



LIGHTNING STRIKES IN GROUP 1



Oisín Murphy celebrates on Lightning Spear

Qatar Racing celebrated a second Gr. 1 win in a month when the very popular Lightning Spear won the Sussex Stakes at the Qatar Goodwood Festival, his first top-level success...

Lightning Spear travelled typically strongly before Oisín Murphy pressed the button inside the final furlong. Oisín said: "I never ever get nervous before Gr. 1s, but I was nervous today. What a horse and training performance. At 7 years of age, outstanding."

"That was the horse we see at home all the time," added David Simcock who, along with wife Jennie and his team,

has indeed handled Spear superbly. He has previously been placed in six Gr. 1s, including when beaten an agonising short head in this year's Locking Stakes.

Lightning Spear was bred by our friends at Newsells Park Stud, by sire of sires Pivotal out of out of Listed-winning 2-year-old Atlantic Destiny. He's a very special horse for all those connected with him.

STAFF PROFILE



Chelsea McLeod and Sam Wylie
Stud Hands

So you are Kiwis – first time in England?

C: I was actually born in Chelsea!

S: I came to Europe a few years ago to work in France and then visited England with my dad. He's a bloodstock agent and buys horses for Hong Kong.

How do you know each other?

C: We've been together 3 years and met whilst working at Waikato Stud, which is near where we each grew up.

S: I grew up on a stud farm, while Chelsea rode from an early age and her dad's family have trotters. We did the Southern Hemisphere sales circuit together earlier this year.

More than a flying visit?

S: Yeah – we've only been at Tweenhills a month but are here until Christmas.

C: We're then off travelling, first to Scotland and then to see as much of Europe as possible.

Someone who knows Lightning Spear well is Rob Archibald – one of Australia's top polo players and assistant to David Simcock – who took part in the 2018 Mongol Derby, which finished on Aug 15. Rob is raising money for MS Research (www.arideforacure.com).

Several members of the Qatar Racing team contested the 2016 race and in other link, this year's honours went to Adrian Corboy and Annabel Neasham, whose boss Ciaran Maher trains two 2-year-olds for Qatar Racing in Australia.



DOZEN WINNERS FOR CHARM

Charm Spirit – who made his own debut on Aug 9 – took his individual tally of winners to 12 when Lively Lydia bolted up at Windsor on Aug 6.

Charm Spirit showed his best form at 3 when winning three Gr. 1s over a mile, including the QEII. A Charm Spirit yearling half-brother to recent Gr. 1 Beverly D Stakes winner Sistercharlie sells at Arqana as this issue goes to print.

AGA KHAN HAS HAVANA WINNER

The famous green and red silks of H. H. Aga Khan were carried successfully by homebred 2-year-old Havana Gold colt Zuenoon at the Galway Festival in August. Zuenoon is out of Dalakhani mare Zindana and looks an exciting prospect.



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