

SUBJECTIVIST

ALNE PARK STUD (GB)
2017 by Teofilo



Bay 2017, 16.1hh (1.64m) **TEOFILO- RECKONING (DANEHILL DANCER)**

SUBJECTIVIST requires no introduction, the winner of the Ascot Gold Cup in 2021, as well as the Dubai Gold Cup in 2021 and the Prix Royal Oak in 2020. He is an exceptional specimen, and a truly exciting addition to the roster.

Stud Director Grace Skelton said, 'The addition of SUBJECTIVIST to our Stallion Roster is a huge leap forward for Alne Park Stud. To stand a stallion of this calibre is an immense honour. He will stand at an introductory fee of £4000. We firmly believe that keeping this exceptional stallion in the UK is a real boost to British breeders and we hope that he will see plenty of support in his debut season.'

Mark Johnston said, 'I always say that, when placing horses, the opposition trumps all other factors. But, very rarely, you come across a horse where the opposition isn't a factor at all. Subjectivist was such a horse. In 2021, I truly believed that there wasn't a horse in the world that could beat him at two miles or more, in any ground. There is less and less need for British NH Breeders to travel to Ireland and, with the incentives on offer in the UK perhaps the Irish breeders will be thinking of coming over here!'

- NH Elite Mares' Scheme Eligible

STUD FEE: £4,000

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KINGSLEY KICKBACK

Betting checks? What about the lottery?

The Gambling Commission has this statement prominently displayed on its website: 'As of 7 May 2019, all gambling businesses must verify the following: Your name; Your address; Your date of birth. This information must be verified as a minimum before gambling businesses can allow you to gamble.'

The most pernicious and addictive form of gambling in the UK is the government-sponsored National Lottery. Anyone who spends a short time in a local shop that offers lottery products will observe a steady flow of customers from lower-income families, clearly addicted to the hope of a big win, buying multiple scratch cards on a daily basis into various games and National Lottery tickets entries twice a week. I have seen no evidence of anyone being asked to provide their name, address or date of birth. Furthermore, and not surprisingly since it is Government sponsored, there is absolutely no sign of anyone being asked to provide evidence that they can afford to participate in this form of gambling which gives the least chance of winning.

I can see no justification for the Home Office to endorse and the government to legislate – in a democracy and supposedly free country – as to how its citizens spend their own money. But if they do and do not include affordability checks on spending on the lottery that would, in my mind and I am sure most people's minds, be discrimination in favour of its own sponsored gambling product against all other forms of lawful gambling.

It should also be noted that whenever there is a Tote world pool meeting or event, gamblers from outside the UK will be free to bet any amounts they wish to without interference or be challenged to provide evidence of their financial status. I am of the view that everyone has the absolute right to spend their money how they see fit and should be responsible for their own actions.

If that includes buying the Racing Post everyday (circa £1,500 a year); subscribing to Timeform (£360 a year); buying a racehorse for any price from £5,000 to £2 million pounds; paying for training at £30,000 a year; buying a car; taking a holiday; spending any amount they like on scratch cards and the National Lottery; buying alcohol in any form or quantity (the list is near endless) without affordability checks at any stage, then I can see zero justification for taking discriminatory action against those who choose to have a bet or indeed gamble in any form or for any amount.

In any case, proof of income would not be

proof of discretionary spend unless there is also a full disclosure of fixed spending such as rent, council tax, mortgage repayments, credit card debt etc, etc. That I believe would not be acceptable to anyone other than a small minority of existing gamblers. Racing is facing a complete collapse in funding from the Levy and racecourses are facing a substantial reduction in media rights income.

Finally, the proposed affordability checks at any level would fly in the face of common sense; would result in the government giving an unelected body the right, which it does not have itself, to interfere in the private life and finances of its voting citizens; would be open to challenge in the courts as illegal protectionism for the lottery; would be discrimination against those who like to bet; and would be a form of prohibition into gambling.

And we all know what a disaster all previous attempts at prohibition have been. Illegal gambling would become rife as it was before cash betting was legalised and before the introduction of gross profit tax when there was a punitive tax on stakes.

*John Brown
South Milford, West Yorkshire*

An opportunity missed

The BHA has announced 'radical' new fixtures for 2024 together with the claim that they will make 'better use of Sunday Racing through the creation of a stronger fixture list'. It took only 20 minutes of scrutiny to see this is quite clearly not the case.

There will be only 42 Flat meetings on Sundays compared to 148 on Saturdays. So 78% of weekend Flat meetings will take place on Saturdays versus only 22% on Sundays. Surely there should be a more equal Saturday/Sunday split? Wouldn't it make sense for some of those Saturday meetings displaced to graveyard time slots due to the two-hour protected window to move to the Sunday?

Another feature that gives the impression that the fixtures are driven by individual racecourses and are therefore random and unplanned is that more Flat meetings (100 in total) will take place on Mondays than Sundays. It just doesn't make sense.

Moreover, inexplicably, there is a seven-week period between May 26 and July 14 when there are four Sundays with no Flat racing whatsoever. In each instance there are six Flat meetings on the previous day. If the BHA really want to make more of Sundays, surely they

would move some of these fixtures and provide racing fans with a full weekend of their sport?

In addition, on Sunday August 4 there are just two Flat meetings being held nationally. Would that be one in the north and one in the South? No. They are at Chester and Haydock, just 30 miles apart.

My 20 minutes of 'analysis' suggests that insufficient thought has gone into the new fixture list. In fact, it makes me wonder if anybody has even looked at the fixtures in detail. It's very disappointing and a huge opportunity missed.

*Ged Shields
Silkstone, South Yorkshire*

A credit to your yard

My husband Peter and I recently had a short holiday in a cottage in East Witton, near Middleham. One day we went for a walk through Middleham and up by the Johnston Racing gallops and were delighted to see the long strings of your handsome horses being taken through the village to the gallops and then exercised by their devoted riders.

Watching those young riders, perched high in the stirrups and giving the fine horses their head, was a wonderful sight. Many of them greeted us very cheerily. What a credit to your stables!

It really did make our day. I would be grateful if you could pass on our appreciation to all who are part of the team. We don't have any background with horses at all – we both simply admired the splendid partnerships, and the unimaginable amount of training and commitment which make such perfection possible.

A visit to the races at Beverley, near our home in East Yorkshire, is certainly something we plan to do now.

*Susan Connolly
Kirk Ella, East Yorkshire*

The Klarion welcomes your letters

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Please include your name, postal address
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Letters may be edited