

Rod Millman Racing Newsletter

2009 has proved to be a memorable year with the yard notching up **40 WINNERS** (our second best ever score despite being slightly down on numbers) and **£314,626** in prize money. An astonishing **47%** of the horses we ran ended up in the winners' enclosure operating at a **12%** strike rate for winners. We also had a **group placed** two-year-old that performed creditably **abroad** and had our first ever **bumper** winner. With an exciting bunch of two-year-olds, plenty of improving three-year-olds and the usual stable stalwarts, 2010 is a year to look forward to.

Top earner and a horse that was competitive in some of the major two-year-old races was **Roi De Vitesse**. Having made an auspicious start when only seventh in a Folkestone maiden in March, he looked set to fill a similar placing when badly outpaced at halfway at Nottingham but he took off in the final furlong to win by a shorthead. Stepped up to six furlongs in a **£15,000 conditions event** at Pontefract, which we won in 2003 with Cop Hill Lad, he ran out an easy winner. Next stop was a **Listed** race at **Cork** in Ireland, once again he badly outpaced on very fast ground but flew home for third. A further rise in class and upped to seven furlongs saw him contest the **Group 2 Superlative Stakes** at Newmarket. A 25/1 outsider, he hit the front inside the final furlong but was collared close home by the very useful Silver Grecian but still picked up over **£17,000**. Being on the small side, he'd reached his peak much earlier than other horses and although they improved past him, he still finished **fifth** and **fourth** in the **Group 2 Vintage Stakes** at Goodwood and **Champagne** at Doncaster and also finished fourth in a listed race at **Deauville**. He had

one last hurrah in the **Group 1 Prix Jean Luc-Largarde** on Arc day at Longchamp and although he only finished seventh, we had a wonderful day. An **8,000gns** yearling, he was sold for **£39,000** to continue his career abroad and with **£46,212** in prize money was a real success story for the yard.

The other horse to end up with a mark in the 100s was the grey **Light From Mars**. He started the year with an easy success at Windsor off a mark of **83** and continued in good form throughout the year producing good efforts in defeat despite having slight training setbacks. He was back on top form when landing a twenty-runner h'cap on **C4** at York in October. He's still lightly raced and open to further improvement as a five-year-old, with the **Lincoln** his early season target.

Another Channel Four winner, also grey, was the extremely gallant **Brassini**. He won his 0-100 h'cap at Sandown with ease before sadly breaking down when looking like following up at Chester. He ended his career with **FIVE** wins and **£47,289** in prize money and was a real credit to his owners, the Links Partnership and will be sadly missed.

We had an extremely successful season with our three-year-old crop, providing **TWENTY** of our forty winners, the majority benefitting from light two-year-old campaigns. The star of the crop was **Mattamia** who recorded **three** successes at Nottingham, Newmarket and Leicester, winning **£24,093** in prize money, and his mark rose from 70 to 93. He was also narrowly defeated at Glorious Goodwood and finished fourth at York's Ebor meeting in valuable h'caps. He finished his season

early in September and has strengthened up nicely during his winter break. Hopefully he'll be able to step up into Pattern Company at some stage in 2010, especially on his favoured fast ground.

Both **Fyelehk** and **Hi Shinko** rattled up multiple successes this year. Fyelehk won **four**, rising from 54 to 69 in the h'cap. Hi Shinko was particularly effective on undulating tracks, with **three** wins at Epsom and Folkestone (twice). **Swift Chap** took a while to come to himself but had a great end to the season, with **back-to-back** successes at Goodwood and Newbury before running a gallant second at Leicester. The very game **Sherman McCoy** was never out of the prize money in all his eight starts, with wins at Goodwood and Newmarket. Hopefully he can improve again and be competitive in the big staying h'caps.

George Thisby started his career with a promising second at 66/1 at Doncaster and put up some creditable efforts throughout the season, breaking his duck at Southwell along the way. He's open to plenty of improvement as a four-year-old. **Milldown Story** ran well in maidens throughout the year before rewarding her owner-breeders with a maiden success at Wolverhampton. **Lucy's Perfect** took a while to get the hang of things but won nicely at Windsor in October. Her mother improved with age and she should have a good year in staying fillies races as a four-year-old. **Red Suede Shoes** has proved particularly effective on the AW, with two wins at Kempton in cheekpieces and a whole host of placed efforts throughout the year.

Having gone over eighteen months without success, with plenty of bad luck along the way, **Ocean Blaze** was another to record back-to-back successes at Goodwood and Newmarket. Frustratingly, she was only **0.01s** off winning a **£10,000 Speed Bonus** at Goodwood. A newcomer to the yard was **Shavansky** and he picked up two races at

Sandown and Lingfield, as well as finishing fifth in the **Cambridgeshire** at 100/1. He's still relatively lightly raced and should be competitive in some useful races this year. A successful AW season saw **Balata** finally fulfil his potential in 2009. Having been extremely troublesome in the stalls, he racked up **two** wins at Leicester and Folkestone and produced a career best effort when second in a competitive event at York on his last run for the yard before being sold to continue his career in Spain.

Biggest improver of the year was **Cadeaux Fax**, who arrived at the yard with a rating of just 21. Six months later, he landed two successes at Chepstow and Kempton and risen **43lbs** to a mark of 64. He's still quite immature and although a five-year-old, is open to further improvement. Another double scorer was veteran **Mustajed**, who won for Patrick at Lingfield before following up at Southwell. He ran well in defeat on the turf and should continue to give Patrick some fun.

The tricky **Carlitos Spirit** had everything fall into place when recording his fifth career success at Lingfield. He struggled with a high h'cap mark for the rest of the year. **Castano** won a Wolverhampton h'cap but sadly bleeding problems blighted his career as he was potentially much better than he ever showed. As a ten-year-old **Whitbarrow** recorded his thirteenth success and took his career earnings to over **£150,000** when successful at Southwell in December. The old boy has plenty of life left in him yet! At the beginning of the year, **Vogarth** won on his last start for us in January.

Our two-year-old crop didn't have much success but those that remain as three-year-olds should show the benefit of a quiet campaign. Having run consistently well throughout the season, **Tuckers Law** won very easily when dropped into selling company. He's on a nice long break and could prove to be a well handicapped three-

year-old. The fillies ran well without winning, **Lenkiewicz** won a big pot of over **£24,000** when finishing third in the Sales race at Ascot. She's got plenty of scope to improve and is an exciting filly for next year. **Mrs Boss** finished seventh in that race and endured a slightly frustrating season, producing many creditable efforts in defeat but didn't actually win. She'll be out for an AW campaign but the harsh winter isn't making it easy to get her fit. The diminutive **True Red** had the heart of a lion but the body didn't quite match, if it did she would have been very good. She still racked up a frustrating **four seconds** before heading to Wales.

The huge **Galatian**, a half-brother to Masai Moon, showed promise in his three maidens, earning a mark of 72. Hopefully he's going to strengthen up into his frame and is potentially very exciting. Some of 2008's successful horses struggled with high h'cap marks and weren't quite right through the year. Although **Masai Moon** didn't win, he still won **£6,885** in prize money and has dropped back to his last winning mark, 87. If we can get his confidence back, he should be a major contender in some competitive h'caps. Having ended last year rated 96, **Phantom Whisper** found life hard, often running credible races finishing just outside the frame and he rarely got his soft ground (the only time he did, Chepstow was waterlogged and got abandoned half-way through!). On the bright side, he starts the season off a mark of 77 and is another that could have a good year if we get his confidence back.

It wasn't just on the Flat we had success, as **Soldier Bay** made an impressive winning debut in his junior bumper at Ffos Las. Held up at the back of the field, he took off in the home straight and ran out a very convincing winner. He then went to Brightwells '**Stars Of The Future**' Sale and made **£60,000** to join the Irish stable of Robbie Hennesy. He was unlucky to get caught on the line on his hurdling debut and

we will be keeping an eye on his progress in future, as he could be a very good horse. We still have our own useful bumper horse in **Businessmoney Judi** who made a promising debut herself when fourth at Warwick. She has come on plenty for the experience and will be aimed at the Listed Mare's Final at Sandown in March.

On behalf of the stable staff, we would like to thank those owners who generously sent donations for the 'Lads Christmas Box', it is very much appreciated.

In order to include input from owners in our website, we wondered if you would like to share some of your thoughts and experiences with us. To give you an idea of possible topics we have selected a few on the enclosed sheet. Obviously this is optional but we would be delighted to receive input from you on anything you think would be of interest.