

BLOODSTOCK WORLD



Peter and Ross Doyle (right) in their Royal Ascot finery. The father-son team have also enjoyed success in the jumps sphere

Store successes show Doyles are agents for all seasons

Martin Stevens speaks to a leading Flat agent making his mark over jumps

PETER and Ross Doyle are renowned for their success buying cheap horses who are transformed into superstars on the Flat by the Hannons. What some may not realise is that the father-son team also does a neat sideline in scouting for jumps talent at the store sales.

Among the Doyles' triumphs is Tell Us More, bought for client William Drew at the 2012 Goffs Land Rover Sale for €27,000 and resold to Willie Mullins at Brightwells in December for €290,000 after he won a point-to-point at Tattersalls Farm for Willie Codd. Tell Us More hosed up in a Gowran Park bumper on his first start for Mullins in March.

There is also Alisier D'Irlande, bought at last year's Tattersalls Ireland Derby Sale for €52,000 and sold on to Roger Brookhouse for €300,000 at Brightwells in April after the horse won between the flags at Templemore for Codd.

The Doyle team were out in force at Goffs yesterday on the hunt for more money-makers like those, before the start of this year's Land Rover Sale, which starts today at 10am.

"We've been buying jumpers on a bigger scale for the last five or six years," says Ross Doyle, "but my father and his father [Jack Doyle] always bought them."

"The association with Willie Codd and his brother Jamie,

Goffs Land Rover Sale – facts and figures

►►Where/when

Goffs sales complex, County Kildare, today and tomorrow. Selling starts at 10am each day

►►2013 results

From 464 offered, 408 sold (88%) for turnover of

€7,725,150 (+40%), an average of €18,934 (+27%) and median of €14,000 (+17%)

►►Star graduates

Holywell (bought by Sean Doyle for €7,000), **Last Instalment** (Kevin Power, €10,500), **Oscar Whisky** (Dai Walters, €80,000)

who rides most of the horses, started around nine years ago when we had an order for a horse for the amateur jockey Neil Durkan to ride.

"We were recommended Willie so we went to him and he was very helpful and the horses looked fantastic. We bought Equal Status, who gave Neil some good rides, and we have worked with Willie ever since."

Although Codd has landed some fine touches with Doyle purchases, thanks to the booming trade in jumps horses with form, Doyle acknowledges it's not the get-rich-quick scheme it may seem.

"The market for winning pointers is unbelievably strong," he says. "But you need a lot of luck on your side to keep the horses healthy and get a win into them – there are plenty who fall by the wayside."

"The good thing about Willie and Jamie is their horses train on and win races after they have sold them. That's very important if you want repeat custom."

The Doyles have made their reputation by inexpensively sourcing top horses on the Flat who are not always by the most fashionable sires – Olympic Glory cost them €65,000;

Toomore just €36,000 – and their eye for an athlete is invaluable at the store sales.

"Pedigrees are not a big thing there," Doyle says. "We narrow down the horses to find the best physicals – we're looking for horses with balance, good walkers, not too big and not too small; a nice medium-sized horse – and if they are from a good family it's a bonus."

"That means between us, myself, my father, my mother Anna plus Willie, we will look at every horse."

BACK to the Doyles' main focus, the Flat, and their thoroughness and ability to pinpoint quality at reasonable prices will be showcased at Royal Ascot next week, with their two-year-old purchases Dangerous Moonlite, Kool Kompany and Tiggy Wiggy holding leading chances.

Another Hannon-trained juvenile who could advertise a different aspect of the Doyles' acumen at the royal meeting is easy Windsor maiden winner Among Angels. The agents provided the mating advice for the Pineapple Stud-owned and bred son of Acclamation.

Further rise in French lots at Land Rover Sale

By Katherine Fidler

THE number of French-bred horses on offer at the Goffs Land Rover Sale has reached a five-year high, a trend described by the company's chief executive Henry Beeby as a "reflection of the market".

During the sale today and tomorrow a total of 27 French-bred stores have been catalogued, up from 16 in 2013 and eight in 2012. In 2011, three horses bred across the Channel were catalogued.

"We catalogue what the market offers us, what we think the market wants, and what our vendors tell us the market wants," said Beeby yesterday.

French-bred jumpers have enjoyed a long and illustrious history of success in Britain and Ireland, from top hurdlers Quevega, Big Buck's and Hors La Loi to legendary chaser Kauto Star. That success has seemingly translated into demand for the stock at sales,

Henry Beeby:
"We catalogue what the market wants"

FRENCH-BREDS

At the Goffs Land Rover Sale

Year	Number
2014	27
2013	16
2012	8
2011	3
2010	7

although Beeby said Goffs had not specifically targeted French producers.

"We've gone out and marketed the sale as widely as we can, as we always do," said Beeby. "But there has no increase in marketing [in France]."

"Land Rover Sale graduates have enjoyed success both on the track and at the boutique sales over the last three years, and this year agents and potential buyers are telling us they're impressed with what they see, which is a reflection of the market."

However, it should also be noted that this year's British- and Irish-bred three- and four-year-old crops were born in 2010 and 2011, the year that the 2008 economic crash made its biggest impact.

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