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## A versatile pedigree

any inborn experience on AW' which particularly caught my eye.

It is, perhaps, debateable whether a preference for a particular surface is inheritable but it is widely accepted that it is.

This preference might be secondary to some conformational characteristics but there is a reasonable amount of data which suggests that a preference for certain types of going on turf can be passed on through the genes, and there are few who would dispute that certain breeding lines are better on American 'dirt' than on turf and vice versa.

Racing on synthetic surfaces is relatively new and limited to a few tracks (although sometimes it seems that we are bombarded with it) and so it

is early days for drawing any conclusion on what pedigree might impart 'inborn experience' but I am guessing that Mr Milner was suggesting that Cape Speed's pedigree would not suggest a preference for dirt.

**I**F that is the case then he would be at odds with most US trainers who appear to believe that synthetic surfaces such as the Polytrack on which Cape Speed has won his three races are more akin to turf than dirt. But, in any case, Cape Speed's dam, At A Great Rate, is by Arch, and Arch won a Group 1 over 10 furlongs on dirt before going on to be a leading dirt and turf sire in the USA. At A Great Rate's dam, Glia, is by A P Indy and so it is perhaps surprising

that she managed to excel on turf – very few of his progeny do – but she produced Emollient who won two Group 1 races on dirt and one on turf.

Even more interesting is a look at Cape Speed's sire, Cape Cross. He was a great racehorse on turf and is an outstanding sire of the very best grass horses such as Sea The Stars, Ouija Board and Golden Horn. But you might not realise – and Mr Milner almost certainly didn't – that Cape Cross has been leading British AW sire (in terms of prize- money won) three times in the last 10 years.

Clearly, as far as surface is concerned, Cape Speed has a very versatile pedigree. I just hope that he is even better on turf than he is on the AW. That would be something.

influences Mark to run the horse on the All Weather. Or any other horse for that matter?"

The short answer is simply that Cape Speed (pictured) was injured on his turf debut, way back in June, and after a full recovery we preferred to get going again rather than wait nearly 10 months for a return to the track. However, it is Mr Milner's comment that 'his breeding hardly shows

**M**R TREVOR MILNER has written to the Klarion (see Kickback, p.6) after reading last month's edition, saying: "I read the piece on Cape Speed with interest and wondered what

### Puzzling

**When researching details on AW sires through the Racing Post website, I was puzzled to see that they already have 'Seasonal Statistics' for Flat AW sires in the 2016-17 season. Surely we are still in the midst of the 2015-16 AW season.**

**This is just another example of the horrendous mess and confusion caused by the marketing gurus at GBR who decided to create a multitude of different start and end dates for Flat seasons and championships. The sooner we get back to the calendar year the better.**

## Another Big Issue?

**L**ast week I happened to hear an interview on the Jeremy Vine Show (BBC Radio 2) with Baron (John) Bird of Notting Hill, founder of The Big Issue, who had made his maiden speech in the House of Lords the previous day. It was a very interesting interview and it prompted me to go online and listen to the speech. I would thoroughly recommend that you do the same. It was entertaining and most informative.

Baron Bird didn't make any reference to horseracing in the interview or the speech but one thing he said in the Jeremy Vine interview immediately made me think of retired racehorses and the many charities that have sprung up in recent years to 'help' them.

He pointed out (forgive me if I am misquoting him in that I don't have the figures exactly right) that you can send a child to Eton for a year for about a third of the cost of keeping one in local authority care. I'm not sure if he was seriously suggesting that children in care should be sent to Eton and other schools like it – perhaps he was – but it made me think of the rough calculation I did a few years ago to try to determine the cost of keeping a horse at one of the racehorse rehabilitation/retraining charities.

Exact details were not available, but dividing one

charity's published turnover by the number of horses they claimed to have handled that year suggested that it would have been cheaper to have had a horse in training at Kingsley Park than with that charity. I would guess the same applies to the other, numerous similar charities that we now have. Furthermore, unlike the situation with children who end up in care, many of the horses had perfectly good homes and were perfectly well cared for prior to being sent voluntarily to such centres by their owners for straightforward economic reasons. And the centres are seeking out these horses in order to justify their own existence.

**I** know that the BHA only recently commissioned an investigation into the cost of these centres and racing's contribution to them but I have not seen any published results. Perhaps I have overlooked them.

It would certainly be very interesting to hear exactly how much it costs to keep a horse in one of the charitable centres. Maybe if the figures were more readily available more people would question whether all those horses need to be there and whether or not they are genuine charity cases.

## BE FAIR WHEN YOU COMPARE!

**S**OMEWHERE in this issue, as in all issues of the Kingsley Klarion for many years, you will find an advert giving details of our inclusive daily rate. And, if you have ever discussed training fees with me, I will have been at pains to encourage you to consider everything that is included, especially veterinary treatments and surgery.

It seems, however, that despite all our efforts, some owners just can't believe it and in recent months we have had a couple of extreme cases where the owners were unaware that we would be covering all the costs of surgery.

The first involved Lowther Racing's very useful filly Delizia. Sadly, Delizia fractured her knee in her last race at Redcar and, despite a decision to retire her to stud, we were advised that healing would be better and faster with surgery to place a screw in her third carpal bone. The surgery was successful and Delizia returned home nine days later. But,

somehow, owner Lady Caroline Lonsdale got hold of the bill, for a total of £3,353, and promptly paid it. She was most surprised when we found out and refunded the full amount.

Delizia was Caroline's first horse with us and so it was, perhaps, understandable that she was unaware of our terms, but the other case involved a very long-standing owner whose colt suffered a spiral fracture of his right hind cannon bone. This time the surgery and recovery was not so straightforward and the colt was hospitalised for a total of eight weeks at a total cost of £10,530.



**All veterinary treatments and surgery are included in the MJR daily rate**

Despite having had horses with us for many years and, inevitably, having had others that had to undergo surgery, the owners could not believe that such a case would be covered under the basic daily rate.