



# 2023

## GUIDE TO THE FLAT



Get set  
for Frankie's  
final season

**RACING POST**

# THE TRAINERS

Marco Botti	<b>4-11</b>	Dave Loughnane	<b>48-57</b>
George Boughey	<b>12-21</b>	Hugo Palmer	<b>58-65</b>
Karl Burke	<b>22-29</b>	Kevin Philippart de Foy	<b>66-73</b>
Clive Cox	<b>30-37</b>	John Quinn	<b>74-80</b>
Harry Eustace	<b>38-47</b>	Kevin Ryan	<b>82-91</b>



## THE EXPERTS

View from Ireland	<b>93-95</b>
Ante-post analysis	<b>96-97</b>
Marking your card	<b>98-100</b>
Names to make it pay	<b>102-107</b>
View from France	<b>108-112</b>
On the up	<b>114-115</b>

## THE KEY HORSES

A-Z of key horses who can make a mark this season	<b>116-182</b>
Key horses listed by trainer	<b>183</b>

## THE STATS

Racing Post Ratings and Top speed leading Flat performers	<b>184-189</b>
Index of horses	<b>190-191</b>



MARCO BOTTI



*Giavellotto (right): Cup races are likely to be on the cards for Leger third*

WINNERS IN LAST FOUR YEARS 51, 50, 38, 40

# Giavellotto flies flag for trainer eyeing his best season yet

THERE'S a feeling of high-octane optimism around Marco Botti's state-of-the-art Prestige Place stables in Newmarket.

As spring prepares to bloom, so does Botti's string of 85, half of them juveniles he considers the best he's brought in for several years.

Their ability can only be guessed as they begin to take equine baby steps, but their older stablemates already have plenty of form in the book, and some of it is high rank.

Nothing comes higher than Classic form and **Giavellotto's** third in last year's St Leger has Prestige pride of place.

"He's had a break and we're very pleased with him. He's wintered well and looks stronger than last year," says Botti. "The plan is to run him in the Dubai Gold Cup over two miles at the Dubai World Cup on March 25.

"After Dubai we'll know a bit more about him, so we'll keep all the options open. Last year he showed he stays a mile-six and I think he'll get further. There's the Gold Cup at Ascot, and good races at York and Goodwood, and there are plenty of races in Europe. But I have to say, at the moment we don't have any definite plans."

In January, Botti took delivery of the talented four-year-old colt **Ardakan**. He



won the Italian Derby last year for German trainer Markus Klug, and although he was down the field in the German Derby, he finished third in the Group 1 Grosser Preis von Berlin to subsequent Breeders' Cup Turf winner Rebel's Romance, then fourth in the Grade 3 Jockey Club Invitational Stakes at Aqueduct in the States.

A few days after Ardakan arrived in Newmarket, Botti flew him to Dubai where he was third in a Listed race at Meydan and last month he improved to finish second in a Group 3.

"I was very pleased. They were solid races. He's still lightly raced and he's one to follow.

"He's a very similar horse to Giavellotto. He stays well and could run in the Dubai

## RACING POST

Gold Cup too. They're in different ownership and both owners are very keen to run. Ardakan has run very well twice over a mile-six in Dubai already, so it would make sense to run him, and staying two miles wouldn't be an issue.

"His owner is also keen to run at Royal Ascot. Whether it's the Hardwicke Stakes or the Gold Cup, we'll decide later.

"But his main priority this season is the Melbourne Cup [November 7], so we'll have to work back from there and pick and choose our races."

**Felix** is now seven but is down to a mark of 101, which Botti feels he can win off in handicaps rather than in Pattern class.

He ran twice in valuable 1m2f handicaps in Dubai earlier this year, but neither race

panned out well for him. The first was on unusually soft ground and in the second he ran into the back of other horses, ruining what chance he had.

"He may be getting older but he's still a nice horse and I think he can run well in handicaps off his mark. There'll be plenty of options for him and we could start him off in the one mile-three Rosebery Stakes at Kempton on April 8. He also likes York, so we could run him there during the summer."

**Silver Samurai** did well last year and turned out to be a nice sprinter. He ran ten times, won twice and was placed four times at the major tracks, including Ascot, York and Newbury.

"He seems to be improving with age and he's got a mark now which will get him in all



*Silver Samurai (grey): set to start campaign in April*

those valuable heritage handicaps.

“He’ll start off at Kempton on April 8 and then Royal Ascot. Goodwood could be another option and York, where he runs well.

“He’s had a nice break and has done well over the winter. He looks even stronger than last year. He’s such a happy horse, so enthusiastic in the mornings.”

**Laheg** showed plenty of ability as a two-year-old, then had a wind op and took a couple of races for him to return to form. He won at Chelmsford and was then gelded after which he won cosily at Wolverhampton.

“He’s rated 84 and I think he could possibly be well handicapped. There’s a valuable race at Lingfield in early April that we’ll aim him at.

“He’s done well in the winter. He’s a good-

looking horse and has really filled out like a sprinter. I’m really pleased with him. He’s a tough horse.”

From the Botti Classic generation, take note of **Gold As Glass** and **Flying Circus**. The former won her only outing as a two-year-old, landing a 12-runner fillies’ novice race doggedly at Newmarket.

“She’s by Australia and they’re typically not early types, and she took a long time to come to herself. But I thought she won with a little bit left in hand at Newmarket. Hollie Doyle rode her that day and was quite complimentary and said the filly gave her a good feel.

“She’s a filly we’ve always liked and we didn’t want to overface her because we thought she was going to be a better three-



### DID YOU KNOW?

Marco Botti is the son of Alduino Botti, a champion trainer in Italy. He worked for Luca Cumani, Ed Dunlop and Godolphin before becoming a trainer in his own right and sent out his first winner in 2006