CHARLIE JOHNSTON STABLE TOUR 2023

SPORTING LIFE

So far, so good, says Charlie

CHARLIE JOHNSTON talks about how things are going in his first season as sole licence holder at the yard in an interview Klarion readers can view online at www.sportinglife.com.

He also discusses the prospects for some of the stable's leading lights in the interview, conducted before the Derby weekend.

'So far, so good, is probably an accurate appraisal,' suggests Charlie when asked how his first year is progressing.

'There's definitely an added responsibility and accountability on me now, particularly with results on the track.'

Asked if the switch to sole trainer had given rise to any major changes, Charlie was quite clear in his response.

'Behind the scenes here I've been planning the majority of what the horses are doing on a daily basis for a few years now, so there has been no dramatic change,' he says.

Charlie stressed the importance of the yard making a big impression at the major meetings.

'Obviously the real big meetings are just coming into focus now,' he says, citing the Derby, the Oaks and Royal Ascot.

'We need to build on the promising start and deliver at these big meetings.'

Charlie talks about the regime of water therapy which is a major feature of Subjectivist's preparation for the Gold Cup at Ascot.

'Every day is a journey with him really,' he says, and he makes clear every effort is being made to allow the horse the best chance of competing at Ascot.

Asked to name two juveniles to follow, Charlie's suggests Individualism, Dr Jim Walker's Too Darn Hot half-brother to Subjectivist, and Carolina Reaper, Gallop Racing's Too Darn Hot filly out of the Listed-winning Shamardal mare, Dark Promise.

He also picked out Iain Service's Knockbrex, who he believes can make the transition from talented handicapper to a Group horse, and Susan and John Waterworth's Benacre, who he says is: 'Physically….perhaps the best-looking horse in the yard.'

If you haven't caught up with this feature yet, it's well worth a watch. ∎

Susan and John Waterworth's Benacre