

INSIGHTS

Excellence in Equestrianism
& the Countryside

VOLUME IX

2023

FRANKIE GOES TO HOLLYWOOD



Time to throw out the global breeding guides for eventers

Can Memorabilia be worth more than prize money?

Dear Readers

Welcome to Volume IX of The Insights Magazine which this month has the very best of Excellence in Equestrianism and the Countryside.

We were extremely privileged to meet Frankie Dettori in London where he shared his plans to move to California to race predominantly at the Santa Anita Racecourse and with a possible chance of winning The Kentucky Derby.

We have more racing news from Ascot's new Boxing Day Fixture and of how Cheltenham have plans to support British Equestrian's fund raising plans to send our treasured teams to the Paris Olympics.

Burghley revealed some amazing statistics on how 56% of all of the top 25 horses were by a sire that failed to appear in the World Breeding Federation of Sports Horse (WBFSH) Sire Top 100 Rankings for Eventers.



Can you believe it was October 2010 that the then Prince William proposed to Kate Middleton with his late mother's fabulous Ceylon Sapphire engagement ring. So, this month we are delighted to share the most exquisite diamond and sapphire rings that would please any Princess.

Following the monumental success of Bonhams Memorabilia Sale for the late Sir Roger Moore we ask the question could riders Memorabilia one day be worth more than the prize money in some of the FEI Equestrian sports?.

I hope you enjoy this issue of The Insights Magazine as my as my team and I have done so in producing it.

Kind regards,

Georgie
Georgie Belton

Editor - The insights Magazine

Vintage illustration of the annual Cosmos which can still be found flowering in British gardens in November

CONTENTS

VOLUME IX 2023

EXCELLENCE IN EQUESTRIANISM & THE COUNTRYSIDE



RACING

Frankie Dettori talks exclusively to Elouise Dubrow about his and his family's plans for a new Racing life in California.

Ascot announces a very festive new fixture to its fixture list.

Cheltenham supports the British Equestrian Federation with fund raising for Britain's Paris Olympics plans.



EVENTING

We ask is it time to throw away the global breeding guides for CCI5* International Event Horses as 56% of the top 25 horses this year were not by an FE Top 100 Ranking Sire.

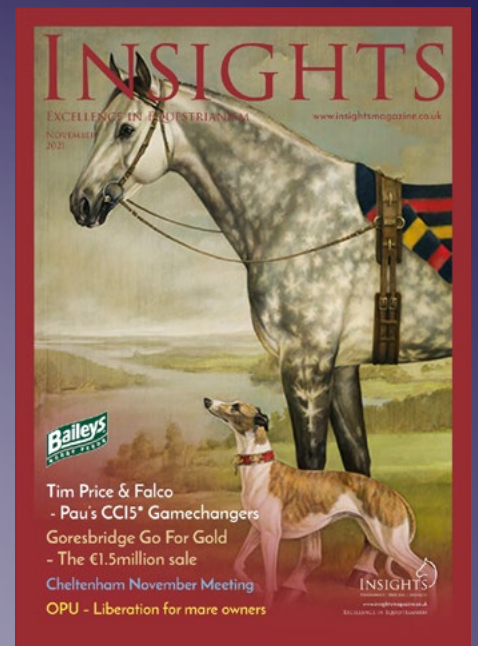
FINE ART & JEWELLERY

We share Equestrian and Sport Art Antiques from the upcoming Cotswolds Antiques fair including a John Ferneley Senior.

We share Ceylon Sapphires fit for a Princess some 13 years after the then Kate Middleton was given hers by Prince William

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A close-up, artistic photograph of a horse's eye, showing the iris and surrounding facial features in detail. The eye is the central focus, with a reflection visible on its surface. The background is a soft, out-of-focus texture of the horse's coat.

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HOWDEN

An aerial photograph of a red tractor pulling a combine harvester through a vast, dark field. The scene is set during sunset or sunrise, with a warm, golden glow in the sky. The field is marked with long, straight tracks from the machinery. In the distance, there are rolling hills and a few scattered trees under a hazy sky.

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ROYAL RACECOURSE TO OFFER BOXING DAY FIXTURE

Ascot Racecourse have announced that they are to host a Boxing Day meeting this year. The new Christmas fixture will appeal to those following the very best of National Hunt Racing and of course for those looking for leading hospitality at the popular course so readily accessible from London.

The new Boxing Day fixture will no doubt eventually compete with the much loved racing at Kempton which is host to the King George VI Cup which was won last year by the Paul Nicholls trained Bravemansgame ridden by Harry Cobden. Cheltenham have already seized the Christmas Calendar with their popular New Year's Day meeting.

Ascot are no stranger to making a commercial success of Flat Racing and this new National Hunt Meeting is expected to not to disappoint either.



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Scotts
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EST. 1920

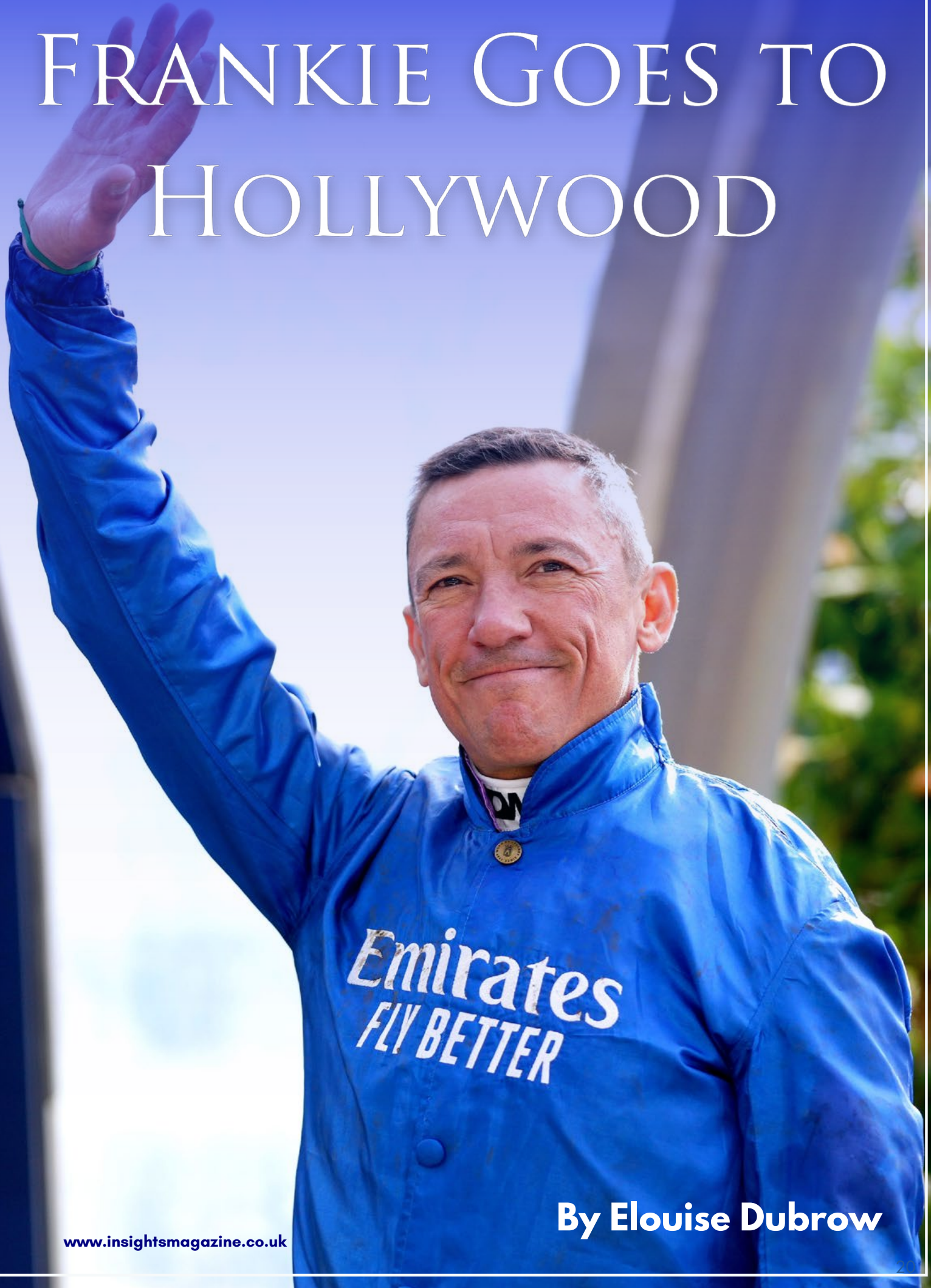


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FRANKIE GOES TO HOLLYWOOD





Frankie Dettori & Trawlerman enter the Winners Enclosure at Ascot after winning the QIPCO British Champions Long Distance Cup on QIPCO Champions Day 2023.

In 2023 the equestrian world was shaken by the sad announcement that champion jockey Frankie Dettori would be retiring at the end of 2023. Throughout the season tears were changed for cheers as Dettori's winning streak became longer and longer.

In the 2023 season alone, out of 128 entries and 28 wins, with a win rate of 22%, including his 500th win at Newmarket and his 9th Ascot Gold Cup win, one would think that the jockey has achieved all one can in his 37 year career?

However, the charismatic Italian jockey had another surprise up his sleeve, announcing on the 12th October, that instead of a retirement party at the end of the season, he would be embarking upon "a new challenge". This exciting announcement came in the shape of a move to America, specifically Los Angeles and Santa Anita racetrack to race as a freelance jockey with the ultimate ambition of being the winning jockey at the Kentucky Derby.



Javier Castellano celebrates in the winner's circle after riding Mage to win the 149th running of the Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs on Saturday the 6th of May 2023, It was a phenomenal 16 years since Javier's previous win of the Kentucky Derby.

When speaking to Frankie about this incredible new chapter, he mentioned that it was a tough decision, he spent 4 months in the USA last year and enjoyed the weather, atmosphere and having expected to have a lull in performance due to the pressure of retirement, the reverse occurred. Dettori said *"my wins just seemed to keep increasing and my body and heart told me that I was not ready to stop"*. When racing around on what he considered to be his farewell tour saying goodbye to some of his favourite races and tracks, he reminisced he will miss the British atmosphere the most, when he races *"all I can here is my name, chanting go on Frankie!"*.

When asked about possible returns to the UK in the future, Dettori ruled nothing out with saying that no matter where his career takes him, he will always see his way back to the UK where he sees as home with his friends and family. No answer was given specifically when considering Royal Ascot 2024, which has always been considered a favourite for Frankie and his fans, Frankie himself admitting *"Ascot is my favourite Track and Champions Day 23 will be emotionally very difficult"*. When asking in relation to making a return to Ascot 24, Frankie said that *"we will have to see where it falls on the US racing calendar but I am fully committed to this new challenge and winning the Kentucky Derby"*.





Flying dismount: Frankie Dettori in acrobatic mode after completing his four-timer win at Santa Anita in California in February 2023 on Freedom Flyer. Photo: Benoit

Whether you are in the equine industry or not, almost everyone on earth has heard the words Kentucky Derby and associated the events with prestige and importance. The 148 year old race holds significance amongst jockey and is on the bucket list of many talented jockeys, which makes the event a clear objective for one of the world's most infamous and successful jockeys such as Frankie Dettori.

Frankie Dettori has raced worldwide including Hong Kong, Dubai, France, Italy, UK, Australia and America he had his choice of the globe as to where to make his next adventure. Although the UK will be sad to say goodbye for now to one of it's most loved equestrian figures, the temptation to return to the UK in future years may prove too much to resist for Mr Dettori, when asked about the duration of his stay in the US, he said *"if I am unsuccessful I will be back in maybe 3 months, if I am successful maybe 3 years, in this line of business it is impossible to know what the future holds and that nothing is assured"*.

It is hard to conceive of a racing environment where Dettori does not excel, although after today it will be hard for British racing fans to not have a bittersweet feeling that although elated Frankie Dettori will go on to race another season, it will be difficult to not watch him win in the UK. Who knows what the future will hold, perhaps the Kentucky Derby will see new wave of European and British spectators making the pilgrimage to experience the chance of a Dettori victory, perhaps Frankie will return back to the UK and begin a new adventure as a breeder which he has previously experienced. One thing is certain, racing is an industry of speed whether discussing the horses, or the decisions of jockeys which keep us on the edge of our seats.



Frankie Dettori riding early in the morning on Newmarket Heath in a photo by Elli Birch

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John Ferneley Senior (1782 Thrussington – 1860 Melton Mowbray)

Oil on canvas 28 x 36 in (71.12 x 91.44 cm) signed 'John Ferneley F. M.M. 1838'

A review order portrait of Colonel Ward's charger, with ornamental bridle and the shabraque and sheepskin of The Royal Horse Artillery. There are mounted soldiers, a gun carriage and an uncoupled field gun in the background. In 1855 a Lt. Colonel Ward of The Royal Horse Artillery served at the siege and fall of Sebastopol and at the Battle of Tchernaya.

**Will be exhibited at the Cotswolds Art Dealers Antique Fair at
Compton Verney 17th - 19th November**

FINE ART

Cotswolds Antique Dealers' Association promises equestrian & countryside gems



1

Franz Xavier Bergman
'Racehorse and Jockey' which is available from Hickmet Fine Arts who are exhibiting at the CADA Fair at Compton Verney

This year's Cotswold Art & Antiques Dealer's Association Fair, sponsored by art insurance specialist Hallett Independent, is taking place for three days from Friday the 17th to Sunday the 19th of November 2023. Some 27 dealers, mainly CADA members along with some guest exhibitors, are exhibiting for the third year in succession at Compton Verney in Warwickshire.

The Association's annual fair is this year coinciding with two events: Compton Verney's exhibition 'History in the Making: Highlights from Woburn and the Crafts Council Collections', for which there is a special entry price for CADA Fair ticket holders, and BADA Week2023 being held by members of The British Association with exhibitions around the country, some of whom are exhibiting at this year's CADA Fair.

Cotswolds Antique Dealers Association
promises equestrian & countryside gems

Equestrian Star of the CADA Fair has to be (no 2 right) the oil by John Ferneley Senior of Colonel Ward's charger featuring him in his ornamental bridle, shabraque and sheepskin of The Royal Horse Artillery.

The painting also features mounted soldiers, a gun carriage and an uncoupled field gun in the background. In 1855 a Lt. Colonel Ward of The Royal Horse Artillery served at the siege and fall of Sebastopol and at the Battle of Tchernaya.

The oil on canvas measures 28 x 36 inches (71.12 x 91.44 cm) and is signed 'John Ferneley F. M.M. 1838 and is priced at £18,000.

Those passionate about foxes and antiques will fall for an impressive 16th century tapestry, from Oudenaarde, woven in coloured wools with silk highlights, designed with a biblical scene from the story of Samson and the foxes, Samson's first wife kneeling in the foreground and is circa 1580 and priced at £11,500.

“Countryside Caricature delights from Sue McCartney Snape”

Lovers of former Telegraph socialite illustrator Sue McCartney-Snape (no 3 right) will be delighted to see some of her original works for sale from Bink Fine Art who are exhibiting at CADA for the very first time. John Julius Norwich was most definitely correct when he described Sue as a “*Master of Caricature*”.

For those seeking 'brown' furniture, currently seeing a revival, look no further than W.R. Harvey & Co.(Antiques) Ltd with an elegant George III period satinwood and kingwood cross banded bow fronted chest of drawers, circa 1785, £5,750; and an exceptional pair of mid-18th century mahogany Gainsborough chairs, circa 1760, £12,500 the pair.

For further information go to www.cotswolds-antiques-art.com



2



3



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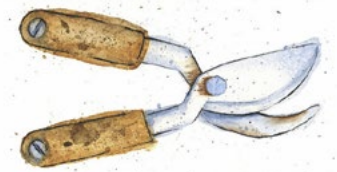
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Photo Above: Penelope Lively Rose which is a new variety of rose from David Austin Roses

TIME TO PRUNE ROSES

Autumn has well and truly set in but there are still so many satisfying jobs to do in the garden; pruning ones has to be the best of these.



Whilst some purists say that you can prune roses as late as February or March, by starting now it gives you a head start on the winter and all your pruning debris and diseased stems and branches can be burned to prevent the spread of disease.

The best tip to save time, and again prevent the spread of disease through damaged stems post pruning is to keep your secateurs both sharp and clean - just in the same way as you would do as if you were clipping a horse !.

1 - Prune no more than 5mm (¼ in) above a bud and ideally should slope downwards away from it.

2 - Cuts must be clean to prevent disease, so keep your secateurs sharp. For larger and thicker stems that are too wide for secateurs, use loppers or a pruning saw.

3 - Cut out dead and diseased stems along with spindly & crossing stems that may be rub on each other & cause disease.

4 - On established roses, cut out old wood & saw away old stubs that dont produce new shoots.

5 - With the exception of climbing roses & shrub roses, prune all newly planted roses hard to encourage vigorous new shoots.

6 - Trace suckers back to the roots from which they have originated from and remove them.





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SIR ROGER MOORE
THE PERSONAL COLLECTION

Memorabilia

Time to take a new view

SIR ROGER MOORE

THE PERSONAL COLLECTION



On the 4th of October Bonhams hosted a personal collection of the late Sir Roger Moore's belongings for sale by auction. The sale coincided with the 50th anniversary of Sir Roger becoming the iconic film character James Bond.

The sale which featured 224 lots was expected to have a total sale turnover of £400,000 but as the final hammer fell had it fetched almost treble this figure at £1.1million. The sale did not feature Classic Cars or diamond jewellery; there were no Lotus Esprit's that had come out of the sea as in *The Spy Who Loved me* or Bond favourite Aston Martin's or even Faberge eggs. It was predominantly a sale of pure Memorabilia as we know it, with the exception of some watches and cufflinks.

Sire Roger Moore was the most prolific Bond playing him seven times in "*Live & Let Die*" (1973), "*The Spy Who Loved Me*" (1977), "*For Your Eyes Only*" (1981), "*Octopussy*" (1980) and the most equestrian ever of all of the Bond films "*A View To Kill*" (1985) which featured strings of fabulous racehorses owned by the character Max Zorin played by Christopher Walken.

Only this summer did Frankie Dettori hold a Memorabilia sale of his racing artefacts at the East Anglian Auction House Cheffins. At this sale a set of Racing Silks sold for £4,600 and a Royal Ascot saddle cloth made £2,200. One cant help but think that with eye watering private collections such as the late Sir Roger Moore's fetching well over a million pounds that Memorabilia is no longer to be sniffed at.

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Lot 164 a signed film poster promoting the 1985 movie "A View to A Kill" which fetched £13,440

Memorabilia – Time to take a new view



Are we being short sighted about memorabilia in equestrian sports?

Whilst both jump and flat racing have a long established history of sort after memorabilia, other equestrian sports have not.

If you think about the context of gross returns on the late Sir Roger Moore Sale versus say the prize money in the sport of eventing it is mind boggling. The sale had a total return of £1.1 million; the prize money at six of the world's CCI5*'s is circa £100,000 - that equates to winning eleven CCI5's in total !.



The future of top class sporting and equestrian memorabilia is interesting. There is no doubt that the best pieces will continue to have increased demand at the world's largest auction houses; but will we see riders using it in a more strategic way to boost their income?.

After all, what would you pay for Laura Collett's Tokyo Olympics winning saddle cloth or Piggy March's Badminton winning dressage tails or Oliver Townend's Burghley winning whip ?!. Only time will tell.



The late Sir Roger Moore's son Geoffrey stand's aside lot 170 a Douglas Hayward double-breasted mohair dinner suit made for Sir Roger Moore to wear in the film "A View To A Kill" . The suit eventually sold for £25,600 including buyers premium.



A saddle cloth signed by Frankie Dettori that made £4,600 at Auction at Cheffins this year in a specialist memorabilia sale dedicated to the Italian Jockey

Memorabilia – Time to take a new view



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The Countryside Raceday teams up with the B.E.F to raise funds for the Paris 2024 Olympics



The Countryside Raceday at Cheltenham has joined forces this year with The British Equestrian Federation with the aim of raising significant funds to help our British Equestrian Teams in their quest for medals at both the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The British Equestrian Teams are busily preparing for our mission to Paris next year to make sure that our athletes and their horses can perform to their very best. The Equestrian World Class Programme and our championship teams are generously funded by The National Lottery, via UK Sport but in an Olympic and Paralympic they do additional fundraising to allow us to allow Team GBR to go that extra mile; it is often those additional special touches that can make the difference between winning or finishing fourth. Everyone who supports the Countryside Raceday plays a valued part of the British Equestrian Teams' success.



Alongside the activities on the day, there's a fantastic online silent auction running with some extraordinary lots for you to bid on - our supporters, riders, owners and friends have really pulled out all the stops to make this an outstanding success. There's over 65 lots for every taste and budget with a number of money-can't-buy experiences and more lots are being added daily.

You can view the lots and see how to bid for each of the very special lots via:

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Bids close on 17 November and six of the lots will be auctioned live at Cheltenham Racecourse as part of the Countryside Raceday.





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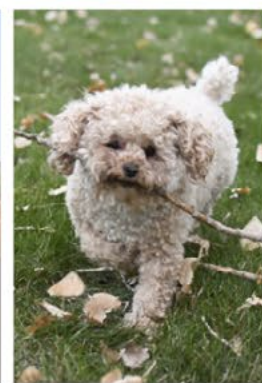
We are commonly asked questions like; what age does my pet need to be for samples to be taken? Can samples be taken if my pet has passed? How do I know that my genetically preserved or cloned pet is authentic? How do I know my samples are safely stored? Will the biopsy process harm my pet?

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Photo: Hannah Cole

Time to throw away the Global Event Horse Breeding Guides



Oliver Townend & Ballaghmor Class in their second winning dressage test at Burghley Horse Trials in a photo by Hannah Cole.

Burghley 2023 was possibly the most contentious CCI5* in Britain from a breeding perspective in modern times; the leading horses laughed in the face of the world's most respected breeding guides and made us ask the question are they really relevant for the top end of the sport anymore?.

This year the Stamford five star start list was awash with horses that had been to the Tokyo Olympics, made Team appearances or had top 10 placings at British CCI5*'s.

Tim Price came up from Chedington in Dorset with his Tokyo Olympics ride Vitali who had already had a 3rd at Burghley last year and 7th place at Badminton this year.

Pippa Funnell was partnered by Maja's Hope who was 10th at Badminton this year and the USA's Boyd Martin crossed the Atlantic with his Olympian & Pan American Games dual Gold Medallist Tsetserleg TSF and Maryland CCI5* winner On Cue; so those on the soap box about the best horses only being at the Europeans this year and not making it to Burghley please do step down now.

Austin O'Connor crossed the Irish Sea with the gelding Colorado Blue who had already 3rd & 8th places at Badminton and a 13th place at The Tokyo Olympics... and as we know it just after Burghley they went on to win Maryland CCI5* in the USA too !!.

FEI Rider Ranking versus 2023 Burghley Place

Rider	FEI Rank	Burghley Place
Oliver Townend	1st	1st
Davd Doel	7th	2nd
Harry Meade	6th	3rd
Tim Price	4th	4th
Wills Oakden	8th	5th
Pippa Funnell	14th	6th
ALICE CASBURN	100th	7th
Wills Oakden	8th	8th
Boyd Martin	3rd	9th
Boyd Martin	3rd	10th
Jessica Phoenix	51st	11th
Jennie Saville	31st	12th
Sam Watson	99th	13th
Tom Crisp	148th	14th
Alex Bragg	62nd	15th
Will Faudree	426th	16th
Padraig McCarthy	105th	17th
Emma Thomas	318th	18th
Francis Whittington	1222nd	19th
Nicky Hill	480th	20th

“ Whilst Oliver’s second Burghley win with Ballaghmor Class was outstanding; Alice Casburn deserves exceptional credit in coming 7th on an FEI Rider Ranking of 100th ”



“ 7th placed home bred Topspin showed us that breeding a Burghley horse is now a reality. Topspin’s sire Zento is 55th in the WBFSH Sire Rankings ”





Photo credit: Tim Price & Vitali in their 18.7 dressage test in a photo by Hannah Cole



Contender - Sire of Vitali and the ever popular eventing sire Contendro-1

Firm favourite's to win (above), Tim Price and Vitali's Burghley dressage test scoring 18.7 was simply spectacular !. However, despite Vitali being by Contender who is also the sire of Contendro 1, the duo lost their impressive two phase lead during their show jumping round. The pair worked so hard show jumping on the Sunshine Tour throughout February 2023 jumping in CSI4* classes and so to lose their Burghley lead on the Sunday was such an incredible shame for both horse and rider.

What was so striking about Burghley this year was that the World Breeding Federation of Sports Horse Sire's Rankings (WBFSH) for Eventing Sires bared almost virtually no relation to the breeding of Burghley's top 25 horses.

For so many studs and breeders around the world the World Breeding of Federation of Sports Horse Sire Rankings are seen as a respected tool for selecting sires; however, this year Burghley's results made a mockery of them!.

Second placed David Doel & Galileo Nieuwmoed who is by Carambole. Carambole is 71st in the WBFSH Sire Rankings. Photo credit Libby Law



If you were following the WBFSH Sire Rankings for Eventers at Burghley this year it would have been reasonable at this level to have seen horses by sires in the top 5 sires, top ten or even top 30 make the final 25 horses but no;there were none!.

“ In fact the highest ranked WBFSH Sire of the top 25 horses at Burghley this year came in at 31st which was Contender the sire of Vitali “

However it wasn't the lack of offspring by the sires in the WBFSH top 30 sires it was the number of horses in the top 25 that were in fact by a sire who had not in fact made it on to the WBFSH Sire's list at all.

56% of Burghley's top 25 horses were by a sire who didn't even feature in the WBFSH top 100 sires at all !

Given that over half of Burghley's top 25 horses weren't by a sire that appeared on the WBFSH Sire Rankings for Eventers it does beg the question as to why people refer to it so readily?.

The Rankings have an interesting methodology which for some is considered by many to be highly flawed.

The sire's of Burghley 2023's top 25 horses

Place	Horse	Sire	Sire's Ranking on WBFSH Sire's Lst
1st	BALLAGHMOR CLASS	Courage II	39th
2nd	GALILEO NIEUWMOED	Carambole	71st
3rd	CAVALIER CRYSTAL	Jack of Diamonds	37th
4th	VITALI	Contender	31st
5th	OUGHTERARD COOLEY	Puissance	34th
6th	MAJAS HOPE	Porter Rhodes xx	Sire not on WBFSH List of sires
7th	TOPSPIN	Zento	55th
8th	ARKLOW PUISSANCE	Puissance	34th
9th	TSETSERLEG TSF	Windfall	Sire not on WBFSH List of sires
10th	ON CUE	Cabri D'Elle	Sire not on WBFSH List of sires
11th	WABBIT xx	Line of Departure xx	Sire not on WBFSH List of sires
12th	FE LIFESTYLE	Leo Von Faelz	Sire not on WBFSH List of sires
13th	SAP TALISMAN	Puissance	34th
14th	LIBERTY AND GLORY	Caretino Glory	Sire not on WBFSH List of sires
15th	QUINDIVA	Quintender	Sire not on WBFSH List of sires
16th	MAMA'S MAGIC WAY	Mighty Magic	Sire not on WBFSH List of sires
17th	HHS NOBLE CALL	Fortunas	Sire not on WBFSH List of sires
18th	ICARUS X	Tangelo Van De Zuuthoeve	Sire not on WBFSH List of sires
19th	DHI PURPLE RAIN	Arthos R	Sire not on WBFSH List of sires
20th	MGH BINGO BOY	(Breeding data not available)	n/a
21st	CMS GOOGLE	Baltimore	Sire not on WBFSH List of sires
22nd	BALLY LOUIS	(Breeding data not available)	n/a
23rd	POETRY IN MOTION II	Yeats	Sire not on WBFSH List of sires
24th	GLOBAL FISION M	Flipper D'Elle	Sire not on WBFSH List of sires
25th	VALMY BIATS	Orlando	Sire not on WBFSH List of sires

Sire's ranking data taken from World Breeding Federation of Sports Horse Sire's (WBFSH) Rankings for Eventing Sires annual ranking 01/10/2021 - 30/09/2022. This data is the WBFSH's full Eventing Sire's Ranking for top 100 sires for the 2022 year and for Burghley 2023 was the most the WBFSH's most recently published annual ranking.

Oliver Townend wins
Burghley for the second
time on Ballaghmor Class.

Ballaghmor Class is by
Courage II who appears
as number 39 in the World
Breeding Federation of Sport
Horses (WBFSH) Sire
Rankings in a list of 100 sires

Photo credit: Hannah Cole



Firstly, the FSH rankings are based on the FEI points won by the offspring of any said stallion over a calendar year; this in itself is open to criticism from a geographic basis.

For example the FEI points won for winning a CCI4*-L in Poland would be exactly the same as the FEI points for awarded for winning a CCI4*-L in the UK. You have to ask the question when testing the validity of the WBFSH Sire Rankings system is winning Strzegom CCI4*-L in Poland really of the same merit as winning Bramham CCI4*-L?. No, not really at all.

Then there is the over-bearing influence of the

volumes of offspring by sires rather than the relative weight of offspring competing at the higher levels of the sport. Does this sound confusing? Don't let it be; it simply means that you can have a sire appear very highly in the WBFSH top 100 Sires for Eventing based upon lots of offspring competing at only the lower levels of CCI* and CCI2* eventing rather than one who has fewer offspring competing at CCI4* and CCI5*.

Then volumes of offspring wrongly have an influence from an another perspective. For example, in Germany it would be reasonable as a nation for them to have a total number of stallion coverings sold a year across all of their stallions to be around the 51,000 mark, in Ireland this figure to be around the 16,000 mark and in the UK to be under the 10,000 mark.

3rd placed Harry Meade & the mare Cavalier Crystal who is by the Swedish the warmblood stallion Jack of Diamonds. Don't let the name Jack of Diamonds make you think that he is an Irish Sire - he is not. Jack of Diamonds is by the 1.60m show jumper Irco Mena and his grand dam's sire is King of Diamonds.





Number 3 event rider in the world Boyd Martin took 9th and 10th places at Burghley this year on Tsetserleg TSF and On Cue - neither horse is by a WBFSh top 100 sire. However On Cue's dam's sire is Primitive Rising who has historically sired both CCI5* winners and previously held extremely high places on an annual basis in the WBFSh Sire's Rankings.

Photo is of Tsetserleg TSF & Boyd jumping into one of Burghley's water fences by Hannah Cole.

Knowing those figures it would be reasonable to expect a German stallion to get many more mares than an Irish stallion and a British stallion. The stallions that get more mares by volume are by default going to have more progeny out competing at FEI Events around the world (*at any level high or low in the sport*) and so will then automatically accrue more FEI points via their progeny.

It is no surprise then that the current 1st and 2nd ranked sires in the WBFSh Sire Rankings either currently stand in Germany or have stood at stud at length at stud in Germany.

Where do we go from here ?

As breeders and buyers of future CCI5* horses we should possibly take less influence from the WBFSh Sire Rankings and more from what is front us with the naked eye as to the horse standing right in front of us.

We should be breeding or buying event horses that have the right conformation, the right temperament and movement for the sport and trust our judgement as to what is in front of us. As for picking eventing sires for the future; absolutely the same basic but critical rules apply for those too.



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