we started with 11 horses but the first morning I went to work as a trainer I only had three horses. We built from there that season to have those eleven horses."





Tel: +44 (0)1638 664151 Email: estates@thejockeyclub.co.uk www.jockeyclubestates.co.uk "If I knew how hard it was going to be or someone said to me you have to go back to the beginning and start again with 11 horses, I'd be like, oh God. But you know I had a small but good and enthusiastic team and all of us we worked really, really hard at it."

"There are so many cliches about luck. The harder you work the luckier you get and all of that. But there is an enormous amount of luck in horse racing."

Palmer's Favourites

"You know, I've lost count of the number of horses that I bought that I've absolutely loved. You have to love a horse to buy it, and think that's the one, and if you're lucky some of them will be the one, and I was very lucky that that first horse was the one."

That horse was the filly Making Eyes, and the Dansil x Lady's View progeny meant a lot to Palmer, delivering him several major highlights.

"She won several races and was a flag bearer for us. She won two Stakes races and having been a 25,000 guineas breeze up, we sold her for 165,000, having won 100,000 pounds in prize money.

"I know around the world that is not a vast amount of money but in these parts, and for a first horse, it was. She was a great success and to have that great success early on and with your first horse – people begin to notice you."

"If your first horse is incredibly moderate and you win a race no one really notices you and you might get a one-liner in the Racing Post saying you are a new trainer who got their first winner. But when that first winner goes on to win two Stakes races then you get noticed."

To make her achievements even more impressive the plan to race in France was never originally in focus for Making Eyes.



"Making Eyes winning in France was incredible. She was never supposed to run in France, and she was supposed to go to Pipalong Stakes at Pontrefact and it rained and rained."

"She was nearly at the racetrack by the time they called the meeting off. She was a fouryear-old and that was the last opportunity for four-year-old and upwards in Europe. After that race, it all becomes 3YO and upwards."

"So I hunted around and there was this race that was closing in 10 minutes, to be run in seven days in Vichy, really quite a long way down in France from Pontefract! I was very fortunate that she travelled there so well and it shows how you have to have luck; without Pontefract abandoning, I wouldn't have entered my first stakes race success."

"That was early on the highlight of the whole experience. Taking two horses on the road and from there everything happened quite quickly."

Palmer's CV of Success Glittered With Group Wins

"Other highlights so far include Aktabantay winning our first Group race in 2014 was incredible. Another extraordinary thing was a filly named New Providence who won a Group Three for us two or three days later, giving us two Group wins in a week.

"I remember something David Loder said to me, in 2013 after I had been training for two years he said " 'How many Group races have you won?'. I had not, but we had won a couple of Listed races and the stable had begun to grow. He said 'That's pathetic! You should have won Group races. Next time you have a two-year-old that you like and it wins it a maiden, chuck it in a Group race and you'd be amazed how often they win'.

"So we got to the next year, and we managed to win two in a week, so I thought that was very good advice and it has stood me in good stead ever since. People tend to only notice the winners and they don't notice the losers. So it doesn't matter if you lose and you're going to win more times by taking part than you are if you don't."

"The following year Covert Love was a revelation, we'd always liked her, but she was weak as a two-year-old. It's funny because I think those on the outside of training and racing think that those of us on the inside have certainty of knowledge; that we know what's going to happen and we know what ability a horse is going to end up with.

"It's so far from the truth. You know we hope, we try, and we know what we're trying to achieve. But if we knew everything then the game would be so much easier."

"I remember when Covert Love won her maiden, it all went wrong, and it wasn't a very good race, but she won it quite well. William Buick rode her and when he got off her, he said that the filly was alright, but he thought she might get some black type races, but he doubted she would ever win one. She finished the year having won two Group Ones.

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"Winning that Irish Oaks was a highlight and the following year with Gallileo Gold winning the 2000 Guineas and St. James's Palace were also highlights.

"But I think probably the greatest highlight so far was Covert Love winning the Prix Del'A Opera on Arc Day in Paris.

"She was ridden by the late Pat Smullen who became a good friend, and we had some great days together. He gave a lot of horses some magnificent rides, but he won't have given many better rides than the one he gave her that day.

"And she was an extraordinary story, she was bred by some friends of mine who she was RNA'd in the ring at Goffs as a yearling. I liked her a lot, but I didn't have an order and I begged and said look let me take her home and we can work something out.

"We got her syndicated and she was only 3,000 pounds a share and when she was favourite that day or joint-favourite in Paris she was owned by people who lived all over the world and people had flown in from Hong Kong, South Africa and Ireland. The whole team was there to see her win in a pulsating finish of heads and was just not getting denied.

"I think, to be surrounded by friends, co-owners and the whole team with everything on that day in Paris – I think that probably is the highlight.

"The great moments since then obviously are around Galileo Gold and particularly in 2021 when Galileo Gold had Ebro River, who was his son. That is a great source of pride I suppose that we had Galileo Gold's first winner, his first Stakes winner and his first Group One winner all from the same horse, and but that was fun."

Palmer took over training at Manor House Stables, an amazing facility, last year. Michael Owen, converted the establishment from a cattle farm in 2007.

Michael had parted company with his former trainer and was looking for a replacement. Michael and I had been friends for several years, and whilst I had reservations to start with, he persuaded me to at least take a look. I fell in love with Manor House; it is a magnificent place to train racehorses and I am very excited about the future, and we have great plans to develop the yard further.



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Palmer's Hope For 2023 Middle East

For the current Middle-Eastern season, he is preparing the 4YO Flaming Rib which has progressed since Palmer took over Manor house Stables.

"As a horse, I am pretty sure he is the best of Ribchester's progeny. I didn't know him as a twoyear-old, but he was a successful two-year-old for Tom Dascombe having won a Listed race on very soft ground.

"When I arrived at Manor House Michael said to me that he hoped that he might be a Guineas horse and said, 'look he probably wants a bit of soft ground should we maybe think about the French Guineas and maybe the Greenham and see if he can stay'. So we went to the Greenham and after months and weeks of training him to settle and stay, he raced and was too keen. So he dropped back to five at Chester and won and he was then second in the Sandy Lane and second in the Commonwealth Cup and was right up there with the top two or three three-year-old sprinters last year.

"He was very immature looking but now as a four-year-old, he has become a man. He looks like a genuine sprinter and has developed and grown into himself. His work this winter has been really exciting.

"The ultimate target really for him is the Al Quorz Sprint on World Cup night. It comes down to how we get there now.

"The sprint in Saudi is very appealing and he has also been entered into that. I think that purely from a financial point of view, it's worth \$1.5 million, same as the Al Quoz Sprint. "If he weren't to get into the Saudi race, he could head to Qatar for the Dukkhan Sprint and then to Dubai.

"It's staggering the money that's available to these horses in the Middle East – but that is why everybody wants to race there."

Flaming Rib is yet to depart the UK as Palmer states it's a case of fly-in for the races and be fresh for each particular booking for him.

"You can't dance every dance. He'll travel out for the races that I mentioned but the Doha, Saudi and World Cup races are all invitationals, and he would only be out of the country for eight or nine days on each occasion.

"I think we do that and then see how he goes and see what other options there are. Obviously, there are great options in the UK and with a lot of last years sprinter's such as Naval Crown, Minzaal, Perfect Power, Double or Bubble and Alcohol-Free, I know she is not retired but she's in Australia and I have no idea whether she'll be coming back to England to race again but you know, a lot of the leading sprinters, and our own Dubawi Legend unfortunately, have been retired.

"So hopefully there are opportunities for him in the UK. There's an awful lot of money around the world depending on how his winter and early spring campaign goes, we will see where he goes after this campaign."

"Our other leading sprinter Brad the Brief really wants to get his toe into the ground a little bit and so I just thought I know the ground is meant to be beautiful in Saudi but I kind of thought just preparing a soft ground horse for the Middle East wasn't the most sensible thing to do."

The stable at Manor House currently has 120 members in the yard.

"That's when they all come in and is about a dozen or so less than last year.

"We have got some lovely looking two-year-olds, and plenty of them look like early two year olds, but it is very early days.





"But obviously it's very early days. It's very much you know back to the beginning in many ways but it's great to have Flaming Rib and Brad the Brief as well.

"I think we've got some very nice three-year-olds coming through. There are two colts both by Lope de Vega who both finished third on debut, Order of Malta and Imperial Ace, I think they'll turn into really nice middle-distance horses in the spring.

"We have also got a very smart filly called Stenton Glider who won her only start at Chester, she beat a five to-one shot of Juddmonte's who had been about a length and a half behind Commissioning, either the Guineas favourite or second favourite and we beat it on debut fairly convincingly.

"It was frustrating as she got struck into not long after that and so we weren't able to run her again. So she's just had the one start but she's going to have a 1000 Guineas Prep and we'll see where we get to with her. I think she's pretty exciting."

Choosing From The Best

For Palmer and Manor House Stables when it comes to selecting horses to be a part of the team it comes down to the way a horse behaves rather than particular physical attributes.

"If I have seen something at home and really been impressed by something and thought this is actually quite good. I don't think you have to prove that it's that good before actually having a go at the highest level.

"I've always wanted to have a balanced stable. I've always wanted to have sprinters, milers and stayers. I don't particularly have a type, but I like horses to have a nice outlook, I like them to have a nice, eye. I like them to look like the sort of animal that wants to be on your side.

"We've got ambitions to train more, and we want things to go well with the dream ambition to build a powerhouse stable where we are in Cheshire.

"120 horses to go to war with in 2023 – I think that is a great place to start."



JAMIE OSBOURNE MAKING PLANS FOR 2023 MEYDAN DEBUT

"An overated jockey and an under rated trainer"

Trainer Jamie Osborne will downplay the achievements he has seen both in the saddle and preparing his stable members but on talking to him you are quick to see he is far greater than he suggests.

Early Beginnings

Growing up on a farm in Yorkshire, in the north of England, Osborne's riding and training stages of his life would lead back to Lambourne.

"In my gap year I ended up coming to Lambourne to work for Nicky Henderson in the hope of becoming a National Hunt jockey," he said.

"Thankfully that did happen, and I retired from that in 2000 and I've been training horses in Lambourne ever since."







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When asked why he pursued a career in saddle to start Osborne jokes but then says that it all was centered on him growing up around and his passion for horses from a young age.

"I was small and stupid – I couldn't do anything else," the trainer laughs.

"I'd grown up with horses as a child and National Hunt racing especially had sort of grabbed my attention from the age of 12.

"I thought I quite liked the idea of having a go at that. You never quite know what that entails until you're actually involved in it. But thankfully, it went quite well, and I really enjoyed it.

"My mother used to show jump at quite a high level. So, horses were always around, but there was never any real family racing connection at all.

"When that was coming to an end, I didn't really feel like I could leave the sport.

"I had a real passion for the sport, and I wanted to point in a slightly different direction. So rather than going down the route that everyone expected me to do, which was to become a National Hunt trainer I decided that we'd give the flat racing a go."

Having ridden for 16 seasons he would receive his training licence in the Autumn of 1999 with his first full training season being that of 2000. The impact on his body throughout his riding career helped him come to the decision to retire from the hoop game.

"When I finished basically, my body wasn't really very capable of continuing. I had a couple of bad injuries. I'd had a very badly broken wrist the year before and I'd lost a lot of the feeling with some of the nerves in that hand a bit malfunctioning. It was getting increasingly difficult to ride carrying that. I think nowadays the jump jockeys understand their injuries much better than we did. "We were pretty much each man for himself. You know we didn't have a support team like they do now. I think the jump jockeys' careers were a bit shorter. I think, you know if I was riding in a different era, maybe I could have gone on a bit longer.

"But my body had about had enough by the time I packed up."

Reflecting on his achievements and success as a jockey and now as a trainer Osborne is upfront and still greatly confident of what is to come.

"I think, you know, arguably you could say I achieved more as a jockey than I have yet, as a trainer.

"As a jockey you've got a timescale – it's not something you can do when you are my age.

"I still feel I have time to achieve a lot more as a flat trainer.

"I rode a lot of Cheltenham festivals– I think I rode twelve Cheltenham festival winners in the nineties. I was never Champion jockey, but I was runner up in the Championship a couple of times. I think the best season riding was 130 something winners, which at the time you know here through a winter that's quite a lot of winners.

"And that would have made me champion jockey in many of the years previously, but sadly it didn't that year.

"We've never reached that number of heights or number of winners as a trainer. I think the best season we have had so far was about 60 winners. We've never been massive – we train about 60 to 70 horses, and we try to train them well and try to compete.

"But you know this game is ever changing and some of the big yards now would have 250 horses plus so we are what would be considered to be a sort of small to medium size operation."

As a trainer he prepared his first Royal Ascot winner three years in with Irony in the Windsor Castle Stakes before seeing Milk It Mick winning the stable's first Group One in the Dewhurst Stakes – two victories that glitter in Osborne's most memorable achievements.



"Well obviously three years in we've had a Royal Ascot winner and won a Dewhurst – so I was thinking it might be a bit easy this game but its whenever that you think that you realise that it's not.

"We've had a steady flow since then. I think probably Toast of New York winning the UAE Derby in 2014 and then he went on that year to be beaten by a nose in the Breeder's Cup Classic. He has been the highlight since, but we've had six Royal Ascot winners, we had a very good staying horse called Geordieland who was second in two Ascot Gold Cups behind Yeats.

"The last couple of years I would say we've lacked a star, a very big horse. But you know we are hopeful that the next one is just around the corner."

Shifting Reigns, Training Successes

Osborne will be the first to tell you that its not all about him when it comes to the success of the stable and that the team you surround yourself with is vital to that continued success.

"A racehorse trainer it's not a one-man job. You have to build a team of people around you that know what they're doing and are an asset to the business."

Saffie Osborne: Like Father Like Daughter

His daughter Saffie has come into her own as a jockey while also bringing a new level of family-esque team to Osborne racing.

"Saffie my daughter now joining in, is a whole new dimension. You know we've turned it now almost It's like a family business. She's been through her apprentice a couple of years, and I think she's improved as times gone on and now that she's no longer claiming, I have no worries about putting her on the horses. I think she's a very safe pair of hands. She's progressed enormously this year and working with her while at times, it's a little testing, I actually really enjoy it.

"My wife is an artist and she'd never really wanted to be involved. I have three sons who are somehow over six foot and we're never going to be jockeys, and they never really showed any inclination to be involved at all.

"So, Saffie, being the youngest, she was always the one that was sort of really interested in it. She rode to a high level in eventing, and she won a European gold medal on her pony when she was 15. She then went back to European Championships on a horse the following year, and I think she won a silver medal. So, she potentially could have had a career in eventing.

"But I think racing was always her first love. Thankfully she decided that she would put all her eggs into the racing basket and it's working out well."



"I think she really has got a chance to make it as a jockey and I think she's turning out to be pretty good at it."

Toasting The Carnival Again

Having tasted victory in the UAE with Toast of New York the region is one that the trainer is passionate about training for with the goal for further success throughout the Carnival.

"We have been coming for a long, long time. I would say probably for the last 15 years at least – since the start of Meydan."

"I love coming to the UAE. Every year we try and bring horses for the Carnival, and we hope that we might have something good enough for World Cup night.

"It's ever evolving – His Highness Sheikh Mohammed has set his stall out to create something there and he's created it.

"As I said everybody enjoys going there and we get very well looked after.

"I think it's amazing! For us it's in the middle of a fairly, English weather in the winter can be quite depressing.

"To be able to come to the Middle East, where you drink well, and the facilities are fantastic with the prize money on offer it is great. I think especially for UK clients if you gave them the choice of do you want to run here at Wolverhampton or do you want to get to Meydan? I don't think that's too hard a decision.

"So, all my clients really enjoy coming to the UAE, I enjoy coming to the UAE and I think that the racing at Meydan is a great spectacle. It's competitive racing as we know but it's not impossible to succeed there if you bring the right horse."

For this UAE campaign he prepares a stable of three in New York City, Ouzo and Hierarchy, with Osborne having a plan in place for the trio.

"A lot of planning goes into building a team of suitable horses to come to the carnival. Obviously, there's no point bringing a horse where there aren't sufficient races for them.

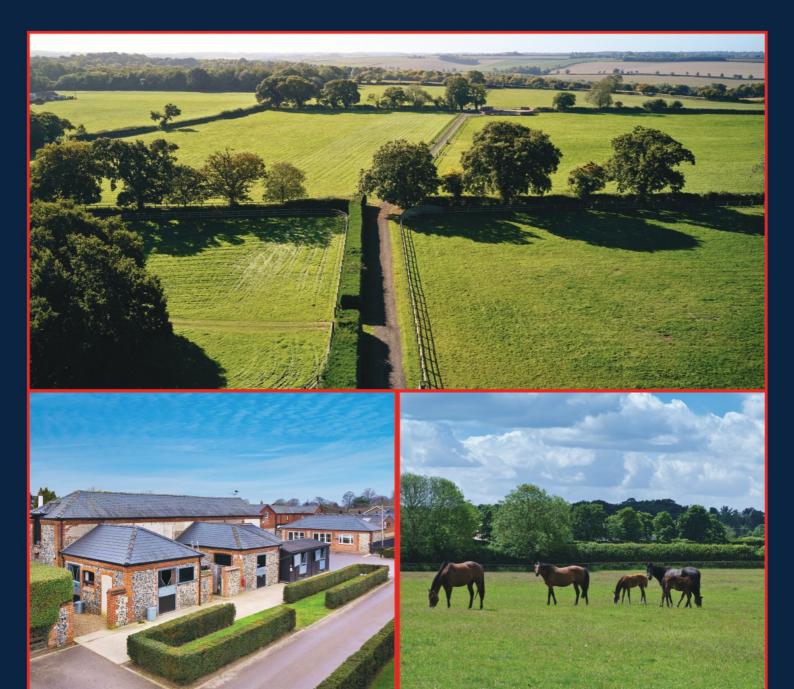
"But yeah, a lot of planning goes into it. Building a little squad to come out there is very much on my mind from the middle of the summer, and we were intending to bring more than three but it just didn't quite work out.

"We had a couple of horses that we were nearly bringing and then we thought potentially that it was not going to suit them as well as I'd hoped it was going to. Carnival horses are not easy things to find.



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"The paths that these three takes after their first races will really depend on how they get on there but there's a good program for all three horses there that they can hopefully all be busy while their there in the UAE."

New York City is the 4YO Invincible Spirit x Rajeem colt who had his first start at Meydan in the Ertijaal Dubai Dash at the start of January. He would finish 12th beating home four of his competitors and has won twice in his career with the last victory in April last year.

"He was a bit slovenly in that race. But it was his first run for us, and I suspected the fast five furlongs there was going to be a little bit sharp for him.

"I wanted to get a run into him just to learn a little bit about him and we did that. While he didn't run well, look he didn't figure, but the race on the 27th over the six furlong rated stakes is going to suit him a lot better.

"We learnt a lot about him in that run and I would expect and hope that he will get competitive during his time in Dubai. That race was just a little bit of sight to point us in the right direction and that six furlongs race is going to suit him much better."

Ouzo is the 7YO gelded son of Charm Spirit and on UAE debut he ran a handy third placing in the Azizi Riviera over 1600m.

"He is rated 92 which makes him a little bit vulnerable to be on a ballot next week, but I think he's a very well handicapped 92 and I think he's a horse that can really succeed there if he gets into the right races."

Hierarchy is the final member of the trio as a 4YO gelded son of Mehmas and Cheworee who will line up in a five-furlong 90-100 ratings race.

The Move To Dubai

"They all fly in with all the international carnival horses on the same plane out to Stansted on the 28th of December, there were 62 horses on that flight. It's a big, bold operation.

"So, they've all landed in, and they're all training in the quarantine barns half a mile from the track which is a great facility.

"I have my right-hand man Jimmy McCarthy out there overseeing the whole thing and I'll just nip in and out for race days.

"Obviously the hope with a carnival horse, although this year I don't know, but the hope with a carnival horse is that they can progress through the duration of the Carnival and book themselves a ticket for World Cup night.

"Dubai World Cup night in my mind is one of the greatest sporting events in the calendar. It's a phenomenal atmosphere and it's a great experience for anybody that owns a horse to have a horse there."

All Photos Provided By Jamie Osborne



THE INEVITABLE CONTINUES TO DELIVER FOR BRUNTON'S FEELGOOD STORY

Scott Brunton is continuing the family legacy while also showing that he has just as much as his father had when it came to helping horses find their form or rediscover it, as the case may be.

His father – Brunton Sr., trained over 2000 starters and had winners in four Group company races and 12 Listed races earning himself a spot in the Tasmanian Hall of Fame and racing history from Australia's island state.

It was this legacy that got Scott passionate and knowing what he would end up doing for a career.

"I was born into it, and I never was going to do anything else," Brunton said.

"Dad was a great horse trainer, always a brilliant horseman. He was a foreman for Angus Armanasco and had started his apprenticeship there and became a foreman before he went down to the late Noel Kelly in Ballarat.

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Naas, Co. Kildare, Ireland • T: +353 (0)45 897314 E: office@yeomanstown.ie • www.yeomanstown.ie He (Kelly) ran the show at Forest Lodge and was the Darren Weir of the western districts you could say back in the early 80's. He trained horses like Plush Embassy, Scotch, Dry, and some other great horses."

A self-confessed lover of all animals Scott has a menagerie of animals at his home.

"I've got a retired greyhound and another three dogs, four cats, a hundred horses, and four kids," Brunton laughed.

His career has seen him prepare over 600 winners as well as seeing some of his stable members take Listed and top Group race honours, but he still is not ready to settle with those achievements.

"I do hope my career highlight is yet to come."

The Mighty "Vegetable"

It is the progression of his stable star, The Inevitable (also referred to as "The Vegetable" by Brunton's family and his fans) that really excites Brunton, as is clear to see when he talks about him. Bought for \$90,000 as a yearling at the South Australian sales, this horse may just be the fairy-tale story for Brunton.

His career to date has seen him line up 26 times for 13 wins and surpass A\$1 million in race earnings.

"Always, from day one, I knew there was something different about him. "His aerobic capacity and things like that are very different from other horses—I believe he is a Group One horse gone begging."

"It was a real thrill to see The Inevitable win the Group Three CS Hayes (2019) at Flemington and then take out the Silver Eagle at Randwick."

After this, as Brunton explains, the plan for continued success for his horse fell flat and left everybody with a sense of what now.

"Nothing went right after that. On the way to the Golden Eagle (three weeks after the Silver Eagle win) the truck broke down on the way and we were stranded on the side of the highway, with trucks whizzing past."

The Inevitable would end up finishing 12th in this race before being rested for eighteen weeks before a seventh finish in the Gr.1 Newmarket (2020), 12th in Gr.1 Furphy Goodwood, eighth in Gr.2 Gilgai Stakes and eleventh in Gr.3 Moonga Stakes.

Returning to 2021 Listed Conquering Stakes back in his home state the battler under Sigrid Carr would take the victory and show he still had plenty in the tank as a 6YO.

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The pint-sized gelding unleashed his trademark turn of foot to take his stakes tally to five in the Listed Newmarket (1200m) at Launceston.

And then, although It was closer than fans would have liked, he got the job done in the Listed Conquering Stakes (1400m) at Launceston and took his prizemoney past A\$1,000,000.

Not An Easy Journey

Throughout his racing career, the 7YO son of Dundeel has suffered from heatstroke, was diagnosed with pods disease or deep seeded bruising of the bone and his feet are off by five or six degrees yet continues to show his ability and hunger to win.

"When we brought him back here for six months and we got him right, but I have my partner, Tegan Keys, to thank for that – she is to thank for a lot of the accolades with him.

"She began jumping him and doing some work with his back issues and it really helped put some confidence back into his movements."

Brunton attributes the work his partner has done with the horse along with the environment of their training property in helping The Inevitable rediscover his confidence and winning form that had eluded him for the past twelve months.

"We are very lucky to have a property that has a lot of heavy sand and is surrounded by pine trees with beaches on either side." The projections from his injury and rehab have combined really well with that environment.

He has gone on to take out both the Goodwood Handicap and Listed Newmarket Handicap last month in his home state and backed up his defence of the Conquering Stakes with a massive run to go back-to-back.



"His first up-and-back was outstanding. He seems to go on autopilot a bit, but he knows exactly where to pick up and finish off.

"His first win with 61kgs was very good but he dropped a kilo and a half going into the Newmarket. I was like a kid in a candy shop when that came out."

He is a genuine backmarker, and his results speak for themselves with two of his last three wins that have seen him sitting last with 800 and 400m left to run in the journey and when asked the question stormed home to take the victory.

"He definitely is now, and he feels most comfortable knowing what is going on around him. He used to like to sit fourth or fifth, but he has the devastating turn of foot and knows when to use it.

"We reinvented him, and he really reinvented us also, we are very excited about what is to come with him."

Next Stop, Meydan

His experience on sand and dirt conditions as part of his rehabilitation matched with his revived drive to beat any field off the back of his engine and turn of foot is what has brought their potential campaign in Dubai back on the table.

"I was talking with Neil Jennings, the handicapper in Dubai, a few years ago and we were really keen to get him over there but that was when everything went wrong with The Inevitable.

"That's why we are really wanting to get there, I think it would be a great holiday and I would love to have a look."

Brunton's face lights up like that kid in a candy shop knowing his horse's potential and the opportunity to challenge some horses in the UAE.

"It would be a true feelgood story for a young bloke, or a once young bloke, from Tasmania with his horse to get over there and with the dirt and sand tracks he might fit in just nicely."

From here he will head to the Newmarket once again before the Tasmanian Stakes over a mile before the Thomas Lyons on Hobart Cup Day.

Making It Count

The race that follows these three starts will be the one with the most meaning to Brunton in Launceston, a race that has been renamed after the stable's best horse, Hellova Street.

"He didn't have the brilliance of The Inevitable, but he was at the top of the food chain around the stable here for fix or six years duking it out with some of the best weight for age horses."

Hellova Street had 59 career starts for 20-16-9 and won A\$1.2 million in race earnings before passing away in 2020.

"He was a great horse who wasn't well bred but he meant a lot to us and the stable.

"I would really love to get the money there if I can."

The Inevitable has a large cult following which Brunton and the stable will rely on to get him into the All-Star Mile.

"I would jump at the opportunity to get him in there, and I think out of the Tasmanians who stick pretty loyal, we think we have a great chance at a crack in that race."

The end game for his plans for Dubai dominance with The Inevitable will remain in his decisions, as he said confidently.

"If the possibility comes across my desk again, I will be taking it with both hands."

"I certainly think I have the horse good enough."



All Photos Provided By Scott Brunton



PREVIEW: BIN HARMASH LOOKS TO HAVE A BIG NIGHT AT MEYDAN

Meydan magic takes place once again on Sunday with a seven-race card featuring some classy types knocking on the door for their shot in the World Cup Carnival.

The card gets underway at 6pm with four races on the turf track, and four worth AED95,000 in prizemoney, with big fields throughout the evening and a maiden The Lincoln Corsair Race for those yet to taste sweet victory.

Off the back of his sixth Zabeel Mile victory, Charlie Appleby will prepare his 4YO Sense of Wisdom in the Lincoln Navigator handicap over 1800m.

He is the top-rated hope in this one and William Buick gets the ride after the gelded son of Shamardal finished eighth last start over the mile last week. In his fourth start, he will look to return to the winners yard after his only other win from three starts being at Newmarket in June last year. Bin Harmash's Gareth Looking Fresh

The Ahmad Bin Harmash trained hope Gareth will be freshened after winning two weeks ago at the track under Ray Dawson, who retains the ride in this start. Dawson continues to show his class in the saddle sitting fourth on the jockeys championship ladder but in pursuit of fellow Irish hoop Pat Dobbs who is only two wins clear of Dawson.

"Gareth is a good horse, he wasn't beaten far last year on the turf and then this time, first time on Meydan turf [this season] he won, so we think he's a horse to follow," said Bin Harmash.

Former Australian-based trainer Michael Costa will be hoping to continue his rise up the trainers' championship ladder preparing the single runner this week in Tahdeed.

The 5YO gelded son of Tamarkuz lines up in the Lincoln Handicap over 1600m on dirt with Jean Van Overmeire returning to the saddle since last partnering with the mount in November last year for a second placing by the shortest of margins.

Tahdeed returns 20 days after finishing seventh at Jebel Ali but before that won on the dirt at the track and distance in the Minya Hamriya handicap race.

"Back to Meydan is a plus for him," said Costa.

"He over-raced a little bit in the run last time at Jebel Ali. If he can carry [top] weight and get a good run in transit then we expect him to be back to his best."

Bin Harmash and Ray Dawson partner again with the well-bred Vasilakos, a half-brother to the UK 2000 Guineas winner Coreobus, in the Al Tayer Motors Handicap over 2000 metres on dirt. The 5YO gelded son of Dubawi is stepping out for his Meydan debut, having made a winning start to UAE life at Al Ain in November by a neck with Dawson onboard for the victory also.

"Vasilakos is more of a turf horse but I don't want to run him against Gareth and First Winter," said the trainer.

"He's been off since he won at Al Ain, with some small problems such as tying up. He has been working well but the Al Ain track is different from the Meydan track. We'll give him a run here and then go to the turf in two weeks. He has a good pedigree but it's all turf horses."

The champion ladder leading trainer Doug Watson prepares four hopes in this race who are sure to throw down a challenge to Vasilakos in Verboten, Violent Justice, Carpe Momentum and Mulfit.

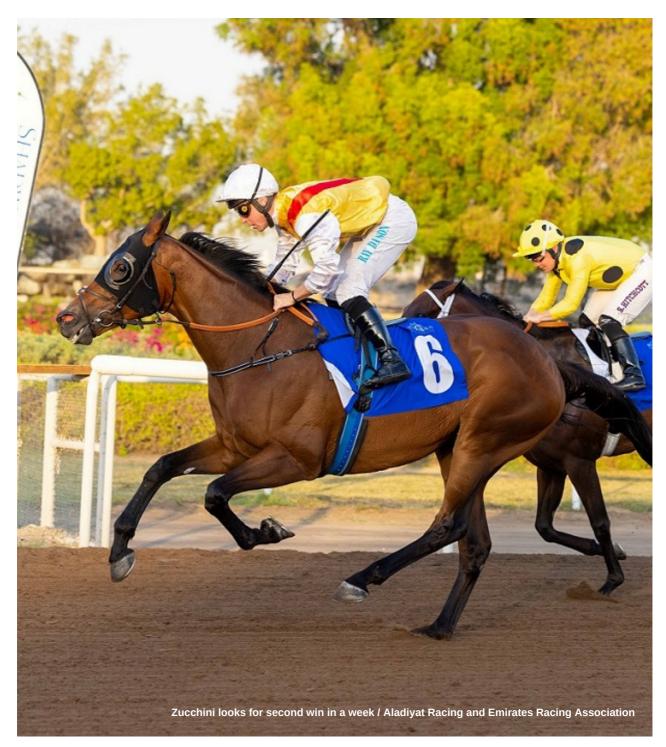
Bin Harmash trains two chances in the Lincoln Corsair Maiden, race two, over 1600 metres on turf. Al Hajaj, fifth last time out over 1400 metres, is the pick of hoop Ray Dawson, while Power Solution makes his debut under Al Balushi.

"Al Hajaj ran well the first time out here but he doesn't show anything in training, so he follows another horse," said the trainer. "Power Solution we don't know as it's first time out. He's now showing a bit more at home but Ray chose Al Hajaj because he has more experience."

Zucchini Aint Green About Chances For Second Win In A Week

The best hope for Bin Harmash comes in race four, the Lincoln Nautilus handicap over 2000m with Zucchini. The 8YO gelding will aim to make it two wins in just over a week, having won by 1.25 lengths at Jebel Ali last Saturday.

"It's a big question mark as he doesn't go as well left-handed," said the trainer. "He goes well at Al Ain and Jebel Ali but we've decided to run him here as he will have too much weight in a o-80 at Jebel Ali up the hill."





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