



Witheford Equine Christmas Newsletter

Christmas 2011

2011 has been very busy and productive in many ways for all at Westcourt.

March saw the arrival of two new horses for Gary. Both are Andalusians and like Brujo, travelled over from Spain.

"Destinado LXXXI" is a stunning black stallion and as well as being used for demonstrations he will stand at stud at Westcourt.

"Desperta II" is a very pretty grey mare who will be covered by Brujo in the Spring in the hope that we can fulfill one of Gary's dreams which is to breed a pure bred colt by Brujo.

Desperta has the advantage of being much taller than many of the Andalusian mares that are in England and we think she is something quite special!

Both the new arrivals are now graded and will be out and about in the New Year.

We have also introduced new work wear for all the team. These all bear the Witheford Equine logo as well as the logos of our sponsors (Oakley Coachbuilders, Wessex Equine Vets and Goddard Farrier Services).



Gary and Craig have brighter jackets so that they are easily spotted when at the races!

We are continually working on improvements to facilities we can offer at Westcourt and our next phase is now underway. At the time of writing, Automatic Gates are being installed at our main entrance and also at the entrance to our gallops to ensure that that any loose horses are contained on our premises and cannot bolt onto any public road.

Our gallops are now in very good order after considerable investment in the form of a maintenance and re-seeding programme. We also now have a one furlong round trotting ring, this has proved extremely useful as horses can now progress from the round pens to the trotting ring before venturing to the gallops.

And finally, after two years of design hitches, drawings are finally being completed for the construction of roofs to both of our round pens. This has been in the pipeline for a long time and we are really hopeful that the project can be completed before Autumn 2012. This will enable us to work horses in all weathers and will be much appreciated by horses and staff alike!

Charitable Donation

As with past years, we prefer to donate money to worthy causes rather than waste money on cards so this year we will again be making a donation of £300 to the Doctor's Surgery in Burbage.

Our staff have been well cared for over the years and we would like to contribute to the local community.

We hope they are able to purchase some more equipment that can be of benefit to the inhabitants of Burbage and the surrounding rural areas!

2011 Snippets

Craig Bevan made a great recovery from his serious car accident in December 2010 and returned to work in June

Craig Witheford has embarked on his NVQ Level 3 in Racehorse Care & Management

Suze gained her NVQ Level 2 in Team Leadership and continues working towards her NVQ Level 3 in Business Management

Jason Thompson joined the team in June as rider and stable hand

Beggars Belief won at Kempton in October—our very own horse trained by Eric Wheeler!



In September we took delivery of a brand new Oakley Race-master Horsebox which has been a godsend.

As well as collecting and returning horses to customers, we are able to transport horses to

Lambourn or racecourses for practices or stalls tests.

Another very useful asset is the additional CCTV system to our starting stalls and round pen.

This enables us to share recordings of work sessions via email with owners and trainers, as well as reviewing footage for staff training.



Out and About in 2011



Gary appeared at the Blue Square Sprint Series Winter Final Day at Lingfield Racecourse in February. We took Brujo along and he was certainly feeling good, he really enjoyed playing about with Craig and showing off to the crowd! We also took a yearling which Gary and Craig broke in using their usual methods, taking 20 minutes which was all the time they had to do it in between two races!

In October Gary appeared at the Lingfield Breeders Day and took Arnie. He explained that no horse should be scared of a whip, resulting in Arnie walking freely towards Gary whilst he was cracking a lunge whip! This coincided with the controversy surrounding the whip ban and Gary had great fun encouraging the audience to whip themselves and each other to prove that the whips don't hurt! He was interviewed at length on At The Races (which can be seen on You Tube via a link on our website). Gary and Craig also broke in a yearling, a nice little filly by Boudoir, sent to us by Sylvester Kirk.



In September Anne Diamond enjoyed having Gary on as a guest on her BBC Radio Berkshire show. Gary explained briefly about his prior experiences with zebras as well as some anecdotes about his childhood and work with horses.

Gary, Craig and team completed the annual trip to John Oxx's in October. This year they were joined by Patrick Hills who was keen to gain experience in Gary's methods.

This first phase saw them break in 28 yearlings with Craig and Patrick returning a fortnight later for another 9 yearlings in phase two!

Gary was also interviewed by Lissa Oliver for Australia's Track to Track Magazine—this can be viewed via a link on our website.



On the last day in October Gary and Suze travelled up to Darlington for an Owners Day Demonstration at Michael Dods' yard. Brujo was a star as usual.

Tom Eaves' girlfriend, Nico, was thrilled to give Brujo a spin around the pen and around Michael's paddocks. Michael's twin daughters also tried him out and a good time was had by all!

Patrick Hills had clearly had such a good time in Ireland that he agreed to be the crash dummy for the demo, helping Gary break in 4 yearlings of Michaels' which resulted in Patrick's girlfriend, Leah, literally praying that he would stay on board!



Finally, we would like to say a huge thank you to all our loyal customers! We really appreciate your continued custom and wish you and your staff all the best for a

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!!

