



FOALING FRENZY

February at Tweenhills has seen a host of foals being born, including five arrivals in the space of 24 hours.

The night of 9th/10th February kicked off at 10.30pm with the birth of a Sleeping Indian colt out of Startori, then within the hour a colt by Dubawi out of Group 3 winner Marine Bleue was born. Foaling manager, Julie May, was on-hand as she lives just above the stables, although both mares proved to be the perfect mothers with their foals soon up on their feet drinking.

Julie's 15 years foaling experience was further tested in the early hours of the morning as the mare Rapid Ransom became unsettled before foaling her Invincible Spirit half-brother to Stakes fillies Rare Ransom and Ransomed Bride. A wake-up call to David Redvers ensured some extra help but all was well.

Finally Julie managed to catch-up on an hour's sleep whilst Australian veterinary student, Marcel Walsh, carried on the night-watch duties. Just before dawn a mare from France, Divergence, produced a filly by Dalakhani. In the morning all the foals showed healthy weights on the new scales at Tweenhills.



This Dubawi colt ex Marine Bleue was one of five foals born within 24 hours



Makfi is proving popular with French breeders

THE FRENCH INVASION

Makfi is proving very popular in France, with leading French studs such as Haras du Mezeray, Haras du Cadran, Haras du Meautry, Haras du Monceaux and HH Aga Khan's Studs sending mares.

Tweenhills' French representative, Henri Bozo, said: "It is no surprise Makfi has gone down so well with French breeders, after all he was the only horse in the world good enough to beat Goldikova in 2010."

Makfi's first two test mares have now successfully been scanned in-foal.

PEARLS SENT TO TRAINERS

Various trainers across Europe and USA have been sent horses for Pearl Bloodstock this season.

The highly rated filly, Miss Zooter, has gone into training with Ben Cecil in California. In addition, horses have recently been sent to French trainers John Hammond and Mikel Delzangles, who will also train the Gr.1 winner Total Gallery for Qatar Bloodstock.

However, as before the majority of Pearl Bloodstock's horses will be trained in the UK and Ireland.

BIG BROTHER

Big Brother has arrived at Tweenhills with a dramatic increase in surveillance cameras. Stallions are now on 24 hour watch, plus the new covering barn and all the yards have cameras overlooking them to ensure safety and security.



PROFILE

**Mike Davies,
Resident Vet**

How long have you been at Tweenhills?

I'm over from Australia for the season, as I was in 2007. Back home I run my own equine veterinary practice, but I also have a farm near Tweenhills as my parents still live in the UK.



What changes have you seen at Tweenhills?

It is a much bigger and better organisation, with a marked increase in the value and quality of the bloodstock. There is also a greater variety of studs now sending mares, so I need to brush-up on my French.

What is your role?

I am in every day examining the mares, foals etc, not to mention ensuring the hunters are okay and treating the dog!

What do you enjoy most?

David's wit and compassion.

Other interests?

Apart from being a sheep farmer, I play polo and recently played for the Mandalay Polo Team in Thailand.

