

## March 07

### Ballyshan

Sean led us all, including one or two doubters, back to the winner's enclosure at Kempton on Saturday with a gutsy front running display. Well ridden by 7lb claimer Marc Goldstein he put his indifferent performances this season behind him adding £7k+ to members' funds in the process. He's come out of the race well and we'll look for something similar later in the month, hoping all the while that the handicapper won't be too hard on him. We'll see what his new mark is (I'm anticipating being put up around 7lb to 122) and then take a view, but the prospect of keeping Marc in the saddle with the benefit of his claim certainly has some appeal.

Everyone who was at Kempton had a great day out as, I'm sure, did all home-based members and photo's of Sean's deeds are already on the website for viewing. Anybody who'd like copies or who wishes to order a copy of the race DVD/video should contact James Jessemey via email [jessemey@aol.com](mailto:jessemey@aol.com) or on 01451 830597. Jess will order and despatch with costs obviously dependent on take up. To give you a flavour a couple of photo's from the day are included here.

I asked Bob Goss and Jess and his wife Jan, who've been members since Jump For Fun started, to receive the trophy and Jess now has a decanter in his possession which he'd be happy (delighted even!) to pass on to anyone who'd like it. Having not long retired he apparently received around 10 decanters as leaving presents! So let him know if you'd like to relieve him of the Kempton glassware.



### Another Horse

With Ace Of Cubs sadly, as we all know, on the sidelines for at least 12 months, Bob Goss proposed to me that members should consider jointly funding another horse to bring our "active" number back up to 2. His suggestion was that members could contribute £200-£250 per head to facilitate the purchase of a further horse for summer jumping/next season to help maintain/extend interest levels. The problem with such a proposal is, of course, that unless all members are in favour it becomes an impossible option to administrate. Quite simply we can't have 20 members sharing in a third horse and the remainder not, so it's really a case of all or nothing.

To test the water in terms of the concept a show of hands amongst the 9 members present at last Friday's stable visit revealed 100% in favour, so now I have to ask all members for their reaction.

The easiest course of action would be for members to contact me if they are NOT in favour of Bob's proposal. If I don't hear from you then I'll assume you're happy to put a bit more money into the kitty (30 x £250 = £7,500), hardly a fortune but enough to hopefully fund the purchase of another "fun" horse. There's absolutely no obligation on anyone, but your views would obviously help determine next steps so do let me know by the end of March if you're not disposed to the idea.

### **Stable Visit**

A brilliant day weather-wise, a rare enough feature at the moment, saw around 1/3 of the membership gathered at the yard followed by the obligatory X-certificate breakfast at The Hollow Bottom and then a pleasant afternoon at Newbury races. It was good to meet comparatively new member Gerda Hayes for the first time along with husband Mike and everyone seemed to enjoy proceedings, not least Nigel's succinct summary of the yard's Cheltenham chances. I think, although I couldn't swear to it, that Knowhere and Imperial Commander were the two carrying most hopes. As everyone knows by now, garrulous is not listed amongst his attributes!

### **Cheltenham Festival**

If you're planning to attend this year you should note that on the Thursday (Ladies' Silly Hat Day, so I won't be there) Nigel and his team have a chalet with a pay bar which all owners are very welcome to use. It's a place to have a sit down between races and grab a drink and a sandwich, so make a note of chalet M1 on Thursday March 15th. You'll be made very welcome.

That's about it for the moment. I hope to see you all at the races again before very long.

Best regards until then.

### **BOB SIMS**

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