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TODAY'S HEADLINES

Stallion News

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LONE EAGLE TO STAND AT HARAS DU MAZET

A Group-winning two-year-old and a Classic runner-up, **Lone Eagle** debuts at Haras du Mazet in France this year at a fee of €2,000 LF.

The son of **Galileo**, who sold for 500,000gns at Book 1 of the Tattersalls October Yearling Sale to Aquis Farm, ran four times as a two-year-old, winning on three occasions, including twice over 1m and twice on soft ground after being beaten by a head on his debut in April. He completed his juvenile season by winning the Gr.3 Zetland Stakes at Newmarket, obtaining an official rating of 110 in the process.

At three, he won the Listed Cocked Hat Stakes in front of **Yibir**, who won the Gr.1 Breeders' Cup Turf the same year, and impressed in the Gr.1 Irish Derby, finishing second on good ground behind the high-class multiple Gr.1 winner **Hurricane Lane**.

Lone Eagle was injured on his next outing in the Gr.1 King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes and did not run again at



Group winner and Classic runner-up **Lone Eagle (Galileo)** will stand at Haras du Mazet in France this year.

IN TODAY'S ISSUE...

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Julian Muscat, RACING POST

SCAT DADDY's proven sire sons at COOLMORE

NO NAY NEVER Europe's Champion 2YO Sire of 2022, and again in 2023

JUSTIFY* Global sire sensation with 6 Group/Grade 1 winners in 2023 - all from his first two crops

SIoux NATION 7 new Group winners in 2023 putting him well ahead of fellow second crop sire Havana Grey

MENDELSSOHN* Ranked sixth on the 2023 North American 2YO Sire table

*Stands at Coolmore America

Bodes extremely well for NO NAY NEVER's brilliant sons

TEN SOVEREIGNS 11 blacktype performers in 2023 from his first 2YO crop - more than any other first crop sire!

ARIZONA Coventry Stakes winner with his first 2YO runners to come in 2024

BLACKBEARD The only 2YO to win two Group 1 races in Europe in 2022. First foals in 2024

LITTLE BIG BEAR European Champion 2YO, rated upwards of 5lbs superior to all his contemporaries. New for 2024

2023 LEADING SIRES OF 2YOs IN EUROPE

Rk	STALLION	SIRE	GWs	TOTAL €
1	NO NAY NEVER	Scat Daddy	5	1,910,382

Source: Stallionguide.com

2023 LEADING SIRES OF 2YOs IN NORTH AMERICA

Rk	STALLION	SIRE	GSWs	TOTAL \$
1	JUSTIFY	Scat Daddy	6	4,987,920

Source: TheTDN.com



COOLMORE

three. As a four-year-old, he couldn't match the brilliance of his three-year-old season but still managed to place at Stakes level and got the better of **Hurricane Lane** again when fifth behind **Alpinista** in the Gr.1 Grand Prix de Saint-Cloud.

Lone Eagle is bred on the same cross (**Galileo** on **Danehill**) as **Galiway**, as his dam **Modernstone** is by **Duke of Marmalade**. She was a Listed winner and Group-placed between 2000m and 2400m and has since visited some of the best European stallions including **Lope De Vega**, **Sea the Stars** and **New Bay**.

The second dam, **Post Modern (Nureyev)**, produced three black-type performers on the Flat and a good jumper in **Postmaster (Dansili)**, who won nine races, including six chases. The third dam produced **Elmaamul (Diesis)**, the sire of **Muhtathir** and grandsire of **Doctor Dino**, who also appears in the pedigree of top-class jumpers such as Gr.1 winner **L'Homme Presse (Diamond Boy)**.

Mathieu Talleux, owner of Haras du Mazet, commented: "**Lone Eagle** is a horse that is both precocious and high-class. He was again on the podium at black-type level this year as a five-year-old. A winner over 1600m and 2000m, he ran up to 3200m. He has the profile to be a good match for National Hunt mares. He is also a Group winner at two and Classic-placed and so will be capable of producing good Flat horses. We have seen that the sons of **Galileo** with speed, like **Galiway**, produce well in both disciplines - another argument in favour of **Lone Eagle**."

John O'Connor, Managing Director of Ballylinch Stud, breeder and owner of **Lone Eagle**, said: "Ballylinch Stud is delighted to remain involved in **Lone Eagle** as he embarks on his stallion career.

He was one of the best yearlings that we had on the stud that year, and so we were very happy to retain 50 per cent of him when he sold for 500,000gns. He was an excellent two-year-old, finishing his year with a rating of 110 and three victories including at Group level. His form as a three-year-old was at the highest level before he was sadly injured. Although he made it back to run again at four, he was never able to recapture the brilliance of his three-year-old form.

*"He is by the world's best sire in **Galileo** and comes from a stallion-producing Juddmonte family. We are looking forward to working with Mathieu Talleux and all the team at Haras du Mazet to develop the stallion career of **Lone Eagle**."*

Lone Eagle is open to syndication and for more information, contact Mathieu Talleux (+33 663658271) or Ballylinch Stud's French representative Lizzy Sainty (+33 631790149).

ITALY

KESSAAR TO STAND AT ALLEVAMENTI DELLA BERARDENGA

Established stallion **Kessaar** is to stand at Scuderia Melissa Cipriani - Allevamenti della Berardenga near Florence this year for €5,000 it has been announced.

The eight-year-old son of **Kodiac**, who previously stood at Tally-Ho Stud in Ireland, had a fine year with his two-year-olds in Italy last season, with his successful progeny including the four-time winner, dual Listed victor and Gr.2 Gran Criterium-placed **Melfi**. He has also sired the likes of Gr.3-placed **Ipanema Princess**,

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 2022 Prix Marcel Boussac-**Gr.1** by 5 lengths
 2023 Poule d'Essai des Pouliches-**Gr.1**
 2023 Prix de Diane-**Gr.1** by 4 lengths
 2023 Prix de l'Opera-**Gr.1**

VADENI

2022 **Champion 3YO in Europe**
 2022 Prix du Jockey Club-**Gr.1** by 5 lengths
 2022 Eclipse Stakes-**Gr.1**

LEADING 3RD CROP SIRES IN EUROPE 2023

Sire	2024 Fee	GSWs	G1Ws	Earnings
1 CHURCHILL	€30,000	7	1	€6,100,478
2 ZARAK	€60,000	8	1	€4,310,031

Arion Pedigrees

CHURCHILL

YEARLINGS IN 2023 SOLD FOR **€380,000**,
€365,000, **€365,000**, **€340,000** ETC.

6 impressive 2YO winners in December:

- 1 **LESSAY** won on debut at Kempton for Andrew Balding
- 2 **CHARLUS** won on debut by 4 lengths for Jean-Claude Rouget
- 3 **PANDORA'S GIFT** won by 4 lengths on second start for Stuart Williams
- 4 **CHARTWELL** won at Deauville for Carlos & Yann Lerner
- 5 **SURVIE** is unbeaten in 2 starts for Nicolas Clement
- 6 **LINA** won by 2½ lengths for Jean-Claude Rouget & HH Aga Khan

COOLMORE

Contact: **Coolmore Stud** Tel: +353-52-6131298. **Castlehyde Stud** Tel: +353-25-31966.
 E-mail: sales@coolmore.ie Website: www.coolmore.com



Kessaar (Kodiac) will stand at *Allevamenti della Berardenga* in Italy this year for €5,000. © Tally-Ho / De Burgh

multiple Stakes-placed **Bolt Action**, Listed runner-up **Tajalla** and the three-time two-year-old winner **Karess**.

Acquired entirely by Renew Italian Breeding, **Kessaar** will be administered by Mattia Cadrobbi and managed commercially by Marco Bozzi and Guido Berardelli. He has already been responsible for 46 winners of 77 races from 1200m-2400m in eight countries, 37 of which were born in 2020, for well over \$1m. His yearlings have fetched up to 155,000gns, whilst his son **Thanks Forever** sold for 175,000gns at the Tattersalls Autumn Horses in Training Sale in October.

Bought for 100,000gns himself, **Kessaar** had a fine career on the racecourse under the care of John Gosden, winning three times from seven starts as a juvenile, collecting over £98,000 in the process. His victories included the Gr.3 Sirenia Stakes, followed by the Gr.2 Mill Reef Stakes 14 days later, before he finished his career with a fourth-placed finish in the Gr.1 Criterium International. He will stand alongside **Frankel's** half-brother **Morpheus**, who is available to breeders for €3,500.

INDUSTRY NEWS

IRELAND

TOP INDUSTRY EXPERTS TO SPEAK AT NH SEMINAR IN COUNTY CARLOW

Registrations are being taken for the Irish Thoroughbred Breeders Association (ITBA) National Hunt Seminar which is titled 'Jumping Into The Future: The Challenges Facing Irish National Hunt Breeding' and will take place at The Lord Bagenal in County Carlow on Wednesday, 17th January.

County Meath trainer and breeder Lorna Fowler will host the event and be joined by an exceptionally knowledgeable panel of experts including Anthony Bromley, co-director of Highflyer Bloodstock, who has been a highly successful bloodstock agent for over three decades and played a key role in sourcing some of the biggest named horses over that period, such as **Noble Yeats**, **Kauto Star**, **Sprinter Sacre** and **Altior**.

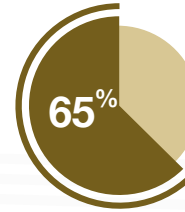
Walter Connors, the Dungarvan-based vet whose Sluggara Farm has produced the likes of the 2016 Gold Cup winner **Don**

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Cossack, also has a seat on the panel alongside Bertrand Le Metayer, the French bloodstock agent who pioneered the exportation of top French jumpers to Ireland and Britain, such as the Gr.1 Queen Mother Champion Chase heroes **Klairon Davis** and **Edredon Bleu**.

A six-man panel is completed by the Goffs agent Peter Molony, whose Rathmore Stud has produced numerous top-class horses headed by **Bobs Worth** and **Honeysuckle**; Charles O'Neill, CEO of Irish Thoroughbred Marketing; and Richard Pugh, director of Horses In Training for Tattersalls Ireland and director of P2P.ie.

The seminar will cover a wide variety of topics surrounding the current state of Irish NH breeding and racing, in particular the influence of French-breds, and tackle the thorny issue of how breeders should best go about meeting the demands of the marketplace.

The event will also enable attendees to engage directly with industry stakeholders, thus providing them with an excellent networking opportunity. Doors will open at 6pm, light refreshments will be available and the seminar will commence at 6.30pm sharp.

Commenting on the seminar, the ITBA chairman Cathy Grassick said: "I am excited at the prospect of hearing from our expert panel on all issues relevant to our industry. This is a crucial time for the market and an important chance for everyone to voice their opinion."

The ITBA's NH committee chairman William Flood added: "This is a very important time for the industry in light of recent results at the sales, hence an expert panel has been assembled to help talk through some important topics."

Registration is essential and can be accomplished by emailing 'ddevaney@itba.ie' or by phoning the ITBA on 045 877 543. The event is free to attend for all: both current ITBA members and non-members will be most welcome.

YESTERDAY'S RACING REVIEW

BRITAIN

Kempton: Standard to Slow

5.30 KEMPTON, 3YO+ F&M NOVICE, 1M AW

- LOVEALOT BEAR** (Ire), 5m,
Kodi Bear – Kindest (Cadeaux Genereux)
O: P D Evans, **B:** Edmond Kent,
T: David Evans
- Miss Monte Carlo** (GB), 3. **Last Empress** (GB)

Distances: shd, 1l. 13 ran.

Tried in two Irish bumpers, **Lovealot Bear (Kodi Bear)** came late to win at a big triple-figure price.

She is a half-sister to the winners **Dylan Alexander (Dylan Thomas)** and **Extrasensory (Arcano)**. They are out of the triple victrix **Kindest (Cadeaux Genereux)**, a half-sister to the Listed Marygate Stakes winner and Gr.3-placed **Patience Alexander (Kodiac)**, the Gr.2-placed **Without A Trace (Darshaan)** and the dam of the Listed Dance Design Stakes victrix **Many Colours**

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(**Green Desert**; dam of the dual Gr.1 heroine **Mother Earth** and fellow Group winners **Night Colours** and **Ocean Jewel**). The second dam is the winner **Star Profile (Sadler's Wells)**, a half-sister to the dual Gr.3 victrix **Lady Alexander (Night Shift)**; dam of the Gr.2 winner and Gr.1-placed **Anthem Alexander** and the Gr.3 victor and Gr.1-placed sire **Dandy Man**). The third dam is the Listed victrix and Gr.3 runner-up **Sandhurst Goddess (Sandhurst Prince)** and the family also includes the Gr.1 winner and sire **Sudirman** and the Gr.2 winner and Gr.1-placed **River Tiber**.

FRANCE

Lyon La Soie: Standard

2.57 (GMT) LYON, 3YO C&G MAIDEN, 2150M AW

1. **SKADOOSH** (Fr), 3g,
Birchwood – Via Con Me (Big Bad Bob)
O: Mickael Macari, Sylvie & Anthony Pimbonnet,
B: Ecurie des Ludels,
T: Marc Pimbonnet

2. **Viadeispini** (Ire), 3. **Rakhman** (Fr)

Distances: 1½l, hd, 12 ran.

Unplaced in nine starts at two, **Skadoosh (Birchwood)** came good on his three-year-old debut, a strong burst in the straight taking him clear of a tight battle for the minor money.

He is the first runner out of the placed **Big Bad Bob** mare **Via Con Me**, a half-sister to the triple French winner **Faster (Belardo)** and the Italian winner **Treauville (Territories)**. The unraced second dam **Tantivy**, a daughter of **Giant's Causeway**, is a three-parts-sister to the Listed Prix Coronation winner **It's Midnight (Shamardal)**; dam of the US Gr.3 winner **Tusk** and the UAE Gr.3 winner and sire **Midnight Sands**, and a half-sister to the dual winner and Gr.1 Prix Jacques le Marois runner-up **Holocene (Lemon Drop Kid)** and the Listed-placed **Solar Midnight** (also by **Lemon Drop Kid**; dam of the twice Listed-placed **West End Charmer**). **Tantivy** is a granddaughter of the winning **Mill Reef** mare **Midnight Lady**, whose 11 winners are headed by the French Listed winners **Kathmandu (Kaldounevees)** and **Party Doll (Be My Guest)**. The last-named is the dam of the Gr.2 winner and sire **Titus Livius (Machiavellian)** and the Gr.2 German 1,000 Guineas heroine **Briseida (Pivotal)**; dam of the Gr.3 winners **Brisanto** and **Bristano**, and the third dam of the Gr.1 Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Turf winner **Zagora (Green Tune)**.

Via Con Me has a two-year-old filly by **Dariyan**.

3.32 (GMT) LYON, 3YO FILLIES' MAIDEN, 2150M AW

1. **SIMADA** (GB), 3f,
Le Havre – Simiyana (Holy Roman Emperor)
O/B: H H Aga Khan,
T: Francis-Henri Graffard,

2. **Linaria** (Fr), 3. **Let The Music Play** (Ger)

Distances: 2½l, nk, 15 ran.

Simada (Le Havre) finished down the field on debut at Deauville last month, but left that form well behind here, quickening smartly from off the pace to win with authority.

She is a half-sister to the year older **Australia** gelding **Simiyann**, who was placed over 2200m at Lyon Parilly in June last year. They are out of the **Holy Roman Emperor** mare **Simiyana**, a placed half-sister to the Irish/Australian Gr.3 winner **Sinawann**



Read All About It!

THOROUGH BID CHARITY AUCTION EXCEEDS £20,000

Lots at ThoroughBid's Online Charity Auction have so far reached over £20,000 with four days left. Stallion nominations to **Far Above**, **Triple Threat** and **Fifty Stars** are among the top lots thus far, while a look around the Willie Mullins stable is responsible for the highest bid for yard visits.

All proceeds from the auction, which has been set up under Simon Besanson's Racing For A Reason banner, will be split between the Irish Cancer Society and the Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association.

Besanson said: "We're delighted with the early interest in the auction and are enjoying following it live on ThoroughBid. The auction closes on Sunday, so head over to ThoroughBid and take a look before it's too late. There is something for everyone, from yard visits and breakfasts at racing's leading stables to one-off paintings, stallion nominations, syndicate memberships and lots more."

(**Kingman**), the Listed (then) Loughbrown Stakes winner **Silwana (Peintre Celebre)**, and the leading French hurdler **Jigme (Motivator)**, who was retired to stallion duties after winning the Gr.1 Prix Cambaceres at Auteuil in November. The second dam **Simawa (Anabaa)**, a Listed-placed winner for John Oxx, is a half-sister to the same trainer's Gr.1 Derby and Gr.1 Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe winner and sire **Sinndar (Grand Lodge)**. This is also the family of the Gr.3 Anglesey Stakes winner and Gr.1-placed new stallion **Marie's Diamond (Footstepsinthesand)**, the Gr.1-placed Australian Listed winner **Sikandarabad (Dr Fong)**, and Listed winner **Sindirana (Kalanisi)**; dam of Listed winner **Sirrin**.

Simiyana has a two-year-old filly by **Kingman**.



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Spotlight on



EUROPEAN CLASSICS REVIEW 2023

By **SAM WESTERSIDE**



2023 was an unusual year in the sense that many European Classics followed a sire-related pattern. The 1m Irish Classics were dominated by Haras de Bonneval's **Siyouni**, the 1600m Italian Classics were dominated by Coolmore's **Gleneagles**, in fact three of the four Italian Classics restricted to three-year-olds were won by progeny of the Castlehyde sire, and the 2200m-2400m German Classics were dominated by Lanwades's **Sea The Moon**, who not only provided the Gr.1 Deutsches Derby winner, but sired the first three home in the Gr.1 Preis der Diana.

Bred on the same cross as the 2021 Gr.1 Oaks heroine **Snowfall**, Ballydoyle's **Auguste Rodin** duly delivered in the Gr.1 Derby to present his sire **Deep Impact** with a posthumous sixth European Classic winner.

Of those six individuals, half were out of **Galileo** mares, while the dam of the 2020 Gr.1 Prix de Diane heroine **Fancy Blue** was by **Sadler's Wells**.

Galileo's influence upon the European Classic landscape remained imperishable in 2023 and he added yet another individual Classic winner to his already legendary record, in the shape of the Gr.1 Irish Oaks victrix **Savethelastdance**. In addition to his blue hen daughter and Oaks runner-up **Rhododendron** producing the Derby winner, he was also the damsire of the Gr.1 Poule d'Essai des Poulains victor **Marhaba Ya Sanafi** and the Gr.1 St Leger hero **Continuous**. The former continued a fine year for his sire **Muhaaar** who, now standing at Haras du Petit Tellier, also sired the Cheltenham Festival winner **A Dream To Share** and the Royal Ascot winner **Burdett Road** out of **Galileo** mares. The latter, by **Heart's Cry**, continued the trend of late Japanese sires having an impact on the British Classics in 2023.

Meanwhile, sire sons of **Galileo** continued to be sure suppliers of European Classic winners last year. **Churchill**, who is turning into the pre-eminent son of his sire to stand at Coolmore, was rewarded with a second French Classic winner in as many seasons, in the form of the Gr.1 Poule d'Essai des Poulaches and Gr.1 Prix de Diane heroine **Blue Rose Cen**. Impressively, both of **Churchill's** first two crops have yielded Classic winners, in addition to **Vadeni's** Gr.1 Prix du Jockey Club strike in 2022.

As previously mentioned, **Gleneagles** served up a hat-trick of successes in the Italian Classics. His daughter **Shavasana** triumphed in both the Gr.3 Premio Regina Elena (Italian 1,000 Guineas) and the Gr.2 Oaks d'Italia, while son **Vero Atleta** ensured a Guineas double for the sire in the Gr.3 Premio Parioli.



*Siyouni, the sire of the Irish Guineas winners **Paddington** and **Tahiya** in 2023.*

Frankel added a second Oaks winner to his resume in the form of **Soul Sister**, while **Chaldean**, who has now joined his sire at Banstead Manor Stud for the 2024 breeding season, gave him a maiden Gr.1 2,000 Guineas success as a stallion, a race he won unforgettably back in 2011.

2023 not only reinforced what a dominant force **Frankel** has become within the stallion ranks, but it also showed that he is beginning to follow the influence of his father and become a sire of Classic-producing sires.

This was evidenced by his son **Cracksman's** Prix du Jockey Club hero **Ace Impact**, who capped his unbeaten career with a victory in October's showpiece – the Gr.1 Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe.

Another son of **Galileo**, **New Approach**, already responsible for Classic winners such as **Dawn Approach**, **Masar**, **Mac Swiney** and **Talent**, continued to display the potency of the bloodline by being the damsire of the Gr.1 1,000 Guineas heroine **Mawj (Exceed And Excel)**.

Once again, the late season juvenile Gr.1 races had a massive bearing on last year's European Classics. The success of **Chaldean** meant that each of the last three Gr.1 Dewhurst Stakes winners have gone on to achieve Classic glory at three, and given the style in which **City Of Troy** prevailed in the race back in October, one could hardly begrudge him Classic favouritism either.

Meanwhile, the record of the Gr.1 Futurity Trophy Stakes in producing subsequent Classic winners is equally as impressive. Five out of the last six winners etched their names into Classic



Spotlight ~ CONTINUED



Sea The Moon enjoyed a fine 2023, siring the winners of the Deutsches Derby and the Preis der Diana.

history, **Auguste Rodin** being the most recent of those. The importance of this race with regards to Epsom is unquestionable and, since the turn of the century, the race has been won by five future Derby winners (**High Chaparral, Motivator, Authorized, Camelot** and **Auguste Rodin**).

Interestingly, since 2011, four 2,000 Guineas winners also feature in the Futurity's roll of honour (**Camelot, Saxon Warrior, Magna Grecia** and **Kameko**), indicating that the race has started to become as much a Guineas pointer as it is a Derby, and an attraction for horses with speedier profiles. Additionally, the 2021 winner **Luxembourg** placed third in the 2022 2,000 Guineas, while **Auguste Rodin** started favourite for last year's renewal.

Tahiyra's (Siyouni) route to Gr.1 Irish 1,000 Guineas glory featured a facile success in the Gr.1 Moyglare Stud Stakes, a race won by fellow Classic heroines **Misty For Me, Sky Lantern, Minding** and **Love** since 2010.

In winning the Gr.1 Prix Marcel Boussac at two, **Blue Rose Cen** followed a path to Classic stardom that was becoming increasingly more atypical. In the noughties, Classic heroines **Divine Proportions, Rumpelstiltskin, Finsceal Beo** and **Zarkava** were all winners of the race, but the ten renewals prior to **Blue Rose Cen's** victory had yielded only the Classic-placed quartet **Silasol, Ballydoyle, Wild Illusion** and **Found**. That said, the latter did convert her Boussac heroism into Arc glory.

Given the style in which she annexed her Boussac, **Opera Singer** is certainly another major Classic contender for her Ashford Stud-based sire **Justify**, complementing star colt **City Of Troy**.

However, it would also be remiss of me to suggest that, in order to win a European Classic in 2023, one had to be a juvenile Gr.1 winner. That was certainly not the case.

Whilst Group-winning two-year-olds **Mawj, Habana (Kingman), Vero Atleta, Fantastic Moon (Sea The Moon)** and **Continuous**, as well as the Listed victrix **Shavasana**, progressed on to Classic success at three, and continued the trend of juvenile black-type success being brought to the fore, there were also many winners that came from relatively left field last year.

This was showcased none more so by **Paddington (Siyouni)**, who after running greenly on debut at Ascot, won on his only other start at two. In winning the Madrid Handicap at Naas and the Listed Tetrarch Stakes prior to his Gr.1 Irish 2,000 Guineas victory, he replicated **Awtaad's** path to Classic success back in 2016.

More drastic examples include the respective British and Irish Oaks winners **Soul Sister** and **Savethelastdance**, who both



Gleneagles sired a pair of Italian Guineas winners, as well as the Oaks d'Italia winner, in 2023. © Steve Cargill

raced just once at two. The former was a winner at Doncaster, while the latter ran mid-field at Thurles. The pair finished 1-2 at Epsom, with **Soul Sister** gaining the upper hand, while her rival made amends in the Irish equivalent when defeating the similarly once-raced juvenile **Bluestocking (Camelot)**.

Savethelastdance catapulted herself into Classic contention with an extraordinary 22-length victory in the Listed Cheshire Oaks at Chester and became the first Classic winner to emerge from the race since a certain **Enable** back in 2017.

Additionally, the Preis der Diana (German Oaks) was also won by a lightly-raced juvenile **Muskoka**, who had no black-type form at two. Her sire **Sea The Moon** has developed into a reliable source of high-class middle-distance three-year-olds, further evidenced by Deutsches Derby winner **Fantastic Moon**.

Then, of course, you have **Ace Impact**, who was unraced at two. What's more, his debut on the polytrack at Cagnes-sur-Mer last January meant that he only made his first start on turf in April, just two months before his Prix du Jockey Club triumph.

In addition to **Cracksman** and **Muhaarar**, other European-based sires to gain their first Classic winners in 2023 were Haras du Taillis's **Seabhac**, a son of the famed **Scat Daddy** who is responsible for the Gr.2 Mehl-Mulhens-Rennen (German 2,000 Guineas) winner **Angers** from his first crop, and Overbury Stud's **Golden Horn**, sire of the Gr.2 Derby Italiano victor **Goldenas**.

The **Scat Daddy** line has developed into one of the most sought after in Europe and, although mainly associated with sprinting types on this side of the Atlantic, the late sire's influence extended to being the damsire of the aforementioned Irish Oaks winner **Savethelastdance**. Furthermore, through his son **Justify**, the legacy of **Scat Daddy** upon the European Classics looks set to blossom for years to come.

Finally, both **Paddington** and **Auguste Rodin** are descendants of European Classic winners; the Pouliches and Diane heroine **Madelia** in the case of the former and the Irish 1,000 Guineas winner **Halfway To Heaven** for the latter. Meanwhile, **Vero Atleta** and **Fantastic Moon** are descendants of Classic-placed mares and **Shavasana** is out of an Oaks d'Italia runner-up.

Spotlight on



2023: THE SCANDINAVIAN YEAR IN REVIEW

WIDO NEUROTH HANDS OVER TO JAN-ERIK

As Frankie Dettori embarked on a farewell tour of Great Britain, legendary German-born trainer Wido Neuroth was on a farewell tour of his own. Neuroth had announced his retirement with effect from the end of 2023.

Arriving in Norway at the age of 14, Neuroth travelled up from Duisburg, his hometown in western Germany. With his parents unable to afford riding lessons, Neuroth (now in his 70s) began his apprenticeship under top Norwegian trainer Arthur Quist, later moving to the yard of Arnfinn Lund, where he was based for several years.

His career as a jockey got underway in 1963, and Neuroth tasted his first success over hurdles in 1965, switching to training a few years later. He would go on to serve as Norway's champion trainer on 13 occasions, even operating a satellite yard in Chantilly during the winter.

Just as Dettori's final year enveloped victories in the Gr.1 Oaks, International and Champion Stakes, Neuroth's departure tour saw victories across Scandinavia, not least when his son, Jan-Erik, partnered **Ami De Vega (Lope De Vega)** to victory in the Norwegian Derby on a rainy August Sunday. It was another Derby success for Neuroth in Scandinavia, and the first Norwegian Derby win with his son in the saddle.

The fairytale father-son victory came just a stone's throw from Neuroth's stables, which have served as the heart of his operation since he began training in 1972. The yard sits on the far side of Øvrevoll, Norway's only racecourse, which nestles amongst the Oslo suburbs, in the shadow of the Holmenkollen ski jump. Øvrevoll maintained a steeplechase course for years but now only stages Flat racing on turf and dirt.

Ami De Vega is out of Scandinavian Listed winner **Amie Noire (Soldier Of Fortune)**, who was also trained by Neuroth and owned by his longtime supporters Stall Perlen, an operation overseen by businessman Magne Jordanger and wife Bente. The couple's familiar blue and white silks have been carried to countless Neuroth triumphs, worn almost exclusively by Jan-Erik in recent years. Jan-Erik may need to hand them to another rider, however, as he takes over training duties in the new year.

Highlights from Neuroth Sr's half decade-long training career include the successes of **Wildvogel (Windlauf)**, who ran in the 1988 Gr.3 Gerling Preis at Cologne, attempting success in the Gr.1 Ascot Gold Cup a month later. **Wildvogel** finished ninth in the edition that memorably saw first past the post **Royal Gait (Gunner B)** disqualified.

No Neuroth horse, however, could come close to matching the victories of **Valley Chapel**. The son of **Selkirk** took all three



Wido Neuroth (left) has retired from training, handing over to his son, Jan-Erik (right). © Stefan Olsson/Svensk Galopp

Scandinavian Derbys in 1999, a feat that meant mastering two surfaces, with the Danish and Norwegian Derbys run on turf, and Sweden's over dirt. **Valley Chapel** went on to rack up success in several Scandinavian Listed contests, along with two wins in the Gr.3 Scandinavian Open Championship and victory in the Gr.3 Stockholm Cup International. **Valley Chapel's** journey, however, was bittersweet, ending in a fatal breakdown at Hamburg, when competing in the Gr.2 Hansa-Preis.

Dual Scandinavian Derby winner **Appel Au Maitre (Starborough)** gave the team a happier ending, retiring after a career that saw success in a German Gr.3 and an attempt at Longchamp's Gr.2 Prix du Conseil de Paris. **Appel Au Maitre**, who's out of **Crystal Glitters** mare **Rotina**, also handed the Perlen camp glory in the Gr.3 Stockholms Stora Pris and Gr.3 Stockholm Cup International, taking a series of Scandinavian Listed contests and, appropriately, the 2008 Valley Chapel Memorial Stakes at Øvrevoll.

Magne and Bente Jordanger are frequently found on the European sales circuit. They bought the day two sales topper at Goffs Orby Book 1 in 2022.

HAPPY RETIREMENT, MASTER BLOOM

Norwegian-trained **Master Bloom**, by Gr.1 German Derby-winning **Pastorius**, was retired by his Swedish owners in June. A winner of the 2018 Danish Derby, **Master Bloom** followed up with success in the Swedish St Leger and victory in the Gr.3 Scandinavian Open Championship, twice taking third in the Gr.3 Stockholm Cup International.

Out of **Miesque's Son** mare **Milibloom**, **Master Bloom** is a full-brother to this year's Swedish Derby Consolation winner **Marcella Bloom**.

AYANI'S VICTORY SEES THE WINNER TAKE IT ALL

Since the Goodwood victory of **Lavender's Blue (Sea The Stars)** in 2021's Gr.2 Celebration Mile, the racing interest of ABBA star Benny Andersson has been well documented. A major prize in his native Sweden, however, eluded Andersson until 2023, when **Ayani**, his son of **Starspangledbanner**, cruised to victory in the Swedish Derby.

Andersson keeps horses in training with Jessica Long, a family member based in two locations around Malmö, including at stables behind Jägersro, the Swedish Derby's host track.

Ayani is out of **High Chaparral** mare **Inaya (Ayani is a palindrome of Inaya)**, who was bred and owned by Andersson's Chess Racing operation. Having already taken the Voterlöpning in June, **Ayani** would go on to complete Jägersro's Triple Crown, storming home to take the Hurricanelöpning in August before finishing a disappointing seventh in the Gr.3 Stockholm Cup International at Bro Park, his first trip over turf.

Swedish Derby Day also saw **City Code**, a son of **Kodiac**, fight off **Kinsman (Exceed And Excel)** in the Listed Zawawi Cup. A few months earlier, Jägersro had played host to Sweden's first Listed contest of the year – the Spring Mile – which headed the way of **Plantstepsdream (Planteur)**. May's Listed Jägersro Sprint saw **Irish Action (Zoffany)** take the spoils, following up from his Zawawi Cup success in 2022.

Without a turf course, Jägersro keeps a dirt track on the outside of its trotting circuit. Svensk Galopp (Sweden's racing authority) has, however, announced plans to move their Skåne base to the countryside outside Malmö, where a Thoroughbred-only venue can be built from scratch.

The region's proximity to Denmark has long made it a popular training location, with professionals able to make easy use of Klampenborg, Denmark's sole Thoroughbred-only course, along with the Danish provincial tracks at Aarhus, Aalborg and Odense, which are shared with trotting.

FAREWELL, STEEPLECHASE HERO TRUCKERS GLORY

Trainer Anders Herlin led tributes to Swedish Grand National winner **Truckers Glory (Mahler)**, who died on Tuesday, 12th December. Bought by Herlin for £3,500 at the 2017 Goffs Spring Horses in Training and Point-to-Point Sale, **Truckers Glory** delivered Herlin his first training success over obstacles when he conquered the notorious Seejagdrennan at Bad Harzburg.

His journey to Grand National glory continued in the new year when **Truckers Glory** took the Jockeyklubbens Stora Pris at Blommeröd, a southern Swedish course that was used as a stand-in after the closure of Täby Racecourse in Stockholm, and before a replacement jumps course at the newly built Bro Park had been assembled.

Truckers Glory justified favouritism in the 2018 Swedish Grand National when he and Christopher Roberts pulled well clear of **Moss Cloud (Cloudings)** in the Strömsholm feature. 'Trucken', however, who'd taken fourth in Strömsholm's 2017 Familjen Perssons Minneslöpning, had to settle for Grand National second in 2019, with Czech master Jan Faltejsek guiding **Serienlohn (Lomitas)** to victory for trainer Pavel Vovcenko.



Benny Andersson celebrates success in the Swedish Derby at Jägersro.

© Stefan Olsson/Svensk Galopp

RECORD CROWD ON NATIONAL DAY AT GÄRDET

A calendar highlight since its inception in 2013, the 2023 Nationaldagsgaloppen saw around 55,000 racegoers pack Gärdet Park in central Stockholm.

The course goes up once annually for Swedish National Day, with Tuesday, 6th June 2023 marking 500 years since the accession of Gustav Vasa, often seen as Sweden's founding father. Organisers Svensk Galopp hope the success of their shop window showpiece will draw regular visitors to meetings at Bro Park, Swedish racing's permanent home, which sits 40 kilometres north of the capital.

With stalls and rails shipped in from Bro Park, complemented by the scaffolding of a commentary tower and a large white VIP tent, the track and its facilities are entirely temporary. Enjoying live coverage on TV4, Sweden's prime commercial television channel, entry is free, racecards are handed out on arrival, and attendees are welcome to bring dogs and picnics in with them.

Jockey Ulrika Holmquist, who took four races here in 2019, earning the title 'Queen of the Gärdet', repeated success with **Sir Walter (Dustoori)** running victorious in the Tapwell Handicap to see off **Ruby Carlras (Appel Au Maitre)**. Holmquist had to settle



Madeleine Smith beat Hollie Doyle, Frankie Dettori and Stéphane Pasquier in the Gr.3 Stockholm Cup International. © Steve Cargill

for second, however, in the Listed Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan Cup, an Arabian contest that went to Angelika Berg on **Muna May (Majd El Arab)**.

STAR APPRENTICE MAKES PROFESSIONAL PLUNGE

October saw Alina Öhgren shake off her apprentice title. Hailing from the illustrious Öhgren family, 22-year-old Alina's mother is Svensk Galopp stalwart Anna Öhgren. Her brother, Elliot Öhgren, is an amateur jump jockey who moved to Ireland to ride for Willie Mullins, a yard where Alina herself spent time. Elliot still makes regular trips to his homeland. He took this year's Prix de l'ARK on Stockholm Cup Day, run over 2100m on the Flat at Bro Park.

After years on the pony racing circuit, Alina began her apprenticeship under Annika Sjökvist, racking up 22 wins in 2021 to become the year's champion apprentice. June 2023 saw her claim victory at the Nationaldagsgaloppen aboard **Scytale** (by **Power**, a son of **Oasis Dream**).

2022's Swedish champion apprentice, Rebecca Stålhandske, was another apprentice to continue her rise through the riding ranks in 2023, partnering **Zimbabwe**, a son of **Mastercraftsman**, to victory in Göteborgs Stora Pris: a highlight of the calendar at Gothenburg's turf-only racecourse, which sits on the edge of Sweden's second city.

Gothenburg also hosts the Swedish St Leger, won in 2023 by the aforementioned Norwegian Derby victor **Ami De Vega**, who made it a Leger double, having already taken the Norwegian version by a length. Shadwell-bred **Admiral De Vega**, another son of **Lope De Vega**, took Bro Park's Gr.3 Stockholms Stora Pris in June, while Denmark's signature Gr.3, the Scandinavian Open Championship, went the way of Rikke Rohbach Bonde's **Go On Carllas**.

Ridden to victory by Nicolaj Stott (brother of British-based Kevin), **Go On Carllas** is by **Harzand**, out of **Dubawi** mare **La Reine De Pearls**. She was bred by Rävanssens Stuteri, who claimed Sweden's champion breeding spot in 2023, seeing off Chess Racing and Denmark's Stutteri Hjortebo, who keep their base in central Jutland. Hjortebo stand **Appel Au Maitre**, whose son **Good Fortune** took the Zabeel Turf at Meydan in January.

LOCAL TRIUMPH IN THE STOCKHOLM CUP

It was the day Frankie leapt skyward in Sweden, providing a flying dismount after his triumph in the Listed Lanwades Stud Stakes. Seeking redemption from Norwegian trainer Annike Bye Hansen, whose **Hard One To Please** he'd ridden to ninth in the Gr.3 Stockholm Cup International, Dettori claimed victory aboard **Mehmas** filly **Takeko**.

Hansen didn't mince her words when it came to an assessment of the Italian star's Stockholm Cup ride, visibly frustrated Dettori failed to retain the crown for her son of **Fast Company**. Victory in Sweden's most prestigious prize went instead to **Espen Hill**, a locally-bred son of **Helsinki**, trained and ridden by Bro Park native Madeleine Smith.

Moving down the stands' side, and hitting the front with only a few strides left to travel, **Espen Hill** saw off pacesetter **Outbox (Frankel)** and the Christophe Ferland-trained **Big Call (Animal Kingdom)**, who'd joined the Gr.1 Ascot Gold Cup field a few months previously.

Alongside **Hard One To Please**, who was a surprise winner in last year's Swedish Derby, before romping home in the Norwegian version by 12 and a half lengths, the 2023 Stockholm Cup field included another dual Derby victor. **Stroxx Carllas (Footstepsinthesand)**, who managed sixth in the Stockholm Cup, had laid the ground for **Hard One To Please** when he completed the Swedish-Norwegian Derby double in 2021.

Three weeks after the Stockholm Cup, **Espen Hill** and **Hard One To Please** faced off again, with roles reversed as **Hard One To Please** went clear in the Listed Jubileumslöpning at Jägersro. **Hard One To Please** had already taken the Gr.3 Marit Sveaas Minneløp at Øvrevoll before making an unsuccessful trip to Goodwood, where he finished sixth behind Haggas victor **Hamish (Motivator)** in the Gr.3 Glorious Stakes. Purchased for 80,000gns by Walter Buick at the 2021 Guineas Breeze-Up Sale, **Hard One To Please** now serves as something of a Tattersalls poster boy in Scandinavia.

It's Tattersalls who lend sponsorship to the Listed Nickes Minneslöpning on Stockholm Cup Day. 2023's edition saw Norwegian-trained **Duca Di Como (Clodovil)** claim a fifth straight victory for trainer Cathrine Erichsen. With regular partner Elione Chaves aboard, **Duca Di Como** was another Scandinavian runner



Connections of American Zodiac (Juniper Tree) after success in the Swedish Oaks. © Stefan Olsson/Svensk Galopp

to attempt a British detour, travelling to Royal Ascot with connections, where he came home second last in the Wokingham.

Another Stockholm Cup Day Listed contest saw the Bro Park Sprint Championship go to Kevin Ryan-trained **Washington Heights (Washington DC)**, storming to victory in the hands of Hollie Doyle.

BIG WEEKEND DOUBLE FOR CARLOS LOPEZ

Carlos Lopez made it a weekend to remember as he took the Danish Derby on Saturday, 5th August before hopping across the Øresund Bridge to take the Swedish Oaks the following day.

Lopez, who hails from Chile, serves as stable jockey for Oslo-based trainer Niels Petersen. It was Petersen's Swedish 2,000 Guineas victor **Slava Ukraini (Moohaajim)** that Lopez guided to victory in the Danish Derby at Klampenborg, with the course basking in bright sunshine and the support of a substantial crowd. Beating Swedish Derby-second **Cotton Eye Joe (Appel Au Maitre)** to another Scandinavian Classic runner-up spot, **Slava Ukraini** would go on to success in September's Breeders' Trophy Classic at Bro Park and October's Breeders' Prize Classic at Øvrevoll.

Lopez's Swedish Oaks heroine, **American Zodiac**, is the charge of Sweden's champion trainer Lennart Reuterskiöld Jr. Owned by Tord Olsson, she's out of an **Invincible Spirit** mare. **American Zodiac** is by **Juniper Tree**, a son of **Galileo** who stands at York Stutteri, just outside Copenhagen.

York Stud is the property of the Elsass family (Alexander, his parents Nick and Kiddy, and his wife Karina). The stud hosts the annual Scandinavian Open Yearling Sale, which welcomed an aggregate of DKr5,188,000 in 2023. **Juniper Tree** also sired **Ascot Brass**, who claimed second in the 2022 Gr.2 Cape Verdi at Meydan.

NIKLAS LOVÉN CONQUERS STRÖMSHOLM & POLAND

Niklas Lovén took the cross-country Swedish Grand National for the first time since 2010, partnering **Mutadaffeq (New Approach)** to victory on Saturday, 17th June. Sent out by Karen Kuszli, **Mutadaffeq** is trained a short walk from Strömsholm Racecourse – the central Swedish track that hosts the Grand National – at the base of brothers Johan and Dennis Persson. Johan is Strömsholm's clerk-the-course, while Dennis trained Lovén's 2008 and 2010 Grand National winner **Lights Out (Kateb)**, and his 2017 Swedish Champion Hurdle winner **Calvados (Tremolino)**. Kuszli has been training at the Persson home since 2020.

Lovén, a jockey from Helsingborg in southern Sweden, has competed across the Continent, with his career including a collection of rides in the Velká Pardubická. 2023 saw him take a brace of rides in Poland, earning the Polish champion jump jockey title, before picking up Poland's jockey of the year award, with ten victories at Wrocław alone, including in all four of their major prizes.

Mutadaffeq was unable to up his entry in HM The King's Prize at Bro Park later in the season, with victory instead going to Henrik Engblom-trained **Liars Corner (Zoffany)**. In HM The Queen's Prize (over hurdles), **Monsieur Vic (Lawman)** took the spoils for Sigyn Dysell, seeing off a challenge from Archie Watson's **Throne Hall**, a son of **Kingman**.

Earlier in the year, on Grand National Day at Strömsholm (the course's only fixture), Christian von der Recke made a successful plunder north. His son of **Gleneagles, Cabot Cliffs**, took the Swedish Champion Hurdle, and Von der Recke made it a double on the day as **Evander (Arcadio)** ran out victorious over larger obstacles in the Familjen Perssons Minneslöping.



Mutadaffeq and Niklas Lovén jump to glory in the Swedish Grand National at Strömsholm.

© Stefan Olsson/Svensk Galopp

BREEDERS' ROUND-UP

BRITISH-BRED WINNERS ABROAD

ARCHIPENKO

Reiver Law (GB), 5g, ex **Cushat Law** (Montjeu)
Markopoulo, Greece, 27 Dec, 3yo+, hcap, 1575mD, €2,640
B: **M Franklin**

CITYSCAPE

Paosan (GB), 4c, ex **Allez Loulou** (Mark Of Esteem)
Siracusa, Italy, 26 Dec, 3yo+, cond, 1500mT, €4,250
B: **Ashbrittle Stud**

COACH HOUSE

Miss Woo Woo (GB), 2f, ex **Mia Tia** (Equiano)
Deauville, France, 29 Dec, 2yo, claimer, 1300mAW, €9,500
B: **The Cool Silk Partnership (GB)**

DANDY MAN

Rocket Rodney (GB), 3g, ex **Alushta** (Royal Applause)
REHRC, Bahrain, 29 Dec, 3yo+, hcap, 1200mT, £37,995
B: **R W Stapleton**

DARK ANGEL

Wessall (GB), 4g, ex **Alwarga** (Street Sense)
Jebel Ali, UAE, 30 Dec, 3yo+, hcap, 1950mD, £10,772
B: **Godolphin**

Endeared (GB), 3g, ex **Frankel Light** (Frankel)
Sha Tin, Hong Kong, 01 Jan, hcap, 1400mT, £69,776
B: **Watership Down Stud**

DARTMOUTH

Naval College (GB), 4g, ex **Sequence** (Selkirk)
Randwick, Australia, 30 Dec, 3yo+, hcap, 2000mT, A\$82,500
B: **The Queen**

DAWN APPROACH

Miss Thyra (GB), 5m, ex **Jamaayel** (Shamardal)
Selangor TC, Malaysia, 23 Dec, hcap, 1100mT, £2,434
B: **Shadwell Estate Co Ltd**

DUBAWI

Marksman Queen (GB), 3f, ex **Sharp Susan** (Touch Gold)
Gulfstream Park, USA, 30 Dec, 3yo+f&m, allowance, 1mT, \$36,600
B: **Cayton Park Stud Ltd**

EXPERT EYE

Third Batch (GB), 3f, ex **Amanda Carter** (Tobougg)
Deauville, France, 26 Dec, 3yo, claimer, 2500mAW, €9,500
B: **East Bloodstock**

FRANKEL

Zagato (GB), 5g, ex **Izzi Top** (Pivotal)
REHRC, Bahrain, 29 Dec, 3yo, cond, 2400mT, £6,649
B: **Meon Valley Stud**

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HELLVELYN

El Royale (GB), 4g, ex **Sofia Royale** (Royal Applause)
Dortmund, Germany, 30 Dec, 3yo+, hcap, 1800mT, €2,500
B: **W Brackstone & S J Whitear**

KINGMAN

Variable Cost (GB), 3g, ex **Dawn Of Hope** (Mastercraftsman)
Gulfstream Park, USA, 30 Dec, 3yo+, claimer, 1m½fD, \$12,000
B: **Blue Diamond Stud Farm (UK) Ltd**

KODIAC

Coast Sky (GB), 6h, ex **Lady Darshaan** (High Chaparral)
Jebel Ali, UAE, 30 Dec, 3yo+, hcap, 1800mD, £8,720
B: **Newsells Park Stud Limited**

MARKAZ

Lansdowne (GB), 5g, ex **My Lucky Liz** (Exceed And Excel)
Santa Anita, USA, 30 Dec, 3yo+, claimer, 6fD, \$13,800
B: **T Radley**

MASSAAT

Arctic Blast (GB), 3c, ex **Nippy** (Anabaa)
Markopoulo, Greece, 27 Dec, 3yo+, hcap, 1300mD, €2,046
B: **D R Botterill**

MAYSON

Fuga (GB), 5m, ex **Fairdal** (Shamardal)
Livorno, Italy, 30 Dec, 3yo+, hcap, 2250mT, €1,950
B: **Scuderia Blueberry SRL**

MUHAARAR

Byline (GB), 6g, ex **Lauren Louise** (Tagula)
REHRC, Bahrain, 29 Dec, 3yo, cond, 1600mT, £6,649
B: **T Barker**

MUSTAJEEB

Saravakos (GB), 6g, ex **Classic Falcon** (Dubawi)
Markopoulo, Greece, 27 Dec, 3yo+, hcap, 1200mD, €2,310
B: **Shadwell Estate Co Ltd**

NEW APPROACH

Enkindle (GB), 4g, ex **Enlace** (Shamardal)
Markopoulo, Greece, 27 Dec, 3yo+, cond, 1300mD, €3,102
B: **Godolphin**

EXCHANGE RATES

GBP/USD – 1.26 **GBP/JPY – 181.48**
GBP/EUR – 1.16 **GBP/CHF – 1.08**
GBP/AUD – 1.88 **GBP/SEK – 13.03**
GBP/HKD – 9.87 **GBP/AED – 4.64**
EUR/USD – 1.09

*The above rates are the Google indicative rates at 17:00 on 03/01/24 and must be used as an approximation for conversion.

Tequilamockingbird (GB), 4f, ex **Tequila Sunrise** (Dansili)
Al-Janadriah, KSA, 29 Dec, 3yo+f&m, hcap, 2000mD, £12,563
B: **Stratford Place Stud**

NIGHT OF THUNDER

Opera Legend (GB), 3g, ex **Operettist** (Singspiel)
Al Uqda, Qatar, 23 Dec, f&m, cond, 1200mD, £5,548
B: **Longview Stud & Bloodstock Ltd**

Day And Night (GB), 3f, ex **Heat Of The Day** (Raven's Pass)
Urawa, Japan, 25 Dec, hcap, 1400mD, £5,540
B: **Godolphin**

NO NAY NEVER

Zero Mostel (GB), 3g, ex **Unaided** (Dansili)
Al Rayyan, Qatar, 27 Dec, hcap, 1200mD, £6,150
B: **Haras d'Etreham**

OASIS DREAM

Ubi Major (GB), 2c, ex **Forte** (New Approach)
Napoli, Italy, 28 Dec, 2yo, hcap, 1600mT, €5,950
B: **Ashbrittle Stud & M H Dixon**

OUTSTRIP

Penango (GB), 5h, ex **Perfect Muse** (Oasis Dream)
Roma, Italy, 29 Dec, 4yo+, hcap, 2300mAW, €2,125
B: **R J Vines**

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