

## Racing moments, memories and horses to follow

Hear from some of our Handicappers and Racing Department team on their number one racing moment of the last 10 years, favourite racehorse, and a horse to follow.

### Dominic Gardner-Hill, Deputy Head of Handicapping



**Favourite racing moment 2007-2017:** I have two and they both involve Frankel. His 2,000 Guineas win was, visually, something the like of which I (and most people) hadn't witnessed before – a horse tearing apart a Group 1 field from the off and it announced his arrival as one of the best ever. His 11 lengths success in the following year's Queen Anne at Royal Ascot – again just stunning.

**Favourite racehorse of all time:** As such, Frankel is obviously my favourite horse – I had the privilege of handicapping him for the majority of his races and presenting him to the World's Best Racehorse Rankings Committee. He never let me down – every time I raised his rating, he went out and reproduced or bettered it the next time.

### Mark Olley, Handicapper



**Favourite racing moment 2007-2017:** The 2017 Cheltenham Festival. After all of the media interest regarding the handicapping of the Irish horses, it was such a relief that they had a winner!

**Favourite racehorse of all time:** Bradbury Star. I grew up in Findon and this character winning the Mackeson [Gold Cup Handicap Chase at Cheltenham in 1993] under Declan Murphy is one of the main reasons why I became hooked on racing.

**Horse to follow:** Desert Skyline (pictured)

## Stewart Copeland, Handicapper



**Favourite racing moment 2007-2017:** Frankel's Guineas – a simply staggering performance.

**Favourite racehorse of all time:** Birds Nest – quirky and talented in equal measures.

**Horse to follow:** Clon Coulis – a lightly raced three-year-old filly with the potential of much, much more to come. (pictured)

## Mike Waring, Senior Race Planning Executive



**Favourite racing moment 2007-2017:** Coneygree's win in the 2015 Denman Chase at Newbury, because I knew my ante-post bet was definitely on for the Gold Cup. I backed him after his win on Boxing Day and he was still available at big prices up to Betfair Hurdle day.

**Favourite racehorse of all time:** Jer. He was trained locally to me when I was growing up and won the Great Yorkshire Chase before starting favourite for the 1980 Grand National.

He ran in the Derby earlier in his career and it was often quoted that he was the only horse to have run in both races. He was still running at Uttoxeter in his teens and I got to ride him out at home before he retired – needless to say he was completely in charge.

## Stuart Middleton, Racing Manager



**Favourite racing moment 2007-2017:** The cheer that went up from the stands in response to this commentary: "Just watching the backmarkers going over Bechers – AND THEY ARE ALL OVER BECHERS!"

**Horse to follow:** In the spirit of the anniversary, I wanted to select a 10-year-old. As Megalala was already 6 by the time the BHA was born, I will instead turn my attention to the Veterans Chase final at Sandown in the New Year and will go for serial loser Buywise on account of him being the first 10-year-old I found in the list of qualified horses.

## Alan Austin, Race Times Assistant



**Favourite racing moment 2007-2017:** Frankel winning the 2,000 Guineas in the style of a 5f sprinter. I watched the race live on TV and remember thinking 'What is he doing (Tom Queally)' as I thought I was watching one almighty disaster. And then the hairs on the back of my neck stood up as I realised Frankel was keeping on and being absolutely awesome.

**Horse to follow:** An obscure one and a change of codes and countries – Voices of Spring. This horse is a seven-year-old trained by AJ Martin in Ireland and owned by JP McManus. He has only won one race – a modest maiden in April of 2015 – but boy was he impressive and would probably have beaten the odds-on favourite if he'd stood up; not to mention a few winners have come out of that race. Voices of Spring was then off for a year, presumably with a slight knock, or perhaps the trainer was just hoping people would forget about him!

He's just gone novice chasing and I'm confident AJ Martin will get a good race out of him this season. In fact, he's entered at Galway on Tuesday (1 August). He seems to act on good ground or softer, but with his win coming on soft, a staying pedigree from the Jodami line and with a German sire, I'd be more confident with juice in the ground. Just a matter of catching him right, hopefully at a price.