

PRESS RELEASE

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Lot 224 ©Goffs UK

TEAM EFFORT PRODUCES BRILLIANT RESULTS IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Relocated to Doncaster in order to facilitate travelling for buyers in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2020 ARQANA Breeze Up sale was held in partnership with Goffs UK, immediately after the Yorkshire company's own sale. Such an unprecedented situation required adaptation from all participants, and their resilience was rewarded with an extremely satisfactory set of figures.

A large number of horses had been withdrawn from the initial catalogue, which was published in late March, and as a result only 73 juveniles went through the ring as opposed to 145 in 2019. Quality made up for quantity however, as showed by the average price of £140,698 (€156,265), up almost 20% from last year's figure, while the aggregate fell just short of 10M€ (€9,905,170 / £9,004,700).

83% of the horses on offer changed hands, a record for this sale, while 17 lots sold for €200,000 or more, one more than a year ago.

€715K War Front filly is Larry Best's first European purchase

Brendan Holland's War Front filly (**lot 224**) turned many heads during Sunday's breeze up session and the two days of inspection stamped her position as one of the talking horses of the catalogue. The second foal out of Grade 3 winner BEAUTY PARLOR, herself out of MOON QUEEN and tracing back to INFAMY, the bay impressed onlookers with her even temper and loose walk.

It was agent Kerri Radcliffe who offered the winning bid of €715,000 (£650,000) and said:

« I am pleased to say that I have bought her for Larry Best's OXO Equine, which I believe is his first European purchase. She will head to Saratoga but I am not sure who will train. I met Larry at the sales in America and he kept telling me « ring me when you see something exceptional », so I rang him on Sunday night. This filly breezed very well and she has been an absolute queen since, she's been so professional throughout the shows. I am delighted for the vendors, who have done an amazing job keeping the horses so long in such uncertainty ».

€620,000 Street Boss colt Hong Kong bound

A fierce bidding battle engaged over Malcolm Bastard's Street Boss colt (**lot 354**), involving bidders around the ring and in the outdoor parade ring, where Matt Coleman stood over the phone. Bids fired by leaps and bounds and it wasn't until the €620,000 (€682,000) mark that Anthony Stroud shook his head and let the hammer fall in favour of his business partner.

« We knew we would find ourselves locking horns, commented Coleman, it's just the way it is. He is a smashing colt and had been highly recommended by Malcolm. I have heard about him for a long time and he came in the ring with a big reputation from a professional who does a very good job. He has been bought for John Size and will race in Hong Kong. He

is the only horse I bid on for him today ».



Lot 254 ©Goffs UK

Exceed And Excel colt to Coolmore team for €577,500

The sole offering by Exceed And Excel in the catalogue (**lot 240**) was a colt prepared by Johnny Collins's Brown Island Stables, who gained many admirers following his breeze on Sunday. Bidding rose steadily, with the likes of Oliver St Lawrence and Nicolas de Watrigant expressing interest until Jamie McCalmont emerged as the successful purchaser and signed the docket at €525,000 under M.V. Magnier's name.

Elliott secures pair of well-bred juveniles for AMO racing

Alex Elliott didn't get much time to relax during the early part of the sale, signing for a colt by Shamardal (**lot 234**) and a filly by Siyouni (**lot 245**) in quick succession.

The former came from the Longways draft and is a grandson of the Aga Khan's Gr.1 Prix de Diane victrix DARYABA, who also produced fellow Gr.1 winners DARYAKANA, herself the dam of Gr.1 Prix Ganay scorer and promising young sire DARIYAN. Lot 245 was consigned by Jim McCartan's Gaybrook Lodge Stud and is a daughter of the Aga Khan's own Siyouni from the family of PRINCE ARCH.

« They are both for AMO Racing, explained Elliott. The Shamardal colt will go to Roger Varian while the filly will be trained by Ralph Beckett. She is a lovely filly by the right sire and who has every right to be a black type winner ».

€506,000 Shalaa colt to Joseph O'Brien

Mocklershill's racy colt from the first crop of Haras de Bouquetot's Shalaa (**lot 225**) attracted a lot of interest and it took Bill Dwan a bid of €506,000 (£460,000) to get the better of several opponents.

The bay is the first foal out of Listed winner BESOTTED, herself a half-sister to the Classic heroine TIE BLACK from the family of top class milers LAST TYCOON, IMMORTAL VERSE, VALENTINE WALTZ and GLORIOUS SIGHT.

« He will be trained by Joseph O'Brien for one of his long term owners, Chantal Regalado Gonzalez. Physically he is very much a two-year-old type and the chat on Shalaa has been very good. He comes well recommended by Willie Browne so hopefully he will live up to such recommendations ».

€495,000 American Pharoah colt to race for new Hong Kong owner with Simon Crisford

After securing Brown Island's Exceed and Excel colt on behalf of the Coolmore partners, Jamie McCalmont returned to the fore with the purchase of a €450,000 (€495,000) son of American Pharoah from Mocklershill (**lot 318**). The half-brother to three-time Grade 2 winner OM will carry the colours of Marc Chan, a Hong Kong-based owner who recently made headlines in France when buying French Derby contender THE SUMMIT.

« He is for a new client, a Hong Kong based, Canadian born business man, said McCalmont. He has had a few horses in Hong Kong and is building up a string in Europe as well. This horse will be the first he has in training in the UK and he heads to Simon and Ed Crisford. Willie always liked him and we are looking for three-year-old types to run over a mile and a quarter, which is what he looks like he could be ».

Godolphin scoops €418,000 Kingman filly and €286,000 Olympic Glory

Anthony Stroud secured a daughter of Kingman (**lot 228**) out of the German Gr.3 winner CALYXA for €418,000 (£380,000). Consigned by Yeomanstown Stud, she was one of the eye-catchers during Sunday's breeze session.

Stroud was also successful for Brown Island Stables's **lot 295** for £260,000. The son of Olympic Glory is the second foal out of the winning mare Money Time, from the family of GREEN SWALLOW and YELLOW AND GREEN.

Nick Bell wins €291,500 More Than Ready colt

Michael Bell's son Nick has enjoyed a tremendous spring with his widely reported private purchase of THE LIR JET before his winning debut at Yarmouth. The colt went on to be bought by Qatar Racing and win the Norfolk Stakes at Royal Ascot in the care of Nick's father.

The young agent was back in business at the ARQANA/Goffs UK breeze up, fighting determinately to have the final say on the first lot through the ring (**lot 203**). Offered by Mick Murphy and Sarah O'Connell's Longways Stables, the son



of More Than Ready is a half-brother to two black-type horses and produced an eye-catching breeze. After placed the €291,500 closing bid, Bell commented:

« He did the fastest gallop out and is a lovely physical from a very good farm. He will go to Dad's yard and race for Kulbir Sohi ».

Indian-born, Birmingham-based Sohi tasted racehorse ownership has a shareholder with Middleham Park Racing and has been a growing force since branching out on his own. He remains a majority shareholder in fellow ARQANA graduate RAYMOND TUSK.

€286,000 The Gurkha colt New-York bound

Standing in the outdoor parade ring, appropriately socially distanced from the other bidders, Stephen Hillen went to £260,000 (€286,000) to secure the sole offering by Roderick Kavanagh's Glending Stables (**lot 276**). The athletic bay is out of a Graded performer in America from a very deep Wildenstein family. He too will head to the US for his racing career as Hillen explained:

« He is for a new client and will be trained by Christophe Clement. I sent him a list of three horses and this one was his pick. He looks like he will make a very nice horse on the turf. There is a good series of races there for three-year-olds and hopefully prize money will pick up next year ».

Respectively CEO and Executive Director of ARQANA, Eric Hoyeau and Freddy Powell commented at the end of this unique sale: *« A few weeks or even days ago, we wouldn't have dared hope for such results. It has been a long and winding road with a few pot holes along the way! The dominant feeling is immense relief that this sale, which was initially scheduled almost two months ago, has been allowed to take place and we are thrilled that the vendors are being rewarded for their patience. Our heartfelt congratulations go to the pinhookers who have showed unbelievable resilience, maintained their faith in ARQANA and Goffs, resisted private offers and adapted the preparation of their horses to the changing circumstances. Sunday's breeze session made a big impression - what a great testimony to the know-how of all these horsemen and women to produce two-year-olds in such physical and mental condition. Today's figures pay a well-deserved tribute to their talent.*

We also wish to acknowledge the exceptional collaboration that has built up during the ARQANA and Goffs teams. At all stages of this unprecedented organisation, we worked hand in hand, in total transparency. Goffs UK and Doncaster Racecourse are to be fully credited for the faultless running of Sunday's breeze.

In one word, this sale has produced the best of what this industry is capable of when faced with unfavorable circumstances: unity beyond quarels, creativity and cool head to overcome all obstacles,

optimism against all odds. Days like today provide tons of reasons to believe in a bright future for our industry. »



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