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STABLE NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY-MARCH 2010

NEWS: February and March have very much been taken up by the grand UK adventure, while most of the team at home cooled their heels and waited for wetter tracks.

Unfortunately stable star Gorge was injured while preparing for his UK debut, thus derailing all plans for Cheltenham and Aintree 2010, although he should be fine to race in the UK next winter. As a result it was left to travelling companion Onajet to fly the flag at Ayr where he ran a very solid 4th of 14 under Brian Harding, in the process becoming the first ever Australian-trained horse to run in Scotland.



Onajet soars for Brian Harding at Ayr (Grossick photography)

Several esteemed judges considered Onajet's Australian form would leave him uncompetitive in the UK, and in showing this to be very wrong Onajet also gave tantalising notice of what his more accomplished stable-mate might have achieved.

Onajet rounded out the campaign for us with a very respectable 5th of 16 at Carlisle, and looks nailed-on to win as he continues his career over UK hurdles, as well as being likely to improve further when he switches to the UK chase fences.

Meanwhile, several of our owners came over to enjoy the UK's top jumping action and we were all made very welcome, especially by Cheltenham and Kelso race-clubs. Of course for jumps racing fans Cheltenham is something akin to heaven, and we were all tremendously pleased to be there – but how much better would it have been with a runner!



Some of Gorge's owners soaking up St Patrick's Day hospitality at Cheltenham

HORSES IN TRAINING:

BLARNEY (NZ) 5yog O'Reilly (NZ) – Tall Story (NZ): Now returned from a longer break and looking fantastic. Can hopefully reproduce his initial good form for us.

SEA TOWN 4yog Ladoni (GB) – My Kind of Town (NZ): Loving his jumping and has hurdle-trialled very well of late, including in very strong company at Hamilton.

STORMING NORTH 3yog Giants Causeway (USA) – Reem Albaraari (GB): Has had a slight let-up while waiting for rain, but is now back in full work and on track for his debut run.

ELJOBONN 4yom El Moxie (USA) – Bonny McGinty (NZ): This extremely strong sprinting mare joins us as a maiden after nine starts but has shown glimpses of real ability.

MIZEN HEAD 3yof Secret Savings (USA) – Hultarani (USA): Back into full work now and should get a chance to show us what she can do on softer going.

EDGE OF DESTINY 2yoc Galileo (Ire) – Reggae (Ire): Now up to a working gallop in company and continues to impress with his attitude.



Finish of the Queen Mother Champion Chase at Cheltenham on St Patrick's Day (Photo Trish Joss)

FAREWELL TO DALLAS:

All of us at the stable were shocked and saddened by the sudden death of our good friend Dallas Rintoule of Westvic Racepix. Dallas had been extremely kind to us from the moment we set up the stable, and regular readers would know that he provided (gratis) most of the photos that have highlighted our monthly newsletter, usually going out of his way to get an extra snap of us at the races, brilliantly capturing some lighter moments.

Much more importantly though Dallas, with his trademark smile and round-house handshake, was one of those people who could lift your spirits on the days when everything was going wrong and a quick chat with him during an unsuccessful race-trip was often the highpoint of the day. He will be sadly missed.