



ANNIKE BYE HANSEN
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Stabell Notes

Annike Bye Hansen's 2020 team

Geir Stabell takes a close look at each horse in the care of Annike Bye Hansen, as we are approaching a new season at Øvrevoll Galopp outside Oslo. With a team of twenty in her care, Annike is hoping to follow up on what was an excellent season last year – and she has plenty of four legged talents to work with.



French import Abolish winning at Fontainebleau

Abolish – a well bred Juddmonte product

Abolish, a well bred Juddmonte gelding from the same family as champions Zafonic, Zamindar and Announce, joined Annike's team after being purchased on behalf of C J Thoroughbreds at the Tattersalls Sales in Newmarket last autumn. He is an ex-French runner with interesting form, and looks the type who might improve with age. Abolish gained one win and was placed second or third four times from just seven starts in France, where he had three subsequent winner behind him (and beat horses that went on to run respectably in Listed company) when successful in what looked a decent maiden heat over 1400 metres on good to soft ground at Fontainebleau last May. Abolish was also placed third when tried at the premier venues Saint-Cloud and Chantilly later on, both times tackling 1600 metres (on good and good to soft ground).

Trained by David Smaga, the son of Sepoy achieved 41kg as his best handicap mark in France. His end-of-season French mark was 39.5 and the Scandinavian handicapper has put Abolish in on 84, placing him the same bracket as the likes of Calcaterre and Unwanted Beauty. Abolish may prove to be a miler, though it is interesting to note that one of his two winning half-siblings was successful over 2350 metres (albeit in ordinary company at lowly Saint-Galmier).

Aconcagua – on a handy mark



Photo: hesteguiden.com

Aconcagua, who was sporting the very respectable handicap mark 81 back in 2017 – after running second in the Breeders' Prize Sprint over 1370 metres on Øvrevoll's turf course – went winless through 2019. Five runs with no visits to the winners' enclosure was of course a bit disappointing, but the now six-year-old gelding by Thewayouare managed a third place finish on his penultimate start in 2019, as he was beaten just over a length behind Girlforce One in a handicap over 1100 metres on the dirt track in November. Ridden by Dale Swift, he showed useful form on that occasion and, given that Aconcagua has now slipped down to 68kg in the handicap, he is a horse approaching the new season on a handy mark. An experienced sprint/miler, he has also run respectably over 2400 metres on a couple of occasions. Aconcagua was a smart juvenile back in 2016, when he won Skandinavisk Mesterskap for 2-Åringer and followed up with another valuable win in Norsk Auksjonsløp on his next outing, both over 1370 metres on the lawn. He acts on turf and dirt, though it's worth noting that all but one of his starts last year came on the latter surface.

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Al Buraq – 2019 Handicapper of The Year

Al Buraq was a dream come true in 2019. No, she was not a top class performer chasing black type and big prizemoney for her owner-breeder Stall Jersey, but she did more than what could be expected of her, with five



wins and a 10kg climb in the handicap. We can safely say that Al Buraq is the opposite to the aforementioned Aconcagua – she meets the new season on handicap 76, and, unless she keeps on improving, she will find life lot harder in 2020. The decision to keep her in training, rather than retire her to the paddocks, was indeed a sporting one. Al Buraq's five wins came in handicaps ranging from 1370 metres to 1600 metres, on turf and dirt, and she also ran third in a competitive handicap over 2400 metres (after her first three wins, which were taken on the bounce). Al Buraq also travelled to Bro Park in Sweden, where she closed her season out with a game win over 1400 metres on the dirt track. With two third place finishes, she produced a remarkable 43.7 top three strike rate. Handicappers simply aren't supposed to do what she did in 2019, and it seemed

a bit strange that she was not rewarded with the Handicapper of The Year title at the annual awards dinner. The again, that she lost that fight, probably in a photo finish, says a lot about how competitive this game can be. Also for the handicap runners, those wonderful horses that keep the the show on the road. A daughter of Crocker Road out of the good broodmare Vista Hermosa, Al Buraq is a full-sister to the late developing Peer Gynt, who is also trained by Annike and picked up one win from eight starts in 2019.

Calcaterre – just keep on delivering

This tough son of Camacho, now nine years old, just kept on delivering also in 2019, when he ran 18 times and finished in the top three on no fewer than nine occasions. That gave the Stall Vamos owned runner a 50% top three record, even better than what Al Buraq achieved last year. However, while she won five times, **Calcaterre** went to the winners' circle twice. He was operating it a higher level tough, as Calcaterre's current handicap mark is 87. He began last season on 85 (after good campaign also in 2018) and his lowest mark through his busy campaign was 84. That's consistency for you, and perhaps nothing more than what we would expect from a horse who won six times and became Handicapper of The Year back in 2017. So, Calcaterre and Al Buraq has two things in common; they have both been a



real win machine, and they are both on a career high handicap mark. It will be fascinating to see how Calcaterre performs this year. He won over 1100 and 1600 metres on the dirt track last year, when he kept his fine form right to the eand of the season. Can he do as well in 2020? Not impossible, but he is a performer with 91 runs and 15 wins under his belt and improvement can hardly be expected.

Annikе Bye Hansen's 2020 team**Captain America – 2019 Sprinter of The Year**

Norway's Sprinter of The Year in 2019 is getting ready for another season, and it seems logical to assume he will be pointed to some of the same races he took part in last year. **Captain America** came back from an injury break to make his mark in the sprint division in 2019, and selecting him as Sprinter of The Year must have been an easy choice for the panel of experts.



Captain America winning the Zawawi Bro Park Vårsprint. Photo: Elina Bjoerklund / Svensk Galopp

The imposing son of Academy Award burst back onto the top stage when gaining an impressive off-the-pace win in the Zawawi Bro Park Vårsprint (LR) in Sweden in June. Winning the 1200-metres event going away at the finish, he was much too good for the likes of Riway, Brownie, Land's End and Sarookh. Captain America was coming off an eye catching third over 900 metres at Øvrevoll ten days earlier, beaten less than a length when trying to give 12kg to the in-form sprinter Story Minister. Captain America's season continued in fine style after the Bro Park Vårsprint, though Sarookh gained revenge on him when they ran first and second in the Challenge Stakes over 1400 metres two weeks later. Perhaps three tough races within the space of 24 days was his undoing, but Espen Ski's champion lost by just half a length and he was game in defeat. That was the case also when he went down by a length to Scandinavia's best miler, Duca di Como, in the Giant Sandman Polar Cup (G3) over 1370 metres at Øvrevoll in August. Finishing strongly, Captain America snatched second from the Group 3 winner Brian Ryan in the dying strides. Getting second in this race was as impressive as it was frustrating but there were weeks left of the big race season and more to look forward to. Just under a month later, Captain America was back at Bro Park, to contest the Clarion Sign Bro Park Sprint Championship (LR) over 1200 metres. For whatever reason, Brian Ryan was sent off the 2-1 favourite for the 13-runner affair, while Captain America looked >>>

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Captain America...

>>> much better value at 11-2. He was actually 22-1 when taking the Vårsprint, and seems to be a horse the betting public underestimates. Now, both these Norwegian trained contenders lost on the day, but Captain America's fourth place finish, 1 3/4 lengths behind the English trained Corinthia Knight, was a fine performance. Brian Ryan was unplaced. With one big sprint left in the calendar, the Norsk Jockeyklubs Sprintløp (LR) over 1170 metres back on home soil in early October, Annike freshened 'the Captain' up for another crack at Duca di Como. Brian Ryan was in the mix once more, as rain made the ground soft. The weather did not bother Captain America, who closed his season out with another big win. He took the race by a length from the surprise package of the race, Prime Red, who beat Duca di Como by the same margin for third. That Duca di Como went on to win the Peas And Carrotts Mile in Sweden a week later did the form no harm at all.



*Norsk Jockeyklubs Sprintløp winner, with owner/breeder Espen Ski, Annike Bye Hansen and Cathrine Fortune. Carlos Lopez in the saddle.
Photo: hesteguiden.com*

Captain America is now on handicap 92, as high as he has ever been through a career spanning 63 starts with 17 wins and 2.372.219 kroner in total earnings. There should be more to come.



A determined champion. Photo: hesteguiden.com

Annikе Bye Hansen's 2020 team**Crystal Park – unraced talent**

A daughter of the top class middle distance performer Youmzain, **Crystal Park** is an unraced three-year-old filly bought from German trainer Andreas Wohler at last year's Tattersalls Horses In Training Sales in Newmarket. She is a daughter of Crystal Diamond, a Teofilo mare who became a Listed winner in France. Crystal Diamond won four times, and her finest hour came when she closed her career out by capturing the Prix Belle de Nuit (LR) over 2500 metres at Saint-Cloud as a three-year-old. She was also placed four times, running second in the Prix Scaramouche (LR) over 2800 metres at the same venue, and third in the Prix Vulcain (LR) over 2500 metres at Deauville. Crystal Diamond, trained by Freddie Head, was a game and consistent runner, with these placings in a nine-race career: 15123 at two and 1231 at three. Her win in the Belle de Nuit was gained at the chief expense of Hidden Cove, a Group 3 placed filly that she had also beaten in the Scaramouche. Crystal Diamond achieved 46.5kg on the French handicap (= Scandinavian 91kg). She performed well on good ground and won on the asll-weather too, but she was at her best suited by soft to heavy turf, and she possessed good stamina. That's also how she was bred, as she comes from the family that has produced high class runners like Diamond Tango (winner of the Prix de Pomone, G2). Desert Skyline (won Doncaster Cup, G2, third in Goodwood Cup, G1) and Diamond Mix (won Prix Greffulhe, G2, third in Grand Prix de Paris, G1). Crystal Park thus has stamina top and bottom in her pedigree, and it makes a lot of sense ton assume that her niche will be found in races at around 2400 metres, perhaps further too. She was purchased by Walter Buick, who also helped Annike find recent gems like Unwanted Beauty, Swedish Dream, Ginseng, Lille My and Sweet Pearl.



Crystal Park's sire Youmzain



There is something about the outside of a horse
that is good for the inside of a man.

(Winston Churchill)

Frøken Filippa – stakes placed on debut



Frøken Filippa, who is a daughter of Scandinavian champion Appel Au Maitre and a half-sister to three-year-old winner I See Fire (by Mutajally), shaped with promise when finishing third on her only start as a juvenile last year. Going off as the second favourite in Norsk Forening For Fullblodsavl's 2-årsløp, run over 1370 metres on a soft turf course in October, she was beaten 2 1/4 lengths behind Neridiana, a nice filly that just shaded her in the betting market. Neridiana had two runs under her belt already, having run a close second to Cardhu in Norsk Mesterskap for 2-åringer, and she went on to be runner-up against that same rival also in Norsk Rikstots Oppdrettsløp (beaten just a head). These formlines indicate that Frøken Filippa is a talented runner. Going straight into a stakes event first time out is never easy and the form she produced on her racecourse debut was certainly up to maiden winning standard.

Her dam, Twistelittlestar (Aussie Rules), was a very useful runner who won the Dianalöpning (Swedish 1,000 Guineas) over 1600 metres at Täby Galopp back in 2013, when she also took the Treåringarnas Vårlöpning over 1730 metres on dirt at Jägersro. Frøken Filippa's second dam, Miss Asia Quest, has also produced Climaxfortackle (5 wins in England; 6 and 8.5 furlongs) and Sir Kuantan (3 wins in England; 10 and 14 furlongs). Miss Asia Quest is a daughter of Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (G1) winner Rainbow Quest out of Miss Kuta Beach (Bold Lad), a three-time winner in England and also dam of a winning

Irish hurdler named Coral Seeker. This is a family giving mixed messages when it comes to the distance preference department, and it will be interesting to see where Frøken Filippa fits in as a three-year-old.



GALOPPTRENER ANNIKE BYE HANSEN

Karen From Finance – cashed in twice already



Karen From Finance is a lightly raced four-year-old daughter of Eishin Dukirk. Idle as a juvenile, she won two of her eight races last season, when she signed off with a gutsy win over 1600 metres on the dirt track in November, beating Our Boy John by a quarter of a length. Our Boy John was coming off a game runner-up effort a week earlier, and he franked the form further by winning next time out. Karen From Finance was not a surprise winner when getting the better of this rival, but she had lit up the boards when breaking her maiden over 1100 metres on the eve of Derby day, as she rewarded her backers to the tune of 44-1 with a win over the Swedish trained rival Cromer that day. This win was also gained by three parts of a length, and Karen From Finance learnt a lot in her first season of racing. She improved steadily through the second half of 2019, climbing from 58 to 63 in the handicapper's list. Can she improve again in 2020? Not impossible, as this filly was given time to develop, showed good enthusiasm for the game in her first season, and produced her best form to date on her last outing. Owned by her breeder, ex-jockey Espen Ski, who also campaigned Sprinter of The Year Captain America, Karen From Finance is out of the Noroit mare Reveenka, a 68-rated winner over 1750 metres at Øvrevoll as a three-year-old. Interestingly, Reveenka was also unraced at two. She was a fairly consistent performer at around 1600 and 1750 metres, but unplaced on the four occasions she was tried over further. There is stamina in the family though. Reveenka also became the dam of Foxcatcher, a full sister to Karen From Finance who won four of her 18 races, scoring twice over 2400 metres, most notably when capturing the valuable Kopparmärralöpning in Gothenburg as a four-year-old. She won both on turf and dirt.

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Lille My – could bounce right back

An impressive juvenile winner for Annike's team in 2018, **Lille My** (Photo: hesteguiden.com) was moved to another stable after that season, but fortunately she came back to us towards the second half of the season last year, and this Zoffany filly really does deserve to stay in training for another campaign. Annike ran her three times in the autumn and, although Lille My failed to return to the winners' circle, she shaped with great promise and there could be improvement to come from this lady. Her win at two came at the chief expense of Kikki Dee and Topas Royal, as she was way too sharp for her six rivals in a good maiden event over 900 metres on the turf. She confirmed that she was above average by taking fourth, 3 lengths behind Sea Race, in the hotly contested Amacitalöpning over 1200 metres at Bro Park in Sweden three weeks later. Last term, Lille My raced nine times and she was placed twice. Not exactly what one could have hoped for after such excellent two-year-old results, though she displayed her talent nevertheless, mainly when running on turf, and it will be interesting to see what she can accomplish in 2020. Lille My is quite speedy but she stays 1600 metres, the distance she tackled when third behind Nathless and All My Lovin last October. Lille My meets the new season on handicap 72, four kilograms lower than her highest mark to date.

She was bred by Lady Richard Wellesley in England, and is a half-sister to Muharrib (Oasis Dream), a winner at two and three in England for Godolphin, plus two other winners in England. These all did their best between 7 and 8 furlongs and their dam, Manhattan Dream (Statue Of Liberty), was a winner over those two distances. She was trained by Barry Hills, who also handled her high class half-sister Maids Causeway (Giant's Causeway), a winner of the Fillies' Mile (G1) at Ascot and Sweet Solera Stakes (G3) at two and runner-up in the 1,000 Guineas (G1) at Newmarket at three. Maids Causeway has become a successful broodmare and Lille My certainly has the pedigree to follow in her footsteps one day – but first, she needs to win more races. The chances that she will seem good.

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Photo: hesteguiden.com

Mestre dos Magos - unique

Mestre dos Magos enjoyed a tremendous season in 2019, including three handicap wins on the trot in August / September. This win streak was completed when he captured a competitive handicap over 1750 metres on the dirt track in early September. Ridden by Carlos Lopez, who partnered Mestre dos Magos also when he won so well two weeks prior, the seven-year-old entire was quite prominent throughout the contest, and he outstayed another prolific winner, Crossroad Blues, to take the race by a length. It was a really strong and game performance, pushing his handicap mark up to 82 kg. Not bad for a horse that had been lingering in the low 70's on the handicapper's list some twelve months earlier. Mestre dos Magos has just kept on improving the past two seasons, something that rare to see from horses in his age bracket. A great credit to his trainer, he was coming off a win over the same course and distance in August, when he outclassed Delacroix and Crossroad Blues while racing over what appeared to be a fast track. Mestre dos Magos came home by 3 ½ lengths on that occasion. It was on the eve of Derby day and Annike sent out three winners on the card. Mestre dos Magos initiated his streak by winning over 1600 metres nine days earlier, when he was also up against Crossroad Blues, and beat him readily by almost two lengths.

The weight assignments in these three races clearly illustrate how Sall Isabel's good miler was progressing at the time. He ran with 9kg less than Crossroad Blues for his first win,

was handicapped 7kg below Crossroad Blues for his second win and received only 3kg from the same rival when making it three straight wins.

So, there you have it, three wins, 812,455 kroner in career earnings and recent a climb on the handicap ladder, that's his profile heading into a new season. What can we expect from Mestre dos Magos this year? It will not be easy to follow up, that's for sure, but his enthusiasm and consistency will stand him in good stead once more in 2020. This homebred son of Academy Award out of the three time sprint winner Goodrun (also trained by Annike) has 8 wins from 61 starts, and he has been placed second or third 17 times. This gives him a 41% top three strike rate – somewhat unique. Not many veteran runners manage such statistics.

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Murcia – she's got the looks

She has a nice pedigree too, being a half-sister to a classic winner, but one can guess that the main reason Annike signed for **Murcia** after the hammer fell at just 40,000 kronor at last year's SEF Yearling Sales in Sweden was her conformation. This two-year-old daughter of Zaahid is such an attractive individual. If looks are anything to go by, well then she will be good runner. Murcia was sold on to Väsby Häst AB, and she could well prove to have been a really shrewd yearling purchase.

Her sire, Zaahid, was a smart miler for trainer Barry Hills in England, where he won four times and enjoyed his finest hour by landing the prestigious Victoria Cup at Ascot, where he got the better of 21 rivals. He was also runner-up in the famous Lincoln Handicap at Doncaster and third in the Spring Cup at Newbury. Zaahid, who comes from the family of classy US performers like Golden Reef and Virginia Carnival, is best known in Scandinavia as the sire of high class dirt sprinter Basie.

Murcia is out the maiden Cut Supreme, a mare who managed fifth in the Eivind Ecbo Legats Vandrepremie and has done much better as a broodmare. Cut Supreme is also the dam of the Swedish St. Leger winner Muteki (Devil's Drink), who found himself in the winners' circle on no fewer than five occasions. Furthermore, Murcia's dam has produced the Danish winner Cut Cool, a runner-up in two minor stakes. Going back to Murcia's second dam, Half Row (Saville Row), we find more to recommend this filly – not just as a racehorse but also for a future career at stud – though such days lie well ahead of course. Half Row was a stakes placed winner in Denmark and became a smashing broodmare. She was the dam of 16 winner. Amongst them were Cut Supreme's full-brother Cut Champion (won 9 races, including the Danish Derby and Danish 2,000 Guineas), the Danish Criterium winner Cut Siegern, Cut Legend (4 wins and 4th best juvenile in Scandinavia), multiple stakes winner Cut So Sharp, 10-race winner Habitus, not to forget Half And Half, who won 4 races and became the dam of champion Halfsong. What's not to like about Murcia? Hard to find the answer, it seems. The only thing I can think of is that's she's not mine.

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Nominado – 'could be anything'

A well bred three-year-old son of Crocker Road, **Nominado** ran just the once in his first season, and it was a promising performance. Quite where he will fit in this season is impossible to say but it would come as a surprise if he fails to break his maiden fairly soon in his sophomore campaign. We have heard it before, once raced horses being described as 'could be anything' and he is one of those. Without creating unrealistic expectations, one can be optimistic about this gelding's future. His racecourse debut came as late as on November 17, when Nominado tackled 1600 metres on the dirt track. He went off as the third favourite and the punters got it absolutely right, as he finished third behind Shallow and Cucou Bella, who had both gained racing experience previously. Shallow was coming off a win against Solveig (who ran second in Janos Tandaris Minneløp in Sweden next time out) in a September maiden, while Coucou Bella had finished third to Une Autre Beute in the Autumn Fillies Stakes at Bro Park two weeks earlier.

Nominado was well beaten by Shallow but he looked like a horse who would learn a lot from the outing. Being a son of the tremendously successful mare Theatrical Award (Academy Award), who included the Marit Sveaas Minneløp (G3), Norsk Derby and Breeders Prize Classic in her collection of 12 wins, there's a fair chance that Nominado will be wanting further than a mile in due course. Equally, it will be interesting to see him on turf. His half-brother Lifeofbryan won four times at up to 1980 metres, with all of his wins coming on the lawn.

Our Boy John – his move a compliment

One of the biggest compliments a racehorse trainer can get, is when a fellow trainer sends one of their own horses to be trained in your yard. Which is exactly what has happened with **Our Boy John**. Formerly trained by Yvonne Durant – and still owned by Yvonne and her husband Troy – Our Boy John moved to Annike's stable this March, and he is an interesting new player on the team. A son of top class sprinter Dandy Man out of the Petardia daughter Jine, Our Boy John was a winner on his most recent start. He captured the well paid Høstfinale Bronsedevisjon Handicap, run over 1600 metres at Øvrevoll Galopp last November, taking the race gamely by three parts of a length from Mustajjid, with Chivas 2 ¼ lengths further adrift in the nine-runner contest. This win was by no means unexpected, since Our Boy John had finished second on both of his two preceding starts; behind Queen's Delight over 1750 metres, and narrowly behind one of Annike's many winners in 2019, Karen From Finance, over 1600 metres ten days prior to his win. All these three races were over the dirt track. Our Boy John is equally effective on the lawn, however, something that was well demonstrated with a win over 1600 metres in August, when he came out on top in a big field by fending Rock Dancer off for another 3/4-length verdict.



Photo: hesteguiden.com

Our Boy John appears to be best suited by 1600 to 1750 metres but do note that he has also performed really well in sprint races on a few occasions, and his versatility has made it possible to give him a busy campaign. This battle hardened gelding faced the starter no fewer than twenty times last year. Now a six-year-old, he has raced 57 times to date, with 5 wins backed up by 8 runner-up effort and 7 third place finishes. This gives Our Boy John a nice 35% top three record. His career best handicap, recorded back in October 2017, was 79kg, while he is now on 71kg. He is a half-brother to Our Boy Jack (Camacho), a most useful runner who managed 8 wins in England, where he was trained by Richard Fahey and Conor Dore. The dam Jine has also produced Heather Heath (Tendulkar), a filly who won in Ireland as a juvenile.

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Peer Gynt after his August win, flanked by owner / breeder Søren Pedersen, Kent Lie with Olivia Hidalgo-Lie, Ida Akselsen Lopez with friend, Annike Bye Hansen, Cathrine Fortune and jockey Carlos Lopez. Photo: hesteguiden.com

Peer Gynt – Al Buraq's 'little' brother

A rather big, scopey sort, Al Buraq's younger brother **Peer Gynt** is just the type to progress with age. He did not race as a juvenile and thus goes into the new season as a lightly raced four-year-old. Peer Gynt won on his racecourse debut, scoring convincingly in a maiden event over 1750 metres on the dirt track in late August, when he strolled home by 2 lengths from Quiet Weekend, a Swedish trained contender who seemed a good yardstick, having finished second or third five times previously. Pascal, runner-up to Nominado's half-brother Theatricals Oscar on his preceding start, came home in third place, beaten another 2 ½ lengths. Based on this positive racecourse bow, Peer Gynt was pegged in on 69kg by the handicapper and, although he went on to run some game races in defeat, he failed to win again. After two tries over the turf course, the son of Crocker Road >>>

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Peer Gynt...

>>> reverted to 1750 metres on the dirt track in early October, and shaped well to take second behind Geist, with useful runners like Love Of Course, Lille My and Shenanigans in arrears. Geist was in top form at the time, having won a similar contest three weeks earlier, and Peer Gynt was beaten just a length by this rival.

Peer Gynt's final start in 2019 resulted in a fourth place finish over 1600 metres over the same track, beaten 7 ¾ lengths behind C'est la vie. That was not form mirroring his true ability, he should certainly be judged on his previous runs, and Peer Gynt is a name it could be fascinating to follow in 2020. His imposing frame means that he has needed time to strengthen and develop, something his owner-breeder has patiently granted him. If Peer Gynt takes after his sister Al Buraq, it will have been well worth the wait. She won five times last season, when she proved effective from 1370 to 1750 metres and also ran respectively over 2400 metres. An educated guess; Peer Gynt will stay 2000 metres, perhaps further too.

Runaway Sue – related to Kutbeya



Runaway Sue during schooling.

This two-year-old daughter of Dragon Pulse is a half-sister to Time Shanakill (Lord Shanakill), a very tough and durable seven-year-old who has won 7 races to date in France. Time Shanakill is not top class but he is as game as they come, and amongst his wins is a 1/4-length verdict over fellow Listed winner Master's Spirit in the Prix Bedel (LR) over 2400 metres at Lyon Parilly. Time Shanakill has also been placed 16 times and he was a close second to Listen In in the furlong La Coupe de Maisons-Laffite (G3), also over 2400 metres. Runaway Sue comes from a family full of winners, and her third dam, the Group 3 winner Antarctica, became the dam of Kutbeya, one of the best fillies and mares to race in Scandinavia in the 90's. Runaway Sue's dam, Cherry Creek (Montjeu), must have gone wrong as a two-year-old. She ran just once, finishing tailed off in a Navan maiden.

Runaway Sue's sire Dragon Pulse was a high class juvenile in Ireland, where Jessica Harrington trained him to victory in the 7-furlong Futurity Stakes (G2) at the Curragh on the back of a maiden win at Leopardstown three weeks earlier. Dragon Pulse beat subsequent Dewhurst Stakes (G1) winner Parish Hall in the Futurity, and he went on to take second behind Power in the National Stakes (G1) three weeks later. Power won the Irish 2,000 Guineas (G1) the following season, while Dragon Pulse's best moment at three came when he took the Prix de Fontainebleau (G3) at Longchamp on his reappearance. He just pipped the very smart juvenile champion Dabirism that day, but failed to follow up in two subsequent starts. Reportedly transferred to Mikael Delzangles in France, Dragon Pulse never raced again. He is standing at the Irish National Stud and had 45% winners to runners in 2019.

Annikе Bye Hansen's 2020 team**Seeyouincourt – from international family of winners**

Seeyouincourt, a lovely filly bred by Christer Svanholm AB in Sweden, came to Annike's stable after being bought at the annual yearling sales at Bro Park last autumn. She is a two-year-old daughter of Juniper Tree (Galileo) out of the highly successful Fraam daughter Blusher (GB), who won 8 races in England and Sweden. Blusher developed into a serious runner in Scandinavia, and she blossomed after joining Claes Björling. Blusher began her career in England, where she was trained by Mick Channon and won over 7.5 furlongs at Beverley. That was useful form but Björling improved her no end in Sweden. He made her successful in the Amacitalöpning, Svelanadlöpning and Scania Sprint, and she was also placed 15 times, including when fourth in the Rosengårdlöpning. Her earnings grew to an impressive 750,164 SEK., and Blusher has done well also as a broodmare. She is the dam of the hardy runner Label, a gelded son of Layman who has 6 wins and 30 placings on his cv. Furthermore, Blusher has produced a 2016 gelding named Fabel (Philomatheia).

Blusher's dam, Quickstyx (Night Shift) was a winner at three and she enjoyed an incredible run at stud, producing nine winners. Amongst them is Medievel, who won three times and ran second in the Prix Francois Boutin (LR) at Deauville. Another half-brother worth a mention is the Singspiel son Haymarket, who picked up five wins on the flat and also won over hurdles, while Blusher is also a half-sister to the useful mare Hairspray – a winner of four races and better known as the dam of Epsom Icon, who captured the Princess Elizabeth Stakes (G3) at the Epsom Derby meeting. Epsom Icon was also trained by Mick Channon. Digging a bit deeper in this pedigree, it's impossible not to notice the name Red Fort, a very smart performer who was a half-brother to Blusher's second dam. Red Fort won the prestigious Wolferton Stakes (LR) at Royal Ascot as a three-yearold and he was later on placed twice in the Charles Whittingham Memorial Handicap (G1) at Hollywood Park in California. He was also twice runner-up in the Inglewood Handicap (G3).

It is safe to say that Seeyouincourt comes from an international family full of winners, so she has a fair bit to live up to. Bred to possess a mix of speed and stamina, she is a fascinating young thoroughbred. Her sire, the fashionably bred Juniper Tree, ran just three times while trained by Ireland's champion handler Aidan O'Brien. He thus never got the chance to give a return on his hefty 950,000 guineas yearling price, but his stallion career in Sweden has shown promise. His daughter Ascot Brass was one of the best juveniles in Scandinavia last year, earning 1.2 million kroner in her first season. Juniper Tree has also sired Powerpoint, a mare with three wins and around 800,000 kroner in earnings.



Swedish Dream – close to the very top



Photo: hesteguiden.com

Enjoying his third season in Scandinavia, the French bred gelding **Swedish Dream** had a good campaign in 2019. Now, it could have been a lot better of course. The margins are small in this game and good opportunities do not return, if one fails to grab them while they are there, or one trips up a little on the crucial days. It was very frustrating to see how Swedish Dream got too excited, and rather sweaty prior to Marit Sveaas Minneløp (G3) over 1800 metres on Derby day at Øvrevoll. He had the form to make an impact, no doubt about that, but he lost the race in the preliminaries and could manage only sixth place, well beaten behind Square de Luynes, who won the race from Buddy Bob. Six weeks later, Swedish Dream bounced right back to his best, with a thoroughly game win in the Arnfinn Lunds

Minneløp, a competitive Listed event over 1600 metres at the same venue. And, you may ask, who did he beat to take down this prestigious race? Buddy Bob. Swedish Dream beat the Sveaas runner-up by half a length, with the accomplished visitors Victor Kalejs and Learn By Heart back in third and fourth respectively. Not only did Swedish Dream gain revenge on Buddy Bob, he also turned the tables on Learn By Heart, the Danish trained star who had beaten him into fourth place when they met in the Stockholm Stora Pris (G3) at Bro Park in Sweden in June. Swedish Dream was a shade unlucky not to hang on for third that day, but it was a fine run and a sign of better things to come. In between 'Stockholm Stora' and 'Sveaas', he ran second to the classic winner Silver Falcon in stakes quality handicap on home soil, failing by just a head in an attempt at giving the winner 7kg. It was one of the best handicap performances seen all year in Scandinavia.

These were the highlights for Swedish Dream's enthusiastic connections last year, and they should have a lot more to look forward to with this son of Helmet. He is six years old now but don't be surprised if he manages to find a bit of improvement in 2020. If he does, well, then he is right up with the best elite horses in Scandinavia. One can say he is already though, and if he times it right, and puts his best foot forward on the right day, then a really valuable race could go his way. It's within reach, no doubt about that. His ability to handle soft turf as well as he handles good going is a real asset. He participated in eight races last year and finished in the first two six times. With total earnings of nearly 900,000 kroner, Swedish Dream meets the new season on handicap 91kg, which is his career high. Interestingly, trainer Are Hyldmo has a two-year-old half-brother to Swedish Dream in his care – a young thoroughbred with quite a bit to live up to.

Annikie Bye Hansen's 2020 team

Tulfarris – miler with potential

Tulfarris, named after a famous Irish golf resort, is a new name on the list of horses in Annike's care, and this four-year-old son of top class miler Zofanny is an interesting recruit to Scandinavian racing. He was a minor stakes winner when trained in France as a juvenile, when he captured the Grand Criterium de Vittel over 1600 metres. He moved to Newmarket trainer Charlie Fellowes for his three-year-old campaign, and Tulfarris continued to improve for his new trainer. He was unfortunate not to win a race in England, where he raced seven times and was placed second or third on three occasions. His best two runs came on his last two outings for Fellowes, and peaked just weeks before Anikke secured him at the Tattersalls Horses in Training Sales. Tulfarris was runner-up twice in good company over a mile at Ascot, and we all know how strong valuable races at that venue are. Tulfarris went down by three parts of a length to Ebury (who ran second in a strong handicap at Newmarket two months later) in early September, and a four weeks further into the autumn Tulfarris was narrowly beaten in the highly competitive Mar-Key Classified Stakes.

After racing prominently throughout, he went down by only a head to the Hamdan Al Maktoum owned Sawwaah that day. The two had a real battle through the final furlong, and they drew right off, finishing 3 lengths clear of the third placed Model Guest. Although subsequent results gave us mixed messages about the form (which is often the case with autumn races), it is worth noting that the race was full of previous winners and that the field was strung out to the tune of almost twenty lengths. Based on his good run the course and distance on his previous start, Tulfarris was sent off as the 4-1 second favourite. Interestingly, he had been held up at the back when taking second to Ebury, so we can assume that Tulfarris is a versatile in that regard; he can be prominent or he can be given a waiting race. Such horses always have an advantage, as they give the rider options and can overcome various pace scenarios. Another plus with this gelding is that he has run well on good to firm, good and soft ground. He has raced only on turf.

His dam, Eurolink Raindance, became a high class turf performer in California after having been placed three times in Listed company in England at two. She won the 8-furlong Wilshire Handicap (G3) at Hollywood Park as a five-year-old. Eurolink Raindance, a well bred daughter of Alzao, has produced three other winners. Amongst them we find the very useful miler Toymaker (Starcraft). He won 7 races and was placed 8 times.

In all probability, Tulfarris will continue to do his best at around a mile, but he did run respectably when tried over 1 ¼ miles at Newmarket (a very testing trip) last July, so there is a chance that he can stretch out to that distance in Scandinavia, particularly when running on turning tracks. He also ran second to Doncaster last spring, and he is a horse who has performed well over a variety of courses. There's quite a lot to like about his profile. Without taking expectations too high, one can say that Tulfarris is 'a miler with a potential upside'.



Tulfarris on Newmarket Heath. Photo: Jayne O'Dell

Annike Bye Hansen's 2020 team**Unwanted Beauty - exceeded all expectations**

Some racehorses live up to expectations, some don't, while a few exceed all expectations as they go through their racing careers. **Unwanted Beauty**, a real bargain when picked out by our good friend and talent scout Walter Buick at the Tattersalls Sales in February 2019, is definitely of the latter category. This lovely daughter of Iffraaj cost just 12,000 guineas. That's not much, for a filly good enough to break her maiden in a classic, and then go on to confirm her class with two excellent runs in very strong company against older horses later on in her three-year-old season. And the best news is; she is bred to improve with age, and there could well be better still to come from this lady.

Unwanted Beauty was a bit of a surprise as she burst on to the top scene with an impressive win in the Tattersalls Norwegian 1,000 Guineas at Øvrevoll last June. That she also gave Annike her first classic winner was a bonus. Perfectly ridden by Sandro De Pavia, Unwanted Beauty proved way too good for her eight rivals in the Guineas, run over a good turf course. She outclassed For The Roses, a nice shipper from Sweden, to win the race by 3 ½ lengths, looking like she had more in hand as she passed the winning post. It was her second start in Norway, coming just over



1,000 Guineas winner! Photo: hesteguiden.com

three weeks after she had finished third on her seasonal debut, and there were some rumours of a sharp piece of work leading up to the big race. Still, most horseplayers found it hard to believe that a maiden could win the Guineas. They sent her off at 15-1. Thus, her supporters were handsomely rewarded, as were her connections. For The Roses, a good winner in Sweden both before and after the race, was also a longshot – though looking at those further down this classic chart it reads well. Ramone, the best Scandinavian bred juvenile filly in 2018, filled third place, while the Wido Neuroth trained Nouvelle Lune checked in fourth ahead of her stable companion Beau Nuage. Nouvelle Lune went on to crush the field in the Swedish Oaks and she was also third in the Norwegian Derby. Beau Nuage ran third in the Swedish Oaks, having finished fourth in the Swedish 1,000 Guineas. Unwanted Beauty's Guineas form was solid, no doubt about that.

Not that, as the season unfolded, she needed any assistance from others to prove the point. Unwanted Beauty went for a handicap race over 1730 metres in late July. Facing older horses, she was running off handicap 82 and carried 60 kg. It looked a stiff enough task and she was well up to it, running out an easy winner once more, incidentally scoring by the same margin as in the 1,000 Guineas. Lord Of Trouble (a winner of 7 races) finished second and Anachronist (with 6 wins in the book) filled third spot. This time, Unwanted Beauty went off favourite. She was well backed also as she took another step up in class, and more importantly, a big step up in distance, in the Erik O Steen Memorial, run over 2400 metres on Derby day a month later. This event, formerly run as the Peugeot Pokalløp, has a long history and is one of the most important races for fillies and mares in Scandinavia. Unwanted Beauty went close to winning again, but she was beaten a length by the upset winner Swan >>>

Annikе Bye Hansen's 2020 team**Unwanted Beauty...**

>>> Black, who ran the race of her life to take down the valuable prize. Did Unwanted Beauty fail to stay? That's a tough question. She did not win, but she had smart performers like Zahara, Angel Love – even the 2018 Derby winner High as a Kite – behind her. Who would argue that Unwanted Beauty failed to see out the trip if we take the fluke winner Swan Black out the chart? Not many. Still, it is fair to assume that Unwanted Beauty, with her excellent speed, is better suited by shorter distances.



1,000 Guineas winners: Siri Christensen, Annike Bye Hansen and Marina Lie. Photo: hesteguiden.com

She made her last start of the 2019 season in the Lanwades Stud Stakes (LR) over 1600 metres at Bro Park in September, but finished last of eight, 4 ½ lengths behind multiple stakes winner Appelina, who beat the English trained Mamoorā, a filly who proved good enough to run third to Magic Lily in the Balanchine Stakes (G3) in Dubai this winter. Unwanted Beauty's run at Bro Park was disappointing but actually it wasn't too bad a performance. Appelina's handicap rating is 90 kg, making her one of the best horses in Scandinavia. Let's hope that Unwanted Beauty can take the step up to that level as a four-year-old. She does not have many miles on the clock and her half-brother, Exceeding Power, a nine-year-old still in training in England, produced his career best form at eight Tow other half siblings, Little Black Book and Poet's Beauty, won good races in England as four-year-olds, so there must be a fair chance that last year's 1,000 Guineas winner will progress with age.

Annike Bye Hansen's 2020 team**We Got The Boss - a smart horse indeed**

We Got The Boss joined Annike's team from trainer Lars Kelp in Sweden last summer. He had hinted at talent at Bro Park, but not found the right circumstances to fulfil his obvious potential with Kelp. After settling in at Øvrevoll, he began to find his feet in an efficient way during training and on Derby day, when it matters so much for a stable to do well, We Got The Boss produced an excellent performance to win a valuable mile handicap. He was in a competitive, big field, and racing in Norway, where the undulating track is quite different to the flat oval at Bro Park – in what was sure to be some streetfight – would also pose a challenge. We Got The Boss had raced twice over the course previously, finishing ninth in a sprint and fifth in a mile event, and he made full use of the experience. He had probably matured a bit too, as he gained a solid 2-length win over Good Eye in the Nordpool Spa Handicap. This was fine piece of training by Annike. She guided him perfectly to peak on the biggest day of the year. His win represented improved form for the stunning son of Street Boss. He travelled like a winner throughout and proved much the best in the 15-runner field. His Swedish trained runner-up, Good Eye, went on to win the Breeders' Trophy Mile at Bro Park later in September, and also followed up with yet another win there in October. We Got The Boss beat a smart horse when he won the Nordpool Spa. >>>



Derby Day winners (from left): Kent Lie, Camilla Hidalgo-Lie, Marina Lie, trainer Annike Bye Hansen (remarkably somewhat hidden), Thea Sannes and jockey Ulrika Holmquist. Photo: Geir Stabell

Annikе Byе Hansen's 2020 team

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We Got the Boss...

It came as no surprise to see We Got The Boss do really well in all of his four subsequent starts in 2019. He went to run second to Holy Romance over 1800 metres 11 days after Derby day, then dropped back to 1600 metres for another win towards the end of September, when he beat Rue d'Argent by 2 lengths to add 31,680 kroner to the 52,200 kroner he picked up on Derby day. With just six runners, this was a different sort of contest, though it had some live contenders nevertheless. Admittedly, Rue d'Argent was a bit of a surprise, but the third placed Izakaya had won the Derby Mile on his previous start and King's Son, who was a well beaten fourth to We Got The Boss, came fresh from a win in the Racing Arena Champion Stakes in Denmark. Again, a race We Got The Boss captured was one that took some winning.

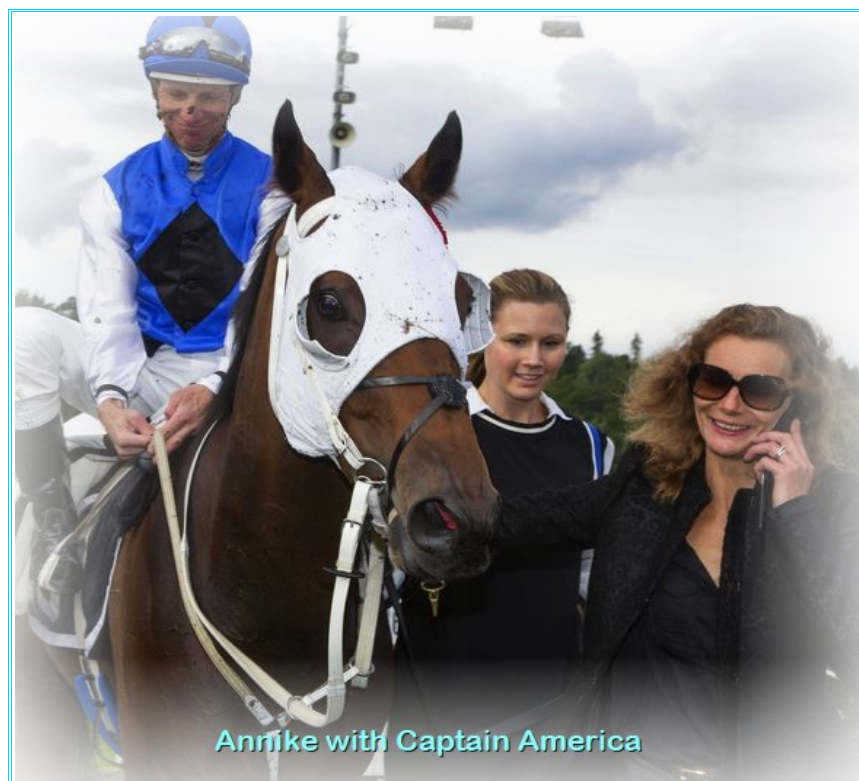
It's impossible to write about We Got The Boss without a mention of his very good riders after he came to Norway - all were of the so called 'weaker sex'. Ulrika Holmquist, who rode him in the Nordpool Spa, Willa Synnøve Schou and Nora Hagelund Holm, a pilot for his second win, all rode him extremely well. A female touch could well have been a crucial factor to his transformation.

He continued in fine form right to the end of the season, finishing third, second and second again before it was all over. His last two outings came on dirt. That he handled the sand was not all that baffling, after all he is a son of US champion sprinter Street Boss, but it is rare to see a horse perform equally well on turf and dirt. Such horses get more options, they make it easier for the trainer to hand pick races for them. If a turf race does not make much appeal, well, then one can take a look at an alternative on the dirt. It's a nice luxury to have. Champagnegaloppen's miler, one of the most genuine and consistent thoroughbreds seen in Norway last term, climbed up from handicap 71 to 80 after moving west, and he meets the new season on demanding terms.

Can he be as successful in 2020? The stiff handicap mark aside, something that also gives his connections well deserved bragging rights, there's no reason to doubt his prospects as a four-year-old. This gelding can certainly win more races. Bred by Keene Ridge Racing in the USA, We Got The Boss comes from a family that has produced durable horses like Majestic Empire, a stakes winner who won 19 of his 50 races and was placed second or third on 13 occasions, and Valid Miss Chain, a nice filly who managed 9 wins and 20 stakes placed efforts from 56 runs before she became a broodmare. These relatives were no superstars, but they kept on winning races as older horses. That's a good omen don't you think?

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Annikе Bye Hansen's 2020 team

Annikе with Captain America

Annikе Bye Hansen

Annikе comes from a racing family. Her father Ingvar and her uncle Herluf were both highly successful trainers at Øvrevoll. Annikе, who has also partnered winners as an amateur rider, took out her license in 1996, and she has been based at the Skogan stable since 2012.

"I prefer to work with a relatively small team of good quality horses", she says, "as I like to be hands on, working hard to get the very best out of each individual. I'm lucky to have excellent staff, and I am pleased to say that we are all thriving here, two legged team members as well as those on four legs are enjoying their work - which is crucial to achieve good results."

Annikе won Norsk 1000 Guineas 2019 with the filly Unwanted Beauty, a smart performer bought cheaply at the Tattersalls sales in Newmarket.

Annikе was runner-up in the trainers' championship in 2017, beaten only by Niels Petersen, who had three times as many horses in his care. This championship is decided in terms of prize money.

Annikе selected Ragazzo for just 75,000 kroner as a yearling, and developed him into a true champion who won 2.5 million kroner for his owners, Jan Andersen, Marina Lie and Ida Large.

Annikе trained "Handicap Horse of The Year" i 2017, Calcaterre, a winner of six races that season, and the stable's top sprinter Captain America has captured the Bro Park Vårsprint (LR) twice (2017 and 2019). He was voted "Sprinter of The Year in 2019", while the win machine Al Buraq took the title "Handicapper of The Year".