



Mark Kelly Racing



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Monthly Newsletter - February 2022

Welcome to our February Newsletter, and what a start to the year it has been. We had the excitement of our very own Kensington Art kicking the year off with a gutsy 3rd place at Catterick Racecourse, beaten by the only horse (Anyharminasking) to beat Constitution Hill, plus our first stable visit to Donald McCains Bank House Stables.

We've got plenty in store for you in 2022 too, including the upcoming debut of YouNeverWalkAlone this Spring, our next visit to Ravenswell and Martin Hill stables, our Cheltenham Festival and Aintree festival previews, our ITV7 League, Our UK Race Course Guide with a view from the jockeys point of view & Mick Fitzgerald plus much more.

Horse Updates:

YouNeverWalkAlone

Report from 31st December 2021:

Our Gelding officially became 4 on the 1st of January 2022 and stepped up his training further by moving to Martins Hill Stables. Our latest report came in this morning from Christy Woods. His impressive physique has improved even more since the start of December when we had our first stable visit. Our gelding is really starting to grow in confidence and believe in himself. He's coming on in performance and fluidity and the yard are really happy with him and his progression.

<https://www.facebook.com/738797946/videos/4423936381045052/>

(3rd Horse)

Update from 02/02/2022:

I've been liaising directly with Christy and stable staff who are with him on a daily basis and Christy provided me with a timely update just this afternoon. YouNeverWalkAlone has now permanently completed his pre-training works and is full time with the other horses at Martins Hill. I'll be honest, the progress has been much quicker than I thought but he's been a very popular horse and has settled in well to his new home. Christy has recently sent over some video clips (links above) and you can clearly see YouNeverWalkAlone has filled out since our stable visit. He should be ready to run towards the end of March which was always the plan.

Original plan for 2022:

YouNeverWalkAlone has now arrived at Ravenswell / Martins Hill to start his winter training. The 5 furlong hill gallops will help condition his muscles and then we will get an idea of an exact date in spring when he'll be out. Some larger horses can take a little longer to be ready.

Initial entries:

Fergal normally sends his juveniles and younger horses into a couple of bumpers (National Hunt Flat Races normally over 2 miles) to give them experience before they start their novice hurdling.

Initially we spoke about entering him into one of the Goffs Series Bumpers around March time which he's qualified for as we purchased him out of Goffs

Spring Auction. This bumper series adds an additional £10k a race to the initial prize pot.

He would have a small break during the summer (as he's not going to be a summer jumper) then probably report back in August time for his Autumn and winter novice hurdling races. I would expect he stays hurdling to the end of the syndicate term. Hopefully at a listed or graded level Fergal will advise closer the time as to the horses Summer / Autumn plans.

Our next stable visit is planned for the end of February weather permitting. Emails will be sent towards the 3rd week in January.

Owners' badges, ballot and discounted tickets:

As we get closer to our first run, and we have a good idea of dates and course selection, our admin will email everyone an owner's badge application form. Tickets will be drawn via a ballot. If any member is not selected and would still like to attend the course, I will apply to the course for discounted course and / or hospitality tickets which members can purchase directly at the course. It would be great to have as many members there as possible.

We have struggled to fill our allocated tickets for other horses over the winter so please only apply if you can attend.

For those who don't follow O'Brien McPherson Racing on Twitter I'd suggest you follow them as I'm sure Simon who manages most of the social media will be posting pics and videos etc of YouNeverWalkAlone very soon.

Kensington Art

Kensington Art: Mark Kelly Racing Syndicate

Update: 28/12/2021 Catterick Racecourse 2m 3 1/2 f Soft Handicap Hurdle

Big Kenny ran his heart out on the 28th of Jan. The ground and extended distance was well against him but finished a credible 6th of 12.

He will get 2m on soft ground which is a big plus to take from his last run but 2m 4f will only be attempted again on good ground. I'd be more encouraged to stick with 2m as he has a finishing kick at that distance. He's reported back well after his run and is back cantering on the gallops of Donald McCains Bankhouse training facilities.

13/01/2022 Catterick Racecourse (Go North Sea Pigeon Series Qualifier) 1m 7 1/2 f **

Kensington Art headed straight back to Catterick for a reduced distance 2m handicap hurdle and with the aim to qualify for the Go North series final in March. Again, on soft ground and up against a better quality field, he jumped excellently again and finished a very creditable 3rd, beaten by the classy Anyharminasking. Kensington Art has showed he will be competitive on most ground types over 2m.

We did have a late jockey change as soon to be champion jockey Brian Hughes was injured in a fall in the previous race. Donald McCain arranged for Sam Twiston-Davies to take the ride which again shows the calibre of horse we have in our syndicate. Sam jumped at the opportunity and was fantastic with his pre-race meeting with members in the parade ring. It's the first time I've met Sam and he had a full report already from Brian Hughes and said he would be very interested in riding him again should an opportunity arise.

By running in this particular series of races (2 or more times within the season) Kensington Art has qualified for the series final at Musselborough on Friday 25th March 2022. It's a big prize pot of £30,000 with just £15,000 to the winning horse. With the ground becoming more suited (good ground) that time of year, Donald has confirmed that this particular race is the main target for Kensington Art with maybe one more run this month. Again, a ballot system for owners' tickets will be arranged by our admin with an application email send out closer the time.

link to race.

https://www.racingtv.com/videos/watch/horse_racing_replays/372186-happy-60th-birthday-yuff-handicap-hurdle-qualifier-4

2022 targets:

At some stage he will want a break but as he's in such good form we will at least get 1 more race on good ground before Musselburgh. We have multiple options for him from March onwards with hurdle and flat racing all available late Summer. My aim for him in the long term is a 2m chaser as Donald is very happy with his jumping and said, "He knows his job inside out".

I believe his handicap mark for hurdles will be around 120 -125 later in the year which gives us excellent opportunities for some bigger handicap races next season. Kensington Art will bring us a lot of fun in 2022.

New Entry: Kensington Art - 10/02/22 HUNTINGTON

Racing TV Novices' Handicap Hurdle (GBB Race) Cl4 (4yo+ 0-110) 2m

<https://www.racingpost.com/racecards/2022-02-10/>

Bankhouse Stable Visit 24th January 2022

What an amazing morning. Our first visit with MKR members to Bankhouse Stables home to Donald McCain Racing to see our boy Kensington Art. A big thank you to Donald, Jo and the team for showing us around and taking us onto the very impressive gallops.

A big thank you also to today's members who made the journey. It was great to catch up with you all especially afterwards during our members breakfast at The Thirckerton Poacher. <https://fb.watch/aXOpXSGxgZ/>

Shares are available in Kensington Art for only £33. Visit our website for more information:

www.markkellyracing.co.uk

<https://fb.watch/aXn2wpGDdb4/>

<https://fb.watch/aXnrs4GfN3/>

[https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1058911058175618&__cft__\[0\]=AZU7Sn8CqsUc7a3Cgyhus1b4ReWeVaskZRZEMFqjV_4tlk4abaF6O-4RP25Wlrh3faX9TiOo-fv2_jFOuwkrmk5Lk8lJyhWk1r_xq2XZLvDuLaljfcoXOcVCoN7um9vabEqOCrixuM-rQR9ES0JuKa2xyTpnVYwnNyGof8EdxVkC0FO6xsU7Kva4li_wVlcYqCOuMhra1_xD7XloBXpzaeYz&__cft__\[1\]=AZXO-INIS6uVHuiQsL7svZL_rcJrRDbvqJGdKRvqHwADHGTO-ppyyrgY09KDLsIH9gsutoPf_71lgl2moqFtRsV11mCyocs-OXgMqyhcuWNAVjasIHaeMHxa&__tn__=F-R](https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1058911058175618&__cft__[0]=AZU7Sn8CqsUc7a3Cgyhus1b4ReWeVaskZRZEMFqjV_4tlk4abaF6O-4RP25Wlrh3faX9TiOo-fv2_jFOuwkrmk5Lk8lJyhWk1r_xq2XZLvDuLaljfcoXOcVCoN7um9vabEqOCrixuM-rQR9ES0JuKa2xyTpnVYwnNyGof8EdxVkC0FO6xsU7Kva4li_wVlcYqCOuMhra1_xD7XloBXpzaeYz&__cft__[1]=AZXO-INIS6uVHuiQsL7svZL_rcJrRDbvqJGdKRvqHwADHGTO-ppyyrgY09KDLsIH9gsutoPf_71lgl2moqFtRsV11mCyocs-OXgMqyhcuWNAVjasIHaeMHxa&__tn__=F-R)

Our stable visit made ITV Racing on Saturday 29th January 2022.

For those who watch Saturday morning Racing on ITV, one of our stable visit clips made the programme last Saturday. Well done Tony Fillingham on posting the video.

[[\[](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Ffb.watch%2FaQPYJ2jox3%2F%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR1ZzEvqksap4_ruNOoQ7TsxBB17fOQmDFxm3rBajNVAGi87Fvd8&h=AT1l8kCARERMD_yX_9O0M7E20BiiXcTk50D8wKyqiClou1WhMrkVaoewLZITwzIEyYqEtqLcgZHG3MH5Lsu0-Q&__tn__=R]-R&c[0]=AT3JoY1c2Y5aPFevKq1QqanhWFMtpeixLFveRSWIKoo3ePp4DCwrkX63eJDtezGD79BQaRZPhgrQ9cl1ijWc2x9UziedC6aiCVewwVhohqXqcBHcg)(https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Ffb.watch%2FaQPYJ2jox3%2F%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR1ZzEvqksap4_ruNOoQ7TsxBB17fOQmDFxm3rBajNVAGi87Fvd8&h=AT1l8kCARERMD_yX_9O0M7E20BiiXcTk50D8wKyqiClou1WhMrkVaoewLZITwzIEyYqEtqLcgZHG3MH5Lsu0-Q&__tn__=R]-R&c[0]=AT3JoY1c2Y5aPFevKq1QqanhWFMtpeixLFveRSWIKoo3ePp4DCwrkX63eJDtezGD79BQaRZPhgrQ9cl1ijWc2x9UziedC6aiCVewwVhohqXqcBHcg)</p></div><div data-bbox=)





Fergal O'Brien and Donald McCain both passed the 100 winners mark for the season last month which is an unbelievable achievement by both teams.

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'Surprised' Donald McCain becomes first trainer to reach 100 winners this season

Donald McCain became the first trainer to hit the milestone of 100 winners in Britain this season when Cenotice won a thrilling three-way finish to the 2m½f handicap chase.

Little separated the five-year-old, Treshnish and Gallic Geordie at the final fence and on the run-in, but Cenotice dug deep to prevail by a nose – with Gallic Geordie the same distance back in third – to give McCain the fifth century of his training career and his first since the 2013-14 season.

McCain said: "We're quietly chuffed to be honest. We had no masterplan to train lots of winners or do anything special, but I've got a wonderful bunch of horses who have nice owners and as good a group of staff as you could hope for.

"It's a great credit to them. If you surround yourself with nice people, then good things happen; everyone works their socks off."

The Cheshire trainer narrowly pipped Paul Nicholls, who remains on 99 winners, to the century bragging rights, but originally thought the landmark celebrations had to be put on hold.

"As I watched it live, I thought we hadn't got there, but when they showed the slow-motion replay, I thought we had half a chance. It was a great finish to be involved in and you don't see many finishes like that," he said.

"At the start of the season I hoped it'd be nice to get 100 again, but to do it now is a surprise. It's sneaked up on us, but it's lovely and a mark of how hard everyone has worked."

Hughes nears personal best

Brian Hughes edged closer to a personal-best tally for a season – 146 in 2018-19 – and the jockeys' title after landing a double on Ri Na Farraige for Richard Fahey in the opening bumper and odds-on Lady Adare in the final race, the mares' novice hurdle, for Harry Fry.

His tally of 138 winners is 62 more than second-placed jockey Sam Twiston-Davies.

ITV7 Competition – Mark Kelly racing

• **Our
ITV7
Mark
Kelly
Racing
League
been
very
successful
over
the
• •**

**last
month
and
a
big
thank
you
to
Craig
Jackson
for
setting
it
up.**

I've not had much time to pick my horses for every round but looking at the leader board its obvious quite a few of us in the group know their racing.

To spice things up, Steve and I will offer Craig plus the top 5 placed members at the end of February a **FREE corporate day** at a course in the North (Saturday Racing) sometime early March.

Henrietta Night's video on educating new store horses to jump.

How do you teach a horse to jump?

This is top insight!

Since retiring, Clarence House Chase winning trainer Henrietta Knight and jockey Dom Elsworth work with horses to teach or improve their jumping.

Go behind the scenes of the process

<https://fb.watch/aXv6JCWJu6/>

Martins Hill Training Facility

After our stable visit to Fergal's Ravenswell yard in Gloucester, a second yard was purchased through the O'Brien / McPherson merger.

'Can you be both restless and content?

Standing last week with Graeme McPherson on the viewing platform over his sharply rising gallops near Stow-on-the-Wold, I found a man who answers to both descriptions. An in-demand QC with a big sporting practice, Graeme is also a racehorse trainer with a fast-expanding yard, a glorious Cotswold location and a plan for the future'. **Robin Oakley, The Spectator**

Graeme took out a licence to train in 2010, having previously ridden and trained point to point horses for several years. Starting small, thanks to its dynamic team the yard has grown to 80 boxes and has enjoyed significant success in recent seasons. State-of-the-art facilities and exceptional care mean that each horse in training is given the opportunity to reach their full potential. Now merged with Powerhouse Fergal O'Brien the team have already amassed more than 100 winners with many horses being aimed at this years Cheltenham and Aintree Festivals.

<https://youtu.be/fxZXwmjzEwl>

YARDS

The yard has 80 boxes split into 4 separate yards – the **Main Yard**, the **Another Raleagh Yard**, the **Front Yard** and the **Top Yard**. All stables are stone-built to a height of 8' with Yorkshire boarding above to allow a free flow of ventilation through the stables, and each yard is built around an open central passage, to allow ventilation through the yard. All stables have rubber floors

again to allow ventilation through the yard. All stables have rubber floors. The yards surround a covered Claydon horse walker which is invaluable for warming up and down, and to aid in recovery from injury.



GALLOPS

We have 2 gallops of our own at Martins Hill, both resurfaced by Andrews Bowen in 2019. The Hill is a straight gallop which stretches for 5 furlongs and rises almost 200' before levelling off. The Round is a 500m flat circle. Each gallop can be harrowed to a different depth to suit the conditions prevailing at any particular time of year and the needs of the horses.

We also have use of various grass gallops, which we use to teach youngsters about the surface on which they will be racing as well as to put the finishing touches to preparations for older horses.

SCHOOLING

The majority of our schooling takes place in the 40 acre schooling field adjacent to the Hill, where the gently sloping turf encourages horses to use themselves properly at their obstacles. The field contains...

- * Lines of logs and tyres introduce youngsters to jumping.
- * Lines of traditional hurdles, rubber hurdles and Easifix brush hurdles to enable horses to school over all types of hurdles now found on British racecourses.
- * A line of ¾ size Easifix chase fences to school horses making the transition from hurdling to chasing.
- * A line of full size Easifix chase fences, including an open ditch, to replicate the obstacles to be found on the racecourse.

We have a 3f all weather schooling lane situated alongside the Round, with interchangeable Easifix brush hurdles and fences.

THE SCHOOL

Every horse warms up before exercise in the 60m x 25m outdoor school, with an all-weather Martin Collins surface. In addition, the school is used to break and educate youngsters, to teach the basics of jumping and for flat work with the older horses.

PADDOCKS

Part of the philosophy of the training regime at McPherson Racing is to give every horse the opportunity to be turned out regularly and to relax. Adjacent to the yards are 16-day paddocks into which horses are turned out individually each day after exercise. In addition, there are over 120 acres of larger paddocks at Martins Hill which horses can enjoy on longer breaks.

OUR TEAM

Achieving success would be impossible without the dedication and skill of a first-class team of people. The close-knit team that we have here at Martins Hill, led by Mick Finn, is of the very highest calibre. Never underestimate the amount

of work that is put in by everyone at the yard to get your horse to the races happy, healthy and fit!

Martins Hill Gallery

<https://mcphersonracing.co.uk/gallery/>



Dan Skelton Racing Autumn 2022

Dan Skelton

We have recently had a conversation with Dan Skelton over potentially placing one of our next syndicate horses with him and his team. Myself and the team are exploring a couple of potential Store horses and Foals but I would like to add a Grey horse which members of that syndicate could be involved in naming. We wont rule out the option of a quality

Point to Pointer either should the opportunity arise. We will keep members updated over any new potential editions.

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Race Course Guide by Mick Fitzgerald

Ascot's National Hunt course was inaugurated in 1966 and also stages several important meetings, notably the Ascot Hurdle fixture in November, the Christmas meeting featuring the Grade 1 Long Walk Hurdle, the two-mile Clarence House Chase (formerly the Victor Chandler) in January and the Ascot Chase fixture in February – the last two meetings featuring several 'trial' races for the upcoming Cheltenham Festival.

The fences on the far side are quite tricky, particularly for a novice, but, if you're on a horse that can jump them and freewheel nicely on the downhill section, it can usually win for you. Handling those obstacles smoothly saves an awful lot of energy. It's a front-runners' track, too, especially in small fields of novices, but it's very difficult to win from the front in a big-field handicap. Saving ground when you can and making sure you meet the fences right are the two biggest factors to keep in mind when you're riding Ascot.

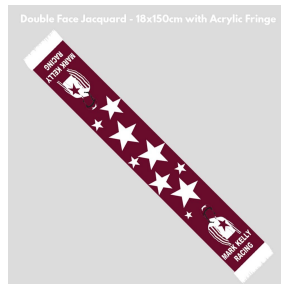
View from the saddle:
Mick Fitzgerald

Timeform

Hight handed, galloping. NH course reopened in 2006// after major redevelopment work, and improved drainage means conditions rarely get so testing as they used to. Fences appear as stiff as they've ever been, the course taking plenty of jumping. The chase course often favours those ridden prominently.

Mark Kelly Racing Scarves

Finally, after many member requests, we have available to pre-order, our members scarves. These should be arriving in the next 2 weeks and are available at £7.50 plus postage. I've tried to keep the cost down as best I could and will be selling them at cost.



Mark Kelly Racing Syndicate Scarf

£7.50

LIMITED EDITION

Official Mark Kelly Racing Syndicate Colours Scarf

This is the first available merchandise for Mark Kelly Racing

Specification:
Double Faced Jacquard
18cm Wide
150cm Length
Acrylic Fringe

<https://markkellyracing.co.uk/buy-shares/ols/products/mkr-syndicate-colours-scarf>



A big thank you to all our members for the loyalty and support over the last 6 months. I'm really looking forward to our next 2 editions especially with The Cheltenham and Aintree Festivals not to far away. Please join and follow our Facebook, Twitter and Tik Tok pages and post as much content as possible from your race day and other membership experiences. Quite a lot of us have shares in other horses and its great when we get members posting their upcoming runners.

Mark

Racing Manager

Mark Kelly Racing



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