

Newsletter

Michael O'Callaghan Racing

The Amethyst Syndicate's **Night Of Glory** is our main June story. Turning a €50,000 yearling into a 340,000 stg three-year-old, alongside prize money from the gelding's win and two placings, has been a great result for everybody involved in the syndicate. In the past two months the syndicate has had three individual winners from their five acquisitions. Two of the five have now been sold, and we hope to have fun throughout the rest of the season with our three remaining horses, Veneer Of Charm, Heavy Artillery, and the unraced Dandy Man colt, Fashionable Man.



Night of Glory – by Sea The Stars out of a Sadler's Wells mare – was initially bought at the Fairyhouse yearling sales and Alistair Donald purchased him at the Royal Ascot Goffs London sale on behalf of his client, Leicester City FC's owner Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha. He will be trained by Andrew Balding and is entered in the Irish St. Leger. We wish the new connections the very best.

Another syndicate-owned horse, **Najavo Dreamer**, improved on her Fairyhouse run to be runner-up to Amenette at Limerick recently. This Dream Ahead filly tries very hard and was only beaten half a length.

Roccia Bella stepped up from her debut run when finishing third at 33/1 on her most recent start at The Curragh. She has a lot of quality but is still a little bit raw. Anything she does this year will be a bonus and she should make a lovely staying filly for the future.

Like Roccia Bella, **Grace Rafaela** is owned by Tan Kai Cha, and this two-year-old pleased us when taking third place behind Butterscotch on her debut at Naas. I think she can turn into quite a nice filly in time.

Ma Fee Heela followed up his comfortable Dundalk maiden win by finishing third at Leopardstown, and second at Limerick, over seven furlongs. We dropped him back to six at The Curragh last Friday to try to

utilise his natural speed, and he was beaten less than a length there, staying on nicely for Pat Smullen inside the final furlong. We haven't gotten to the bottom of him yet.

Act of Valour made a very bold bid to steal the Ragusa Handicap on the same Curragh card under a well-judged ride from Shane Kelly, fighting back gamely to regain second on the line, having made most of the running. The

step up to a mile and a half suited him, and he can build on this.

Michael O'Callaghan.



Leicester City FC's owner, Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha, purchased the Amethyst Syndicate's Night Of Glory during the Goffs London Sale at the Orangery at Kensington Palace prior to Royal Ascot.

Meeting The Team

Yard man Gus Batista is a young Brazilian with a passion for horses, and the build to be a rugby player.

What was your introduction to the racing world?

When I was quite young I used to go to Jim Ryan's yard, just helping out, doing whatever needed to be done, every odd weekend. As I got older, I would work there during the summers and eventually ended up here at Michael's yard, doing weekends, summers and mid-term breaks.

When did you leave school?

I have just finished my leaving cert, and I'm working here full time for the summer. The plan is to save up and go to college to study equine breeding or stud management, if I get the results and points that I need.

Do you have a favourite racehorse in the yard?

You do get attached to horses when you're working with them, and the one that I like is a two-year-old colt called I am Power. He bit me one time, so I won't forget him too easily, but I also think he could be fairly good.

What has been the highlight so far?

Leading De Boss Man when he won his maiden at The Curragh last year.

Do you keep connected to the game outside of the yard?

I watch the racing when I'm at home, always looking out for the horses in the yard.

What tweaked your interest in racing?

My mother's boyfriend is head lad in Jim Ryan's yard. He looks after the yard and has his own racehorses as well.

You're originally from Brazil. When did you move to Ireland?

We moved here when I was six and I have lived in Kildare ever since. There were no horses in my life until I came here, but once I started working with them, that was that.

What's the working atmosphere like at Crotanstown?

Everybody just gets stuck in. It's about teamwork. We all just tip away and everybody is friendly.

What are your hobbies outside of racing?

I play rugby and do some jujitsu. I particularly like rugby. I'm a big lad! I play for the Cill Dara under-19's, and give a hand coaching the under-11 team.

What are your career goals?

My plan has always been to keep going with the horses, work hard, and see what I can achieve. I like the idea of becoming an assistant trainer at some stage, but in the meantime I'll take whatever opportunities I get in terms of studying and gaining experience.



He bit me one time, so I won't forget him too easily.



De Boss Man being lead in by Gus Batista after his 2016 maiden win at The Curragh (photo by David Betts)

For the Notebook



I Am Power

I Am Power is a lovely two-year-old colt by Power who has taken a little bit of time, but is starting to shape up now. He has got a bit of size, is good looking, and a good mover, and I'm looking forward to getting him

started. As Gus mentions in his profile piece (opposite page), I Am Power has a bit of a playboy attitude and loves playfully biting people. A lot of people in the yard like him, and he is one to look forward to.



Anybody interested in becoming an owner in the yard, or becoming involved in future syndicates, please don't hesitate to contact Geraldine at: **045 456 502**.



If you wish to have a copy of our newsletter emailed, or have a printed copy sent to you, please drop Geraldine a line at: **info@michaelocallaghan.ie**

Amethyst Syndicate winners this year



SEBASTIAN BACH (Ire) Amethyst Syndicate 2014 b c Kodiac – Esedra (Hurricane Run)
Feb 10, Dundalk – Fyffes Maiden, 3yo plus, (6f AW).



Veneer Of Charm (IRE) Amethyst Syndicate
B g 2014 Fast Company - Nova Tor (Trans Island)
May 20, Navan, Navanadventuresports.ie
handicap 1m 2f



Night Of Glory (GB) Amethyst Syndicate
B g Sea The Stars – Kesara (Sadler's Wells)
13th May, The Curragh, Where Champions Are Made
Maiden (1m 2f)