

PHILIP HOBBS

Sandhill Racing Stables



We had a great start to the summer with winners at Newton Abbot, Worcester, Ffos Las and Southwell. The summer months are for the staff & horses to have a holiday, but also to get the stables power washed and painted for the new season.

We were delighted so many of you could join us for our annual owner's day and Thank you to Mick Fitzgerald for joining the Question & Answer panel.

Our autumn campaign has been a little slower than we had hoped; however we are currently on 38 winners and still have lots of horses to look forward to over the winter period and into the spring.

SANDHILL RACING NEWS

October

The very exciting horse Gumball won nicely at Stratford under the champion jockey Richard Johnson. We had a double on the day with Kayf Adventure winning comfortably under Tom O'Brien at Newton Abbot.

Crooks Peak is a horse we like a lot. He won his bumper comfortably at Newton Abbot, before going onto win at the Cheltenham's November meeting bumper for new owner Andy Tilley. The plan is to aim for the Champion bumper at the festival in March.



Crooks Peak storms up the Cheltenham hill on the way to victory.

It was great to see Rock The Kasbah (pictured) win back at his favourite track Chepstow in the handicap chase under a brilliant ride from the champion jockey. The aim with him is the Coral Welsh National on the 27th December all being well.



Ballotin is a new recruit to our yard this year, having won four chases in France and an AQPS flat race. We were delighted to see him win up at Wetherby under a great ride from owner/ rider David Maxwell.

Springtown Lake won his maiden hurdle convincingly at Worcester at the end of October under Richard. He then unfortunately had a crashing fall at Wincanton last month, but thankfully both the horse and Richard were fine. We were pleased to see him get some confidence back and run into second at Sandown at the beginning of this month.



Steely Addition (pictured) is a horse we like a lot and has won a couple of handicap hurdles at Wincanton and Chepstow under Michael Nolan for Jan Buckingham.

November

Who's My Jockey is a half-brother to the champion hurdler winner Hurricane Fly. He won his bumper at Market Rasen for us last season. He schools well at home and we were pleased to see him win his novice hurdle at Uttoxeter and look forward to him for the rest of the season.

We were delighted to get a treble at Newbury with Strong Pursuit, Poppy Kay and Tidal Flow. Tidal Flow who won the bumper, was bred by Richard Johnson & Sarah and his owners Garth & Anne Broom have been very patient to wait to run him until this season when he was stronger and more mature.



Poppy Kay jumping the last on the way to winning at Newbury under Sean Houlihan



Tidal Flow in the winner's enclosure with delighted owners Garth & Ann Broom

Ozzie The Oscar is a very decent horse having finished third in last season's county hurdle under Tom O'Brien. He has been schooling very well at home and we were delighted to see him win his novice chase at Warwick under Richard.

The following week we had a double with Pointed & Sharp and Rolling Dylan at Worcester under Michael Nolan (pictured). Pointed & Sharp was a horse that went off at 40-1 and won under a brilliant ride from Michael as he is a difficult horse to ride at home. Owner Tony Staple and George Giles were over the moon and in shock as much as we were!



Waiheke is a filly by Black Sam Bellamy, who won her novice hurdle well at Exeter under Liam Heard for owner Sally White (pictured). He was brought and broken in by one of our lads in the yard, Nick Lawton. Ice Cool Champs won well at Uttoxeter at the end of last month in the handicap hurdle under Richard Johnson.

December

We have had a quieter time this month with some horses not running up to their true form. However with careful surveillance and a good team we are confident that the horses will be back to good health soon. I was delighted that Contented won up at Sedgefield last week for Highclere Thoroughbred Racing under our conditional jockey Sean Houlihan. This completed a win at every National Hunt racecourse in Great Britain since we started training so it was extra special.



Our annual Christmas party was held at The Washford Inn on Tuesday night for 40 staff, including the jockeys and the vets to Thank them all for all their hard work during the season. It was a fun night had by all with the theme this year; ‘Christmas jumpers’ and Secret Santa presents were handed out.



RACEHORSE OWNERS ASSOCIATION AWARDS

MENORAH –SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD-DIANA & GRAHAME WHATELEY

What an incredible horse he has been for his owners and the whole of the team! He started winning a novice hurdle for us at Warwick and quickly progressed to win the Supreme novices hurdle at the Cheltenham festival in 2010. It was a magical day at Sandown when he won the Oaksey chase on the last day of the season for the fourth year in a row. Richard was also crowned champion jockey for the second time, so it was an extra special day. We were delighted he retired on such a high and he is happily retired with Richard & Fiona and their three children on their farm in Herefordshire.



DEFI DU SEUIL- NOVICE HURDLER OF THE YEAR- JP MCMANUS

Defi Du Seuil has been a fantastic horse since joining the stables last October. He won seven races in a row and it was fantastic to win the Triumph hurdle at the Cheltenham festival in March. He is a seriously tough horse to have been so consistent in all his races when he was only a three year old, turning four. His first run back this season at Ascot was a little disappointing, however he is in good form at home and the drop back to two miles should help.



GETTING TO KNOW.....PHILIP HOBBS

Hometown: Bilbrook, Somerset

How long have you been at Sandhill? Since 1962 and then I started training in 1985.

How did you get involved in Racing?

Show jumping and point to pointing initially, before turning professional for 10 years before I started training in 1985.

Favourite Horse & why?

Rooster Booster, who won The Champion hurdle in 2003.



Favourite Racecourse & why?

Cheltenham at the top end, as there is no winner like it. Newton Abbot for the smaller courses, because it is local and I am a director there.

Favourite Hobbies outside of Racing?

Shooting, farming, skiing and boating in the summer.

Your favourite Christmas song? Jingle bells!

Funniest thing you have seen on a Racecourse.....

John 'Mad' manners running alongside his winner at Cheltenham.

And finally what did you have for breakfast this morning.....

A boiled egg and a piece of toast as usual.

GETTING TO KNOW..... LIZ WELSH

Hometown: Dunster, Somerset

How long have you worked at Sandhill? 25 years and most of that time as head girl.

How did you get involved in Racing?

I started show jumping and cross country. Sandhill was close to home, so it felt like a natural progression

Favourite Horse(s) & why?

Wishful Thinking. I have never met a horse with such a huge heart, who managed to maintain his enthusiasm for his whole career.



Favourite Racecourse & why?

Newton Abbot, because it has the friendliest staff and best canteen.

Favourite Hobbies outside of Racing?

Golf, Taekwondo & Yoga and sleeping after all of that.

Your favourite Christmas song?

‘Baby its cold outside’ by Dean Martin

Funniest thing you have seen on a Racecourse.....

I saw a stalker at a Warwick evening meeting. He got wrestled to the ground before he passed the post!

And finally what did you have for breakfast this morning.....Fruit & Porridge

SANDHILL IN PICTURES

