



## DOYLE DUO ON THE RISE

By Emma Berry

In the last year alone, the father-and-son buying team of Peter and Ross Doyle has been responsible for 14 group winners around the world, including the Group 1 duo of Olympic Glory (Ire) (Choisir {Aus}) and Toormore (Ire) (Arakan).

In many ways, the owners of these two horses exemplify the all-encompassing reach of an agency that



**Olympic Glory**  
*Racing Post*

goes from strength to strength. Olympic Glory, originally purchased for one of Richard Hannon's staunchest supporters, Julie Wood, for £65,000 at the DBS Premier Yearling Sale, was sold privately in training to Sheikh Joaan Al Thani, one of European racing's major new forces, through his Al Shaqab

Racing. Classic prospect Toormore is the pride and joy of Middleham Park Racing, a syndicate that has enjoyed increasing success over the years, and one in which everyday racing fans can be involved.

What links the two, apart from the Doyles, is the fact that both horses hail from the stable of Richard Hannon, who relinquishes his training licence on Dec. 31 and hands over the reins to his son, Richard Jr. Through this association, the Doyles were also seen in action on Sheikh Joaan's behalf during the recently completed season.

"We've been very honored to buy some horses on behalf of Sheikh Joaan, but they are really just the ones that Richard Hannon will be training for him," says Ross Doyle, 37, who has worked alongside his father since his early twenties in the family business started by his grandfather Jack, and now known as Peter & Ross Doyle Bloodstock.



**Peter and Ross Doyle**  
*Racing Post*

"The association between the Hannons and Sheikh Joaan has been very successful so far, and we're just lucky to have been asked to help out," continued Ross. "Al Shaqab Racing is a growing force, and they are buying some really nice horses with the intention of being involved in the sport for the long term." **Cont. p7**

# IS LOUIES FLOWER THE NEXT I'LL HAVE ANOTHER?

## FLOWER ALLEY

Distorted Humor - Princess Olivia, by Lycius  
\$7,500 payable when foal stands and nurses

**FLOWER ALLEY** has sired:

**First Crop:** 2 Kentucky Oaks starters  
(LILACS AND LACE-G1 and BOUQUET BOOTH-G3)

**Second Crop:** Kentucky Derby/Preakness winner  
& Eclipse Champion I'LL HAVE ANOTHER

**LOUIES FLOWER (2YO colt)** is now on the Derby trail after winning the \$250,000 Springboard S., his 3rd win in a row!

[\[watch replay\]](#)



I'LL HAVE ANOTHER



## Doyle Duo cont.

Hannon senior, who is bowing out from a long and successful career as Britain's reigning champion trainer, has earned his reputation the hard way. His stable may now house some regally bred animals, but that hasn't always been the case. For many years he trained horses who, to a certain extent, often achieved more than might have been expected on mere breeding alone--horses who were picked up at the sales, if not from the bargain basement, then certainly at the more affordable end of the market. In this regard, it is impossible not to acknowledge the level of input from Jack, Peter then Ross Doyle in this success story.

"My grandfather originally worked with Richard senior, then Peter did, and we've gotten to know what they want," explains Ross. "We've worked together for a long time, and both Richards have a very good eye for a horse, so we don't want to waste their time by walking around the yearling sales showing them horses that they won't want."

As the training baton is passed on to the next generation, so is a certain amount of the buying responsibility. Richard Hannon Jr. and Ross Doyle are rarely seen apart at the sales, and it is a partnership which clearly works along similar lines as that of their fathers.

Ross says: "Myself and Richard [Jr] have been working very closely for about the last 13 years, but although our fathers have always worked closely together, we didn't see much of each other growing up as I was in Ireland and he was in England."

"We work well together and we're very good pals as well. Richard Sr. has always said that the reason he and my dad get on so well is that they live in different countries, so they're not together every day of the year. That way, when you do see each other, whether it's at the sales or racing, then you're actually glad to see each other. We talk regularly on the phone, but we don't live in each other's pockets, apart from at the sales when we're very busy."



**Ross Doyle &  
Richard Hannon Jr**  
*Racing Post*

When one considers the prices it took to secure horses of the nature of Canford Cliffs (Ire) (Tagula {Ire}) (£50,000), Paco Boy (Ire) (Desert Style {Ire}) (£30,000 as a 2-year-old), Lilbourne Lad (Ire) (Acclamation {GB}) (£80,000), Zebedee (GB) (Invincible Spirit {Ire}) (70,000gns), Harbour Watch (Ire) (Acclamation {GB}) (58,000gns) and Dick Turpin (Ire) (Arakan) (€26,000)--all of whom are now standing as stallions--then it's easy to see why the clients of Richard Hannon and many more besides are happy to put their faith in the judgement of the Doyle team. **Cont. p8**

## 2YO Source to the World



## ASIA EXPRESS wins Grade 1 Asahi Hai Futurity Nakayama Racecourse

Now 3 for 3 and in line for year end championship honors with wins on both turf and dirt

Sold at OBS March 2013 - \$230,000  
Owner: Yukio Baba  
Consignor: Ocala Stud  
Buyer: Narvick International, Agent  
Trainer: Takahisa Tezuka  
Jockey: Ryan Moore  
Lifetime Record: 3-3-0-0 \$850,000 USD

OBS Under tack video - 21:1  
Asahi Hai Futurity Video



**Ocala Breeders' Sales Company**  
obsales.com





## Writers Up cont.

In regards their selection principles, to a certain degree, it's a case of what you see is what you get, as Ross outlines: "We'd always go after the physical specimen, and that could be a horse by, say, a stallion in the twilight of his career that other people might find it difficult to put up to a client. If the individual is very nice we would want to buy him. We don't mind if the mare's getting on a bit as long as the yearling or the foal is a good size and strong."

"We can look at stallions and broodmare sires that other agents may not be able to go near. We've been lucky over the years that a lot of clients trust Richard and ourselves to buy what we like physically."

"There are so many yearlings to get round nowadays, but we have a great team. It's not just Peter and myself, but also my mother, Anna, plus Carol Tinkler and Fanny Kirk [Richard Hannon's daughter]. We want to give every horse a chance, hence we go round early at the sales and look at as many as we can. We look at a few on the farms beforehand, but generally we prefer to look at them all at the sales ground, side by side."

What has added an extra element of intrigue to recent yearling and foal sales is the chance to assess the stock of the aforementioned stallions who were originally selected as youngsters themselves by Peter and Ross Doyle Bloodstock.

"We've been lucky the last couple of years with the likes of Canford Cliffs, Paco Boy, Zebedee and Lilbourne Lad," says Ross. "It's very interesting to see the stock of those horses coming through, to see if they are producing nice horses and whether or not they are chips off the old block."

"We look at so many horses that we get a very good read on what the stallions are producing, and that's definitely the key to buying horses for Richard, especially when you're buying stock of first-season stallions."

"If we see a stallion that we think is getting lovely individuals, we don't mind taking a bit of a gamble on them. Acclamation is a case in point--his first yearlings did really well and followed it up on the racetrack. We like to see a stallion stamp his stock and produce strong, good walkers with good attitudes."

Another stallion whose name is closely linked with the Doyles is Ballyhane Stud's Arakan (Nureyev), with three of his four group winners--Dick Turpin (Ire), Toormore (Ire) and Trumpet Major (Ire)--all having been purchased by Peter and Ross. The trio has won a total of 12 group races between them, including three at Group 1 level, for a collective cost of €82,000.

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# On The Track...

## 2013 YEAR-TO-DATE GENERAL SIRE LIST, BY GRADED STAKES WINNERS

RK	STALLION	GSW's
1	<b>Giant's Causeway</b>	12
2	War Front	11
3	Kitten's Joy	10
4	Speightstown	9
5	Ghostzapper	8
6	Medaglia d'Oro	7

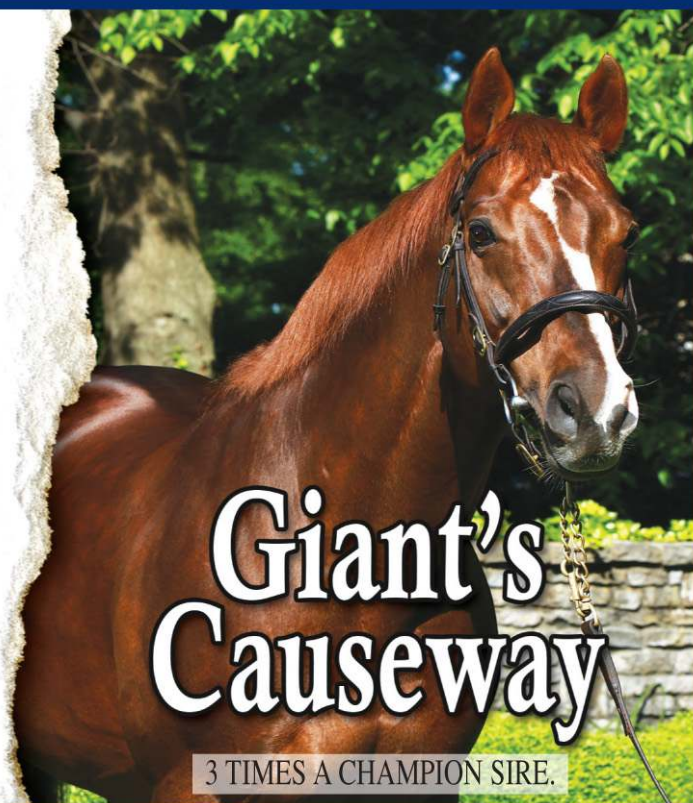
Source: TDN, to December 5, 2013



Champion sire in 2009, 2010 & 2012.



\$103m in lifetime progeny earnings in the northern hemisphere (that's more than Tiznow and Street Cry combined!).



**Giant's  
Causeway**

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## Doyle Duo cont.

While this is the level of the market at which the agency happily plied its trade for many years, the Doyles were also instrumental in one of the highest-profile transactions of 2013. At Goffs in November, the star of the much-publicized Paulyn Dispersal, the Irish Oaks winner Chicquita (Ire) (Montjeu {Ire}), was knocked down to Peter Doyle at €6 million, and she is now believed to be under the ownership of the Coolmore team.

"Yearlings are our main business, but we're interested in all areas of the sales, and we buy plenty of foals and breeze-up horses, too. We also dabble a bit in National Hunt and buy store horses for jumping clients," says Ross, who admits that his cousin, Tamso Doyle, for many years the public face of Horseracing Ireland who now runs her own PR agency, has encouraged him to embrace the brave new world of social media.

"Yes, we're on Twitter and Facebook now, and we use it to keep people up to date. A lot of our foreign clients enjoy that side of things. It's a great way to keep in touch with people."

Social media may be a powerful promotional tool for businesses, but for the Doyles, the best advertisement for their particular brand of tough and talented Thoroughbreds has always been on the racecourse itself. A generational shift may be in play, but the level of first-rate service is likely to remain uninterrupted.

## IN OTHER NEWS...

A Daily Roundup of Racing Articles in Other Media

[A day at Tampa Bay Downs is a day well spent](#) I admit, my knowledge of horse racing is probably greener than the turf track at Tampa Bay Downs, but I finally had a reason to visit this gem in a community I've called home for 22 years. **Eric Vician, Tampa Bay Times.**

[Qatar: New rulers of the sport of kings](#) It was an international who's who of horse racing super powers: Japan, Great Britain, Ireland, France, the United States and a resurgent Germany were all represented in the start gate of this year's Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. **Matt Majendie, CNN.com**

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# In The Ring...

★ 22 yearlings in 2013 sold for upwards of \$250,000 with top prices of:

**\$675,000, \$550,000, \$550,000,  
\$435,000, \$410,000, \$400,000**

★ And were bought by all the top judges including: Zayat Stables, Ben Glass, Northwest Stud, Pelican, Mandore International, Willis Horton, Amerman Racing, Dixiana Farm, Kaneko Makoto, Stepside Farm, Starlight Racing, John McCormack, Let's Go Stable, Donegal Racing, Goldmark Farm, Gary Broad, Reynolds Bell, J S Company, Lavin B/S, IVA, Jerry Hollendorfer etc.

★ In-foal mares at Keeneland November sold for **\$4,000,000, \$2,600,000** etc.



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