



Shade Oak Stud

Newsletter 2015

**WELCOME TO OUR
25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**



“Simonsig” watercolour by our daughter Grace

THE SHADE OAK ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Last year saw Emma and I celebrate 25 years in which we have both been involved in running Shade Oak Stud. To celebrate these auspicious occasions we came up with the idea that we should invite you to join us by offering a special 'thank you' present to all of those who have been our clients over the years.

Anyone who has sent a mare to visit one of our stallions in the past 25 years can choose one of two options:

- Receive a **33% discount** on the advertised fee of any stallion, i.e. Send a mare to Black Sam Bellamy for only £2,345 (normal fee £3,500), Fair Mix for only £1,675 (normal fee £2,500) or Lucarno for only £1,340 (normal fee £2,000).

or...

- Receive a **10% discount** on the advertised fee of any stallion and a **refund of half this fee if your mare later produces a filly foal.**

This means that you will pay £3,150 for a Black Sam Bellamy colt but only £1,575 for a filly; £2,250 for a Fair Mix colt but only £1,125 for a filly; and £1,800 for a Lucarno colt but only £900 for a filly.

This offer is only available to breeders that have used our stallions previously and is confined to one mare per breeder. If you have already booked a mare into one of our stallions for this year, the offer is still available – just let us know which option you wish to choose. **(The various refunds do depend, of course, on the agreed nomination fee being paid on the due date, i.e. within one month of October 1st.)**

OUR STALLIONS

In some ways this year is an 'in between' one for our stallions as we eagerly await runners from the good mares sent to them in recent years.



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Black Sam Bellamy proved his ability as NH stallion whilst standing as a Flat sire in Germany, producing such as The Giant Bolster (who has the rare achievement of being placed in three Cheltenham Gold Cups), Champion bumper horse Samain and the good Irish hurdler Blackmail.

His first Shade Oak NH bred horses are beginning to race and both geldings and fillies are showing real potential. In his only race so far the 4yr old Board of Trade beat Alflora's son Wishfull Dreaming, and next time out the latter took a Listed Bumper at Cheltenham. The Shade Oak bred Hollies Pearl won a good race at Ffos Las after coming second in a Listed Mares Bumper in which Lucarno's Lady of Lamanvar finished fourth, and now goes for Listed events at Sandown and Aintree; whilst Flute Bowl has been classified as a TBA Elite Mare. Stories are reaching us of very promising horses with trainers in both England and Ireland. In the Irish point to points from 3 runners he has had 2 winners, a 2nd including the very promising 'Pack your Bags'

with exciting comments about others waiting to come out. This offer could be your chance to 'get in early' on an outstanding NH stallion at a price you will never see again.

And I haven't even mentioned that Black Sam's full-brother Galileo is still the best sire in the world and his half brother Sea The Stars was not only the best racehorse in the world he is seeming likely to prove himself a superb stallion as well.

Fair Mix has been unlucky in that his brilliant son Simonsig has been side lined since completing a rare Cheltenham Festival Grade 1 Hurdle/Chase double, but for which his name would surely have been near the top of the NH Sires Lists. When Simonsig first showed his potential four years ago we noticed an immediate increase in the quality of mares booked to Fair Mix. Alflora enjoyed a similar uplift in the mares sent to him after his first runners/winners appeared, re-establishing himself as Britain's leading NH sire with the likes of 'Wishful Thinking', on that same basis Fair Mix could be set to re-establish himself as a source of high-class NH horses. Very few NH stallions even sire one horse as good as Simonsig and Fair Mix did it with his first crop. I have noticed that Fair Mix seems to go particularly well when crossed with stamina laden dams. It is also noticeable that they improve when chasing as they have a natural athletic jump.



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Lucarno, a big, late-maturing horse himself, is back to his very best, looking fantastic and now extremely well settled. In fact unrecognisable compared with the horse that returned from France. He has always looked like a sire of chasers and his stock are likely to need time and fences before they really show what they can do. His 4 yr olds have been a little over enthusiastic in NHF races. But they have shown great toughness and resolve to fight back at the latter stages of the race and in this rain sodden winter ground he offers us extra stamina a component often required. His current runners are from relatively small crops conceived at Wood Farm including The Queens "Summer Storm" a winner of NH Flat Race who is in training with Nicky Henderson. We look forward to a crop of 54 horses waiting in the wings ready to race over Jumps in France from next year that were conceived whilst at Haras St Voir, France. Haras St Voir who themselves are responsible for breeding such horses as Dynaste and



Vautour. The chances are that some of these will have won good races by the time that the foals he sires this year, are weaned. Some good mares were sent to him in his first year at Shade Oak, including our best mare Amaretto Rose; Royal Shakespeare's dam Persian Walk; and TBA Elite Mares Double Hit, I'm Delilah, Theatre Belle and Theatre Diva. It is to maintain such a flow of high-class mates that we already offer him at a very reasonable fee; and with the 'Shade Oak Anniversary Offer' he represents stonkingly good value!



© Horse and Hound, Trevor Meeks

Alflora is now 26 and, although taking pride in the achievements of his progeny with the likes of Wishful Thinking or Wishful Dreaming winning big races, like many older gentlemen he finds that whilst the spirit may be willing the flesh is weak. So he is now retired and able to reflect on a full and successful life as

both a racehorse and stallion. Our visitors are welcome to say hello and bring him a treat! His influence as sire is only just beginning as I have always maintained we must watch out for the Alflora mares, who have great build quality, are superb mothers with no Sadler's Wells restrictions.

Recharge is still standing in France with an increased book last year due to his outstanding looking offspring with further high hopes this season. We are hoping to repatriate him to coincide with his first runners in Great Britain.



INTRODUCING 'THE SHADE OAK FERTILITY SERVICE'

Over the years I have enjoyed getting to know the many 'tricks/procedures' involved in getting and keeping mares in foal. Every year we learn some new ones and I believe that nowhere is more dedicated to achieving a positive result than we are.

We have worked with two outstanding vets, both of the Fyrnwy Equine Practice, first Dick Quan-Taylor and now his successor, John Spencer. I believe that they would be the first to say that achieving maximum fertility involves a team effort: everyone must do the right thing at the right time, not forgetting, of course, the stallion and mare!

Our vets and ourselves offer a complete range of packages costed out to be extremely competitive.

- There is still the "all in vet's scheme" for the stud season. This basically takes care of all the routine costs "under your mare's tail" to get your mare in foal. The security of knowing where you stand for the season whether your mare goes in foal first time or not. It removes all the uncertainty and enables us to pin point the timing of a mares covering. It also allows us to monitor the uterus throughout the season and plan our way through a number of post covering care procedures to maximise fertility. You have the comfort of knowing that to achieve the highest return the vet will be working hard to get the highest strike rate possible.
- The "MOT service scheme" is an out of season or pre-season investigation to assess the state of the mare's uterus for those mares which have returned barren from stud. Obviously the sooner any problems can be diagnosed and treated, then the greater the chance a mare has of getting in foal.
- The "uterus re-vamp" is a complete overhaul of the entire uterus. The vet's endoscope camera gives a complete picture of the uterus enabling him to evaluate the uterine lining as well as target any future treatment. Whether this be laser surgery, curitage followed up with comprehensive uterine infusions and lavages to aid and hopefully rejuvenate the uterus.

We are delighted when you choose to use our stallions. But we know that breeders like to ring the changes and seek out what they hope is the perfect mating for their mare and other studs stand good stallions too. If you want to visit one of these we will still be happy to provide you with the 'Shade Oak Fertility Service' and walk the mares in to other studs.

- When we are covering the mare here at Shade Oak we can obviously ensure that the covering is at the perfect time for the mare. When walking mares in to other studs we liaise with them to try to achieve the same goal. In recent years we have successfully walked mares into other studs in the area, such as Pitchall, Overbury, Yorton and various studs in Newmarket including Darley, Newsells Park, Shadwell and Stanley House.

So **'The Shade Oak Fertility Service' is available to you whether you choose to use one of our stallions or not.** As one of our clients wrote to us:

"In each of the past two years I have had mares returned from Ireland 'not in foal' after several coverings. On each occasion Peter and John found significant issues that meant that they weren't going to get in foal. The two of them worked hard to resolve the mares' problems. Each was then walked in to another stud after treatment at Shade Oak, and bang, they got in foal first time.

I believe that if a mare can't get in foal at Shade Oak she won't get in foal anywhere; and if they can't get her in foal anywhere else, then send her to Shade Oak. Their fertility service really is the best."

A LOOK AT THE FOALING UNIT

The foaling season is both the most exciting and the most stressful for thoroughbred breeders, and we approach this season with better facilities than ever.

Our foaling unit, 'The Oaks', is located adjacent to mum and dad's house away from the main stud buildings. This minimises the risk of infection to newly-born foals. Mares are moved there around two weeks before their due date, and are then constantly monitored via a new up dated CCTV system. Mum, Anne is on watch during the day, backed up by Emma on a screen in the office; and Foaling Manager Keith Warburton takes over at night – it's a tough job but he's the someone that actually loves doing it!

Nearer to foaling mares are fitted with 'sweat alarms' and although these are very reliable indicators of an imminent delivery, the TV monitors ensure that we spot the odd one where the alarm doesn't go off. Most foalings are recorded on DVD, so ask us if you want to see edited highlights of your mare's happy day.

Keith has now assisted with the births of over 500 foals. Many are straight-forward deliveries but in other cases there are difficulties with large or badly-presented foals, and then I am often called in to help, whilst our vet's surgery is only 7 minutes away. The secrets of successful foaling are vigilance, knowledge of the problems that can arise, and helping the mare at the right time and in the right way. The expertise of the people doing the foaling can be literally a life or death matter for the mare and foal, and we pride ourselves on our ability to give both the best possible chance by making the right decision at the right time.

Of course, as many of you know, the work doesn't end when the mare foals. The endless patience and dedication to ensure that the foal receives the necessary colostrum. The testing of the colostrum for quality and helps pre-empt any insufficiency. A well stocked frozen supply of colostrum is available for resident mares when required to make sure that every foal delivered has the best possible start in life.

As I said earlier, foaling can be a stressful process as well as an exciting one. Many breeders find it easier to delegate the waiting-up and worry to us and wait forward to the telephone call of a healthy foal followed by the excitement of seeing a potential future champion running with its mother. The foaling service is available to all mares whether you wish to visit our stallions or not or indeed whether you wish to put your mare back in foal or not.

A NEW COVERED LUNGING RING

The lunge ring has now been covered and its fibre sand base is protected from the elements and offers a consistent safe surface to work young horses. As a result of which we will now be represented at most of the forthcoming store sales. Although consignments are restricted we will always try to help any of our Clients with any stores you wish to place. Whether you are uncertain and not familiar with a particular sale and just need advice or you would like Shade Oak to present your offspring. This wonderful facility coupled with the horse walker means that we are now fully equipped to produce outstanding individuals.

FACEBOOK

We have long had a website, www.shadeoakstud.co.uk, but keeping it up-to-date is beyond my technical expertise, thus requiring intervention by an IT expert. Accordingly, this happens at irregular intervals. Facebook offers a much easier method of talking about the day-to-day things that happen at the stud, the people, the stallions, the mares, the foals and some of the successes of horses produced here. It also allows for feedback and other input, and we update this frequently. If you want to look at our efforts, click on the Facebook tag on our website or go on Facebook and search 'Shade Oak Stud'. And send us any news or photos of any Shade Oak-sired, born or raised horses so we can add them to our pages.

THOUGHTS ON NH BREEDING AND THE ETERNAL PROBLEM OF FILLIES

Only three years ago there was only one Mares-only Black-Type Novice Hurdle in Great Britain and only around 10 Black-type Mares races in all. The TBA NH Committee proposed significant improvements to this programme to the BHA and, rather to our surprise, the response was immediate (thank you, Stuart Middleton of the BHA!). There are now four BT Mares-only Bumpers, eight Novice or Juvenile Hurdles, eight Open Hurdles and two Chases, 22 BT races in all. Most leading trainers aim to have mares that compete in these races, whilst owners are becoming aware that if they buy a mare she could have an increased resale value at the end of her career. Some might even become breeders themselves!

However, more is needed. We are desperately hoping that Cheltenham will put on a Graded Mares-only Novice Hurdle as the 28th race of the 2016 Festival. Currently, the only alternatives for leading female novice hurdlers are to take on the geldings or face the likes of Quevega or Annie Power in the OBLG David Nicholson Hurdle. Most don't turn up to Cheltenham at all. After looking at potential fields for the past two years I believe that a Mares Novice Hurdle would be a highly competitive event.

Perhaps there might even be a fifth day of the Festival one day? If that is to happen then Championship Bumper, Novice Hurdle, Hurdle and Chase events for mares would go a long way to expand the programme without diluting other races. Royal Ascot has five highly-competitive days, aided by the fact that one-fifth of the races are confined to fillies. If we can get more NH mares in training, might not Cheltenham do the same?

If you want to discuss how we can help with any of your mares, whether with our Stallions, Fertility Centre or Foaling Service, please give me a call on 01939 270235 or 07740 257547.

Good luck with your breeding efforts in 2015, as well as with the racecourse results of the horses you have already bred.

SHADE OAK STUD, BAGLEY, ELLESMERE, SHROPSHIRE SY12 9BY

Tel; 01939 270235 Fax; 01939 270516 Email; info@shadeoakstud.co.uk Website; www.shadeoakstud.co.uk

