



THE NEXT GENERATION

By GINA BRYCE

Be there...

JULY 9

July Cup, Newmarket

The high point of Newmarket's summer racing programme and an excellent chance to see a new sprint superstar crowned at Flat racing's HQ.

JULY 26-30

Glorious Goodwood

British summertime at its best. First-class racing set against a backdrop of garden party glory.

JULY 27

Young Bloodstock

Networking Evening

The White Hart Pub, Newmarket. The fifth meeting of this newly formed Newmarket Club designed to encourage interaction between like-minded racing and breeding enthusiasts. For more details on the club and forthcoming meetings contact Toby Stewart toby_stewart@hotmail.co.uk.

AUGUST 17-20

York Ebor Meeting

The 'Royal Ascot of the north' and a brilliant festival of fun, fashion and superb racing at one of the best tracks in the country.

The Filly Factor



The judging panel for RFC's initiative to encourage potential female race callers

With Zenyatta crowned Horse of the Year in North America and Goldikova picking up more plaudits on this side of the Atlantic than the combined forces of the colt's division, 2010 was undoubtedly the year of the filly. Fast forward one year and it's the females of a different species that are keeping pace.

Outside racing it's Kate not William who makes the front pages, Adele not Robbie Williams who manages to break the US and within racing women have rarely been so omnipresent both in the saddle, amongst the training ranks and in the media spotlight.

So why not a female commentator to complete the full suite of triumphs for the girls? Step in Racing For Change, who came up with the idea to launch a countrywide search for Britain's first.

From 50 applicants, eight semi finalists pitted their skills in front of a live audience at Bath and Doncaster racecourses, and on Sunday, July 24 the winners of each semi-final, Rachel Casey and Hayley Moore, will go on to commentate on a live event at Ascot racecourse, breaking new ground over the male-dominated airwaves and potentially earning themselves a place on the commentary training course.

Talking Point... Which first-season sire has impressed you most so far?

Adrian O'Brien, Plantation Stud



"A tricky question and one that could prompt a different answer as each week passes, particularly at this time of year. Steering clear of the stallions that were almost expected to be prolific producers of precocious two-year-olds, I have been impressed with Teofilo.

"Possessing an enviable winner-to-runner ratio and already with a stakes winner to his name, he is off to a flyer. Recent maiden winner Mezmaar looks like he could be another to gain black-type in due course. He is from a progressive family well known to us at Plantation through resident broodmare Rose Briar.

"Teofilo's own lineage, a product of the all-conquering Galileo-Danehill cross, suggests that his progeny will certainly improve with time. Despite only a handful of runners so far,

Dylan Thomas and Lawman are others that I expect to make an impact later in the year."

Nancy Sexton, Racing Post



"Dutch Art sits behind Dark Angel in terms of winners but is already the sire of two stakes performers, Miss Work Of Art and Robert Le Diable, and several others, such as Caspar Netscher and dual Italian winner Art Of Dreams, look above average. Although Dutch Art didn't win after his juvenile year, he was Classic-placed at three, so you'd think they'd go on.

"The popularity of Lawman's first yearlings looks well founded: over half his runners at the time of writing have won, including Sans Loi, an easy debut winner at Nottingham. Lawman didn't debut until November of his two-year-old year, so his start is particularly

encouraging. It's hard not to be taken with Teofilo, another popular stallion who should gain momentum as the season goes on. He couldn't have a better supporter in Jim Bolger – he has 24 of his two-year-olds – and in Listed winner Teolane, Bolger has bred and trains a potentially top-class filly."

Alastair Donald, Sackville Donald



"Obviously Dark Angel and Dutch Art have had a great start, knocking out early two-year-old types, and both look like making very commercial stallions, but in terms of quality Teofilo has produced two exciting animals from just a few runners and is a sire you feel will do even better when he produces three-year-olds.

"Lawman has had a couple of decent two-year-olds already and will be one to follow when the seven-furlong and mile races start."

With contestants from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, the coverage generated has been good, something Rod Street, spokesperson for lovetheraces.com, hopes will have a really positive effect.

He said: "Horsing is a sport that really does offer something for everyone and appeals to both men and women. We're today seeing increasing numbers of female trainers and jockeys competing at the top of their profession, so why not from the top of the grandstand in the commentator's box?"

The word 'dedication' does not even begin to sum up the attitude of one semi-finalist, who delivered her commentary at Bath before catching a helicopter back to Wales in order to get married! Aly Rowell is no stranger to a challenge, having represented Britain in the Modern Pentathlon, sailed across the Atlantic and competed at the Horse of the Year Show.

The Welsh broadcast journalist said: "I had a



Competition entrant Sophie Monkman, who works at York, and Lee McKenzie

good chat with my fiancé and he thought that I should just go for it – he's really into sport, so he's being very supportive. My mother, however, was not very happy."

Bath's Clerk of the Course Katie Stephens had to step in for an absent race-caller at Exeter racecourse a few years ago and that experience has clearly not put her off as she mounted a challenge to the determined bride, as did Sophia Upton (née Mitchell), who was Britain's only professional female jump jockey in the 1990s. A successful stint in the saddle resulted in her riding 59 winners and picking up two prestigious Lester awards, feats she has always hoped could help her deliver the goods in the commentary box.

Karen Thacker was equally keen to prove her mettle and, as the only semi-finalist without a racing background, it was Karen's unending enthusiasm for the sport that led her to the commentary box.

The other semi-finalists were At The Races pundit and amateur jockey Emily Jones, and radio broadcaster Laura McGimpsey.

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Q&A



ROSS MARSHALL, technology company MD, Director of Your Golf Travel, racehorse owner, pinhooker and racing enthusiast

You run a travel technology company but have become involved in racing in various capacities. Tell us how you were first encouraged to become involved in the industry...

I became interested in racing from a young age as my school backed onto the Epsom Downs in Surrey. We used to see thoroughbreds the whole time and I was a regular with my chums up at the races on school nights.

Since then it has always been a dream to have a runner with a live chance in the Derby. I didn't get directly involved with ownership until university, when my housemate's father's horse won seven times over three seasons.

Which area of the industry have you become most interested in?

I am mainly interested in ownership, finding better horses and racing them on their merits to win. The breeding and bloodstock side of the industry is intriguing to me and something that I have learnt a lot about over the last few years with some success. I also still believe there is great opportunity to make money pinhooking foals and yearlings.

It is essential to have a good understanding about what sires are fashionable, to get in at the right level and take a view on succession, as well as purchasing athletic horses.

You have been involved in putting together syndicates for horses in training, too. Anything to look forward to this year?

Myself and friends have a few nice late two-year-olds syndicated under Palatinate Thoroughbred Racing, but it is too early to say how good they are as they haven't raced. At this point we are just dreaming about them developing into nice horses from what you see in their work on the gallops.

Do you use agents at the sales or do you like to get involved in the buying process? What kind of horses do you look for?

I do like to get involved but I always go in with, and take advice from, experienced horsemen. There is so much to learn about

equine anatomy and you need to be around horses every day to increase your understanding. I generally now focus on buying unraced horses, including early two-year-olds and well-bred backward types.

I am off to buy our first proper jumps horse this year at the Saint-Cloud sale in July.

Do you find that racehorse ownership is still attractive to young people, despite a lack of financial incentive?

I definitely think so. There is no denying racing is a very expensive hobby to get involved in and it takes time and money to really learn about the industry, but for me it is great entertainment, fun and something I am passionate about.

It certainly helped that I bought Cambridgeshire winner Credit Swap for £7,000. He won six times for Michael Wigham, including a Grade 1 track hat-trick! At the same time I have bought a few expensive donkeys as well. That is just part and parcel of the racing game!

The key for me is to buy horses on the advice of people that are trustworthy and knowledgeable, to try to be as commercial as possible and have plenty of fun. Prize-money in the UK is terrible so I always say to any newcomers getting into the sport with me, start small, immediately write off that money, hope for some luck and do it for the fun and enjoyment of it.

You also run yourgolftravel.com and have plans for a similar idea in racing. Tell us about that...

Yourgolftravel.com is Europe's largest golf holiday company; our sister company Racingbreaks.com will go live later in the year.

Our aim is to work with courses in the UK and Ireland to drive higher attendances and encourage people to stay locally, in resorts and hotels, whilst combining breaks with other leisure activities. Racingbreaks.com's brand FairwaytoFurlong has already run golf and official racing preview events this year at the Cheltenham Festival and Royal Ascot to raise money for Cancer Research and the Injured Jockeys' Fund.