

# BLOODSTOCK WORLD



## Quiet oasis home to big names

**P**AT HYLAND, patriarch of Oghill House Stud, was born and raised alongside his brother Hugh at the idyllic County Kildare farm.

Likewise, so too was Windsor Castle Stakes winner Washington DC, one of three Royal Ascot winners for first-season sire Zoffany and the latest in a long line of success stories for the stud.

"I bought two mares in Galway for €6,000, How's She Cuttin' and By The Edge," says Hugh Hyland, 59. "We raced them with Chris McHale, who we've bred horses with for 20 years. We sold By The Edge – but bought her back this year – and retired How's She Cuttin' to stud."

The daughter of Shinko Forest had an unlucky start to her broodmare career, with her first two foals, a colt by Teofilo and a son of Nayef, both suffering fatal injuries before hitting the track. Washington DC, bred by the Hylands' brother Paul, Chris McHale and his son James, was her third.

"It just shows how luck changes," says Hugh, former captain of Kildare's gaelic football team. "Washington DC was her first chance to have a runner."

But it was talent, not luck, that helped

Washington DC hit the line ahead of 26 rivals at Ascot, just as it was not luck but a typical Oghill upbringing that ensured the colt fetched a more than healthy 75,000gns when offered at Tattersalls as a foal.

The 300-acre farm, nestled down a maze of country lanes, exudes an air of tranquility – one breath of which leaves visitors willing to extend their stay as long as possible. That same peace and quiet is clearly infectious to horses, with the 20 yearlings on site some of the most relaxed specimens seen on the Emerald Isle.

Even after 73 years on the farm, Pat Hyland isn't immune to its charms.

"In the evening, when everyone has gone home, you can just sit on the quad in the field and look at the horses forever," he says.

Not quite forever however. Oghill House is a commercial operation, with consignments from the farm sent across Britain and Ireland to the sales each autumn.

"The most nerve-wracking time of the year is placing



Yearling fillies in action at Oghill House Stud and (below) Pat Hyland with Chiosina and her Shamardal colt



a horse in a sale," says Hugh. "If you don't pick the right one, you're in trouble. It's the biggest decision – and that's going on at the moment."

**T**HE family – which includes fourth-generation John, Hugh's 25-year-old son – certainly made

the right decision last year when choosing where to send their Sea The Stars colt out of the Danehill Dancer mare Chiosina. The offering topped the Tattersalls December Foal Sale after selling to Shadwell for 450,000gns.

"News travel fast on the sales ground," says Hugh. "On the first day people were saying 'I hear you have a great foal', and by the second day they were saying 'I hear you have the best foal in the sale?'"

On the secret to their success – which also includes top US performer Whatsthescript and the Group winners Falest, Albabalia and Aspen Darlin to

name but a few – Pat says: "The land is the most important, it has to be right."

To Hugh's addition of "it's also very quiet, the horses are very relaxed," Pat jokes: "I break them all in!"

While that may not be strictly true, the list of names to have once called Oghill their home under Pat's guidance include Annie Power and Rite Of Passage, while future stars could include a daughter of Invincible Spirit out of boarder Pleasantry, a half-sister to Kingman, and this year's Shamardal foal out of Chiosina.

In addition, the stud has also helped to kick-start the careers of a stallion or two – not only was Washington DC the first winner for Zoffany, back in 2006 the Oghill and McHale-bred Spoo Master became the

first winner for Invincible Spirit.

Of course, for an operation that has been selling at Goffs since 1948, 2006 is not exactly ancient history. In his time at the helm, Pat cites increasing professionalism as the biggest change he has seen in bloodstock, but in an industry based around livestock, horsemanship is the key to success – something Pat, Hugh, and John clearly possess in spades, and a talent that when combined with the spellbinding aura of Oghill, will ensure the stud stays at the top of its game for many more years to come.

**Katherine Fidler**

### First-season sires with runners today in GB & Ireland

Sire	Progeny	Race
Lilbourne Lad	Imshi's Little Bro.....	Thirsk 2.00
Lilbourne Lad	Mecca's Missus.....	Thirsk 2.00
Poet's Voice	Alzebarh.....	Kempton (A.W) 7.15
Zoffany	Saxon Gold.....	Thirsk 2.00

Team Oghill (l-r): John, Pat and Hugh Hyland

### IN BRIEF

#### ►► Million milestone

THE Plus Ten bonus scheme hit another milestone on Monday evening when Musselburgh maiden winner Welford took the total of prize payments to £1 million.

Trained by Mark Johnston – who also saddled the first Plus Ten winner Ravenhoe – the Dubawi colt stayed on well to land the 7f contest by two and a quarter lengths from Livella Fella.

The victory marked the 100th £10,000/€12,500 Plus Ten bonus to be awarded across Britain and Ireland since the beginning of the season.

Bred by Darley, the Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed Al Maktoum-owned juvenile is the first foal out of the winning Tiger Hill mare Avongrove, who delivered a brother to Welford last year.

#### ►► Don't miss out

Nancy Sexton's Bloodstock Week will return in tomorrow's paper.

## Record profits for National Stud

THE Irish National Stud posted record profits of €1.8 million in 2014 following a successful year in all key areas of the business.

The figure was up 216 per cent on the previous year, when post-tax profits hit €570,078.

Total turnover of €7.9m to December 31, 2014, was contributed to by €1.5 million in yearling sales and €1.4m from tourism – visitor numbers rose two per cent year on year.

Irish National Stud chief executive John Osborne said: "It was a great year on all fronts. We derive our income entirely from our own activities, so we're self-financing.

"We've expanded our broodmare band to about 30 and we had a spectacular year selling stock from those, including an Invincible Spirit

filly [out of Propaganda] for €720,000. It was a good year of trading and hopefully that trend can continue as the market is more buoyant.

"Boarding mares are also a big source of revenue, as is tourism. All elements of the stud has a positive year."

The Irish National Stud also boasts a strong stallion roster. In 2014 the stud's assets tied in stallion shares and broodmares was €753,649 – down from €935,532 in 2013.

"Invincible Spirit played a huge factor in us doing well," added Osborne, "so the challenge for us now is to ensure we're reinvesting to try and find the next one."

Osborne was paid €190,669 before tax, as in 2013.

A dividend was not paid to shareholders in 2014.

## Beach town plays host to future stars

ARQANA'S Summer Mixed Sale certainly lives up to its name, offering a blend of sun, sea, sand and auction action, writes Katherine Fidler.

The two-day sale, held in the glamorous setting of Deauville – known as 'queen of the Norman beaches' and a chic holiday destination for equally chic Parisians – swings into action today offering a session of breeze-up two-year-olds and two- and three-year-old stores, followed by a selection of horses in training tomorrow.

And while Deauville is a handy for a bit of celebrity spotting, the Summer Mixed Sale has thrown up a few stars of its own including recent Grade 1 Grande Course de Haies d'Auteuil winner Un Temps Pour Tout, bought as a two-year-old for €15,000 before setting a record price of £450,000 at DBS,

his stablemate Dell' Arca, dual Grade 1 scorer Don Poli, and Champion Four Year Old Hurdle winner Petite Parisienne.

### Arqana Summer Mixed Sale

#### ►► Where/when

The sale begins its two-day run today from 11am local time (10am BST) at Arqana's Deauville sales complex with a session of juveniles and stores. Tomorrow's session also begins at 11am local time, offering horses in training

#### ►► Sold last year

From 358 offered, 280 sold (78%) for a total of €6,940,000 (+24%), an average of €24,705 (+8%) and a median of €12,500 (+4%)

## THE WORD

The best of your emails, tweets and facebook comments

@ So sad to hear of Kauto's death. After all his accomplishments with Paul Nicholls, he so deserved to have a leisurely retirement in a field at Ditcheat. RIP, my friend. **Alan, London**

f I was at Cheltenham for Kauto Star's final Gold Cup when he was pulled up, and the applause and standing ovation he got made my hair stand on end. It was a real hero's welcome back to the stands. **Rob Mackie**

f Thrilling, thrilling and then thrilling again... a legend. **Debby Dakini**

f Kauto's fourth King George comments sum it up: "Jumped superbly, settled midfield, steady progress 9th, went 2nd 12th and soon clear of rest, led on long run to 3 out, swept clear, magnificent." **Neil McKeag**

f The greatest jumper I've ever seen and the most consistent. I don't think I'll ever forget when he regained the Gold Cup. **Darryl Lynch**

f Kauto was simply electric, he just epitomised French flair. He was one in a billion and one of the greatest athletes I have ever seen. Thanks for the memories. **John McDonagh**

f The one thing that sticks in my memory was when he fell as a novice at Exeter and Ruby Walsh remounted – he was still 25 lengths behind jumping the last and just failed to get back up. What a horse. **Alan Duffy**

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## BIRTHDAYS

**Peter Walwyn (pictured) 82** champion trainer 1974 & 1975; **Jean-Paul Gallorini 72** former champion jumps trainer in France;

**Andreas Trybuhl 53** trainer of Soave & Lucky Strike; **Derek O'Connor 33** 11-time champion point-to-point rider; **Terry Lucas 65** rider of Amyndas & Individualist; **Charles Cyzer 72** trainer of Magical Retreat & Book At Bedtime; **Mark Polglase 52** trainer of King Priam & No Time; **Trevor Kersey 80** former Rotherham trainer; **Richard Holt 79** owner of Arctic Call & United; **Nick Pope 52** sponsor at Newmarket; **James Stenning 46** official starter; **Yogi Breisner 61** jumping & jockey coach; **Geoffrey Barfoot-Saunt 45** rider of Escartefigue; **Robin Mounsey 33** BHA media manager; **Ken McGarrity 61** owner with Linda Ferratt; **Mick Walker 60** owner with Kim Bailey; **Brian Radford 78** former Sporting Life journalist