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TRC



READY FOR A NEW ERA

How Juddmonte has been able to move on after the sad death of Prince Khalid Abdullah

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Despite the sadness, Juddmonte is in perfect shape to move into a new era

Nancy Sexton | May 16, 2021

The past 12 months are not going to be remembered with any great fondness by history.

Cover: Maintaining Prince Khalid's legacy: Last year Lucid Dreamer became the first sixth generation Juddmonte homebred to record a victory. The daughter of Dansill followed her debut win at Kempton Park in August with this easy win in a conditions race at Newbury a month later. Photo: Mark Cranham/focusonracing.com

Frankel: He is the fastest stallion to reach 40 Northern Hemisphere Group winners in the history of the Pattern. Photo Juddmonte



Hindsight tells us that racing got off lightly as Covid-19 descended, in particular the breeding industry, which was able to push through the covering season uninterrupted. But then neither was the sport spared any suffering, with its calendar of events forced to undergo much upheaval.

Like every other stud farm around the world, Juddmonte Farms spent the spring of 2020 adapting to the difficulties inflicted by the pandemic. Yet what started off for them as a challenging period ultimately wound up as a rollercoaster of a year, one that to was hit a sad low with the death of its owner, Prince Khalid Abdullah.

Abdullah passed away in January at the age of 85. A man who preferred to let his horses do the talking, his interest in racing was ignited during the 1950s by a visit to Longchamp and, two decades later, he unleashed a long-held vision to launch a racing stable of his own.

Such was the power of a collection of early, significant purchases, many made through Humphrey Cottrill and James Delahooke, that within little time Juddmonte Farms was a self sufficient entity, producing the likes of Dancing Brave, Zafonic, Warning, Kingman, Commander In Chief, Workforce, Enable and, of course, Frankel.

Indeed, 2020 also featured a landmark success of its first sixth-generation homebred, Lucid Dreamer, when successful in a Kempton novice.

Abdullah was a loyal man and also passionate about the animal and its bloodlines; ultimately, it was that ethos that served as the backbone of Juddmonte's long-standing success.

In turn, one of the operation's key strengths has been its long-serving team, many of whom have been on the staff for multiple decades. The firm's UK Stud Director, Simon Mockridge (pictured above), is a case in point, having been an integral part of the team at Banstead Manor Stud in Newmarket since 1987. He has been witness to the rise and sustained success of Juddmonte, starting with the days of Rainbow Quest and his triumph as the sire of the Prince's first homebred Derby winner, Quest For Fame, to the current era that is underpinned by Frankel and Kingman.

"First and foremost HH Prince Khalid was the architect, soul and heartbeat of Juddmonte – going forward his visits will be greatly missed by us all," says Mockridge. "His early vision of concentrating on purchasing the very best bloodstock and farms in the UK, USA and Ireland quickly established him as one of the world's leading owner breeders. His passion was racing, but he recognised the importance of breeding and never lost sight of the fact that the broodmares were paramount to the success of Juddmonte.

"He loved nothing better than to come to the farm after racing and see the stallions, mares and foals, and in the early years on a summer's evening he would even come unannounced, park the car and stroll through the farm."

A new era for Juddmonte opens as it celebrates its 40th year of operation. Its Newmarket-based stallion roster is one of the deepest in the world, headlined by Frankel and Kingman and ably assisted by stalwart Oasis Dream and popular Bated Breath alongside the unproven Expert Eye.

Another exceptional year on the track for those established members of the roster in 2020 mitigated the ramifications of Covid, but against that the American arm was dealt a major blow with the unexpected death of its young champion incumbent Arrogate.

As with any bloodstock operation, Juddmonte is well versed with the peaks and troughs that come in dealing with livestock. Yet even so, his loss at the age of 7 last June was a terrible pill to swallow.

'Extraordinarily lucky'

Last March, as the spectre of Covid swung ever closer, it became increasingly apparent that the breeding season was under threat.

Barely six weeks of the European season had passed before Britain and Ireland went into a national lockdown to leave the industry briefly in limbo; thankfully, in no small part to the efforts of the Thoroughbred Breeders Association (TBA), the season was deemed to be essential business and was able to continue uninterrupted.

In return, every aspect of the business was suddenly made much harder. The TBA published a set of Covid-19 protocols by which to operate, meaning



that studs understandably had to alter their working behaviour - adhering to social distancing measures, the use of face coverings and exchange of paperwork electronically were just some of the stipulations introduced.

Juddmonte stands a select roster of five stallions in Newmarket, but each is extremely popular - and the recipient of some of the world's best mares. That is particularly true of Frankel and Kingman, whose 2020 books consisted of 130 Group winners between them.

In all, over 700 mares visited the roster last year.

"We were extraordinarily lucky that the breeding season went ahead uninterrupted and for that, we have to thank the TBA for all their hard work," says Mockridge. "All along we have tried to limit contact between people and the number that we have on the place. The vast majority of the office staff are working from home. The vets work in a very small team. The lorry drivers stay in their box when they bring the mare and all the paperwork is now sent in ahead of time. It's all about limited contact and so far, it has worked tremendously well."

He adds, "Having to work in the covering shed with a mask is not easy. It makes everything that bit more cumbersome and I have a new appreciation for what doctors and nurses go through."

“First and foremost HH Prince Khalid was the architect, soul and heartbeat of Juddmonte – going forward his visits will be greatly missed by us all... His early vision of concentrating on purchasing the very best bloodstock and farms in the UK, USA and Ireland quickly established him as one of the world’s leading owner breeders.”

As Covid rumbled on, it also became apparent that the marketing team, led by Kate Hannam, would have to seek alternative ways to reach out to people.

Traditionally, Juddmonte hosts a luscious marquee at the Tattersalls December Sale, upon which the great and good of the industry descend. Obviously, staging such an event last winter was out of the question. Nor was opening the stud’s doors to the many visitors that same week a possibility.

“From Juddmonte’s point of view, the December Sales is one of our marquee events,” says Mockridge. “It enables us to chat to a lot of clients and a lot of business gets done. Yes, it was a struggle not to be able to see anyone, and a lot of work was done on the phone - Shane Horan [nominations manager] and the noms team did a tremendous job on that front.”

In the company’s annual brochure, however, Hannam and her team found a rich avenue to advertise the Juddmonte product. With the operation celebrating 40 years, a hardback commemoration was commissioned and something of a keepsake produced, with a group of celebratory articles offering a historical insight into the farm sitting alongside the more traditional stallion brochure format. A digital walk-through of the roster was also produced.

“We all realised that the time had come to communicate in other ways,” says Mockridge. “Producing that film was quite a difficult given that it was made at the wrong time of year - the stallions were just starting to break in their coats. But it worked well and Kate Hannam and her team did a fantastic job.”

Frankel in front

Juddmonte did at least have plenty to celebrate on the track.

Frankel became the fastest stallion to reach 40 Northern Hemisphere Group winners in the history of the Pattern when 2-year-old Kalahara captured the G3 Prix d’Arenberg at Longchamp. The sire of ten percent Group winners to runners and 14 percent black-type winners to runners to date, he ended 2020 having sired 18 stakes winners worldwide, among them the G1 winners Grenadier Guards, Mirage Dancer and Mozu Ascot. As ever, it was also a remarkably international list, consisting of high-profile performers in Europe, Japan, North America and Australia.

Kingman, meanwhile, consolidated his position as one of the world’s most exciting young sires thanks to a roll call led by the brilliant Palace Pier, who strengthened his claims to be considered the outstanding miler in Europe with an impressive success in the G1 Lockinge at Newbury on Saturday.

Both stallions have hit the ground running this season - Frankel has Australian star Hungry Heart and Classic trial winners Hurricane Lane, Mohaafeth, Rumi and Petricor to his credit while Kingman hit an early seasonal high point when Palace Pier and Waldkonig landed the Sandown Mile and Gordon Richards Stakes within an hour of each other at Sandown. And a week ago he was responsible for G1 NHLK Mile winner Schnell Meister at Tokyo.

“Frankel’s initial results with his first two crops were outstanding,” says Mockridge. “Then he went through that period where people learned how to gauge his stock - he doesn’t stamp his stock in the way that the commercial market expected.

“But his progeny on the track have been outstanding and they’ve helped him be able to get through that. Now the bigger crops are coming through and we should see him continue to go from strength to strength.

“None of this would have been achievable without the support of breeders. He has obviously had some of the best opportunities a stallion could have but, by the same token, he’s made the most of them as well. A lot of his foals get to the racecourse - he has a very high percentage of runners to foals - so they’re sound horses.

“We also see a mental toughness to them. There was perhaps some talk initially from trainers that they could be quite wilful. But it’s clear now that trainers are understanding them a lot better now.”

Frankel’s imprint on the breed is striking international, his 13 G1 winners ranging from British Classic scorers Anapurna and Logician to Japanese stars Soul Stirling, Mozu Ascot and Grenadier Guards and current Australian star Hungry Heart. In a rare show of versatility, the latter’s victories range from the 6f G2 Sweet Embrace Stakes as a 2-year-old to the G1 Australian Oaks over 1m4f at 3.

“When you have a horse that sires an Oaks winner in Japan [Soul Stirling], an Oaks winner in England [Anapurna] and then an Oaks winner in Australia [Hungry Heart], you really have to stand up and take notice of him on the global stage,” says Mockridge.

“His statistics in Australia are phenomenal. He has had significant support from people like John Singleton [breeder of the G1-placed Miss Fabulass], John Camilleri and Mr Yhang [Yuesheng Zhang of Yulong Investments bred Hungry



Heart]. It takes a lot to ship a mare up here. You have to place a lot of trust in Frankel to do that and it's been great to see them rewarded."

Similarly, Kingman continues to reward home and outside support.

The sire of 35 stakes winners, he is well known for his ability to throw his potent turn of foot to many of his better runners, and is an extremely hot commodity as a result.

"He has made a phenomenal start," says Mockridge. "He does stamp his stock - he's a pure-breeding bay, which breeders like. He puts this willingness and speed into them, and it's Classic speed. I was asked why we sent Enable to him. Well, she has got this great Classic family behind her but they're mostly 10-12 furlong horses and by injecting his speed into that, you could get anything, perhaps something quite special."

Further down the line, the team at Juddmonte are also hopeful of another advantage to the powerful dual presence of Frankel and Kingman, as Mockridge outlines.

"What is exciting from Juddmonte's perspective is how the relationship between Frankel and Kingman could work out," he says. "They both bring

something slightly different and if we can get the blend to work, it could well end up being a powerful nick going forward."

It's not all about the big two, however. The elder statesman Oasis Dream, the sire of 17 G1 winners and an excellent broodmare sire, remains in excellent fettle at the age of 21. "His zest for the breeding season and life in general remains undiminished," says Mockridge.

Bated Breath remains popular with a range of breeders at a fee of £12,500, his standing reflective of a strong commercial appeal and ability to throw hardy types, many of them with their share of class.

"Last year was a bit of a breakthrough for him with his Grade 1 winner, Viadera," says Mockridge. "He's a great looking horse and lovely to be around."

"From Juddmonte's point of view, it's nice to have a good son of Dansili and he's a good solid commercial horse who should now to go from strength to strength. Like Dansili, it's been interesting to see how well they've done in America - they go on fast ground and have the natural speed to cope with the tight turns." For that, look no further than Gift List, the recent winner of the G2

A Japanese G1 for Kingman: The Juddmonte stallion's son Schnell Meister (near), under Christophe Lemaire, just gets up to beat Songline in the NHK Mile at Tokyo last Sunday. Both horses are owned by Sunday Racing. Photo: Japan Racing Association

Edgewood Stakes at Churchill Downs for Brian Lynch.

The youngest horse on the roster is Breeders' Cup Mile winner Expert Eye. Brilliant on his day, the son of Acclamation has first yearlings this year and his first crop of foals sold for up to €180,000 last winter.

"He's a well made horse who showed great speed as a 2-year-old and then won the Breeders' Cup Mile at 3," says Mockridge. "Obviously we're delighted with how the Acclamation line is going, and then he's from a great family, that of Viviana. He has a lot going for him and has every chance."

New chapter for Enable

While the roster fired on all cylinders on the track, the stud's homebreds followed suit.

They included Classic hero Siskin, the product of a Juddmonte-bred sire in

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First Defence and Juddmonte-bred dam, Bird Flown, who captured the Irish 2000 Guineas.

Then there was Enable. Returning for a fifth season of training as a 6-year-old, the iconic mare entered the history books with a third win in the King George to add to a momentous career further highlighted by two Arcs, two Yorkshire Oaks, a Breeders' Cup Turf, an Epsom Oaks, Eclipse Stakes and Irish Oaks.

Enable was retired to start the next chapter of her life in October and was recently confirmed in foal to Kingman.

"She is thankfully over 60 days in foal," says Mockridge. "We've had a relatively trouble free run with her. She arrived at Banstead Manor in wonderful condition from John Gosden. She was very relaxed when she came, she was ready for retirement, and when we turned her out, she just put her head down and grazed."

On the other side of the coin, there was immense sadness in March with the death of the farm's blue hen Kind after foaling a Kingman colt. Remembered as a 'tough mare but also very compliant and nice natured', Kind is best known as the dam of Frankel yet also left behind fellow G1 winner Noble Mission, G3

scorer Bullet Train and Listed winner Joyeuse, already herself dam of the G1-placed Jubiloso.

Each of Kind's five sons - Frankel, Noble Mission, Bullet Train, Proconsul and Morpheus - are at stud while there is seemingly much to look forward to in her 3-year-old Galileo filly Chiasma, who ran a highly promising third on her recent debut at Sandown.

Her Kingman colt foal is described as 'very nice'.

Such are the highs and lows. As Juddmonte worked through another Covid-restricted breeding season while mourning the loss of Kind, it celebrated another G1 high with the success of Juliet Fox Trot in the Jenny Wiley Stakes at Keeneland and came close to Classic success with Mandaloun in the Kentucky Derby. (The colt may yet be awarded the race after it was announced at the weekend that first-past-the-post Medina Spirit had tested positive for a prohibited substance.)

In the case of Juliet Fox Trot, she is a 114th homebred G1 winner for Juddmonte and adds further to the legacy of her sire Dansili, who lives in retirement at Banstead Manor alongside his brother Cacique and Zamindar. Poignantly, it was also the first G1 win

achieved since the death of Prince Khalid Abdullah.

"It's taken a lot of effort over the years and a tremendous amount of commitment from Prince Khalid and now his family and sons," Juddmonte Farms' Kentucky general manager Garrett O'Rourke said as he collected a commemorative pitcher from Keeneland in recognition of it being the operation's 16th Graded stakes victory at the track. "It's a great tribute for the effort and planning and perseverance of the whole operation. And it's been a fun ride."

Planning, perseverance, belief, loyalty and understanding are just some of the core values that have stood Juddmonte in such good stead over its 40 years of history. For all the sadness and challenges of the past year, the operation remains in a position of great strength and deserves to be regarded as an asset for Prince Khalid's family to enjoy and look forward to.

As Mockridge says, "Prince Khalid's family will now have the opportunity to move Juddmonte into a new era through a thriving broodmare band and enviable stallion roster."

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Charlatan was initially disqualified after this victory in the Arkansas Derby last year because of a positive test for lidocaine. He was later reinstated after trainer Bob Baffert's team argued that the horse had been contaminated innocently. It is doubtful USADA would accept that as an excuse. Coady Photography



Drugs in U.S. racing: There's a new sheriff in town – with a strong mandate

Charles Hayward | June 15, 2021

The new Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority (HISA) board has been formed and Charlie Scheeler has been named chairman of the board.



Scheeler (pictured), a retired partner at a Baltimore law firm, worked as the lead counsel to former Senator George Mitchell's independent investigation of performance-enhancing substance use in Major League Baseball as well as being a monitor of Penn State's compliance with the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) and Big Ten on athletics integrity.

Now he has turned his attention to cleaning up racing, which is mired in its latest drug-related scandal. (I have drawn from this excellent article by Beth Harris at AP and a contributor from AP Sports, Stephen Whyno.)

This latest drug-related incident is Medina Spirit testing positive for the steroid betamethasone after the Kentucky Derby on May 1. Split-sample test results last week confirmed the drug's presence, according to the attorney for trainer Bob Baffert, and all parties are awaiting the decision regarding possible disqualification by the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission.

Chairman Scheeler said that, under HISA, a trainer would not be the first to announce a positive test result, as Baffert did in a hastily called gathering outside his barn at Churchill Downs, a week after the Derby. "We've got to have a system where it's the enforcement agency that is describing what happened, what the nature of the violation was, what the significance is and what penalties will be subject to the due process afforded the alleged violator," Scheeler said.

He called it confusing to the public that certain levels of medications are allowed in some of the 38 racing states and not in others, especially since horses frequently travel and race in multiple states. An essential element of this new legislation is that the state-by-state medication rules and penalties will be eliminated and USADA (the United States Anti-Doping Agency) will have consistent rules and penalties in all U.S. jurisdictions.

HISA plans to add an investigative unit to help enforce its anti-doping rules and "follow up on the rumors that you hear in the barn or the syringe that is found in the stall".

"Some folks just look at it not as 'should I play fair or not', but as a very cold-blooded cost-benefit situation," Scheeler said. "We have to have them see the cost, or the risks, are greater than the rewards."

Below is some critical language from the HISA legislation that clarifies the specific role of the organisation.

"Some folks just look at it not as 'should I play fair or not', but as a very cold-blooded cost-benefit situation. We have to have them see the cost, or the risks, are greater than the rewards."

SECTION 5: Jurisdiction of the Commission and the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority

Beginning on the program effective date, the Commission, the Authority and the anti-doping and medication control enforcement agency, each within the scope of their powers and responsibilities under this Act, as limited by subsection (j), shall -

- Implement and enforce the horseracing anti-doping and medication control program and the racetrack safety program;
- Exercise independent and exclusive national authority over
- The safety, welfare, and integrity of covered horses, covered persons and covered horseraces; and
- All horseracing safety, performance and anti-doping and medication control matters for covered horses, persons and covered horseraces; and
- have safety, performance and anti-doping and medication control authority over covered persons similar to the authority of the state racing commission before the program effective date.

b) Preemption - The rules of the Authority promulgated in accordance with this Act shall preempt any provision of state law or regulation with respect to matters within the jurisdiction of the Authority under this Act, as limited by subsection (j). Nothing contained in this Act shall be construed to limit the authority of the Commission under any provision of law.

c) Duties - In general, the Authority shall develop uniform procedures and rules and authorizing -

- Access to offices, racetracks facilities, other places of business, books, records, and personal property of covered persons that are used in the care, treatment, training and racing of covered horses; and
- Insurance and enforcement of subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum; other investigatory powers of the nature and scope exercised by state racing commissions before the program effective date; and
- with respect to an unfair or deceptive act or practice described in section 10, may recommend that the Commission commence an enforcement action.

This is an important articulation of the breadth of authority that the HISA will have on July 1, 2022, and the HISA clearly preempts any relevant activities of the previous individual state racing commissions.

The Baffert situation

I would like to turn now to the five failed drug tests that Bob Baffert horses had from Justify, going back to his victory in the Santa Anita Derby in 2018, through the Medina Spirit and the Kentucky Derby.

After winning the Santa Anita Derby, the California Horseracing Board (CHRB) submitted the test for the winner to University of California, Davis, on April 10, 2018. On April 18, the lab notified the CHRB that Justify had tested positive for scopolamine with an excessive 300 nanograms per milliliter found.



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Scopolamine can act as a bronchodilator to clear a horse's airway and optimize a horse's heart rate, making the horse more efficient. It should be noted that scopolamine can be found in jimson weed and "environmental contamination" has been used as a defense for a scopolamine positive.

For whatever reason, Baffert was not notified of the scopolamine positive until April 26, only nine days before the Kentucky Derby. He asked for a blind sample, which was sent to the lab on May 1 and was returned on May 8, three days after Justify won the Derby. The UC Davis lab confirmed the positive test.

The issue now was that, if Justify was disqualified from the Santa Anita Derby, he would not have had enough points to run in the Kentucky Derby. Finally, on August 23, 2018, four months after Justify's failed test in the Santa Anita Derby, the CHRB convened an executive session meeting and unanimously voted not to proceed with the case against Baffert.

This information would never have been reported without the brilliant effort and writing of Joe Drape in the New York Times of September 11, 2019.

The next incidence of a Baffert positive test was in May 2020 at Oaklawn Park, when Charlatan won the Arkansas Derby and Gamine an allowance race. Both horses tested positive for the local anesthetic lidocaine, and the Oaklawn stewards disqualified them. The guideline for a permitted level of lidocaine in Arkansas is 20 picograms per milliliter. Gamine tested at 185 picograms and Charlatan at 46, both substantially above the legal limit.

The interesting assertion that Baffert and his lawyers made was that the assistant trainer, Jimmy Barnes, had a Salonpas patch containing lidocaine on his body. It is important to note that Barnes is not just any assistant trainer. He had met Baffert 22 years earlier, when his wife Dana (since retired) was Baffert's top exercise rider. Barnes has traveled to Dubai, Belmont Park, Saratoga, Churchill Downs, Monmouth Park and any other track where Baffert has run important horses. He is a knowledgeable trainer in his own right. It is difficult for me to accept his behavior would result in contamination of any sort.

In April 2021, Baffert and his lawyers had a hearing with the Arkansas Racing

The guideline for a permitted level of lidocaine in Arkansas is 20 picograms per milliliter. Gamine tested at 185 picograms and Charlatan at 46, both substantially above the legal limit.

Commission. Team Baffert argued that the lidocaine patch on Barnes's body had somehow come in contact with both horses. The Commission reduced Baffert's fine to \$10,000, restored the horses' placings and purse money and overturned the suspension.

Trainer's responsibility

First, I do not believe that there should be any contamination of any sort as it is the trainer's responsibility to keep the horse safe and out of harm's way. I certainly have not heard of any Olympic athlete in swimming, track and field or cycling having a high drug test that was ignored due to contamination. I would suspect that USADA does not accept contamination in any of its protocols.

In July 2020 at Del Mar, a Baffert claiming horse, Merneith, tested positive for dextropropoxyphene. Baffert argued that one of his employees had contaminated a horse in a stall as the employee was taking cough syrup and subsequently urinated in the horse's stall. That hay was subsequently eaten by the horse, causing the positive.

Once again, even if that assertion was true, why would the behavior of the groom not be governed under the trainer's responsibility rule. I truly hope that USADA has or will develop a strong policy in its current businesses regarding any form of contamination by an unknown or third party.

Gamine appeared again in September 2020, finishing third in the Kentucky Oaks. The filly tested positive for betamethasone, the same corticosteroid that was found in Medina Spirit. The positive test was not contested by Team Baffert and Merneith was placed last by the stewards.

Levels not debatable

Finally, regarding the positive tests of Medina Spirit, there are two troubling positions for me that Baffert and his legal team have taken.

First, Team Baffert is strongly arguing that how betamethasone found its way into Medina Spirit is critical from both a regulatory and public relations standpoint. Team Baffert is making a distinction between whether the betamethasone was injected in the horse or applied in the form of a topical cream. Jennifer Wolsing, general counsel for the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission, has stated the betamethasone prohibition is "not differentiated" between creams and injections in the regulator's list of prohibited substances.

Second, Team Baffert continues to make the point in this and in previous hearings that the level of the illegal drug(s) often does not reach the level of performance enhancement. Yet these levels are written into the guidelines of each drug and not debatable in establishing guilt or innocence by a racing participant.

I have singled out Bob Baffert not to pile on, but rather to demonstrate that the state-by-state regulatory racing commissions vary tremendously both in their rules and practices, which do not serve the trainers, racetracks and all industry participants well.

It is most encouraging that the HISA directors, chaired by Charlie Sheeler, have been appointed and started work. And the two HISA committees, Racetrack Safety and Anti-Doping and Medication Control, have been selected and work is underway to develop a working relationship with USADA.



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British racing must act after embarrassing *Royal Ascot* non-starter ruling

Geir Stabell | June 20, 2021

Here we go again. A horse fails to take part in a race through no fault of its own, yet people who backed it lose their money. And this embarrassing episode happens at Royal Ascot – a meeting that gets more global exposure than any other.

Left behind: Stunning Beauty (blue colours) is finally out of the starting gate with the rest of the runners already well into the race.



The race was the final contest on Day 2 of the meeting on Wednesday, the one-mile Kensington Palace Stakes, a handicap for fillies and mares. It was won by the 12/1 shot Lola Showgirl, a first Royal Ascot winner for 20-year-old Laura Pearson. But her task was made easier when the fancied third favourite, Stunning Beauty, failed to come out of the stalls with the rest of the field when they opened before jockey Silvestre De Sousa had chance to remove a blindfold from his filly.

Imagine the reaction of racegoers who had backed Stunning Beauty - and there were quite a few of them. Their selection clearly had no chance of taking part in the race when the starter pressed to open the stalls despite De Sousa shouting for him to wait while he tried to remove the hood. Surely they would be getting their money back.

But no. After a 30-minute-plus delay, the stewards announced that the horse was deemed to have taken part, and all bets on Stunning Beauty were lost.

This was ludicrously unfair, not only on punters, but also on De Sousa, owners Godolphin and trainer Saeed Bin Suroor and his stable staff.

A lose-lose-lose scenario

When the Brazilian, a three-time British champion jockey, finally got the blindfold off and persuaded his mount to move forward, all her rivals were at least 20 strides into the race. It would have been folly to give chase, and De Sousa pulled up the beautifully bred daughter of Shamardal immediately.

This is not the first time punters have lost money on horses that did not take part in a race. These cases create farcical lose-lose-lose days for the sport. Racing fans lose money and feel robbed, the sport loses credibility, and opportunities to attract new faces through the gates are lost.

Happily for some, many bookmakers ignored the stewards' ruling in this case and opted to refund bets on Stunning Beauty.

Quite how much was being wagered on the 4-year-old is hard to estimate as the grand total is made up of bets placed with any number on bookmakers, in betting shops up and down the UK, on the Tote and on betting exchanges. And then there is the world pari-mutuel pool. People who backed her on that lost around \$746,000.

Many will argue it would be unfair on those who backed the winner if Stunning Beauty had been declared a non-runner, as their winning bets would then be subject to a ten percent deduction.

Don't buy that argument.

The top priority should be making sure everyone willing to risk money on a horserace gets a run for their money.

Those who backed the winner did so knowing Stunning Beauty was in opposition. What happened to Stunning Beauty wiped out any chance of collecting for her backers, while it improved Lola Showgirl's chances. So why should it cost Stunning Beauty's backers dearly and not at all affect those who backed the winner?

The stewards' report reads, "The stewards only have the power to declare a horse a non-runner if it has been prevented from starting due to a faulty action of the stalls, or the horse is riderless at the time the start was effected. As De Sousa was mounted at the time, the start was effected and there was no faulty action of the starting stalls, Stunning Beauty was deemed to have started."

Whether this report indicates that the stewards cannot or will not be flexible is hard to say. Perhaps they could have found a clause in the book that would support them if they had decided that Stunning Beauty should be treated as a non-runner, which was clearly fair and reasonable.

Was a fruitless search for such a clause the reason it took the stewards over half an hour to come to their decision? After all, if such a case is as straightforward and clear-cut to sort out as their report says, why did it not take 30 seconds to make the call? If, as the report says, they did not have the

power to declare the horse a non-runner, one might wonder how long it took the stewards to find that out.

World Pool concern

The incident was variously described as "a disgrace", "a terrible decision" and other things on social media. And it attracted international attention. Under the headline 'Punters ripped off as Royal Ascot ruling exposes flaw in World Pool concept', for instance, the South China Morning Post in Hong Kong commented, "It is the first real challenge for the World Pool concept, which first came into play at Royal Ascot two years ago, and exposes a flaw in the system that needs to be patched up."

HK Jockey Club chief steward Kim Kelly, who is chair of the International Harmonisation of Racing Rules Committee, told the paper, "I'm a massive fan of the World Pool - it seems to be good for everybody - but for it to reach its potential, there has to be harmonisation on major racing rules such as the protest objection rule and the non-runner rule. We've largely got harmonisation on the first one, but we haven't achieved everything that we've wanted with the non-runner rule."

Kelly, who is adamant punters would have got their money back if the incident happened in Hong Kong, added, "I flagged back in 2018 how important it was going to be for that rule to be harmonised and here we are three years later and it's come to the fore again. The IFHA have introduced a model rule into the international agreement dealing with non-runners but not everyone has signed up to it."

Certainly the Ascot stewards appeared to handle the case without a lot of common sense. In their defence, perhaps they didn't have the option to apply any - because of the rules. Yet, if that is the case, who would be in the best position to point out this blatantly obvious weakness in the rules of racing and do something about it? The stewards themselves perhaps?

After a 30-minute-plus delay, the stewards announced that the horse was deemed to have taken part, and all bets on Stunning Beauty were lost.

Bill Shoemaker and Cicada in the winner's circle after winning the 1961 Frizette Stakes at Aqueduct. Photo courtesy of the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame



When the noise from just a single Cicada was heard across America

Jay Hovdey | June 07, 2021

By late May of 1959 they were everywhere, or at least it seemed that way. From western Missouri to the Mid-Atlantic, in a sweeping, inverted arc that overlaid parts of 16 states, the Great Southern Brood XIX of cicadas emerged from its 13-year incubation to bombard the eardrums and festoon the countryside of an America that was lazily working its way to the end of a transitional decade.

“Brood XIX is arguably the largest (by geographic extent) of all periodical cicada broods, with records along the east coast from Maryland to Georgia and in the Midwest from Iowa to Oklahoma,” noted the University of Connecticut’s General Periodical Cicada Information page about the 1959 infestation.

Don’t look now, but they’ve come again this year, those crunchy, two-inch winged bugs with the Halloween eyes, this time with the Brood X label that will number in the billions by



summer's end and primarily target the states of Indiana, Ohio, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Maryland.

"The cicadas are so loud I've got my thumb in my ear to hear you on the phone," said Josh Pons, who runs his family's Country Life Farm, deep in Maryland's horse country.

Pons held up his cell, and in the background could be heard a sharp, insistent hum, as if someone was running a garbage disposal full of glass.

"They're all over the fence line, and they jump on your tires at night, so you've got hundreds on your car in the morning," Pons went on. "There was one year in the '80s when they came out during the Timonium yearling show, and they were brutal, hitting people in the head. Folks who came for the show couldn't wait to get out of Maryland."

The last time Brood X made the scene in its 17-year rotation was in 2004, when Smarty Jones was on the march through his Triple Crown adventures. To mark the convergence

of fast horses and the regional insect plague, Wait, Wait ... Don't Tell Me, the current events quiz show broadcast by National Public Radio, invited trainer John Servis to be on the program after Smarty Jones won the Preakness to set up a swing at the Belmont. After a brief exchange with panelists, which included author Roy Blount Jr, winner of the TRA's Grantland Rice Scholarship in his youth, Servis was asked three questions in a segment called Not My Job. The subject was cicadas.

"I was?" Servis replied when asked if he recalled the radio appearance. "I do not remember that at all. There's no way I got any of them right."

In fact, he nailed all three, which earned a prize for a lucky listener.

"We don't really get them much around here," said Servis, who trains at Parx Racing in eastern Pennsylvania. "When I was visiting my folks in West Virginia, though, they were everywhere. I'd go for a nice walk in the morning, and they were so loud, and laying all over the road.

Proud couple: Cicada with trainer 'Casey' Hayes

A product of Claiborne

"You're going to think I'm some kind of cicada wacko," Servis added. "But I've been reading a lot about them lately, and apparently there's a moss with some kind of bacteria that they eat before coming out of the ground, and it makes them sex-crazed. When they come out to breed, they reproduce so hard and so fast that their genitals fall off. I mean, what the hell!"

There were 12,240 registered foals dropped in the North American Thoroughbred crop of 1959, as the record scourge of Brood XIX made its way through the East and Midwest. It stands to reason, given the agricultural nature of the business, that someone somewhere would have named some innocent colt or filly Cicada, just to mark the entomological moment of history into which it had been born. They did, and what a filly she was.

Cicada, foaled on May 7, 1959, at Claiborne Farm in Kentucky, was bred and owned by the Meadow Stud of Christopher Chenery and raised at the Chenery family's Meadow Farm in Doswell, Virginia. Ten years later, Meadow Stud would produce Riva Ridge, winner of the 1972 Kentucky Derby and Preakness, followed by Secretariat, hero of the 1973 Triple Crown. None of them were flukes.

There have been half a dozen colts in the modern racing era who were champions at ages 2, 3, and 4. One of them was Hill Prince, bred and owned by Meadow Stud, while the others were Spectacular Bid, Affirmed, Seattle Slew, Buckpasser, and Native Dancer. As for fillies, there has been only one – Cicada.

Cicada's granddam was Hildene, the dam of Hill Prince, while her dam, Satsuma, broke her maiden but nothing more. Then again, as a half-sister to Horse of the Year Hill Prince, as well as major stakes winners First Landing and Third Brother, Satsuma didn't need much of a racing record. Cicada was the third of her six named foals.

Satsuma was by Bossuet, who famously was the horse in the middle of the triple dead-heat at the end of the 1944 Carter Handicap. Cicada, in turn, was sired by Bryan G, a son of Blenheim who was named for Meadow Stud farm manager Bryan Gentry.

Bryan G came from the same field of yearlings as Hill Prince, and his record was admirable, if not of championship quality. Among Bryan G's 62 starts were victories in the Pimlico Special, the Westchester Handicap, and two runnings of the Aqueduct Handicap. He also finished second or third in 12 other stakes, including the Vosburgh Handicap, and he would have taken the 1951 San Marcos Handicap at Santa Anita if it hadn't been for stablemate Hill Prince, who won by two lengths.

The two-legged cast behind Cicada and her Meadow Stud family was impressive, beyond the wealth brought to the table by Chenery, an energy and utilities entrepreneur from Virginia.



James H 'Casey' Hayes was a native of North Carolina who came to the attention of Chenery through their shared passion for polo. In 1946, Chenery hired Hayes full time to train his Thoroughbreds, a relationship that lasted until 1969.

The other piece of the Cicada puzzle was her jockey, Bill Shoemaker, who was at the pinnacle of the sport when he rode the filly for the first time in the 1961 Matron Stakes. He had been the national money-winning champ in six of the previous ten years, then added three more with the help of Cicada's reign over her division. Together, Shoemaker and Cicada won 12 of their 20 collaborations.

There is plenty to chew on while savoring Cicada's record. In the 29 months between her winning debut on February 23, 1961, and the end of her third straight championship season in late July of 1963, she made 41 starts and won 23 races, 18 of those being stakes events.

In celebrating the 60th anniversary of her 2-year-old season, it should be noted that by June 10, 1961, Cicada already had made seven starts, with four wins, a second and two thirds.

"In midseason, it was theorized

Lest we forget: The marker at Cicada's grave at Versailles, Kentucky

she would 'step on her pedigree' as a daughter of Bryan G," wrote Charles Hatton in the American Racing Manual. "But when Cicada won Delaware's Blue Hen and Belmont's National Stallion, then swept irresistibly through the Schuylerville, Spinaway, Matron, Astarita, Frizette, and Gardenia, she paled everything else in the sphere of feminine juvenilia into insignificance."

Lest we forget: The marker at Cicada's grave at Versailles, Kentucky A couple of those races were close calls – a neck in the Spinaway and a head in the Astarita – but Cicada's 2-year-old finale in the Gardenia Stakes at Garden State Park was breathtaking. The purse of \$161,885 was a record for the division, the track was a sea of slop, and the favorite spotted her rivals several lengths with a flat-footed start. It didn't matter.

Before half a mile was run, Shoemaker sent Cicada gliding through the field to take the lead, then burst away around the final

turn. The final margin was ten lengths, after which her rider suggested she was probably “as good a 2-year-old filly as there ever was”.

She was far from through. After 16 starts in 1961, Cicada’s 1962 season was even more ambitious. Hayes brought her over 17 times at eight different tracks to win the Kentucky Oaks, Acorn and Mother Goose against her peers, and the Beldame up against older opposition.

Although she was not exactly a shrimp, standing about 15.3 hands, Cicada did not carry a lot of extra flesh. If she grew much between 2 and 3, no one really noticed. Her weight came in at less than 800 pounds, prompting turf writers of the time to call her “winsome”, “charming” and “wasp-waisted”.

Despite her slight physique, Cicada was considered nearly the equal to stablemate Sir Gaylord as the 3-year-old season of 1962 began to unfold. In fact, her finest hour that year came in the Florida Derby, in which she was thrown into the deep end as a last-minute substitute for Sir Gaylord against the imposing colts Ridan and Admiral’s Voyage. The race came down to a nose, with Ridan surviving Cicada’s stubborn run along the rail, as well as a ten-minute inquiry by the stewards.

“They cut a rather comical picture, contrasting the bulk of Ridan with the doll proportions of the filly,” wrote Hatton. “Naturally, she got the worst of their exchange. Nevertheless, her blood was up and she finished eyes blazing, reins flying and neck outstretched in a desperate and inspiring performance.”

Ridan, Hatton wrote, “barely lasted,” adding that “it was remarkable the stewards allowed the result to stand”.

With 33 races and two championships at the end of 1962, Cicada already had gone where few great fillies had been before. It was almost unreasonable to ask that she tackle another campaign, but neither Chenery nor Hayes gave it a second thought. With the racing secretaries poised to weight her down, the little filly went back to work in February of 1963 with a victory in the Columbiana Handicap at Hialeah under 125 pounds, the lightest load she would carry all season.

Cicada embellished her legacy with three stakes wins at Aqueduct



in the Distaff, the Vagrancy, and the Sheepshead Bay on turf. Once again, however, her best effort may have come in a valiant loss, when she spotted the 73/1 Waltz Song 12 pounds and lost by a half-length in the Delaware Handicap on July 27, 1963, at a mile and a quarter.

“Cicada is described as ‘all heart surrounded by a delicate frame,’” wrote Steve Cady in the New York Times. “And today she showed it.”

An injured stifle sent Cicada to the sidelines and into retirement, but her breeding in early 1964 did not take. Chenery and Hayes put her back into training that summer in the hope her competitive fire could be rekindled. She did make it back to the races in October, with Shoemaker on board, but it was not meant to be. After finishing fourth with little fuss, she was retired for good.

Despite her robust lineage, Cicada’s career as a broodmare was anticlimactic. Between 1966 and 1981 she accounted for just six named foals. The best of them was Cicada’s Pride, a son of Sir Gaylord, who won the 1968 Juvenile Stakes at Belmont Park (a race won in 1958 by Hildene’s son, First Landing). Cicada ended up with a group of other Chenery mares at Jonabell

Cicada and Bill Shoemaker’s memorable battle with Ridan and Manny Ycaza (left) in the Florida Derby - she went down by a nose - was perhaps her finest hour of 1962

Farm in Lexington, just down the road from Keeneland, where she died in 1981 shortly after giving birth to her last foal, named Greatest Gift. Darley America bought Jonabell in 2001.

“Cicada’s grave marker is at our home now in Versailles, in a butterfly garden, together with the markers of Flawlessly and several others,” said Benny Bell Williams, daughter of Jonabell patriarch John A Bell III. Both Cicada and Flawlessly, a two-time champion turf mare, are in the racing Hall of Fame.

The Brood XIX of cicadas tracing back to 1959 has emerged like clockwork every 13 years, which means its next appearance will be in 2024. In the meantime, the only female racehorse who has come close to Cicada’s three straight championships in the past six decades has been Beholder, who won Eclipse Awards at ages 2, 3, and 5.

Clearly, some creatures are much harder to reproduce than others.



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SPANISH MISSION • 1st **G2** Yorkshire Cup at York
AXANA • 1st **G3** Chartwell Fillies S. at Lingfield

G1-PLACED AT ROYAL ASCOT

SPANISH MISSION • 3rd **G1** Gold Cup at Royal Ascot

US GRADED WIN

OLEKSANDRA • 1st Poker S.-**G3** at Belmont
(Won in foal to INTO MISCHIEF, the race was her final start)

28 wins in 2021 from 25 different horses



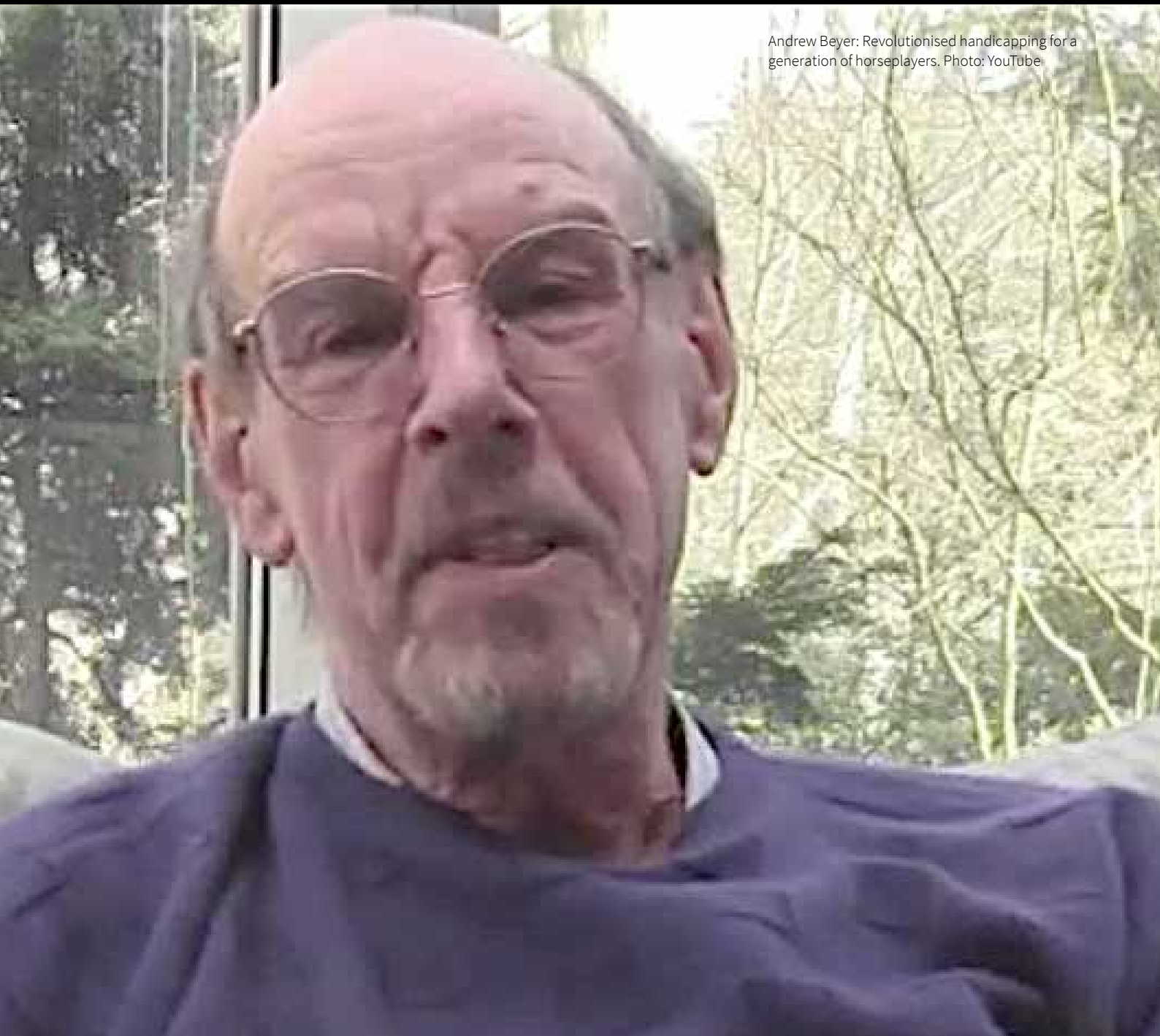
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What They're Thinking **Andrew Beyer: Cheating trainers and vets have made cynics out of the horseplayers**

Nicholas Godfrey | May 18, 2021



Andrew Beyer: Revolutionised handicapping for a generation of horseplayers. Photo: YouTube

Now semi-retired after a 40-year career as a racing writer and columnist at the Washington Post, lifelong gambler Andrew Beyer is best known as the creator of the speed figures bearing his name.

Beyer (pronounced 'Buyer'), who is 77 (dob 17/11/43), revolutionised handicapping for a generation of horseplayers, changing the way races are scrutinised forever when he revealed the secrets of clock-based analysis, prioritising speed over class, in his 1975 book, Picking Winners.

However, while Beyer Speed Figures have long enjoyed near-scriptural status in U.S. racing, their author's influence has stretched well beyond the confines of the gambling arena, thanks to his opinionated, trenchant columns, primarily in the pages of the Washington Post, where he was particularly outspoken in criticism of a prevalent doping culture in the sport.

A winner of the Walter Haight Award for career excellence, Beyer received the ultimate honour with an Eclipse Award of Merit in 2017.

Who do you believe is the most important figure the history of racing around the world?

I don't have a good answer to this question, but I'll refer to the first book I ever read about the history of racing, David Alexander's wonderful *A Sound of Horses*. No one was more important to the sport than William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland, who bred Eclipse, progenitor of most of the Thoroughbreds on earth.

Which is your favorite venue and race anywhere in the world?

My all-time favorite track was Hialeah. I've never known a better way to spend a day at the races than to sit in a lawn chair underneath a palm tree in the Hialeah paddock.

After Hialeah's demise, Saratoga inherited the status of America's greatest racetrack and I haven't missed a running of the Woodward Stakes since it was moved to Saratoga in 2006 —a race with a glorious history in a glorious setting. Sadly, it's moving back to Belmont Park in 2021.

What is your fondest memory in racing?

As a gambler, my fondest racing memories all involve betting rather than the grandeur of the sport. In December 1990, I fell in love with a horse named Sun In Action, who was running in a



maiden race at Philadelphia's Liberty Bell Park.

At that time, I was embarking on a career as a turf writer, and I wrote a column for the Washington Daily News declaring that Sun In Action was "the betting opportunity of the year".

I went to Liberty Bell, wagered all of my meagre funds on Sun In Action – and watched him lose by a nose. Then the stewards disqualified the winner and put up Sun In Action's number at odds of 20/1. What memory could top that?

What do you see as the biggest challenge racing faces today?

The biggest challenge facing the sport today is the same one that I wrote about

Hialeah Park in Florida, which closed in 2001, was Andy Beyer's favorite racetrack

for much of my newspaper career: The widespread use of illegal drugs. Almost any serious horseplayer can look at the form of certain trainers' horses and recognise that their performances defy handicapping logic. The cheating trainers and vets have made cynics out of the horseplayers, who should love this game without reservation.

If you could change one thing in racing, what would it be?

I think I've answered that in question four!

TRC GLOBAL RANKINGS

The Thoroughbred Racing Industry's ranking system

Available at thoroughbredracing.com

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TRC GLOBAL RANKINGS



27 June 2021

Horses

Rank	Name	Country	Points
1	Palace Pier GBR	GBR	2198
2	Golden Sixty AUS	HKO	2045
3	Gran Alegria JPN	JPN	2025
4	Love IRE	GBR	2009
5	Chrono Genesis JPN	JPN	2002
6	Essential Quality USA	USA	2000
7	Mishriff IRE	KSA	1997
8	Contrail JPN	JPN	1931
9	Addeybb IRE	GBR	1908
10	Nature Strip AUS	AUS	1853
11	Verry Elleegant NZL	AUS	1853
12	Poetic Flare IRE	GBR	1852
13	Skalleti FRA	FRA	1834
14	Zaaki GBR	GBR	1819
15	St Mark's Basilica FRA	IRE	1817

Jockeys

Rank	Name	Country	Points
1	Frankie Dettori	GBR	2029
2	Christophe Lemaire	JPN	1863
3	Irad Ortiz Jr	USA	1850
4	Joel Rosario	USA	1844
5	James McDonald	AUS	1838
6	William Buick	GBR	1777
7	Flavien Prat	USA	1749
8	Ryan Moore	GBR	1702
9	Yuga Kawada	JPN	1647
10	Florent Geroux	USA	1641
11	Pierre-Charles Boudot	FRA	1634
12	Luis Saez	USA	1581
13	Jose L Ortiz	USA	1536
14	Hugh Bowman	AUS	1522
15	Joao Moreira	HKO	1505

Trainers

Rank	Name	Country	Points
1	Chad C Brown	USA	2881
2	John & Thady Gosden	GBR	2687
3	Chris Waller	AUS	2525
4	Aidan O'Brien	IRE	2518
5	Charlie Appleby	GBR	2509
6	Brad H Cox	USA	2342
7	Bob Baffert	USA	2260
8	James Cummings	AUS	1881
9	Jamie Richards	NZL	1841
10	Grant & Alana Williams	AUS	1710

Owners

Rank	Name	Country	Points
1	Godolphin	AUS	3256
2	Coolmore Partners	IRE	2635
3	Shadwell Estate Company	GBR	2369
4	Sunday Racing Co Ltd	JPN	1940
5	Silk Racing Co Ltd	JPN	1837
6	Peters Investments Et Al	AUS	1748
7	Juddmonte Farms / Prince Khalid Abdulla	USA	1718
8	Klaravich Stables Et Al	USA	1674
9	Madaket Stables Et Al	USA	1615
10	Danox Co Ltd	JPN	1600

Sires

Rank	Name	Country	Points
1	Galileo IRE	IRE	2391
2	Deep Impact JPN	JPN	2341
3	Dubawi IRE	GBR	2254
4	Kingman GBR	GBR	1743
5	Into Mischief USA	USA	1672
6	Lord Kanaloa JPN	JPN	1639
7	Sea The Stars IRE	GBR	1629
8	Shamardal USA	GBR	1621
9	Frankel GBR	GBR	1610
10	Teofilo IRE	AUS	1570