

Bloodstock Notebook

Published by Milo Corbett



REGULAR READERS will know that in the past I have raved about previous editions of 'Bloodstock Notebook'. In addition to the obligatory, and beautifully presented, information regarding the thoroughbred breeding industry, Milo Corbett has written or commissioned a series of articles and features designed to entertain, educate and inform the reader.

These features are splendidly written, boast excellent photography and are presented in a beautifully designed volume which is, simply put, a delight to read.

As ever, while the Notebook is focused on the horse racing and breeding year, there is so much more to enjoy here. For example, early in the book Corbett features a poem by Lord Grimthorpe reflecting on the late Sir Henry Cecil, 10 years on from his untimely death. Lord Grimthorpe is to be congratulated on finding words which recall the essence of a brilliant racehorse trainer and enigmatic man.

A month-by-month summary of the main events of the racing and breeding year is followed by Rolf Johnson's idiosyncratic look at the racing year. This year, Rolf looks at Frankie Dettori's 'farewell' season, the whip review, Ace Impact's winning debut at Cagnes and much else.

Fans of photography will be delighted by the features on the late John Reardon whose projects ranged from war reportage to stunning shots of Darley stallions, and on Lee P Thomas who specialised on capturing the horses, people and traditions of the Bluegrass.

Elsewhere, Paul Hayward reports on what sounds like a lively meeting with Mick Channon and his sons, Michael Jnr and Jack, while Terence Collier celebrates the colourful racing life of Jackie Ward Ramos.

Robin Oakley bemoans the fading connection between Westminster and racing, while sharing the nugget of information that when PM, David (now Lord) Cameron used to consult his friend, Tom Goff, on racing news before his regular meetings with the late Queen so as to keep up with her interest in the sport.

The incoming editor of Bloodstock Notebook, Emma Berry, weighs in with a fascinating article on the veteran Newmarket work-rider David Goodwin, while Milo Corbett invites the Kentucky-based sales

consignor James B Keogh, to discuss the three breeding legends who were most influential in shaping his career.

Add into the mix features on Danish breeding, recollections of Jeffrey Bernard, bookmaker Stephen Little and Richards Wills's important book on equine artist James Seymour, and you have a volume which is of tremendous interest to any serious racing fan.

Those of you more interested in the bloodstock side of the business will also be delighted by articles on leading figures such as Mark McStay, Jamie McCalmont and Gaurav Rampal.

Given the breadth of the topics covered the average reader is bound to learn something in reading this book which, since the demise of the Timeform Annuals, has become the choice of reading for the discerning racing reader.

We all owe a collective debt to the retiring editor and publisher Milo Corbett for entertaining us so richly with the Bloodstock Notebook offerings to date, and we wish incoming editor Emma Berry every success in keeping the flag flying! ■

*"I don't read
Bloodstock
Notebook."*

Consignor, Tattersalls October Yearling Sale, Book 4

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