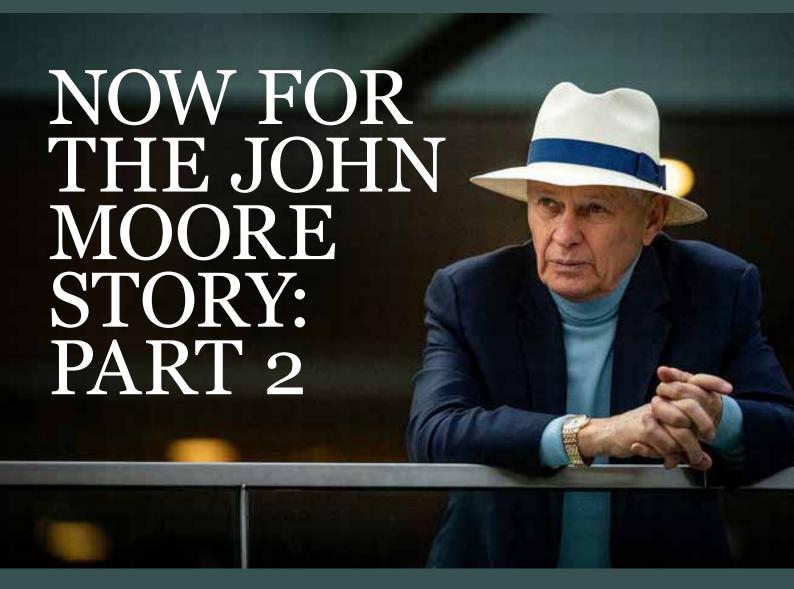
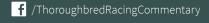
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What's top of John Moore's bucket list as he bids farewell to 'Disneyland'?

JA McGrath | July 15, 2020

John Moore is packing up and leaving Hong Kong at the end of a spectacular career, in which he sent out 1,734 winners of prize money totalling US\$270 million, making him the most successful trainer since racing turned professional there in 1971.





But Moore, 70, is not retiring. Far from it. The Australian-born son of the legendary George Moore is looking forward to joining forces with his brother, Gary, the 1981 Arc-winning rider of Gold River, as they prepare to take out a joint licence to train at Rosehill in Sydney's western suburbs.

Moore, who is current world #12 in the TRC Global Rankings, has been forced to step down after 35 years with a Hong Kong licence on reaching the compulsory retirement age as stipulated by the Hong Kong Jockey Club.

It is hard to imagine a race meeting at Sha Tin or Happy Valley without the name Moore listed in some participating capacity, but that becomes reality after Sunny Boy, with Brazilian Vagner Borges aboard, contests the last race at Happy Valley today (Wednesday, July 15). He is a 14/1 shot and Borges will need luck to win from a wide gate 11 draw. Moore might have to rely on one of his four earlier runners for the last hurrah.

"You know, it hasn't really got me yet," Moore said on the eve of his final raceday as a Hong Kong trainer. "Yes, it will be very sad, but it's not as if I am quitting racing totally. I will continue training in Australia on a different front, with Gary. I see it more as a change of scenery."

Moore is very attached to everything Hong Kong, which is perfectly understandable for one who has spent his past 49 years in the former British colony that evolved into what is now officially a Special Administrative Region of China. He has been immersed in the local ways and culture for almost his entire adult life.

Moore, who took out a trainer's licence in 1985, was seven times champion. He trained the winners of six Hong Kong Derbys and was responsible for eight Horses of the Year. He sent out 36 international G1 winners, including major wins in Dubai and Singapore.

The John Moore story, and that of the Moore family, is part of the foundations on which professional racing has been built, and it all happened by chance.

The early days

John Moore was bred to play a major role in international racing. His father, George, was one of the greatest Australian jockeys of the 20th century, riding 2,278 winners in a career spanning more than three decades. He was ten times champion jockey in Sydney and rode Royal Palace, trained by Noel Murless for owner Jim Joel, to win the 1967 Derby at Epsom.

John Moore with his brother Gary and father George: After today, the Moore family name will not be represented in Hong Kong racing for the first time in 49 years. Photo: South China Morning Post

John's brother, Gary, became a multiple champion jockey in Hong Kong and champion in France, where he won the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. His uncle was Garnet Bougoure, an Irish Derbywinning jockey, who rode and trained with great success in Singapore.

Like most young Australians, John was eager to see the world, and with experience of riding on the amateur circuit in New South Wales in his late teens, he found himself lured to Bukit Timah racecourse in Singapore, competing at a 'Pro-Am' meeting, coached by his uncle, who also mentioned Hong Kong as a possible riding venue to investigate.

John went on to be granted a riding licence in Hong Kong and rode out the last months of the amateur era, and when Happy Valley (the sole racecourse in those days) went professional in 1971, he, too, turned pro.

It meant rubbing shoulders with the likes of Lester Piggott, Jimmy Lindley,



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John Moore trained the prolific Viva Pataca to win the Hong Kong Derby in 2006 and be Horse of the Year three years later. Photo: HKJC

Yves Saint-Martin and Joe Mercer in the winter months, as well as a core group of five professionals from Australia and Britain who were based there.

Gary Moore dropped in to Hong Kong — purportedly to replace a band on his Piaget watch! — and rode there successfully for two months and then George's relations cooled with owner Nelson Bunker Hunt, who had wanted him to train for him in France, and he, too, found his way to Hong Kong.

It transpired that the family started the 1972-73 season with George as trainer, Gary as first jockey, and John as work rider, and their impact on Hong Kong racing was to last several decades.

George Moore's reputation internationally gave fledgling Hong Kong credibility at a crucial time in its development. It was not the sophisticated, much-admired racing capital it is today. Moore's professionalism raised the bar dramatically.

Trainer's licence

The Royal Hong Kong Club made it clear to John Moore that he would not automatically be appointed assistant trainer to his father. With licences highly valued and in short supply, there could be no accusation of nepotism.

"They let me be a 'trainer's assistant', the fine difference being that I did not enjoy the perks of assistant trainers, such as being paid by the Jockey Club, and I had to sign an agreement, basically guaranteeing I would be responsible for myself," John pointed out.

"But it allowed me entry to the stables and access to the horses, and that is what mattered.

"I had started my own business [away from the racecourse], selling insurance, while I was still riding. I had an office in Central [the business district on Hong Kong island], and after riding trackwork at Happy Valley in the mornings, I would shower, change into a suit, and head to the office.

"I made enough from the business to keep me going, and riding Dad's horses every morning gave me the opportunity to get a feel of the best of them and to have a punt," he recalled.

As George Moore was champion in 11 of the 13 seasons he trained in Hong Kong, his son presumably backed his share of winners.

The Moore touch with imports

The catalogue of John Moore's success is spectacularly impressive. The total prize money earned is more than that of any other professional in Hong Kong's short history, and this has been due largely to Moore's ability to source the right horses, who would develop and thrive in a demanding and unusual environment, and also to find the wealthy owners with pockets deep enough to pay for them.

The rise and rise of prize money levels in Hong Kong underpins his business and has been instrumental in bringing in much-sought bloodstock.

No amounts are ever discussed publicly, but informed sources say that Viva Pataca, winner of the 2006 Hong Kong Derby, was bought by casino tycoon Stanley Ho for £1 million (British pounds), which was colossal money in that (tried horses) market at that time. He raced under the name Comic Strip when trained by Sir Mark Prescott in the UK.

These days, that amount is commonplace, particularly for a suitable prospect for the Hong Kong Derby, which is for 4-year-olds and is traditionally run in March.

Beauty Generation, who had been Guineas-placed in Sydney when trained



by Anthony Cummings, was rumoured to have been sold for around AU\$2.5 million. He has broken all prize money records and will be trained next season [which starts in September] by David Hayes, who has travelled in the opposite direction from Moore, leaving his successful Lindsay Park training partnership in Victoria with Tom Dabernig and son Ben to return to Hong Kong, where he was champion trainer twice in the 1990s.

Moore's great knack was in getting the high-priced purchases to live up to their reputations on arrival. The majority went on improving - one of the reasons he became a mainstay in the highest echelons of the TRC rankings when based in a jurisdiction with limited Group-race opportunities. There are, incidentally, just two Australia-based trainers ahead of him in the standings - Godolphin's James Cummings (#7) and Chris Waller (#8).

Future days in Sydney

The partnership with brother Gary will call on many Hong Kong owners and contacts to buy horses to be trained out of the Sydney stable. Prominent owner Boniface Ho Ka-kui has purchased 24 yearlings.

"We will also be looking for horses with staying pedigrees in Europe, those who will do well in Australia," John pointed out.

Packing up is a stressful business at the best of times, but an added complication for John and wife Fifi is that the Australian government has cut back on the number of overseas flights landing in Sydney owing to the Covid-19 crisis.

"It's hard to get a flight at the moment, but we want to get there in time for the start of the season on August 1. I have already been training a couple that are with Gary by remote control. We've got the technology. I Beauty Generation, who has been winning Hong Kong G1s for the last four seasons, is the territory's all-time leading money earner. Photo: HKJC

suppose it's no different to a Sydney trainer doing the same with horses based in Melbourne at present," he said.

Awaiting Moore is the reality of training in Australia. Meeting the huge running costs that in Hong Kong would have been met by the Jockey Club. Chasing payments, arranging insurance, transport etc..

"My aim is to train a Group 1 winner in Australia. That's top of my bucket list. But I know what I am leaving behind. David Hayes summed it up when he said, "Don't forget, Hong Kong is Disneyland. And he's right."



It's all change in downtown Saratoga as the great meet gets underway at a deserted

racetrack

Teresa Genaro | July 22, 2020

There's action on the track, but nowhere else, on opening day at Saratoga last Thursday. Photo: Chelsea Durand/NYRA.com

For years, when I would come to Saratoga Springs, New York, a week or two before the summer meeting began, I would wander around the racecourse, marveling at its beauty, soaking in its silence. Saratoga is my hometown, and, for those few days, I felt like the track was all mine. Selfishly, I wondered what it would be like to have it all to myself.



Be careful what you wish for.

Like so many racecourses around the world, Saratoga is running its meeting this summer without spectators. Though New York State, the early center of Covid-19 devastation, has seen its infection rates drop after months of restricted activity, large gatherings of people, indoor or out, are still a no-go, considered one of the primary vectors of infection spread.

Last Thursday (July 16), opening day, only stable staff, employees of the New York Racing Association (NYRA), and a handful of media welcomed the 151st summer meeting in this small city, located midway between Manhattan and Montréal. The stillness I once coveted felt unnerving; it reminded me of the early days of the pandemic in New York City, where I live for most of the year, when the streets were apocalyptically empty.

And then, both suddenly and predictably, at 17 minutes to post, the sound of the bell echoed, without amplification, throughout the grounds. Ordinarily a sound of celebration, it had become instead a tone of mourning.

Lonely walk

No one knows for sure how the tradition of the bell began, but anyone who has been to Saratoga knows its sound. The bell resides in the winner's circle and is rung without exception at 17 minutes to post before every race, signaling to the jockeys that it's time to leave their quarters and make their way towards their mounts.

Ordinarily, that walk is a slow one, along a path lined on both sides by fans seeking autographs, fans who are more often than not obliged by the riders, both Hall of Famers and apprentices, seen in Saratoga as celebrities. This summer, that walk is a lonely one.

In a 2013 documentary* exploring the history of Saratoga Race Course, Paul Roberts* observed that what makes Saratoga so special is that, "the track is the town, and the town is the track." People can walk from their homes or nearby restaurants; they can walk from the track to the shops and restaurants on Broadway. And, while Saratoga attracts thousands of visitors for reasons other than Thoroughbred racing, it is inevitable that the rest of the city will

feel the consequences of this most unusual of summers.

Lori Leman, the owner of Saratoga Realty Associates, ordinarily does brisk business in the summer rental market, working with local homeowners to let their property for the entire 40-day race meeting, for the two weeks of the Fasig-Tipton yearling sales (moved this year to Lexington), or for a week at a time.

"Rentals are down, no question," she said recently. "Homeowners didn't want other people in their houses. Some decided that they'd take the summer off from renting their home and enjoy it themselves this summer. Some horse owners I work with every summer just aren't coming this year, or they're coming for a short stay and not the whole summer."

On the other hand, she pointed out, she's seen an increase in year-round rentals, as homeowners seek the security of a weekly rent check for their investment properties and as people from the New York City metropolitan area fled the pandemic. And, she said, some of those people aren't going back.



"The sales market is on fire," she said. "If you have a listing for a house or apartment that's in downtown Saratoga and it stays on the market for more than a couple of days, something is wrong."

"The sales market is on fire," she said. "If you have a listing for a house or apartment that's in downtown Saratoga and it stays on the market for more than a couple of days, something is wrong."

In scenarios not unlike other real estate booms, homeowners are getting multiple offers on their property, often well above asking price.

"Mortgage rates are historically low, and people still want to be in Saratoga," she said. "Unfortunately, this is similar to what happened after September 11, when people didn't want to be in the city anymore."

'Living to fight another day'

Second-generation Saratoga restaurateur Bob Lee owns The Wishing Well, located a few miles outside town and a favorite of the racing crowd for decades, and The Brook Tavern, right across the street from the racecourse, and he has accepted that this summer will not bring its usual boon to local businesses.

"We are fortunate in Saratoga to have world-class racing every year," he said, "and this is our gap year."

Thoroughbred racing figures prominently in The Wishing Well's décor, with decades of winner's circle photos lining the walls, along with other equine art. Established in 1936 and owned by the Lee family since 1968, the restaurant is destination dining for the racing crowd, its name a virtual byword for the summer racing meet.

Lee has set up outdoor dining at both locations and, under current reopening guidelines, he is able to offer indoor seating as well, though his dining rooms are limited to 50 percent capacity and tables must be six feet apart. Throughout the pandemic, the restaurants offered take-out service.

previously not a significant part of their business plan, but as Lee noted, regarding any possible promotions to attract more business, "There's no revenue to drive, no volume to try to increase. We're controlling expenses and living to fight another day, and that's how most of the restaurant people I've talked to feel."

'Racing watch parties'

He continued, "Going out to eat is supposed to be fun. It's supposed to be relaxing, and we're doing everything we can to make it safe. My family has spent a lifetime in the restaurant saying 'yes' to people so that they have a good experience, and now we're having to say 'no'."

'No' to increased seating, 'no' to a seat at the bar, 'no' to walking around without a mask, 'no'" we don't have a table available. It's frustrating, but as Lee recognizes, it's also necessary.

"You can't," he quipped grimly, "put the 'hospital' in 'hospitality'."

The Adelphi Hotel, in the heart of downtown, is the last of the grand hotels that lined Broadway in the 19th and early 20th centuries. After a recent multi-million-dollar total renovation, its business came to a halt in the spring, and it's now one of several in Saratoga that has set up 'racing watch parties'.

Under a festive white tent behind the hotel, guests sip sparkling wine and indulge in lobster rolls at socially-distant tables, all with a clear view of the various screens set up to show live racing from the course, a mere mile away.

"We had this tent set up for all the weddings we were scheduled to have here," said Adelphi restaurant manager Kate Veitch. "Then all the weddings got pushed to next year, and we thought, 'Well, we have this space and this beautiful tent — let's make it work."

The site can accommodate 92 people and sold out for the first Saturday of the meet, customers comprising both hotel guests and locals.

Nina Rizzuti has lived in Saratoga for five years, and when her mother, Lisa Leone, came in from Utica, New York, about 90 miles away, they booked a table for a party of six.

"We wanted the track experience," said Leone. "We miss going to the track, and ordinarily we'd have been there today."

"We'll definitely come back," said Rizzutti.

Leone took advantage of a promotion offered by NYRA Bets, and she was not alone in placing bets on her phone. As horses raced for the wire in the fourth race, diners rooted, arms upraised, as vigorously as if they were at the track.

Though owners are now permitted to attend the races when they have a horse running, Veitch said that several trainers have already booked tables at the Adelphi for owners planning to be in town.

"No man is an island,/ Entire of itself./ Each is ... a part of the main," wrote the English poet and cleric John Donne in 1624 as bubonic plague ravaged London. The incessant ringing of church bells signified the deaths of Londoners, leading Donne to reflect, "Therefore, send not to know/ For whom the bell tolls ..."

Saratoga does not need a bell, prized as it is, to be reminded of what New York has suffered this year. And, with all due respect to Donne, may Saratoga's bell be rung not in mourning for what we've lost, but with gratitude for what we have.

*Disclosures: Paul Roberts is among the owners of Thoroughbred Racing Commentary, and this author also appeared in this documentary.

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North America and the Epsom Derby: a link so important on both sides of the Atlantic

Kent Barnes | June 22, 2020

From the very first running in 1780 right through to current times, the Epsom Derby has been linked inextricably with the sport across the Pond. Derby winners have been owned by North Americans, bred by them and many have gone on to have stallion careers there. Indeed, every Derby winner this century except one has had Northern Dancer in his pedigree - and even that one was descended from a U.S.-bred Epsom Derby winner.

Here Kent Barnes looks at this rich history, focusing on some of the outstanding horses that have been central to the development of the Thoroughbred over the years.

Opposite: The drama and the theatre of Derby Day on Epsom Downs: For many years, breeding programs around the world sought after those Derby winners Britain was willing to give up

Right (clockwise from top): The stallion roll of honor at A.B. Hancock Jr's Claiborne Farm in Paris, Kentucky, includes Epsom Derby winners Blenheim, Tulyar, Sir Ivor, Nijinsky, Benny The Dip. Photo: Kent Barnes

Treasured memories: Plaques at Claiborne for a Derby-winning great, alongside a more recent resident. Photo: Kent Barnes

Treasured memory: This stall at Clairborne still bears the name of the giant of the Turf who once lived behind it. Photo: Kent Barnes

Treasured memories: Darby Dan Farm's tribute to two hugely important Derby winners who stood there. Photo: Kent Barnes

1972 Epsom winner Roberto held court at Darby Dan Farm until his death in 1988. Note the spelling of the name of the great race on his headstone at the farm. Photo: Kent Barnes

A week on Saturday (July 4), the top middle-distance 3-year-olds of Europe will line up to take their shot at fame in the 241st Epsom Derby. The masterful breeder Frederico Tesio is credited with saying, "The Thoroughbred exists because its selection had depended not on experts, technicians, or zoologists, but on a piece of wood: the winning post of the Epsom Derby. If you base your criteria on anything else, you will get something else, not the Thoroughbred."

Breeding programs from around the world have taken this quote to heart and for many years sought after those Derby winners the British isle was willing to give up.

North American has a long, storied history of importing Derby winners, dating back to the very first Derby, run in 1780.

Virginia breeders Colonel John Hoomes and John Taylor III purchased Diomed for \$250 in 1798 after the 21-year-old stallion was written off as a "tried and true bad foal-getter".

Diomed spent the next ten years covering mares at various farms around Virginia and became a leading sire in America, establishing the sire line that led to the 16-time leading North











In 1968, history was made when the first American-bred sold at auction won the English Classic.

American sire Lexington. His blood today flowed through such notable runners as Triple Crown winners Secretariat and American Pharoah.

Two more 18th century winners were brought to Virginia: 1795 scorer Spread Eagle, whose daughter appears in the tail female line of the 19th century multiple champion Commando, and the 1798 winner Sir Harry, who was imported in 1804.

Derby winners continued to be exported around the world during the next 100 years, but let us focus on the more recent lot sent to North America post World War II.

The 1951 winner, Arctic Prince, stood five seasons in England before being sold for the high sum of \$900,000 in 1956 to Leslie Combs and partners for stud duty at his Spendthrift Farm in Lexington.

His best runner in North America was champion turf horse Parka, winner of the United Nations Handicap. Other than that, he left little legacy there, although he became a leading broodmare sire in England with one of his daughters producing three-time Classic winner Santa Claus.

The following year, the Aga Khan's
Tulyar won the Derby, along with the
St Leger, the King George and Queen
Elizabeth Stakes and the Eclipse. After
standing three seasons at the Irish
National Stud, he was sold to a syndicate
led by A.B. Hancock, whose Claiborne
Farm in Paris, Kentucky, had previous
success with another Derby winner owned
by the Aga Khan, 1930 hero Blenheim.

Unlike the success of Blenheim, though, Tulyar was a moderate sire in the U.S. with his top runner the co-champion 2-year-old filly Castle Forbes. He later became the broodmare sire of champion 2-year-old and Travers winner Honest Pleasure, whose own daughter, Narrate, became a significant producer for Claiborne.

Today Narrate can be found in the pedigree of several top stallions, including

Tapit, and doubled in the pedigree of Triple Crown champion Justify.

The 1965 Derby winner was the French trained Sea-Bird. Prior to winning that year's Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, a deal was struck between owner Jean Ternynck and American John Galbreath to lease Sea-Bird on retirement to his Kentucky-based Darby Dan Farm.

He was quite successful at stud in Kentucky but, at the end of the lease, he was returned to France, where he died the following year. His best runner was the French supermare Allez France, a winner of the Arc herself. On the other side of the Atlantic, Sea-Bird sired dual Classic winner Little Current.

In 1968, history was made when the first American-bred sold at auction won the English Classic.

Alice Headley Bell, the daughter of Keeneland founder Hal Price Headley, bred Sir Ivor on her newly established Mill Ridge Farm. Racing for the American ambassador to Ireland, Raymond Guest, and trained by the brilliant Vincent O'Brien, Sir Ivor had a solid racing career, winning not only the Derby but also the 2000 Guineas, and the Champion Stakes at Newmarket. In his final race, he was shipped to his homeland to win the prestigious Washington International at Laurel Park.

Sir Ivor was initially retired to his owner's stud in Ireland but was relocated to Claiborne Farm for the 1971 breeding season. There he proved himself as capable a sire as he was a runner, getting Classic winners both in the United States and abroad.

Some of his best runners included Arc winner Ivanjica, Kentucky Oaks winner Optimistic Gal, and Irish 1000 Guineas winner Lady Capulet. As would be expected from a horse that sired several top-class fillies, he became a top broodmare sire and is best represented today as the broodmare sire of El Prado, who has himself established a sire-line

dynasty with top sons such as Kitten's Joy and Medaglia D'Oro. The direct male line of Sir Ivor lives on strongest, however, down under, where his son Sir Tristram reigned supreme in New Zealand. Sir Ivor lived to the ripe old age of 30 and is buried in Claiborne's Marchmont division cemetery.

Only two years later, another North American-bred trained by O'Brien at Ballydoyle would win not only the Derby, but also the 2000 Guineas and the St Leger to become the first English Triple Crown winner since Bahram in 1935, and to this day the last English Triple Crown winner.

Nijinsky was bred in Canada by E.P. Taylor's Windfields Farm and hailed from the second crop of his 1964 Kentucky Derby winner, Northern Dancer. He was purchased by American businessman Charles Engelhard Jr from the annual Windfields sale on the advice of Vincent O'Brien.

On the completion of his racing career, Nijinsky was syndicated by A.B. Hancock Jr's Claiborne Farm for \$5.44 million.

A big course horse, standing 16.1½ hands, Nijinsky was not typical of Northern Dancer's sons, who were usually a bit smaller and more refined. He was, however, a very good sire of top turf runners, including a trio of fellow Epsom Derby winners - Shahrastani, Golden Fleece and Lammtarra, French Derby winner Caerleon and turf champions Cherry Hinton, Kings Lake, Shadeed and American female De La Rose.

Not all Nijinsky offspring shined on the turf, however, as he was also responsible for Kentucky Derby winner Ferdinand and top dirt sprinter Dancing Spree.

Nijinsky lived a long life in the paddock directly behind the office at Claiborne, covering mares right up until the year of his death in 1992. He is buried in the cemetery a short walk from his old paddock, along with a hall of fame roster of sires.



In 1972, it was John Galbreath's Darby Dan Farm that brought the trophy back to Kentucky after winning with homebred Roberto, thus providing the third American-bred to win in three years, following Rokeby Stud's Mill Reef in 1971.

Galbreath was a sporting man with a large stable and breeding operation in the United States, as well as the owner of the American professional baseball team the Pittsburgh Pirates. He named the 1969 son of Hail To Reason after his All-Star right fielder Roberto Clemente.

Roberto gave O'Brien his third Derby triumph in six years and John Galbreath became the first owner of both a Kentucky Derby winner (two in fact - Chateaugay and Proud Clarion) and a winner of the English equivalent.

Roberto was retired to Darby Dan after his 4-year-old season and held court there until his death in 1988. He was known by all that were around him for his fiery temperament. You did not venture into his paddock without paying close attention to him.

Like Nijinsky before him, he became a top sire of worldwide turf runners, such

as Sunshine Forever, Lear Fan, At Talaq and Real Shadai. He sired several top sons to carry on the line, most notably Dynaformer, and Kris S in North America and Brian's Time and Real Shadai in Japan.

Snow Knight, the 1974 winner, was born in England but soon became affiliated with Canadian connections.

Racing initially under the silks of Sharon Phillips, he was sold in the fall of his 3-year-old year to E.P. Taylor for a North American campaign. Under the tutelage of Hall of Fame trainer Mack Miller, Snow Knight won three top turf events at four, including the Canadian International at Woodbine, and in the process earned himself an Eclipse award for Champion Male Turf horse.

He was initially retired to the owner's Windfields Farm in Canada but, with only minor success at stud, he was later sent to Australia. He did manage to sire the top turf filly Awaasif, who in turn became the second dam of 1995 Derby winner Lammtarra.

While America celebrated its bicentennial in 1976, the U.S.-bred and owned Empery scored another win for Victim of bias? Epsom Derby winners have attracted much less interest from across the Atlantic in recent years. In this picture, the runners are into the straight after rounding the famed Tattenham Corner in last year's running. Photo: Mark Cranham/focusonracing.com

the Americans over the British, this time on their own turf. Nelson Bunker Hunt made his riches from the oil fields of Texas and spent that money purchasing several thousand acres of farmland in Kentucky to breed horses for one of the largest stables of its time.

He was adept at raising and racing several top turf horses, including Vaguely Noble, the sire of Empery. While Vaguely Noble had a long and distinguished stud career, the same could not be said for his Derby-winning son. Empery was retired to stand at Hunt's Bluegrass farm in Lexington but, by the time he was 11, his bags were packed and he left the bluegrass for Japan, a trend that would be common among future Derby winners.



What it's all about - the Derby trophy. This one was won by Sheikh Hamdan's Erhaab in 1994. Photo: Kent Barnes

From roaring demand to a victim of fashion

The success of Nijinsky opened the floodgates for European horsemen arriving in North America to purchase other sons of Northern Dancer for export.

Perhaps his biggest fan, Vincent O'Brien, was back in 1977 with another of these sons to win the Derby. This time it was with The Minstrel, a threequartersbrother to Nijinsky.

Like Nijinsky, he was bred in Canada by Windfields Farm, but by this time E.P. Taylor was shipping his yearlings to the Keeneland sale in Kentucky, where sons of his superstar Northern Dancer were bringing top dollar.

Bought for the bargain price of \$200,000 by the BBA Ireland for Robert Sangster, The Minstrel provided jockey Lester Piggot a record eighth win in the Epsom Derby. The Minstrel completed the Derby double, winning at the Curragh three weeks later, and then won the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes a few weeks later.

Windfields Farm purchased a half-interest back in the colt for \$4.5 million and brought him to their farm in Maryland in 1978 to stand alongside his famous father. In 1988, the farm was sold and he was moved to Overbrook Farm in Lexington, where he stood until his death in 1990.

He is remembered as primarily a sire of European turf runners, although he is also credited as the sire of multiple G1 winner Palace Music, who in turn sired one of North America's top dirt runners, Cigar. The Minstrel's pedigree in Europe today is featured primarily as the broodmare sire of Classic winner and sire Zafonic.

In 1984, Secreto, trained by David O'Brien, son of Vincent, became the third son of Northern Dancer to win the prestigious Classic, when he defeated another son of Northern Dancer trained by his father, the highly favored El Gran Senor.

Like The Minstrel and Nijinsky, Secreto was bred by E.P. Taylor's Windfields Farm. Venezuelan Luigi Miglietti purchased him at the Keeneland September sale for \$340,000.

Secreto never raced again after his Derby win and a half-interest in him was sold to the famed Calumet Farm in Lexington for \$20 million. He sired a handful of stakes winners, the majority of which were fillies. His sole G1 winner from his North American foals was 2000 Guineas winner Mystico.

In 1992, Secreto was sold to Japan, where he stood with little success, siring only one other stakes winner until his death in 1999. His daughters became good producers, getting several G1 winners, such as Sakhee's Secret and Charge D'Affaires.

Half-brother to a great hurdler

It is also worth noting that, while Secreto was the first foal of the Secretariat mare Betty's Secret, her final foal, Istabraq, by Sadler's Wells, while only a moderate winner on the flat, went on to become one of the greatest hurdlers, winning the Champion Hurdle three consecutive years. He was trained by an up-and-coming young Irishman called Aidan O'Brien.

Shahrastani continued the dominance of Northern Dancer line horses when this son of Nijinsky won in 1986. Bred in Kentucky by the Aga Khan IV, he raced for his owner and became his second winner of the race, following the ill-fated Shergar in 1981. After his win at Epsom, he completed the double by winning the Irish Derby, but that would be his final win.

He was syndicated at the end of the year and brought to Kentucky to stand at Three Chimneys Farm alongside Triple Crown winner Seattle Slew.

Unfortunately, at this time European turf horses began to fall out of favor with American breeders and Shahrastani failed to attract many mares, resulting in little success with his North American crops, which forced his exile from Kentucky after the 1992 breeding season. He spent time in France, Japan and Ireland without making much of an impact. He lived to be 28 and was buried in England, the home of his greatest glory.

Prince Khalid enters the fray

The powerful racing empire of Prince Khalid Abdullah's Juddmonte Farms won its first of three Derbys in 1990 with their homebred son of Rainbow Quest, Quest For Fame.

One of the more heavily raced of the recent Derby winners, Quest For Fame made a total of 19 starts from the age of two to five. After his Classic-winning season, he was allowed to stay in training as a 4-year-old, when he placed second in his owner's sponsored Juddmonte International. His final start of the year was a respectable third in the Breeders' Cup Turf at Churchill Downs.

He remained in North America for his 5-year-old season and was turned over to Hall of Fame trainer Bobby Frankel. He was able to add a second G1 victory to his resume that summer, when he won the Hollywood Turf Invitational Handicap. A return to the Breeder's Cup Turf, this time at Gulfstream Park in Florida, again saw him finish third. After a failed effort in the Japan Cup at the end of the year, he was retired to Gainesway Farm for the 1993 breeding season, and he was transferred to his owner's Juddmonte Farm in Lexington in 1997.

During this period, he also shuttled to Woodlands Stud in Australia, which became his permanent home in 2000 after it was determined his stock performed better in the Southern Hemisphere.

Above: What it's all about - the Derby trophy. This one was won by Sheikh Hamdan's Erhaab in 1994. Photo: Kent Barnes

Right: Erhaab, the 1994 Derby winner bred at Sheikh Hamdan's Shadwell Farm in Kentucky, pictured during his four-year stint at stud in Japan. Photo: Kent Barnes

He was pensioned in 2010 and is credited with 23 Graded/Group winners, including Famous Digger, who won the 1997 G1 Del Mar Oaks and G1 winners Viscount and Dracula in Australia.

Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum had previously tasted Epsom glory with his homebred Nashwan in 1989, and just five years later another Shadwell Farm homebred honored him with his second win in the Derby.

The smallish, nearly black son of Chief's Crown sat at the rear of the pack of 25 as they rounded Tattenham Corner. Under the urging of Willie Carson, Erhaab wound through the traffic and, when he saw daylight in front, he pulled away to win by a length and threequarters.

Crowning glory: Erhaab with Shadwell's Rick Nicholls and trainer John Dunlop after his 1994 victory at Epsom DownsCrowning glory:

Erhaab raced twice more at three and was then sold to Japanese interests. He stood at East Stud from 1995 to 1999, after which Sheikh Hamdan re-purchased him and brought him back from the Far East. This author had the privilege of accompanying him on his long journey from Hokkaido to Lexington in the fall of 2000.

Erhaab served a small number of mares in Kentucky before relocating to the owner's Beech House Stud in Newmarket. Erhaab sired little of note and is today pensioned and looking well at 28 years-old at Batsford Stud in England.

Benny The Dip was the most recent North American-bred to win the Derby and be returned to his birthplace. Bred and raced by Landon Knight, this grandson of Derby winner Roberto by Silver Hawk was sent to Newmarket to be trained by John Gosden.

A winner of three races at two, Benny The Dip entered the Derby after a victory in the G2 Dante Stakes. The winner of the 1997 Derby was announced





by the stewards after a long delay as they sorted out the tight photo finish between the front running Benny, who just held on from the fast-closing Silver Patriarch. He placed twice more that summer but never graced the winner's enclosure again.

Claiborne Farm, which had a long history with Epsom winners, would buy into Benny The Dip and stand him at their historic nursery in Paris, Kentucky, beginning in 1998.

Chequered career: 2004 winner North Light suffered from the growing American bias against middle-distance horses and has moved between Kentucky, Canada, England, Canada again, California and Kentucky again during his stallion yearsChequered career: 2004 winner North Light suffered from the growing American bias against middle-distance horses and has moved between Kentucky, Canada, England, Canada again, California and Kentucky again during his stallion years



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The Epsom Derby legacy of Northern Dancer - 2000 to present

Year	Winner	Relationship with Nothern Dancer
2000	Sinndar	Great-great grandson (through sire Grand lodge)
2001	Galileo	Grandson (through sire Sadler's Wells)
2002	High Chaparral	Grandson (through sire Sadler's Wells)
2003	Kris Kin	None (but he was a grandson of Roberto)
2004	North Light	Grandson (through sire Danehill)
2005	Motivator	Great grandson (through sire Montjeu)
2006	Sir Percy	Great-great grandson (through sire Mark Of Esteem)
2007	Authorized	Great grandson (through sire Montjeu)
2008	North Approach	Great grandson (through sire Galileo)
2009	Sea The Stars	Great-great grandson (through sire Cape Cross)
2010	Workforce	Great grandson (through sire Soviet Moon)
2011	Pour Moi	Great grandson (through sire Montjeu)
2012	Camelot	Great grandson (through sire Montjeu)
2013	Ruler Of The World	Great grandson (through sire Galileo)
2014	Australia	Great grandson (through sire Galileo)
2015	Golden Horn	Great-great grandson (through sire Cape Cross)
2016	Harzand	Great-great-great grandson (through sire Sea The Stars)
2017	Wings Of Eagles	Great-great grandson (through sire Pour Moi)
2018	Masar	Great-great grandson (through sire New Approach)
2019	Anthony Van Dyck	Great grandson (through sire Galileo)
2020	Serpentine	Great grandson (through sire Galileo)

With little support, though, from the American breeders, he was sent back to England prior to ever having a runner set foot on the track. He stood at Cheveley Park Stud for three seasons and then unfortunately suffered a fatal paddock accident in Ireland prior to the 2004 breeding season. In his shortened stud career, he sired little of use and is credited with only two minor stakes winners.

A combination of the decline of American homebred racing operations with the sales markets' focus on speedy looking yearlings for dirt racing has resulted in a lack of demand for European middle-distance types in the United States. It has now been 16 years since North Light won the Derby and became the last winner to venture across the Atlantic for stud duty.

Foaled in Ireland in 2001, North Light was by Danzig's phenomenal sire son Danehill out of a daughter of English champion Rainbow Quest. North Light was trained by Sir Michael Stoute and, like several Derby winners prior, he began the season with a win in the 10½-furlong Dante. Also like several prior to him, the Derby proved to be his last victory.

He ran second in the Irish Derby three weeks later and was second again in his only start at four, after which it was discovered that he had suffered a fractured pelvis. He was retired to Austrian-born Canadian industrialist Frank Stronach's Adena Springs farm in Midway, Kentucky. His initial fee was set at \$50,000 but, despite being Danehill's only G1 winner at stud in North America, he too suffered from the American bias against European middle-distance horses.

He covered books of 70-80 mares for the first three seasons, but his sales average never approached that of his stud fee and, by 2011, he was relegated to the Canadian division of Adena Springs in Ontario.

He returned to England in 2014, where he stood one season at Kirsten Rausing's Lanwades Stud in Newmarket with only eight stakes winners to his credit after five crops to race. The fact that his only G1 winner was over the St Leger distance of 14 furlongs spelled commercial doom for him.

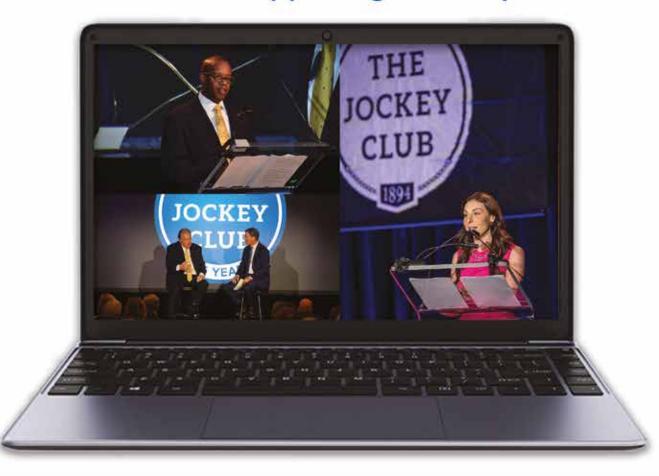
Adena Springs returned him to Canada for the 2015-17 breeding seasons and then shipped him west to California for one season. He has now returned to Kentucky and, while not advertised to the public, still covers the occasional mare at the age of 19, perhaps the final Derby winner to do so in North America.

Kent Barnes is Stallion Manager at Shadwell Farm in Paris, Kentucky.



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Deauville may have been buzzing, but it showed once again how far France has fallen behind

John Gilmore | July 19, 2020

French racing was leading the way last week, bringing spectators back ahead of other major jurisdictions and enjoying a particularly successful day at Deauville for the Prix Jean Prat meeting, where the town was buzzing amid the first signs of relative normality for racegoers. Unfortunately, the meeting also underlined another area of horseracing where France seems to be falling further and further behind.





But first the good news. I arrived early at Deauville on a bright sunny day for the Prix Jean Prat meeting not knowing what to expect from this tourist and racing town after months of confinement. To my surprise, the place was thriving, with tourists, mask-free, relaxing in the famous outside terrace bars and packed beach area with everyone seemingly eager to escape after months of lockdown.

The famous Royal Barriere Hotel was full and, despite the expected reduced numbers of foreign owners and breeders likely in August, advanced bookings were strong. The important international three-day Arqana yearling sale in August has been moved to September in the hope that this will allow more foreign buyers to attend.

Wearing masks, however, is the order of the day on the racecourse, although France Galop were happy with the crowd of around 3,000, especially as the fact that spectators were to be admitted had not received much publicity.

Now the bad news ...

The day, featuring a Group 1 and a Group 3, wasn't a happy time for French connections. Pinatubo won the G1 Prix Jean Prat and Royal Crusade the G3, both trained by Charlie Appleby in Newmarket and owned by Godolphin. Appleby also won a listed race with Althiqua.

This came on top of the two big Classics a week earlier, the Prix du Jockey Club and the Prix de Diane, neither of which were won by France. An English colt won the Jockey Club, and the Diane featured an Irish 1-2-3.

Two days later at ParisLongchamp, the trend continued, with two of the three Group races won by British-trained horses, including another for Appleby, in front of a sparse crowd for the traditional Bastille Day meeting.

There is an excuse for the poor attendance - the complexion of the meeting was very different from recent years. Normally, this is an evening card, featuring the historic G1 Grand Prix de Paris, with music, a crowd of thousands and a party atmosphere. This time it was run in the afternoon, and the Grand

Back on track: Spectators in front of the stands for the Prix Jean Prat meeting at Deauville last Sunday. They were required to wear face masks as France reopened racecourses to the public. Photo: John Gilmore

Prix de Paris has been put back until September.

But back to the poor results for French-trained runners. Make no mistake, this is an ongoing and increasingly severe trend, and French trainers must be looking with apprehension at the upcoming racing throughout August at Deauville, where last year only Godolphin's André Fabre-trained Earthlight stopped a clean sweep of the five Group 1s by English and Irish runners.

Throughout 2019, home-trained horses won just 12 of the 28 Group 1s in France and 72 of 115 total Group races.

Yet, just eight years previously, they had taken 93 of the 110 Group races, including 22 of the 27 Group 1s.



Under-used? The 4km Piste des Lions sand track through the forest just outside Chantilly yesterday morning (Saturday). Photo: John Gilmore

Englishman Andrew Hollinshead, who has been training with wife Debbie in Lamorlaye in France for the past six years, may have some answers.

"In England, for a start, trainers are getting the bigger owners, who choose to have their horses trained there for one reason or another," he said. "Someone like Aidan O'Brien in Ireland is ahead of the game, but a number of French trainers are still stuck in the old ways of routine circuit training - not altogether necessary - with the horses sometimes appearing a little bit lifeless and demotivated."

Hollinshead, son of renowned British trainer Reg Hollinshead, indicated that, despite having gallops nearby that other trainers use regularly, he prefers to train his horses on a steep uphill sand forest track, which is some way from his stables.

"When I first arrived in Lamorlaye, I checked out all the gallops near my yard and decided they weren't what I was looking for. Eventually I discovered the Chantilly Piste des Lions gallops, which are some distance away but more to my liking, being an uphill sand track," he said.

"I usually go out for about an hour with a steady 25-minute walk through the forest, a warm-up trot, then a slow canter onto the sand track, where the horse gallops around 1,400 metres on the bridle. I like the Lions uphill gallop as it keeps the pressure off the front legs and makes the back legs work more. It allows the horses to work harder and has less chance of injury to the front end, where most of the problems can occur."

Possible reason

Hollinshead said it may not be surprising that a couple of successful trainers in Chantilly use the Piste des Lions stretch. "I have often seen Fabrice Chappet here with his horses, and André Fabre uses the less-steep bottom half. Nicolas Caullery, Andreas Schutz, Alain Junk and neighbour Carina Fey's string also use this sand gallop. "It's very common in Newmarket and Lambourn for trainers to use steep uphill gallops as part of their training methods, formally revolutionised by jumps trainer Martin Pipe. It's a possible reason why British horses have been proving so successful in plundering French Group races in the past few years."

The famous Warren Hill sand gallops at Newmarket have a 40-metre rise over the last 4½ furlongs, and are very popular, with around 16,000 horses working on them each month.

In contrast, there didn't appear to be many racehorses using the 4km Piste des Lions gallops for early-morning work yesterday, even though there are 2,400 racehorses stabled nearby. It's clear this magnificent, calm forest setting, which is ideal for training, is under-used.

Hollinshead has just invested in a treadmill, but unlike other trainers is not interested in buying a walkway to supplement training. "The reason I bought the machine was that, every time we brought horses back from injury with light work on sand tracks, it seemed to aggravate the injury, so the treadmill ought to be beneficial," he said.

"I would never buy a walkway, especially with a roof. Having up to six horses circulating at the same time in an enclosed, limited space is a sure cause of possible disease if one of them has a sickness. Moving around on a walking machine and not in the open air is hardly healthy for the horse."

Hollinshead has shown he is open to changing techniques to improve performances. But, overall, something has clearly gone radically wrong in France. Years ago, the country was noted for quality middle-distance performers, which regularly won top races in Britain. The pendulum has swung completely, and now English horses at listed level in Britain are capable of winning Group 3s or higher in France.

Foreign owners regularly buying up the cream of young French bloodstock hasn't helped either, with many of these horses rarely being sent to be trained in France. The top 20 horses sold at Arqana's yearling sale last August were all bought by foreign owners.

French racing cannot continue to have its top races plundered by British- and Irish-trained horses, and some serious thinking needs to be done to try to rectify a problem that is becoming acutely embarrassing.

French prize money below listed level is up to six times better than in Britain, which is the reason Hollinshead went to France in the first place. Last year, his 11 horses won six races with 32 places, collecting €168,340 in prize money and French premiums.

Perhaps there is too much of a comfort zone at the higher level of trainers in France due to the generous overall prize money on offer - 75 flat trainers there last year each won over €500,000 in total prize money and premiums.

Looking at ways of improving and modernising training methods may be a step in the right direction, as would lobbying the Government to reduce the 20 percent VAT on buying horses. But there is no quick fix and, once again this season, France looks to be struggling to find homegrown top-class performers.



OUSTANDING RESULTS IN JULY FOR FILLIES **BRED IN BRITAIN**

GROUP 1

NAZEEF (GB) Falmouth Stakes Bred by Shadwell Estate Company Limited

ENABLE (GB) King George VI And Queen Elizabeth Stakes Bred by Juddmonte Farms Ltd

GROUP 2

DAME MALLIOT (GB) **Princess Of Wales's Stakes** Bred by Hascombe And Valiant Studs

AUYANTEPUI (GB) Premio Oaks d'Italia Bred by Allevamento Le Gi Massimo Parri

GROUP 3

KNOW IT ALL (GB) Derrinstown Stud Fillies Stakes Bred by Qatar Bloodstock Ltd

ARIA IMPORTANTE (GB) Premio Primi Passi Bred by Razza Del Sole Societa Agricola Srl

QUEEN JO JO (GB) Summer Fillies' Stakes Bred by Bearstone Stud Ltd

LADY BOWTHORPE (GB) Valiant Fillies' Stakes Bred by Scuderia Archi Romani

LISTED

ROMOLA (GB) Pipalong Stakes Bred by Cheveley Park Stud Ltd

ALTHIQA (GB) Prix Amandine Bred by Godolphin

FRANCONIA (GB) Lyric Fillies' Stakes Bred by Juddmonte Farms Ltd ALKANDORA (GB) Prix Melisande

CABALETTA (GB) **Aphrodite Fillies' Stakes** Bred by D J Deer & Mrs D J Deer Bred by Cheveley Park Stud Ltd

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What They're Thinking Oisin Murphy: The horses themselves are special enough to sell the sport

Amanda Duckworth | JULY 28, 2020

Oisin Murphy is the reigning champion flat jockey in Britain, at 24 the youngest rider to take the title since Ryan Moore won aged 23 in 2006. Murphy landed his first British Classic in June on Kameko in the Qipco 2000 Guineas. The Irish-born rider, currently world-ranked 25, has won multiple G1s around the globe, including in Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, and the UAE. Murphy, who is at 'Glorious Goodwood' this week for the famed Qatar Goodwood Festival, was particularly associated with the late Roaring Lion, the 2018 Cartier European Horse of the Year whom he rode to consecutive G1 victories that year in the Coral-Eclipse, the Juddmonte International Stakes, the Qipco Irish Champion Stakes, and Queen Elizabeth II Stakes.



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

Well, I can't answer that directly. I think in recent years, and that's all I can say because I was born in 1995, John Magnier's Coolmore Stud has been incredibly influential, as has Prince Khalid's Juddmonte Farms. I think all the current top owners have benefited from the general view of Prince Khalid and John Magnier from a very early stage. Those pedigrees have shined through for many a year. One must mention also HH The Aga Khan, but I can't narrow it down particularly between John Magnier and Prince Khalid.

Which is your favourite venue and race?

My favourite racecourse is York. I absolutely love the track. It's fair, left-handed, and pretty flat. Race-wise, well, any of the Classics in Britain, the Irish Champion Stakes, and the Dubai World Cup, which I finished second in last year. I also admire the American Triple Crown. I don't want to leave any out because there are lots of important races around

the globe, and they all have such significance on the breed.

What is your fondest memory in racing?

I suppose as a child watching my uncle, Jim Culloty, winning the Grand National on Bindaree in 2002 was a moment I will never forget (see video below). Particularly as a really young child - it doesn't come much bigger or better than that. In Ireland, National Hunt racing is really well followed, flat racing probably less so, and I was well aware of the significance of that at the time.

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

Racing, like any other sport, has many challenges. We need to get people interested and make it relatable. There is no doubt we look after our animals incredibly well, and it's there for everyone to see. What we do need is racing journalists and people with a say to really focus on the good things.

You have the passion when you watch Match of the Day or something like that after a major football match, when the pundits are speaking. It really draws you in. Sometimes we lack that in horse racing. We don't need to sell ourselves as just a betting product. The horses themselves are special enough to sell our sport.

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

I would like to change how people view racing. I can't do that solely, but I try through my social media things and my engagement with the public on a general basis and an everyday basis.

Obviously at the moment people aren't allowed to go racing, but I would hate for somebody to be able to say I wasn't kind to them if they asked for an autograph or a photo, whether that's in Ireland, England, Dubai, Japan, Canada, or wherever it is in the world. I try to make time for everybody.

I wish we could really make it relatable. It's known as the Sport of Kings, but not because royalty owned racehorses, or not only for that fact. It was a sport everybody admired and enjoyed.

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29 July 2020

Jockeys

Rank	Name	Modal Country	Points
1	Frankie Dettori	Great Britain	1089
2	Christophe Lemaire	Japan	1063
3	William Buick	Great Britain	1060
4	Ryan Moore	Great Britain	1058
5	Zac Purton	Hong Kong	1048
6	Joel Rosario	USA	1036
6	Irad Ortiz Jr	USA	1036
8	James McDonald	Australia	1035
9	Mike E Smith	USA	1025
9	Hugh Bowman	Australia	1025
11	Flavien Prat	USA	1021
12	Pierre-Charles Boudot	France	1019
13	Javier Castellano	USA	1014
14	Opie Bosson	Australia	1013
15	Mickael Barzalona	France	1012

Trainers

Rank	Name	Modal Country	Points
1	Charlie Appleby	Great Britain	1069
2	John Gosden	Great Britain	1065
3	Chad C Brown	USA	1051
4	Aidan O'Brien	Ireland	1042
5	Bob Baffert	USA	1017
6	James Cummings	Australia	1014
7	Brad H Cox	USA	1013
8	Chris Waller	Australia	1009
9	Steven Asmussen	USA	1002
10	Jamie Richards	New Zealand	997
11	Andre Fabre	France	990
12	John Moore	Hong Kong	988
13	Sir Michael Stoute	Great Britain	987
14	William Mott	USA	981
14	Ciaron Maher & David Eustace	Australia	981

Owners

Rank	Name	Modal Country	Points
1	Godolphin	Australia	1076
2	Coolmore Partners	Ireland	1052
3	Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum	Great Britain	1038
4	Silk Racing Co Ltd	Japan	1032
5	Juddmonte Farms / Prince Khalid Abdulla	Great Britain	1022
6	Sunday Racing Co Ltd	Japan	1017
6	Madaket Stables Et Al	USA	1017
8	Peters Investments Et Al	Australia	1016
9	U Carrot Farm	Japan	1014
10	White Birch Farm / Peter Brant Et Al	USA	1012
11	Phoenix Thoroughbreds Et Al	USA	1006
11	Danox Co Ltd	Japan	1006
13	Gary Barber Et Al	USA	1002
14	Lloyd Williams Et Al	Australia	1000
15	Magic Bloodstock Et Al	Australia	999

Sires

Rank	Name	Modal Country	Points
1	Dubawi	Great Britain	1069
2	Galileo	Ireland	1066
3	Lord Kanaloa	Japan	1038
3	Shamardal	Great Britain	1038
5	Sea The Stars	Great Britain	1037
6	Deep Impact	Japan	1035
7	Frankel	Great Britain	1026
8	Street Cry	Australia	1018
8	Lope De Vega	Australia	1018
10	Teofilo	Australia	1014
10	Scat Daddy	USA	1014
12	Lookin At Lucky	USA	1013
12	Kingman	Great Britain	1013
14	Not A Single Doubt	Australia	1010
15	Pierro	Australia	1009