



Doyle racing First past the post

Peter & Ross Doyle Bloodstock Ltd have earned a distinguished reputation over the years as the buyers for, and of, the stars. By **Lissa Oliver**

* The aim of competition is to succeed and just like any sport, horseracing has its championships and annual awards. Peter & Ross Doyle Bloodstock Ltd has consistently been at the top of its profession for almost 40 years and the horses it buys and supplies regularly top those championships.

Based in Ireland “The Land Of The Horse”, Peter and his son Ross are one of the leading bloodstock companies in Europe and sign the docketts for thoroughbreds topping the sales around the world. An impressive 68 per cent of the runners purchased by them have been winners and recent purchases on behalf of their clients include Longines World Joint Champion two-year-old filly and Cartier Champion two-year-old filly of 2014, Tiggy Wiggy, trained by Richard Hannon. The winner of well over 500,000 euros in prize money and this year Tiggy Wiggy will be seeking Classic glory in the 1000 Guineas.

Peter reveals: “We are honoured to buy for clients as diverse as Swedish singer songwriter Benny Anderson (for-

merly of ABBA), H.H. Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum of Dubai, H.H. Sheikh Joaan Al Thani of Qatar (Al Shaaqab Racing), Marcus and Ingrid Jooste (Mayfair Speculators) of South Africa and, in the UK, Middleham Park, their trainers and racing managers.” The Doyles also buy numerous horses for clients who may just buy one or two horses a year, but the same dedication to providing a thorough efficient service applies.

Richard Hannon Snr and his son Richard have a very successful partnership with the Doyles, who buy 80 per cent of their horses. The Hannonns have been back-to-back Champion Trainers in Britain, Richard Snr gaining his fourth Championship in 2013 and his son Richard matching the achievement last year at his first attempt. The business relationship has forged a great friendship between the four men and their families.

“We have enjoyed great success together spanning 30

Canford Cliffs

Canford Cliffs was purchased by Doyle Racing for £50,000 as a yearling and went on to win five Group 1 races including the Irish Guineas and the St James' Palace Stakes and Queen Anne Stakes (above) at Royal Ascot beating the great Goldikova

years,” states Richard Hannon, “Peter and Ross consistently select top class horses for us to train and are very professional and a pleasure to deal with.”

Winning a Classic is a life changing experience for an owner, their name engraved in racing history. The Doyles’ track record of selecting the necessary horse speaks for itself. A top-class thoroughbred has the ability to take its owners to the red carpet events of the world’s stage and there is no finer seat in the house than within the winners’ circle. “Royal Ascot is the Olympics of Flat Racing,” enthuses Ross. “Horses travel from all over the world to compete there. The Royal Family always attend and it’s an incredibly glamorous occasion, full of tradition, right down to the champagne picnics.”

Thrill of the occasion

Sparkling occasions, such as Royal Ascot, Glorious Goodwood, the Melbourne Cup and Dubai World Cup may be glamorous, but for many the thrills of National Hunt racing offer huge excitement and the Doyles have also enjoyed great success in that sphere. One of the best-known names in National Hunt is that of former Champion Jockey and now leading trainer, Jonjo O’Neill, and his famous Jackdaws Castle stable is home to many of the Doyles’ purchases.

“Peter and Ross have an excellent record and reputation and we are very excited to be working closely with them to source future National Hunt stars for Jackdaws Castle,” says Jonjo O’Neill.

The centre stage of National Hunt racing is at Cheltenham in March and leading in a Cheltenham Festival winner cannot be matched. The Irish equivalent is the Punchestown Festival in April and there exists a good-hearted rivalry to see which country achieves the most wins at their respective festivals.

Although it is said of owning racehorses that the easiest way to end up with a small fortune is to begin with a large fortune, Peter and Ross do their best to belie this humorous adage. The Doyles consistently purchase champions right across the price range. When a horse wins at the highest level in rac-



Winning team

The Doyle and Hannon team celebrating at Glorious Goodwood. From left: Richard Hannon Snr, Peter, Ross and Anna Doyle, Jemima, Richard and Jo Hannon

High stakes

Peter & Ross Doyle pictured at Royal Ascot where they have enjoyed tremendous success for their clients with horses such as Canford Cliffs, Paco Boy, Indian Ink, Strong Suit, Gilded and High Accolade

ing he or she becomes a very valuable asset and their value increases exponentially when purchased to go to stud. Recent examples are Paco Boy, Canford Cliffs, Dick Turpin, Zebedee, Lillbourne Lad, Harbour Watch, Olympic Glory, Alhbayeb and Sir Prancealot. “The industry is doing very well,” explains Peter, “racehorses are in demand worldwide. One of the first horses we sold to Hong Kong won the Hong Kong Derby.”

As a young adult Ross Doyle was on the cusp of going professional as a rugby player, having played for Ireland’s Sevens team. “A career in rugby was tempting, it was a real option,” reveals Ross, “but it would have effectively meant giving up horses.” He enjoys a great friendship with champion trainer, Richard Hannon, having worked alongside him for the past 14 years, ensuring yet another enduring business partnership so typical of the Doyles’ work ethic.

“There’s a uniqueness to racing, an adrenalin rush,” says Ross. “A person could be hugely successful in business or a sport star, but nothing compares to the winners’ enclosure. Racing is a fascinating investment vehicle, that’s what makes it attractive. There’s always a great buzz and fantastic facilities to entertain business clients. Private boxes are always available if you plan in advance, but the Owners’ Lounges are very well catered for. When owners get a taste of what’s available to them at the top international racecourses they want to go back, year after year.”

Of course, that can only be possible with the right horse and the glorious uncertainty of any sport is what makes it so appealing, which is why it helps to have the die loaded in one’s favour by the experience and expertise of Peter and Ross Doyle. *

Further information

To find out more please visit: www.doylelacing.com

