



GUIDE TO THE
JUMPS

23/24

RACING POST



**Edited and designed
by David Dew**

Contributors

Richard Birch
James Burn
Ian Greensill
Dylan Hill
Lawrie Kelsey

Graeme Rodway
Craig Thake
Nick Watts
Robbie Wilders

Cover artwork by Duncan Olnier
Inside artwork by Stefan Searle

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RACING POST GUIDE TO THE CHAMPS 2023/24
HARRY BISHAM WINNERS IN LAST FIVE SEASONS: 41

Start of a new era



IT'S A NEW ERA. Harry Bisham, the 2023 champion, is starting his new season with a bang. The 35-year-old has won 41 of his last five seasons, a record that has made him a household name in the racing world. Bisham's success is a testament to his skill and dedication, and he is looking forward to a new season of challenges and triumphs.

RACING POST GUIDE TO THE CHAMPS 2023/24
HARRY FRY WINNERS IN LAST FIVE SEASONS: 20, 21, 21, 21, 21

It must be Love



IT'S A LOVE AFFAIR. Harry Fry, the 2022 champion, is starting his new season with a bang. The 35-year-old has won 20 of his last five seasons, a record that has made him a household name in the racing world. Fry's success is a testament to his skill and dedication, and he is looking forward to a new season of challenges and triumphs.

RACING POST GUIDE TO THE CHAMPS 2023/24
NICKY HENDERSON WINNERS IN LAST FIVE SEASONS: 101, 101, 101, 101, 101

Constitution the brightest star among huge array of firepower



IT'S A NEW ERA. Nicky Henderson, the 2023 champion, is starting his new season with a bang. The 55-year-old has won 101 of his last five seasons, a record that has made him a household name in the racing world. Henderson's success is a testament to his skill and dedication, and he is looking forward to a new season of challenges and triumphs.

RACING POST GUIDE TO THE CHAMPS 2023/24
JAMIE SOWER WINNERS IN LAST FIVE SEASONS: 41, 46, 23, 46, 31

You Wear It Well the star turn as excitement builds for new season



IT'S A NEW ERA. Jamie Sower, the 2023 champion, is starting his new season with a bang. The 35-year-old has won 41 of his last five seasons, a record that has made him a household name in the racing world. Sower's success is a testament to his skill and dedication, and he is looking forward to a new season of challenges and triumphs.



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HARRY DERHAM

Start of a new era

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a blue jacket, is smiling and grooming a dark brown horse in a stable. The horse is wearing a blue and white checkered blanket with red trim. The stable has a white wall with a ventilation grille and a dark blue mat on the floor.

THERE can't be many better feelings for a trainer than watching a careful plan succeed, which is precisely what Harry Derham achieved on Boxing Day last year.

His first runner as a new trainer had been laid out for a race at Huntingdon, and the plan came together in perfect style.

Six years' experience of being assistant to his uncle and champion trainer Paul Nicholls was poured into preparing **Seelotmorebusiness** for the modest

WINNERS LAST SEASON 14



Harry Derham: made the perfect start to his training career when his first runner was a winner

“

I was very pleased indeed with my first season. You hope your first four months will go like they did

”



Harry Derham's string works up the Peter Walwyn gallop in Upper Lambourn



GUIDE TO THE JUMPS 2023-24

Huntingdon hurdle, but the prize was at the opposite end of the pleasure scale compared with it being his first winner from his first runner – and owned by his mother Julie.

“This is a feeling I cannot describe,” he wrote in a subsequent blog on his website, which is as good a description of watching a plan blossom as any trainer has written, and is well worth a read.

“It was amazing. I absolutely loved it. It was one of those days you never ever think you’ll be lucky enough to have. It was just surreal,” remembers Derham.

“We were excited to run him and we thought he’d win. But you only get one chance with your first runner. He won by twelve lengths but he could have won by a hundred lengths and I couldn’t have cared less. I would never ever change that day. It was extraordinary.”

Derham ended his first season with 14 winners from a string of 20 at an impressive strike-rate of 25 per cent, although eight-year-old “Sid”, as everyone in the yard calls him, failed to add to his 12-length Huntingdon romp in two further outings after his rating rose 11lb.

“I was very pleased indeed with my first season. You hope your first four months will go like they did. My horses were healthy and they ran well, but it comes back to having good support from good people and if you’ve got good horses, then you’ve got a chance.”

This season Derham’s 51 boxes are “full to the brim” at his purpose-built Upper Farm Stables in Boxford, five miles north-east of Newbury, just under 20 of which came from Lambourn trainer Oliver Sherwood, who retired this summer after almost 40 years with a licence.

Sherwood, who won the 2015 Grand National with Many Clouds, joined his horses by becoming assistant trainer to Derham, who described the new relationship as “a big positive”.

He adds: “I’m very much looking forward to the new season. You just hope the horses

stay healthy and from then on you just hope you have a bit of luck.”

The eight-year-old **Dargiannini** did well last season, winning at Uttoxeter and Newbury, although he subsequently finished down the field at Aintree and then perhaps found three miles and half a furlong at Haydock too far in May.

“He’s probably not that well handicapped this season,” admits Derham. “He’ll start at Newbury’s Coral Gold Cup meeting over two and a half miles and then go on from there.”

Brentford Hope, who won three times and reached a rating of 107 at one point on the Flat for Richard Hughes, joined Derham in the spring and won his first two outings over hurdles comfortably at Wincanton and Huntingdon before finishing sixth in the Swinton Hurdle at Haydock.

“The ground went a bit quick for him in the Swinton and he never really got going,” says the trainer, who plans to start the six-year-old this season in the Gerry Feilden at Newbury.

The four-year-old filly **Bella Civena** made an impressive racecourse debut over hurdles in soft ground at Market Rasen in late March against a couple of rivals with winning form, and on that performance looks to have a bright future.

“She won well for me and she’s a nice filly,” says Derham, who aims to start her in a mares’ novice hurdle in November when she’s likely to get her ground.

The Two Harrys, owned by Harry Redknapp, is described by Derham as “a lovely horse” after the four-year-old finished third in a Wincanton bumper in April.

“He ran well but the ground went a little bit quick for him on the day and we probably ran him at the wrong track. I imagine he’ll



Dargiannini: could struggle from his current mark, warns Derham



■ A level
£1 stake on all of
Harry Derham's
runners during his
first season returned
a profit of
£29.77

probably have another run in a bumper before he goes novice hurdling,” says Derham.

The six-year-old gelding **Any Biscuits** was a winner at Market Rasen and Exeter for the yard in the spring and could have more to offer this season.

“He was great last season. He’s been tricky and was very keen on his first few starts, so we’ve just been trying to get him settled,” says Derham.

“I should think he can improve again. Although he’s not obviously well handicapped now, he’s a very willing horse and is genuine, and I hope he can improve to win again.”

The four-year-old **Salvatore** had some decent form on the Flat in France last year, winning twice in the provinces, and is being lined up for a first season over hurdles.

“He’s had plenty of time and will be ready to go novice hurdling at the start of November and, as long as the ground isn’t quick, he’ll be fine,” says Derham.

Queens Gamble is a talented mare who won two bumpers at Cheltenham for Sherwood in 2022, including a Listed race, and was a creditable 12th in the Champion Bumper at the festival meeting.

Unsurprisingly, she was long odds-on to land her first start over hurdles at Warwick in May, duly obliging by almost five lengths.

“Hopefully, she can turn into a Listed mare,” says Derham, perhaps with the Mares’ Novices’ Hurdle at the festival in mind as an end-of-season target.

Monviel has moved to Derham from Philip Hobbs’s Somerset yard for whom the six-year-old won an Ascot handicap hurdle last season, and was then a solid fifth in both the Betfair Hurdle and the Imperial Cup, two highly competitive Grade 3s.

He looks a useful recruit over fences and could pay his way when the rain arrives.

“He looks a nice horse to go novice chasing. He’ll be out in October somewhere and, as long as the ground isn’t quick, he’ll be fine.”

Another who could make the transition

from hurdles to fences and should be followed is **Picks Lad**, a novice handicap hurdle winner for Kim Bailey’s yard in April and who was bought by Derham for £25,000 at Goffs horses-in-training sale. “He looks potentially well treated to go novice chasing,” says the trainer.

Make a note of **Mojo Ego**, who has arrived from France where he finished fifth in a Group 3 on the Flat last year after winning a seven-furlong maiden for Jean-Claude Rouget.

“He’s come to me to go three-year-old hurdling and looks like he could be a good fun juvenile hurdler. He’ll be out at the end of October,” says Derham.

Ascending Lark is a “nice mare” who was placed in two of her three Irish bumpers and will go novice hurdling. I think she’ll do quite nicely but she won’t run until the end of November.”

Another ex-Sherwood horse to watch closely is the five-year-old **Scrum Diddly**, who won two handicap hurdles in runaway fashion and finished second in a third race over a 15-day period in May.

Not surprisingly, Derham hopes the gelding can transfer his hurdling prowess to fences. “He looks a nice horse to go chasing,” says the trainer.

Siroco Jo was bought privately out of Paul Nicholls’ yard where he won twice over hurdles. “He’ll be a horse to go novice handicap chasing this season and should be a fun horse.”

Derham’s pick from all his horses to follow is the former Irish pointer **Il Va De Soi**, who marked himself out after a promising debut in a Kempton bumper when beaten in a photo finish. He then finished fourth in a Taunton bumper behind the well-regarded **Geezer Rockstar**.

“He’ll be a nice novice hurdler. He looks a much more mature horse this season, jumps well and I’m hopeful for him. He’ll be out in early November.”

Interview by Lawrie Kelsey

HARRY DERHAM

BOXFORD, BERKSHIRE

RECORD AROUND THE COURSES

	Total W-R	Per cent	Non-hcp Hdle	Non-hcp Chase	Hcp Hdle	Hcp Chase	N.H. Flat	£1 level stake
Wincanton	3-11	27.3	1-3	0-0	1-5	1-2	0-1	+2.17
Huntingdon	2-3	66.7	1-2	0-0	1-1	0-0	0-0	+11.10
Market Rasen	2-3	66.7	1-1	0-0	1-1	0-1	0-0	+8.50
Southwell	1-1	100.0	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-1	0-0	+1.25
Doncaster	1-2	50.0	1-1	0-0	0-0	0-1	0-0	+3.00
Exeter	1-2	50.0	0-1	0-0	1-1	0-0	0-0	+2.50
Newbury	1-2	50.0	0-1	0-0	1-1	0-0	0-0	+1.00
Wetherby	1-3	33.3	1-2	0-0	0-1	0-0	0-0	+23.00
Uttoxeter	1-3	33.3	0-0	0-0	1-2	0-1	0-0	+3.50
Haydock	1-3	33.3	1-1	0-0	0-2	0-0	0-0	-1.20
Kempton	1-3	33.3	1-2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1	-1.80
Ludlow	0-1	0.0	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	-1.00
Hereford	0-1	0.0	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	-1.00
Catterick	0-1	0.0	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	-1.00
Lingfield	0-1	0.0	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	-1.00
Worcester	0-1	0.0	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	-1.00
Ascot	0-1	0.0	0-0	0-0	0-1	0-0	0-0	-1.00
Plumpton	0-1	0.0	0-0	0-0	0-1	0-0	0-0	-1.00
Aintree	0-2	0.0	0-1	0-0	0-1	0-0	0-0	-2.00
Chepstow	0-2	0.0	0-1	0-0	0-1	0-0	0-0	-2.00
Cheltenham	0-2	0.0	0-0	0-1	0-1	0-0	0-0	-2.00
Fontwell	0-2	0.0	0-0	0-0	0-2	0-0	0-0	-2.00
Ffos Las	0-2	0.0	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-1	0-0	-2.00
Musselburgh	0-2	0.0	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-1	0-0	-2.00
Newton Abbot	0-3	0.0	0-3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	-3.00
Taunton	0-7	0.0	0-2	0-1	0-2	0-1	0-1	-7.00

From top: Queens Gamble,
Monviel and Picks Lad; (below)
frosty morning on the gallops



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