

JIM BOYLE

It is hard to define Jim Boyle's charm, he has elegance and a purpose about him, but maybe it is his determination which speaks loudest. Racing is a tough world. It is hard enough to keep the hours, very early mornings and late nights, as there are so many evening meetings. Then there is the travelling. Hours on motorways, and not always swift. But Jim's determination has paid off, he now has a modern yard to absolutely die for! It is a staggering complex built to the highest standards, well thought out and fit for purpose. Jim loves the Thoroughbred racehorse with a passion, but one could say he is something of a Thoroughbred himself.



His father was in the Ari Force and when he retired he trained to be a Veterinary surgeon. Jim's father championed A I, (artificial insemination) and freezing sperm, his work was ground breaking at that time. Jim was born in Cambridge, he family moved to Newmarket where Jim grew up. As a young lad he helped out in Michael Stout's yard. (now Sir). Jim was hugely influenced by his parents and growing up in the thin rarefied air of Newmarket's racing fraternity. He decided to followed in his father's footsteps and trained to be a vet. Deep down he really wanted to train racehorses, but being realistic he knew that getting into that world required a massive investment, and or luck. He qualified in 1996 and then spent three years working in general practice, but focusing on horses. Just when

decisions had to be made about joining a practice as a partner and remaining a vet, an opportunity arose to join Paul Coles in Lambourn as Assistant Trainer.



It was with the help of Vince Kelly who worked for Sir Michael Stout that the opportunity occurred to share a yard owned by John Hopkins in Epsom John Hopkins had purchased the yard from Reg Akehurst, the famous Handicap King, Reg's son John was also training from there, but moved to Tattenham Corner. Sharing the yard with Nigel Hamilton Jim was able to gather owners and horses at last.



Jim used to visit the South Hatch restaurant and Racing Club, the centre for all social activity outside the yards. It was run by the bountiful Heather Pitt, wife to Arthur Pitt, a retired racehorse trainer. In 2002 Jim met Pippa (Muggeridge) there, Blonde Goddess of the dance floor at the Owners and trainers balls, it still took Jim 5 years before they were married in 2007. Pippa's family are from Brockham, where they run a dairy farm. Pippa now manages the breeding side

of Jim's business; their best horse was Bad Company who won the City and Suburban in 2023. Jim also won the Grand Metropolitan in 2022 with Going Gone. One of his favourite racehorses is Hodler.



I asked Jim what he looks for in a racehorse?

“Temperament, is very important, and of course conformation, a smooth walk and clean limbs and athletic build. A good pedigree goes a long way too.

Pippa and Jim have a son, Alfie and Jim says he rides and is keen to get his own pony!

I asked Jim which was his favourite racecourse?

“Epsom” was the answer.

Jim has loyal staff, they stay with him, and we all know today how hard it is to find and keep stable staff. I asked him if he had any advice to employers in the horse world?

“ Try to be mindful and treat them as you would like to be treated. I pay them well and they all have one weekend off in three.” In my day I recalled we got one

Sunday and half a Saturday off every two weeks. In France we were also allowed one day off a month.

At them moment Jim is meeting with members of Parliament in a committee to discuss the funding of racing. The betting companies take out enormous profits which are bleeding the race scene dry of resources, Prize money is shockingly low and prices with the bookies make it almost impossible to win anything. Since parting with the Tote monopoly on betting in the 60's the financing of racing has been in trouble. Jim is speaking on behalf of an industry caught up in unfair taxation.



In the yearly awards at the Owner and Trainer dinner Jim picked up a number of Awards. The best 3 year old in Many Men, The best Two year old with Into the Sky, He was also nominated for the Best National Hunt Horse, in Classic Anthem. To date he has had 6 winners on the flat. A trainer worth keeping an eye on.





Caroline Baldock
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