



Be there...

SEPTEMBER 7-10

St Leger festival, Doncaster

A four-day festival at the home of Britain's oldest Classic which boasts one of the most notorious ladies' days in the country

SEPTEMBER 17

Gold Cup Day, Ayr

Frankie Dettori goes for a treble this year in Europe's richest sprint handicap and one of the highlights of the Scottish Flat racing calendar

OCTOBER 2

Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, Longchamp

No excuse needed for a weekend break in Paris, but the chance to witness history in Europe's most prestigious race certainly features high on the list

OCTOBER 5-14

Tattersalls' October Yearling Sale

It's work hard, play hard as the great and good of the thoroughbred industry descend on Newmarket for the country's biggest yearling sale. Watch out for forthcoming details of the NGC sales event on www.the-ngc.co.uk.

OCTOBER 15

British Champions' Day

It may be early days for this grand finale to the first British Champions' Series but with the jumps season hot on its heels, it's one of the last chances to see the stars of the Flat in action.

NGC support goes from strength to strength



David Simcock welcomes NGC members to Trillium Place Stables in Newmarket

Talking Point...

What physical imperfections can you forgive and which do you avoid completely when looking at a horse at the sales?

Michael Donohoe, bloodstock agent, BBA Ireland



"I would rather avoid a horse that is weak behind as that to me is where the majority of the power comes from. Therefore I would rule out horses that are weak through their hocks or have a curb.

"As far as accepting imperfections, I know certain people aren't keen on horses that are too light of bone but I would happily overlook that if the horse is well put together otherwise. I would also be willing to accept a certain degree of minor deviation in the limb providing the horse is not a heavy-topped individual that will result in extra pressure being put on those limbs. The same rule would apply to slightly offset knees."

Toby Coles, trainer



"In today's world of corrective surgery and remedial correction, physiological imperfections

in those better bred horses are becoming harder to detect. Therefore one has to trust one's gut instinct as to whether it can be trained. In those that can be faulted, I take a much dimmer view on those that fault from the knee rather than the fetlock."

James Tate, trainer and vet



"There is an exception for every rule. I would happily accept many of the horses that fail the current 'wind test' if I could perform a dynamic overground endoscopic examination on the horse whilst being lunged with a saddlecloth. In my opinion, the resting endoscopic examination currently being used as part of the 'wind test' is outdated as many normal horses are being failed and many abnormal horses are being passed.

"I avoid horses that have undergone significant corrective surgery, for example, transphyseal bridging (the insertion of screws, wires or plates to slow down growth

on one side of a growth plate), periosteal elevation (to speed up growth on one side of a growth plate) or cutting one of the check ligaments to correct contracted tendons. While a horse's limb conformation is cosmetically improved after these surgeries, there is in fact significant evidence that these procedures are more likely to lead to unsoundness than if there had been no interference. Consequently, I believe it should be mandatory for vendors to declare such surgeries for foals, yearlings and two year-olds at the breeze-ups."

Duncan B Moir, vet



"There are few specific things that I would fail a horse for at the sales. It is important when vetting to piece together all the information available: pedigree, conformation, laryngeal grade and radiographic report will provide a picture as to the horse's short, medium and long-term prospects. Every horse is different and must be judged on the overall picture they present."

One year on from the Next Generation Club's inaugural Plantation Stud Day, and the brainchild of Kirsten Rausing, designed to attract young people to the industry, has gone from strength to strength. We have had a great response from many industry leaders who have contributed to making the events possible over the last 12 months, and our second industry day was held in Newmarket in late July.

The event, designed to give NGC members an insight into both the racing and breeding arms of the business, was yet again well attended by a mixed bag of regular enthusiasts and first-timers keen to learn more. The team of around 40 attendees assembled on the gallops where they were greeted by Newmarket trainer David Simcock, who chatted to the group at length about the rigours of running a successful training operation.

Attention was then quickly diverted to the apple of his eye as recent July Cup winner Dream Ahead took to the gallops. We were treated to the site of the three-time Group 1 winner sail up the Polytrack in the company of Noble Citizen before a brief tour of Simcock's Trillium Place Stables.

Alex Cummins was one attendee whose daily life as a Junior Brand Manager for a luxury beauty company could not be further from the windswept gallops of Newmarket and a job she describes as "serious hard graft".

She said: "I originally became interested because my grandfather took me racing. I worked with Epsom trainer Les Montague Hall for about a year when I was 14 but I knew then that the early starts and English weather wasn't going to work for me! Those who do dedicate their lives to racehorses deserve medals."

That said, she remains a huge fan of the sport and jumped at the chance both to see Dream Ahead in the flesh and meet fellow enthusiasts. "I watch the racing every Saturday and I try to go racing as often as possible. The chance to spend an afternoon meeting like minds and debating Frankel versus Sea The Stars was fantastic. None of my friends are particularly into horseracing, and I met some great people who I will hopefully keep in touch with."

With the racing fans satisfied, the second half of the visit focused on the breeding industry with a tour of Newmarket's historic National Stud. The group enjoyed a parade of its flagship stallions, Bahamian Bounty and Pastoral Pursuits, in addition to a look at some of the progeny of the stud's first-season sire, the dual Guineas winner Cockney Rebel.

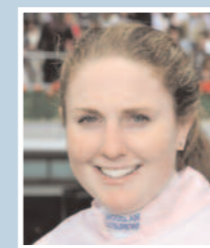
The chance to gain an understanding of all facets of the industry was not lost on James Follows, founder of Gannaway Racing Club and a long-time fan of jump racing.

He said: "The most appealing aspect of the NGC visit for me was the chance to try something new. Being focused on the National Hunt game, we regularly attend the local National Hunt tracks but Newmarket was a new experience and as the epicentre of the flat fraternity I was intrigued to go."

After gaining an insight into both the breeding and racing hubs of Newmarket, it was on to the July course to witness the end product. The team enjoyed a top-class card from the comfort of a paddock side pavilion, kindly provided by Newmarket Racecourses.

Zoe Hill and her husband were newcomers to the racing experience and although going home a little richer after backing a few winners definitely helped, she has also become a new fan of the sport, saying: "We had such a great day we are planning to take a few family and friends next month for my husband's birthday."

"Winning three out of seven races was a definite highlight but the tour of the National Stud and gallops was also very interesting, especially as horseracing is something completely new to us so it gave us a really comprehensive background."



Q&A

HAYLEY MOORE, Filly Factor winner, amateur jockey and assistant to father, trainer Gary Moore

What made you apply to the Filly Factor competition?

I always joked with friends about being the first female race commentator so when I heard about the competition for it I thought I'd have a go.

What experience did you have commentating or otherwise when you applied to the competition?

As far as commentating goes I had only really given a very basic call on a runner of ours down the phone to my dad if he couldn't watch the race. It wouldn't have been very exciting!

What will the immediate future hold for you now you have won the competition?

I've had a lot of kind requests from local tracks such as Brighton, Kempton and Fontwell to call a race on their ladies' days, which has been an invaluable experience so soon into my career.

Otherwise things are much the same for me. I will continue working in racing and riding out until I enroll on the prestigious commentating course in January. I'll keep the momentum up between now and then by practising some calls at home with the volume turned down.

What have been the most useful tips or advice you have been given while trying to develop your commentary skills?

I was advised to always know where the favourite is and to check where they are throughout the

race so you can make reference to it.

Some great advice I also received was not to start off too fast, but to find a sensible rhythm, which you can then build on. My best tip was to write the runners out in draw order too. It makes such a difference in a big sprint as to know where they're likely to be racing.

Why do you think there has never been a female commentator before?

I don't really know the answer, other than from my own personal position when I thought about doing it years ago I didn't know how to go about it, purely because no other woman was there to lead the way. I didn't feel brave enough to go about asking anyone what to do. I guess I just saw it as unrealistic to have a female doing the call.

You have also made a name for yourself in the saddle. Is that something you hope to continue and do you find it helps you at all when commentating?

Riding means the world to me and it's something I simply love doing so, yes, I definitely hope that my riding will continue.

The racing definitely helps me to commentate because I feel as though I can read a race better and possibly predict how it will unfold. I can use my judgment and experience of pace to guess whether the winner will be coming from behind or when a horse might be able to 'nick' a race from the front. That said, the standard of commentators in England is pretty special so it proves you don't need to be able to ride a horse to commentate!