

Any punter who is this easily confused has no business to be betting in the first place.

To avoid further confusion, the BHA might like to consider:

► Banning horses with Arabic names, in case they confuse somebody.

► Banning Coolmore and Godolphin from running more than one horse per race in case hapless punters are confused by several runners trained by Aidan O'Brien or wearing royal blue silks.

► Banning horses associated with Barney Curley who have no apparent form, in case they win and confuse everybody!

The restriction placed on Koukash is clearly ridiculous and the BHA should immediately rescind it and apologise for any embarrassment and offence caused. It should also apologise to punters for insulting their intelligence.

Koukash can be assured the vast majority of punters will cheer him even more loudly whenever a Gabriel horse wins and wish him the best of luck

The more Gabrials the better!

Ian Mackenzie
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk

Adopting a bad practice

L'AGREE with Bruce Millington (*January 30*) and Terry Probert (*Letters, February 2*).

Channel 4's persistence in using close-ups at the end of races is frustrating. Highflyer producers always did this when that company presented racing; the new company has simply adopted this irritating practice – despite the director coming from BBC racing.

The BBC's coverage of a race's final stages was always superior to Channel 4's and we were shown the entire finish, with that great Aussie commentator JA McGrath calling them *all* home. Only then did the BBC show a replay and concentrate on the finish, including some slow-motion.

Viewers want to see how a race ends at the time it ends, not some minutes later after a rushed summary by the commentator and an interview with a breathless jockey.

Only after all that do viewers get to see what actually happened at the finish and there are times when it is many minutes

the music crowd will get the racing bug.

I have in the past attended these concerts but agree there is little or no interest in the racing from the majority of the crowd.

Indeed, at one meeting I was in the bar when a young lady rushed in and said to her group: "Come outside quick, they've got horses out there!"

Bill Burgess
Colchester

With owners in mind

LAST year I was fortunate to be invited to the Cheltenham Festival by Stephen Wallis, group director of international and racing relations for Jockey Club Racecourses, as he wanted to understand why I was so unimpressed following a survey on conditions at the races for owners.

Over a very cold but enjoyable day we spoke about the need for owners to feel they were getting a business-class experience. He explained he had a vision to turn all the owners' areas at Jockey Club Racecourses into a far better experience.

Roll on 12 months and he has made a significant difference at Kempton with investment into the owners' area. The course has definitely tried to improve and I am convinced it is as a result of Stephen's vision.

I hope with this refreshing attitude at the heart of Jockey Club Racecourses the racing experience for owners will improve in time.

Well done Stephen.

Jason Neville
Partner in Solaris Racing

Well done Ayr

I WISH to praise Ayr racecourse and in particular Elaine Ferguson for her efforts in placing a late notice in the January 27 racecard celebrating the birthday of a close friend of mine.

The look and reaction on this maiden racegoer's face at seeing this insert made our day, even though the four of us went through the card without a single winner.

This wonderful sport has won a convert. Well done Ayr and all the staff for a great family day out. Who needs the weather?

Ronnie Dempster
Dartford

individuals until his ban ends on March 6, insisted yesterday he had not been a



Stokell:
spent
£42,000

Cowell calls time on Prohibit's sprint career

By Jon Lees

PROHIBIT, the 2011 King's Stand Stakes winner who helped showcase trainer Robert Cowell's skill as a trainer of sprinters, has been retired.

The nine-year-old had not won since having a year off through injury, and despite his official rating having dropped to 88 he finished only ninth of 11 on his most recent outing in a Class 2 handicap at Southwell last month. Connections hope he can be retrained in another sphere.

"Prohibit has had ongoing issues with his knees and all the owners and I have decided it is time for another chapter in his life," said Cowell.

"One thing we were not interested in doing was having him run in sellers and claimers. There are a few things in the pipeline. He is such a flashy,

good-looking horse and a nice ride."

The Juddmonte-bred Prohibit began his career with John Gosden but came to the fore under Cowell, who bought him at the 2009 horses-in-training sale for 85,000gns. He developed into a moneyspinner for new owners Khalifa Dasmal, Tom Morley, Janet Penney, Frank Barr, and Allen and Di Rix, winning the Listed Scarborough Stakes and a Meydan handicap before triumphing over an international field at Royal Ascot. His last win came in the 2011 Group 3 Prix du Petit Couvert and he retires with career earnings of £506,465.

Cowell added: "Prohibit gave myself and the owners many big days both domestically and abroad. It was a punt to buy him – for us it was a lot of money to spend. Tom Morley, who is an exceptional form reader, recommended him and as an individual I loved him. Obviously, the King's Stand win was a moment we will always cherish."



Prohibit: won 2011 King's Stand

Salmon nets January Ten to Follow prize

MARK SALMON has won the £10,000 Tote/Racing Post Ten to Follow prize for January.

Salmon, 33, the director of a cosmetics company in Knutsford, Cheshire who breeds jumpers for a hobby, scored 169.5 points courtesy of wins from Hurricane Fly, Annie Power, Briar Hill, and the 14th Dawn Adventure and Irish Saint.

top in the hunt for the £178,553 first prize, with just 16 points separating the top five.

The other £10,000 monthly prizes went to Munich Syndicates 3 (November) and RobertWINCHOLE38 (December). Trainer Tim Vaughan leads the celebrity Ten to Follow on 343.60 points and has a healthy advantage over

obviously it is obvious that it seems to be going quite well at the moment."

Ryan shows off her other riding talents

By David Carr

IT WAS no surprise to see Amy Ryan make a successful return to racecourse action – but not many would have expected it to happen at Aintree.

The former champion Flat apprentice has not made a shock switch of codes. Rather, she took part in a three-day showjumping event staged in the equestrian centre at the home of the Grand National and won an open on her own horse, Caltra Minister.

Ryan, who has been on the sidelines since she was injured in a fall last summer, said: "It was really good. It was an elite show so there were a lot of professionals there and it was nice to win at an event like that.

"I did showjumping on ponies as a kid, then I bought the horse I won on at the end of 2010 and I bought a second one in May of last year.

"It's just a hobby. I really enjoy it and as they are my horses and I put the work into them myself, it means more when I do well with them."

Ryan is now itching to get back to her day job, having been out of action with a shoulder injury she suffered when the saddle slipped and she was unseated from Bogart in a sprint handicap at York last July.

"I am good now and am just waiting to get passed by a doctor," said the jockey, 24, who became the first woman rider to win the apprentice title outright in 2012.

"I have rung the BHA and am waiting for them to get back to me. My physio sent off some details to say my shoulder has mended. It just took a while to heal but it is fine now. I am riding out again – that felt okay – and obviously I ride my own