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**2015 Champion Chase winner Dodging Bullets was purchased by Malone**

#### **You have some really exciting younger horses ready to step up this year.**

Finian's Oscar and Capitaine would be two very smart horses. There are any amount of young novices coming through and I'm telling you now the bunch of three-year-olds I have to go to war after Christmas and youngsters I've bought this year – I've never bought better horses. Ever. They're coming through two years down the road. The youngsters, the pedigrees, the beauts I've been able to buy this year, I've never been able to buy like that. I'm quite excited actually.

#### **Any worth mentioning?**

Act Of Valour is a three-year-old that will arrive after Christmas. I bought him off Qatar for Max McNeill. I bought a horse this weekend called Danny Kirwan for Paul Nicholls. We're gonna hear an awful lot about him. He won a point-to-point in Lisronagh (three) weeks ago and he's a four-year-old that has the world at his feet. He absolutely destroyed a field of point-to-pointers.

#### **Is there depth in the market below the top end? The lower end can be a bloodbath at times.**

It can but everything still gets sold. It's just that what was a 30 grand horse is now 50, 60 grand. The 100, 150 grand horse now is 250 grand. So the whole market has escalated because you have the top owners all have a hunger for the best horse and the ability to pay for the best horse.

#### **Is there value to be found?**

There still is. I bought Native River for under six figures, I bought Irving for under six figures – so it can be done. You have to shop a little bit better and be lucky.

#### **How do you see the industry in general?**

Very strong. I did a graph on what Cheltenham winners cost over five years. I undervalued anything that was bought privately, knowing full well they probably cost more, and anything that was through the ring. The average winner in a five-year period at Cheltenham cost £107,000.

I did that for my own benefit 'cos people say "I wanna buy a Cheltenham horse" so I say "This is what it's gonna cost and you have to buy 10 of them." So many are buying 100 grand horses and they're not Cheltenham horses so you've got to be extremely lucky as well.

#### **What did you make of the Racing Post story on dodgy practices at sales?**

For every bad publicity there's good. The lady (Philippa Cooper) that was on about it, she was approached 20 years ago with some scenario – 1997 I think she said it was. There are hundreds of thousands of horses sold every year and most above board. It's like in betting, in anything; there's always a certain percentage where it sails close to the edge. That sort of business doesn't last. You go out of business going like that.

If they'd put in a good side to it... I have an owner that gave me 250 grand to spend on a horse and I bought it for 100 grand. Well if the business was crooked he'd have bought it for 250 grand, wouldn't he? It's easy to talk about one scenario here or there. That whole article was damning trainers, vendors, agents; it was damning everybody. There was no good side to what they were trying to say, was there? Do you know what I mean? The way they painted it was that it was rife. I don't agree with that but you've got to keep rolling on.

#### **Do you enjoy the flat?**

Love it. I love buying yearlings. When you buy a yearling you've as good a shot as anybody of buying a good horse. It's like buying a store horse. You've as good a shot. It doesn't take all the money in the world to buy the bloody things. You could be very lucky and I've had some serious good luck buying yearlings off the flat. I bought a lovely horse this year for 26 grand for Keith Dalglish (Taxmeifyoucan). He's won 80 grand in prizemoney and he looks like a chaser!

#### **You get a kick from that?**

Every horse I buy is my baby. I follow them intently and I am livid when they run bad. I'm like a spoiled child at times and hard to deal with when that happens. But when I tell somebody to buy something I want them to know that I believe in it. I had 329 winners in 2016 and I'm heading for 360-380 this year. When I do stop to think about it, that's phenomenal but all I care about is buying the next horse that's going to win.

#### **What trends are you seeing?**

The best Irish pinhookers have absolutely scoured the ground in France and brought all their high-quality foals, yearlings and two-year-olds and they're now all in Ireland being sold at the Derby Sale and the Land Rover. I bought 11 horses at the Derby Sale and eight of them were French-bred. They were horses I'd have been buying in France with a run a few years ago.

The Irish point-to-point scene is doing phenomenally well at the minute at producing good horses. You can't knock that. The strength in depth every Sunday in these four-year-old maidens is phenomenal. You don't even have to win to be a good horse now.

The day of buying a horse for five or 10 grand to turn into proper money or him to be a good horse at the back of it are gone. All these boys are investing between 30 and 60 grand on every store and they need to do that to find a good horse. So the whole game, at whatever level you're at, has improved. The prices have all escalated but that's life and you've got to go with it.

#### **What's the biggest challenge to the industry?**

I think the system isn't too bad. There are parts of the industry that can be improved on like any system but I'd say on the whole, it's not too bad. There's enough people going around with long faces reciting all the problems. Shut up! Find the system that works for you! I'm a glass-half-full person. I sell horses so of course I have to be optimistic but I like being optimistic. There's enough dull people in the world.

I get out of bed kicking and squealing every day 'cos tomorrow is the day I can find Arkle.



# RATHBARRY STUD STALLIONS FOR 2018



**2017  
COVERED AN  
OUTSTANDING  
BOOK OF  
QUALITY MARES**

**FIRST FOALS  
2018**

## Ajaya

Gr.2 Winning 2-Y-O from 5½f to 6f

Timeform Rating 117

By Leading Sire & Sire of Sires INVINCIBLE SPIRIT from family of BATED BREATH, CITYSCAPE and REDOUTE'S CHOICE



**2017  
COVERED AN  
OUTSTANDING  
BOOK OF  
QUALITY MARES**

**FIRST FOALS  
2018**

## Kodi Bear

Group 2 Winner of 4 Stakes races at 2 & 3 years from 7f to 8f

Timeform Rating 123

By KODIAC Champion 2-Y-O Sire 2017



**2017  
EXCELLENT  
RESULTS AT THE  
YEARLING SALES**

**FIRST CROP  
2-Y-Os  
2018**

## Moohaajim

Gr.2 Winning and Dual Gr.1 placed 2-Y-O

By a Gr.1 Champion Sire Cape Cross out of a Kingmambo mare

Time form Rating 116

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