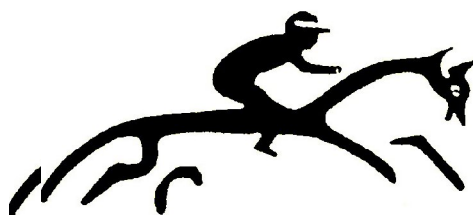

MEMBERS' ENCLOSURE

The Newsletter of the West Berkshire Racing Club



www.westberksrc.org.uk

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Editor: Stewart Nash

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WELCOME

Welcome to Julie Gubbins of London W14 who has joined the Club since the last newsletter, we hope she enjoys her membership of the club and look forward to meeting her at future events.

ALLOCATION OF COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

Following the AGM the Committee has reviewed the responsibilities of committee members. Although the committee works as a team the individual responsibilities are shown together with contact details on page 4.

CHANGE OF BANK

We are in the process of making changes to the Club's banking arrangements. As a consequence we have postponed presenting cheques until these changes are complete. If you have made a payment to the Club do not assume that we have not received your cheque. We hope to clear all outstanding cheques in the next few weeks.

WEBSITE

We have been experiencing some technical problems with the website which has prevented prompt updating. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and until this is resolved we will be notifying any urgent information by e-mail.

"WEST BERKSHIRE RACING CLUB" FACEBOOK PAGE

We have been talking about Facebook for a while now, so we have made the leap and we would love it if you came and said hello. We will be doing our best to keep you up to date about the club.

The Facebook page will be open to members and non-members. We will plan to update our account about any upcoming events which is open for members and non-members, amendments or cancellation to any of our events and to remind members or non-members about membership. We also will be providing any horse racing news and a selection of photos from any club event.

If you have a Facebook account you can like our page by clicking on the following link -

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/West-Berkshire-Racing-Club/278171838967067> or by searching for "West Berkshire Racing Club". We would be extremely grateful if you could share our page with your friends and family.

If you have any ideas on how to improve our page, please don't hesitate to contact Patrick Fagan by email or send a direct message on Facebook by selecting the "Message" button.

TEN TO FOLLOW – FLAT SEASON 2013

The results of the Derby, the Oaks and Royal Ascot have inevitably been the key factors in points scoring, or not! The scores of the leading contestants as at 23 June are shown in the table below.

There is however plenty of time for points scoring at the major meeting in July, August and September.

The table will be updated in the next newsletter and also notified via e-mail (where available) and on the website.

SCORES AS AT 23 JUNE 2013

Position	Name	Points
1	Will Sayer	310
2	Roger Emberley	305
3	Pat Freeman	290
4	Madeleine Thomas	285
5=	Violet Neale	280
5=	Will Sayer (2 nd list)	280
5=	Will Sayer (3 rd list)	280
8	Alan Richard	265
9=	Phyllis Carter	260
9=	Tina Mitchell	260
9=	Bob Neale	260
12=	Allen Carding	255
12=	Gillian Froud	255
12=	Ken Unsworth	255
12=	Annette Waite	255
16=	Mark Chapman	250
16=	Honor Kelly	250
16=	Annette Waite (2 nd list)	250
19=	John Chilton	240
19=	John Nash	240

Leading horses with points

Horse	Points	Horse	Points	Horse	Points
Dawn Approach	80	Hillstar	25	Brown Panther	15
Sky Lantern	80	Society Rock	25	Dundonnell	15
Estimate	50	Camelot	20	Montiridge	15
Farhh	50	Gale Force Ten	20	Secret Gesture	15
Just The Judge	30	Leitir Mor	20	Trading Leather	15
St Nicholas Abbey	30	Liber Nauticus	20	Winsili	15
Battle of Marengo	25				

NEWSLETTER DISCLAIMER

This newsletter and the information it contains are intended only for the personal use of those to whom it is addressed. Unauthorised use, copying or disclosure of any of it without the permission of the West Berkshire Racing Club Committee is not permitted. The WBRC does not accept any liability for the accuracy of articles contained in this newsletter. Any advertisements carried in the newsletter are included on the basis that we believe they may be of interest to our members. The West Berkshire Racing Club does not accept any liability for any injury, damage or loss, financial or of any kind arising from such advertisements.

AUGUST 2013 NEWSLETTER

The August Newsletter will be published in mid- August. As always the Editor welcomes contributions from members and these should be sent to him by no later than 31 July.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

VISIT TO ALAN JARVIS'S STABLE MILL RACE STABLES AT TWYFORD BUCKINGHAMSHIRE - MONDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER at 9.00 am. **ADVANCE BOOKING ESSENTIAL**

This visit to Alan Jarvis's dual purpose Millrace Stables will enable us to watch second lot on the gallops as well as having a tour of the yard.

Following the visit there will be the opportunity to have brunch at the Red Lion at nearby Stratton Audley. If you wish to do this can you please indicate on the booking form so that we have an idea of the numbers involved.

The cost of this visit is £5 per person and bookings should be sent to Robert Watson using the form on page 10 of this newsletter. Payment for lunch to be made on a personal basis on the day

HOW TO GET THERE: From Newbury take the A339 northwards to join the A34 towards Oxford. Continue on the A34 for approximately 35 miles and at the roundabout for the M40 take the second exit to join the A41 towards Bicester. At each of the next three roundabouts take the third exit. Follow signs for Marsh Gibbon and then take four left turns and in approx. three miles you should reach Twyford and the stables. **[Millrace Stables, Twyford Mill MK18 4HA]**

SEPTEMBER SOCIAL EVENING – 25 SEPTEMBER AT 8.00 PM IN THE COPPER KING BAR AT NEWBURY RACECOURSE

The guests for our first indoor meeting of the autumn are still being finalised but the theme will centre around the highlights of the flat season and the big races still to come at Longchamp, Newmarket and Champions Day at Ascot plus no doubt a nostalgic look back at some of the great races of the past.

More details will appear in the next newsletter and be notified by e-mail/website but in the meantime make a note of the date in the diary.

TIM VAUGHAN STABLE VISIT AND CHEPSTOW RACES BY COACH FROM NEWBURY SATURDAY 12 OCTOBER

As reported in the previous newsletter Tim Vaughan won the Club's Best Turned-Out Horse Championship at Newbury last jumps season and Tim has very kindly invited the Club to visit his year on Saturday 12 October which, very conveniently coincides with racing at nearby Chepstow which is a reciprocal day for Newbury Members. A booking form and full details will be included in the next newsletter.

NATIONAL HUNT SEASON PREVIEW, – 29 OCTOBER AT 8.00 PM IN THE COPPER KING BAR AT NEWBURY RACECOURSE

The National Hunt season preview is a firm favourite in the Club's annual calendar and although the full panel for this event has still to be finalised we hope that Lawney Hill and Gemma Gracey-Davison, who were unable to attend our 'Ladies in Racing' evening back in March, will join us.

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL EVENING – SATURDAY, 23 NOVEMBER AT OAKSEY HOUSE, LAMBOURN.

Last year's social evening proved popular and we are repeating the event at Oaksey House, Lambourn. We have however moved to a slightly earlier date to move away from the pressures of Christmas shopping and other festivities. Details will be announced when they have been finalised.

DIRECTIONS Please note that directions for stable visits and other events are provided based on the information available to us but cannot be guaranteed to be correct. Similarly post codes provided for navigation purposes cannot be certain to pin point the precise location of the stables. Members are advised to leave ample time for their journey and be prepared to ask locally for directions

As a child interested in racing from an early age, and brought up in Norfolk, my introduction to Point to Point was at long defunct courses such as Hethersett and Costessey (pronounced Cossey). My racing passion was not one shared by my parents, though they did quite enjoy one afternoon at Goodwood many moons later, but only because I was able to organise a private box opposite the winning post!

It was therefore with some apprehension that my wife and I considered whether to ask my mother Yvonne, now aged almost 93 and registered blind, if she would like to join us on our regular visit to Kingston Blount last Sunday for the Berks & Bucks and Staff College point to point meeting. The unexpected appearance of sunny blue skies persuaded us to take the gamble, so we packed collapsible chairs into the boot and set off for an afternoon's entertainment. At the entrance to the course (off junction 6 of the M40), we bumped into the Clerk of the Course, a certain Stewart Nash, who recommended a suitable parking place close to the paddock and track. A large and friendly family crowd, no doubt swelled by the Bank Holiday sunshine, made for an excellent atmosphere, boosted by really competitive fields, with only one race having less than eight runners. One of the contributors to the 'Jumping For Fun' website later described the day as "Everything good about British pointing encapsulated into one afternoon. Top class."

Though her mobility is limited, we did take Yvonne down to the nearest fence to experience the atmosphere at close hand (especially close as Claridge's jockey took a tumble in the Men's Open). As well as six competitive races, the card held two pony races plus the novelty of the annual hound race, where the hounds follow a scent to the winning line. My mother was attracted to the racecard description of No.11 called Melody, which stated 'she may be one of the oldest, but she is still one of the best!' These words ran true as Melody disputed the lead till halfway, where she promptly felt the urgent need for a call of nature, and disappeared from contention!!

By the end of the afternoon, Yvonne's chosen method of selecting which horses to back had ranged from the jockeys colours, to supporting any grey horses, to following any lady rider, though the latter approach caused some difficulty in the Ladies Open! As a native of Yorkshire, she does not like the idea of wasting money, especially if frittered away on betting. Despite limited success with her selections, and restricted eyesight, she declared she had enjoyed a wonderful afternoon, and could fully appreciate why my wife and I are so passionate about the sport.

We had been extremely lucky with the weather, and in truth would not have suggested it in the conditions we have experienced for most of this winter. However, for anyone contemplating a visit to their local Point to Point for the first time next season, choose a sunny day, and you are guaranteed a great time, however young or old you might be.....

PS: Also meant to mention that WBRC member Alan Elks (who is a subscriber to the Berks and Bucks Drag) was one of the car parkers on Sunday and we also spotted Roger and Pat Beveridge as early arrivers.

ADDRESSES TO CONTACT

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Secretary: Bernard Mills - 39 Highfield Drive, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey KT19 0AU (020 8394 1107) (email: Bern.Mills@btinternet.com)

Membership Secretary: Barbara Allen, Pilgrims Lodge, Baker Street, Aston Tirrold, Oxfordshire OX11 9DD. (01235 850318) (e-mail: bravoalpha@btinternet.com)

Stable visits and event bookings: Robert Watson - 1 The Courtway, Bone Mill Lane, Enborne, Newbury, Berkshire RG20 0EU (01635 42948 - Mobile 07979 460555) (e-mail: watsonnewbury@btinternet.com)

Newbury Racecourse liaison: Joanne Dillon - 17 Sandford Close, Kingsclere, Newbury, Berkshire RG20 5LZ (01635 299059) (email - jotel@supanet.com).

Website and social media: Patrick Fagan - 07796263762 e-mail Fagan.patrick@yahoo.com

Social events organisers Caroline Springfield - 01672 520086, Maurice Stringer - 07729 600180 and Joanne Dillon.

GREAT BRITISH RACING EVENING – Tuesday 14 May

by Stewart Nash

Follow our AGM at Oaksey House we held our usual social evening. Originally billed as 'Racing for Change' this became 'Great British Racing' in line with the BHA's renaming of their racing development initiative. Terry Knight had the pleasure of acting as chairman but his job was made easier by a very talkative panel comprising trainer Jamie Osborne, media man Luke Harvey, Towcester Clerk of the Course Robert Bellamy and his conditional jockey son Tom Bellamy who is attached to David pipe's yard.

Luke talked about his media role and how that helped to promote racing with the wider audience, Robert about his role as Clerk of the Course at Towcester and also his part time role assisting the team with the Racing To School initiative which allows parties of school children to visit the races and learn about how racing functions and the various jobs that exist. Tom, who is sadly currently on the injured list, described his experiences as a young person entering racing whilst Jamie Osborne talked about some of the problems facing trainers with the current fixture and prize money structures.

The panel talked openly about some of the recent bad press that racing had received and how that may do damage in the eyes of the non-racing public at a time when others are trying to promote the sport and widen its appeal.

A very enjoyable evening with some very frank comments from the panel.



Pictured left our 'Great British Racing' panel. *From left:* Jamie Osborne, Tom Bellamy, Terry Knight, Luke Harvey and Robert Bellamy [Photo courtesy of Patrick Fagan]

VISIT TO HANS ADIELSSON'S MANOR FARM STABLES, Wednesday 15 May

By David Lees

When the club invited promising apprentice jockey Nicole Nordblad to join the panel for our recent 'Ladies in Racing' evening, we got even more than we bargained for! Nicole was a charming and informative guest, but her attendance also led to an invitation to visit her trainer, Hans Adielsson at Manor Farm Stables in Kingston Lisle, the property belonging to long-time owner and Swedish financier, Erik Penser

Twenty-nine WBRC members found Hans at the entrance to his stable block, where we then stayed for the next half-hour as he told us his background and how he came to find himself training in a tiny village ten miles outside Lambourn, as well as sharing some intriguing views on training and racing in the UK. Hans was an ex jockey who had been a very successful trainer in his native Sweden up to 1988, with over 600 winners including 18 Scandinavian classics. For the next two decades he concentrated on training trotters, a sport taken more seriously than racing in his homeland, and he became Sweden's foremost exponent of trotters. He also rode/drove more than 50 winners on his own horses, something he described as 'a good experience, but a bad idea. "It's like Formula 1 the mechanics shouldn't be let loose in the car!" Four months into his retirement at the age of 65, Hans told us he got bored, and missed the hands-on involvement with horses, so he finally succumbed to persuasion from lifelong friend and Oxfordshire landowner Erik Penser, and agreed to train in the UK.

No doubt Hans could have continued to entertain us for some time longer, but a welcome invitation for coffee and biscuits in the tack room gave members a chance to meet the stables present occupants at first hand. Hans currently has 22 horses in training, all on the flat, though he was quick to point out he has six boxes free and ready to take any new arrivals! Erik Penser owns 10 of the 22, and his racing colours of orange with a black band will be familiar to many. All of Penser's horses have the prefix of

either Beauchamp (which are home bred) or Compton (for those he has bought). However, Penser, however is not the owner of current stable star **Buckland**, winner of four consecutive races earlier this year culminating in the Roseberry Handicap at Kempton, which also represented the fifth winner from five runners for the stable. As with many smaller stables, the search for new owners and better horses is ongoing, and shows how difficult it can be to become established even when your horses are running well.

Throughout our time within the stable block, horses had been coming back from exercise. Hans is passionate about getting his horses relaxed and happy, so they all have some three hours out in the paddocks in pairs every day before they spend any time on the gallops. Coffee over, we jumped into our cars to follow Hans up to one of his two local gallops. There we saw three horses, Compton Bird, Compton Rainbow and Compton Silver doing two steady pieces of work across the top of the gallop, closely observed by Hans, stopwatch at the ready, because "the clock doesn't lie". It was clear Hans is a little frustrated by the training facilities available locally, and above all he is desperate to have access to a circular gallop where horses don't spend ten minutes walking back at the end of each spin just in order to begin again – the lack of a circular gallop is also a reason why he has no great enthusiasm for the facilities available at nearby Lambourn.

We all followed Hans back via the other local gallop to which he has access, owned by Michael Bowlby, and from there back to Manor Farm Stables. I'm sure he could have continued with his own individual thoughts about training and how to keep horses (and owners!) happy, but it was time to thanks Hans sincerely for such an enlightening visit, before the bulk of the group went next door to the 'Blowing Stone' for an enjoyable brunch. An excellent way to conclude a fascinating morning.



Pictures from our visit to Hans Adiellsson's stable: *Top left* the Adiellsson stable team with apprentice jockey Nicole Nordblad second from right. *Above*: Robert Watson with Hans Adiellsson and *Left* the horses exercising on the gallops.

Goodwood Races Thursday 23 May

by Robert Watson

This reciprocal meeting for Newbury Racecourse members has become a favourite trip for the WBRC. Billed as the first day of a three-day May Festival, it promised much but struggled to deliver. This was no fault of Goodwood, the blame laying squarely at the feet of the weather - cold, wet and windy – the complete antithesis of Glorious Goodwood. The wretched British Spring continued, and our arrival at

the course was the signal for a sustained heavy downpour, which set the tone for the afternoon. But you know what? A winner or two, like Love, changes everything!

The first race on the card, for two-year-old Maiden Fillies, sounds ordinary. But not so. Last year's winner **Sky Lantern** went on to 1,000 Guineas fame, giving Richard Hughes his first British Classic win in the process. Today's winner was odds-on favourite **Kiyoshi** ridden by Jamie Spencer for Charlie Hills. She won like she was supposed to, and next stop will be the Albany Stakes at Royal Ascot. Another star in the making? (*Quite possibly as since our visit Kiyoshi won the Albany Stakes at Royal Ascot!*)

Mark Johnston's love of Goodwood is well documented, and he always has a significant representation at the August meeting. So it was no surprise that in the second race, his **King of the Danes** ran out an easy winner under Franny Norton, making it three wins in his last four races, admirable consistency.

Subsequent winners were less easy to find. Local trainer Amanda Perrett has enjoyed a great season so far, and her **Head of Steam** added to the tally; Ryan Moore riding for Sir Michael Stoute in the fourth got **Elik** to the front; then **Palazzo Bianco** proved the better of the Italian-named horses beating **Cosimo de Medici** by three-quarters of a length, with the favourite **Silver Samba** well in arrears. The final race was for apprentice jockeys, not a top drawer event being a Class 5 handicap over six furlongs. But we don't know what the future will bring, and there is a chance, however small, that one day I can say – "I was there when Eddie Linehan rode his first winner".

Goodwood was made for fair weather racing, sitting imperiously atop a ridge, rolling English country on one side, views of Chichester and the Isle of Wight on the other. But when the wind whistles through the stand, when the rain comes in horizontal bursts, and the cold numbs your winner-selecting ability, then the dry and warmth of the coach is where you should be. That's what went into my notebook at the end of the day!

Stud Visit Report Norman Court Stud Wednesday 26 June

by Robert Watson

What is the connection between an American sewing machine manufacturer and an ex-Premier League footballer? The unlikely answer is Norman Court Stud. The history of racing and breeding establishments is often as interesting as the present day story.

Washington Singer, son of Isaac, bought the house and estate in 1906. Following his unexpected death in 1934, and that of his son in 1942 at El Alamein, death duties forced radical changes. The Georgian house became a school, the stables block expanded to the present stud, while most of the 200,000 acres estate was sold off. Over the decades, Norman Court Stud has evolved, passing through phases as stud, training yard, dressage school, overflow yard and now a stud with stallions. Mick Channon bought the premises in the late 1990's, for his injured and unwell horses, plus those he couldn't accommodate at his main training yard. The historical picture was completed in 2008 when Mick sold to Patrick Trant and his wife Tania who is Stud Director (Mick remains a non-executive director). Stewart Bevan, manager and Paula, secretary, were our hosts for the morning, on what seemed like the first day of a belated English summer.

History lesson over, on with the show. The Trant's brought in two stallions to stand at Norman Court, the middle distance **SIXTIES ICON** and the sprinter **WINKER WATSON**. **Sixties Icon**, by **Galileo** out of **Love Divine**, was trained by Jeremy Nosedo to win the Group 1 St Leger, and became the Champion three year old Stayer of 2006. He continued in training and as a four-year-old won the Group 2 Jockey Club Stakes, then as a five-year-old he managed four wins at Group 3 level. He retired to stud at Norman Court in 2009, and his first crop are now three-year-olds. Winners bred to date include **Chilworth Icon** and **Cruck Realta**, with Listed-placed **Effie B** of note. Following his standing at home, Sixties Icon was due to continue his stud duties in Argentina next month, and regulations required him to be in quarantine for three weeks prior to departure – hence his unavailability for us to see. Disappointment all round. With encouraging results from his first progeny, Sixties has topped the 100 figure for coverings and attracted overseas interest. Breeders are looking for toughness, consistency, durability and speed in his offspring. It will be fascinating to follow his career as a stallion.

Winker Watson (pictured right), however, was on show. As he was led up by a stud hand, we learnt that he was formerly trained by Peter Chapple-Hyam, winning three times as a two-year-old, twice at Group 2 level, over sprint distances of five and six furlongs. His best effort as a three-year-old was fourth to **Henry The Navigator** in the Sussex Stakes. Winker joined Sixties at Norman Court in 2010, and is having his first crop of two-year-olds in action this year (**Ding Ding** was a winner over six furlongs at Ripon). He looked well and behaved impeccably. Interestingly Winker has managed to combine the duties at stud with those of racing – though his energies are now channeled solely to the former!



After the stallion came two pairs of mares with their foals presented by the stud staff, who actually number only six in total. **Fuimicino** was shown with her filly, a first live foal at six attempts, born in mid-February. **La Gifted** was next in line. Her filly, born early March, had an obvious umbilical hernia. Stewart explained that this was not a significant problem, and planned surgery would quickly fix the defect. **Lakaam** was third up. She was great carthorse of a mare, so much so that she was the butt of many jokes when younger, until that is they realised that she could run! Her main claim to fame is being the dam of **Sgt Reckless**, who ran for Mick Channon at this year's Cheltenham Festival (indeed we saw the Sgt. on the Club's visit to Mick's yard at West Ilsley in February this year). Her colt at hand was precociously big, and despite being foaled just five weeks ago, was huge in comparison to the last foal and yet three weeks younger. Mother's genes to the fore! **Boleyana** completed the line-up. So, we had four Sixties Icon foals on parade, their proud mums taking the sunshine, while dad was kicking his heels in isolation.

The quadrangle of boxes and staff accommodation were given a closer inspection. None was occupied this morning, and steam cleaning was the order after the breeding season had been completed. On the way to the paddocks we looked into a vast indoor arena, Olympic size, originally used for dressage training. Now divided into sections, one wall bore three boards broadcasting the claims of the three stallions. I say three, but the third **Atlantic Sport** was privately owned and had recently been sold on to a client in Saudi Arabia after just one season at Norman Court.

Our morning continued with a gentle walk through an American barn to the extensive paddocks. Here we saw several groups of mares and foals, a gang of yearlings each vying for attention, and a gathering of barren mares who seemed to be consoling each other. Many names were mentioned, but for most the details passed by as we just enjoyed the scenes – mares and foals in the tranquil surroundings of grassy paddocks deep in the countryside on the Hants/Wilts border. Of note however was one foal, a filly out of **Russian Empress** (pictured below left), who had such an extensive white face, spreading well over to one side of the head that she has been nicknamed "Phantom" – of The Opera fame. A most unusual mask-like marking, possibly unique. Last on our tour was **Half a**



Sixpence belonging to Ralph Beckett. The horse had won the Newbury Spring Mile, but was now injured and at Norman Court for R&R purposes.

Stewart proved to be the best of hosts – his enthusiasm for his work came shining through; a fund of information and knowledge, a sprinkling of anecdotes, an enthralled audience. A very big thank you to Stewart and his staff for putting on a presentation, and that was the main topic of conversation over lunch at the excellent Black Horse pub in the village. A fitting end to a most enjoyable morning.

[Photo's courtesy of Peter Phillips]

The horses are entering the finishing straight, move the fence and if you can, get the jockey off the winning line.

This was the climax of our first visit to a French provincial racecourse in June. We were at Senonnes-Pouance which is in North West France 55 miles north of Nantes. The track is turf, about 1 mile around; the bends at either end are on higher ground so both straights are markedly downhill for the first half then uphill.

Typically for the provinces the course accommodates Flat, Hurdles, Steeplechases, Cross-country and Trotting. Fences in the centre of the course are used in addition to the main track for X-country. Even the steeplechases have a far greater variation in fence types than we do and are more like the cross-country. X-country is much more popular.

The sun is shining and the crowd is quite large. Provincial racing is well attended in France compared to the large urban tracks which frequently have small crowds. The atmosphere is similar to a big point-to-point meeting in Britain. A family "shirt sleeved" crowd includes a wide assortment of dogs although surprisingly no poodles. We saw one handler leading a horse in one hand and a dog in the other.

The track is only used seven times a year. However, there are a number of permanent buildings – a grandstand which would hold about 200 people (*pictured right*), a building open on three sides provides a bar and the PMU terminals (*below*), an old barn which has a marquee attached to one side, here there are tables where you can purchase an excellent three course meal for £20 including unlimited buffet starter with an option of sea snails. I tried one - they can stay in the sea as far as I'm concerned! There is a building for the officials and the jockeys changing rooms, a stable block and good facilities for washing down horses. In addition to the permanent buildings there is a burger van and a small tent equipped with large gas cylinders providing sweets and warm crepes. Despite the hot weather and the large number of children you couldn't buy an ice-cream anywhere. Mr Whippy - there's a chance to expand internationally here.



The course has the usual parade ring and more of a 'well run' enclosure than a 'winners' enclosure as the first seven home are taken here for unsaddling, standing in no particular sequence. Unless a sponsor has provided a memento (which didn't occur during our meeting) there is no after race presentation. An official randomly selects some of the seven to be dope tested and another random selection have their micro-chips re-scanned.

The meeting we attended was mixed pony racing, turf flat and turf hurdles. A programme which was included in the £4 entrance fee was written in the style of Morecombe and Wise in that it contained all the right races but not necessarily in the right order.

Moving a pony race into the middle of the meeting caused later races to be run a few minutes late which is unusual for the relaxed French who normally finish over an hour late.

The last three races were the hurdles, in the second last a horse fell two fences out and lay on the floor. There were no green screens. It didn't move for well over five minutes while people gathered around. Fortunately after a prolonged period it suddenly leapt to its feet and started running around unharmed.

A feature of the course (not unusual in France) is that there is a hurdle almost on the winning line. In order to provide a decent flat finish this was pivoted on the stands rails, so as horses embarked on their last circuit a team unhooked the outer part of the fence and swung it through 90 degrees so it formed part of the rails (*pictured below left*). Drama came in the last race when a horse fell at this fence on the penultimate circuit. The horse ran away but the jockey didn't move. As the horses still in the race were turning the top bend there were groups of people moving the fence and others attending the motionless jockey prostrate on the winning line. He was obviously conscious enough to be aware of the problem because at the last moment he suddenly jumped to his feet staggered to the rails and collapsed again in safety.

All's well that ends well when he too eventually walked away. An exciting end to a really entertaining and enjoyable day



Pictured above right jockeys make their way to the parade ring passing the refreshment marquee.

Photos provide by Jill Haines.

Footnote 1: Members who attended the visit to Alex Hales' stables last November may recall that Alex told us that he had sent a small team to France in the summer of 2012 and they had been based at Sennones-Pouance.

Footnote 2: Congratulations to Jill Haines on the victory of her filly Sovereign Power who won the fourth race at Brighton on the 18 June.

BOOKING FORM

VISIT TO ALAN JARVIS' STABLES

I wish to reserve ____ places for the visit to Alan Jarvis. This application is in respect of the following members:

1 _____ 2 _____

3 _____ 4 _____

I enclose a cheque for £ ____ (£5 per person) made payable to West Berkshire Racing Club.

I/we wish to have brunch after the visit - YES /NO

Please send this application to **Robert Watson at 1 The Courtway, Bone Mill Lane, Enborne, Newbury, Berkshire RG20 0EU**

Contact details in case we need to contact you to advise of a change to the visit arrangements:

Telephone (home) _____ and Mobile _____

E-mail _____ (please write clearly)