



VENETIA WILLIAMS

RACEHORSE TRAINER





Welcome to the World of National Hunt Racing

National Hunt racing is one of the most exhilarating, exciting and dramatic sports available in the UK. In October the National Hunt season takes over centre stage from racing on the flat, and the older, more mature horses enter the arena to compete over hurdles and fences.

National Hunt horses tend to have longer racing careers than their flat counterparts. Due to this longevity the public become attached to certain horses and the relationship intensifies as they experience the highs and lows of their racing careers. Many such horses have become household names, Arkle, Red Rum, Desert Orchid and Kauto Star, to name but a few.

Cheltenham, now firmly established as one of the top social events in the sporting calendar, holds its own against any of the other major annual sporting events. Here the best jumps racing in the world can be seen, culminating with the Cheltenham Gold Cup.

But the most famous and prestigious horse race in the world is The Grand National attracting millions of viewers worldwide. The bravery and dedication of the jockeys is undisputed; the athleticism, courage and beauty of these noble animals is undeniable; the sheer drama of the race is palpable.

National Hunt racing is all about the sport, the challenge, the danger, the relationship between jockey, horse and trainer.

We look forward to welcoming you to the world of National Hunt Racing.



Mon Mome and Liam Treadwell, winners of the 2009 Grand National, jumping The Chair.



Venetia Williams – Racehorse Trainer

Venetia Williams has been training National Hunt racehorses since 1995. Learning her skills from the best trainers throughout the world, Venetia has experience in all areas of racing, including being a National Hunt jockey and riding in The Grand National. She now has 100 horses in training.

Racing is a tough, competitive industry; training racehorses is a challenging profession which requires skill and dedication. Being a trainer is all consuming and Venetia runs a busy stables, but when it comes to her horses she is still very much hands-on.

Since becoming a trainer, Venetia has consistently maintained her position as one of the top 10 National Hunt trainers in the UK, frequently reaching the top five. Her commitment to providing her owners with winners throughout the season, year on year, never ceases.

In 2009 Venetia won the most coveted prize of all when Mon Mome triumphed in The Grand National, becoming only the second woman in history to achieve such an accolade.





Aramstone Stables

Surrounded by beautiful countryside near Ross on Wye, Aramstone is the perfect place to train racehorses and a wonderful location for owners to visit.

Starting in 1995 with only a few stables and half a dozen horses, by 1997 Venetia was winning top class races with Lady Rebecca. By 1999 she was training the favourite for The Cheltenham Gold Cup, the enigmatic grey, Teeton Mill.

As Venetia's career flourished Aramstone grew into the modern racing establishment it is today. Now, the stables offer all the up to date facilities associated with training racehorses, including an equine pool and, uniquely, 50 turn out paddocks.

Individual in her training methods, Venetia believes that every day horses should spend time at grass during their training period.

"We want our horses to consistently perform to the best of their ability, so we work with nature not against it. The horse developed as a prairie animal – nature did not intend them to be stabled 23 hours a day."

Venetia Williams





Racehorse Ownership

“Racehorse ownership is an experience like no other. Some might call it a passion, others an obsession.”

Over time, and to enable more people to become involved in the sport, different levels of ownership have evolved. The following outlines the main options.



Carrickboy, ridden by Liam Treadwell, winning the Byrne Group Plate at the Cheltenham Festival, 2013.

Sole Ownership

The horse is owned outright by one person. A personal form of ownership where the owner has a one-to-one relationship with the trainer. All aspects of the horse's training are discussed between the owner and Venetia.

The initial purchase of the horse and all training expenses are the responsibility of the owner. Training fees are paid monthly and are vatable which is reclaimed.

Sole owners choose the colours of their own silks and, in some cases, the name of the horse. Stable visits are at the owner's convenience, and during training Venetia and her staff will keep owners updated on their horse's progress.

When a horse runs, owners are entitled to six Owners Badges and have access to all owners' facilities at race meetings. On race days, owners discuss race tactics with Venetia and the jockey in the Paddock, confer at the end of the race and celebrate in the Winners Enclosure when the horse wins.





Partnerships

A group of friends or colleagues, generally up to 6 people, can get together to create their own partnership. A nominated partner is usually elected to take overall responsibility of the group and the same benefits apply as with sole ownership.

Individually or collectively, owners can have as much involvement with the horse as they choose. Communication with Venetia can be with all partners or one designated person. Stable visits can be at any time and owners are encouraged to visit the stables as often as possible.

At race meetings partnership owners receive the same benefits as sole owners.

In some instances we will help create a partnership if we have a number of individual people seeking this form of ownership. This adds a social dimension to joining a partnership.

All training costs are shared equally and all prize money is distributed likewise.





Niceonefrankie, ridden by Aidan Coleman, winner of the Caspian Caviar Gold Cup at Cheltenham 2014, owned by the Old Carthusian Racing Society Syndicate.



Syndicate Ownership

This is a social form of ownership offering all the privileges and benefits received by sole owners but at a fraction of the price. For most people, syndicates provide a more accessible way to be involved in horseracing.

An initial one off payment covers all costs for the duration of the syndicate. This includes the purchase price of the horse, all training fees and management fees. There are no further costs or hidden expenses.

Most syndicates run for two years (with an option to continue for additional seasons if all members are in agreement) after which time the horse is sold and all sale proceeds and prize monies are distributed equally among the members.

Syndicates are formed with a group of 10 to a maximum of 20 people. With this number of owners, the social side of syndicate ownership takes on an important role. Members are offered opportunities to get together at the races, stable visits and other social events.

Joining a syndicate is an ideal way to learn about horseracing. The more involved you are, the more you will be able to participate in the exhilaration, drama and excitement that is National Hunt racing.





Benefits of Racehorse Ownership

Regular updates. Keeping you informed about your horse in training is an important part of ownership. You will receive regular emails including photographs and videos of your horse, along with details of entries and declarations.

Regular stable visits. Spend time with your horse and watch him on the gallops; see the other horses in training and spend time with Venetia and her team at the stables. Organised stable visits are arranged for syndicate owners; all other owners can visit at their convenience.

Owners Badges at race meetings. When your horse is running you will be entitled to an Owners Badge. The whole racing experience is greatly enhanced when you have use of the owners' bars, lounges, grandstand and car parks, especially on busy race days.

Paddock and Winners Enclosure at Race Meetings. Before the race join Venetia for the saddling of your horse and meet the jockey in the paddock to discuss tactics. When your horse wins, celebrate with them in the Winners Enclosure.

Information about Racing. Syndicate owners, and any sole owners new to racing, will receive regular emails about horseracing. This could be anything from understanding the racecard, or how to unfathom the handicapping system to learning about veterinary matters.

Prize Money and Sale Proceeds. Syndicate owners receive prize money at the end of the syndicate term, together with the sale proceeds of their horse. All other owners receive prize money when their horse wins.

Racehorse ownership is primarily an entertainment opportunity, not an investment.





Grand Nationals

These two great athletes of the equine world both excelled in the ultimate tests of stamina, endurance and class when **Mon Mome** (right) won The Grand National with Liam Treadwell in 2009 and **Emperors Choice** (below left) won The Welsh Grand National with Aidan Coleman in 2014. A testament to the training skills of Venetia Williams and the dedication of all the team at Aramstone Stables.





The National Hunt Season

As the autumn leaves start turning, National Hunt racing comes to life again. The horses are back in their stables, training begins in earnest and the air is full of expectation of what might come in the next seven months.

There are many hurdles to cross on the way to success but this sport will keep you entertained, engaged and thrilled through the winter months and into Spring. Join us on this wonderful journey.

Venetia Williams welcomes you to the world of National Hunt Racing

We look forward to hearing from you

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