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Letter from The Chair



We finished the flat season on a high when Tenaya Canyon bolted up at Newcastle on 3rd November impressively. Her form was further franked recently with fourth placed Navajo Spring finishing second next time out and Kratos following up his debut second to Tenaya Canyon with a game win. We put the 2021 Tenaya Canyon owners group shares on sale mid November and have already sold over the minimum number required to go ahead with the lease – she looks an exciting prospect for 2021.

We are delighted to welcome ex-jump jockey turned racecourse pundit, Colin Brown to the Racegoers Club team and feature the first Colin’s Column in this, the first monthly e-edition of the Racegoer. Colin is also helping to organise our special virtual Desert Orchid Tribute Event, of which there are further details later. And he will be running through the Boxing Day King George card for members via zoom on 21st December – again details of this are featured later.

The hot trainer at the moment – Kim Bailey is banging in the big winners as regularly as Nicholls and Henderson and reminding us that he is a training force to be reckoned with, bringing back memories of the late 80’s/early 90’s when he trained the likes of Mr Frisk, Docklands Express and Alderbrook. Kim has kindly agreed to do a Q&A interview in this edition.

As detailed in our November email update, we propose to go paperless and reduce our carbon footprint as much as possible. We recognise there are a small number of members who do not have access to

email, and we will ensure these members are updated with Club news.

Thank you again to everyone who has renewed their Racegoers Club membership. If anything, these challenging times have generated a stronger racing community within the Club – something that we would like to cultivate further.

Have a very happy Christmas and New Year – enjoy the King George and keep safe.

Caroline Davies
Racegoers Club Chairman

Contents

Letter from The Chair	3
Colin Brown Column	4-5
The Big Interview	6-7
TTF Jumps Update / Diaries & Calendars	8
Club Horses Update	9
Racing Welfare	10
Members Memories	11
Virtual Zoom Events	12



Colin Brown - pg. 4&5

Welcome to the first Colin Brown Column



Hi and a warm welcome to all Racegoers Club members, Chairman Caroline Davies and a big thank you to Mary-Ann for inviting me on board with such a marvellous fun Club.

I, like the rest of you I'm sure can't wait to get back on track as it were, and if everyone abides by the rules I guess with luck we will meet up on the racecourse very soon. As I write we have the green light and I'm keeping everything crossed it won't turn to amber or red.

What a long frustrating year it's been. I never thought on Friday 13th March when I parked my VW Tiguan outside the house after the wonderful 4th day of Cheltenham, that nearly nine months later it would only have clocked a few hundred miles and that would be the last time that I'd have set foot on a racecourse.

Having ridden for many years and now still being involved in a sport I love, I feel privileged to have fun entertaining folks in hospitality and doing raceday presentations at various tracks, including six days a year at Ascot - a track I love, having won seven races on Dessie there back in the 1980's.

I am passionate about what I do and the people I work with and it feels so odd going into December, the month of hugs and good cheers, that we are still adhering to strange rules and circumstances.

Let's hope we have some fun days to look forward to in 2021 - I'm sure we will.

However, this month we also have a lot of fun for you look forward to including:

- Three horses to follow
- A Zoom event where we will look back at the life of one of our best racehorses - Desert Orchid (15th/16th December at 7.00 pm).
- A King George special Zoom Event, where I will run through the racecard and hopefully give you some winners (21st December at 7.00 pm).



I always have my ear to the ground, and it has been profitable in the last few months, (which is great under the circumstances!) I have a few horses to follow for you:

The first is a horse trained by Harry Fry and owned by good friends of mine Brian and Sandy Lambert. In fact, in the last edition of Racegoer there is a wonderful picture of Mervyn Broom handing the trophy to the gentleman in a blue shirt - and that is Brian. He owns a horse called Boothill, a ready winner of a National Hunt Flat race at Kempton, when he never came out of 2nd gear. He jumps for fun and will be very smart. I introduced Brian to Harry and bought him his first horse, Brotherly Company, which won 5 races.

My second to follow is a Philip Hobbs' horse whose career so far has been plain sailing, but he could now win a few races - he's called Truckers Pass. I've known Hobbsy for years and he is one of the most honest trainers in the game. Back in the 1980's the likes of myself and weighing room colleagues, Messrs Barton, Frost and Lindley would go and sun ourselves and put on a stone during the summer whilst Philip and his lovely wife Sarah would house sit and look after the cat for me in East Garston. He would ride out for various trainers in the Lambourn area to improve his style and potential training skills. I think this arrangement has worked out best for him!

I've also spoke to Dan Skelton, who the Racegoers Club know well - again he is a smashing chap. Before lockdown I did plenty of hospitality boxes

with him and I find him a very shrewd cookie. So I asked him to give a me a good one to follow and he came back with My Drogo. By the time you read this article My Drogo will already have run and won, but make no mistake this horse is going to be very good.

I hope everyone has a fantastic Christmas and that you manage to go racing at some point over the festivities - and I look forward to seeing many of you on the Zoom calls later this month.

Have a safe and merry Christmas.

Colin



The Big Interview with Kim Bailey

How did you first get interested in horseracing – did you have a racing background?

My Father Ken was a racehorse trainer and a farmer. He only trained about 15 horses at any one time, but I loved being with the horses, more fun than sitting on a tractor! He was also very successful and trained many big winners and good horses.

Who do you think has had the biggest influence on your training career and why?

I spent my learning time working for both Captain Foster and Fred Rimell. I have to say they were very different trainers and used very different methods to train their horses. I would have to say that the biggest influence was Ron Peachey, Fred's unbelievable head lad.

You have trained some top-class horses over the years – which do you think were the most talented and which win(s) have given you the most satisfaction?

Alderbrook was the most talented by far, not only was he a good flat horse, but he was a superb hurdler, terribly unsound, but extraordinarily tough with a huge character. The one horse who I perhaps owe more to than any was a horse



called Carnival Air as he was the horse that put the deposit down for my move to Lambourn after winning a hurdle race at Sandown.

Do you think your job of training racehorses has changed over the years and if so, what are the biggest changes/challenges?

Most definitely, it is far more competitive. When I first started you used to run a horse knowing it was going to improve for the run and now you run them fit first time. Communication has changed and improved and with mobile phones you are now on call 24 hours a day, no escaping!

What advice would you give to your younger self?

Work hard and be honest...

(We ask this to all our 'Big Interviewee's') – If you were at the helm of the BHA, what would be the first thing you would do?

Racing needs to row together, especially now times are difficult. We need to be prepared to stand up for our sport and look to the future and how we can swerve all the flak that will be thrown at us.

Which other trainer (past or present) do you most admire?

I was a huge fan of Jimmy Fitzgerald, long gone but an interesting man. Today's trainers are so different from when I started, Joseph O'Brien is a genius, well all the family are.



What is the funniest thing you've seen during your time in racing?

Sam Morshead usually sorted that for me. Sam while at Perth not only made racing fun but he also did some very odd things to amuse his crowds. One of his pet performances was interviewing the winning horse after the race.

One meeting I asked him to look after my Mother In Law who had a runner in the bumper, he rang me to say all was going well and the mother in law was happy.

The second last race was a hunter chase and the horse that won was owned by my ex mother in law Sara Sutton. Realising he'd mistaken my ex mother in law for my new one, he was rather shocked - but to really confuse him, the very next race my new mother in law Cilla Wills won the bumper.

Over the loudspeaker he announced 'I can see why Kim Bailey did not make the journey today!'

He then preceded to take them into the winning connections room and on shutting the door said "I am sure you have a great deal in common and a great deal to talk about!"

Do you have any other hobbies or sporting interests and if so what are your most memorable related moments?

I used to play a great deal of cricket and tennis, but my real love is salmon fishing, probably as the first two have passed me by! Cricket matches, Lambourn v Newmarket, needle stuff! They joy of hitting Julian Wilson for 6!

Also annoying our captain Oliver Sherwood.

Which is your favourite racecourse and why?

It used to be Perth when Sam Morshead was in charge but sadly, I don't go there so often now. Travelling is a bore and with Cheltenham just down the road I would have to say it is a very special place to be, especially in that winner enclosure, that is what all our dreams are made of.

Who do you think is the best jockey you have ever seen (past or present), and why?

AP McCoy, he rode one for me and was beaten on it at Carlisle and said he would ride it again and win on it next time. He had one ride at Fakenham, and he did just as he said when five other jockeys



All pictures courtesy of Ascot Racecourse

had all failed to win on this horse. His knowledge of a horse was extraordinary, even on a moderate horse who he had never ridden before, he would come into the paddock and say I think you have been riding this horse the wrong way and he would do something completely different from how it was ridden before and smartly win on it; probably ruin its handicap mark to boot!

What advice would you give to anyone thinking of a career as a jumps trainer?

Be brave and trust your instincts.

You have made a fantastic start to the 2020/21 jumps season – your horses are running out of their skins. What do you attribute to their great form?

Good horse feed, good staff and healthy horses.

We've seen some of your big guns winning already this season – are there any other horses that you are really excited about?

Yes!

2020/21 Jumps Ten To Follow Competition Update

Our Jumps Ten To Follow Competition is well and truly underway, and we've already seen some fantastic performances on the track.

The most popular horse in this year's competition is 2020 Champion Hurdle hero Epatante, and she didn't disappoint first time out as she comfortably won the Grade 1 Fighting Fifth Hurdle at Newcastle. Elsewhere in the hurdling division we've seen Thyme Hill put in a great performance in a hot Grade 2 at Newbury to beat Paisley Park and McFabulous.

Over the fences Put The Kettle On delivered a game performance at Cheltenham to win the Grade 2 Shloer Chase and Bristol De Mai confirmed himself as the king of Haydock, winning the Betfair Chase for the third time in his career.

With so much brilliant racing set to take place over Christmas and New Year it is still all to play for. Our current table topper is Trevor Shaw with the likes of Duffle Coat, Main Fact, Does He Know and Epatante in his leading stable.

1	Trevor Shaw (4)	140
2	Ray Horne (2)	130
2	Ray Horne (6)	130
4	Colin Spencer (1)	115
4	David Walters (2)	115
4	Penny Waddell (2)	115
4	Alan A. Jones (2)	115
8	Keith Randall (3)	100
9	Paul Timms (4)	90
9	Paul Timms (1)	90

Racegoers Club Diaries & Calendars Available now!

We are thrilled to let you know that the ever-popular Racegoers Club diaries & calendars are back for 2021.

The Racegoers Club pocket racing diary is a vital addition to any racing fans office or study. Featuring all 2021 racing fixtures, major sporting events, maps and a notes section the pocket diary is the perfect planner for the New Year. You can pre-order your diary now for £10.00.

The wall calendar features fantastic images from Mel Fordham, one of the country's leading racehorse photographers. You can pre-order your calendar now for £10.50.

All 2021 fixtures have been provided by the BHA and are correct at the time of printing. Both products will contain the proposed full years fixture list, but only the first four months are confirmed, whilst the rest remain 'provisionally planned'.

All prices are inclusive of postage & packaging. All orders will be sent out by the RGC team from Thursday 10th December. The last day to order to get your diary in time for Christmas is Tuesday 15th December.

For more information and to place your orders go to racegoersclub.co.uk/merchandise

Update On Club Horses



Tenaya Canyon

Tenaya Canyon is now enjoying a well-deserved break back at Whitsbury Manor Stud after her wonderful win at Newcastle on the 3rd November. She improved enormously on each of her three runs, and the way

she won so easily does make you wonder how much more improvement there is to come. Her trainer Ed Walker, who normally isn't one to over-hype his horses, has said how excited he is about her as a three-year-old prospect.

The 2020 owners' group has been wound up and the final accounts are being done – these will be circulated to the members of the 2020 owners group as soon as they are completed.

We are very pleased to say that shares in the 2021 Tenaya Canyon owners' group have been selling well. We have overtaken the minimum number required to sell to cover the budget for 2021, but there are still shares available should anyone still wish to purchase one (or two), or have a friend that would like to become involved.

She will return to Ed Walker's yard in Lambourn in the first week of January and share certificates will be printed then and sent out to the owners' group.



Some Day Soon

Some Day Soon is also currently enjoying his holidays in the Cotswolds.

Before going over to Adlestrop at the beginning of November, he was reassessed by the vet and thankfully given the all-clear after sustaining an injury at Stratford in July.

He will return to Jamie Snowden's Folly House Stables in Lambourn in early January and start preparing for his novice chasing campaign in the spring.

Additional Owners Group

We recently emailed the membership to gauge if there would be interest in potentially leasing another horse. We outlined options of having a flat or a jump horse with Jedd O'Keeffe, based in Leyburn, (as we are conscious that both existing groups are based in the south), or an all-weather

horse with Mick Appleby in the midlands.

The majority of positive responses were for a jump horse based with Jedd O'Keeffe. However, there were not enough responses to take it forward at this time, therefore will revisit the membership in the spring to

gauge interest in setting up another owners group for a jumps horse with Jedd O'Keeffe for the 2021/2022 season, and hope to have enough interest to set one up then.

Members Memories and Club News

We have been really enjoying members memories over the past year so please keep sending them in. We would be particularly interested to hear about great friendships formed or even marriages sparked through Racegoers Club membership. Of course, our very own Paul Smith and Kelly Mercer met whilst working for the Racegoers Club.

Where are they now?

Looking way back into the distant past, this week 25 years ago Racegoers Club horse Chantrey Beath, trained by C W Thornton and ridden by Nathan Horrocks (claiming 7lb), won the Gorebridge Conditional Jockeys Handicap Hurdle at Musselburgh. His jockey Nathan Horrocks went on to establish the successful and award-winning film company Equine Productions, which has produced many short films for racecourses, racing stables and the racing industries across the world. Nathan also invented and manages The Jockey Cam, which is used by ITV Racing and other international horseracing broadcasters. He now lives in California with his wife – next step Hollywood!

Members Survey 2020

Back in the hazy, sunny days of summer we asked members to complete our annual survey. We had an excellent response, no doubt spurred on by being placed in a draw for two Racegoers Club

Marquee tickets on the Thursday of the 2021 Cheltenham Festival. The draw was scheduled for the 1st December and we're delighted to announce that Christopher Molloy will be the lucky recipient of the marquee tickets or two places at an alternative Racegoers Club event of his choice.

Racegoers Club Marquee – Cheltenham Festival 2021

We are still in discussions with Cheltenham about the Racegoers Club marquee at the Festival and are unable to confirm details of this until we are more certain of the marquee capacity and budget due to Covid restrictions and protocols. We shall keep members updated of progress in this respect.

Racing TV Offer

Members are reminded that the Racegoers Club members' Racing TV offer is ongoing to new or returning Racing TV subscribers:

- Half price Racing TV for a year (£12.49 a month – usually £24.98 a month)
- Available to Racegoers Club members that are new or reinstating Racing TV subscribers
- 12 month minimum term applies

To take up the offer members will need to call 0845 111 4411 and quote RacegoersClub50



ON TRACK OFF COURSE

— WITH RACING WELFARE —

Racing Welfare is getting the racing industry talking with their brand new weekly podcast 'On Track, Off Course'.

Each week you can listen to some of racing's biggest names talk about issues we don't often hear discussed, including everything from mental and physical health to careers, addiction and money issues.

On Track, Off Course is available wherever you get your podcasts, including Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Acast and Sound Cloud.

Never miss an episode by hitting subscribe when you listen



Members are Cordially Invited to Two Upcoming Zoom Events

Virtual Desert Orchid Tribute Event – DATE TO BE CONFIRMED

**Tuesday 15th or Wednesday 16th
December at 7.00 pm**

Unbelievably it is 31 years since Desert Orchid stormed up the Cheltenham hill to beat Yahoo and win the Cheltenham Gold Cup, but the exuberant Dessie is still the racing public's favourite grey and it still makes the eyes leak a bit when reminiscing about his incredible exploits.

We would like to invite members to join a Desert Orchid Tribute via zoom with Colin Brown, David Elsworth, Simon Sherwood, Janice Coyle and other key members of the Dessie team (to be announced as they are confirmed).

We will share Dessie memories with the people who were closest to him and relive his glory days.

Here's a taster: [Click here](#)

If you would like to join the Dessie tribute zoom event, please email us by noon on Monday 14th December - racegoersclub@racecourseassociation.co.uk

We shall email you the zoom link and if you have a question for one of the Dessie team, please email this to us and we will invite as many of you as possible to put your question to the team.



Virtual Mark Your Card for the King George with Colin Brown - Monday 21st December 7.00pm

And it's 30 years since Dessie won his fourth King George VI Chase – his first jockey Colin Brown will run through the 2020 King George card and tell us all the winners (we hope – no pressure!), via zoom on Monday 21st December.

Members are invited to join the zoom call and following Colin running through the card, will have the opportunity to ask Colin questions about his time as a jockey and life in horseracing.

If you would like to join the zoom call, please email us at racegoersclub@racecourseassociation.co.uk and we will forward you the link earlier on Monday 21st. Also, please email us a question if you would like to.

Christmas jumpers are optional on both zoom calls!