

PUZZLE
BOOK

RACING POST

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240 PUZZLES

To Challenge the Most Committed
Horse racing Fan

Alan Mortiboys

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DEDICATION

Dedicated to my racegoing companions over the years –
(the late) Fred Mortiboys, Daniel Mortiboys
and Mary-Clarke Mortiboys.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Alan Mortiboys contributes questions to BBC1's *Impossible* and BBC2's *Only Connect*.

He has also been following racing since the age of nine. Encouraged by having a letter about betting systems published in the *Sporting Life Guide* when aged 14, he wrote to Peter O'Sullivan, then the racing correspondent for the BBC and the *Daily Express*, asking how to get into racing journalism. The Voice of Racing was kind enough to reply and suggested that it was a case of being in the right place at the right time. It turns out that this was not West Bromwich in the 1960s.

After a decades-long and fruitful detour working in education, Alan is finally getting the chance to build on that *Sporting Life Guide* letter and hopes these puzzles provide fun and challenges for all racing fans!

INTRODUCTION

This book has six different kinds of puzzles for racing fans. They are:

Simple Sums

A straightforward set of calculations, but do you have the racing knowledge you need to complete them?

Fill In The Blanks

Each of these puzzles gives an account of a race that has been run but with key words and names missing. Do you know enough or can you make the right guesses to fill in the blanks?

Get It In One? Or Two, Or Three, Or Four?

This gives four clues about a well-known horse, trainer or jockey. How many clues do you need to identify the well-known person or horse? One, two, three or four?

Where's The Logic?

These are traditional logic puzzles but in a racing setting. Can you use logic and the clues to solve the puzzle?

(All the names that are used in these puzzles – of horses, jockeys, trainers, stables, owners, racecourse staff, bookmakers, tipsters, punters and racecourses – are intended to be fictitious.)

Tell Me The Answer And I'll Tell You The Question

This puzzle gives you two questions and two answers but only one question and one answer make a match. Can you find the matching pair?

Time For A Rhyme

This puzzle takes the form of an incomplete poem about a horse, a trainer or a jockey. Can you complete the missing rhymes and identify the person or horse?

Good luck!

SIMPLE SUMS

1.

Begin with the number of times Frankel won the Sussex Stakes
Multiply by the number of letters in the name of the 2019 Epsom Derby winner

Add the number of times Johnny Murtagh rode the winner of the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes

Divide by the number of furlongs run in the Falmouth Stakes

What is the number you have arrived at?

Is it:

- A. The number of King George VI chases won by Desert Orchid?
- B. The number of King George VI chases won by Wayward Lad?
- C. The number of King George VI chases won by Silviniaco Conti?

2.

Begin with the number of times Red Rum ran in the Grand National

Multiply by the number of times Faugheen won the Christmas Hurdle

Add the number of times Gordon Richards was champion flat jockey

Divide by the number of letters in the name of the 2020 2,000 Guineas winner.

What is the number you have arrived at?

Is it:

- A. The age of Blue Point when he first won the King's Stand Stakes?
- B. The age of Equiano when he first won the King's Stand Stakes?
- C. The age of Sole Power when he first won the King's Stand Stakes?

FILL IN THE BLANKS

Can you fill in the ten blanks below? Each blank may be one word or the full name of a person, a horse or a race.

1.

The field for the 2016 running of the _____ at the Cheltenham Festival included the three most recent winners of the race, _____, _____ and _____. However, none of them were favourite; that was Un De Sceaux, who finished second to _____ in a famous victory. In third place was _____ who went on to win the race the following year. The winner was ridden by _____ and trained by _____. The winner had just one more race – the _____ at Sandown, winning once again from Un De Sceaux, but by the bigger margin of _____ lengths.

2.

Night of Thunder won the 2,000 Guineas in _____ by half a length from _____. This was the only race in which the runner-up was defeated – his subsequent Group One wins that season included the Irish 2,000 Guineas and the _____ at Royal Ascot. Third behind Night of Thunder was _____, who went on to win both the Epsom Derby and the _____ in June as well as the _____ at York in August. Eighth in the 2,000 Guineas was, the 2014 winner of the _____, Kingston Hill. The horse who finished tenth behind Night of Thunder, _____, won two Group Ones later in the season – the _____ at Chantilly and the _____.

GET IT IN ONE? OR TWO, OR THREE, OR FOUR?

How few clues do you need to identify each of these famous racehorses?

1.

He won his only race as a two-year-old, a maiden at Newmarket in October 2016, with a future Ascot Gold Cup winner finishing fourth. In 2017 he became the first of his sire's progeny to win a European Group One race.

He started at odds-on in each of his four races as a four-year-old.

He became only the second horse this century to win consecutive Champion Stakes.

2.

This horse's dam won the Irish 1,000 Guineas, Nassau Stakes and Sun Chariot Stakes in 2008.

She won races for four different jockeys.

She won back-to-back Tattersalls Gold Cups and Irish Champion Stakes.

She finished second to Enable on three occasions.

WHERE'S THE LOGIC?

1.

Rawcliffe the trainer had three winners in one day, all at different courses: Armfield, Bowminster and Cornham. The horses' names were Duplicity, Euphoria and Fidelity. The jockeys were Ashton, Bradshaw and Carter.

Bradshaw rode the winner at Armfield. At Cornham, the winner was 10-1. Duplicity won at 2-1. Euphoria's win was not at Bowminster. Ashton won on the banker at 4-6.

Which horse won at Cornham?

2.

Four friends went to the races and in the first race they each backed a different horse, one of the first four in the betting. They each had a different stake and they placed their bets with four different bookmakers, Bell, Chamberlin, Chapman and Weaver.

Bell took Chris's bet which was not the £20 that was placed on the favourite. Jude backed the fourth in the betting. Chamberlin took the bet on the second favourite, which was not £50. Chapman took the £30 bet. Jamie's bet was not the £10 one.

Which horse did Alex back?

TELL ME THE ANSWER AND I'LL TELL YOU THE QUESTION

In each set of two questions and two answers below, only one of the answers is correct for only one of the questions. Can you find the matching pair?

1.

Questions

Which woman trained the Grand National winner in 2009?

Which woman trained the Grand National winner in 2013?

Answers

Sue Smith

Lucinda Russell

2.

Questions

Which race named after a monarch was first run under that name in 1937?

Which race named after a monarch was first run under that name in 1955?

Answers

King George VI Chase

Queen Anne Stakes

3.

Questions

Which runner-up in the 2,000 Guineas won the Irish 2,000 Guineas in his next race?

Which runner-up in the 2,000 Guineas won the St James's Palace Stakes in his next race?

Answers

Sir Percy

Kingman

4.

Questions

Which two-time winner of the Champion Hurdle had his second win aged eight?

Which two-time winner of the Champion Hurdle had his second win aged nine?

Answers

Comedy of Errors

Sea Pigeon

SIMPLE SUMS

3.

Begin with the number of consecutive races won by Sprinter Sacre in his winning run which began in December 2011

Add the number of letters in the name of the 2016 winner of the 2,000 Guineas

Subtract the number of letters in the name of the 2016 winner of the 1,000 Guineas

Divide by the number of times Joseph O' Brien rode the winner of the Epsom Derby

What is the number you have arrived at?

Is it:

- A. The age Rooster Booster was when he won the Champion Hurdle?
- B. The age Annie Power was when she won the Champion Hurdle?
- C. The age Rock On Ruby was when he won the Champion Hurdle?

4.

Begin with the number of times Lester Piggott rode the winner of the St Leger

Multiply by the number of times St Nicholas Abbey won the Coronation Cup

Add the number of times John Francome was outright jump champion jockey

Divide by the number of Group One races normally run in a season at York

What is the number you have arrived at?

Is it:

- A. The number of letters in the name of the 2014 winner of the Cheltenham Gold Cup?
- B. The number of letters in the name of the 2015 winner of the Cheltenham Gold Cup?
- C. The number of letters in the name of the 2016 winner of the Cheltenham Gold Cup?

FILL IN THE BLANKS

Can you fill in the ten blanks below? Each blank may be one word, or the full name of a person, a horse or a race.

3.

The winner of the 2016 _____ was Ivanovich Gorbatov whose trainer, _____, is better known for his successes on the flat and whose son, _____, later took over the training of the horse. Second was _____ who in her next race, the Anniversary Four-year-old Novices' Hurdle at _____, reversed placings with the winner and beat him by 41 lengths in the first of what was to become her _____ Grade One successes. The third, _____, was back at the Cheltenham Festival with a win two years later in the Arkle Challenge Trophy Chase. It is unlikely that anyone would have predicted that two of the unplaced horses – who were stablemates – would go on to win three consecutive _____ between them. They were _____ in sixth and _____ in eighth.

4.

Was won the _____ at Epsom in 2012, with a starting price of _____. Trained by _____, it was a first British Classic winner for jockey _____. In six subsequent starts, the winner failed to win again. The second horse, _____, also did not subsequently win a race, although later in 2012 she was _____ in the Irish Oaks. The beaten favourite in third place at Epsom, trained by _____, was _____, who went on to great success. She won Group One races as a three, four and five-year-old. These included the _____ at Goodwood, the Yorkshire Oaks and the _____ at Royal Ascot.

GET IT IN ONE? OR TWO, OR THREE, OR FOUR?

How few clues do you need to identify each of these famous racehorses?

3.

Foaled in 1999, her dam won the 1990 Yorkshire Oaks.

She was ridden in all races by Kieren Fallon.

She won consecutive Yorkshire Oaks, on each occasion having that year's Epsom Oaks winner in rear.

She won the Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf in 2003.

4.

She was ridden in her Group One wins by Jimmy Fortune and William Buick.

Her fifth foal's wins included the Prix Jean Prat and Sussex Stakes.

She was disqualified from victory in the Prix Vermeille at Longchamp.

Her final race and Group One win was the Dubai Sheema Classic.

WHERE'S THE LOGIC?

3.

The hurdler Gormenghast was having a very successful season, having won all four starts to date. Each win was at a different distance (the longest of which was two miles and six furlongs) and on different going and he started at a different price each time! They were also at four different courses, Armfield, Bowminster, Cornham and Denley. His win at Bowminster was over two miles and two furlongs. The win over two miles was in heavy going; it was not the one in which he started at evens. When he won at two and a half miles, he started at 5-2; this was not at Cornham, where the win was on good going. He started at 2-1 at Denley but he was 6-1 when he won on good to soft. Where did Gormenghast win on soft going?

4.

There are just four runners in the last race on the card. Each of the jockeys has a different colour cap from each other – red, blue, yellow and green – and different colour sleeves from each other, as well as a different pattern on the body of the colours.

The jockey on the horse drawn one has a green cap but is not the jockey wearing green sleeves with quartered colours. The jockey on the horse drawn two has red sleeves and the jockey in stall three has hooped colours. Blue sleeves are worn by the jockey with a red cap. The jockey with a diamond is not the one with yellow sleeves. The jockey with a blue cap does not have a diamond.

What colour was the cap of the jockey with red sleeves? The jockey in which stall is wearing crossbelts?

TIME FOR A RHYME

Can you complete the missing rhymes in the poems below and identify the horse that the poem is about?

1.

For many years racegoers were thrilled and beguiled
By the exploits of this offspring of _____
His starts numbered 70, his wins 34
To win a great Gold Cup, he kept pulling out _____

2.

22 hurdles races, 11 were won
Normal rider Mccoy and trained by _____
His speed over a hurdle was a sight to see
In the green with yellow hoops of owner _____

3.

He beat Florida Pearl in the King George by ten
A fifth win in the race for his trainer _____
More wins were to come in Ireland and at Aintree
In the safe hands of the trainer's son _____

4.

Perhaps the best with which Greystoke was ever graced
His sire in both the Guineas and Derby was _____
At fences he was flamboyant, fast and clever
With his Champion Chase win one of the best _____

SIMPLE SUMS

5.

Begin with the number of times Blue Point won the King's Stand Stakes

Add the number of Grade Ones won by Hurricane Fly

Multiply by the number of racecourses in Cumbria

Divide by the number of hurdles jumped in the Long Walk Hurdle

What is the number you have arrived at?

Is it:

- A. The number of times Barry Geraghty rode the winner of the Champion Hurdle?
- B. The number of times Tony McCoy rode the winner of the Champion Hurdle?
- C. The number of times Noel Fehily rode the winner of the Champion Hurdle?

6.

Begin with the number of fences jumped in the Tingle Creek Chase

Add the age that Addeybb was when he won the 2020 Champion Stakes

Multiply by the number of times Warsaan won the Coronation Cup

Subtract the number of consecutive races won by Winx

What is the number you have arrived at?

Is it:

- A. The number of times Further Flight won the Doncaster Cup?
- B. The number of times Further Flight won the Goodwood Cup?
- C. The number of times Further Flight won the Jockey Club Cup?