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# TRC



## World Champion

*Why Almond Eye will top  
our year-end global rankings*

Also inside: How trainer Michelle Nihei saw such potential in a mere field /  
Matt Chapman travels back in time / British teams celebrate at the Breeders' Cup /  
Kerri Radcliffe: More than just a bloodstock agent / What They're Thinking: Jeff Bloom



# *Tattersalls* SALES DATES 2021

## **February Sale**

February 4 - 5  
Broodmares, Fillies/Horses  
in Training & Yearlings

## **Craven Breeze Up Sale**

April 12 - 14  
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## **Guineas Breeze Up & Horses In Training Sale**

April 29 - 30  
Two Year Olds & Horses In Training

## **July Sale**

July 5 - 9  
Horses/Fillies In Training,  
Broodmares, etc.

## **August Sale**

August 30 - September 2  
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Broodmares, etc.

## **October Yearling Sale**

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**Book 2** October 11 - 13

**Book 3\*** October 14 - 15

**Book 4\*** October 15 - 16  
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## **Autumn Horses In Training Sale**

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## **December Sale Yearlings**

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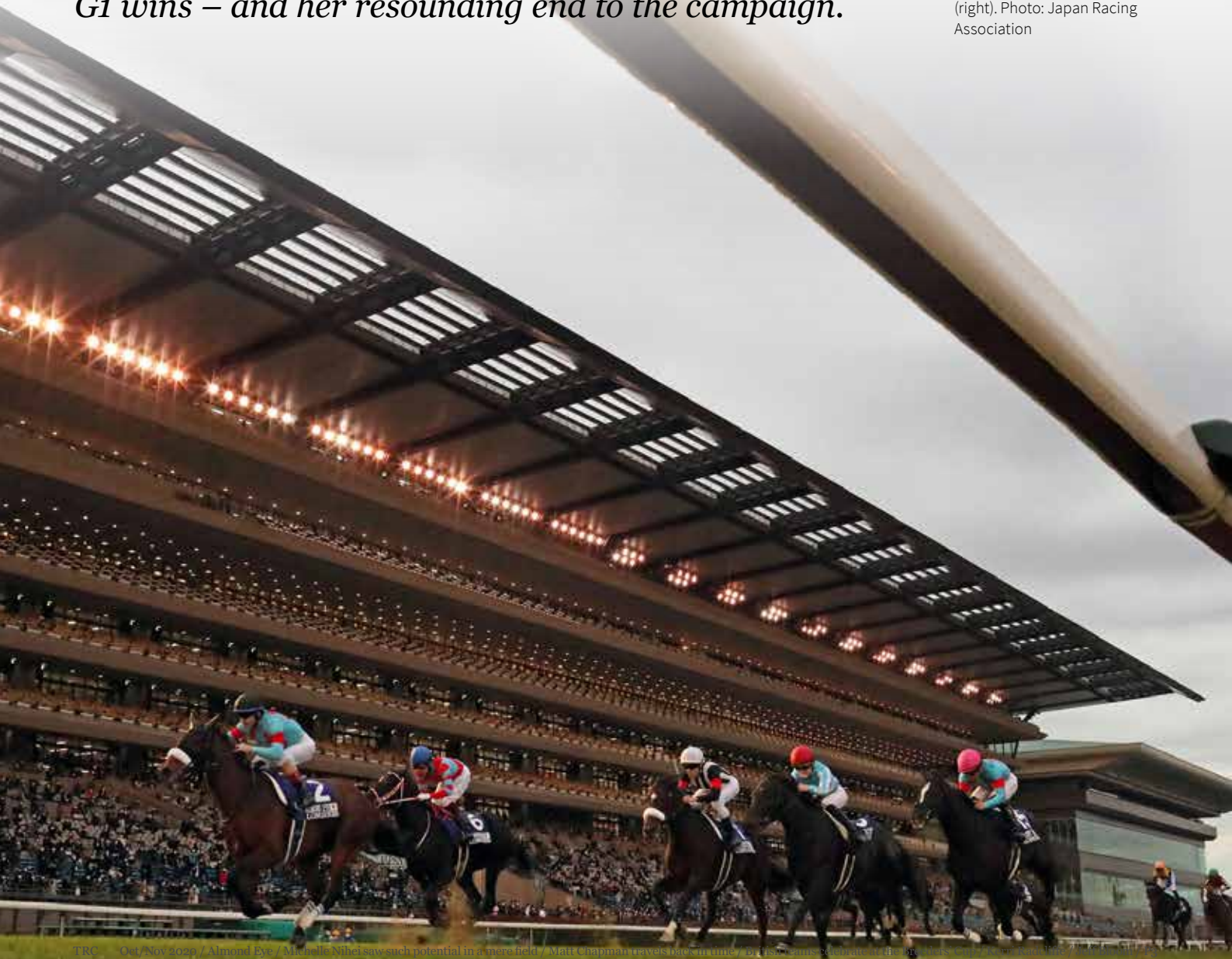
# Almond Eye

## The TRC Global Rankings World Champion of 2020

James Willoughby | December 03, 2020

*The Japanese super mare Almond Eye will end the year as the #1 ranked racehorse in the world by TRC Global Rankings. No horse can match the combination of her expansive portfolio – encompassing no fewer than nine G1 wins – and her resounding end to the campaign.*

Five clear: Almond Eye takes the Japan Cup ahead of Triple Crown hero Contrail (6, second left), Fillies Triple Crown winner Daring Tact (second right), last year's Japan Cup runner-up Curren Bouquetd'or (white cap, centre) and 2019 Hong Kong Vase champion Glory Vase (right). Photo: Japan Racing Association



Despite racing just four times in 2020, she won G1s at a mile, a mile and a quarter and a mile and a half. And her form is rock solid for the following reasons:

The horses she has beaten have an outstanding record when she is not around – the same aspect that distinguished Frankel and a sure sign of a horse who deserves to be regarded as a champion.

In the Japan Cup on November 29, she had male (Contrail) and female (Daring Tact) Japanese Triple Crown winners in her wake; that pair have dominated large fields of their own age and sex repeatedly. The first five – including last year's G1 Hong Kong Vase winner Glory Vase – were clear.

In the G1 Tenno Sho (Autumn), she was followed home by Fierement, who had won the Tenno Sho (Spring) twice, and Chrono Genesis, who was coming off a hugely impressive six-length win in the G1 Takarazuka Kinen.

And, her only defeat was a second place to another brilliant filly, world #14 Gran Alegria, in the G1 Yasuda Kinen over a mile. That runner went on to show the kind of acceleration rarely witnessed when landing the G1 Mile Championship, and before that she had taken out the G1 Sprinters Stakes.

All this covers directly or indirectly virtually every good race in Japan. In short, Almond Eye has displayed her dominance over the herd like no other racehorse on the planet. But her influence is not confined to her home country: On her only start in Dubai, she cleared away from the \$6 million G1 Dubai Turf field before idling in front – very much her trademark.

While other outstanding horses around the world either don't have a CV with anything like the same breadth and depth (Authentic, Tarnawa, Tiz The Law, Maximum Security) or are leaving question marks over their dominance as they depart the scene (Enable,

Ghaiyyath, and Magical, who is scheduled to have one more run – in Hong Kong on December 13.), Almond Eye galloped across the line at Tokyo to answer every question she had been set with a flourish that surely entitles her to be regarded as the most fitting for the title of world championship racehorse 2020.

The problem for some is they cannot rate her as such.

We would argue that collateral form ratings fail to capture the true quality of Japanese racing – under Japanese conditions. We have seen Japanese horses get massive ratings from the Longines World's Best Racehorse system outside of Japan, such as Just A Way (2014 G1 Dubai Turf at Meydan) in and A Shin Hikari (2016 G1 Prix d'Ispahan at Longchamp), and we would argue that the exchange of ratings points for lengths does not line up between Europe and Japan.

So many big figures in Europe take place with cut in the ground on tough, galloping courses. It is much easier for a horse to win by a wide margin – and thus receive a maximal figure – when runners are tiring badly behind it. But Japanese races mostly take place on very firm surfaces and wide margins are the exception rather than the rule.

### **Ghaiyyath's credentials not put to the final test**

The 2020 Japan Cup was run in 2:23. Compare that with the winning time of Sottsass in the Arc of 2:39.

That difference of 16 seconds is nearly a furlong and a half! If many Japanese races went on for an extra 16 seconds, the winning margins would be trebled or quadrupled. And this means that the whole ratings network is compressed, rather than expanded as it is in Europe.

Ghaiyyath has the accolade of the world's highest-rated horse. He was a top-notch runner, and his finest exploits

took place on a sound surface. Full credit to him, but he disappeared to stud before his credentials were put to the test in autumn championships – no reason to doubt his best figures but we are ranking horses here, not simply rating their best performances, and we give credit to horses the more they reduce the uncertainty over where they truly belong in the hierarchy.

Magical had beaten Ghaiyyath on the square at Leopardstown before Tarnawa zoomed past her in the Breeders' Cup Turf. Was it in the mind of Ghaiyyath's connections that a similar fate was likely on the cards for him?

We have shown before that Japanese horses as a group are far from over-represented in the world's Top 100 by TRC Global Rankings.

Going into the Japan Cup, we had Contrail at #1 because our machine-learning system could not find a horse who had beaten so many talented horses without losing to one of them. But we pointed out that the Japan Cup was a very difficult spot for him after a draining win in the G1 Japanese St Leger at 15f. And he ran an absolute screamer in second, surrounded by mares in 1-3-4 who were receiving fully 5lb. He is now world-ranked 5.

There is plenty more to come from him, and word is that his connections are determined to show it to the world in 2021.

But 2020 belongs to Almond Eye. She is now bound for the paddocks, but her name will always be invoked when great Japanese horses are discussed – and rightly so.

What a horse she has been. Her cruising speed, temperament, adaptability to different distances, turn of foot and will to win are all exemplary. She retires as the highest-earning Japanese horse of all time.

Sayonara, TRC world champion.

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*Japanese races mostly take place on very firm surfaces and wide margins are the exception rather than the rule.*

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# How trainer *Michelle Nihei* saw such potential in a mere field

Patrick Lawrence Gilligan | November 25, 2020

Above: Michelle Nihei at Circle 8 Farm in Kentucky with her 'Prince Charming' – G1 winner Prince Will I Am. Photos: Patrick Lawrence Gilligan

*Michelle Nihei (pronounced knee-hay) was the opposite of my preconception of her when we met recently. As a female exercise rider turned trainer in a largely male-dominated profession, I expected someone probably noisy, ballsy, tough. She is in fact softly spoken, thoughtful, and tough, still more the neuroscientist she was in a past life than the racehorse trainer she has been for the last 13 years.*



Originally, I thought I would write a piece about a medium-size stable in the U.S., how the economics were, the rise of the supertrainers, and the seeming relative paucity of female trainers in the U.S. compared to other nations.

When Nihei showed me the facilities she and husband Troy Levy are developing at his Circle 8 Ranch and Training Center (a wholly owned subsidiary of Tropical Racing), just off Versailles Way outside Lexington, Kentucky, all that changed.

Nihei houses a string at Palm Meadows in Florida year-round. From spring through autumn, she has stalls at Keeneland and houses more horses at Circle 8.



They say Newmarket exists perhaps because of Warren Hill. It was just the right length, the right steepness, the right turf, to train young Thoroughbred racehorses on, so the stables grew up around that hill, and the blacksmiths set up their forges there, and the feed men and the merchants, and the homes for all the people followed.

Circle 8 is just a field, formerly used for grazing broodmares on the 200-acre farm. It would have been overlooked by many, I suspect. But people with high IQs - and Nihei's puts her firmly in the rocket scientist category - can come at things from more angles. Their minds see possibilities others miss.

Michelle Nihei, ex-event rider, looked at that field on the farm and thought Equine Circuit Training.

It is just the right size, just the right contours, just the right hills. She marked out a circuit one mile round. After a  $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile warm-up walk followed by a mile jogging, the gallop begins, slightly uphill, then turns right to a steeper hill. Then it's gallop some more, then a left-hand turn, down a hill, then up a steep hill and turn left, gallop some more, then a slightly downhill right-hand turn and that is a one-mile circuit completed.

Equine Circuit Training: the uphill grass gallop

Perform three times then, after that three-mile gallop, walk another  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile home, five minutes on the horse walker, bathe, then let them pick grass quietly for 20 minutes.

Relaxing, no rushing, giving these young horses a chance to work it all out, making them more aware, more amenable, listening to their riders under the tutelage of Nihei's right-hand person and rider in Kentucky, Mimi Davis.

The horses, after their loping gallop of three miles, walk home calm, happy, relaxed, no eyes popping here as they come off the track.

"It's proving to be successful. The horses are all running first, second, third, in Maiden Special Weights," says Nihei. (Her only runner while I was working on the piece won its Maiden Special Weight at Churchill Downs.)

"Joe Pickerrell in Ocala breaks them for us, and does an amazing job," she says. "I like them to know about the racetrack so when we get them they go to the track for a while, but when they come here it adds a whole other dimension to their stability, their balance and their soundness."





“When they go back to the racetrack after a couple of months, everyone who has ridden them both before and after says it is remarkable how much stronger they are and how much better they takes the turns because now they know how to lift that shoulder instead of just flattening around the turn.”

A recently completed woodchip with a steep straight 2-furlong uphill finish, and a 6-furlong left-handed reseeded turf course, which may be converted to a Tapeta training oval, complement the figure-eight turf circuit training course.

“We are taking it one step at a time, but I really want to make this into a hallmark type of place,” she says. “it is a bit financially stressful, but we want to train our horses here. I was lucky enough to spend some time riding for Sir Michael Stoute in Newmarket and that formed the basis of a lot of the ideology of what we are doing here.”

Michelle Nihei was born in Calgary in Western Canada to a scientist father and a lawyer mother. Both her

parents sadly passed away, and I wonder if those events played some part in her decision to walk away from her job as a neuroscientist.

She says it took her 12 years to realize she wanted to ride horses for a living. “You only have one life to live,” she says. “I just loved horses. I always wanted to be around them.”

Nihei ended up becoming an exercise rider and then assistant to Todd Pletcher.

“It was an amazing fantastic experience. Everything I know about breezing horses I learnt from Angel Cordero and Johnny Velasquez. I was getting on ten a day sometimes. It was the best education you could get.

“I had ridden all ways - eventing, quarter horses, all sorts, but Thoroughbreds are different, they are like different animals.”

She galloped some of the barn’s best horses - English Channel, Scat Daddy, Lawyer Ron, Pollards Vision, Ashado and many other top-flight Thoroughbreds - before a horse rearing over on her caused a serious



Above: “I was lucky enough to spend some time riding for Sir Michael Stoute in Newmarket,” says Michelle Nihei. “That formed the basis of a lot of the ideology of what we are doing here.”

Top: Nihei and husband Troy Levy are developing impressive facilities at Circle 8 Ranch and Training Center



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injury to her knee, occasioning one surgeon to suggest amputation was an option.

The accident happened the year G1 winner Prince Will I Am was born (2007), and Nihei was there working on that farm rehabilitating, when he was a baby. From there, she decided to branch out on her own and took out her trainer's license.

### **'The biggest jerk'**

A client, Mrs Susan Atkins (Casa Farms), asked her who was the best of those babies on that farm. Nihei pointed at 'Prince' and said, "He's the biggest jerk, but he will also be the best racehorse."

So, as a 2-year-old, Nihei and the jerk were reunited in her fledgling training barn in Florida.

Prince Will I Am made Nihei a G1 winning trainer in only her third season training after the trainer switched the horse to turf and ran him in the Jamaica Handicap at Belmont Park.

He went on to finish second in the 2010 Breeders' Cup Marathon, but, when the stewards deemed his rider had caused interference on the turn, he was demoted, a tough pill to swallow.

From limited opportunities, Nihei is a multiple Graded stakes-winning

trainer. "When you have experienced success at that level, you just always want to experience it again," she says.

"As a trainer, I want to try and do the impossible. I want to try and work with a select string of quality horses. I love route horses. I have clients who let us do the right thing, and we can do the right thing with our facilities."

Michelle Nihei's jerk became her Prince Charming. They are still together. He is the chestnut in the picture at the top of this article.

If horses could talk, and they do if you listen, they would all be saying they want to train here.

"It's proving to be successful," says Michelle Nihei. "The horses are all running first, second, third, in Maiden Special Weights"







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## Sales Dates 2021

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Premier Yearling Sale - 3<sup>rd</sup> September

October Mixed Sales - 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> October



# ***Back in time for just one race ...*** **Matt Chapman picks heartbreak at the Breeders' Cup**

Nicholas Godfrey | October 26, 2020

*ITV Racing's Matt Chapman is never afraid to voice an opinion. The channel's betting reporter calls it like he sees it as soon as he sees it. He has won countless fans because of that (and alienated a few others).*

But Chapman (right), a former Racing Post news man who works for the At The Races TV channel and got the gig on ITV when it took over as the UK's terrestrial broadcaster for the sport in 2017, is a dedicated student of racing, and he knows his stuff.

He is the fifth subject in this TRC series in which we ask racing figures around the world to imagine they have been given a trip back in time to watch just one famous horserace.

They can go anywhere, and as far back as they want. They can even pick a race they were involved in, although they can only watch this time.

Topically, with the Breeders' Cup taking place at Keeneland at the end of next week, Chapman has picked one of the most infamous contests (from a British perspective) ever run at the great championships. But it was a difficult choice ...

Above: The leap that cost Dayjur the 1990 Breeders' Cup Sprint. He appeared to have finally overcome American champion Safely Kept after a thrilling stretch duel, but the jump allowed the mare to get back up on the line. Photo: punters.com.au





## Strap in for the journey ...

**Target date:** October 27, 1990

**Target destination:** Belmont Park, New York

**Target race:** Breeders' Cup Sprint

**Why this race:** This was the race in which Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum's electric sprinter Dayjur, rated the best horse of his crop in Europe, switched to the dirt in a bid to finish his career with victory in what was the most important sprint in the world. It was all going to plan as he battled U.S. star Safely Kept in the closing stages, and then something unthinkable happened ...

Oh, my, this was a task picking just one great race to go back to in time to see. I so wanted to choose the defeat of El Gran Senor – who cruised and got there too soon rather than didn't

stay – by Secretariat in the Epsom Derby of 1984, or the Breeders' Cup Classic when Tiznow beat Sakhee at Belmont Park in 2001. I was also there for Makybe Diva's third Melbourne Cup, and I wouldn't mind that party again either!

But the one race for which I would love to be in the stands to watch one more time is also a Breeders' Cup race at Belmont Park, namely that unforgettable, astonishing Sprint in 1990.

This was when the world's fastest horse, the Dick Hern-trained Dayjur, managed to get beaten when clearly about to win under Willie Carson.

The U.S.-bred son of Danzig had scorched the turf in Europe in races like the Nunthorpe and the Prix de l'Abbaye, but this was on dirt against the American specialists on their own patch. Dayjur had to overcome a difficult wide draw and, after contesting the lead with Safely Kept, had got on top and looked set for a famous victory. Yet somehow, notoriously,

in the closing seconds of the race, Dayjur jumped a dark shadow cast over the track – and another at the line – allowing the filly to claim victory by a neck.

I imagine every racegoer at Belmont that day has that moment of disbelief forever etched in their mind.

**After the race:** Safely Kept was no back number herself. She had finished runner-up in the BC Sprint as a 3-year-old the year before, when she was named America's Champion Sprinter. The daughter of Horatius owned by Barry Weisbord won 24 of her 31 races, and \$2.2 million in prize money, and was elected to the Hall of Fame in 2011. She was euthanized at 28 in 2014 due to the infirmities of old age.

Dayjur retired to Sheikh Hamdan's Shadwell Farm in Kentucky after the race. After some success as a stallion, he was retired from stud duty in 2010. He died three years later at 26, again due to the infirmities of old age.

# GALLOP

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# British teams celebrating after a night of European success

Various sources | November 09, 2020





*Europe enjoyed one of its most successful Breeders' Cup days on Saturday, winning four of the nine championship races, and at least three of those winners are likely to stay in training next year.*

Pierre-Charles Boudot drives Audarya home in the Filly & Mare Turf at Keeneland on Saturday. It was the French rider's first BC win, and he followed that with another victory two races later - aboard Order Of Australia for Aidan O'Brien in the Mile. Photo: Alex Evers/Breeders' Cup/Eclipse Sportswire/CSM



Order Of Australia, who was a revelation dropping back in trip as he became Aidan O'Brien's first winner of the Mile (spearheading a remarkable 1-2-3 for the master of Ballydoyle), could be out to take high order among the elite over the distance next year, and another campaign is also to be discussed for Glass Slippers, Europe's first winner of the Turf Sprint.

Asked whether the 4-year-old Dream Ahead filly would be back to defend her title in 2021, British trainer Kevin Ryan, for whom this was a first BC victory, told reporters, "Why not? [Owner-breeders] Terry and Margaret [Holdcroft] are going to keep her in training. We don't get a lot of time with these horses. If everything goes right, we'd love to come back."

In fact it was a night of firsts for Europe. Jockeys Tom Eaves (Glass Slippers), Colin Keane (Tarnawa in the Longines Turf) and Pierre-Charles Boudot (Audarya in the Filly & Mare Turf and then Order of Australia) joined Ryan by landing their inaugural BC wins, and trainers Dermot Weld (Tarnawa) and James Fanshawe (Audarya) did the same.

The Aga Khan's Tarnawa is not considered likely to run again, but that's certainly not the case for Audarya. Owner Alison Swinburn is eager to keep the 4-year-old in training, subject to discussions with trainer James Fanshawe (who was collecting a first BC victory with his first ever runner).

Audarya showed grit and determination when coming out on top in a prolonged battle with Rushing Fall. The daughter of Wootton Bassett had already enjoyed success at top level this year in the Prix Jean Romanet at Deauville in August.

Swinburn, widow of former three-time Derby-winning jockey Walter, told Great British Racing International on Sunday, "Last night was one of the most exciting, most thrilling, amazing nights of my life. We were screaming her home. I've never been prouder."

She was quick to credit the team around Audarya and their efforts in preparing her for the contest:

"James and [wife] Jacko have done a phenomenal job out in Keeneland, and not just them; Helen, the travelling head girl who took Audarya out there, Geoffrey, her work rider, they've all done an amazing job at delivering the filly to the start of the race in absolute peak condition. She looked superb."



Exhilaration: Glass Slippers and jockey Tom Eaves triumph in the Turf Sprint. Photo: Carolyn Simancik/Breeders' Cup/Eclipse Sportswire/CSM

“ [James’s] whole thing was keeping her relaxed and well within herself, which obviously she was because she ran the race of her life.”

On future plans for four-year-old Audarya, Swinburn said, “Once she gets back, she’ll have a very well deserved rest and then I think I’ll sit down with James and discuss next year. Personally, I think I’d like to keep her in training for a year. Hopefully this damned pandemic will have gone and I’ll actually be able to go and enjoy watching her run and then maybe at the end of next season be looking at sending her to the paddocks.

“But I think that’s a decision we’ll all make. We’ll look at the calendar, work out what’s best for her and then go from there.”

Victory for the Fanshawe team came just over an hour after North Yorkshire-based Kevin Ryan’s success with Glass Slippers. Ryan has come close to Breeders’ Cup glory in the past, with East finishing runner-up in the Juvenile Fillies Turf in 2018.

Bred by owners Terry and Margaret Holdcroft and retained to race under the banner of their Bearstone Stud

in Shropshire as the last progeny of broodmare Night Gypsy, the win concludes another memorable season for Glass Slippers. The filly landed the G1 Flying Five Stakes at the Curragh in September before being narrowly denied her second consecutive G1 Prix de l’Abbaye title when finishing runner-up at ParisLongchamp five weeks ago.

Mark Pennell, Stud Manager at Bearstone Stud, told GBRI, “She’s so cool. Wherever she travels, she just seems to thrive on it. There was something different about her today. She got very excited, pawing the ground and wanted to get on with it.”

Pennell spoke of what a first Breeders’ Cup win meant for the operation. “It’s just massive for everybody because we’re not a massive breeding operation; we don’t keep many horses to race. We lost the mare and decided that we were always going to keep that filly from a foal. She always looked like an athlete.

“I’ve worked with Terry and Margaret for 40 years and to get a horse like this at the end, it’s been worthwhile. If you’re

persistent and keep trying, you’ll get one. We kept her, and raced her, and broke her in at home – we’ve done absolutely everything with her and it’s just been unbelievable.

“I can’t tell you the number of messages I’ve had off people that have been in the racing industry for years; it’s just been amazing. It’s just phenomenal and she’s really put us on the map.”

When asked about Glass Slippers’ plans for next year, Pennell said, “That [staying in training next year] was the prediction but we weren’t predicting what was going to happen today. Another year in training wouldn’t do her any harm as a broodmare prospect. It’s nice to have a fabulous filly to go racing with really. At the moment, it’s totally possible that she’ll remain in training next year. She’d come back home to the stud for the winter, she’s done that every year, and then go back to Kevin next year.”

Meanwhile Ryan’s North Yorkshire neighbour, Nigel Tinkler, is also returning with his head held high after G2 Flying Childers winner Ubettabelieveit placed third in the Juvenile Turf Sprint on Friday.



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**JUDDMONTE**



# Why non-stop *Kerri Radcliffe* is so much more than just a bloodstock agent

Martin Stevens | November 18, 2020

*Having been a pony-mad youngster growing up in Northern Ireland, enjoying showing horses and competing in show jumping, and then gaining work experience with a number of agents and studs and finally setting up her own Newmarket-based agency, Kerri Radcliffe might be said to be the typical horsewoman.*

Prize purchase: Kerri Radcliffe with Nadal, who was one of the favourites for this year's Kentucky when he suffered a career-ending injury in training, having been unbeaten in four races, including a G1 and two G2s. Radcliffe had purchased him as a juvenile out of the Fasig-Tipton Florida select sale for \$700,000. He is to stand at Shadai Stallion Station in Japan





But that would drastically underestimate her. For Radcliffe has a far wider international outlook than most of her peers, and she is in possession of an active mind that bounces from one subject - and often continent - to another.

In a telephone conversation as she prepares to inspect the stock on offer at the Keeneland November Breeding-Stock Sale, she discusses her recent purchases in Kentucky and plans to base herself in Florida for a short period next year before debating the likelihood of lockdown restrictions allowing her to get to Australia for the Magic Millions yearling sales in January.

While martialing her thoughts on those travel plans she ponders aloud how she might go about setting up a women-only syndicate in the UK, before picking up the previous topic exactly where she left off.

### Putting in the airmiles

Surely it must be exhausting, being so restless in both the literal sense of living out of a suitcase and in the psychological sense of always percolating ideas?

"It's not so bad really," she says. "It's hard work but it's also my passion. I love the horses and I love everything about the industry, so I don't mind putting in the hours and the airmiles. You've only got one life so you might as well live it. That's my philosophy.

"And mentally I'm just always thinking ahead to the next step. Where will my next client come from? Will I be able to persuade someone to

buy a horse if I go to this auction or that?

"I don't often buy many mares, but I bought one the other night [Light The City, the dam of G1-placed 2-year-old Illumination, who was sourced by Radcliffe for \$900,000 as a yearling from Saratoga] and now I'm already thinking of next sale at Magic Millions. If I go there, what can I do? Who can I buy for?"

Radcliffe should not need to do too much arm-twisting of potential investors as she has compiled an impressive roll of honour of horses bought in recent years, including U.S. Grade 1 winners Dream Tree, Nadal and Volatile, and Dubai World Cup and Belmont Stakes runner-up Gronkowski.

She has also made a splash in Australia by purchasing Away Game, who won the valuable Magic Millions 2yo Classic and G2 Percy Sykes Stakes and ran second in the prestigious Golden Slipper this year. A \$425,000 Gold Coast yearling purchase, the Snitzel filly has earned more than A\$2.7 million in prize money, including a A\$325,000 female-owner bonus for her sales race success.

But it is American racing that Radcliffe holds particularly close to her heart.

"I just love it," she says. "I feel like people here genuinely want you to do well and everyone enjoy your success. I love that, in a usual year, we can have runners at stunning tracks like Del Mar and Santa Anita on one coast and

Saratoga on the other. And it's so lovely to go out onto the track in the morning and watch the top handlers train their horses.

### More variation in America

"I sometimes think I might be the only British-based person who likes American racing so much, but it just seems a much more even playing field over here. Even if you have a very good 3-year-old in Europe, it's difficult to win at the top level as you're competing against the very best breeding and training operations - the likes of Coolmore, Godolphin and Juddmonte.

"In the U.S., there's a broader range of people involved in ownership and more variation in the pedigrees of the top horses. Look at Authentic: okay, he's an Into Mischief co-owned by Spendthrift, but there's 5,000-odd people from all walks of life who joined the MyRacehorse syndicate who have a share in him. Winning the Kentucky Derby seems more achievable than the Epsom Derby, and it's my ultimate goal."

After her current stint in America, Radcliffe is planning to revisit the Gold Coast in January - Covid-19 restrictions allowing - to take part in the sale and to watch Away Game hopefully contest the Magic Millions 3yo Guineas. "Although it might be better if I stay away," she laughs, "as I missed the race this year due to being in California with Nadal and she won - I can be very superstitious!"

On her return from Australia Radcliffe plans to reside in Ocala for

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*"I don't often buy many mares, but I bought one the other night [Light The City, the dam of G1-placed 2-year-old Illumination, who was sourced by Radcliffe for \$900,000 as a yearling from Saratoga] and now I'm already thinking of next sale at Magic Millions. If I go there, what can I do? Who can I buy for?"*

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around six weeks from late January to get acquainted with some of the horses who will be heading to the 2-year-olds in training sales in the spring.

"I actually got stuck in Ocala earlier this year due to lockdown," she says. "Obviously I'm not complaining, as there are worse places to be stranded and it meant I could ride the 2-year-olds I'd bought and keep their owners updated on how they were doing."

"The plan is to go there again in January so I can observe some of the lots for the 2-year-olds in training sales being prepped, and maybe even sit on a few of the fillies heading for the main sales. That way I can get a handle on how well they've developed and taken their training when I return to see them go under the hammer. I take lots of pictures and videos so I can see how they've grown and progressed."

Being an accomplished rider gives

Radcliffe a valuable USP in her agency work.

"I think that affinity for horses is definitely a help," she says. "If you can ride some of the horses, you can give feedback to owners alongside what they'll hear from the trainer, so it makes me more than just a bloodstock agent doing the bidding and buying."

Such a full travel schedule sounds punishing but Radcliffe isn't complaining.

"I'm supposed to be Newmarket-based, but I don't seem to spend much time there," she says. "In fact I was there more than I usually would be this year because of Covid-19, but I did manage to get a good bit of time in France, and spent a morning on the gallops in Chantilly with Andre Fabre."

"It's just incredible getting to learn from great horsemen like him and Bob Baffert. Paul Shanahan is another who I

'My baby': Kerri Radcliffe aboard Nemoralia ahead of the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf in 2015 at Keeneland, where she finished third. The now 7-year-old More Than Ready mare, bought by Radcliffe at two, is now at Claiborne Farm in Kentucky'

regularly go to for advice on horses. You never stop learning in this business and I've had the privilege of learning from the best."

More time spent travelling around stables and yards also means more time spent with her beloved horses.

"I get far too attached to them - it's become something of a joke," she laughs.

"I'm visiting Claiborne [in Kentucky] tomorrow to see Nemoralia, who I bought as a 2-year-old and is very much my baby. Walker Hancock [Claiborne Farm president] told me to remember to bring the Kleenex!"



# *Godolphin Flying Start; it leads to success*



Cathal Beale  
Irish National Stud



Gina Bryce  
Sky Sports Racing



Francis Graffard  
Trainer



Kate Galvin  
Godolphin USA



Adrian Bott  
Trainer



Henry Field  
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for the thoroughbred racing and breeding industry.

# *What They're Thinking* **Jeff Bloom: I'm trying to not sit idly by as we look for necessary change in racing**

Emily Shields | November 17, 2020



Jeff Bloom's outstanding mare Midnight Bisou (red colours) narrowly defeating Elate in the 2019 Personal Ensign Stakes at his favourite racetrack, Saratoga. Photo: Chelsea Durand/NYRA.com





*Jeff Bloom has worn many hats in his nearly four-decade time in the racing industry. He exercised horses such as Sunday Silence for Charlie Whittingham, then rode as a jockey for nine years.*

*After working as the Vice President of Western Operations for West Point Thoroughbreds, Bloom (pictured) launched his own Bloom Racing Stable, which has owned the likes of Snapper Sinclair, Majestic City, and the great mare Midnight Bisou, now retired after a career in which she earned over \$7 million.*

*Bloom also serves on the boards of the Thoroughbred Owners of California and the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance.*

### **Who do you think is the most important figure in world racing history?**

I'm thinking Secretariat. I just think that he was such a universally recognized superpower of an athlete that there were crossover fans - maybe more than ever before in the history of our sport - as he introduced so many people to horseracing in such a big way. The impact that he had, the fascination that people had, the story around the horse,

and the way he dominated the sport. To me he stands out as one of the most important figures in horseracing.

### **Which is your favorite venue and race?**

My favorite venue is going to have to be Saratoga. For me personally, before I started riding races, I went to Saratoga, lived there, and worked horses leading up to my first start. I will forever have a special fondness for the

character, the charm, and the history there. In addition to that, the historical significance of Saratoga, the town being all about horseracing, the many examples of champions that have been defeated there ... I love the experience in the morning during workouts, which is different from what you get in the afternoon, but it's all good. Every win at Saratoga is such an incredible achievement. When you're standing in that storied grandstand it just bleeds history and tradition and I love all that.

As for my favorite race? I'm going to take the easy way out and say the Kentucky Derby. My early introduction to the sport was the Derby. No matter if you ask a trainer, an owner, or a jockey, they all want to win the Kentucky Derby.

### **What is your fondest memory in racing?**

As a rider, my fondest memory of racing was riding in a nondescript race at Exhibition Park as a jockey, winning the race, and bringing the horse back into the winner's circle with my mom and dad standing there looking so proud. I'll never forget getting to experience that.

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

Uniformity across the entire industry relating to rules, medication, and regulations. We need to have a more cohesive relationship with both racing jurisdictions and the various racetracks across the jurisdictions, so that there are proper procedures especially regarding medications policies and procedures.

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

That ties into the last question for me, the implementation of what I just talked about. The execution of that. I'm trying to not sit idly by on the sidelines, because I am a stakeholder in the industry. It's my passion and livelihood and what I care about. Hopefully my participation [as a board member on various industry groups] is able to derive value in making positive change. Things evolve and change is imperative, and our industry is looking at some necessary change. Hopefully I can participate in and add to that.

# TRC GLOBAL RANKINGS

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# TRC GLOBAL RANKINGS



06 December 2020

## Horses

Rank	Name	Country	Points
1	Almond Eye JPN	Japan	1345
2	Enable GB	Great Britain	1296
3	Ghaiyyath IRE	France	1286
4	Tarnawa IRE	Ireland	1282
5	Contrail JPN	Japan	1271
5	Magical IRE	Ireland	1271
7	Sottsass FR	France	1265
8	Love IRE	Great Britain	1259
9	Authentic USA	USA	1252
10	Monomoy Girl USA	USA	1248
11	Tiz The Law USA	USA	1246
12	Palace Pier GB	Great Britain	1242
13	Maximum Security USA	USA	1241
14	Gran Alegria JPN	Japan	1240
15	Battaash IRE	Great Britain	1237

## Jockeys

Rank	Name	Country	Points
1	Frankie Dettori	Great Britain	1094
2	Christophe Lemaire	Japan	1084
3	William Buick	Great Britain	1058
4	Irad Ortiz Jr	USA	1053
4	Joel Rosario	USA	1053
6	Ryan Moore	Great Britain	1045
7	Pierre-Charles Boudot	France	1042
8	Flavien Prat	USA	1041
9	Zac Purton	Hong Kong	1039
10	James McDonald	Australia	1035
11	Javier Castellano	USA	1026
12	Florent Geroux	USA	1023
13	Hugh Bowman	Australia	1022
14	Yuga Kawada	Japan	1021
15	Mickael Barzalona	France	1019

## Trainers

Rank	Name	Country	Points
1	Chad C Brown	USA	1075
2	Charlie Appleby	Great Britain	1067
2	John Gosden	Great Britain	1067
4	Aidan O'Brien	Ireland	1042
5	Brad H Cox	USA	1037
6	Bob Baffert	USA	1027
7	James Cummings	Australia	1011
8	Chris Waller	Australia	1010
8	Jamie Richards	New Zealand	1010
10	Joseph O'Brien	Ireland	997

## Owners

Rank	Name	Country	Points
1	Godolphin	Australia	1077
2	Coolmore Partners	Ireland	1056
3	Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum	Great Britain	1053
4	Silk Racing Co Ltd	Japan	1047
5	Peters Investments Et Al	Australia	1028
6	Juddmonte Farms / Prince Khalid Abdulla	Great Britain	1023
7	Gary Barber Et Al	USA	1020
8	White Birch Farm / Peter Brant Et Al	USA	1018
9	Madaket Stables Et Al	USA	1015
9	Sunday Racing Co Ltd	Japan	1015

## Sires

Rank	Name	Country	Points
1	Galileo	Ireland	1075
2	Dubawi	Great Britain	1074
3	Lord Kanaloa	Japan	1043
4	Deep Impact	Japan	1041
5	Shamardal	France	1040
6	Sea The Stars	Great Britain	1038
7	Teofilo	Australia	1026
8	Lope De Vega	Australia	1025
9	Uncle Mo	USA	1024
10	Street Cry	Australia	1019