

# GOFFS ORBY

*Around  
the  
World*

BRINGING BUYERS TO  
THE HOME OF THE  
THOROUGHBRED

*Steed  
Merchants*

VENDORS' ORBY HOPES

*Classic*  
**BUYERS**

ADRIAN NICOLL & ED SACKVILLE

{ *DREAMY DAYTRIPS // Spotter Stories // SADDLE UP*  
*Cover Girl // LONDON SALE // Goffs Country* }





Image: Peter Mooney

# Young Blood

**SACKVILLEDONALD IS A THREE-YEAR YOUNG SUCCESS STORY. ED SACKVILLE DESCRIBES THE BEST DAYS OF HIS LIFE, SO FAR, TO THE RACING POST'S MARTIN STEVENS.**

**E**d Sackville launched the SackvilleDonald agency with Alastair Donald in 2011, having previously worked for John Warren and Luke Lillingston. In three years the pair have established themselves as two of the most talented young

bloodstock agents around. This year the Orby graduate Sky Lantern became the first Classic and Royal Ascot winner sourced by Sackville, while another Orby purchase, Brown Sugar, became his first Glorious Goodwood scorer.

**Q Congratulations on buying your first Classic winner. How did it feel when Sky Lantern won the 1,000 Guineas?**

“As you can imagine, it was incredibly exciting. I was nearly in tears. I made



my wife Sophia come to Newmarket - she doesn't come racing that often but I wanted her to be there just in case something happened.

After Sky Lantern won the messages of congratulations were overwhelming and it wasn't until we got home and watched the race on telly that what we had achieved really sank in.

I got married and had my first child this year, so I couldn't quite say it was the best day of my life, but it came pretty close!"

**Q And then Sky Lantern became your first Royal Ascot winner in the Coronation Stakes. What was that like?**

"Royal Ascot was brilliant. Sky Lantern had just got up to win the 1,000 Guineas

and a lot of people thought Hot Snap hadn't run her race and Moth had been unlucky. Generally it was regarded as only an average renewal. I didn't mind; I thought the history books would always show her as a Guineas winner.

When she was drawn on the outside of a big field in the Coronation Stakes, we near enough wrote off any chance of winning. But in the end she put up the most impressive performance of the week and showed that the Guineas was no fluke - she was a proper star.

Unlike at Newmarket, which went by in a blur, we had more time to enjoy the Royal Ascot win and after racing we had a party in the car park, with the owner Ben Keswick and a lot of friends."

**Q What attracted you to Sky Lantern at the Orby Sale?**

"I had a specific order for a filly with a sprinting pedigree, so when the Orby catalogue came through the door and I saw a filly who was by Red Clubs, a top sprinter, and a half-sister to two very fast horses in Arctic and Shropshire, she leapt off the page.

But that was just the first step. She had to have the looks to back up the pedigree, and luckily she did. She had great depth and walked well - not an extravagant mover, but very straightforward, honest and tough-looking. Some sprint-bred horses look as though they will only excel as a two-year-old, but she looked to have the scope to develop beyond that age.

Another plus was that she was bred and sold by Tally-Ho Stud, a constant source of top class horses."

**Q What are the long-term plans for Sky Lantern?**

"She will likely race at four next year and then she will be retained for breeding. Ben Keswick wanted a filly who, if she proved good enough, would have the pedigree to make a good broodmare.

So when she won the Sprint Stakes at Naas on her second start, I rang Ben and said: 'There you are, job done. Anything from now on is a bonus.' The Moyglare Stud Stakes, 1,000 Guineas and Coronation Stakes have been quite some bonus!

Eventually she could go to any of the top speed stallions such as Invincible Spirit or Oasis Dream, maybe. The beauty of her being by Red Clubs is that we can send her to just about anyone."

**Q How did you meet Ben Keswick?**

"I went to school with his younger brother, who is a good friend. I also know his family. Being young himself, I think it made sense for Ben to work with a young team. Hopefully in 20 years' time we will still be buying for him."

**Q Another Orby graduate, Brown Sugar, also gave you a first Glorious Goodwood winner in the Molecomb Stakes this year. What made you buy him?**

"More importantly he is the first Group winner I have bought for my father's syndicate De La Warr Racing! He looked like he would be an out-and-out two-year-old; he was a strong, good-moving horse."

**Q It's been a fantastic start for SackvilleDonald. Are there plans to grow in the future?**

"Yes, we feel very lucky to have had such a great start. Alastair deals with horses in training, I do breeding stock and we both do yearlings. In fact, just a fortnight after Sky Lantern won the 1,000 Guineas, Military Attack, a horse Alastair bought out of John Hills' yard to go to John Moore in Hong Kong, won the Singapore Cup. Military Attack had originally been bought by Amanda Skiffington at the Orby Sale.

We don't have any immediate plans to grow the business. At the moment, it works with just me and Alastair, and a student from Cirencester College helping us during the sales."

**Q What are the benefits of buying at Goffs?**

"It's a great sales complex to work. The way it is laid out makes it easy to view lots of yearlings - you just go from barn to barn. And the team is incredibly accommodating; for example when I arrive they pick me up from the airport, which is a great help."

**Q Has the arrival of your daughter Viola in July changed your sales circuit plans?**

"Ultimately the sales are a major part of our business and at the end of the day work is work. Perhaps in 18 years time I'll be able to train Viola up to make my workload a little bit lighter!"





# Cover Girl

GREY IS THE NEW BAY. AT HOME WITH EUROPE'S LEADING LADY, SKY LANTERN.







**SKY LANTERN**

**Born:** 27th January 2010

**FAMILY**

**Sire:** Red Clubs

**Dam:** Shawanni

**GRADUATION**

**Sale:** Goffs Orby 2011

**Lot Number:** 293

**Purchaser:** SackvilleDonald

**Vendor:** Tally Ho Stud

**Price:** €75,000

**ENTOURAGE**

**Owner:** Ben Keswick

**Trainer:** Richard Hannon

**Jockey:** Richard Hughes

**Breeder:** Tally Ho Stud

**Groom:** Jahangir Ali

**Work Rider:** Toni Vaughan

**Best Friend:** Fig Roll

**CAREER GIRL**

Group 1 1000 Guineas

Group 1 Coronation Stakes

Group 1 Moyglare Stud Stakes

**Earnings:** £681,735 (as of 23 August)

**PERSONALITY**

Very easy and laid back, a joy to do. Loves to travel, likes eating trees, enjoys a roll but Toni won't let her for fear she will buck when getting up and get loose. Not a fan of early morning starts.

“Sky Lantern really played to the camera, and was the most inquisitive racehorse I've shot. She knew she was a star!” Sarah Farnsworth

Photography: Sarah Farnsworth

