

A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS



ROSS DOYLE TELLS **LISSA OLIVER** THAT THE SAME PRINCIPALS APPLY WHEN BUYING STORE HORSES AS WHEN SOURCING FLAT-BRED YEARLINGS

ROSS DOYLE

Grade 1 winner Tornado Flyer was another Goffs Land Rover purchase for the Doyles.



"WHETHER IT'S FLAT OR NATIONAL HUNT, WE'RE STILL LOOKING FOR THE SAME THING, A GOOD-LOOKING AND ATHLETIC INDIVIDUAL"



ABOVE: Gold Cup winner MILL HOUSE was purchased by Ross's grandfather JACK DOYLE (RIGHT)



A Grade 3 winner and Grade 1 placed, TELL US MORE was bought by Ross and Peter Doyle at the Land Rover Sale



The Goffs Land Rover Sale has proven to be a happy hunting ground for Peter & Ross Doyle Bloodstock.

Ross explains: "Our flagship horse last season over jumps was Tornado Flyer, winner of the Grade 1 Bumper at Punchestown and third in the Grade 1 Champion Bumper at Cheltenham for the TFP Partnership and Willie Mullins. We picked him up for €63,000 from Pine Tree Stud at the Land Rover Sale and he's out of a half-sister to Hurricane Fly."

That Willie Mullins-trained gelding was by no means the first high-class National Hunt prospect sourced by the Doyles at the Land Rover. "We paid €27,000 for Tell Us More for our client William Drew, who won his point-to-point first time out for the late Willie Codd and was later bought by Harold Kirk for €290,000 after

winning his point-to-point. He went on to win a Grade 3 chase and was runner-up in a Grade 1 novice hurdle. He would be typical of the stores we've bought who have gone on to win their point-to-points and make a profit for our clients.

"Another would be Reserve Tank who we bought as a three-year-old at the Land Rover Sale for €35,000 and was sent to Willie Codd. Then he moved to Jonathan Fogarty when Willie very sadly passed away. Johnathan informed us that he was showing plenty of ability and could be above average, so we sold him privately to clients in the UK before he ran and they sent him to Colin Tizzard. Colin holds him in pretty high regard and he finished third on his debut in a novice hurdle taking on winners at Chepstow."

Ross reveals: "We're better known on the flat, but we've been buying National Hunt horses for the last ten or eleven years now and we've been very lucky at the Land Rover Sale in particular. We've bought between four and six each year and two very nice stores we picked up last year are

with Colin Bowe and will be going point-to-pointing this season. My grandfather Jack Doyle bought horses like Champion Hurdle winner Another Flash and Gold Cup winner Mill House, and my father Peter had Silver Buck through his hands as a young horse.

"The standard at the Land Rover Sale especially is getting better and better. Goffs has some great scouts and top vendors supporting the sale with nice horses by the right stallions, ensuring a high-quality catalogue. Whether it's flat or National Hunt, we're still looking for the same thing, a good-looking and athletic individual.

"The current National Hunt market is very competitive and more often than not we're getting blown out of the water, which is a good thing for the industry. The point-to-point performers have been raising the bar and creating a very strong market, so store horses are becoming a slightly more affordable way to gain access.

"MY GRANDFATHER JACK DOYLE BOUGHT HORSES LIKE CHAMPION HURDLE WINNER ANOTHER FLASH AND GOLD CUP WINNER MILL HOUSE AND MY FATHER PETER HAD SILVER BUCK THROUGH HIS HANDS."

"The fillies' bonuses and incentives have been really successful and a nice filly is fetching as good a price as a gelding. The clearance rate is very high and there are plenty of end-users who are finding it hard to get involved and those are the catalysts creating a successful market.

"There's a lot of stallion power behind the market, the popular sires are very strong, as are the new stallions on the up. We try and stick with the stallions we've had success with. I wouldn't be as immersed in National Hunt as I am in the flat, but the marketplace seems as strong as ever and the big players are driving the product to a higher standard.

"The slight negativity is over-production and we don't want a return to that situation. Everyone is trying to breed a saleable horse who can achieve success on the racecourse as well and that's the goal. The very busy stallions are a slight concern, but we'll only see the effects of that in a year or two."