

# TONY MORRIS

Life in Newmarket



**A**PRIL is the month when Newmarket springs back to life on the racing front, but let nobody imagine that our little town has nothing to shout about apart from its pre-eminent role as a centre of thoroughbred racing, training and breeding. If you weren't aware before, be advised now that this is the home of the Newmarket sausage, a superior comestible that has been delighting the most fastidious of palates for upwards of 120 years. And soon there may be a landmark in its history.

You've heard of Parma ham, Stilton cheese and Melton Mowbray pork pies, all of which have legal status in the EU and are protected against cheap imitations. Well, the two firms who make the Newmarket sausage, Musk's and Powters, have put aside their century-old rivalry to make a joint application for similar recognition of their product.

Actually, I suppose I should say their products. The plural is necessary because, while both firms have long claimed to be the purveyor of 'the original and authentic' version, created from a closely guarded secret recipe handed down through the generations, they don't taste anything like the same. And in recent months both have launched differently flavoured varieties.

The application is currently at the consultation stage with the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, which must give its approval before referring the matter to the EU for the all-important Protected Geographical Indication status. By November we may well have something to celebrate that doesn't involve horses.

Other news on the retail front has been good for Sainsbury's and Tesco, despite numerous protests over the planning applications submitted by the two supermarket chains.

More than 200 people sent letters to Forest Heath District Council objecting to the proposed new Sainsbury's Local store in Exning Road and Newmarket Town Council was also in opposition. Approval was granted nonetheless, subject to a couple of conditions – provision of CCTV and street lighting.

Tesco's application to replace its existing store in Fordham Road with one twice the size, offering a much wider range of goods, was backed by the Town Council's planning committee, which voted seven to two in favour. That scheme has also encountered plenty of opposition, not least from the Newmarket Retailers' Association, which fears the impact on town centre shops. It might still be thrown out by Forest Heath, which has the final say, but that seems unlikely. As I wrote here several months ago, a firm promising to create 200 new jobs – as Tesco has – has to be odds-on to obtain approval.

If you get the impression that the folks who govern us locally tend not to take much notice of what we think, you're probably right. Our protests

## Pair of old bangers another classic for the town

about the closure of the town's tip – a move dictated by Suffolk County Council – has resulted in a deferment until July, but don't bet on an extension beyond that.

Still, next week brings the local elections, so there is a chance of our being able to influence events. After years without a recognised figure from the racing industry as a representative, Rachel Hood, Jacko Fanshawe and John Berry are all seeking election to the Town Council. Guess which side they're on in the debate over Hatchfield Farm.

**B**UT sometimes we don't do enough to help ourselves. At the last election we gave the thumbs-down to Carol Lynch (wife of former jockey Kipper), as she was the prime mover in the profoundly unpopular introduction of parking charges in the town. We now know how damaging that move was, but she will be back on Forest Heath District Council after next week, as nobody has come forward to stand against her.

A lady who will be granted a warmer welcome next week is the Queen, who is coming to visit the Newmarket Day Centre on Tuesday. Opened 30 years ago on land that formerly housed Geoffrey Barling's stable, the centre is something of which the town is justly proud. It caters for the over-50s, providing a cafe, a licensed bar and many other facilities on site, while also delivering hot meals to residents' homes on five days a week.

Another event next week that deserves a mention is the annual Heath Race staged by the Newmarket Joggers running club. This is due to take place in the evening a week tomorrow, starting and finishing on Long Hill. As last year, when more than £3,000 was raised, the event is being held in support of the Friends of Camilla Milbank Appeal and the organisers are hopeful of exceeding that sum this time.

Camilla, paralysed after a fall when riding out for Luca Cumani in the summer of 2009, will be the focus of attention again in June, when her marriage to Jamie Trotter will provide a highlight in the social calendar.

## YESTERDAY'S ACTION

**YARMOUTH** by Peter Scargill

# No blinkered approach by Fallon on Novabridge

**YOU** don't become champion jockey six times without having your wits about you and Kieren Fallon's quick thinking helped Novabridge claim victory in the 5f handicap after the horse's blinkers slipped over his eyes.

Fallon had been instructed to make all by trainer Andy Haynes and was confused as his mount failed to jump out and run with any vigour. That was until he saw the blinkers flapping around over the three-year-old's eyes.

Without hesitation Fallon pulled them off and proceeded to drive up the Dajam Ltd-owned runner to score by a short head from favourite Paradise Place.

Fallon, who sported a relieved grin on returning to the winner's enclosure, said: "I knew after about half a furlong something was wrong and the wind had just caught the blinkers and pulled them up over his eyes.

"It was either pull them off or pull him up, and I wasn't going to do that."

Haynes added: "Unfortunately the trainer put the blinkers on so I can't blame anyone. He's not ungenueine, we just have the blinkers on to help him concentrate. He'll run again at Windsor or Chepstow on Monday."

Fallon went on to complete a double

### ▶▶ Star performance

Button Moon could not have won any more easily

### ▶▶ Over the moon

Song Of The Moon looks to have a future over further, or over hurdles, after bolting up in the 1m2f seller

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in the 2m handicap as he made all aboard the John Jenkins-trained **Not Til Monday** for the Three Honest Men.

Victory was more straightforward for **Button Moon** as the Ian Wood-trained filly coasted to success in the 6f older-horse maiden under jockey Martin Lane.

Winning owner Paddy Barrett said: "I want to keep her for breeding, so it was great to get that win. Last year she got beat by Marine Commando at Carlisle and a head by Zebedee at Newmarket, and her run at Newmarket this year was unbelievable. We'll look for a Listed race now."

**Excellent Guest**, who made a winning return in the 7f handicap for trainer George Margaron and jockey Philip Robinson, will also step up in

grade for his next race.

Margaron said: "He'll probably go up enough to get in the Victoria Cup now. He's similar to his half-brother Imperial Guest, who could also go.

"He's a fair horse and it's great for John Guest Racing, which has been set up in the old John Guest colours, as it's their first win."

**Ivan Vasilevich** is likely to have his next start at Chester after he got up in a tight finish to win the 1m2f three-year-old handicap for jockey Lewis Walsh.

Jane Chapple-Hyam, who trains the winner for Chris Fahy, said: "He's had a bit of a break and he's strengthened up and it showed today. Lewis rides him at home and it's great for the owner to stick with him as it's tough for apprentices at this time of year.

"There's a race at Chester on May 21 that we want to go for, as the owners are from around there."

**Mouseie** made it third-time lucky when winning the 5f juvenile maiden under jockey Kieran O'Neill after making all the running.

Winning trainer Alan McCabe said: "The race conditions suited her but it will be hard to place her now. She's tough and tries though."

**EXETER** by Andrew King

# McCoy blasts 'crazy' race planning

**TONY MCCOY** opened his account for the new jumps season after making all the running aboard Lucy's Perfect in the 2m1f handicap hurdle and immediately launched a blistering attack on race planning.

The 16-time champion jockey said: "One thing that really needs to be sorted out for the future is the ridiculous race-planning as there were five meetings over jumps in Britain on Monday and another two today – it's crazy.

"I know the ground is fast, but it cannot be right that there are only 20-odd runners at any meeting. In my opinion it's down to too much racing as there are simply not enough horses to go round at this time of year.

"Why not cut back on the number of meetings in a single day and spread them out a bit more or, on the other side of the coin, cut the meetings back and then you could have more prize-money on offer at those that remain."

On a less controversial note, McCoy added: "It is good to get my first winner of the new season on the board and I will be targeting 200 winners again and hopefully another championship."

### ▶▶ Star performance

Denis O'Regan for a polished ride on Fresher Fishing

### ▶▶ Snatching defeat

Sara's Smile could hardly have done more to chuck away success when hanging badly in the 2m3f mares' novice hurdle

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McCoy went on to double-up after **American World**, owned by his retainer JP McManus, beat sole rival River Indus in the 3m handicap chase after the other intended runner, Marleybow, was withdrawn.

The result threw up two odds-on shots as American World was returned 8-11 favourite following support in the ring from one of the major off-course firms and River Indus was second at 10-11.

Conditional jockey Henry Brooke trudged back red-faced to the weighing room after his mount Sara's Smile had thrown away almost certain victory in the 2m3f mares' novice hurdle when going under by a nose to **Star Potential**.

Although Brooke's mount had jumped left all the way up the home straight she was still in command by six lengths at the last hurdle but proceeded to hang badly towards the paddock entrance and, despite her jockey's efforts, almost downed tools on the run to the line.

Brooke was not really in the mood to comment, but mumbled: "She was hanging up the straight and then badly after the last, which did not help. She's basically a bit lairy."

**Piment D'Estreval** enabled Richard Johnson, perennial runner-up in the jump jockeys' title race, to get off the mark for the new term when coming home in good style from Bushwacker in the 2m1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>f handicap chase.

The eight-year-old is owned by Keren Brown, and her husband said: "Keren will rue the day she could not be here to see the horse win as you do not get that many winners in a lifetime."

First-time blinkers and fast ground enabled **Fresher Fishing** to leave some uninspiring form figures behind after taking the 2m7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>f handicap hurdle, while 1-5 favourite **Rolanta** lifted the two-runner finale.

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## In today's Weekender

*'Frankel is a dodgy proposition and the stats back that up'*

Nick Mordin reflects on the woeful record of champion two-year-olds in the 2,000 Guineas



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- Kieren Fallon with insights from the saddle
- Pedigree pointers for the Guineas runners
- Paul Cole stable tour
- AND MUCH MORE!